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JUST SAY 'YES'

DANIJELA SCHUBERT'S ROUNDABOUT
ROAD TO LEADERSHIP 16

NEWS

RECORD ORDINATION IN
MORESBY'S BIGGEST CHURCH 7

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WHY ARE YOU A SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST?

Why are you a Seventh-day Adventist? Maybe no-one has ever asked you that question. Maybe they have, or maybe you've asked yourself. But I want you to think about it again for a moment. Why are you a Seventh-day Adventist?

Many of us start answering that question with reference to our parents or our grandparents. We have grown up as Seventh-day Adventists, it is a culture we are comfortable in, it has become like a skin. Yet at some point, most of us who grew up as Adventists have had to make a conscious decision to stay. Hopefully, we had a real and life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ. We had to decide that we agreed with what the Church stood for (or at least most of it).

When I ask people the question, many then go on to emphasise the truth or the logic of our beliefs—how the Seventh-day Adventist faith answers some difficult questions of faith or life, like what happens when we die. The wholistic nature of our views is really quite attractive—even beautiful. The way our health message cares for the body, our education system for development of the mind and our hope in Christ's return feeds our spirits.

For others it is an attraction to the special nature of our mission and calling, the feeling of relevance and currency to be found in knowing that there is an end-time message that needs to go out to the world. The importance of that message is, and always has been, a key to Adventism. Unfortunately, many take prophetic interpretation further and become obsessed with conspiracies and theories that distract from the mission of the Church.

From time to time, I have thought about who I would be or what I would be like if I wasn't a Seventh-day Adventist. Given the proclivity of many Australian males to overindulge in alcohol and meat, I would probably be right into all that—sausage sizzles, gambling and beer on the beach.

I think back to times in my life when I've felt darkness closing in around me, when I've been caught in the most difficult situations, when I've felt down, guilty, shamed or at the end of my temper and I've experienced the calming and restraining influence of my faith balance me out or restrain

me. I know my issues *with* God—I'd hate to think of my life *without* Him.

For some of you reading this, you don't have to speculate. You've been there, living a life without God. You know who you were before meeting Him.

Others might be reading this and saying, "The Seventh-day Adventist Church is the closest to the Bible that I have found." A recent survey showed half of respondents joined the Church due to strong doctrine. The freedom of the Sabbath, the great controversy theme, the three angels' messages—Adventist understandings are wide and deep. Many of us have searched through other religions and denominations before ending up here.

Another reason we may have joined or continue to stay in the Church is because of the love and care we've been shown by church members. The Church is often knocked for being judgemental and hypocritical—and it can be. It is held to higher standards (and should be). Yet some people in the Church who I have met are super loving and compassionate. The thing is that faith and church push people to supernatural feats of charity, love and sacrifice, and hanging out with and being inspired by those sorts of people is a humbling and uplifting experience.

So why did you become a Seventh-day Adventist? And why do you stay?

Are these reasons enough or is there something more? Why are you a Seventh-day Adventist?

I know there are many people, especially among my age group, who are barely hanging on or have already left. With shocking statistics of between 4 and 6 of every 10 people leaving the Church, we need to ask ourselves what value we add to the world, why we exist and what we stand for.

I encourage you to make 2018 the year of getting to know your faith community better, to delve into your beliefs and the reasons for your faith. To immerse yourself in Christ as you join His mission for this beautiful part of the world.

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MISSION

"Your mission is to . . . bring back the prisoners, secure the contract, establish a school, help families recover . . ." Mission is about what we do. Mission is activity aimed at reaching a goal.

The General Conference voted mission statement is: *The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to call all people to become disciples of Jesus Christ, to proclaim the everlasting gospel embraced by the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12, and to prepare the world for His soon return.*

There are three distinct aspects that define the Church's activity:

1. Call people to become Jesus' disciples. The ultimate goal for all of us is to be disciple-making disciples with Jesus—ready for His return at any time.

2. Proclaim the gospel within an end-time framework. This is our distinct mandate. No-one else understands the free gift of salvation in Jesus with the great controversy coming to a climax, as Seventh-day Adventists do. What Jesus offers is just the best! He has dealt with evil, death and the cause of both, giving life and security forever.

3. Prepare the world for Jesus' second coming. The world still celebrates Jesus' first coming—however, we want as many as possible to celebrate His return to Earth to completely fulfil His salvation promise.

As a corporate Church we are continually reminded to make sure our finances and activities are mission focused. In boards and committees I ask myself and others in difficult discussions—how core is this to our mission? Mission is mandatory and our voted actions should reflect that.

As Church people it is our mission too. We fulfil this mission day-to-day: a smile and positive attitude, helping the neighbour with gardening, taking time to listen, telling the story of how Jesus changed our lives, taking children to Sabbath School, sharing what death is to you . . . May our words and deeds show we are mission focused this year.

GLENN TOWNEND
SPD PRESIDENT
/SPDpresident



NEWS

WORLD'S SMALLEST PACEMAKER AT THE SAN

LEISA O'CONNOR

Weighing less than a five cent coin, the world's smallest pacemaker has been implanted during heart surgery at the Sydney Adventist Hospital.

At one-tenth the size of other pacemakers, the new device is the "future", according to San hospital interventional cardiologist Dr Peter Illes, a veteran of more than 4000 pacemaker implants.

Dr Illes said the benefits of the new device include reduced chance of bleeding, infection or swelling.

"A traditional pacemaker has leads that connect from outside into the heart, increasing the risk," he said.

"The design of the new Micra pacemaker—attached to the heart via several small prongs, and delivering electrical impulses through an electrode on its tip rather than through leads—reduces that risk."



DR ILLES WITH THE PACEMAKER.

Pacemakers provide tiny electrical impulses to restore rhythm and are implanted in the chest or abdomen of patients with a slow heartbeat.

The new pacemaker is suitable for patients who require a single chamber pacemaker and, because of its small size and weight, is implanted directly into the heart rather than a pocket in the skin.

The procedure takes about an hour and patients are discharged within about four hours.

PROGRAM FOR TEENAGE GIRLS TOURS PACIFIC

GOING PLACES NEWSLETTER

Before retiring, outgoing South Pacific Division women's ministries director, Erna Johnson, toured the Pacific, holding a series of meetings for teenage girls.

Significant events on the tour included the first Adventist meeting for teenage girls to be held in Samoa and Vanuatu, a prayer breakfast attended

by the Tongan royal family (see *Record*, January 27) and the opportunity to speak to hundreds of women in Kiribati, Fiji, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea.

Mrs Johnson was accompanied by General Conference women's ministries representative Heather-Dawn Small.

In Kiribati, where there are only three employees at the Mission office, the GC donated seven sewing machines that will stay in the local churches so women can sell clothes and earn some money.

In Fiji, training on how to reach out to teenage girls was held at Fulton College. Forty people, including four men, attended. After the training, the team went to Navesau school and talked to students about domestic violence before holding a "Real Me" conference, attended by 200 girls.

Vanuatu Mission celebrated 21 years of women's ministries with a cake during the "Real Me" program.



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES LEADERS IN KIRIBATI.

5000 PATHFINDERS CHOSEN TO SERVE AT UNION CAMPOREE

JACQUELINE WARI

More than 5000 Pathfinders attended a week-long camporee in Central Province, Papua New Guinea, from January 7-13.

The Pathfinders, from the nine local missions and one conference in the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM), camped at Bautama.

Organised by the PNGUM and hosted by the Central Papua Conference, the camporee's theme was "Chosen to Serve".

During the opening ceremony, Tubuseria villagers welcomed the guests with a drama about the arrival of the first missionaries to Papua while the Pathfinders took part in a parade, unfurled flags and received the camporee flag, which was flown in on a helicopter to the campsite.

Philippines Ambassador Pastor Bienvenido Tejano encouraged the Pathfinders to honour their uniforms and the Bible.

"I implore you to continue to honour the uniforms you are wearing. I implore you to embrace the Bible as we are living in a spiritual warfare," Pastor Tejano said.

South Pacific Division youth director Dr Nick Kross told the Pathfinders they were beautiful sons and daughters of the King of Kings.

"It is no mistake that you are here today. You will be strengthened as you spend this time at the camporee," he said.

In welcoming the Pathfinders, PNGUM youth director Pastor Lonol Winnie said, "Pathfinders you have been chosen to serve like the Little Maid, David, Samson, Esther and Joseph. At this camporee make friends and have fun, but remember you have been chosen to serve."

Meanwhile, camporee guest speaker, Pastor Jose Rojas, inspired the young people each night with his lively sermons on Bible characters under which the Pathfinders were grouped for their activities.

Each night, Pathfinders responded to altar calls by making commitments to serve God.

Character building activities held during the day included obstacles,



PATHFINDERS ON THE MARCH.

lashing and frisbee. More than 880 Pathfinders took part in honours classes on community service and Christian grooming.

Pathfinders from the Western Highlands Mission walked away with the shield after scoring the highest points in the marching drill.

The camporee ended with the baptism of 80 Pathfinders after the divine service, singing, speeches, gift presentation and fireworks in the evening.

The next camporee will be held in Morobe Province in 2023.

NEW ZEALAND FUN RUNS SUPPORT ADRA

MARITZA BRUNT

Charity fun runs held during the recent North and South New Zealand Big Camps have raised more than \$A1800 (\$NZD2000) for family and community projects across ADRA New Zealand.

More than 250 people participated in the January 10 event in Rotorua, entitled the "Live More Fun Run", while 120 people were present for the January 18 "Hagley Hunger Fun Run" in Hagley Park, Christchurch.

"[One of our aims] was for our Church to be profiled within the community while raising funds for community projects run by ADRA in Rotorua and Christchurch," said New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC) health director Adrielle Carrasco.

"In this way, after Big Camp has concluded, and we go back to our respective home towns or cities, we leave behind a wonderful legacy, which will have a positive effect on the community and support the Adventist churches and schools we leave behind in the Rotorua and Christchurch areas."

This was the second year both events have been held and the Union is hoping to build on this year's numbers for further Big Camps, eventually integrating the run/walk as part of the regular Big Camp program.

"It is a new concept and a little



PARTICIPANTS AT THE "LIVE MORE FUN RUN" IN ROTORUA.

different to what we usually do at Big Camp, but it's also something the whole camp has an opportunity to get involved with—coming together and participating as a group or as families and friends," Ms Carrasco said.

"These community events bring out the best in everyone."

HOMEGROWN HEALTH RESEARCHER'S NEW TITLE

BRENTON STACEY

An academic whose prolific publications and competitive grants have given his infection control research national profile is the first to receive a professorship from Avondale College of Higher Education (NSW).

Professor Brett Mitchell's promotion from associate professor reflects: the quantity and quality of the papers he has had published—more than 50 since moving to Avondale three-and-a-half years ago; the quantity and the size of the competitive research grants he has received—eight as a chief investigator, equating to \$A1.2 million; and national and international recognition for his contribution to infection prevention and control—he is chair of a National Health and Medical Research Council committee revising national infection control guidelines.

The promotion is “personal recognition for much hard work”, said Prof Mitchell, director of the Lifestyle

Research Centre at Avondale.

Prof Mitchell and his team received a \$A171,000 grant from the HCF Research Foundation earlier this year for a study of antiseptic cleaning solutions that may not only help prevent catheter-associated infections in hospitals, but also change national guidelines. The project is important, said Prof Mitchell, because one of his previous studies found nearly two in every 100 patients acquire a urinary tract infection and that these infections cost an extra 380,000 public hospital bed days in Australia each year.

Prof Mitchell is editor of the peer-reviewed journal *Infection, Disease and Health* and helped found the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control.

He hopes his promotion will open up other personal and professional



PROFESSOR BRETT MITCHELL.

opportunities and increase Avondale's profile for prospective students and academics.

“As Avondale's first home-grown professor, Brett is an example of our growing stature in the Australian higher education sector,” said Avondale president Professor Ray Roennfeldt. His promotion “is a mark of a maturing research culture at Avondale [and] stands as one piece of evidence that we're ready to step up to university college status”.

POSITION AVAILABLE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Adventist HealthCare

The AHCL Board is seeking expressions of interest for the position of CEO of Adventist HealthCare to lead this highly respected hospital group into the next phase of its growth and development.



The Sydney Adventist Hospital is the flagship of Adventist HealthCare and is the largest single campus private hospital in the state of NSW. It operates in a highly competitive private hospital market and has maintained a strong position throughout its history.

For a suitably qualified and experienced candidate, this position provides the opportunity to lead a highly respected organisation through a period of growth and regeneration and to apply the knowledge, skills and experience accumulated over at least a decade of senior management in private hospitals.

An attractive remuneration package, commensurate with the requirements of this role, will be provided.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

As an experienced CEO or senior executive (with at least a decade of senior management in private hospitals), you have a practical understanding of the issues, challenges and opportunities that face hospitals as they grow and develop while understanding the levers and mechanisms that will help the organisation to grow and thrive. Ideally your working style combines inclusiveness, emotional intelligence and strong ethics with a strong commitment to the beliefs and philosophy of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. As such you will be able to provide leadership for all aspects for hospital management as well as building strong linkages with a complex network of stakeholders representing a wide range of perspectives that will be important for the success of this role.

For a confidential discussion or further information about the position, please contact the Board Chair, Pr Glenn Townsend:
EMAIL: glenntownend@adventist.org.au PHONE: +61 2 9847 3213 APPLICATIONS CLOSE: February 9, 2018.

INDIGENOUS MISSION BOOK TO BE RELEASED

MARITZA BRUNT

A new book detailing the history of the Mona Mona Mission, near Kuranda in Far North Queensland, will be released later this year, drawing on historical sources held by the Adventist Heritage Centre and Indigenous voices.

Once the Adventist Church's best-known mission to Australia's First People, Mona Mona closed in 1962, but is still considered to be a significant part of the heritage of Seventh-day Adventism in Australia.

"This book is an important step in exploring what life was like for those living in Mona Mona," said Avondale

College of Higher Education lecturer Dr Brad Watson, who initiated the project and is working with the Adventist Church in Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries (ATSIM) to co-fund the project.

"The Church was not perfect in how they treated the people, but I am hoping this book will lead to some sort of reconciliation," said Lynelda Tippo, project co-researcher and ATSIM director for the Adventist Church in North New South Wales, who also grew up in Kuranda, near the Mission. "I really hope this project will be taken further, to see the legacy these places have for the Adventist Church in missions all over Australia."

Dr Watson and Mrs Tippo would like to invite anyone who has information, pictures or film footage of Mona Mona to contact them. All historical records, whether they depict the Mission positively or not, are of high value to the project and will be credited to the owners in the book. Dr Watson can be contacted on 0488 220 574 or at <brad.watson@avondale.edu.au>



PHOTO OF THE MISSION FROM AROUND 1930.

RECORD ORDINATION IN MORESBY'S BIGGEST CHURCH

RUSSELL WORUBA

Port Moresby's largest Seventh-day Adventist church held a record ordination of elders, deacons and deaconesses to prepare for 2018.

Koki Hill church ordained 24 elders, 24 deacons and appointed 24 deaconesses after three special reflection Sabbaths led by the three groups. This was an all-time high for ordinations for Central Papua Conference.

The 3000-member church reflected back on the year of discipleship during the three Sabbaths, themed "Be a partner with God to make disciples for Jesus".

During the final divine service, outgoing senior elder Alex Nicu gave a passionate call to discipleship as he urged members to look at Christ and follow His example.

In order to address challenges in



KOKI HILL CHURCH ELDERS.

education and health, which are common in most urban ethnic settlements such as Koki, outgoing pastor Gibson Lohia could not overstate the importance of good leadership at the local church level.

"This is why we run this reflection program so our leadership express their learnings and offer encouragement to new leaders as part of discipleship. It marks a milestone of celebration.

"The ordination is the highlight of our year," Pastor Lohia reflected with a smile.

NEWS GRABS



MEDICAL HELP

More than 9000 people have benefited from a new emergency medical centre in the Hassan Sham U2 refugee camp (Iraq). Operated by Adventist Help and ADRA Iraq/Kurdistan, the hospital also offers dental, x-ray and laboratory services, psychosocial support, screening and health training workshops. —*Adventist Review*



SPECIAL BAPTISM

More than 1000 Pathfinders recently attended the 22nd Pathfinder Camporee of the Chilean Pacific Mission, held in Panquehue. During the camporee, 22 Pathfinders were baptised in a neighbourhood lagoon, where members of the community were able to witness the commitment of the children. —*SAD*



CHARITABLE ACT

In an analysis conducted by the publication *Modern Healthcare*, Florida-based Adventist Health System ranked second on a list of the highest charity care providers in the United States. Charity care is health care provided for free or at reduced prices to low income patients, and is an "integral part of Adventist health". —*Adventist Today*

HOT TOPICS



HANDSHAKE OUTBREAK

A severe epidemic of "Australian flu" in the UK, blamed for the worst flu season seen in decades, has led to some of Northern Ireland's churches banning handshakes during services. The H3N2 virus, commonly referred to as the "Aussie flu", has spread across the UK and Ireland in recent weeks. "The customary sign of peace handshake exchanged during mass is suspended until the risk of infection is significantly reduced," said a statement from the office of Bishop Noel Treanor. "All parishioners are reminded of good hygiene practice as recommended by the public health authority." In Australia, at least 170,000 winter flu cases were confirmed in 2017, more than twice as many as in 2016, with health officials saying they logged 72 flu-related deaths. —*The Guardian*



CHARITY STATUS

Commercial enterprises owned by religious groups will be hit with state taxes if Victoria's Reason Party MP Fiona Patten gets her way. Ms Patten has issued a private members' bill to amend the Charities Act to ensure tax exemptions only apply to those organisations engaging in objectively charitable works. She said her changes would target groups like breakfast foods company Sanitarium, owned by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which she claimed was "a multi-million dollar company avoiding a whole range of taxes". —*The Guardian*

AUC STRENGTHENS ELDER'S ROLE

MARITZA BRUNT

A new discipleship initiative from the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia (AUC) will empower local church elders to baptise twice a year.

The initiative, which has received support from the South Pacific Division and General Conference, is the first time local church elders will participate in such a program.

"We've been working on this program for more than a year," said AUC president Pastor Jorge Munoz. "The initiative has been tried successfully in the Inter-American Division, and the AUC is excited about trialling it as a discipleship tool here in Australia.

AUC personal ministries director, Pastor Cristian Copaceanu, said the new initiative empowered local church elders to function according to their high spiritual calling.

"Biblically, elders were the cornerstone of the local church for both pastoral care and discipleship," he said. "Throughout the world today wherever church elders function at their biblical calling we see rapid kingdom growth."

Currently, the Church Manual allows elders to baptise potential new members subject to the approval of the conference



A NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELDER'S IN AUSTRALIA.

where the baptism is in a remote location. Under the new system, local church elders who have completed a training program will be able to baptise on the last Sabbaths in July and November.

"Many times we hear that elders feel that they are not adequately trained in order to teach, give Bible studies or follow up interests," said Pastor Munoz.

"This program will allow them not only to do all those things, but also to have the blessing to baptise those with whom they study."

To participate in the program, elders must register for training with their local church pastors. The training will then be completed either online or locally with their church pastor. The program will launch in the next few months.

IN TODAY'S
WORLD, THE POST
IS MIGHTIER THAN
THE PEN.

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FLASHPOINT



UNITED DISCIPLESHIP

Members from Mumuiru church in the Maria District recently ran a week of fellowship at the new work area of Bouteba as part of Adventist Week celebrations throughout the Central Papua Conference. Though the area is predominantly a United (Methodist) church region, the community welcomed the Adventists, especially as they helped to clean up tracks to villages. Other highlights included interactive Bible study sessions and movies produced by the Papua New Guinea Union Mission health department on issues such as alcohol abuse, HIV/AIDS and sanitation. —*Danny Yaka*



ROYAL AWARD

Monique Robertson, a 2017 Year 12 student from Northpine Christian College (Qld), was recently presented the Queen's Award by the Governor for selflessly giving to the community and participating in her Girls' Brigade squad for a number of years. The Queen's Award is the highest honour that can be obtained in the Girls' Brigade and is an internationally recognised award. It is designed to encourage girls and young women to a personal commitment to Jesus Christ, while inspiring them to greater service in the community. —*Andrew Schnell*



CHRISTMAS CHEER

ADRA Logan (Qld) spread a little love and cheer in December 2017, hosting a Christmas breakfast for the local community. ADRA staff and their families and friends volunteered their time to set up, cook and serve breakfast for around 200 people, many of them families. Kids were able to enjoy free face-painting and crafts, and each child also received a gift. Families and individuals in attendance received a Christmas hamper, with the ladies also receiving a gift handbag from Share the Dignity's "It's In The Bag" Christmas charity initiative. —*Sam Luteru*



BEGINNING BIG

The new year started on a high for the South New South Wales (SNSW) Conference, with its annual Big Camp (January 5-13) at Adventist Alpine Village in Jindabyne attracting its highest ever number of registered visitors (670). This year's theme was "SALT: flavour the world". One camp attendee said the "speakers gave excellent messages that were practical as well as entertaining", while other guests described the camp as "the best for many years". Conference president Pastor Mike Faber said God "richly blessed" the camp, and that he and his team are already planning Big Camp 2019. —*Linden Chuang*



THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

Whyalla church (SA) and corresponding ADRA OpShop recently held a special lunch to thank their 25 volunteers for working hard throughout the year. The church also thanked the wider community for providing donations, and presented Certificates of Appreciation to local businesses and individuals. "[The volunteers] all work together in harmony," said Whyalla church pastor Andy Krause. "I think that's astounding—for a place that relies on volunteers, they help us grow." The volunteer base is made up of people from the Work for the Dole program, temporary volunteers and church members —*Louis Mayfield/Maritza Brunt*



HOPE CHANNEL FOR WESTERNERS

The Western Division in Fiji has officially launched the new Walesi digital TV platform, which includes Hope Channel. The platform began broadcasting in certain parts of Fiji on November 1, but was officially launched for Westerners on December 18 by the Minister for Communications Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum. The move means that all of Fiji will soon have 24-hour access to Hope Channel. —*Fiji Times*



THE BREAKFAST CLUB

The Bay Islands Seventh-day Adventist Group (Qld) has found a way to minister to the physical needs of the community. Every Friday morning, the church members serve a nourishing breakfast to the 230 primary school students on Russell Island, where the church currently meets. "This is an excellent way for our church to show the Russell Island community that we care," said church pastor Pat Tuailii. —*SQ Focus*



A SPECIAL BAPTISM

2017 ended on a special note for one Brisbane (Qld) family as Emily Victoria Kavar was baptised at Springwood Seventh-day Adventist Church by her grandfather, Pastor Humberto Rivera Moya. The occasion was marked by the attendance of her family, friends and church members. "Emily is a diligent student, loves the Lord and has committed her life to His service," said Pastor Rivera. —*Record staff*

URGENT CHANGE NEEDED

CHURCH STRUCTURE REPORT

A landmark report from the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia's (AUC) review of Church structure indicates the need for change in a number of areas.

The review revealed that the local church, the local conference and the Seventh-day Adventist Church nationally are in need of a significant overhaul so that there is greater focus, efficiency and effectiveness in "mission". In particular, it noted the need to reduce duplication across the cor-

porate Church system, and to address inefficiencies in the multiple layers of Church governance.

The report not only considered organisational structural issues but, importantly, highlighted practical day-to-day operational factors at schools, aged care facilities and local churches.

In the context of being more effective in achieving the Church's mission, the report specifically called for:

(a) a renewed level of prayer, spirituality and guidance by the Holy Spirit

"as never before";

(b) re-focusing more resources to "the front line";

(c) a much greater degree of integration, collaboration and networking among and within each of the entities (churches, schools and aged care operations);

(d) a far more intentional approach to "engaging with our communities" (internally and externally);

(e) extending the "formal boundaries" of local churches to include "life

Photo: Jill May



H-DAY
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(i) a greater use of technology; and
(j) more fully empowering and equipping youth and young adults.

"The overall report constitutes a considerable and necessary re-focus in many areas," said AUC president Pastor Jorge Munoz.

"We do not see the growth in our churches that we once enjoyed. This is an urgent issue that we need to address, without delay. We have to be very careful with how we utilise all of our resources, and, particularly, be significantly more intentional about the way we approach our mission. It requires considerably greater focus, energy and, most of all, urgency!"

A summary of the report is available for all church members to read online at <https://corporate.adventist.org.au/australian-church-structure-review/>.

In May 2017 the AUC Executive Committee (comprising a mix of church members and employees) committed to a formal, multi-staged process of assessing and addressing the Church's structure in the context of mission.

Subsequently, 70 workshops were conducted throughout the Australian conferences, inviting input and ideas from a broad range of stakeholder groups. In addition, a staggering 21,000 posts, comments and reactions were made on a dedicated Facebook page, a key communication channel for the process. Members are encouraged to join the group. It can be found by searching for "Structure Review – Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia".

Pastor Munoz praised the efforts of the hundreds of people who contributed to the process. "The input from our people was outstanding, and we are extremely grateful for the practical suggestions," he said. "They signal the need for important and urgent changes to the way we approach our work in the future."

The AUC Executive Committee embraced the report and recommendations, requesting the AUC leadership team collaborate with each of the nine local conference executive committees

to draw up action plans to both model and implement the ideas.

AUC officers and members of the structure review leadership team will meet with all of the local conference executive committees between February and April.

The structure review change process is being facilitated by Anthony Mitchell, a lay member and professional organisational change management specialist. The chair of the Structure Review Committee is Lindsay Borgas, a retired senior business executive, and the committees include a number of lay members, all Australian local conference presidents and AUC officers.

"Given the significance of the recommendations, working with all of the local conference executive committees is a very important next step," said AUC secretary Pastor Michael Worker.

"We have very clearly received the message from our stakeholders that there is a strong desire for change. And given that this change impacts the Church across Australia, we must all work together as one. The local conference executive committees provide an opportunity for us to do this as, officially, they are the representative bodies of the Church for each region across the nation."

"This is a very exciting beginning," said AUC associate secretary Pastor Ken Vogel. "Our people have spoken and we have made a concerted effort to listen. There is a huge amount of work to do but we are firmly committed to the overall process and very serious about seeing tangible results."

"Ultimately those results will only come about if leadership and membership together see the urgency for and are committed to and involved in this change process."

The AUC's structure review process is ongoing. Further reports, updates and announcements will be provided online, by email and via Adventist Record. To be added to the contact list for updates, send your email address to: StructureReview@adventist.org.au

I ANTHONY MITCHELL/RECORD STAFF

groups and centres of influence", to enable greater community reach;

(f) a clear and full focus on discipleship, mentoring and training at local church level;

(g) local churches being less "pastor dependent", with more direct and formal lay member involvement in ministry, outreach and church planting activities;

(h) transforming our churches, schools and aged care facilities into "mission hubs";



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A... **SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

NAME: JOSH TAYLOR
JOB: SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
WHERE: SOUTHLAND
ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL, INVERCARGILL (NZ)

WHAT'S A TYPICAL DAY FOR YOU?

I'm not sure if there is ever a typical day in my job! Any given day could include writing reports, teaching students, driving our bus or managing finances—just to name a few.

BIGGEST LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED?

Don't be afraid to ask for help. There are numerous people who are experts in different areas and most people are willing to provide support when called upon.



WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A TEACHER, AND EVENTUALLY A PRINCIPAL?

I became a teacher because I enjoyed working with kids and felt as though teaching was a great way to use my skills and talents for God. Becoming a principal was something I had aspired to since becoming a teacher and when the opportunity arose, I took it. I enjoy having the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of students.

BEST PART ABOUT YOUR JOB?

The students. At a conference I attended this year, one of the speakers shared this quote: "When it gets too heavy—spend time with the kids." I often remind myself that without the students there would be no school. I try to spend as much time with the students as possible as their bright personalities and positive attitudes are always a highlight of my day.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU NEED?

I have a Bachelor of Education which allows me to be a teacher and therefore a principal. You also need an open mind, and to be willing to listen and learn.

WHAT'S ONE CHALLENGE YOU'VE FACED?

One of the biggest challenges I have faced is learning how to manage the huge workload that comes with the job. Ensuring I prioritise the most important tasks is something I'm still trying to master.

ANY ADVICE FOR FUTURE TEACHERS/ PRINCIPALS?

Make sure you devote time each day to spend with God. Being an educator is very time consuming and it can be easy to get caught up with all that has to be done. Having a strong relationship with God will help you manage the stress and pressure that comes with the job.

VISIT <WWW.SACS.SCHOOL.NZ> TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SOUTHLAND ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

DIGGING IN HIS WORD

WITH GARY WEBSTER

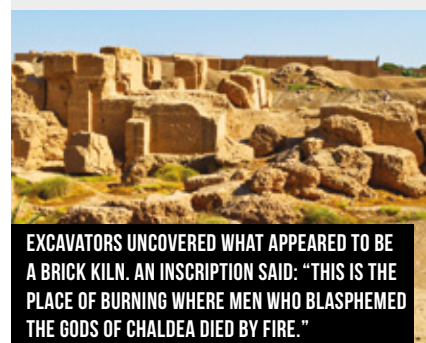
REACHING THE UNCHURCHED: DISCIPLESHIP IN A BRICK KILN

Methodist scholar Dean Kelley wrote: "True, effective religious faith requires that you do something different, that you be something different, than you would otherwise do or be if you didn't have it. It must make some significant difference in your life, something that will cost you a lot, because that's what makes religion work. If it doesn't cost, it can't be worth much" (*Why Conservative Churches Are Growing*, p17). That's radical discipleship! The kind Daniel's friends had that reached an unchurched king.

Would we have bowed to Nebuchadnezzar's image? The peer pressure would have been enough to get most of us on our knees, but greater still would be the reality that not doing so would cost our lives! But Daniel's friends chose to die rather than disobey God. [READ](#) Daniel 3:16-18; Exodus 20:4-6.

While their amazing deliverance from a fiery death impressed the king, it was their obedience to their faith that most deeply impacted him. [READ](#) Daniel 3:25-29; Romans 16:26.

No wonder these disciples impacted the unchurched king. When the Spirit lives in us—through us—He convicts the unchurched of sin, righteousness and judgement. Decide to be a radical disciple to reach the unchurched for Christ. [READ](#) John 7:37-39; 16:7-9; Acts 5:32.



EXCAVATORS UNCOVERED WHAT APPEARED TO BE A BRICK KILN. AN INSCRIPTION SAID: "THIS IS THE PLACE OF BURNING WHERE MEN WHO BLASPHEMED THE GODS OF CHALDEA DIED BY FIRE."

Image: Osama S M Amin

NATURAL BORN GEEK

Describing himself as "a natural born geek", Henry Ponco has always been attracted to technology.

"One time, I even taught my teacher how to use his brand-new digital camcorder!" he laughs. "It was a very high-tech thing back then!"

While designing a new website for his church (Gateway Adventist Centre in Victoria), Henry heard Gateway was inviting international speakers to do evangelism training for the church members. He faithfully recorded each session, believing the training would have greater impact if it could reach a larger audience. He then posted the videos on the church's website.

"That might seem like an obvious thing today," says Henry. "But this was 2006. YouTube barely existed!"

People began downloading the videos by the hundreds! He began getting warnings from the website host about using too much bandwidth.

"I saw a need for a website dedicated solely to Adventist videos," says Henry. But as a student, he didn't have the financial means to begin.

In 2008, Henry had just finished a Bible worker program with Pastor Mark Finley and was working in IT for AdventCare in Nunawading. Freshly inspired to share the gospel, Henry again thought about starting a media ministry.

"I still don't have funding," he reasoned. "And I don't know how to do it." But nothing is impossible with God.

A family member who never remembered Henry's birthday happened

to remember this one (June 2008). His relative surprised him with the equivalent of three months' wages, tax-free. Henry knows this money was a blessing from God because this relative hasn't remembered his birthday since!

Henry was convicted. God was calling him to begin his ministry.

Henry resigned and started two websites. [Beyondpatmos.org](#) is suitable for any audience and contains recordings of baptisms, testimonies and evangelistic programs. [Rightlytrained.org](#) is specifically for Adventists looking for training resources.

"I want everybody to be able to access these materials for free," he says. There have been days when Henry has gone without food or savings to keep his ministry going. But God has always provided. "When I needed a reliable car to transport my equipment, people knocked on my door to rent my roof for a mobile phone antennae. They offered me just enough to afford the car. And by some miracle, the videos are hosted by the world's fastest network."

In the first year of Henry's ministry, 51,504 videos were watched and 14,226 were downloaded. In 2017, the statistics jumped to 1,263,735 videos watched and 54,829 downloaded. Currently his visitors come from around 11,000 cities and more than 200 countries.

"Use what you already have," says Henry. "When you use [it] for ministry purposes, God always multiplies it."

I VANIA CHEW EDITORIAL ASSISTANT.

THE WHY THOUSAND YEARS

The Millennium and the End of Sin

The millennium is the thousand-year reign of Christ with His saints in heaven between the first and second resurrections. During this time the wicked dead will be judged; the earth will be desolate, without living human inhabitants, but occupied by Satan and his angels. At its close Christ with His saints and the Holy City will descend from heaven to earth. The unrighteous dead will be resurrected, and with Satan and his angels will surround the city; but fire from God will consume them and cleanse the earth. The universe will thus be freed of sin and sinners forever. (Jer. 4:23-26; Ezek. 28:18, 19; Mal. 4:1; 1 Cor. 6:2, 3; Rev. 20; 21:1-5.)

Stopovers when travelling by air are generally good to avoid. That way you're lessening the risk of disconnected flights, not to mention the opportunity for luggage to go missing.

However, there's one stopover that will be a rewarding experience, even though it involves a 1000-year wait to go home—without your baggage too.

I'm talking about a stopover to end all stopovers—the millennium in heaven spoken about in the Bible.

It's a common belief that people will be going to heaven for eternity. However a little Bible study reveals we're only there for a mere 1000-year

stopover—and I say "only" because that's not much longer than our great-(etc)-grandfather, Methuselah, lived for. After that we arrive back home on earth again. This means the rousing last verse of *Amazing Grace* really needs to be sung "When we've been there 1000 years . . ." to be biblically correct.

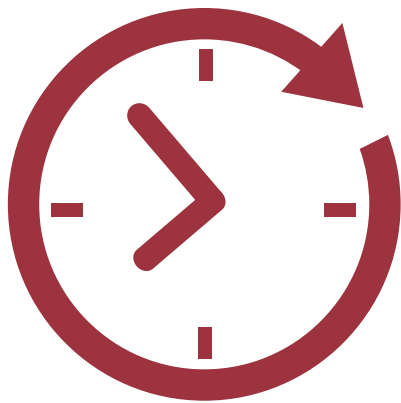
But don't get upset at being returned to earth. I agree the proposition of leaving heaven to end up back on earth initially sounds like you've being downgraded from first-class luxury to miserable-class torture. But fear not, the earth is being reinstalled to its original sin-free goodness soon after

our return.

What's this 1000-year stopover all about? Why not just stay here and have the earth renewed at the second coming of Jesus? Or why not stay in heaven for eternity? Why is this stopover so important? Why should I even care if this stopover happens or not? And why does millennium have two n's? All fair questions.

It turns out the millennium stopover is probably one of the most important 1000 years in the universe's history! True? Well, you be the judge.

Actually, that's it. You really are going to be the judge. During the 1000 years we're going to have all the



evidence to judge the lost not among us. In judging the lost, we'll essentially be judging God and if each decision He made, including who is *not* in heaven, was justified or not. So the ultimate judgement isn't really about humans, it's judging the Judge, the Lord God Almighty, and if He's as just and loving as He proclaims to be.

But why is it so important to judge God? Shouldn't we just have faith that He's right and not ask questions?

I'd like to suggest this: unless we have satisfactory closure of every doubt, every suspicion, every disappointment God had the power to stop but didn't, then sometime in the future, be it 100 years or 100 gillion years, some being will find a doubt that will fester and grow and then eventually . . . war against God's motives and authority will break out again. (Hands up, who wants sin 2.0 in the universe?)

Crazy talk? If rebellion happened in a perfect universe once, rebellion can happen again, unless we have clear evidence of the results of turning away from God's authority and have an ultimate and indisputable demonstration of how much God really does love His creations. Our job in these 1000 years is to compile the case study of sin and God and we'll have the conclusion as an eternal record, which demonstrates without doubt, God's perfect love and justice.

I can't stand the horrors this world now houses but I understand earth's relatively short period of troubled time has to properly show how re-

pugnant life is when a planet wanders away from God's way. This is so no-one will ever be able to conclude things weren't all that bad away from God or that God was too quick to destroy the mutineers. It's in the millennium we can all sit down, without the master deceiving angel manipulating the facts—as he will be confined to a peopleless earth in this time—and judge who deserves our worship for eternity. Then we can put an end to sin forever.

It's common to focus on the pleasures of life in heaven that will be inconceivably wonderful. Reuniting with loved ones, meeting new friends and reformed enemies, living with 100 per cent good health, not having a worry in the universe, creamy mashed potato on tap, and being able to converse with our guardian angel and ultimately the one and only Jesus and Lord God Almighty. But I think the most important attribute of our time in heaven will be the opportunity to ask *why* about everything, and get satisfying and truthful answers.

The why question starts from childhood. Covering science, "why is the sky blue?", to leadership, "why can't I have an ice-cream now?", to more life-impacting questions, "why isn't daddy coming home?"

The more you live, the more whys stack up in your mind. Why do bad things happen to good people? Why is the lying and stealing business "hotshot" getting away with fortunes while the church lady who feeds the homeless struggles to pay rent?

Why did God allow my uncles to be killed in a plane crash? Why is one child born healthy and its sibling have a life of restricted abilities? I suspect you have a list written on your heavy heart too.

And such questions don't really get any bigger than Why did God create Satan if He knew the pain that would follow—including His Son's death? If

God is all knowing, all powerful and all loving, why does He allow bone cancer, cerebral palsy, rape, murder, tsunamis and bushfires? Why?!

These whys must be answered satisfactorily and it's only after we are restored to perfection, and have taken a step away from sin and the influence of the tempter, that we can accurately judge God's actions, or apparent lack of actions as it seems to us now.

At the close of the 1000 years, for a short while, every single human being who ever lived will be alive on the earth and separated into two camps: those who love God and accepted His offer of life, and those who refused God's offer. Then, after a short but unquenchable hellfire with eternal consequences, the earth will be cleansed of all sin and be made new. From that point we can move forward into eternal peace and joy.

But what if some being in the universe again grows an inkling to question the genuineness of God's love and authority? There will always be the ability to doubt and ultimately rebel if anyone wants to, because that's what free will and love is—the ability to choose not to love. However, this time round, all a doubter will need to do after the millennium is sit at the scarred feet of Jesus and listen to the history of earth, and testimonies from its residents, and there will be no doubt as to the strength of God's love for all. The evidence will be indisputable.

I don't think the millennium is too far away now. Until then keep your heart singing though life's sometimes unbearably painful moments because peace and joy are on the way, as are satisfying answers.



SCOTT WEGENER

creative writer from
Sydney, NSW, who blogs
at scottpublished.com.



THE ROUNDABOUT ROAD TO LEADERSHIP

For someone who never wanted any leadership role, I have come a long way.

I vividly remember walking from the college administration building, a wonderful 16th century castle, towards the dormitories with my then boyfriend. We were planning our future.

It was now obvious I would marry a pastor—another on my list of things I didn't want. The first one was that I didn't want to marry a man with blond hair. You guessed it. I got that too!

And even though I didn't want to be a leader, I am one. Let me take you on the journey of how that came about.

Back to that walk from the castle. I remember telling my boyfriend that I would agree to live as a pastor's wife but he needed to know that I was not willing to take any leadership role. He promptly agreed. What else would a young man in love do, except agree with his girlfriend? Looking back, I'm not sure he even heard what I said. Why do I say that?

One of the first things he volunteered me to do was to play the pipe organ in the big church in Collonges-sous-Salève, an Adventist seminary in France. I protested in vain. I was petrified of playing the organ for the

church service. They had a tradition of playing a classical piece before the service started. On top of that, the whole stanza of the hymn was played once before the congregation joined in singing.

I am a self-taught musician and classical pieces were not part of my repertoire. However, the director of music was happy to provide some simple pieces for me, and I led that church through music when rostered for the two years we spent in France.

My main occupation while in France was to clean houses for a few wealthy families—walking their dogs, looking after their babies, ironing clothes and supporting our life while my husband was completing his masters in theology. If you are doing an honest job, it doesn't matter what job it is; what matters is how well you do it.

While in the Philippines, my longest and greatest leadership role began. I became a mother. What a journey that has been! How it changed me! How it challenged me! How much I had to learn, to unlearn, to search, to pray, to cry, to laugh, to hope, to despair and to love. I believe there is no greater role than to raise children who are responsible, loving, contributing mem-

bers of society, faithful to God.

While pregnant, an opportunity opened for me to complete a masters degree. I took that opportunity and flourished. I could never imagine myself studying at postgraduate level, never desired to study at that level, but I took the opportunity when it presented itself. To complete the course, you have to be a leader. You have to lead yourself. Isn't that often the most difficult part of leadership?

The next step in our journey was my husband's first post as a pastor in Wangaratta, a rural Victorian town. We never imagined, let alone planned, to work in Australia, yet here he were: Australia. I was involved in church life in many areas: children's Sabbath School, music, visiting, prayer meetings, hospitality, evangelistic campaigns, producing a weekly newsletter.

Then on to Melbourne, now with our two boys. New opportunities, new challenges, but many similarities to our previous post.

The next step, however, proved to be quite a leap.

It's amusing how things develop. It was my husband who was offered work in Pakistan. We were clearly told that I would not have a job there.



Guess what the first question posed to me was when we arrived? Can you do . . . ?

There was no shortage of work that needed to be done. I taught maths in primary school, English as a second language for those entering college, I home-schooled and then landed a job not only teaching in the theology department but being a department head.

I remember when the Adventist Accreditation Association came for their routine audit and one of their recommendations was to replace the female head of religion department with a male. They claimed they had never seen a female head of the religion department before. Hey, I did not ask for this role. I got it and did the best I could. However, that request was taken into consideration and a male was given that responsibility. Instead, I became the principal of the elementary school, while still teaching several subjects in the theology department. Pakistan was definitely a major step up in my leadership development.

I'm getting closer to where I am now. But there is still one stop before I'm done: Papua New Guinea. I worked as lecturer in the school of theology for nine years. For four of those years my additional responsibility was to lead teen Sabbath School—a task nobody was willing to undertake. I loved that leadership opportunity. This

one I volunteered for. That passion for young people led to the choice of my doctoral studies: Doctor of Ministry in Youth Family and Culture, at Fuller Theological Seminary.

My work at the South Pacific Division office started by first being assistant to the president and also office manager. It gave me an overview of the office and opened the door slightly into administration. This was a very difficult time for me. There were so many major changes in my life that happened in a very short period of time. I might write about that some other time.

When I said “yes” to a call to work as associate division secretary, I did not realise how difficult and steep a learning curve that would be.

I've been asked many times whether I like my job. For the first three years, I couldn't find an immediate answer. I remember once, another person answered for me. He said, “Nobody likes this job. It is not the kind of job somebody would volunteer to do, and if they would, there is something wrong with them. But you are asked to do it and you make the most of it.” At the time, this validated my feelings. However, I've since changed my mind.

So, what does an associate division secretary do? This is a significant leadership job for a number of reasons. I document the official work of the

Division, thus writing history for posterity. This is such an important job, as in order to take the steps forward, we often need to check what was done in the past. Future leaders will go back and check what I documented. I contribute to decision making, by speaking on issues in a variety of committees and boards, by voting and by supplying necessary information. I am involved in writing policies for the Church, which impacts the ministry of everyone employed by the Church. I schedule events, such as a variety of committees, boards and conferences where major decisions are made that direct the work of the Church in this vast geographical territory.

For someone who did not want any leadership role, I have come a long way. How did that happen?

I was willing to say yes when God called. I worked hard. I cried. I asked for help. I did the best I could in the circumstances. I was loyal and committed. I persistently relied on God to give me strength and wisdom.

Where next? Easy now. I don't want to go anywhere. I'm still learning the ropes at this job. However, when God decides it's time to move, I'll say “Yes”.

DANIJELA SCHUBERT ASSOCIATE DIVISION
SECRETARY FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION.



EAT IT TO BEAT IT

It's that time of year again, and there's no better way to start the school year than with a lunch box full of healthy, tasty food. And just in time for back to school, the Cancer Council has launched healthylunchbox.com.au as part of its *Eat It To Beat It* campaign to help take the stress out of building a healthy lunch box.

Research suggests that 1 in 3 cancers can be prevented through healthy lifestyle choices such as making healthy food choices and getting active every day. With 93 per cent of children not eating the recommended amount of daily vegetables, there is a great opportunity to improve the health and wellbeing of our nation's kids.

HEALTHY LUNCH BOX BUILDER

healthylunchbox.com.au is an interactive tool that can take the guesswork out of putting together a healthy lunch box, with tips and tricks for fussy eaters and time-saving cooking hacks as well.

There's also a range of recipes to help keep that lunch box fresh and appealing over a year's worth of school lunches.

Beyond the lunch box builder, the *Eat It To Beat It* campaign is also running:

HEALTHY LUNCH BOX SESSIONS

15-minute sessions demonstrating lunch box ideas kids will love and simple ways to get the whole family eating fruit and veggies.

FRUIT AND VEG SENSE WORKSHOPS

90-minute sessions on how to save money on food shopping, how to deal with fussy eaters, time-saving recipe ideas and more.

With 1 in 4 school-aged children categorised as overweight or obese, it's never too early to start teaching healthy choices. To register for one of the sessions and access other great resources, check out cancer-council.com.au.

OUR FAVOURITE HEALTHY LUNCH BOX HACKS



WHOLEGRAINS

The humble sandwich is a staple of lunch boxes around the country. Choose wholegrain or wholemeal bread as a simple, quick way to make this playground favourite healthier without making it any less convenient.



WATER

The last Australian Health Survey found that 47 per cent of children were consuming sugar-sweetened beverages. Pack water into that lunch box to help avoid unnecessary refined sugar.



GO MEAT-FREE

Salt-reduced baked beans, falafels, mini frittatas and hummus with veggie sticks are all great meat alternatives for a healthy lunch box. By choosing plant-based alternatives to meat you can get important nutrients like protein and iron plus an extra serving of veggies all in one go.



Five Spice Fried Quinoa

A refreshing alternative to fried rice using Chinese five spice and quinoa. Packed full of veggies and simple, bold flavours, it's super quick and easy to make and a perfect post-workout meal.

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BRAVE ACT

I have enjoyed your recent series of articles commemorating the anniversary of Martin Luther's brave act. It's apparent that not all readers have picked up on the concept of reformation when they write "Established truth should have veto power over new interpretations and ideas" (Have Your Say, December 23, 2017). Using this principle, the 95 Theses would have been rejected, Protestantism stillborn, the Seventh-day Adventist Church would not exist and, even if it did, our interpretation of the Spirit of Prophecy would be null and void. Clearly the Reformation remains a work in progress. **Roger Meany, Qld**

SET AND FORGET?

The subtitle of this quarter's Sabbath School series, "Motives of the Heart", is a reminder of the privilege of stewardship as an aspect of worship.

But when did stewardship descend to a mindless, mercenary process of "setting and forgetting"? (Record, December 23, 2017).

Isn't this undermining and demeaning the whole spirit of stewardship? I'm not opposed to the adoption of e-mechanisms that may simplify the transfer of money, but I am concerned about the inference of the slogan, "set and forget". It's hard to see where heart and motive fit in!

Don Roy, NSW

AN ELEPHANT IN THE CHURCH?

Errol Webster's article "Adventists: Heir to the Reformation" (December 23, 2017), in my opinion, would have to be the best *Adventist Record* theological article in 2017.

He eloquently made the distinction between the Catholic view of justification "to make righteous" and the biblical, Protestant and Seventh-day Adventist view "to declare righteous".

Significantly, this Catholic

view of justification is unfortunately "the elephant in the Seventh-day Adventist Church". Adventism is being attacked from within with this cancerous belief and little it seems is being done to counteract it. It needs to be managed because it ultimately leads to loss of belief.

I welcome more articles that reinforce the correct view on justification and put sanctification and changed behaviour in their rightful places.

Peter Ralph, Tas

THE UNFINISHED REFORMATION

At a time when some say "The protest is over", I was thrilled to see the October 21, 2017, issue of *Adventist Record* give such prominence to the fact the Reformation is unfinished.

It is still a work in progress. This is central to Seventh-day Adventists because God has raised us up to finish the Reformation.

Luther and the other reformers restored the truth of justification by faith alone, in Christ alone, and by grace alone. In the sanctuary service this was the blessing from the daily service in the first apartment. By this service God's

people obtained forgiveness of their sins and they were cleansed of guilt.

Once a year the High Priest went into the second apartment to make a further atonement that would cleanse the sanctuary and the people (Leviticus 16:30,33). After our guilt has been cleansed we still need cleansing from our defiling record.

Two things God achieved in 1844: first, God set us apart as the only church which is aware that there is a sanctuary and a second apartment cleansing; and second, He got the attention of the world so that when they mockingly asked, "Where is Jesus?", we could tell them that He has gone into the Most Holy Place to blot out our sins so that we don't take the record of them home with us (Acts 3:19,20).

It says a lot to me that God wanted the light from the Most Holy Place to shine everywhere so He gave it the importance of the second coming. (the world knew that the second coming was important.) What they needed to know was that they needed more than the forgiveness of their sins to be ready to meet Jesus.

Milton Wainwright, NZ

WORRYING NUMBERS

After reading through the article "2017: by the numbers" (December 23, 2017), I analysed the numbers and I came up with these worrying numbers.

1. Australian population in 2017 was 24,130,000.

2. As per the article, there are 60,000 Seventh-day Adventist Church members in Australia.

3. This means for every 1 million people in Australia there are approximately 2500 church members.

These numbers worry me. My suggestion is that something urgent need to be done by the Church national, state or territory leadership to reverse the trend. I am happy to share my strategy if given the chance on how to reverse the above mentioned trends.

John Piya, WA

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

THIS
MONTH IN



Not all leaps of faith are equal



Light therapy for Parkinson's



Gambling: Don't bet on it



Understanding the Holy Spirit

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A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE ON THE WORLD TODAY

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HI KIDS!

KIDS SPACE

THE GOLDEN CALF

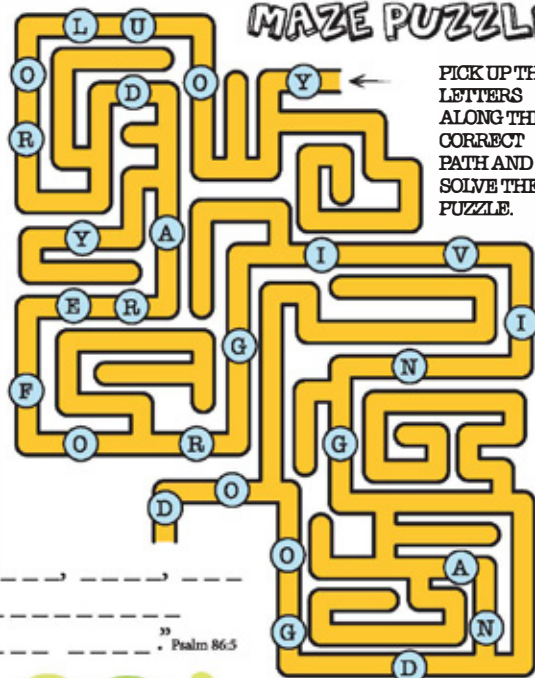
Moses is on Mount Sinai with God for a long time. The people give up on seeing him again. They pressure Aaron to make them a god that will go before them on their journey, since they can't see God or Moses. Aaron makes a golden calf from their gold jewellery. They start a noisy revelry as they worship the calf as their god. God tells Moses to go down quickly and deal with the people. Moses is so angry that he breaks God's finger-written Ten Commandment tablets of stone. Moses intercedes, and God forgives the people who are truly sorry.

SPOT IT

HOW MANY CAN YOU
FIND OF EACH?

- Sheep _____
- Dogs _____
- Bowling People _____
- Tents _____
- Beards _____
- Donkeys _____
- Wheels _____
- Golden Calf _____
- Kids _____
- Cups _____

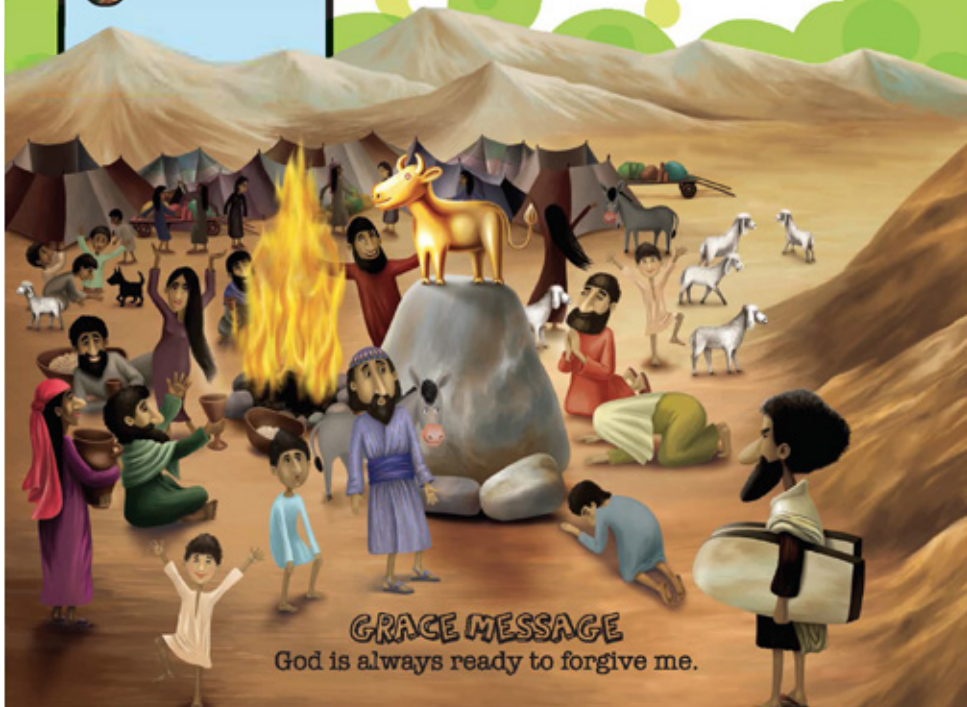
MAZE PUZZLE



PICK UP THE
LETTERS
ALONG THE
CORRECT
PATH AND
SOLVE THE
PUZZLE.

" _____

_____ Psalm 86:5



GRACE MESSAGE

God is always ready to forgive me.

Appreciation

PEACH. The Peach family wish to express their sincere thanks and love to all who attended Barrie's memorial service, who sent flowers, cards and food parcels, and those who made contact via the internet. We have been truly blessed with your words of comfort and love shown in the many cards we have received from all over Australia, many expressing the happy memories they had working with Barrie. We look forward to the resurrection day when there will be no more goodbyes.

SPARKS. The family of the late Joy Sparks wish to express their appreciation for the support they have received since the death of their much-loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother on 1.11.17.

Weddings

ANDERSEN-CURROW. Peter Andersen and Kathryn Suzanne Currow, daughter of Elwin and Rachel Currow (both deceased), were married on 22.10.17 in the beautiful grounds of David and Helen Gilbert's private home in Dural, NSW.

Norman Young



HART-TORRENS. Lincoln Jacob Hart, son of Ian Hart

(Coochiemudlo, Qld), and Sharni Lee Torrens, daughter of Alan and Roslyn Torrens (Toogoolawah), were married on 12.11.17 at Henzells Chapel, Mount Pleasant. In high school Sharni started studying the Bible with Lincoln and after some time Grandad was asked to do the studies. Sharni was baptised at Big Camp in Brisbane. Lincoln was baptised at Esk church, with the help of Grandad. After a long engagement the couple married in a lovely setting at Mount Pleasant. Lincoln is a boilermaker and Sharni works at Koorong bookshop in Toowoomba. They have set up their home in Crows Nest, Qld.

Victor Torrens

HROMIS-GADOWSKI. Eric Hromis, son of Vladimir and Elenora Hromis (Albury, NSW), and Lauren Gadowski, daughter of Greg and Carolyn Gadowski (Bruarong, Vic), were married on 3.12.17 in Albury church, NSW.

Bogdan Petrovic



RIVERA-CARNEY.

Denis Igor Rivera, son of Sonia and Humberto Rivera (Brisbane, Qld), and Amanda Louise Carney, daughter of Brenda Newton (Gold Coast) and Gregory Carney (WA), were married on 31.12.17 at the Rotary Broadwater Chapel by the Sea, Southport, Qld. The happy couple were surrounded by family and friends. They will settle in Brisbane.

Humberto Rivera Moya

Obituaries



BARRITT, Pastor Henry Clive, born 28.11.1922 in Childers, Qld; died 22.6.17 in Cooran-

bong, NSW. He was predeceased by his wife Lorna. Clive is survived by his daughters Wendy, Ruth and Bev; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and sister Marjorie. Clive was a faithful servant of the Lord in literature evangelism, publishing, evangelism and pastoral ministry in Tasmania, New Zealand, Greater Sydney and Fiji. He served as president of both South New South Wales and Victorian conferences. He also served as president of Trans-Tasman Union Conference and as Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director for the Australasian Division.

Trevor Mawer



BOUCHER, John Chester, born 26.7.1927 in

Camperdown, Vic; died 8.12.17 in Redcliffe, Qld. On 25.6.1949, he married Mavis Staddon. He was predeceased by his granddaughter Samantha in 1983 as well as six siblings. He is survived by his wife; children Lorraine and Alan White (Kippa-Ring, Qld), Margaret and Mal Williams (Redcliffe), and Jim and Marion Boucher (Geelong, Vic); grandchildren Barbara, Leanne, Shane, Elizabeth, Julian, Matthew, Kathryn and Cheryl; 14 great-grandchildren; and sisters Lenora Parkins (Macksville, NSW) and Grace Boucher (Newcastle). John served in the RAAF in the Pacific in World War II. John and Mavis worshipped at Sale church (Vic) for a number of years. John was passionate about knocking on strangers' doors and sensitively sharing his faith.

Mike Brownhill, David Edgar

BROWN, Melva Frances, born 14.12.1931 in Lismore, NSW; died 1.11.17 in Armidale. She was married to Kevin Brown, who

predeceased her. She was also predeceased by her son Desmond. Melva is survived by her children Kenneth and Ross. She was known as a mother who was quick to assist in times of need, adaptable, creative, crafty and loving. She was also known for her service and love for God.

Tim Merritt

CARTER, Helen Joyce McDonald (nee Shearer), born 4.7.1928 in Wellington, NZ; died 28.12.17 in Coolumb Beach, Qld. On 31.12.1949, she married Hilton Carter, who predeceased her in 1995. Joy is survived by her children Bradley and Karen Carter (Verrierdale) and Scott and Kerry Carter (Banora Point, NSW). Joy's love for God, her family and her friends was inspiring. Her singing blessed so many lives. Her passing will leave a hole in our hearts.

Bob Possingham

CHILCOTT, Doris Marie, born 13.1.1935 in Lismore, NSW; died in Alstonville. She is survived by her husband Calvin; children Geoffrey and Trudi, Julie and Gavin, Karen and Michael, Marilyn and Simon. Doris was known for her bubbly, outgoing nature, loyalty, generosity and loving care for others. We will miss her hugs until that great day when we meet again in the skies above.

Tim Merritt

FINCH, Tania Maree (nee Kennedy), born 7.4.1971 in Lismore, NSW; died 16.11.17. On 21.5.13

she married Dennis Finch. She is survived by her husband; her daughter Zoe; her parents Robert and Patricia Kennedy; sister Sonia (all of Brisbane, Qld) and brother Jason (Toronto, Canada). All agreed that it was a beautiful funeral and Tania would have been proud of the love that was spoken.

Bob Possingham



FREW, Douglas, born 11.3.1923; died 28.12.17 in Gosford, NSW. On 29.6.1953,

he married Joan. He was predeceased by his daughter Naomi in 1979. Douglas is survived by his wife; children Robyn Carter (Sydney), Ken (Matcham), Geoff (Tumbi Umbi) and Lindsay (North Avoca). Douglas was a most-loved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He is always in our hearts and remembered as a man of God.

Don Bain

LEE, Pastor John Raymond, born 7.12.1930 in Echuca, Vic; died 8.11.17. He was married to Melva Ford, who predeceased him in November 2008. He is survived by his wife Laurel; children Deslie, Russell and Lorraine and their spouses; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. John was a highly respected pastor, pilot, school and college principal (Kabiufa), union secretary (education: Lae and Rabaul) and dean of men (Avondale). John also served

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as president of Tonga Mission and the Western Pacific Union Mission. In his retirement John continued to be actively involved in his local church, Adventist Aviation and his family. His memorial service was a testimony to his focus on building the kingdom, his generous hospitality and his consistent desire to find new projects for the benefit of others.

Trafford Fischer, Colin Winch, Cecil Ogg

MAGYAR, Arpad, born 1.7.1927 in Banatsko Arandjelovo, Yugoslavia; died 19.11.17 on the Sunshine Coast, Qld. On 9.1.1958 he married Franciska. He is survived by his wife (Caloundra); daughter Hajanka (Brisbane), son and daughter-in-law Daniel and Allison (Melbourne, Vic); and grandchildren Jonathan, Reuben Tabitha and Lana. Arpad was an unselfish practical Christian who helped found and build two minority ethnic churches in Australia and distributed many books and magazines to acquaint others with the blessed hope.

Scott Wareham, John Rabbas

MYORS, Phillip Raymond, born 9.10.1941; died 8.12.17. Phillip is survived by his wife Lorraine; children Leah and Paula to his first wife Dianne, and step-children Melinda and Andrew. Formerly an employee of Sanitarium Health Food Company for 12 years, he and Lorraine moved to Stanthorpe where they later became the local florists. Phillip will be a much missed member of Stanthorpe church.

Trevor Mawer

PAUL, Peggy Jean (nee Rowe), born 1.2.1927 in Gladesville, NSW; died 27.10.17 in War-ragamba. On 22.3.1951, she married John Paul, who predeceased her. Peggy is survived by her son Gary and daughter Sue Ross; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Peggy was a beloved mother and nanna who always put herself aside for her family. She was known to have a great sense of humour and never complained during her long illness. Peggy's selfless life is remembered as a legacy worth emulating. She awaits the return of her much-loved Saviour.

John Tompson

PEACH, Barrie Irwin, born 24.9.1937 in Ryde, Sydney; died 20.11.17 in Brisbane, Qld. He is survived by his wife Roseli (Brisbane); children David, Michael and Rosanne and their spouses Lorretta, Tamara and Linton; eight

grandchildren (all of Brisbane); and sister Margaret and Ray Trim (Gold Coast). Barrie spent his life in service for Christ and the Church, working as accountant/manager at the Sydney Adventist Hospital, Fulton College and Auckland Adventist Hospital, secretary treasurer at Western Pacific Union Mission, Warburton Healthcare Centre, Longburn College, Adventist Retirement Villages in South Queensland, and auditor to all churches in the Queensland Conference. Barrie fostered a happy workplace, had a quick dry sense of humour and enjoyed sharing his talents, mentoring and encouraging staff. He was a kind and thoughtful leader who loved the Lord, the Church and his family.

Bob Possingham, Andre van Rensburg, Kendell Cobbin



PULLEN, Edna (nee Timbs), born 7.1.1930; died 24.5.17 in Coffs Harbour Base Hospital, NSW. Edna is survived by her husband Warwick; children Christine, Terry and William; six grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and four of her seven siblings. She was very much loved and respected by all her family, church and community. In addition to raising a family and supporting the family banana business, Edna lived a full life that included regularly playing table tennis and visiting friends. She ably served her church in various positions and will be remembered for her genuine spirit and gift of hospitality. Edna was laid to rest at Macksville Lawn Cemetery where she awaits the joy of seeing her soon coming Lord.

Paul Richardson, Marcus Mundall

WEST, Diane Cheryl, born 7.9.1946 in Lismore, NSW; died 13.8.17 in Sydney. She was predeceased by her parents Reginald and Cynthia West. Diane is survived by her siblings Darryl, Sonia and Gordon West. She was known for her positivity, vibrancy, generosity and her love and commitment to God. She longed for the second coming of Jesus and never missed an opportunity to share her faith.

Tim Merritt



WILKINSON, Henry Charles (Harry), born 25.1.1931 in Liverpool, England; died 5.12.17 in Napier, New Zealand. On 1.6.1964, he married Lynette Collett. Harry was predeceased by his parents Arthur and Mary Wilkinson and his twin brothers

Arthur and Jackie. He is survived by his wife; children Karin, Lance and Angela; son-in-law Karl and daughter-in-law Kaye; grandchildren Leah, Caleb and Hannah; and great-grandchildren Moriah and Carlin. Harry worked for many years for Sanitarium before setting up his own picture-framing business in Napier. He spent many years as head elder for Napier church and 22 years as coordinator of evangelistic broadcasts on the local radio station. He loved working with children in Sabbath School, Pathfinders and VBS holiday programs. Harry adored his Saviour and was passionately involved in sharing the good news.

Phil Laws, Anton van Wyk

WILLIS, Agnes Crooks Evelyn (nee Wilson), born 2.7.1927 in Scotland; died 7.11.17 in Northham, WA. In 1949 she married Gordon Willis, who predeceased her in 2010. Ness is survived by her children Janet Hatch (Southern Cross), David (Mt Barker), Helen Wrangmore (Wundowie), Margaret Cassidy (Wooroloo), Adrienne (Balingup), Paul (Darwin, NT) and foster daughter Jodie Willis (Devonport, Tas). She was baptised into the Church in the 1950s. Ness was deeply loved by her children, extended family, including many foster children, friends and church. She loved her Saviour.

Keith Godfrey



YEE, Alan Ming Keung, born 20.3.1933 in Canton, China; died 1.12.17 in Cooran-bong, NSW. In 1967 he married Hazel (nee Holder). He is survived by his wife; children Jennifer and Scott Borresen, Julianne and Jonathan Faul; and grandson Liam (Central Coast, NSW). For many years Alan was a valued employee of the Sanitarium Health Food Company in Sydney and Cooranbong. His practical skills were appreciated and put to good use in helping others. Alan gave many willing years of volunteer service to both the Cooranbong Community Service Centre and the Avondale Memorial Church. He was a faithful deacon, loved by his

church, his family and his Saviour.
Roger Nixon, John Maxwell

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