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POST-TRUTH

BEING ADVENTIST IN A POST-TRUTH WORLD 14

NEWS

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WITH GOVERNMENT AWARD 5

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ADVENTIST CHURCH in New Zealand and the Pacific

“WELCOME TO THE NEW LOOK ADVENTIST RECORD.”

Bruce Bridgeman was a 67-year old neuroscientist who had spent his whole life nearly stereoblind. In other words, his world was flat. He had no depth perception. One day, he attended a 3D movie with his wife, thinking that for him, the whole experience would be a waste of time. Suddenly the world changed.

“It was literally like a whole new dimension of sight. Exciting,” said Bridgeman. From that point on, he could suddenly see “normally”.¹

Can you imagine? After 67 years, suddenly seeing the world in all of its depth and texture.

For those of us who have perfect vision, we mostly take it for granted. And yet anyone who has vision impairment or even has to wear glasses to read, knows that vision is an incredibly important sense. Yes, we can survive without it but it provides us with so much.

Vision is the future but it's also the present. Vision allows you to drink in beauty, alerts you to danger, provides direction and distance, and helps you to know where to place your feet. It's a platform or framework for moving forward.

Proverbs 29:18 says, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” As Christians we are provided with supernatural goggles with which to see the world. Becoming a Christian is literally an eye-opening experience. You see the hope behind the headlines, the spiritual behind the secular and, hopefully, the world tinged with compassion and love. You see the image of God when you look at others.

That's why it is so crucial for each individual, each corporation, each church, each school, each country, to have a vision: to be able to see and interpret the world around them and know how to move forward.

And that's why I am so encouraged by the Adventist Church in the South Pacific's emphasis on discipleship. There's a clear vision: a push to make active disciples and again be an Adventist movement (not a pew-ment).

Since I was appointed editor I've been asked this question a lot: “What is your vision for *Record* going forward?” So here it is.

First, we had to make some aesthetic changes. The magazine and the website have had a visual update. This will help to attract new and younger readers.

Our primary role is to tell stories. *Adventist Record* must continue to tell effective discipleship stories that encour-

age, inspire and disciple our readers to do the same. We will continue to share testimonies of what God has done in the lives of individuals and ministries. And we're looking for effective discipleship stories that show God's kingdom in action.

We will place a key emphasis on practical faith: how our faith applies to life, culture, church, community and our family as well as the difficult times in the fallen world in which we live. *Record* will provide an authentic, raw and honest look at the issues that many struggle with today—things like porn, mental health issues, family breakdown, singleness and many more. To achieve this, we need to be open and vulnerable together.

We will be engaging with culture, curating and creating more shareable content for online, increasingly using visual and audio content that can add to or supplement the written word. *Record* has always been a print magazine but the world we live in is no longer dominated by print. We need to do better in the digital space.

We plan to provide help and mentoring to develop Adventist writers so they can powerfully and effectively share their faith.

I will fail. You will not always agree with everything I write or choose to publish. But my hope is that *Record* can be an open place where we can talk about things that matter, things that have eternal consequence.

Hopefully we can have the candid conversations about the challenges that face us as a body of Christ and as fallen human beings. We can celebrate the good work that God is doing in the world through us, the church. And we can learn and teach how to be most effective in that world, in ministry, in relationships and in becoming more like Jesus challenges us to be.

I'm confident we can achieve this because I am inspired by the amazing, energised, God-gifted team I work with every day. But we also need you. To contribute, to comment, to join the conversation.

How? Read, share, write, feel. Visit the website. Become part of the *Record* community. Because without you, *Adventist Record* wouldn't exist.

1. <http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20120719-awoken-from-a-2d-world>

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TIME FOR A HEALTH CHECK?

I don't like going to doctors, however my wife talked me into participating in the Wellness Study at the Australasian Research Institute (ARI), Sydney Adventist Hospital. Most Australians die from lifestyle diseases but doctors still do not possess sensitive protocols to help them detect early developing disease. ARI is leading in this lifestyle medicine research. The ARI did a comprehensive test profile (blood, scans). Dr Ross Grant reviewed the results with Pam and I—thankfully we were very healthy in most lifestyle indicators but were challenged to make some changes in diet, sleep and exercise. The check-up was a real blessing. I thank God for the Adventist health message and the advantage it gives to those who follow it.

Churches, like humans, have health characteristics and from time to time need a check-up. Jesus gave a health report to seven churches in Asia Minor in the latter part of the first century. This church health report is recorded in Revelation 2 and 3. Besides knowing what is happening in the churches, Jesus is in or with the churches. He highlights the good things, points out the issues, gives solutions and promises a better future for those who overcome. As I read this recently I was reminded that the health of my local church is vital. The healthier my church is, more than likely the healthier a disciple of Jesus I will be. However, the healthier I am as a disciple of Jesus, the greater positive impact I can have on the health of the church. It goes both ways.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has instruments like Natural Church Development (NCD) that measure church health. Avondale College Seminary is working on an instrument to measure personal discipleship health.

Before Jesus returns I want to be a healthy disciple and contribute positively to my church—but to do this successfully may require a check-up.



GLENN TOWNEND
SPD PRESIDENT

 /GlennTownend

ADRA ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE GOVT FUNDING

JOSH DYE

ADRA Australia is now in a position to receive Federal Government funding for disaster management over the next five years.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) provides funding to six Australian humanitarian agencies or consortiums for disaster risk reduction and emergency response through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP).

Last year ADRA helped establish the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CANDO) unit comprising eight church-based aid and development organisations, including Caritas, the Australian Lutheran World Service, Act for Peace, Anglican Board of Mission, Anglican Overseas Aid, Baptist World Aid Australia and Uniting World.

The CANDO consortium submitted a successful bid to DFAT to receive



MARK WEBSTER.

funding through the AHP. This will enable ADRA to support capacity building for disaster risk reduction in the South Pacific, as well as disaster response globally, over the next five years.

ADRA Australia CEO Mark Webster hailed the decision as a "massive milestone".

"We are incredibly proud of our work during disasters and this decision is a fantastic endorsement by the Australian Government."

FIRST FRENCH-SPEAKING EVANGELISM SERIES FOR VANUATU

JEAN-PIERRE NIPTIK



Vanuatu has hosted its first ever French-speaking evangelistic series, which concluded with a baptism of 19 people, including children.

The three-week series was held at Erakor village, Efate Island, and was attended by many people. Louis Kalnpel, a member of the new French-speaking Adventist church at Port Vila, was the speaker.

Since its first meeting on July 16, 2016, the French-speaking Adventist church has grown to 107 members. The church has been adopted by Ernas Seventh-day Adventist

Church as its sister church. Services were held in various churches while members searched for land to build their own church. Their prayers were answered when a member of Ernas church gave them land where they plan to build a temporary house to hold their weekly meetings and worship services in 2017.

The French-speaking church is an initiative of the Vanuatu Mission, which aims to have 270 new church plants and 2000 groups involved in discipleship by 2020.

RETIRED ADVENTIST HONOURED WITH GOVERNMENT AWARD

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

A retired Seventh-day Adventist businessman who has dedicated the past two decades to helping the poorest of the poor has received a prestigious honour from the NSW Government.

Dennis Perry was presented with the NSW Government Community Service Award in recognition and appreciation of his outstanding contribution to the community at a special function in Pennant Hills, Sydney, on December 19, 2016, attended by community leaders and volunteers.

Mr Perry, 70, was recognised for his tireless work with Operation Food For Life (OFFL), a charity he co-founded with former business associate David Woolley. The organisation supports a number of projects in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea), including feeding and clothing hundreds of people living on rubbish dumps; providing food and spiritual support to patients dying of HIV/AIDS; and regularly supplying breakfast to more than 1000 men and

women in prison.

Humbly accepting the award, Mr Perry used the opportunity to witness for Jesus. "I was really proud to proclaim Jesus Christ in my opening remarks and proud to thank the Seventh-day Adventist Church for their encouragement and support," he said.

"I personally feel the award was an opportunity in which God placed me to testify in a secular environment.

"I'm deeply humbled and unworthy but honoured to know that the work has been recognised."

Member of Parliament for the seat of Hornsby, Matt Kean, who presented the award, said Mr Perry is one of the most inspiring people he has come across. "Unassuming, kind and humble, he is bringing hope to the hopeless," Mr Kean said. "He has dedicated his life to Christ and to serving others. He truly is a man for others.

"His selfless love and compassion is a model to all Christians. His light has made the world a little less dark



DENNIS PERRY (LEFT) WITH MATT KEAN.

and we are a better place because of Dennis Perry."

Mr Perry went to PNG three times last year to work on OFFL's various projects, the most recent a home for unwanted children, which opened in September. Born Free Sanctuary provides accommodation for 28 children from broken homes, bringing them hope and dignity.

"I look forward to the next 20 years and beyond, serving other people," he said.

WIDOWS BRAVE BAD WEATHER FOR CAMP

JARROD STACKELROTH

A weekend retreat for widows and deserted wives has seen 35 women brave extreme weather conditions in Solomon Islands to be encouraged and uplifted, despite life circumstances.

The women camped at Doma, west of Honiara, from November 25-27, 2016. Guest speaker Helen Miller (formerly known as "Sister Hay" when she served at Atoifi Adventist Hospital in the 1970s) shared her experiences in somewhat fractured Pijin on the theme "Broken to be Beautiful".

"The stories the ladies shared moved us all and highlighted the blessing that this group is, not just to its own members but to the community," Mrs Miller said. "Some live alone, others with family members. Time and again the message came through—'We trust God. He is so faithful and never lets us down'."

Even though the tarpaulins ripped

and the tents blew down during a storm on Friday night, the campers refused to go home until Sunday.

"These ladies have gone through far worse times, as widows (*oru*) and deserted wives (*taloa*)," Mrs Miller said. "They rejoice at the encouragement and support they share at the camp each year."

Lynteko, one of the attendees, shared a story about seeing a sad young woman, going to talk with her and discovering that she was about to commit suicide after her husband deserted her and left her with two small children and no means of support. Lynteko's own life story gave her wisdom to help this distressed *taloa*, sharing food from her own garden

with her.

Another attendee, Pamela, trains the wives of ministers in various churches. She shared how God has been with her for 25 years since her husband died.

The impact this group is having is expanding throughout the Pacific as a group of women in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, have been inspired to set up a Bougainville group for widows and deserted wives.



A GROUP OF FRIENDS WITH ATOIFI CONNECTIONS: ELMA, JENNY, HELEN MILLER, HALIFU AND TINA.

HACKSAW RIDGE SCOOPS AACTA AWARDS

TRACEY BRIDCUTT

Hacksaw Ridge—the film that tells the story of Seventh-day Adventist conscientious objector Desmond Doss—has scooped the pool at Australia’s leading film and television awards.

The film won a total of nine Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) awards, which were presented in Sydney last month. It picked up best film, best director, best lead actor, best supporting actor, best original screenplay, best editing, best sound, best production design and best cinematography.

Accepting the award for best direc-

tor, Mel Gibson said he felt “really honoured and choked up”. “I need to thank Australia for making this film,” he said. “All the way up and down the line, it’s a home-grown thing.”

Speaking from Los Angeles, Andrew Garfield, who played Doss in the film, expressed his gratitude for being awarded best actor.

“It was just a pure pleasure to make this film,” he said. “I feel very strange being given an award for something that is just pure joy for me.”



DIRECTOR MEL GIBSON ON THE SET OF HACKSAW RIDGE. PHOTO CREDIT - MARK ROGERS.

Go to <record.adventistchurch.com> to download a free 12-part Bible study series, inspired by the life of Desmond Doss to share with friends.

For more information go to: <http://faithofdoss.com>.

FIRST ROAD TO BETHLEHEM HELD IN SYDNEY

VANIA CHEW



KING HEROD AND HIS ASSISTANT.

SHEPHERDS EAGER TO SPREAD THE NEWS.

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS GET INVOLVED.

More than 1000 people visited Mountain View Adventist College (Doonside, NSW) last month for the school’s inaugural *Road to Bethlehem* program.

For many, it was an opportunity “to go back in time” and contemplate the events that led up to the birth of Jesus.

Interactive dramatic tours were conducted throughout the two-day event, allowing visitors to experience walking down a busy street in Jerusalem, hearing Caesar’s decree, going to King Herod’s palace, following the shepherds and the Wise Men on their journey and eventually finding the stable.

Live animals were a special highlight of the program with the shepherds herding real sheep and goats,

and a donkey that stood patiently beside Mary and Joseph. Camel rides were available on the school’s front lawn, which was a big source of excitement for children and adults alike.

Feedback about the event was extremely positive and the school plans to run it again next year.

With the addition of Mountain View, Narromine (NSW) and Mildura (Victoria) in 2016, there are now 10 *Road to Bethlehem* programs running in Australia and two in New Zealand. Many are based at Adventist schools or campgrounds.

Road to Bethlehem has a long history, beginning in 1995 in Nunawading (Victoria) with less than 20 volunteers. It has successfully grown to become one of the primary Christmas attractions on the eastern side of Mel-

bourne. In 2016 the event was moved to Lilydale (Edinburgh College), yet still attracted thousands of visitors.

“*Road to Bethlehem* reminds people about the real meaning of Christmas—the non-commercial side of it,” said illustrator Shane Winfield. For the past 17 years, he has been directly involved with the event through designing promotional giveaways, set design and even lending out his children to play the role of Baby Jesus.

“Perhaps even more significantly, it has broken down prejudices about the Adventist Church by showing the community that we have a biblical-based faith,” Mr Winfield said. “We believe in the virgin birth, we believe in the prophecies about the Messiah, and we believe that Jesus came to save mankind.”

NEW COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR FOR SPD

MARITZA BRUNT



DR STEVE CURROW.

Dr Steve Currow has been named as the new communication/public affairs and religious liberty director for the South Pacific Division (SPD).

Dr Currow was most recently the principal of Fulton College in Fiji. In addition to the communication position, Dr Currow has been appointed Ministerial Association secretary for the SPD. His experience includes pastoral, departmental, academic ministry teaching and

leadership in tertiary education in countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and the UK.

SPD president Pastor Glenn Townend said Dr Currow has good attention to detail, adding that his past experience will help him impact all of the roles he has been asked to fill.

"Steve has very broad experience in the Church," said Pastor Townend. "His experience gives him a good understanding of the working of the Church, and the fact that he has also worked in many different cultures will enable him to connect with the different people groups in the SPD."

FOOD AS MEDICINE WINS "OSCAR" OF COOKBOOKS

SIGNS PUBLISHING



SUE RADD AT THE LAUNCH OF FOOD AS MEDICINE.

An Adventist-published cookbook has been announced as the national winner of the "Best Health & Nutrition Book" in the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards.

Food As Medicine: Cooking for Your Best Health by Sue Radd was released by Signs Publishing in October. It features 150 plant-based recipes, as well as extensive explanation of the scientific research that supports the pattern of eating demonstrated in the recipes.

"This wonderful book is a delight for the reader," said Edouard Cointreau, president of the jury for Gourmand World Cookbook Awards in announcing the award on December 21, 2016. The annual awards have been described as the "Oscars" of cookbooks and attract entries from more than 60 nations. Winning a national award also constitutes entry into the international stage of the

awards to be announced in May.

"There are quite a few categories in these awards covering the range of cookbooks, but given the interest in health and nutrition I expect this is among the more crowded categories," said Nathan Brown, book editor at Signs Publishing. "This is where we want to be—creating, producing and sharing the best health information that can really make a difference in people's lives."

According to Mr Brown, the award represents a team of people working together to produce a book that is both credible and attractive.

Prior to entering *Food As Medicine* in the Gourmand Awards, the cookbook featured at the Frankfurt Book Fair (Germany) in October 2016, where it attracted interest from publishers from around the world.

NEWS GRABS



ADVENTIST FIRST

Despite his verbal blasts during the election campaign, US President Donald Trump has appointed defeated presidential rival Ben Carson to head up the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Dr Carson will be the first Adventist to hold a Cabinet-level position. He's among the Trump appointees criticised for their lack of experience. —*NY Times/Adventist Review*



PAPERWORK NEGLECTED?

Rapid church growth in Kenya led Adventist leaders to restructure in 2013, dividing into the East and West Kenya Union Conferences. But the government's Registrar of Societies says it wasn't notified of the changes, meaning that the current Union leaders aren't legally recognised. The Church is scrambling to remedy the situation. —*The Nation*



THE WHEEL DEAL

Volunteers from Colombia Adventist University and local churches donated 600 refurbished bicycles to needy school children in Uribia, north Colombia. Some of the kids previously faced a two-hour walk to school every day. The volunteers also cleaned public areas, offered free dental treatment and gave out meals and clothes. —*Inter-American Division*

HOT TOPICS



CHURCH COLLAPSE TRAGEDY

At least 160 worshippers died in Uyo, Nigeria, when the roof of the just-completed Reigners Bible Church building collapsed on a large congregation gathered for the ordination of a bishop. Survivors described horrific injuries from the falling girders and roof iron. An investigation into building standards at the site is underway. —ABC News



CHRISTIANS TARGETED

A bombing at Cairo's main Coptic cathedral killed 25 people, including six children. A further 49 people were injured. The attack came during a Sunday service when a supposed IS assailant detonated his bomb vest. St Mark's Cathedral is the seat of Pope Tawadros II, the head of the world's 18 million Copts. —ABC News

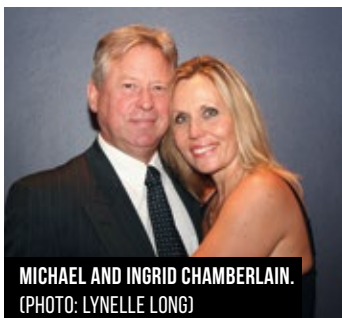


GENEROUS GIVING

A Jewish couple from New York have launched the \$US0.5m Gerson L'Chaim Prize specifically aimed at supporting Christian medical missionaries in Africa. The inaugural prize was awarded to orthopaedic surgeon Dr Jason Fader who is working at Kibuye Hope Hospital in Burundi. He's one of only 13 surgeons in the country. —AMHF

ADVENTIST COMMUNITY MOURNS CHAMBERLAIN

KENT KINGSTON



MICHAEL AND INGRID CHAMBERLAIN.
(PHOTO: LYNELLE LONG)

The unexpected death of Dr Michael Chamberlain, 72, from leukaemia-related complications has resulted in a stream of tributes from people who remember his passion for justice, intellect and sense of humour.

"Michael was a man of many parts and acquired fame that he never wanted," said friend Dr John Hammond. "He was very mild mannered but he was passionate. Because of how they were treated [after Azaria's death] he developed an

extremely strong sense of justice . . . We will miss him."

According to Dr Hammond, Dr Chamberlain was admitted to Gosford Hospital and "declined very quickly". He died on Monday, January 9.

"Along with family and friends, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia mourns the loss of Dr Michael Chamberlain, a former pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church whose life, along with that of his family, was tragically altered many years ago," said Pastor Jorge Munoz, president of the Adventist Church in Australia. "His fight for justice will remain a lesson for all of us in this country. Our prayers and thoughts are with his family at this time and we pray God's comfort may be with them all."

In 1980 Dr Chamberlain was pastoring the Adventist church in Mt Isa, Queensland, where he lived with his wife Lindy and their children Aiden, Reagan and baby Azaria. During a camping trip to Uluru (Ayers Rock), Northern Territory, nine-week-old Azaria was snatched from the tent by an unseen dingo. Her body was never found. Azaria's disappearance sent shockwaves around the world and sparked speculation that the Chamberlains, being members of the largely unknown Seventh-day Adventist Church, had deliberately killed their baby in some kind of ritual sacrifice. This religious prejudice coloured public perception and the legal proceedings that followed. Mrs Chamberlain was convicted of murder and spent three years in prison, while her husband was given a suspended sentence.

The Chamberlains and their supporters displayed incredible tenacity as they fought for justice and were successful in having Mrs Chamberlain released and the verdict overturned. The legal wrangling continued right up to 2012 when a Northern Territory coroner released her official finding that a dingo was responsible for Azaria's death. But the constant pressure and public scrutiny came at a cost, with Dr Chamberlain leaving pastoral ministry in 1984. He and his wife divorced in 1991.

Despite the irreparable impact of his losses, Dr Chamberlain continued to strive in many areas of his life and was much admired in his home community of Lake Macquarie, NSW. He married Ingrid Bergner in 1994, completed a PhD in 2002 and ran for parliament in 2003. He also authored a number of books (including a history of Cooranbong), worked as a teacher and served as president of the Cooranbong Business and Community Alliance until about a year ago, when he took on the vice-presidency. For much of the past five years, he cared for his wife in their home after a stroke left her severely debilitated.

Lynelle Long remembered Dr Chamberlain as "A father in spirit and soul! Not too proud to admit your faults or failures. Deep, thoughtful, spiritual, with wisdom from your journey."

Family friend Pastor Mel Lemke highlighted the many facets of Dr Chamberlain's personality: "colleague, fellow motorcycle lover and rider, academic, theologian, passionate defender of justice and freedom, avid campaigner against systemic abuses, husband, father . . . You will be greatly missed Michael. 'Til a better day my friend."



VANUATU CHURCH DEDICATION

Bethel church, on the island of Ambrym (Vanuatu), was recently dedicated with a parade and speeches from the Vanuatu Government and Vanuatu Mission representative Pastor Charlie Jimmy. The dedication is part of Vanuatu Mission's aim to have 270 churches by 2020 to help house the growing number of worshippers. Plans are underway to dedicate, organise and complete several new churches.

—Max Zenebe/Charlie Jimmy



VOICE OF HOPE

A recent Voice of Hope evangelistic program had a positive impact on the status of the Church on the island of Niue. Dr Ronald Stone, director of Health for the Trans Pacific Union Mission, was the key speaker, with attendance increasing each evening. The event attracted all types of people, including a member of parliament from the capital city and biggest village, Alofi North, who commented positively about the program. At the end of the evangelistic meetings, 11 people were baptised into the Niue Seventh-day Adventist Church.

—TPUM Newsletter



HEALTHY OUTLOOK IN KIRIBATI

The first private health centre in Kiribati was recently opened and commissioned in Tarawa as a way to address the rising prevalence of lifestyle-related diseases. Adventist health professionals, church members and local church leaders, along with the health director of the Kiribati Government, attended the occasion.

"This has been a truly providential undertaking, showing God's approval and support for medical work in this Mission," said Dr Silent Tovosia, Trans Pacific Union Mission health director. —TPUM Newsletter



TOP RESULTS FOR ADVENTIST SCHOOL

Macquarie College (NSW) has once again recorded Higher School Certificate (HSC) results placing it in the top 150 schools in New South Wales. Between the 46 students who completed their HSC, there were 28 top band results awarded. Nine per cent of the class achieved university entrance rankings (ATAR) of 95+, while 20 per cent achieved over 90 and almost half (48 per cent) received higher than 80. "We are proud of the students' efforts and know that these performances will open many doors to future study and employment for a rich and fulfilling future," said Dr Bruce Youlden, Macquarie College principal. —Jarrod Stackelroth/Michelle Slacks

FULTON ORDINATIONS

Four candidates were recently ordained during Fulton College's 2016 ordination service. The service, attended by South Pacific Division president Pastor Glenn Townend, Trans Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) president Pastor Maveni Kaufononga and other Fiji Mission leaders, was held during the TPUM annual meetings. —My Mission Fiji



HAVE A NEWS STORY? EMAIL IT TO NEWS@RECORD.NET.AU



OPERATION TIN CAN

Macedon Ranges Adventurers and Pathfinder clubs, together with members from North Fitzroy church (Vic), participated in an Operation Tin Can campaign around the township of Sunbury. With resources provided by ADRA Australia, the teams went door-to-door, asking for donations of non-perishable food items to support Northpoint church's Sunbury Food Bank. —Melissa Martin



NEW MINISTRY HITS HIGH NOTE

A public evangelistic campaign organised by Mercy Ministry, a new singing ministry team in Honiara (Solomon Islands), has already resulted in baptisms. The group of seven young people, all from Kukum Adventist Church, witness each week in their church car park and at the Honiara City Council bus stop. Founded only a few months ago, the group has already seen 25 young people baptised, with a further 23 people accepting Bible studies. —Lynton Filia



RURAL CHURCH EMPOWERS WOMEN

Tumut church (NSW) recently held a gospel concert to raise funds for women and girls in Vanuatu. Refreshments and face painting were a highlight for visitors who came from Sydney, Wagga Wagga and as far as Perth. "We raised over \$A1500 for the Blossom Project, which aims to empower girls and women in Vanuatu," church spokeswoman Abigail Brinkman said. —Tumut Adelong Times

FIRST IMPRESSIONS



WE COMMUNICATE WITH our community long before they step through our doors, according to Greater Sydney Conference property manager Rod Long.

"Churches are called to be inspiring and welcoming places, and part of the process of encouraging visitors and helping them choose to return is to make our church facilities as appealing and visitor friendly as possible," he says.

"The reality is that if our facilities do not appear well cared for, or if visitors have a poor experience before they even meet us, it can impair

our chances to connect with people. I feel we have room for improvement."

Weeds in the gardens, old posters left up, cobwebs around the building, worn floor coverings and paint that needs refreshing are not positive influences on visitors.

"We sometimes struggle to get members to attend working bees—or don't have them at all," Mr Long says. "We love our churches but perhaps they are looking a bit tired in some cases."

It's an issue Mr Long feels passionately about and he wants to encourage members to take a fresh

look at their church facilities to ensure they are appealing and visitor friendly.

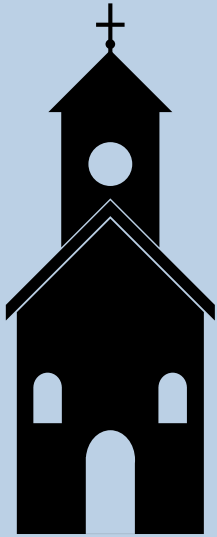
In Greater Sydney, the Conference is actively encouraging churches to take up this challenge.

"I think we can undervalue the importance of people's first impressions," he says.

"If the external and internal presentation of our facilities doesn't convey a positive message we can appear stagnant.

"We need to treat our churches like our homes. It doesn't have to cost a lot of money; even small changes can make a big difference."

THINGS TO CONSIDER



KERB APPEAL

Are carparks and footpaths well-maintained? Is your church easily visible from the street? Are building materials attractive and in good condition? Is the landscaping tidy and well-cared for? Are there weeds growing in gutters or cobwebs around the building?

PARKING

Are car parks full when visitors arrive? Do first-time guests have easy access to special parking? Is there attractive signage and graphics to clearly guide people to the front entrance?

CHILDREN'S SPACES

How secure are the children's spaces? Are there appropriate child protection practices in place such as sign in/sign out forms? Clean, uncluttered environments and modern, engaging themes are keys to success.

WORSHIP ENVIRONMENT

Is adequate seating available? Does your worship space feel cared for, loved and looked after? Are there features/decorative elements that have not been updated for many years? Does it look like your congregation is proud of their facility and cares for it?

PLACES TO CONNECT

Many people who are new to church look beyond the worship space for places to connect socially. Items to consider are furniture, finishes and lighting. Are these components appealing and engaging?

SIGNAGE

Is your church sign welcoming and appealing and does it contain current and accurate information?

TRACEY BRIDCUTT
HEAD OF NEWS & EDITORIAL

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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH in the South Pacific
ADVENTIST HEALTH

MONEY MATTERS\$

TRACEY BRIDCUTT HEAD OF NEWS & EDITORIAL

What can you buy for \$3.50? A bottle of drink perhaps? Maybe a couple of chocolate bars? By any stretch of the imagination \$3.50 is not a lot of money yet it's the average weekly offering contributed by members of the Adventist Church across the South Pacific Division (SPD).^{*} And that includes both Sabbath School and church offerings!

So what has happened to our generosity? What happened to worshipping God through the tangible expression of our gratitude in offerings? Why are we only managing to throw a few coins into the offering bag each week?

SPD Discipleship Ministries Team—Stewardship director Christina Hawkins says it comes down to a lack of intentionality, information and biblical understanding about the reasons for giving.

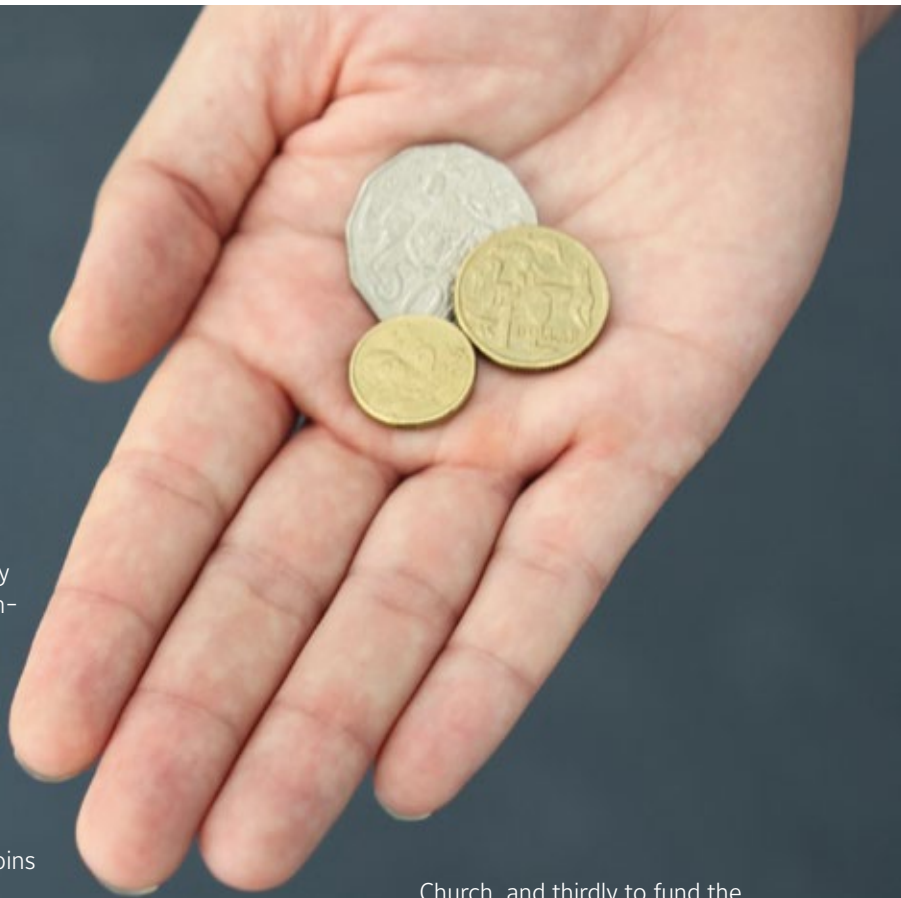
"People perceive that it's a black hole; that they keep throwing money into the hole and it disappears without seeing any results," she says. "The truth is we are victims of consumerism. People want to know what the money is being used for and if they don't feel it is being used in the way they want it to be, then they give elsewhere.

"The mindset today is 'what's in it for me?' instead of what's known as 'systematic benevolence', where people are happy to give, even when they don't know the specifics, as long as it's for God's work."

While tithes are used solely to support those employed in gospel ministry, offerings are freewill expressions of thanksgiving and generosity based on biblical principles.

"In the Old Testament they actually gave into three 'buckets'—one to support the activities of the Levite priests, another to provide for the orphans and widows and the third for the operation of religious festivals," Ms Hawkins explains. "And in the New Testament, every Jew gave between 23 and 30 per cent of their income into those three buckets.

"Nothing has really changed over the centuries. The essential needs of the Church are still the same: firstly to fund gospel workers; secondly to fund the operations of the



Church, and thirdly to fund the call of Christians to be delivery agents of healing and hope in the broader community."

The Discipleship Ministries Team is encouraging more participation and more faithfulness. "It's important to look at the big picture: what could God be achieving across the South Pacific Division if people were giving in faith?" Ms Hawkins asks.

It all comes down to a person's relationship with God, trusting that He will provide. It's this concept of total dependence on God that people often struggle with.

"The core of stewardship is that everything you have is God given," Ms Hawkins says. "However, we need to take it to God and ask for a new heart miracle, helping us to be less selfish. It's through God that this miracle can take place (see Ezekiel 36:23-38)."

Ultimately, great rewards will come to those who are cheerful givers. "God promises that He will pour out His blessings on those who give in faith," Ms Hawkins says. "If we are not living out our potential in terms of giving, think of all the spiritual blessings that we are missing out on.

"So as we start this new year, I would encourage you to put God to the test by giving generously and then watch the blessings flow."

** Calculated from statistical data in the 2015 South Pacific Division Report on tithes, offerings and membership.*

THE TEN

verses for a
fresh start
in the new
year...

1 JOHN 3:9

No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning because they have been born of God.

EZEKIEL 18:31

Rid yourselves of all the offences you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit.

ISAIAH 42:10

Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you islands, and all who live in them.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-17

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here.

JOHN 13:34

A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

GENESIS 27:28

May God give you heaven's dew and earth's richness—an abundance of grain and new wine.

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

EZEKIEL 36:26

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

LUKE 5:36

He told them this parable: "No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one. Otherwise, they will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old."

PSALM 85:6-7

Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your unfailing love LORD, and grant us your salvation.



BEING ADVENTIST IN A POST-TRUTH WORLD

POST-TRUTH: THAT WORD WAS SO POPULAR IN 2016 that the Oxford Dictionary announced it as their word of the year. Its usage increased by 2000 per cent over the previous year.

The Oxford Dictionary defines post-truth, an adjective, as: “Relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief.”

“It’s not surprising that our choice reflects a year dominated by highly-charged political and social discourse,” says Casper Grathwohl, president of Oxford Dictionaries.

“We first saw the frequency really spike this year in June with buzz over the Brexit vote and again in July when Donald Trump secured the Republican presidential nomination. Given that usage of the term hasn’t shown any signs of slowing down, I wouldn’t be surprised if post-truth becomes one of the defining words of our time.”

POST-TRUTH: SCARIER THAN YOU THINK?

The *Washington Post* ran an article entitled, “The post-truth world of Donald Trump is scarier than you think.” It reported that on November 30, 2016, Scottie Nell Hughes—a Donald Trump spokesperson—was asked about a Twitter claim Trump had made, without evidence, that he would have won the popular vote if millions of immigrants had not voted illegally.

Her response? “There’s no such thing, unfortunately, anymore, as facts.”

She argued that it isn’t whether his fraud claim is true but who believes it: “Mr Trump’s tweet[s], amongst a certain crowd . . . are truth . . . and people believe they have facts to back that up. Those that do not like Mr Trump, they say that those are lies, and there’s no facts to back it up.”

Trump’s senior advisor Kellyanne Conway responded in this way: “He’s the president-elect, so that’s presidential behaviour. When the president does it, that means that it’s not illegal.” That is scary.

That’s what can happen in a post-truth world.

POST-TRUTH AMONG ADVENTISTS? SURELY NOT

Social media gives anyone a public voice. For most it’s no more than a whisper in the dark—a Facebook note to friends. But Trump on Twitter makes the evening news.

Social media is where you’ll find the best (or worst) examples of post-truth Adventism. Two recent examples come from YouTube: The first proclaims in capped letters: “Breaking news!! Sunday law signs have begun!” A sub-heading warns, “National Sunday law is soon to be declared.” More than 250,000 people have visited this video.

However, it was posted in 2010 causing one recent visitor to comment: “Hahahaha, and just think, this video was uploaded almost six years ago and still nothing. Lol [Laugh-

ing out loud].”

The second was a video against the ordination of women as pastors in the Adventist Church. In the first 90 seconds, the speaker says that those who support women’s ordination—“that abominable, satanic, evil teaching”—will receive the Mark of the Beast.

Excuse me? The first is a mix of speculation and conspiracy theories, not truth. The second is biblically unsound and offensive, whether you’re a supporter of women’s ordination or not. Post-truth does these kinds of things as it appeals to emotion and personal belief, not facts.

Both videos are in the public domain and are clearly identified or recognised as Adventist. As an Adventist I find their comments embarrassing.

In a post-truth world, truth still matters.

TRUTH MATTERS

In a meaningful relationship, truth matters. In successful business relationships, truth matters. In international relationships, truth matters.

IN A POST-TRUTH WORLD, YOUR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING WILL BE SEEN AS MERELY AN OPINION—NOT TRUTH.

For the Christian it matters—a lot. The One we follow, Jesus, was a truth speaker. He often made statements beginning with “amen” to emphasise the truth of His sayings—amen is translated as “verily” (KJV); “truly” (NIV); and “I tell you the truth” (NLT). It appears 49 times in Matthew, Mark and Luke. In John it appears 50 times with a double emphasis: amen, amen.

Jesus tells us to worship in Spirit and truth (John 4:24). He says the truth will set us free (John 8:32); the Spirit will lead into “all truth” (John 14:17); and He prays that we will be made holy through God’s truth—His word (John 17:17).

We Adventists have long cherished truth—particularly present truth for these end times. Mind you, when I officially became an Adventist after baptism at the age of 15, I felt confident in what could be called the tower of truth I’d found in our Church.

Unfortunately, when you’re in a tower, those who aren’t with you are both “outsiders” and beneath you. Sad to say, that’s how I saw those who weren’t Adventist. I don’t think I was alone.

It took several years before I understood that biblical truth is only really understood in a relationship with Jesus because He is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6). Truth is more than rules and standards. It’s a living and growing thing in Him.

WITNESS IN A POST-TRUTH WORLD

In a post-truth world your religious beliefs and biblical understanding will be seen as merely an opinion—not truth. It often doesn’t matter to others and they tend not to care.

In her essay “Covering politics in a post-truth America”, Susan B Glasser wrote: “The media scandal of 2016 isn’t so much about what reporters failed to tell the American public; it’s about what they did report on, and the fact that it didn’t seem to matter.”

So how can we influence individuals for God who don’t see value in truth? Who don’t see that it matters?

And it’s complicated by another problem. Australian atheist Phillip Adams notes in the 2007 edition of his book, *Adams Vs. God*, that in the 1960s, “the atheist was as lonely a figure as the biblical leper”. In 2007, “all of a sudden atheism is fashionable” (Williams, *Post God Nation?*, 2015).

Truth is under attack. Atheism is fashionable. Both these things can make the Christian life difficult but for the Church this is actually good news. We’re forced to be serious about our Christianity. Cultural Christianity, cultural Adventism isn’t enough. It never has been, but in many ways you could get away with it when Christianity had respect. Now our faith needs to be real—and living.

This is similar to the first centuries of Christianity when the church had no status in the Roman Empire. And yet it grew dramatically, not by force of argument, but by Christians living their faith. These early Christians were often “silent in the open” because “if they advocated their faith in the forum they could get not only themselves but their congregations into deadly difficulty” (Kreider, *The Change of Conversion and the Origin of Christendom*, 1999, p13).

They may have been silent but “their behaviour said what they believed; it was an enactment of their message”. In the 250s, Cyprian, the bishop of Carthage, wrote a note of encouragement to his parishioners that included: “We [Christians] do not speak great things but we live them.” He lived great things when he died a martyr a few years later (Kreider, *The Patient Ferment of the Early Church*, 2016, pp 2,13)

The best argument for their faith was in the way they lived it. Ellen White agrees with this approach but puts it this way: “A loving, loveable Christian is the most powerful argument in favour of the truth” (Letter 11, 1897).

STUBBORN FACTS

“Facts are stubborn things,” said John Adams, so perhaps this post-truth period will pass as truths are revealed and facts demanded. Adams later became the second president of the United States. Now, 43 presidents later, it may take some time before truth makes a comeback.

At any time, and in the meantime, the world needs to see loving and loveable Christians. They’re always the best argument for the One who is the way, the truth and the life.

BRUCE MANNERS RETIRED PASTOR WHO ENJOYS RESEARCH AND WRITING.



FIVE MARKS OF SUCCESSFUL CHURCH PLANTS

IMAGINE THE ADVENTIST CHURCH IN the South Pacific region planting new churches as rapidly as first century Christians did or as the Advent Movement pioneers did in the 1870s and 1880s. What would that look like today? Exciting? Challenging? Out of our control but under the control of the Holy Spirit? The more important question is: What would need to change in the Church and in my life for this promise to become a reality?

The promise is certain. John prophesied, "I saw another angel come from heaven. This one had great power, and the earth was bright because of his glory" (Revelation 18:1 CEV). Ellen White interpreted John's vision this way: "The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close" (GC 611.3). Maybe we are like the father of the possessed boy and we need to pray, "I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24 ESV).

Within 60 years of the death and resurrection of Jesus, thousands of churches were planted in "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth". In 1870, the fledgling Adventist movement planted 1822 new churches in North America when the membership was just 5440 and the US population was under 40 million. By 1890 the Church was still planting 768 churches a year in North America. But the disciple-making movement stalled. In 1990 only 30 churches were planted in North America.

In March 2015 I was part of a Discipleship Study Tour with pastors from across the Pacific island nations. The tour visited churches and church offices in Australia, New Zealand, Philippines and Laos. We met with pastors and administrators and talked with involved church members. We visited large established churches and small church plants. These churches were in countries where people were passionate about Christian faith and in countries where people were indifferent to faith. We saw the Church growing in a Communist country where Buddhism is the official religion and evangelising is

forbidden. What we saw reminded us of the growth of the first century Christian church and the early Advent movement churches. What characterised these growing disciple-making churches?

1 • PEOPLE WITH A PASSIONATE FAITH IN JESUS

Jesus was paramount in the lives of the people we visited. They manifested a trust in Jesus. They had experienced the "joy of salvation" and were sharing it with others. As Jesus said, "When I am lifted up, I will draw all people to myself" (John 12:32 ESV). Living for Jesus and being obedient to His command to make disciples of all nations motivated their lives.

2 • PEOPLE WITH A CONFIDENCE THAT GOD WILL GROW HIS KINGDOM

Whether these churches were in secular Australia or the religious Philippines, the inner city or outer suburban public housing estates, on university campuses or in rural villages, the leaders and members of these churches believed that God would grow His kingdom. They took Jesus at His word: "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18 ESV). The leaders in Communist Laos believed the promise and knew that God would grow His kingdom. Joseph Kidder from Andrews University, in his book *The Big Four*, says, "The most important ingredient in church growth: faith-based optimism." Faith-based optimism is confidence in Jesus' promise to build His church.

3 • PEOPLE INVOLVED IN SMALL GROUPS

Fellowship in small groups was a part of each of the churches we visited. The groups had different names in different churches. Some called them small groups, others called them home groups or care groups, but they had similar characteristics. They were providing fellowship, care and support, and Bible reading that applied the Word of God to everyday life. Food was often a part of the shared time. Members enjoyed the groups so much they were inviting friends and neighbours to be a part of the group. It's not surprising that one of the well-researched "natural church development"

characteristics of a healthy, growing church is "holistic small groups".

4 • MEMBERS BEING FRIENDS OF UNSAVED PEOPLE

Friendships with unsaved people were a natural part of everyday life. They were friends with other students at university or other mums with children at the same school; with work associates in the CBD or other families in the same rural village. Most were not doing evangelism but were living evangelistically. They saw every relationship in life as a God-given opportunity to live their Christian faith and share naturally as the occasion presents.

5 • MINISTRIES THAT MET THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY

These ministries were as varied as the places we visited. In one area in rural Laos, they were teaching sewing skills to produce items that the community sold at the tourist market while in another area it was sports activities for local youth. A number of churches were engaged in community health programs while others were providing tutoring. Some were organising food pantries and housing for people in disadvantaged situations; others were providing life skill training and support. They were following Jesus' example of mingling with people, desiring their good and ministering to their needs (MH 143).

Imagine the Adventist Church in the South Pacific planting new churches as rapidly as first century Christians did or as the Advent movement pioneers did in the 1870s and 1880s. It's in your hands. Look to Jesus again. Begin to read a part of the story of His life and ministry every day. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give you a passion to obey His command to make disciples. Become a friend to an unsaved person and pray that God will give you opportunities to talk about your faith. Watch as the Spirit grows faith in their lives. Does this picture excite and challenge you? Maybe God is calling you to be part of planting a church in your community.

DR LEIGH RICE LEADS DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY AT THE SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION IN WAHROONGA, NSW.



health
tip

If you're looking to meet your physical activity recommendations, remember you don't have to do it all in one go.

A 10 minute walk every

morning,



at lunch time



and after dinner



is a simple way of getting 30 minutes of activity in each day.

A NEW YEAR, A NEW APPROACH TO HEALTH

The new year is a time many of us decide to draw a line in the sand and make a commitment to new health habits. The problem with lines in the sand? It doesn't take much for them to get brushed away. So if you're looking to make changes for the better this year, how can you have the best chance to make them stick?

1. MAKE YOUR GOALS SMART.

SMART stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely. Put simply, be clear with what your goals are and how you're going to know if you've met them. Make sure they're realistic (you might need a number of smaller SMART goals to reach a bigger one), and know how they'll help you to get what you want and when you plan to reach them.

2. REALLY THINK ABOUT HOW THEY FIT YOUR LIFE.

If your goal is to get fit, choosing to do this by swimming might not be the best option if your closest pool or beach is an hour away. Your goals will be difficult but you don't have to make them more difficult! Be honest and choose strategies with the fewest obstacles to help you achieve them.

3. PLAN FOR THE ROADBLOCKS BEFORE YOU HIT THEM.

If your plan is to eat more healthy, home-cooked food, plan how you'll deal with those busy days when you're time poor. If your goal involves getting more active, plan out what you'll do on hot days, cold days, wet days, etc.

4. TELL OTHERS.

Social pressures can be one of the biggest roadblocks to making healthy changes stick. It's that work morning tea and the slice of cake that lands on your desk or you plan to go for a run after work but your friends ask you to come over early for a barbecue. Most people aren't trying to sabotage your attempts; in fact, they want to help. Let people know what you're trying to achieve and you'll be surprised how accommodating people will be. Who knows—you might even inspire others to make a change!

OUR FAVOURITE QUICK IDEAS FOR SMART GOALS TO GET YOU STARTED



EAT VEGGIES

I will eat at least 5 servings (½ cup) of vegetables every day by eating 3 serves at lunch and 2 serves at dinner.



WALK EVERY DAY

I will go for a 30-minute walk every day to improve my fitness.



MEDITATE

I will take 10 minutes every morning to quietly reflect on what I'm thankful for to help with managing my stress levels.



SLEEP

I will develop a consistent bed-time routine to help improve my sleep quality.



Forty-five kilometres from Sydney's CBD, in the heart of the west, lies the suburb of Mt Druitt. SBS documentary series, *Struggle Street*, portrayed the battles many of the area's residents face on a daily basis, including unemployment, drug addiction and violence.

One day a week, members of the Mt Druitt Samoan church are striving to make life a little easier for their community. With approval from the local council, they operate a free hot dog/soup stall every Wednesday afternoon in four locations simultaneously.

The initiative was inspired by a fun day held within the church grounds early in 2016, where residents could see some of the services offered by the church, including women's and youth services. There were jumping castles and face painting, along with a free barbecue and cafe. While pleased with how the fun day went, the church members decided that instead of getting the community to come to them, it was more important that they go out into the community.

"The community is really appreciating the services offered by our church," Pastor Asofitu Leatuavao says. "Our members likewise are inspired by the positive feedback from the community. It's encouraging to see people on the street finding hope and meaning when someone just cares in a very simple way."

"I started noticing more of our youth attending every Wednesday night to help with the hot dog/soup stand than at Friday night youth practice," muses youth leader Roy Faateete.

But the church had even bigger plans. "The next part of our project was to go even deeper, to meet the physical needs of families in our community,"



Pastor Leatuavao explains.

With help from Food Bank Australia and money from the church's personal ministries fund, every Thursday afternoon the doors of the church are opened so that people can collect a large parcel of groceries for their families.

"Running food bank involves preparing the church—the whole church," Pastor Leatuavao says. "The vision needs to be continually shared and it cannot be done without the commitment and support from our members."

The various outreach activities have ignited a fire within church members and are building positive relationships within the community.

"Any church can do this," Pastor Leatuavao adds. "It's so simple as we see the hand of God leading and guiding the process. Find God's vision for your church. Share that vision continuously and consistently, speak to your local city council, then just go out and do it. The experience is great and rewarding, inspirational and spiritually uplifting."

THEODORA AMUIMUIA
GRAPHIC DESIGN AND MARKETING

LIVING HIS WORD

CREATION: OUR FIRM FOUNDATION PART 1

Simon and Anita called in unannounced to learn a little of the Adventist faith. Simon's questioning was pointed but his response to our discussion on Creation caught me by surprise. I mentioned that God was Creator. "Do you still believe that stuff?" he asked. Simon is not alone in asking this question. However, we must realise the implications that position has on someone's faith. **CONSIDER GENESIS 1:1**

If we consider carefully the implication of each word in this verse, what does it tell us about God? The first verse of the Bible gives us a striking glimpse of the universe—at this point, it has not heard the voice of God. The earth is without form and void, emphasised by the darkness that covers the deep. Despite the formlessness and darkness, the Spirit of God is present. What does this tell you about God and His presence in a world seized by terror, violence and fear?

CONSIDER GENESIS 1:3, JEREMIAH 32:17

Something remarkable is about to take place. God speaks. God's voice, like ripples on a pond, penetrates every part of the formless earth and starts to bring order. From nothing, God creates the universe—is anything too hard for Him? What does this tell you about God? **CONSIDER GENESIS 1:4-25, JOB 37:5, PSALMS 29**

God speaks and it is. God speaks, creating light, land and lions. God speaks, creating birds, beasts and butterflies. God's power and creativity are seen each day in every creature and behold He declares them as good. What does this tell you about God? **CONSIDER GENESIS 1:26-28, 2:7, ISAIAH 29:16, 49:5**

As the new year commences, perhaps it's time to give prayerful thought to our view of God, His purpose for us and His Church. As for Simon and Anita, the journey continues . . . please join me in praying not only for them but that we might grow in our understanding of who God is.

WAYNE BOEHM
DIRECTOR, DISCOVERY CENTRE



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Kids' SPACE

Abraham invites three travellers to stop for food and water.

As they eat, Sarah is inside the tent listening. When one visitor says Sarah will have a baby, she laughs.

Another traveller asks, "Why did Sarah laugh? Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

Then Abraham and Sarah know their guest is the Lord.

MAZE HELP ABRAHAM FIND SARAH



PICK UP THE LETTERS ALONG THE WAY TO FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW

(SARAH) God wants me to out for others.

(VISITORS) = not only to your own interest, but also to the interests of others." *Philippians 2-4, NIV*



RECORD GOES TO ETHIOPIA

My husband and I are new missionaries serving ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) in Ethiopia. One day, about two months ago, *Adventist Record* turned up on my desk! I couldn't believe it! Every few weeks, a new one arrives. What a lovely surprise from home and a great way to be kept in touch with the wonderful work being done in our homeland. It is something we both look forward to and enjoy each time we receive one in the mail. Not only does it help with the small bouts

of homesickness but it is something special we can share with our friends here in Ethiopia. We are not sure who or how this was organised, but thank you!

These photos were taken on November 26, 2016, when we visited an orphanage that is supported by ADRA. The kids loved *Record*, the adults loved it, the local pastor loved it! The good work of the Church in the South Pacific Division is being shared here in Ethiopia and we are privileged to be a part of the process.

Sherryn and Douglas Kieltyka, Ethiopia

SUPPOSED APOSTASY

Upon reading "Different Words, Different Meanings" (Feature, December 3, 2016), I was surprised to find the author taking issue on a point (the Trinity) that has never been the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement's concern with the "supposed apostasy" of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The article also references third-hand reports and misunderstands source materials concerning the SDARM. More significantly, the article avoids the crux of the issue that divides the SDARM and Adventist Church, namely, our attitude towards the Law of God in times of crises.

This fundamental issue manifested itself in the crisis of World War I over the question of combatant military service.

The SDARM believes that by European Adventist Church leaders committing their members to combatant military service, including on the Sabbath, disfellowshipping those members who protested against this stand, and the then General Conference leadership refusing to censure those responsible for the travesty, the Adventist Church failed at a corporate level to uphold the commandments of God before the world. This is the crux of the matter and why the SDARM considers

that the Adventist Church betrayed her sacred trust.

I do appreciate the author's point in general, that we should take care to avoid misunderstandings based on terminology or jargon. It is also crucial that we present our message in clear, unequivocal terms so that our listeners (or readers) understand who we are and what it is that we are trying to say. I trust these few lines will go some way towards clarifying that understanding.

Paul Chapman, Qld

HONESTY AND DISCLOSURE

I was very happy to read that our Division's rate of apostasy is higher than the world average ("Year-end meetings go paperless", News December 3, 2016). While this statistic is in itself tragic, giving us no joy, it is indicative of the urgent need to stop this leaking.

In another sense I was pleased with the openness revealed by our leaders and believe that being open to our church members is a must, having painfully learned that withholding some of the E G White materials, as we did years ago, damaged the perception of many of this gracious gift and eventually the Ellen G White Estate released them. Mixing in the Adventist community there are other matters that people

wonder about . . .

Church members have a right to be fully informed about the Church that exists solely by their financial support through offerings and tithes. Being candidly open with constituents will demonstrate respect and accountability.

The Bible is a good model to follow in that it does not gloss over issues but openly depicts the state of affairs, of God leading His people. I encourage our elected leaders, as far as possible, to demonstrate this honesty the believers deserve. The disclosure of this kind of information would go a long way in curbing the inevitable stream of gossip that occurs through ignorance of the facts.

Steve Cinzio, Qld

REAL SECOND LIFE

I was absolutely horrified to read "Cyber-church" (Feature, December 3, 2016), a report regarding the online game *Second Life*, which some folk are promoting as an evangelistic tool. As it was pointed out, this program is a game; it does not relate to reality at all.

The whole scenario is imaginary so how can it possibly be called evangelism? I'm doubly shocked that people would try to use this to preach the gospel since I have had a family member

become addicted to this game to the total destruction of that person's family.

The only "second life" that I believe we should promote is that which our God has offered us through faith in Jesus, and which is in no way imaginary. Please, let's have no more imaginary stuff promoted as legitimate evangelism.

Anonymous

CONTRADICTION IN TERMS?

Your voluminous pages promoting *Hacksaw Ridge* (October 29) included lines like: "I want to encourage you to start planning who you're going to invite to the cinema on November 3 to see this film with you. If you've never been to the cinema, maybe consider this to be your first outing." Then comes the postscript on another page: "**Record* is not recommending people see the MA15+ rated movie . . ." Classic!

Greg Walsh, NSW

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

POSITIONS VACANT

Chief financial officer

Australian Union Conference (Ringwood, Vic). This is normally a position elected at the time of the union constituency meeting. The position is currently vacant and will be appointed by the Australian Union Conference (AUC) executive committee for the term ending in the last half of 2020, at which time the normal election process will take place. The role involves responsibility for the proper conduct of financial and business matters within the territory of the AUC. It also requires mentoring and working with local conference CFOs. Applicants must have proven financial management skills, a high level of experience in good governance and a comprehensive understanding of Church structure, operating policies and procedures. Request a copy of the job description from and send applications to Pastor Tony Knight (Director for Resource Development and Personnel), 289 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood VIC 3134; (03) 9871 7591 or email <tonyknight@adventist.org.au>. The AUC reserves the right to make an appointment. **Applications close March 31, 2017.**

Childcare assistant

(Kindergarten Room) Carlisle Christian College (Mackay, Qld). Applications are invited for persons interested in the role of assistant at the Carlisle Early Learning Centre located in Mackay. This position is available from mid-February, 2017, and we are looking for a person with a strong passion for God and for working with children. Applicants must hold, at least, a Certificate III qualification in childcare and be committed to studying toward a diploma qualification. The position is a permanent one, subject to satisfactory performance appraisals. Please email resume to <principal@carlisle.adventist.edu.au>. For more information call Andrew North on 0490158070. **Applications close February 10, 2017.**

FOR MORE: ADVENTISTEMPLOYMENT.ORG.AU

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Appreciation

GOULD. The family of the late Jayne Suzanne Gould (nee Evans) wishes to thank all those who have supported them with prayers, flowers, messages, cards and comfort as well as in many practical ways. Your love and kindness are very much appreciated.

Anniversary



BURROWS. George and Irene celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 5.6.16 with their three daughters Desre, Colleen and Charmaine, and their families. The celebration was made special by the attendance of their officiating minister, Pastor Ken Martin, who conducted the ceremony in Ayr church (North Queensland) on 5.6.1966. Four of the six members of their wedding party were able to attend along with many of their church family for an afternoon of fun and celebration. George and Irene spent most of their lives in Townsville, moving to the Caboolture area in 1989.

Weddings



AUMATANGI-WEBSTER. Pilato Aumatangi, son of Ivitai (deceased) and Elizabeth Thapa (Townsville, Qld), and Tatiana Webster, daughter of Damian and Lili Webster (Calamvale), were

VOLUNTEERS

WANTED: Assistant boy dean—Longburn Adventist College, NZ. Are you a godly young man who enjoys the challenge of leadership and mentoring the next generation? Would you like to explore a beautiful country while serving Jesus? Can you spare the year 2017 for service? If so, contact <volunteers@adventist.org.au>. Have we got a deal for you!

Are you a pioneering, cheerful, committed, enthusiastic and patient person? Do you have a year to offer in service? We currently have a few positions available in some pretty challenging and exciting areas. Are you game? Contact <volunteers@adventist.org.au> for more information.

married 4.9.16 at Mt Gravatt church. *J Neil Tyler*

HIGGINS—SCHEMAN. Emmanuel Clive Higgins, son of Darren and Julie Higgins (Fitzroy Falls, NSW), and Liesl Adelle Scheman, daughter of Graeme and Lois-Joy Scheman (Seaham), were married 27.11.16 at Avondale Memorial church, Cooranbong. Emmanuel and Liesl met at a family camp and plan to continue their work at Cedarvale Health Retreat. Liesl will also continue to teach music at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. *Geoffrey Youlden*

MCCUTCHEON—FRANKE. Michael Graham McCutcheon, son of Wayne McCutcheon (Bunbury, WA), and Crystal Louise Franke, daughter of Steve and Leanne Franke (Manjimup), were married 12.11.16 at Willy Bay Resort, Metricup, a beautiful setting surrounded by wildflowers in full bloom. They met at their workplace and plan to live in Bunbury. Crystal recently finished her nurse training and will work at Bunbury hospital while Michael will continue working as a landscape gardener in the area. We wish them a lifetime of happiness. *Gordon Smith*



OBERSON—KOH. Francois Oberson, son of Bernard (Geneva, Switzerland) and Cecile Oberson (deceased), and Sunny Koh, daughter of Younyong and Yeunwoo Koh (Branxholme, Vic), were married 24.10.16 at Arrandoovong Homestead, Branxholme. Sunny, a Bible worker, moved to the country in search of better health and met Francois, a widower. They will continue to live in Branxholme sharing the gospel of Jesus with neighbours and friends. *John Chan*

UGLJESA—BEE. Jacob Daniel Ugljesa, son of Ron and Jane Ugljesa (Logan Reserve, Qld), and Dari Bee, daughter of Chan and Sengly Bee (Crestmead), were married 27.11.16 in South Brisbane church. They will set up their home in Toowoomba where Jacob will be associate pastor at Glenvale church and chaplain at Darling Downs Christian College. *Mark Pearce*

Obituaries

ADAMS, Irene Una (nee Barnes), born 1.7.1921 in Lockhart, NSW; died 28.9.16 in Wingham. She was predeceased by her husband

Clive. She is survived by her son Ian and his wife Buaket (Chiang Mai, Thailand); granddaughter Chantelle Rowley and her husband Richard; and great-grandsons Nicholas and Aidan. Irene was a "nanna" to many Thai orphans and she was also involved in Dorcas, Telecross and Meals on Wheels. *Graham Stewart, Lyndon Thrift*

BOUCHER, Vaughan Blake Arthur, born 10.2.1983 in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa; died 29.10.16 in Brisbane, Qld. He is survived by his wife Dinah; daughter Ella; parents Brian Boucher and Ferriel Jenkins; sister Loren; and his in-laws Chris and Betty Lewis. The service was held outdoors at New Farm overlooking the Brisbane River. South African and Samoan communities united in songs of hope and sorrow. *Andre van Rensburg*

BRADSHAW, Janifer Joy, born 25.11.1943 in Melbourne, Vic; died 25.10.16 in Corowa Hospital, NSW. Jan is survived by Don, her husband of 55 years; children Julie, David and Belinda and their spouses; and grandchildren. Jan was a member of Wangarratta church (Vic) and her quiet spirit and happy nature influenced many who came into her life. She was a loyal supporter of her husband's work with Alcoholics Anonymous. *Quinten Liebrandt*

BURROWS, George Henry, born 17.9.1939 in Roma, Qld; died 16.11.16 in Caboolture Hospital. He married Irene Sutcliffe on 5.6.1966. George is survived by his wife; his children and their partners Desre and Peter Arnold (Elimbah, Qld), Colleen and Steven Richards (Beaudesert), and Charmaine and Matthew Richards (Gold Coast); and six grandchildren. George spent most of his life in Townsville, serving in the church as a deacon and elder, moving to Caboolture in 1989. He enjoyed talking to people and making them feel welcome. He loved working with his hands, building and repairing anything that needed to be done. *Bob Possingham, David Lamb*

CUTHBERT, Norman Clive, born 3.4.1931 in New Zealand; died 19.11.16 in Healesville, Vic. He married Shirley Anne Satchell on 19.3.1956. He is survived by his wife; son Stephen and daughter Cheryl James; three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. In 1951 Norm enrolled in a four-year general nursing course at Sydney Adventist Hospital. He became

theatre supervisor in 1958 and continued in that role for 17 years before transferring to Warburton where he became director of nursing and guest services director for the health care centre and adjacent hospital. He remained there until his retirement, having given a total of 45 years of service to the Adventist health work. Norm was a quiet, faithful man of cheerful disposition.

Barry Satchell

GALWEY, Rex, born 7.5.1925 in Millicent SA; died 17.8.16 in Darwin, NT. He was predeceased by his first wife June; granddaughter Narelle; second wife Stella; son Graham; daughter Dianne; and stepchildren Elsie Koop and Kenneth Addy. He is survived by daughters Christine and Sharyn; grandchildren; step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was a stalwart of the Rendelsham church (SA) for more than 60 years and was known as a lovely Christian gentleman.

Siggi Paleso'o



GILBERT, Albert Gordon, born 14.5.1919 in Auckland, NZ; died 8.9.16 in Alton Lodge, Cooranbong, NSW. He was predeceased by his first wife Joan Rhodes and his second wife Raye Coltheart. Gordon is survived by his only daughter Glenda and husband Aaron Jeffries and their three sons Mark, Darren and Craig; his stepchildren David and Alvin Coltheart and Alison Littleton; seven step-grandchildren Robert, Stephen and Elton, Tejo and Anneli, Gregory and Kerri-Anne. Gordon gave 42 years of service to the Church: 15 years with Sanitarium Health Food Company as an accountant in various locations, 10 years at Carmel College (Qld), seven years at Central Pacific Union Mission and 10 years at Warburton Health Care Centre. Gordon will be remembered for his love of music and choral conducting.

Roger Nixon, Aaron Jeffries

JACKSON, Esma Merle (nee Ber-noth), born 4.6.1929 in Lismore, NSW; died 2.10.16 in Advent-Care Whitehorse, Nunawading, Vic. She was predeceased by her husband Merton. Esma is survived by her children and their spouses, Garry and Roslyn, Ross and Glenda, Jenny and Paul Maggs (all of Melbourne); eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Esma is remembered as a gracious lady who loved Jesus dearly.

Ross Baines, Trevor Rowe

JAMORA, Rosario Ragot (known as Mama Char), born 4.12.1932 in the Philippines; died 31.10.16 in Lisarow, NSW. She was predeceased by her son John. She is survived by Vivien and Virgilio Cadungog (Lisarow), Rex and Tita (Point Clare), Nenita and John Victor Trinos (Hornsby), David and Susan (Warrabee), Roda (Lisarow), Al and Susan Seven (Wyoming), Danilo and Mary (Glenwood) and 13 grandchildren. Mama Char was a loving person who lived her faith.

Adrian Craig

KEARNS, Joseph Vivian, born 21.11.1942 in South Africa; died 28.9.16 in Warburton, Vic. He is survived by his wife Kathy; and children Ruth, Malcolm and Jeremy. Joe and his family immigrated to Australia in the 1970s. He worked for Signs Publishing until his retirement. Joe lived a full life in the Lord, enjoyed his garden and in particular grafting and growing maple trees.

Quinten Liebrandt



KEMP, John Donald, born 10.7.1939 in the Oodnadatta area, SA; died 30.8.16 in the Finke (NT). John is survived by his brother Willie (Charlie). John's first job was on Macumba Station near Oodnadatta. Later he worked on Anna Creek Station—the largest station in Australia—and also on Innamincka Station. However, he spent most of his life working for the railways at Wongianna Siding, Marree and Alice Springs. John was baptised in 2013 at the Finke church and when he came up out of the water he was photographed with a huge smile on his face. He was a true Christian gentleman.

David Gilmore, Don Fehlberg, Mancel Dougherty

LOBATO, Rene, born 3.5.1938 in Myanmar; died 9.11.16 in Geraldton, WA. She is survived by her son Peter (Geraldton) and daughter Collette (Cairns, Qld). Rene recently became a member of Geraldton church, and she was loved by the members and felt it was her home. She had a great sense of humour and loved being part of the Wednesday morning Bible study group. She participated fully in the church and loved to share her knowledge of what made a good curry.

Steven Goods

SCHWAMM, Colin Clarence, born 7.10.1942 in Carterton, NZ; died 23.10.16 in Dargaville. He is survived by his wife Carol (Dar-

gaville); children Zane (Wanganui), Andrew (Auckland) and Roseanne (USA); their spouses; and seven grandchildren. Educated at Longburn College and North Shore Teachers Training College, he gave 36 years of teaching service. His love of children led him to spend time in outdoor and entertainment activities with them.

Ken Curtis

SPIES, Gweneth Phyllis, born 13.4.1933; died 4.12.16 in Warwick, Qld. She is survived by her children Geoffrey, Raymond, Russell, Barry and Darren and their respective partners; grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Gwen loved her Lord and was a faithful servant in any area she was asked to be involved.

Trevor Mawer



THRIFT, Alan George, born 14.6.1930 in Quirindi, NSW; died 11.11.16 in Bonnells Bay. He was predeceased by his wife Yvonne and daughter Karen. He is survived by his son Michael; and brothers Ivan (Tas) and Kevin (SA). Alan worked in music ministry in the WA Conference and from 1957 to 1990 he carved out an illustrious career as head of the music department and director of choirs at Avondale College. Other professional appointments included director of Sydney Male Choir, Lake Macquarie City Choirs, Avondale Memorial Chorale and The Men's Shed Chorale. A 120-voice massed choir paid tribute to Alan at his funeral. A mentor of musicians and a consummate musician and performing artist, Alan, over his lifetime, made a striking contribution to the reputation of Avondale College, and to the impact of the Church on the culture of the South Pacific region.

Lyell Heise, Don Bain

TRIM, Pastor John Ballard, born 12.8.1928 in Cooranbong, NSW; died 13.11.16 in Cooranbong. He is survived by his wife Mary; children Jenelle Quick (Wahroonga), Heather Judd (Hornsby), Geoffrey (Gold Coast, Qld), Elisabeth Rudenko (Killara, NSW) and David (Washington, DC, USA); grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and his brother Ray and sisters Berenice Lansdowne and Joyce Trim. John served the Church for more than 45 years as a pastor, conference and union departmental director, union secretary and institutional administrator. He worked in Australia, New Zealand, India, Britain and Thailand. An administrative

innovator, his passions were community health outreach and public relations, in which he pioneered new methods internationally.

Barry Oliver, Desmond Ford

CORRECTION:

Record wishes to apologise for cutting off part of the "Glory in the lowest" feature (December 24, 2016). This was inadvertently left out and an accident of editorial not the author. For the full article, visit <record.adventistchurch.com>.

ADVERTISING

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Lord, as I look forward to the new year, be my vision so that I can plan according to Your heart and not just my own.

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