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MINISTRY, MODERN TIMES & URBAN CITIES

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Seventh-day
Adventist Church™

Greater Sydney



**FEATURES: 2022 GSC THINK TANK
SPEAKERS SHARE THEIR MINISTRY**

THINK TANK

18-19 FEBRUARY

WHAT WE NEED

Visionaries, strategic planners, church planters, youth leaders, evangelism coordinators & those who lead Personal Ministries.

WHAT IS THINK TANK?

A bi-annual workshop where 400 delegates are chosen from 102 churches to come together to pray—seeking God's leading.

INFORMATION



WHERE

Stadium Australia
Edwin Flack Ave
Sydney Olympic Park



WHO

Brought to you by
the Greater Sydney
Conference



HOW

Angelica 9868 6522
angelicafrandsen@
adventist.org.au



WHEN

Friday 18 February
AND
Sabbath 19 February

FURTHER INFO



SNAP THE QR CODE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THINK TANK 2022
<https://bit.ly/M2SThinkTank2022>



By Dr Darius Jankiewicz

WHAT IT TAKES TO RAISE OUR SPIRITUAL TEMPERATURE

When I was a teenager, I had a passion for science and scientific discoveries. I devoured biographies of people like Leonardo da Vinci, Louis Pasteur, Thomas Alva Edison and many others. Among the biographies I read was that of the famous French mathematician, physicist, inventor Blaise Pascal. Most people know him for the invention of the first fully functional mechanical calculator. He also did some very important work concerning atmospheric pressure and vacuum. Whenever you see an excavator doing its work digging soil, this work can be done in part thanks to Pascal's discoveries. In fact, the fluid pressure in an excavator's pistons is measured in units known as pascals.

But Pascal's physical discoveries are not all that he is known for. He was a very thoughtful thinker and theologian. His most important work was not related to his materialistic discoveries but to the pursuit of God and spirituality. A couple of years after his death, his friends published his most important book, simply titled "Thoughts" (Fr. Pensées). The main purpose of this little book was a defence of Christianity. In it, he proposed an idea that later became known as Pascal's wager. It was basically a proposition that, rationally, it makes more sense to believe in God and gain salvation than not to believe in God and, in the end, lose everything.

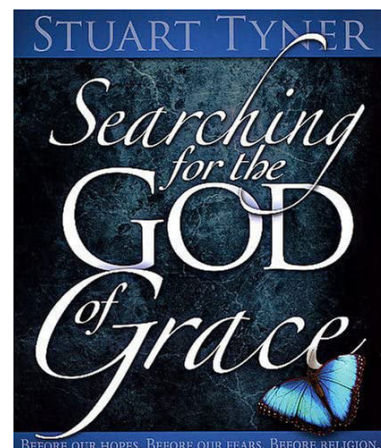
But Pascal's wager led to a wooden kind of understanding of God and religion, and Pascal was ultimately not satisfied with this. He thus wrote: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since

this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words, by God himself."

Pascal's musings gave rise to a well-known concept that within every human being, there is a "God-shaped hole" that acts similarly to a physical vacuum but in a spiritual way. God created humans as spiritual beings, and as a result, we search for meaning and purpose. Unfortunately, we often point our spiritual antennae toward the wrong places, thus filling the vacuum with the philosophical and ideological dirt of this world, ending up with nothing but garbage.

In focusing on our divine Creator and His continual work in us, there are three things that have helped me point my spiritual antennae toward the right direction and thus raise my spiritual temperature: understanding God's nature, understanding the nature of His grace and the importance of sharing this knowledge with others around us. Focusing on these three aspects will help raise your temperature too.

Suggested reading:
"Searching for the God of Grace" by Stuart Tyner.
Available at Sydney Adventist Book Centres.
and online at <https://adventistbookcentre.com.au>.





“GENERATION ALPHA”

By Ashley Fell, McCrindle Research

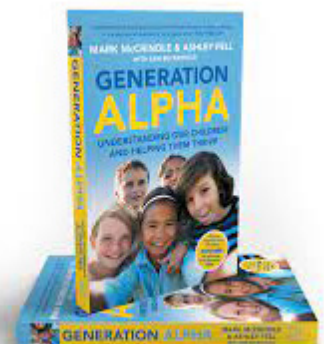
Over the last few years, we have noticed a marked increase in the interest people are taking in the next generation – Generation Alpha. To many people, they are a bit of a mystery. As those who named them, we regularly get to speak to groups of parents wanting to find out more about the world shaping their children, educators, and business leaders wanting to better understand them, and some of the leading technology platforms about what they need to know in order to remain relevant in changing times. What we have noticed is that people are starting to sit up and take note that a new generation is not only coming, but they are already here.

When you envision the next generation of children, what do you think about them? Perhaps you conjure images of them always being glued to their devices, impatient, and a little entitled. Or maybe you see them as being resilient, optimistic, adept at responding to change and good at taking risks. Perhaps a bit of both. Whatever your perspective, it is helpful to think about your assumptions.

Rather than looking at divisions among the generations, we believe it is important to develop understanding across them. This is the first step to facilitating better engagement and connection in places where different generations mix – particularly in

families, schools and workplaces. An understanding of the different generations enables us to honour those who laid the foundations of what we are building on today. The stories of the different generations matter, and an understanding of the unique times, events and experiences that have shaped Generation Alpha and their era will allow parents, educators and leaders to be more relevant in these changing times.

In the book, we explore the various stages of life that Generation Alpha will walk through including home and community, education, the workplace, health and wellbeing. Our hope once people have finished reading the book, is that they will have a greater understanding of the world Generation Alpha are growing up in and therefore who they are. That readers will not only be informed but inspired and equipped with the tools to help Generation Alpha live and thrive in today’s challenging and constantly changing world. Access: www.generationalpha.com



IF YOU CAN EAT & IF YOU ARE THIRSTY...

By Peter Roennfeldt



listen to their stories, (2) heal and encourage them, and share your story of reliance upon God, and (3) introduce God's story, the good news of His care. These simple steps that Jesus outlined in Luke 10, verses 8 and 9, demystifies evangelism, putting it within reach of every believer—and it works!

Second, is Discovery Bible Reading. Once a person's needs are met, following the three-step process of connecting that Jesus followed, some will want to know more about Jesus. Most will not respond positively to the suggestion of Bible studies, and this can be a daunting for you are well. You would be expected to know your subject, where to find all the verses, be the teacher, and have the answers!

It is much easier—and postmodern people like it better—to suggest they might like to read a small 20-page booklet written down almost 2,000 years ago by a young follower of Jesus, the Gospel of Mark. Using Discovery Bible Reading you can explore this short gospel together, and a great thing about this approach is that your friend will immediately learn how to share this idea with others!

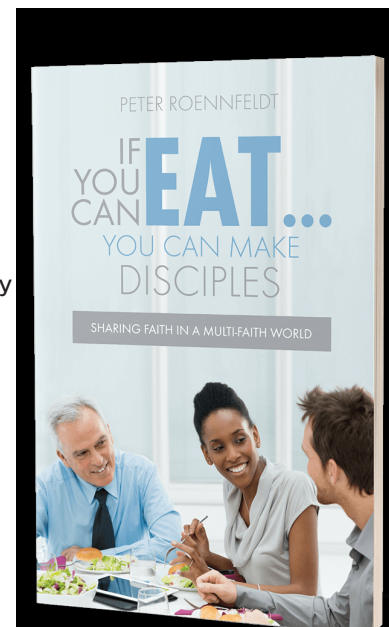
An outline and training videos, as well as Discovery Bible Reading bookmarks in multiple languages can be downloaded from www.following-Jesus.com.

Last, but not least, remember: If you are thirsty ... you can be Spirit-filled. The Holy Spirit brings you to Jesus, baptises you with His presence, and fills you daily—to be effective in sharing your faith. He is actively seeking to lead those you share to Jesus as well! Enjoy the journey with Him.

What does it mean to be a Christian and share our faith in a multi-faith and no-faith world? In our complex post-Christian world, sharing our faith can seem equally complex. But consider how Jesus related to His multi-faith context. In my session at the Great Sydney Conference Think Tank, I will focus on the application of three key concepts:

The first is: If you can eat ... you can make disciples. By His life, teaching and commission, Jesus demonstrated how to make and be disciples. My small book by this title, explores His teaching in Luke 10:1-24. He engaged Jews, Samaritans, Roman gentiles, peasants, fishermen, urbanites, religious leaders, soldiers, merchants, and others in spiritual discussions. His compassion, insights, authority, and methodology left people amazed.

Drawing on this key teaching and the example of Jesus, I suggest a simple, reproducible approach to sharing faith: (1) eat food offered to you, and





By Pr Jinha Kim

LESSONS LEARNED IN URBAN MINISTRY

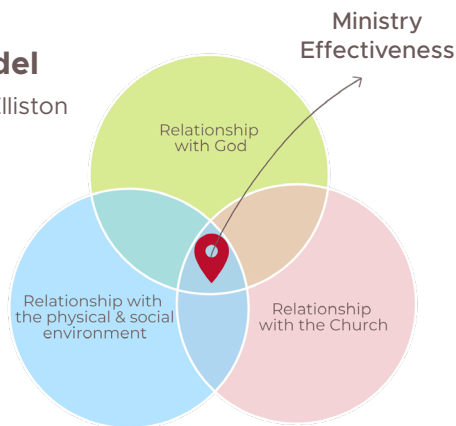
The city is an ever-changing place. Shops come and go, people move in and out, and subcultures rise and fall. How do we share Jesus in such a transient community? How do we build connections when so much separates us?

For the past 9 years, my husband Roy and I have been pastoring a church in Melbourne’s CBD. We began with just seven people but by God’s grace, our church continues to grow in number and in Spirit. What have we learned so far?

Dr. Edgar J. Elliston developed a relational model for empowering leaders in which our relationship with God, our relationship with the church, and our relationship with our community overlap for maximum ministry effectiveness. What would happen if this relational model were adapted for church ministries?

Relational Ministry Model

by Dr. Edgar J. Elliston



For example, a church service connects us with God and with fellow believers. However, we can have greater

ministry effectiveness if the church service also connects the community to God and to the church.

Our church mission statement is “loving God, loving others, exploring a Christ-centred worldview” and we try to make church service a place where you can do all three. For example, our sermon topics may be about the theology of the land & caring for the environment, principles of dealing with anxiety, or counsel on navigating difficult relationships in the workplace. We present these topics from a Christ-centred worldview, but also present studies or articles published in the secular sphere that corroborate the Biblical principles for those from the community.

After the sermon, we also have a discussion time in smaller tables for people to connect with each other & delve deeper into the topic of the day. We have open-ended questions that do not assume biblical knowledge but welcome robust conversations.

Thus, our church service is not just a time and place for believers to celebrate who God is and what He has been doing in our lives; it is also the intersection where new seekers and former believers come to explore what it means to know God, and where we exchange our experiences and insights in meaningful dialogue.

Our socials, small groups, in each and outreach methods also focus on engagement over attendance.



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