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# Adventist Record

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Christian Services for the  
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## Latest research: No cardiovascular benefits of alcohol

Wahroonga, New South Wales

The verdict is in: there are no health benefits to drinking alcohol. A European study of more than 260,000 individuals<sup>1</sup> has found people who consumed lower amounts of alcohol or were non-drinkers had a more favourable cardiovascular profile and reduced risk of heart disease.

The findings of the study were published in the *British Medical Journal* on July 10.

Alcohol is the fifth leading risk factor for death and disability worldwide<sup>2</sup>. Its link to liver disease, cancer and injury has been firmly established.

However, there has been significant debate as to whether or not light to moderate alcohol consumption reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease and stroke.

Writing for the *British Medical Journal* on behalf of the team of researchers, Michael Holmes of University College, London, and Carolyn Dale of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said the latest study "suggests that reduction of alcohol consumption, even for light to moderate drink-

ers, is beneficial for cardiovascular health".

"Our results therefore challenge the concept of a cardioprotective effect associated with light to moderate alcohol consumption reported in observational studies, and suggest that this effect may have been due to residual confounding or selection bias."

Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders have welcomed the findings. "The Adventist Church has been advocating total abstinence from alcohol for a long time," said Dr Paul Rankin, associate director of Adventist Health for the South Pacific Division. "This research shows very clearly that alcohol is not beneficial, even for heart disease."

Commenting on the study, Otago University (NZ) professor Doug Sellman said a definitive stance against alcohol consumption is long overdue.

"For a long time the supposed benefits of drinking have been promoted by the industry, the media and by some health professionals," he said. "It is time to stop."<sup>3</sup>—Paul Rankin/Chester Kuma

1. Holmes MV, Dale CE et al Association between alcohol and cardiovascular disease; Mendelian randomisation analysis based on individual participant data. *BMJ* 2014; 349
2. Lim SS, Vos T, Flaxman AD, Danaei G, Shibuya K, Adair-Rohani H, et al. A comparative risk assessment of burden of disease and injury attributable to 67 risk factors and risk factor clusters in 21 regions, 1990–2010: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2010. *Lancet* 2012;380:2224–60
3. Media Release 13/7/14 Alcohol Action New Zealand <[www.alcoholaction.co.nz](http://www.alcoholaction.co.nz)>



## Strong support for The One Project

Sydney, New South Wales

The One Project attracted a record 400 participants to its gathering in Sydney last month, and also launched in a new location, Perth.

The weekend gatherings offered a varied menu of speakers from the USA, UK and Australia, led by The One Project's co-founders, including Pastor Japhet de Oliveira and Pastor Sam Leonor. The format of the weekend maximised opportunities for interaction, with participants seated around tables and given time to reflect together after each of the 20-minute talks.

"If church was more like The One Project from Sabbath to Sabbath, with more interaction and response," said Pastor Terry Johnson, president of the Western Australia Conference, "it would be a healthier environment."

Although The One Project weekend in Perth was not an official Conference event, the invitation to hold the gathering came from Pastor Johnson.

The mainstreaming of The One Project was also a feature of the Sydney gathering, with Greater Sydney Conference president Pastor Michael Worker welcoming participants to the event and noting that at least half of the Conference's executive committee was present.

"We have learned some things here that we hope to replicate in The One Project in other parts of the world," said Pastor Alex Bryan, co-chair of The One Project and

senior pastor of Walla Walla University Church in Washington State, USA.

Comments from participants at the Sydney event indicated that previous gatherings—in

Australia and elsewhere—had featured what One Project organiser, Pastor Terry Swenson, called "rawness"—people openly revealing their personal hurts and disappointments with their church experience. The atmosphere in Sydney was much more positive, with a focus on people sharing their dreams for the church during open mic sessions between speakers.

A new feature of The One Project in Sydney was the inclusion of a community service project, where participants travelled to the inner city to offer practical help to the homeless.

The One Project is holding a conference in Auckland on November 8–9 and plans are being developed for a return to Australia in 2015.—Kent Kingston with Nathan Brown  
For more information visit <[the1project.org](http://the1project.org)>



Some of the participants from Sydney.



## Rethink

James Standish

The church, like a losing general, has the nasty habit of fighting the last battle. By the time it has adapted its tactics, the challenge has moved on. Perpetually behind the times, forever on the back foot, stuck in the role of reluctant reactionary, losing ground.

And that is how we find ourselves today, late to the party and still talking about the challenge of post modernism. The idea that all truth is personal and therefore there are multiple truths all of which are equally valid, was indeed once a great challenge to Christianity—a faith that proclaims Christ as the sole soul Saviour. Today, however, post-modernism is dead.

It died on 9/11.<sup>1</sup>

People who said there is “no right, nor wrong, just shades of grey”, who sounded rather deep on 9/10, sounded unhinged by dawn on 9/12. What precise shade of grey is flying planes full of men, women and innocent children into skyscrapers full of mums and dads? And the idea that all spiritual paths are equal? Well, 9/11 put paid to that intellectually sloppy idea as well; an idea that from its outset was so simplistic only someone lacking the most basic understanding of the scope of global religious practices could fall for it.

So if you’re working hard on reaching the post-modern mindset, stop. It has been replaced by secular orthodoxy.

The new secular orthodoxy doesn’t say, “I’m OK, you’re OK, let’s all follow our own individual truths.” Rather, it says, “I’m an informed, ethical person, and you are a fool holding onto fables long since proven nonsense by science, and moral positions that are simply bigotry wrapped in religion.”

As the new secular orthodoxy advances, churches either address convincingly and unflinchingly the assumptions of the orthodoxy, or they will find no ground left to stand on. And unlike losing the post-modern battle, a loss won’t result in everyone living happily ever after in their own little bubbles of self-proclaimed truth. This time, the loser will find itself at the pointy end of a series of laws and social restrictions designed to systematically marginalise them. Indeed, we’ve already seen this begin.

Can a Christian university that offers a law degree be accredited? Not according to the secular orthodox in Canada. Because law is a servant to public policy and Canadian public

policy includes promoting the equality of sexual orientations. Christians believe in privileging heterosexual marriage over homosexual marriage. They therefore discriminate. We don’t accredit law programs that discriminate on the basis of race or gender. So why would we accredit a law school built upon a foundation of sexual orientation discrimination?<sup>1</sup> Can a Christian school’s science curriculum be accredited? No. Accreditation agencies have a responsibility to ensure student receive a well-rounded education. Part of that education includes a thorough science curriculum—the core of which is evolutionary theory.<sup>2</sup> Can Christian couples be foster parents? Not according to a UK ruling. Why? Because the child they foster may be gay. And in that case, how could they raise that child and respect his sexual orientation?<sup>3</sup>

This is only the beginning. Expect accreditation of institutions, funding for church-related institutions and programs of all descriptions, any employment or contracting with the state, and eventually the practice within prominent professions, all to be targeted by the secular orthodox.

In truth, the church as a whole is not well prepared for this onslaught. Some are still wondering what we must have done wrong to make the secular orthodox target us with such vengeance. In good Christian mode, we’re tripping over ourselves to apologise. Some, even in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, are trying to buy peace by compromising our views on origins and sexuality.

What we need, however, are champions to stand up and intelligently and compassionately articulate the Christian view on human sexuality. Where it comes from. Why we hold to it. And the support in reason, evidence and Scripture for it. And we need a far more convincing articulation of our position on origins. Staying silent doesn’t buy us peace; it only hides our light on the issues of our day, creates space for confusion within our ranks and brings forward the time when we either compromise under pressure or are systematically marginalised.

<sup>1</sup> <http://news.nationalpost.com/2014/06/10/b-c-lawyers-gather-to-decide-fate-of-conservative-christian-trinity-western-universitys-law-school/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.degreeinfo.com/general-distance-learning-discussions/34774-school-teaching-creation-denied-accreditation.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-derbyshire-12598896>

**Dr Barry Oliver** Senior consulting editor  
**James Standish** Communication director  
**Jarrold Stackelroth** Guest editor  
**Kent Kingston** Assistant editor  
**Vania Chew** PR/editorial assistant  
**Dora Anuimuia** Sales & marketing  
**Tracey Bridcutt** Copyeditor  
**Linden Chuang** Assistant editor—digital  
**Loopeck Lewis** Graphic designer

Letters [editor@record.net.au](mailto:editor@record.net.au)  
 News & Photos [news@record.net.au](mailto:news@record.net.au)  
 Noticeboard [ads@record.net.au](mailto:ads@record.net.au)  
<http://record.net.au>  
 Mail: Adventist Media Network  
 Locked bag 1115  
 Wahoonga, NSW 2076, Australia  
 Phone (02) 9847 2222  
 Fax (02) 9847 2200

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 “Carolyn Drapok of Wuvulu Island hugs family friend Pastor Roger Millist after her baptism.”

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Our vision is to be a church that...  
**knows**  
*experiences*  
**and shares**  
 our hope in Jesus Christ!





## Rescued for a reason?

Jarrod Stackelroth

When Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 was shot down over Ukraine, the world was shocked. *Adventist Review* reported the story of Frieda Souhuwat-Tomasoa, a 67-year-old Dutch Adventist who had purchased a ticket for MH17, due to a last minute crisis in Indonesia. Three days before her scheduled flight, however, she realised she would be travelling during Sabbath and changed her ticket. Her conviction to never travel on Sabbath saved her life. However, her comments in the *Adventist Review* interview sparked controversy online.

"I am here to witness that God has spared me because I need to continue my mission here in Ambon and be available to aid people in our world who need help," she said.

While some celebrated her faithfulness and affirmed her calling, others thought her comments were callous.

As one commentator put it, "Does this mean that God didn't need all the other people who died in the crash?"

My answer? No. For thousands of years, Christian and Jewish theologians have pondered and argued and tried to articulate where God is during a tragedy and who is responsible. I don't have the time or space here to rehash those debates but I do want to ask, what can we learn from Frieda's testimony and the reaction to it?

Frieda said God "spared" her because she was "needed". Some have implied that this means He didn't spare the others. Actually, the quote only deals with her own experience. She is still processing the tragedy, trying to make sense of why she is alive. The experience has given her renewed vision—more reason to continue making a difference. Her comments and some of the anger directed at them, both stem from a misunderstanding of God and His will.

These days, the individual is paramount and it seems we have made God's will for our lives into some individual fairytale—a perfect plan set out before us that (if we accept it) will give our life impact. So amazing events, miraculous escapes and meaningful opportunities mean that we are following God's plan, whereas sudden deaths, terminal illness or dysfunctional relationships are either enemy attacks, sinful symptoms or blamed on God.

We have forgotten the corporate will of God. Yes, He loves each one of us and knows us intimately. He knit us together and knows the number of hairs on our head. But most of His commands are to His people as a whole—trust and obey my commandments, love God and your neighbour, be bold and strong.

God's commandments are like a wall bordering our path. We can choose to go cross country, live outside God's law and make our own choices. But if we live our lives within His guidelines, we live within His will and keep ourselves from some troubles (there are roadblocks from time to time). Throughout her history, Israel disregarded God's law, playing outside and suffering for it.

God's will is not as individualised as we've made it. Obedience is more important. Frieda was blessed by following her conviction not to fly on Sabbath. Following God's command in this case kept her safe but it doesn't mean she was favoured over and above everyone else on that flight. For many though, following God's will is dangerous as it can lead to conflict with the world.

As individuals we need to listen for the Spirit's prompting and obey His principles as best we can. None of us knows when death will come but we can be ready to meet it firmly within God's will. Until then, we must strive, like Frieda said, to "witness" and to "be available to aid people in our world who need help". That is God's will.



## This generation!

In the late 19th century a powerful youth movement spread across the evangelical denominations in North America. Known as the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, it was founded in a year that has come to have great significance for Seventh-day Adventists—1888. Numerous references to the movement are found scattered through Seventh-day Adventist denominational literature and committee minutes between 1889 and 1903. In 1891, for example, Uriah Smith's son Leon attended the first Student Volunteer convention at Cleveland, Ohio. In 1893, it was voted that the General Conference secretary should attend the second convention of the movement.

The two most influential leaders to emerge from the Student Volunteer Movement were John R Mott and Robert E Speer. Mott's particular strength was his ability to see mission in its worldwide perspective and promote the formation of strategies that would place an emphasis on strategic planning for the world as a whole. Speer was a systematic thinker who gave a good deal of attention to the needs of young national churches. He wanted the younger churches to be self-administering and in control of their own financial resources.

Interestingly, the Student Volunteer Movement had developed a "watchword". It was: "The evangelisation of the world in this generation." The watchword of the Student Volunteer Movement was of vital interest to Seventh-day Adventists—so much so that when the Youth department was formed by the General Conference in 1907, it adopted and adapted it. The "aim" of the "Missionary Volunteer Society" was to take "the Advent message to all the world in this generation".

And this is still the motto of our Youth department today.

*Dr Barry Oliver is president of the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.*



### Leap of faith

Critics say revivalist churches in Papua New Guinea are responsible for at least one death—a woman who was told she could stop using her HIV/AIDS medication if she was baptised and prayed. Other church groups in PNG, including Adventists, have been crucial in the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic. —ABC News



### Sing a new song

A new Christian ministry based in Gympie, Queensland, is hoping for a revival in the live music scene—and in faith—by launching “Live at the Chapel” across Australia and New Zealand. The idea is to promote local Christian artists, as well as providing them with venues to showcase their music. —facebook.com/LiveattheChapelAustralasia



### Near death experience

Stories of narrow escapes from Flight MH17, which was shot down over Ukraine, are emerging. Dutch Adventist woman Frieda Souhuwat-Tomasoa was originally booked on the flight. But when she realised during her devotional time with her husband that her itinerary would mean she would be travelling over Sabbath, she organised an earlier flight. —Adventist Review



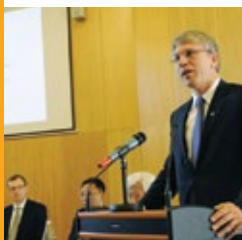
### Wrecking ball

Dozens of churches in China's Wenzhou province have been demolished or had crosses removed this year under a government campaign targeting “illegal structures”, which critics say has focused solely on church buildings. Another 60 churches—both official and “underground”—have received similar notifications. Some Christians fear a new wave of persecution. —The Guardian



### Ready, set, pray!

Church groups have been actively involved in Scotland's Commonwealth Games and spent time praying in Glasgow's streets. Churches in the northwest of the city, coordinated by an Adventist congregation, joined together to coordinate a “prayer relay”, held during the same week the Queen's Baton passed through their area. —BUC News



### Time for peace

The World Council of Churches has called for an end to the violence between Gaza and Israel, reminding both parties that international law prohibits the indiscriminate killing of civilians. General secretary, the Reverend Dr Fykse Tveit, urged an immediate ceasefire, safe passage for humanitarian aid agencies and direct peace talks. —WCC

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## Weet-Bix trusted by Aussies

*Berkeley Vale, New South Wales*

Sanitarium Weet-Bix has once again been voted the most trusted breakfast food by Australians, according to a *Reader's Digest* survey.

Weet-Bix also made it into the top 10 most trusted overall brands within Australia, ranking ninth out of hundreds of products in 46 different categories listed in the annual independent commissioned consumer survey.

The survey recognises products that dominate consumers' lifestyles and hold their all-important trust in an increasingly tough and highly competitive retail market.

Sanitarium Australia general manager Todd Saunders said it is an honour for Sanitarium Weet-Bix to be recognised as one of Australia's most trusted brands. "Australian families have been waking up to Weet-Bix for more than 85 years. Australians count on Weet-Bix to help them start their day right—they know Weet-Bix tastes good and delivers quality nutrition to fuel them with the energy they need for the day ahead," he said. —*Sanitarium Health & Wellbeing*



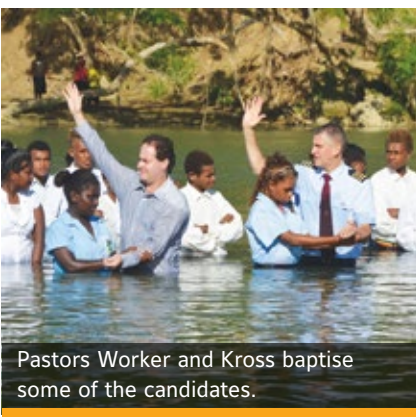
## 97 baptised as World Changers

*Honiara, Solomon Islands*

More than 1500 young people attended the Solomon Islands World Changers youth congress, which saw 97 baptisms.

Keynote speaker Dr Hiskia Missah, Associate Youth director at the General Conference, challenged those baptised to "change the world". Held in Honiara at the Maranatha Hall, the congress highlighted the momentum of the World Changers initiative across the Solomons.

"Everyone has a story of how they have shared their faith, gifting Bibles to young people," said Dr Nick Kross, South Pacific Division Youth director. Among the stories shared was that of a teacher in a government school who had been witnessing to her students and brought 13 of them to the congress. She is also giving Bible studies to her school principal, who has requested baptism. "Please pray for the young people across the South Pacific who continue to share their faith with friends," Dr Kross said. —*Nick Kross/Record staff*



Pastors Worker and Kross baptise some of the candidates.

## Training program inspires teens to lead

*Port Macquarie, New South Wales*

The future looks bright for the Adventist Church in Australia. More than 80 teens from across the country gathered in Bonny Hills, NSW, for the Australian Union Conference's (AUC) "CHOSEN 4" training program in July.

Each of the AUC's nine conferences was represented at the event, with local church pastors and boards selecting 14 to 16-year-olds who had demonstrated good leadership potential to attend.

AUC Youth Ministries director Jeff Parker said the purpose of the biennial training program is to encourage the Church's young members to "step up" in their local churches.

"Attendees at the last three CHOSEN programs are already serving as great leaders in their churches," he said.

Two of these leaders are Kaitlan Rath from Canberra (ACT) and Joyce Mugabashaka from Adelaide (SA). The two 19-year-olds attended CHOSEN in 2010 and are now actively involved in both local church and conference-wide youth ministry. They returned to CHOSEN this year to serve as mentors.

Other Adventist youth leaders from across the country served as trainers, including Pastor Derek McCutcheon (WA), Derek Rippingale (Vic), Graeme Frauenfelder (NSW),

Sebastian Davila (NSW), Jacqui and Elisha Knight (Vic), and Sharon Witt, one of Australia's top Christian writers for teens.

Attendees were also inspired by 2011 *Australia's Got Talent* finalist Ben Price and former Young Australian of the Year Glen Gerreyn, who served as guest presenters during the five-day program.

Paul Goltz from Livingston church (WA) also shared his journey of "policeman to pastor".

Pastor Parker said the programs, developed by former AUC youth director Pastor Tony Knight, are a great way of helping a large group of teens realise their full potential for God and the Church.

"I have seen the fruit of CHOSEN for many years and I know this year's event will be no different," he said. "To see switched-on teens stepping up in local church is truly inspirational." —*Linden Chuang*



Kaitlan Rath and Joyce Mugabashaka.

# Voyager of the Seas



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## Mission to the Cities in full motion

*Faa'a, Tahiti*

The French Polynesia Mission ran a two-week evangelistic campaign in Faa'a in June, with 30 programs taking place across Tahiti's most populated city.

Programs were held in churches, schools, sports venues and private homes, with a significant number of guests from the community attending.

In one area of Faa'a, 74 non-Adventists took part in the program, with seven people at the end of the campaign requesting baptism. Many other community members have also started Bible studies.

"I saw the Spirit of God at work," said local pastor Josias Teuira. "I could see hearts being touched for what Jesus has done for them."

The success of the "Faa'a for Christ" campaign was due in large part to the enthusiasm of local church members. Many volunteered their time to organise the event, while others stepped in to serve as speakers.

"We would really like to salute and express our gratitude to the work that has been accomplished by our church members—adults, youth and also children," said Mission president Pastor Roger Tetuanui.

"Faa'a for Christ" is just one of several Mission to the Cities initiatives taking place in the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC) in 2014.

The South New Zealand Conference (SNZC) has 14 programs planned across its region, including 12 local church campaigns for Christchurch. Nine people have already been baptised as a result of the first campaign—a "Last Empire" seminar held in Invercargill in mid-June.

Institute of Public Evangelism director Pastor Gary Webster also launched programs in Geraldine and Ashburton, with community members making up a majority of attendees and continuing Bible studies with the local pastor.

"We have been encouraged by the response so far," SNZC president Pastor Damien Rice said.

The Adventist Church in New Caledonia has also been busy with evangelism projects in 2014.

At the beginning of the year, leaders of the New Caledonia Mission were granted permission by 12 chiefs around the village of Touho—located more than 330kms north of the capital of Nouméa—to run an evangelistic campaign in the local area.

"Unless this gesture is done we run the risk of being turned away," Mission president Pastor Felix Wadrobot said.

Literature evangelists have been selling books and making contacts in Touho in preparation for the upcoming campaign.

Adventist youth have also been involved, with several young members spending a week in June performing community service projects in the local area. They also held a concert in the village, during which 30 copies of *Steps to Christ* were handed out to members of the community.

"Many of our 341 tribes and villages have not yet been reached by the Adventist message," Pastor Wadrobot said. "We earnestly desire that the Word of God be spread over the whole territory of New Caledonia so that the people hear this Word and prepare for His coming."—Linden Chuang



Pastor Wadrobot with a local chief.







## Celebration at Clarkson

Five people were baptised at Clarkson church (WA) on July 19, with members, friends and relatives there to witness the special event. Those baptised were Bill Combs, Norman Lunt, David and Bhavisha Di Mambro, and Rocca Di Mambro (David's mother). They were encouraged towards baptism through Gary Webster's "Ancient Mysteries" seminars and the follow up "Secrets of Prophecy" program. —Gavin Uprichard

## Unity on display

Adventists from across Efate showed off their arts, crafts and marching drills at the first combined Open Day at Freshwota field, Port Vila, in June. The theme was "United We Serve", with 15 churches taking part. Special guests included a number of Adventist Church and community leaders. The program was well received by all who attended. —Adventist Media: Vanuatu

## Every Heart's Cry

Nineteen pastors' wives came together for a weekend retreat in Bindoon (WA) in June. The theme for the Partners in Ministry event was "Every Heart's Cry", with author and *Record InFocus* co-host Dannielle Synot serving as guest speaker. The event gave the women an opportunity to spend time with God, and strengthen bonds of friendship and support. —Newswest



## PNG pastors ordained

Four ministers serving in the Western Highlands Mission (WHM) in Papua New Guinea were recently welcomed into the gospel ministry. Pastor Timothy Michael, who recently began serving as Mission youth director, and Pastors John Badi, John Tar and Inia Yari were ordained at the conclusion of the Adventist Community Service Congress (ACSC) at Ulya Mission Campground in Jiwaka Province. Pastor James North Jr, professor of Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy at Andrew's University (US) and guest speaker at ACSC, conducted the ordination service. During the program, WHM president Pastor Peter Oil charged the newly ordained pastors to remain dedicated to their call of duty in serving God. Mrs Oli also welcomed the new pastors' wives to the gospel ministry, challenging them to support their husbands in all circumstances. —Leighton Kasimo

## Chinese church plant launched

The Wellington Chinese church plant was launched in Upper Hutt (NZ) on Sabbath, July 26. The establishment of the church is a testament to the leadership of Julianna and Peter Tang-Hickey, and the vision of the late Dr Susan Wang. During the launch, Pastor Phillip Ko challenged the group of 45 people—who are mostly non-Adventist—to "be part of Jesus' Church". —Ben Timothy



## Back to Batuna

Twenty-two students from Brisbane Adventist College (Qld) recently visited Batuna Adventist Vocational School in Solomon Islands to complete some restorations to the girls' dormitory. The trip was the fifth time in the past six years that the college has sent a Sonship Action Team to serve in Solomon Islands. —Clinton Jackson

## First fruits

Students at Riverside Adventist Christian School (Qld) have officially tasted the "first fruits" from their school garden. The produce was sold to members of the public in late July, with some of the vegetables also being used to make meals for the school's canteen. The Riverside garden was established after the school won a \$A5000 grant from CUA in late 2013. —Rebeckah Woolfe

## Film launched

Australian High Commission first secretary David Momcilovic joined ADRA and Adventist Church leaders at Port Vila Seafront on July 20 to launch Vanuatu Mission's first feature film, *Nogat Taem*. The film was produced in partnership with Local Bread Media Productions and highlights the common social issues facing families in Vanuatu. Copies of *Nogat Taem* are available through ADRA's head office in Port Vila. —Adventist Media: Vanuatu



# Flying through



Enthusiastic welcome. Secretariat staff visiting from most of the Church's Division offices, as well as the General Conference, were greeted at Goroka airport by locals in traditional dress.



Grassroots perspective. GC general secretary GT Ng was one of up to 15,000 people who attended Sabbath celebrations during the Adventist Aviation Service's 50th anniversary.



Box seat. The back of a truck gives this family a vantage point during Sabbath celebrations at Goroka's National Park.



Retired mission pilot, 94-year-old Pastor Len Barnard (centre) catching up with some of the men who helped carry equipment through PNG's rugged highlands on mission patrols prior to 1964, when Adventist Aviation Services was established.



At rest. The grave of Les Anderson, who was director of Adventist Aviation Services when he died in a plane crash in 2002. Australian and local volunteers scrambled to freshen up the Kabiufa School cemetery and add plaques in time for the anniversary celebrations.



Local colour. Adventist women from the Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission had been busy knitting and weaving traditional bilum bags to celebrate the jubilee.

*An excerpted message from Adventist World Church president, Dr Ted Wilson, emailed during the celebrations:*

High-flying Christian greetings to each of you assembled for the 50th anniversary of Adventist Aviation! On behalf of the Seventh-day Adventist Church worldwide let me thank you for your wonderful service to the ongoing evangelistic outreach of the Church and the tremendous service to the thousands of people you care for through medical, educational, logistical and humanitarian assistance. Only in heaven will we know the full picture of the many lives you have touched in the name of Jesus and His ministry. Let me pay special tribute to those who have risked danger in their aviation activities [or] lost their lives in service to the Lord and His Church, remembering that soon Jesus will return and resurrect those who have been faithful to Him and His cause.

Ted N C Wilson



# In the heavens, proclaiming...

## Adventist Aviation Services celebrates 50 years in Papua New Guinea



The story of Adventist aviation in Papua New Guinea is one of innovation, sacrifice and blessing. The impact of a transition from weeks-long foot treks up and down the steep mountains of PNG's highlands, to aeroplane hops measured in minutes, cannot be overstated. Not that it has been easy. Stormy weather, local politics and tight budgets continue to be a challenge and a number of graves in Kabiufa's pioneer cemetery are a silent testimony to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their God. The 50th anniversary celebrations of Adventist Aviation Services (AAS) in Goroka made room for memories, laughter, tears and prayers.



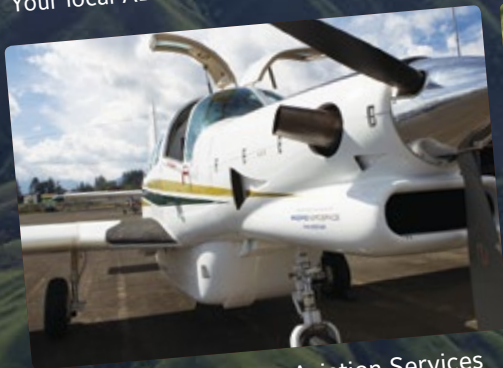
Lest we forget. A commemorative collection of stories and photos has been put together by Adventist aviation supporters. Your local ABC may have a copy.



Highlands style. A bagpipe and drum marching band on the airport tarmac greets church leaders attending the half-centenary.



One of the many church workers and volunteers involved in helping the week-end of celebration run smoothly.



Tech specs. Adventist Aviation Services runs two of these New Zealand-made aircraft and is in the process of purchasing a third. It's a P750XL manufactured by Pacific Aerospace Limited and is suited for XSTOL maneuvers—extra short take-off and landing—perfect for PNG's rugged bush airstrips. It's powered by a 750hp Pratt & Whitney PT6A-34 turbo-shaft engine, delivering a 300km/hr cruise speed and 1000 km range with more than one tonne of cargo on board.



Paying tribute. Local Adventists at Lake Kopiago carved a wooden replica of the *Andrew Stewart*, the world's first Adventist mission aircraft. Pastor Len Barnard, centre, first landed at the new Kopiago airstrip in July 1964 and commenced evangelistic work there—the first Adventist mission established with aviation support. Many in the welcoming party shed tears as Pastor Barnard spoke to them in Tok Pisin and led the singing of the hymn "When we all get to heaven".



In full cry. One of a number of retired PNG aviation missionaries present at the celebrations, Pastor John Kosmeier shared lively stories of God's protection and guidance in fluent Tok Pisin. Crowd estimates for the Sabbath service at Goroka's National Park ranged between 10,000 and 15,000.



# LETTERS

*Note: Views in letters do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Letters should be less than 250 words, and writers must include their name, address and phone number. All letters are edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author's original meaning will not be changed. Not all letters received are published. See Page 4 for contact details.*

## QUALITY ARTICLE

Richard Corniola, USA

I just finished reading the article entitled "Anyone but him, please God!", (Feature, July 5). Besides having a great message, it is a literary masterpiece...very well written. Thanks for providing quality articles such as this.

## HIS NAME

Marcia Hremeviuc, NT

It saddens me to hear what seems to be the "modern" way of Seventh-Day Adventist praying, which ends "in your name".

I am usually left to wonder whether –

1. We no longer need the power of Jesus' name (most often the name is never even mentioned in the prayer),
2. Jesus is the Father,
3. We do not practice what we teach.

I have heard two excuses for praying in this manner. One is that when you say "Lord", it means you are now talking to Jesus. How is a non-Christian to understand that?

The other is that we are "in Jesus" all the time, so we automatically pray in His name without saying it. Is this so obvious to outsiders?

Maybe if we did it the way Jesus told us to in John 15:16, more good things might happen.

## CONFIRM CREATION

Chris Thorogood, NZ

I praise the Lord for Pastor Gary Webster's clear confirmation of my own long held, total belief that our planet earth was created just six thousand years ago, ('Opening His Word' June 7). I experienced this realisation some 10 years ago after reading recent findings of many of the Earth's sciences including Physics – Biology – Geology – Archeology – Paleontology and Astronomy, as recorded in the

Creation' magazine, published by 'Creation Ministries International' <Creation.com>. I would thoroughly recommend this website to any doubters of the 'Word's of God', specifically those relative to Creation beliefs and Noah's world-wide flood.

## WITNESSES

A E Hobbs, via website

Devolution, (Editorial, August 2) underscores the importance of studying and committing to our hearts, the Word of God. Ellen White writes in the Great Controversy that it is only those who are diligent students of the Bible who will be shielded from the powerful delusions that take the world captive. Our faith needs to be substantiated in the Scriptures. Satan only needs us to harbour a 'little' doubt in order for him to gain influence on our minds.

Have you ever considered that we will be witnesses to the work of creation when God makes the earth new again? Can you imagine what that will be like? To watch as He organises it like He did in the beginning, puts it in order and fills it with His glory? That will be exciting.

## COMFORTABLE

Melody Bell, NSW

"Drunk in Church," (Editorial, July 19) is a great reminder of Jesus' commandment to "love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:31). It's so easy for us—myself included—to remain in our comfortable circle of friends (some might call "cliques") to

the exclusion of others, be it intentionally or unintentionally.

But it's not just outcasts we need to care about—also the introverts among us, those who find it hard to make friends or even introduce themselves.

We need to make the effort to be interested, especially in those on the fringes, of society, or our circle of friends. We were all outsiders once, but somebody made the effort. It's time we returned the favour.

## PASTORAL STRUGGLE

Andrew Watts, via Facebook

Re: "A year without God" (Feature, August 2). To be honest I wish more Christian pastors who struggle with understanding God would do this. If he can't find a reason for faith after thinking differently for a year, then he never had any real answers in the first place—just traditional upbringing propagating useless information that isn't relevant to knowing God, hence he shouldn't be a pastor.

## TRYING HARD DRUGS

Rick Brewster-Webb, via Facebook

Referring to "A year without God" maybe "trying" atheism is a bit like "trying" heroin and other hard drugs

Once committed it is very difficult to renounce and return to Christianity/normality.

Knowing the difference between good and evil would be a great starting point for anyone considering this alternative "journey".

### REVIVED BY HIS WORD

## August 16—30, 2014

**READING THROUGH THE BIBLE TOGETHER  
ONE CHAPTER A DAY**

16 – Dan. 2	20 – Dan. 6	24 – Dan. 10	28 – Hos. 2
17 – Dan. 3	21 – Dan. 7	25 – Dan. 11	29 – Hos. 3
18 – Dan. 4	22 – Dan. 8	26 – Dan. 12	30 – Hos. 4
19 – Dan. 5	23 – Dan. 9	27 – Hos. 1	





## Under pressure

Did you know that the ever-changing group of microorganisms calling our bodies home, known as the microbiome, actually outnumbers us? Some estimates place the figure at about 10 microbial cells for every one human cell. So since these little guys outnumber us 10 to 1, it's not hard to imagine that our health is linked to theirs.

Probiotics (like a booster shot of good microorganisms) can be found in foods like certain yoghurts and some fermented milk and vegetable products, and are at the centre of a growing body of research that suggests they might just be microscopic health heroes.

A recent study on blood pressure is the latest in a line of interesting work. The study, conducted by Griffith University (Qld), included 543 adults who had either normal or high blood pressure. It found that, on average, participants who consumed probiotics daily for eight weeks or more had a 3.5mm Hg lower systolic blood pressure (the higher number in a blood pressure reading) and a 2.38mm Hg lower diastolic blood pressure than those who did not consume them.

The researchers noted, however, that those who consumed smaller amounts of the probiotics or consumed them for less than eight weeks did not see an improvement in blood pressure. While the findings are promising, it's early days and the team noted that more work needs to be done before probiotics can be recommended as a treatment for blood pressure control.

To date, the majority of research surrounding probiotics has looked at intestinal health. But there's a growing body of evidence in areas as wide ranging as immune health, brain function and even psoriasis suggesting the benefits of keeping this community of microorganisms healthy may be more systemic than first thought.



### *Berry breakfast trifle*

Preparation time: 5 minutes    Cooking time: 0 minutes    Serves: 4

**2 cups low fat natural yoghurt**  
**2 tablespoons honey**  
**2 cups wholegrain breakfast cereal**  
**1 punnet raspberries or strawberries**  
**1 punnet blueberries**

1. Place yoghurt and honey in a bowl and mix well. Divide half the yoghurt evenly between four small bowls or tall glasses. Top with half of the cereal and then half of the berries.
2. Repeat layers with remaining ingredients.

**NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE:** 960kJ (230cal). Protein 11g. Fat 1g. Carbohydrate 43g. Sodium 150mg. Calcium 380mg. Iron 2mg. Fibre 4g.

Call and arrange to speak to one of our qualified nutritionists at Sanitarium Lifestyle Medicine Services on 1800 673 392 (in Australia) or 0800 100 257 (in New Zealand). Alternatively, email us at [nutrition@sanitarium.com.au](mailto:nutrition@sanitarium.com.au) (Australia) or [nutrition@sanitarium.co.nz](mailto:nutrition@sanitarium.co.nz) (New Zealand). For more great recipes and health articles visit our website [www.sanitarium.com.au](http://www.sanitarium.com.au) or [www.sanitarium.co.nz](http://www.sanitarium.co.nz)

**Sanitarium**

LIFESTYLE  
MEDICINE  
SERVICES



# Sandy's story



by Vania Chew

**T**ENSION. FEAR. SHAME. NEGLECT. EMOTIONS that no four-year-old child should have to face, but Sandy experienced them all on a daily basis.

By the time Sandy turned four, she was the product of a broken home. Her mother had left her father and started a tumultuous relationship with an alcoholic who belted her regularly.

"When my older brother first saw the bruises on my mum's face, he was horrified. He demanded to know who had hit her. My mum had become an alcoholic herself by this point. She told him to pack his bags and get out," Sandy recalls.

It wasn't long before her mother had also kicked Sandy's other brother and sister out of the house. The baby of the family, Sandy was forced to stay with her mother and the man who was now her stepfather. She had no other choice.

"I had no hope of a secure upbringing in that household," Sandy says. "I had to sit there each day and watch my mother being physically, verbally and emotionally abused."

Her sister Valerie, 11 years her senior, desperately wanted to help Sandy but didn't know how. Around this time, their brother Mervyn was invited to an Adventist church. Valerie went with him.

The church didn't impress Mervyn, but Valerie instinctively knew it was the solution she had been seeking. She began praying earnestly about Sandy's situation, certain that the loving God she was learning about would rescue her little sister.

"Mum was drunk when Valerie came over and asked if she could have me," Sandy recalls. "I still remember Valerie picking me up after school the next day. I didn't feel sad

about never seeing my mother again. Instead I felt joy . . . and relief."

Sandy began attending Brentwood Adventist church with Valerie. Having never known what it was like to grow up in a nurturing family environment, she immediately felt welcomed by the loving people she met there.

"We were invited to people's homes for lunch and tea every Sabbath. I still remember being served my first vegetarian meal—it was boiled potatoes and Nutmeat!" Sandy laughs.

Several years later, Sandy married, looking forward to a fresh start and the opportunity to raise her own family. She and her husband had four children. She was determined that her children would never know the trauma she had experienced.

There is noticeable pain in her eyes as she tells me the marriage didn't work out. Disillusioned and disconsolate, Sandy stopped attending church, vowing she would never return.

"My cousin used to be a Jehovah's Witness and left the denomination around the same time that I left the Adventist Church," reflects Sandy. "We were sitting around my brother's house one morning, laughing about how we had seen past the facade of religion and how the truth had indeed set us free. But inside I felt empty."

Admitting her emptiness ultimately brought Sandy back to God. She found herself drawn to a book her sister had given her some years before—*What's so Amazing About Grace?* by Philip Yancey.

Reading the book renewed a hunger for God she had long tried to quash. She began reading other Christian books and found herself re-reading chapters simply because she didn't want the books to end.



Sandy started working as a receptionist at Sanitarium New Zealand—an Adventist institution. Knowing she was a former Adventist, her colleagues consistently invited her to church each Sabbath. Despite her vow to never set foot in church again, she eventually relented.

"It wasn't anything like my first church experience where everyone was warm and welcoming," she says. "I was incredibly lonely but I was still determined to get back into church."

After three weeks of spiritual inactivity, Sandy had had enough. She went directly to the pastor and told him, "These are my spiritual gifts. Use them." She soon became involved in the church's outreach program, telling children's stories and running the Tiny Tots Sabbath School.

"Running that Sabbath School class was the only thing that kept me going to church," she acknowledges. "Those kids needed me and I needed them."

Yet Sandy still felt as though God was calling her to do something else with her life.

One day, she got on her knees and prayed out loud, "God, I will do whatever you tell me to." She then felt deeply impressed to move to Australia.

Move to Australia?

Sandy was a single mum. She had no job prospects or house overseas, and had barely enough money to feed her family each day. But she believed if God wanted her to move to Australia, He would make a way. And sure enough, the doors began to open.

"I applied for a house in Morisset (NSW). I had to pay six months bond because I was a single mother but praise God, I'm still living in that house today," Sandy says.

"Three weeks after I moved to Australia, I received a call from Sanitarium's head office, telling me they had a job for me if I wanted it. I hadn't actually applied for a job here, so the offer was a surprise."

The other surprise was that the job was in IT.

"I knew nothing whatsoever about technology!" laughs Sandy. "God really wanted me in Australia!"

The miracles kept on coming. Sandy met her now-husband Trevor online via Adventist Match and they dated for two years before getting engaged. They married in January 2011 in a beautiful outdoor wedding.

"He treats me like a queen," Sandy says with a smile. "I'm so happy to be married to him."

They had been married for 15 months when Trevor made an unexpected proposition: "I want us to start our own business."

"Only if it is something we are passionate about," Sandy countered. Thinking the discussion was over, she promptly forgot all about it. But it wasn't the end of the conversation.

At that stage, Trevor was spending roughly four hours commuting to and from work. He was feeling tired, unful-

filled and more than ready to take on a new challenge.

One evening he came home and wrote one word on a piece of paper: "Alcofree".

Trevor had put his hours on the train to good use and come up with the idea of a business that sourced alcohol-free drinks. It wasn't long before he had their daughter-in-law Lulu Lewis designing the company logo and brand colours.

Sandy did her best to support Trevor, but she didn't feel particularly enthusiastic about the business until a conversation with a stranger changed her outlook. On her way to London, Sandy began chatting with a woman on the same flight.

"I'm leaving my job," the woman told her. "I've had enough of the drinking culture that comes with working in the corporate sector."

"Really?" Sandy said in astonishment. "My husband and I are actually setting up a business around alcohol-free drinks."

The woman's face lit up. "You've got to get into this," she encouraged Sandy. "I've seen what happens when people drink too much at corporate functions. It has to stop."


During her time overseas, Sandy remembered what she had originally told Trevor—that if they were going to start their own business, it would have

to be something they were passionate about. What was she passionate about?

Sandy reflected upon the painful memories of her childhood. She contemplated the physical and emotional damage alcohol causes—she had seen it all firsthand. And then she realised what she was passionate about—Alcofree and its potential to transform Australia's drinking culture.

"In Trevor's mind, we were already business partners," she says. "But that moment was when I truly became his partner." She then made the decision to leave her job and work for Alcofree full-time.

Today, Alcofree is no longer a dream scribbled on a piece of paper. It's the name of Trevor and Sandy's bar in Tuggerah, on the Central Coast, NSW. Whisky, daiquiris, wine, beer—whatever you're after, you can find it there and it's all alcohol-free.

"This business was and continues to be a leap of faith," Sandy admits. "We had a considerable amount saved up for our future and we chose to put those savings into Alcofree instead. But I believe in miracles. God has worked so many miracles in my life. Right now, Trevor and I are in the waiting room. We're waiting to see what God will do." 

Watch the Record InFocus interview with Sandy Schofield at <[vimeo.com/99194903](https://vimeo.com/99194903)>.

For more information about Alcofree Bar, visit <[www.alcofree.com.au](http://www.alcofree.com.au)>.

Vania Chew is PR/editorial assistant for Adventist Record.

**"I've had enough of the drinking culture that comes with working in the corporate sector."**



# Fire

by Nick Kross with James Standish

**A**T A PERSONAL LEVEL WE'RE RESOURCE RICH AND vision poor. We've lost our central reason for being. Yes, we're good at playing church. But we aren't serious about building God's kingdom.

What is our reason for being? Why are we here? What are we called to do? What is our central purpose?

If we can't enunciate it, how can we live it?

Recently, I read about a sign on a church. It stated: "This church exists to take care of the needs of the church members." At first glance this might sound good. After all, everyone wants our churches to be caring, nurturing places.

But serving ourselves is not the purpose of the church. Do

you know what is? Jesus said it simply: If you follow Me, I will make you fishers of men.

Ask yourself this question: how many people did I lead to Christ in the past 12 months? How many people did I even try to lead to Jesus? I've travelled across our Division and I have to tell you, there are a lot of us whose answer would be a big round zero. And that just isn't good enough. Our spiritual experience only grows when we actively live the life of discipleship Christ offers, not hide our light from the world.

Our best evangelistic resource isn't 20 or 30 highly trained evangelists or even our local pastor. It's all of us. Every single Adventist Christian is called to share the gospel.



Listen, I know how hard it is to bring people to Jesus. In the past five years, I've personally studied with a number of people who were baptised and are members of the Church. It's hard work. Personal evangelism comes at a cost: weekly Bible studies and including your new friends in your life. It means turning off the TV or Facebook and actually taking someone on a journey of faith. And not only is it hard to bring someone in, but once they become church members they need nurture and people who will share the vision Christ has for them or they will disengage. Even if you weren't directly involved in bringing in an individual yourself, you can still provide ongoing nurture and discipleship for a new believer.

The point is, we have to get back to our core DNA of mission. We have lost it. Not rhetorically. But practically. Across our region many are adrift.

The response to the World Changers Bible sharing initiative has been mixed. I know God is behind it. I've seen Him work in wonderful ways. I've met Adventist Christians who are alive and strong in spreading the gospel. But all too often I've met with apathy. How can we, a movement called to prepare the way for Christ's soon second coming, be apathetic about soul winning? Apathy for souls is the antithesis of what we are all about.

We cannot be disciples, not real followers of Christ, if we aren't spreading the gospel. We are called to be salt but we've lost our flavour. If we were serious—if every one of us was on fire—this Church would see an explosion of members. It's in the act of sharing our faith that we draw close to Christ and grow spiritually. And I fear that is one of our biggest problems. Too often our religious experience is focused on our salvation, our life in the Church, us. We forget that to be a disciple of Christ means to actively engage others in the salvation journey. If we don't have this active experience with Jesus Christ, how can we share it?

Think about it. In 200 years, the early church went from 120 followers of Christ to 20 million. The early Christian believers had no property, no status in society, little theological training, but they had the one thing that is crucial: a burning desire to see souls saved through Christ. That's the power of the Holy Spirit working through our open hearts and willing hands.

Where are our open hearts? Where are our willing hands?

We're so distracted by all the same things as everyone else: careers, entertainment, investments, all of that stuff. We think we're strong and sophisticated. But we're weak. We're destitute. We need the holy fire that only God can give us.

Megachurch founder Bill Hybels says: we have to love lost people so much that we don't want to go to heaven without them. Like Moses who was willing to give up eternity so others could enjoy heaven. Today, I fear we aren't even willing to

give up an afternoon so others can enjoy heaven!

You want revival and reformation? I'll tell you where to start. On our knees begging for God to give us the heart of Jesus. A heart so full of love that He took curses, spitting, scourging and ultimately death because He wanted to save others so badly. Where is our love today? Where do we find that level of caring for others? We're in an eternal battle. The stakes couldn't be higher. All around us souls are hurtling towards the abyss. And we are silent and satisfied.

Look in your heart and ask yourself, seriously ask yourself: do I care about the eternal fate of those around me? You'll


know whether you really do, by looking at what you've done to win them to Christ. If the answer is a sort of shrug with a Seinfeld, "nah, not so much", we can know for sure we don't have the heart of Jesus Christ. Why? Because Christ was all about saving this world one person at a time.

I look around and we're spending millions of dollars on church buildings and all sorts of things. That doesn't

matter. What matters is the spirit within the hearts of those in the churches. Until we get Christ's mission back at our core. Until we have a thirst, a desperate desire. Until our foremost instinct is to see others in God's kingdom, we have nothing. We don't go to church; we are the church. At work, university, school and wherever we engage with unsaved souls.

It all starts by selecting five people you know who are not currently walking with Jesus. Commit to praying for them daily over the next 12 months. There are four distinct prayers we can pray that will help us get the ball rolling:

- That God will give you a loving heart for your friends.
- For opportunities to share your testimony/story with them.
- That they will be open to the Spirit's leading.
- That they will realise their need for Christ.

My point? Jesus gave everything to save others. And He has asked us, you and me, to follow His example. We have a central reason for being. If we're still breathing, God's got a job for us to do. We've been given a mission. So stop playing Christian and start being a disciple of Christ. This is where Christianity starts—sharing the light that has been entrusted to us. When December 31 hits and 2014 falls back into history, only the things done for God will have any eternal significance. For most of us, this year will be completely insignificant. But if we really have Jesus in our hearts, this year will count for eternity through the lives we touch for Him. Are you a world changer? 

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*Dr Nick Kross is Adventist Youth Ministries director of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific.  
James Standish is editor of Adventist Record.*



# Wholism: why Adventists *should* make terrible monks<sup>1</sup>

by Stephen Ferguson

**S**OLOMON SAID IN ECCLESIASTES 7:18: "WHOEVER fears God will avoid all extremes."<sup>2</sup> Every denomination has extremists and Seventh-day Adventist Church pioneer Ellen White continually warned against fanaticism.<sup>3</sup> However, can Adventists learn from an extreme form of Christianity—monasticism—with its mandatory poverty, chastity, fasting, silence, hairshirts, reed beds, midnight vigils and self-flagellations?

## Monk up a pole: the origins of monasticism

Monasticism, as we know it, arose in fourth-century Egypt with Anthony the Great and Pachomius.<sup>4</sup> Treating the human body as intrinsically evil, these men strove to live isolated lives with little food, sleep, companionship or recreation.<sup>5</sup>

Famous Dark Ages monastics included: Isidora, who pretended to be mad, wore an old dishrag and ate nothing but crumbs;<sup>6</sup> Catherine of Siena, whose diet consisted of communion wafers and pus from the sores of the sick;<sup>7</sup> and Simeon Stylites, who lived for 37 years atop an 84-foot pole!<sup>8</sup>

## Nazirite oath: the biblical model of seclusion

There are, of course, biblical examples of people living apart from others for a time. Numbers 6:1-21 prescribes the oath of the Nazirite, whereby a person vows to abstain from grape products, cutting their hair or touching a corpse. Famous Nazirites included Samson, Moses, Elijah, John the Baptist,<sup>9</sup> Paul<sup>10</sup> and probably even Jesus.<sup>11</sup>

These biblical Nazirites did withdraw for a time for prayer, fasting, silence and contemplation. However, they always returned to serve their communities. What was radically new about fourth-century monasticism was the idea of permanent isolation and total aversion to the material world—especially the human body.

## Gnosticism: monasticism's dark origins

Monasticism is actually rooted in the first major Christian heresy: Gnosticism. Gnosticism was an umbrella term for certain Eastern pagan beliefs mixed with Greek philosophy, especially Platonism with its emphasis on the immortal soul.<sup>12</sup> When Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity in 312 AD, Christianity began a process of accommodation with the pagan majority. This involved adopting some elements of Gnosticism.

Gnosticism, however, turns the Bible on its head. It views the Hebrew Creator of Genesis as an evil or lesser god (called the Demiurge), with creation a flawed mistake.<sup>13</sup> The serpent is not evil but good, come to liberate Adam and Eve from their golden-caged prison in Eden.<sup>14</sup>

During the New Testament period, this heresy led to viewing the human body as either inherently sinful or as an irrelevant shell for an immortal soul, and subsequently to the extremes<sup>15</sup> of liberal Libertinism (such as Christians visiting prostitutes)<sup>16</sup> and conservative asceticism (such as mandatory celibacy and fasting).<sup>17</sup> Paul had to battle both of these ideas.

Similarly, because of this negative view of the human body, Gnostic-Christians taught that Jesus had only come in spirit form (known as docetism).<sup>18</sup> This prompted the apostle John to describe anyone who denied Jesus had come in the flesh as an anti-Christ.<sup>19</sup>

The early church ultimately suppressed Gnosticism. However, according to today's Gnostics:

*"Orthodox Christianity clashed with Gnosticism and the church fathers read Gnostic texts in order to refute them. This led indirectly to Christianity absorbing a certain amount of influence from Gnosticism."*<sup>20</sup>

## Enter the matrix: Gnosticism's impact

The impact of Gnosticism on Christianity cannot be



understated, given the New Testament canon was largely selected in reaction to it.<sup>21</sup> As acknowledged by famous German theologian Jürgen Moltmann:

*"In the degree to which Christianity cut itself off from its Hebrew roots and acquired Hellenistic and Roman form, it lost its eschatological hope and surrendered its apocalyptic alternative to 'this world' of violence and death. It merged into late antiquity's Gnostic religion of redemption. From Justin onwards, most Fathers revered Plato as a 'Christian before Christ' and extolled his feeling for the divine transcendence and for the values of the spiritual world. God's eternity now took the place of God's future, heaven replaced the coming kingdom, the spirit that redeems the soul from the body supplanted the Spirit as 'the well of life', the immortality of the soul displaced the resurrection of the body, and the yearning for another world became a substitute for changing this one."*<sup>22</sup>

In other words, Gnosticism corrupted Christianity's original Jewish message about redemption of this world through a Saviour, into a Greek message about escape for our supposed immortal souls from this world. In doing so, it turned creation itself into sin, contrary to Paul's teaching that creation groans to be freed from sin.<sup>23</sup>

These concepts spread into monasticism and from there into many "mainstream" Christian denominations. We even see Gnosticism's legacy in popular culture, such as the movies *Tron: Legacy* and *The Matrix*, which are essentially Gnostic parables.<sup>24</sup>

## Wholism: the balanced Adventist approach

The Adventist Church is arguably the most anti-Gnostic of today's Christian religions. In direct opposition to Gnosticism's bleak view, we affirm the Genesis account of a good God making a very good creation.<sup>25</sup> We acknowledge this weekly in the Sabbath.<sup>26</sup>

Through our views about the nature of man and state of the dead, we affirm the human body was made in the very image of God, unified in one indivisible entity.<sup>27</sup> In our health message, we affirm eating, drinking, rest and sex as being part of God's original plan for humankind.<sup>28</sup> While the Fall corrupted those functions, our bodies are not intrinsically evil, but rather, the temples of the Holy Spirit.<sup>29</sup>

In our end-time beliefs, we don't seek a ghost-like escape from this world.<sup>30</sup> Instead, we believe in a physical resurrection,<sup>31</sup> a physical second coming,<sup>32</sup> a final destruction of the wicked<sup>33</sup> and a physical recreated New Earth.<sup>34</sup>

These Adventist "distinctives" are often described together using the term "wholism". Wholism is considered by some to be Adventism's most important contribution to Christianity.<sup>35</sup>

Wholism is a very positive way to describe our remnant message,<sup>36</sup> separating as it does original Christianity from the pagan philosophies of "Babylon". Adventists *should* make terrible monks because we reject their theology, rooted in Gnosticism's fear of the created world and

hang-ups about the human body. Instead, we embrace a wholistic faith that acknowledges both creation and Creator as originally good. Thus, far from being fanatics, Adventists are (or should be) the most balanced Christians in the world!

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1. This article largely credits Jack W. Provonsha's excellent piece about wholism and the origins of monasticism in "And God Saw it was Good", from *God is with Us* (Hagerstown MD: Review & Herald Pub., 1968).
2. All texts are from the New International Version.
3. Ellen G. White, "Fanaticism and Extremism", *Evangelism* (Hagerstown MD: Review and Herald Pub., 1964), 610-613.
4. E. A. Livingstone, *Oxford Concise Dictionary of the Christian Church* (Oxford: Oxford Uni. Press., 2006), 392.
5. Ibid.
6. "Saint Isidora, the Fool for Christ", *The Nuns' Garden: The website of the Sister of Saint Syncletike*, <http://thenungsgarden.org/>, retrieved Mar 31, 2014.
7. E. Gardner, "St. Catherine of Siena", *The Catholic Encyclopedia* (New York: Robert Appleton Company), Retrieved March 31, 2014.
8. H. Thurston, "St. Simeon Stylites the Elder", *The Catholic Encyclopedia* (New York: Robert Appleton Company), Retrieved March 31, 2014.
9. The clearest NT example of the Nazirite oath, where the angel states John will drink neither wine nor strong drink (Luke 1:13-15), and where baptism itself is inherent in the Nazirite vow.
10. Paul is especially interesting, with a veiled reference to cutting his hair for an oath (Acts 18:18).
11. Especially during the last part of His ministry, as He prepared for death. The parallel between the oath of the Nazirite and Jesus' hometown of Nazareth hasn't been lost on scholars. Nor has the fact Jesus personally refused to drink wine at the Last Supper (Mark 14:22-25).
12. F. Cross, "Platonism", *The Oxford dictionary of the Christian Church* (New York: Oxford Uni. Press., 2005).
13. John Arendzen, "Gnosticism" *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, Vol. 6 (New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1909), retrieved 31 July 2013 <<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/06592a.htm>>.
14. Andrew Smith, *The Gnostics* (London: Watkins Pub., 2008), 188.
15. D. Dunn, *The New Testament: History, Literature and Social Context*, 4th Ed. (Belmont CA: Wadsworth, 2003), 27,32-33.
16. 1 Cor. 6:12-20.
17. 1 Tim. 4:1-3; Col. 2:16-20; Rom. 14:1-3.
18. E. A. Livingstone, n4, 176, 244.
19. 1 John 4:1-3; 2 John 1:7.
20. Andrew Smith, *Gnostic Writings on the Soul* (Woodstock VT: Sky Light Pub., 2007), xvii.
21. The NT canon was formed in opposition to Gnostic-Christian Marcion of Sinope who, viewing the Hebrew Creator as evil, produced his own version of the Bible without an OT and only a heavily edited version of Luke: Dunn, n16, 57, 557.
22. J. Moltmann, *The Spirit of Life: A Universal Affirmation* (London: SCM Press, 1992), 89.
23. Rom. 8:18-22.
24. Grant Morrison, *Supergods: Our World in the Age of the Superhero* (London: Roman House, 2011), 315.
25. See especially SDA Fundamental Belief #6 "Creation"; Gen. 1:31 and Gen. 2:2.
26. See especially SDA Fundamental Belief #20 "The Sabbath"; Ex. 20:8-11.
27. See especially SDA Fundamental Belief #7 "Nature of Man"; Gen. 1:26,27; Ex. 33:20, 1 Tim. 6:16; Eccl. 9:5,6 and Ps. 146:3,4.
28. See especially SDA Fundamental Belief #23 "Marriage and Family"; Gen. 2:18-25.
29. See especially SDA Fundamental Belief #22 "Christian Behaviour"; 1 Cor. 6:12-20; 1 Cor. 10:31 and 1 Tim. 4:1-5.
30. Which it could be said is exactly what modern evangelical teachings about the Rapture do. Thus, the Rapture to some extent is arguably an extension of teachings about the immortal soul.
31. See especially SDA Fundamental Belief #26 "Death and Resurrection"; John 11:11-14.
32. See especially SDA Fundamental Belief #25 "Second Coming of Christ"; 1 Thes. 4:13-18.
33. See especially SDA Fundamental Belief #27 "The Millennium and End of Sin"; Rev. 21:1-15.
34. See especially SDA Fundamental Belief #28 "The New Earth"; Rev. 22:1-5.
35. According to a 1987 survey, 36 per cent of professional Adventist theologians surveyed viewed wholism as more important than eschatology, the Sabbath, the great controversy theme or the sanctuary message: Malcolm Bull and Keith Lockhart, *The Intellectual World of Adventist Theologians* (October 1987), republished in *Spectrum Magazine*, retrieved <<http://spectrummagazine.org/files/archive/archive16-20/18-1bull.pdf>>
36. Rev. 14:6-12.

*Stephen Ferguson is a lawyer from Perth, Western Australia, and member of Livingston Adventist church.*

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# Kids' Space

**APA KABAR\*  
KIDS!**

ELISHA & HIS STUDENTS  
HAVE GONE TO THE BANKS  
OF THE RIVER JORDAN TO  
CUT DOWN TREES FOR A NEW  
SCHOOL BUILDING.

ONE OF THE BOYS BORROWED AN AXE AND WHILE HE WAS  
CHOPPING THE AXE HEAD COMES FLYING OFF, LANDS IN THE  
RIVER AND SINKS TO THE BOTTOM! OH NO!

THEN A MIRACLE HAPPENS. ELISHA THROWS  
A PIECE OF WOOD INTO THE WATER AND  
THE AXEHEAD FLOATS UP!



FIND THE AXEHEAD  
BETWEEN ALL THE  
OTHER  
TOOLS IN  
THE WATER



## MEMORY VERSE

"1 2 3 AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO  
YOU: 4 5 6 7 AND  
YOU WILL FIND" MATTHEW 7:7 NIV

## GRACE MESSAGE

GOD 8 9 10 11 12  
ABOUT ALL YOUR PROBLEMS

\* How are you? in Bahasa (Indonesia)



## WEDDINGS



**Foenander-Worthy.**  
Christopher  
Bradley

Foenander, son of Bryan (Runcorn, Qld) and Terri Foenander (Camp Hill), and Lesley Joy Worthy, daughter of Leslie and Elda Worthy (Narangba), were married 6.7.14 at Midginbil Hill, via Uki, NSW.

*Mike Brownhill*



**Hamblton-Brendling.**  
Guy Hamblton,

son of Patrick

and Maria Hamblton, and Alyssa Brendling, daughter of Peter and Robyn Brendling, were married 7.6.14 at Mali Brae Farm, Moss Vale, NSW. Alyssa and Guy met in Young. Straight away, Guy knew Alyssa was the one. They plan to live in Young. Alyssa is a physiotherapist and Guy is finishing off his science degree.

*Johnny Murison*

**Mainey-Turner.** Joshua James Mainey, son of Christopher and Elizabeth Mainey (Wallsend, NSW), and Jade Elizabeth Turner, daughter of Larry and Sharon Turner (Cooranbong), were mar-

ried 22.6.14 in the Hunter Valley Gardens, Newcastle. Joshua and Jade met while studying. They plan to live in Newcastle.

*Wayne French*

## OBITUARIES

**Brooks,** Peter Charles, born 29.5.1951 in Cooranbong, NSW; died 10.5.14 at home in Lesmurdie, WA. He was an accomplished electrician who completed his apprenticeship with Sanitarium and also worked for the company in both Cooranbong, NSW and Warburton, Vic. He then moved to WA where he started his own business and won many jobs because of his fine reputation. He was married to the love of his life, Karen (nee Harders), and was a loving and much-loved father to Haylee (and Kamahl) and Kym; and dotting grandfather to Teliah and Tanner. He was quite a home-grown philosopher and generous with his talents. He is so sadly missed by all who knew him. We know we will see him again.

*Bob Bolst*



**Christensen,** Victor, born 29.8.1940 in Fremantle, WA; died 4.6.14 in Byron Bay,

NSW. In 1963, he married Beryl (Jacqueline) Lambert. He is survived by his ex-partner Jacqueline; son, Wayne, daughter Rachel; and nine Christensen half-siblings, Del, Vicki, Christine, Ian, Val, Jayne, Mark, Carol and Kevin (all of WA). Vic joined the Adventist Church in the late 1950s and had a flair for theology. He was self-taught in rabbinical hermeneutics and immersed in the systematic theology of the Reformers and the great 20th century German theologians. He was also a very creative thinker, keen researcher and prodigious writer right up to the time of his sudden death. He'll be missed by his family, those of us who knew him well, as well as the scholars in the United States who he communicated with regularly.

*David Stojic, Mike Brownhill*



**Cochrane,** Geoffrey Clarence, born 3.4.1937 in Armidale, NSW; died 28.2.14 in Cooranbong. In 1963, he married Beryl Tucker. In 1981, he married Margaret Lendon. Geoff is survived by his wife, Margaret; five children, Clenton, Lyndon, Kaylene, Davin and Janelle; three stepchildren, Janelle, John and

Jamie; and 15 grandchildren. Geoff completed a trade as a motor mechanic in Armidale and later moved to Cooranbong to study at Avondale College. When he finished his study, Geoff spent a further 37 years working in the maintenance department at the Sanitarium Health Food Company, Cooranbong. Margaret describes Geoff as "both a gentle man and true gentleman". It was the Christ-like way Geoff treated everyone around him that earned him an enormous amount of respect from so many people.

*Sean Berkeley*



**Cowan,** Leslie Robert "Bob", born 8.2.1923 in Bundaberg, Qld; died 21.5.14 in

Newcastle, NSW. In 1942, he married Daphne, who predeceased him in 1986. Then in 1988 he married Kay. Two sons, Daniel and Douglas, also predeceased him. He is survived by his loving wife Kay; daughter, Gloria Froude and son, Richard; and stepchildren, Garry and Kath Evans; and was a loving Poppa to 24 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren. Up until his death Bob happily served as a church deacon, and in earlier years he

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■ **Physiotherapist—Adventist Aged Care [Greater Sydney] (Wahroonga, NSW)** is looking for a suitably qualified physiotherapist to join its dynamic aged care environment on a full-time or part-time basis at its Wahroonga facility. Physiotherapy services are provided to the fully-accredited 70-bed residential aged care facility. Services include a range of innovative programs in the areas of pain management, health promotion and falls prevention. The successful applicant will have: registration with AHPRA as a physiotherapist; highly developed interpersonal and communication skills; ability to deliver high quality care; and experience in aged care is desirable but not essential. Please send your application to Julie Chapple, Executive Director of Care, by email to <[juliechapple@adventist.org.au](mailto:juliechapple@adventist.org.au)>, or mail to 79 Mount Pleasant Ave, Wahroonga NSW 2076; or phone (02) 9487 0600 or fax (02) 9626 1273. Applications close **August 31, 2014.**

■ **Head of Junior School – Macquarie College (Lake Macquarie, NSW).** With the retirement of Lyn Denne at the end of 2014, the college is now inviting applications for an experienced educator who is interested in a senior administrative role and being part of the college executive team commencing January 2015. Macquarie College is one of the leading independent schools in the Hunter region and is seeking an innovative, dynamic and spiritual leader who is ready to value-add and contribute to the mission of Adventist Christian education within the region. For a full position description visit <[www.macquariecollege.nsw.edu.au](http://www.macquariecollege.nsw.edu.au)>. For more information contact the principal via phone (02) 4954 6222 or email <[principal@mc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:principal@mc.nsw.edu.au)>. Applications close **August 27, 2014.**

■ **College Senior School chaplain – Macquarie College (Lake Macquarie, NSW).** With the transfer of Warwick Sawyer into pastoral ministry, the college is inviting applications for the position of Senior School chaplain. This position is one of the most important positions within the college and involves pastoral care for staff, students and their respective families. Specifically, the focus will be directed towards engaging adolescents and leading them to and nurturing their relationship with Christ. The person should also have a passion for and proven record of public speaking, group studies, visitation and rapport with students. For a full position description visit <[www.macquariecollege.nsw.edu.au](http://www.macquariecollege.nsw.edu.au)>. For more information contact the principal via phone (02) 4954 6222 or email <[principal@mc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:principal@mc.nsw.edu.au)>. Applications close **August 27, 2014.**

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was an active worker on any church project or to help out family or friends. He awaits his Lord's soon return.

*Allen Robson, Fred Chilese*

**Dimitrovski, Vasilika (Vicky),** born 27.12.1918 in Albania; died 4.5.14 in Kings Langley, NSW. She was predeceased by her husband. She is survived by her children, Julie Belazelkova (Macedonia), Marjana Kostovska (Brisbane, Qld), John James (Brisbane), Tony James (Mt Tomah, NSW), their spouses; nine grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. Nicknamed "Smiley" by her family, Vicky was an encouragement—even in the nursing home where she spent her last few years. Many of her favourite hymns spoke of the hope she had in the soon return of Jesus and her Bible was marked accordingly. Conversing fluently in five languages and being actively involved in her church and community, she had many friends and this was reflected in the large funeral congregation.

*Gilberto Dias, Peter Josefit*



**Murphy, June Myra** (nee Williams), born 25.6.1928 in Gisborne, NZ; died 2.6.14 in Tauranga. On 7.12.1949, she married Gordon Murphy. She is survived by her husband; her children and their families, Maurice (Tauranga), Paul and Donna (Auckland) and Karen (Watanobbi, NSW). June was born into an Adventist home and remained loyal to her God until the very end. She loved her Bible, her family and her church. The funeral service was attended by a large number of June's friends from the community, an evidence of the respect and love they had for her.

*Vern Parmenter*



**Reid, Ida May,** born 15.7.1921 in Charters Towers, Qld; died

2.6.14 in Alton Lodge, Cooran-bong, NSW. She was predeceased by her husband, John, on 20.7.1980. She is survived by her daughters, Betty Swanborough, Jan Daniels (nee Galletly) and Beryl and Max Streidl and their families, including nine grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren. Ida will forever hold a special place in the hearts of all who knew her.

**Shelley, Barnabas,** born 13.3.1940 in a small village in Hungary; died 31.5.14 at his home in Blue Haven, NSW, aged 74. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughter, Coralie, and son-in-law, Neale Schofield, and son, Paul. After fleeing Hungary as an eight-year-old refugee, Barnabas arrived in Australia and grew up in Adelaide, SA. He met the love of his life, Barbara, and on a visit to Avondale College, Barnabas and Barbara decided to devote their life to the gospel ministry. Barnabas was known for his love for Jesus, complete trust in God and passion for souls. He will be sadly missed but there is a great reunion coming.

*Mike Browning*

**Taylor, Alexander Stanners** (Stan), born 2.7.1918 in Brisbane, Qld; died 31.5.14 in Laurieton, NSW. On 14.8.1944, he married Constance Ethel. He was predeceased by his daughter, Beverley. He is survived by John and Kay (Laurieton), Linda and Peter Thomas (Yarrowonga Park), Darren and Colleen Taylor (Loch, Vic), David and Megan Jones (Molong, NSW), Sharlene and Andrew (Kempsey), Tania and Deric (Deception Bay, Qld). Stan was a true family man. He loved his Taylor clan and his church family. Reunion day is coming!

*Kevin Brown*

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following members over the years and would appreciate help in finding them: Elizabeth Hancock, Neville Turnbull. Please email the clerk <rn.osmond7@bigpond.com> or call 0427 681 502.

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—Albert Einstein

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