Can you believe this?

One billion people log into Facebook now. That's only 1/7th of the world's population. But still, if they all decided to attend the same football match, it would be quite an impressive crowd . . .

And HopeChannel NZ is launching on September 12. It will be able to reach 68 per cent of New Zealanders. That's more than 3 million people. Sure, that's not many as a percentage of the world's population. But still, if 3 million people rocked up to your church on Sabbath, you'd likely be rather chuffed—and maybe slightly terrified :)

So how do these two factoids intersect? On the new HopeChannel NZ Facebook page. I'm writing to ask you to "Like" the page. Why? Because people like things that other people like. It's just one of those things in human nature. And your simple click will help get the word out. So will you? Please?

www.facebook.com/hopechannelnewzealand

There are a billion Facebook people out there who need to know the good news, and your click gets us one step closer to reaching them.—James Standish
Gold, silver and bronze for Adventist Media

Adventist Media team members received gold, silver and bronze awards for outstanding writing and design at this year’s Australasian Religious Press Association (ARPA) awards.

Frost wreaks havoc in PNG

Severe frost in areas of Papua New Guinea’s Western Highlands province has had a disastrous impact on local vegetable producers, including a number of Adventists.

Independent members baptised back into church

The leader of a breakaway group joined 18 of his members in returning to the Seventh-day Adventist Church through

Week of Prayer

The Seventh-day Adventist Church’s Week of Prayer begins this Sabbath (September 5). Be sure to visit the Adventist Record website to download the readings and listen to the podcast.

Watch/download InFocus

Making headlines:
• Education support for Iraqis fleeing ISIS
• 200 years of Wesleyan ministry in Australia
• Using talent and trick-shots to do good

Belshazzar: man or myth? When historians examined ancient Babylonian records they couldn’t see how the Bible’s
baptism, in front of church members and leaders from around Tanna Island, in early August.

Jamie Jorge: God's virtuoso violinist

From an early age in Communist Cuba, child prodigy Jaime Jorge was told he had a bright future . . . but only if he renounced his Christian faith.

Payday for Ice Bucket Challenge’s "slacktivists"

When Americans were giddily drenching themselves with ice water during the “Ice Bucket Challenge” a year ago, the cognoscenti rolled their eyes. But now we have evidence that the Ice Bucket Challenge may have actually worked.
Brisbane, Queensland

Adventist Media team members received gold, silver and bronze awards for outstanding writing and design at this year's Australasian Religious Press Association (ARPA) awards, held in Brisbane on Saturday night, August 29.

ARPA is a non-denominational Christian network for Australian and New Zealand publications.

Adventist Record public relations/editorial assistant Vania Chew was awarded gold in the “Best New Writer” category for her piece “Extraordinary Love.” In the piece, Vania tells the story of Pastor Laurie Evans and his son Duane. Judges described it as “a simply told but powerfully moving story.”

Signs of the Times magazine received the silver award for design, which the judges describe as “bright”, “colour-filled” and “easy to read.” Lulu Lewis is the magazine’s principal designer.

“Signs is a professional publication that church members can be proud of,” states Melody Tan, associate editor of Signs. “It’s good to see Lulu’s hard work, dedication and creativity recognised.”

Record associate editor Jarrod Stackelroth won Bronze in the “Best News Story” category for his “White Ribbon Day” article, which was described as “well researched” and “appropriate for mainstream media.”

“It’s nice that this story was recognised by ARPA,” said Mr Stackelroth. “Domestic violence is a terrible thing and it’s great that the Adventist Church is taking a stand against it. This is my way to take that stand, by spreading the message.”

In addition to her gold ARPA award, in the same week Miss Chew was awarded first place in a Toastmasters area contest involving several clubs in Inner West Sydney for her outstanding public speaking. Both Miss Chew and Mr Stackelroth regularly speak at churches.

Signs editor Lee Dunstan says winning an ARPA award “is no mean feat, especially in the areas of news and features, in which competition is intense; some writers are high-ranking editors and writers of the county's major newspapers.”
“And likewise design, where church magazines and newspapers are now professionally produced. To gather three awards to Adventist Media is a credit to its staff.”

“We couldn’t be more thankful to God for our team [here at Adventist Media],” states Record editor James Standish. “Not only are they consummate professionals, but they are creative and insightful, dedicated and inspiring. We have an all-star team and I think it shows in every issue of Adventist Record, on InFocus and in Signs magazine.”
Frost wreaks havoc in PNG

Photo Source: Supplied | "Pastor Matthew Lambu and his wife Rose in front of their affected garden."

Western Highlands, Papua New Guinea

Severe frost in areas of Papua New Guinea’s Western Highlands province has had a disastrous impact on local vegetable producers, including a number of Adventists.

Church leaders in Tomba and Tambul said local residents “wept openly” after several days of frost left their food crops withered and brown, almost "as though someone had poured out water on the plants."

The frost in Nebliyer district started on Tuesday, August 11, and by Thursday morning the produce was destroyed.

Among the ruined vegetables were crops of potatoes, broccolis and cauliflowers which get distributed to markets and mining centres across Papua New Guinea.

Local community leader Titus Nokopa estimated thousands of kina of produce had been destroyed.

“In the past it has affected only a few people, but now it covers the whole of Tomba and Tambul," he said.

Church leaders said it will take some time for the people to recover, as the frost has affected both mature and younger crops.

Mr Nokopa and Kombo Seventh-day Adventist Church pastor Solomon Paul have called upon the Western Highlands Disaster Office to assess the situation and provide assistance.
The leader of a breakaway group joined 18 of his members in returning to the Seventh-day Adventist Church through baptism, in front of church members and leaders from around Tanna Island, on August 4.

Timothy Kaio and his wife and sons, along with other members from the group, recently took part in a reconciliation ceremony after 17 years of separation from the mother church.

Vanuatu Mission president, Pastor Nos Terry Mailalong, Mission Ministerial Association secretary, Pastor Kaio Timothy, and Tafea District leader, Pastor Jonathan Moses, officiated at the baptism on the shores of Bethel in front of members from the 11 organised churches on Tanna.

In his testimony after the baptism, Mr Kaio appealed to other members of his group to return. Others who were baptised shared their testimonies of how they wasted years criticising the mother church and failed to fulfil the gospel commission of Matthew 24.

People travelled from across Tanna to Bethel church for the service, with some
relatives flying in from Port Vila. Songs were composed especially for the event. During a special service after the baptism the Bethel church choir sang and Pastor Mailalong spoke on reconciliation. "Today I am a happy leader knowing that I am leading a unifying church," Pastor Mailalong said.
When Americans were giddily drenching themselves with ice water during the "ice bucket challenge" a year ago, the cognoscenti rolled their eyes.

The ice bucket challenge was taken as emblematic of "slacktivism," the derisive term for cheap ways to feel good without doing anything meaningful.

But now we have evidence that the ice bucket challenge may have worked.

Click HERE to read more.