

Top News

NEWS FROM THE TOP END OF
THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

MARCH APRIL 2017



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THE NEW DEAL

There was a woman who said to her psychologist, "I married the ideal, then it turned into an ordeal, so now I want a new deal."

While these sentiments highlight the sad reality in many relationships, they also capture the truth of human history; the ideal in Eden, the ordeal after sin entered and the anticipated new deal in heaven.

I long to get out of the ordeal, and into the new deal, for three reasons:

1) I want to be with Jesus – and yet, I am now! When Jesus left this world He said He would send the Comforter in His place. Jesus was WITH His disciples but the Holy Spirit would reside IN them, and IN sounds better than WITH. I love having Jesus with me each day through the presence of His Spirit in me.

2) I want what I do to last – and yet, it does now! My only remaining grandparent died last year, and her estate was divided up among her family; all that she had worked for – gone. I love that text that says in heaven we will build houses and live in them, not have others live in them and we get to enjoy the work of our hands for eternity (Isaiah 66:21,22). Yet I am reminded that right now I can be storing up eternal treasure in heaven, even though I haven't got there yet (Matthew 6:19,20).

3) I want a better life – and yet, I have that now! I long for death, mourning, crying and pain to be no more (Revelation 21:4), especially as I experience these things around me. Yet Jesus promises to give us an abundant life (John 10:10) in

“...get out of the ordeal, and into the new deal...”

the meantime right here, a comforting presence and help in trouble (2 Cor 1:3,4; Psalm 46:1), company when we go through difficulties (Psalm 23:4) and strength and power when we are weak and weary (Isaiah 40:29).

Have you ever fallen into the trap of just doing your own thing while waiting for heaven? I've come to realise that I can experience it here now as well as in the hereafter. And I have a real desire to see our church relieve the ordeal of others and show them the new deal while we wait for Jesus to appear in person. How about you?

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Top News is the official magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Northern Australia. All articles express the opinions of their authors and not necessarily those of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

OUR VISION IS TO CONTINUE
 “EXPERIENCING AND
 SHARING HOPE
 IN JESUS CHRIST”

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Darren Slade
 President
 Northern Australian Conference

ADRA Australia's emergency response was activated immediately after Tropical Cyclone Debbie devastated the North Queensland coast on 28 March, 2017. TC Debbie has been labelled as the most dangerous cyclone to hit the Queensland coast since TC Yasi in 2011.

Initially, the ADRA team couldn't access the impact zone due to flooding and debris over the roads. When the team did get through, they quickly went to work distributing water, generators and fuel, food supplies and worked hard to clear debris that had fallen around and, in many cases, on the houses. The team consisted of volunteers from Aitkenvale, Ayr and Bowen churches, and they worked tirelessly and enthusiastically at every household they visited or were requested to go to. The response wasn't merely focused on the physical clean up but also on taking time to talk and connect with those affected by the cyclone, to comfort them, listen to their experiences, and in a few cases offer a much-needed shoulder massage or hug!

Geoff Davey lives in Bowen, and was surprised when an ADRA team member came up to his house and asked if he needed a hand to chop down some trees and branches that had fallen onto his home and around his yard. He spent a whole morning alongside the ADRA team, working together to chainsaw, chop, drag and stack debris out next to the road where the council would come and pick it all up.

When the team were done, he said "I'd like to thank ADRA for coming along, because we would have been here working for weeks to clear all the trees up, and all the mess. And with your help, it has only taken a few hours to get all the trees chopped and carted out. Thank God for ADRA! I will never forget what you have done,"

Mr Davey was just one of many who came into contact with the ADRA volunteer team. But the blessings were not only upon those who received assistance.

Continues on next page.



WHAT CAN I DO?

- Donate online www.adra.org.au
- Keep informed by "liking" the ADRA in Northern Australia Facebook page
- Find out who your local church ADRA Representative is. If there isn't one, put your hand up for it!
- Talk to your ADRA Rep pastor about how your church can be more prepared to respond in a disaster situation. A prepared church is a church of action in time of need!
- Contact/email the ADRA NAC department and put your name on the list of ADRA Volunteers
- Apart from financial assistance, always wait to hear what is being requested for disaster response.

RIVERSIDE ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

On Friday, February 24, Riverside participated in the annual Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser, organised by the Heart Foundation. The event is a great way to show the students that we are part of a larger community, and that our contributions are valued.

Our Jump-Off started at 2pm and continued until the end of school. Some of the events were the Grade by Grade Jump Off, single rope skipping races, long-rope skipping, Grown-ups skipping challenge, and the final Grade Champion Jump Off at the end of the event, won by Reagan Obst. It must run in the family, as her mum, Di Obst, won the Grown-ups challenge. Many parents and family members came along to add their support, and the students had a fantastic time.

The highlight of the event was the announcement of the major fundraisers from the students, and the total raised by the whole school. Many students had spent several weeks gathering sponsors.

The total amount raised for the Heart Foundation was \$2,322.45 Well done to everyone who participated, and a huge thank you to all those who sponsored our students.



ADRA: TC DEBBIE RESPONSE CONTINUED

Alina Gillam, a teacher from Townsville, was one of the volunteers. She spoke of her experience; "I jumped at the chance to join the response on the ADRA team because I saw the images of the destruction caused by Debbie, and I just had to do something. The team were awesome to work with, and the work we did was full on, but to see the faces of the people we helped, that was priceless. They were so thankful and touched and that gave us such a buzz. I would totally volunteer again to do something similar, and hope others do too because it was such a blessing."

Graham Robbins has been the TC Debbie Field Coordinator for the response.

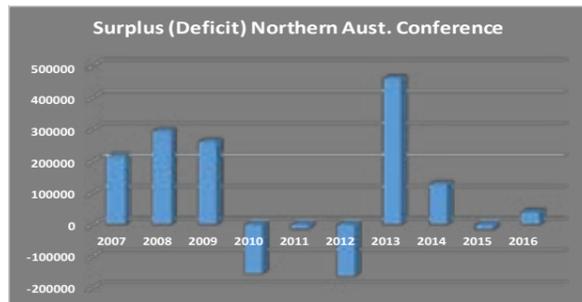
"The people affected haven't seen the end of it yet. People are still hurting. The emotional toll is what is getting them at the moment. Some people haven't even started to clean up because the reality of the situation has only just started to hit home. For me, its very rewarding to be able to help these people. I believe that if you have an opportunity to offer help, then we should help. The Australian spirit, the Queensland spirit is to jump in and help each other in times of crisis, and its been a privilege to be a part of that. The people that I have met over the past few



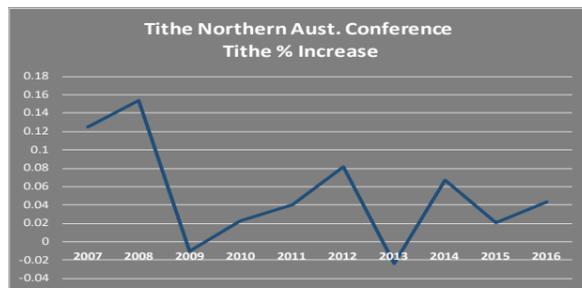
weeks have been incredible. And the love of God shown through people reaching out to others has been amazing to see." Volunteer ADRA teams are continuing their efforts in the coming weeks. They are focusing on people who have slipped between the cracks in terms of initial response support from various organisations. Also, the long term focus will be on providing psychological support for cyclone affected households.

CFO REPORT: 2016 CONFERENCE FINANCIAL RESULTS

The financial results for the year ending 31 December, 2016, show that the conference made a surplus of \$39,331. Though this may not seem great to some, it was a far greater result than the budgeted deficit of (\$90,000). The good result was mainly due to the increase in Tithes received in 2016, with a couple of larger one-off tithes returned to God, and we give thanks for the faithfulness of our members. Also we held expenditure on budget apart from a few maintenance areas like the Campground and residences, with the age of buildings etc. requiring more expense. The surplus and deficits for the conference for the past 10 years are shown in the chart below:

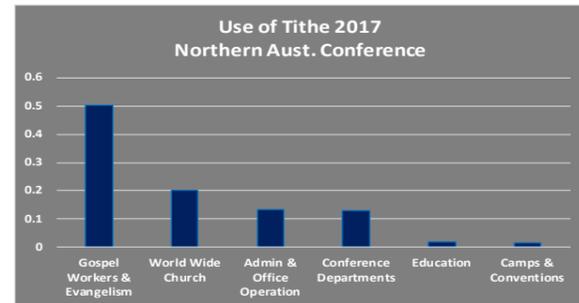


In 2016, the tithe increase on the previous year was a modest \$140,518, and as stated was a major contributing factor to our reported surplus for 2016. The chart below shows tithe increases by percentage over previous years:

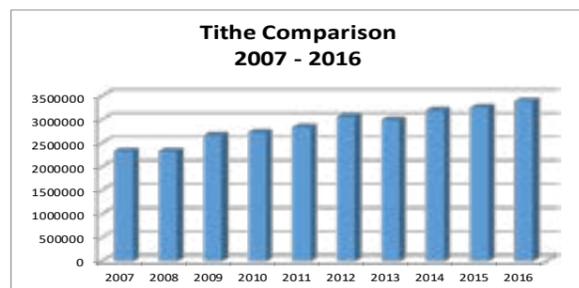
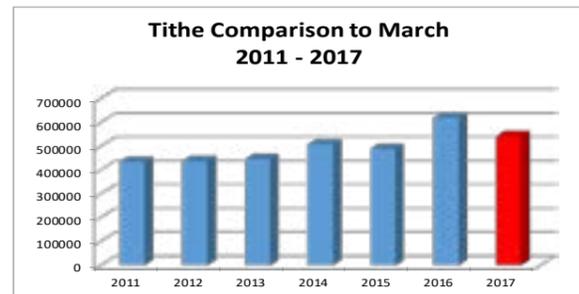


Tithe Powers Mission

The chart below shows our planned spending of tithe in 2017, noting that over 50% of tithe will be spent on front-line Gospel workers and evangelism.



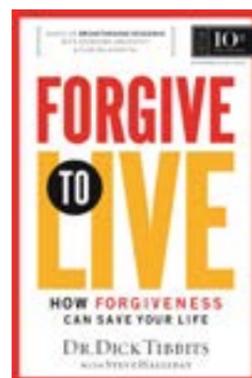
Further, the tithe received to end of February 2017, is down on 2016, though it must be noted that a one-off tithe of over \$106,000 was received in February 2016. We encourage all our members to give to God what is His and watch Him bless this church and the faithful givers.



BOOK LINKS FOREGIVENESS TO PHYSICAL HEALTH

Everyone has a "grievance story" -- We've all been hurt or rejected by someone who mattered to us. Unfortunately, while most of us have been told to forgive, we've never been told how or why to forgive. Dr. Dick Tibbits is here to say that understanding and practicing forgiveness can literally save your life! It's a scientific fact that anger kills -- spiritually, emotionally, relationally and physically. Tibbits reveals the clinically proven steps and tools every person needs to uncover their grievance story, eliminate the unresolved anger that they can and can't see, and forgive for good. He also delivers self-tests, activities and other interactive resources and reading to help people measure their progress and ultimately enjoy a long and anger-free life.

Available now at the Adventist Book Centre, or online www.adventistbooks.com.au



LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Youth Leaders from every region in the NAC came to focus on a missional model of church. The church as defined in the Bible are a group of people called by God for a missional purpose. A church that has developed a fortress mentality is not being who God has called us to be. The Leadership Summit weekend was challenging for us as leaders. It was calling us out to stop practically defining church as a one-hour program each week that exists only to 'service the saints.' Missional communities holistically "reach in - up - and out." We need to empower young people with greater leadership responsibility and mentor them to reach up to God, in to believers, and out to the world. Many thanks go out to Pr Jeff Parker (AUC Youth Director) and Charlene Luzuk (ADRA NAC) for presenting to us over the



weekend. Most importantly, thank you to the many churches who supported this vital training by sending members, leaders, and elders to come and journey with young people.

STORM CO

STORM Co 2017 Saibai Island in the Torres Straits. For a week teens, youth, and young adults shared a powerful journey of service to others. Each day the team faithfully ran VBS kids clubs in the morning, and a movie/sports activity time in the afternoon. The greatest outcome of this week was building relationships with people in the community and each other for the glory of God. Throughout the week, the Holy Spirit was leading and guiding us and using challenges we faced for His glory. Without a doubt, this was an amazing experience through the power of service to others. This is especially true through the

stories and experiences each of our team members share. The Youth Department wants to thank each STORM Co member and those who worked behind the scenes. We also thank Pr Mark and Learne Collins for the preparation and encouragement to step out in faith. Thanks to the Saibai Community Council and SDA Church community for welcoming us, AUC ATSIM Department, and ADRA NA for their support. Over the coming years we want to grow the STORM Co ministry. If God is calling you to lead a group next year, please contact Christos Spero at christosspero@adventist.org.au. We would love to have STORM Co leaders committed by September 29, 2017 for 2018 trips.





OF FRUITS AND ROOTS: AN ANATOMY OF APOSTASY

Signore Ross Messina was my grandad's next-door neighbor when I was a kid. An elderly Italian immigrant and veteran of World War II, he was never too busy to sit with me and show me kindness. He loved to grow fruit trees, and one of my favorite things to do was to sit on his porch with him while he guarded them against fruit bats. He had an air rifle and I had a toy popgun and whenever we saw a bat, we sent it packing! One day as we were looking at his pawpaw trees, we noticed the fruit had ugly black, soft splotches on them. Ross took a shovel and scraped some dirt away from the base of the trunk. "Ah!" he complained. "Rottena root!" I looked down to see that, just under the surface of these outwardly perfect-looking trees, some kind of rot or fungus had made its way into the tree through the roots and spoiled all the beautiful pawpaws. The fruit clearly showed the nature of the roots.

Yesterday I caught up with one of my closest friends in this Conference, who also happens to be a local church elder. "I just don't understand it", he sighed. "A lot of people seem to

be getting pulled down the wrong path in our churches lately. There are a lot of deceptions going on. Satan is really working, which shows us that time is short." I agreed.

In Matthew 7:15-20, Jesus said:

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore, by their fruits you will know them."

As time begins to draw to a close we must expect, based on the prophecies of Jesus and the apostles, to see attacks in the forms of subtly subversive deceptions which are calculated to draw people away from the God revealed in the Scriptures to a misrepresentation of who God really is. Of course, everyone has a right to study and form their own opinions, including

expressing honest questions about what we believe. That's to be encouraged. However, Satan's deceptions will always attempt to deface the character of God and his intention is to draw people away from the Church. So, what are some things to watch for that might seem to indicate a potential movement of apostasy? In my experience, there are six main characteristics that can be easily remembered with the acronym **DeFACEIT**:

1. Dynamics
2. Fruit
3. Authority
4. Commission
5. Emphasis
6. Tactics

If you come across a person or group who is teaching something a bit different to what you have heard before, just ask yourself if they show negative behaviour in one or more of these areas:

1. Dynamics

In John 8:32, Jesus said "The truth will make you free". Unsurprisingly, error has the opposite effect. If you are invited to a group that sounds new or strange, ask yourself, what are the dynamics in this group? Are they healthy? Is everyone following one strong teacher, or is discussion encouraged? How do they respond when someone disagrees? Apostate groups often initially display the illusion of deep Christian love and fellowship. However, they are only united on the fact that they

do not agree with the larger group. They can all talk in perfect unity about how bad the pastor and the Conference are, until they eventually separate from the Church. Then they have big problems because they have to find things they actually agree on, and also get along with one another. The spirit of rebellion still lives in them and they fight and war with each other, splitting again and again, until they all lose their faith. Remember, having the ability to criticise leadership is not evidence that someone has actual leadership gifts. Spiritual leadership is one of those things that is very easy to criticise from the pew...until you have to get up and do it.

2. Fruit

Jesus said "by their fruit you shall know them" (Matthew 7:16). Considering He devoted a goodly section of His sermon about the signs of the end-times in Matthew 24 to warnings about false prophets, I don't think Christ will be offended if we don't go diving into every new theological canoe that floats along. It's always a good idea when you hear something new to hang back for a while and watch for the fruit. Fruit takes time to show on a tree after all. Ask yourself, "What is the impact this is having on our Church and our community?" Are people being led closer to Jesus, Scripture and the Church, or are they being led away? What is the spirit in which the message is being given? How does it affect people's characters? Do they become gentle and loving, or harsh and legalistic? Are they encouraging, or

fear-mongering? Do they bring non-Christian people to Jesus? The Holy Spirit's presence will be evidenced by the fruit of the spirit in the personal life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Also there will be a genuine care and desire to share the gospel with those who aren't Christians, and the Holy Spirit will give success in that area. Spirit-filled Christians breed Spirit-filled Christians.

3. Authority

Isaiah tells us to go "to the law and to the testimony" for our authority (Isaiah 8:20). "If they speak not according to this word, there is no light in them" he says. We need to ask ourselves, "What is the final authority for this teaching?" Is it nature? Nature reveals the Creator, but has been marred by sin. It's an incomplete revelation. Science? Science studies His work but the evidence must be interpreted by fallen minds. It is an incomplete revelation. Education? I'm all for academia, but an educated person un-submitted to God is but a polished tool in the hand of the enemy. Our Church's pioneers? They were godly men and women, but they were also human and made mistakes

... just under the surface of these outwardly perfect-looking trees, some kind of rot or fungus had made its way into the tree through the roots and spoiled all the beautiful pawpaws. The fruit clearly showed the nature of the roots.

like the rest of us. A particular personality, or leader? Jim Jones, the cult leader who caused his people to drink poisoned Kool-Aid was preaching once and, as he did, he held his Bible aloft. As the eyes of the people rose toward his uplifted Bible, he shouted "Stop! Don't you look at that book! You look at me!" Apostasy always draws our eyes away from Scripture. Even Ellen White's writings can be twisted and misused and pulled out of context in such a way as to make her say things that she neither thought nor imagined. By the way, she strongly condemned the use of her work in this way. A person with an agenda will always try to get Ellen White to agree with them, while systematically ignoring or explaining away everything she wrote that disagrees with their own positions. This alone proves that her writings are not really an authority for these kinds of people, but are secondary to their own feelings and opinions. For them her writings are simply a tool with which to manipulate fellow Adventists into following their teachings. This happens with Scripture too. A lot of twisty Adventists claim they came to their conclusions from "the Bible and the Bible only!" However, when you probe a little, you find that they really found a lot of websites or watched a lot of videos from misguided preachers or ministries. Can I just say that "Googling it" is not the same as heartfelt Bible study and prayer? People

keep telling me they have "studied" things, but what they really mean is that they "Googled it". FYI, there is a lot of bad information on the internet.

A movement of God will always draw people towards His Word as the primary and final authority on all matters of faith and doctrine.

4. Commission

In Acts 20:29-30, we are warned: "...savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after themselves."

Here we are warned of people in the Church attempting to draw away disciples from the Church. This is typical. In Mark 16:15, Jesus commanded Christians to embark on a worldwide mission to preach the gospel to those who are lost. Revelation 12, 13 and 16 reveal Satan's plan and desire to preach to Christian church members and cause them to lose their salvation. Always remember: God's mission is to the world, but Satan's mission is to the Church. One of the greatest hallmarks

of those in apostasy is that they will focus the greatest majority of their attention on trying to convince other church members to follow them, seemingly without any burden whatsoever to share Jesus with lost people. The programs they run are designed to "...draw away disciples..." (Acts 20:20). Even if they claim to do things for the public, their programs are prepared in such a way that only church members will be invited, and you have to be an Adventist to understand what they are even talking about. The effect of such apostasies is to turn the church inward. Instead of being focussed on the lost and the hurting, there is infighting and theological division. It neuters the evangelistic potential of the local church. Ask yourself, "Is the target of this group to convince Adventists that their Church is fallen, or to share the gospel with those who don't know Jesus?" If the main target of their efforts is church members then, despite their claims, they are not preaching the Three Angels' Messages. After all, the very first angel states our mission is to preach "...the everlasting gospel...to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people" (Revelation 14:6)

5. Emphasis

A wise man once said that heresy does not necessarily have to be a false idea, it can also be a focus on one truth to the

exclusion of all else. Apostate teachers often have one idea or hobby-horse that they insist on taking every opportunity to push. It sometimes sounds good too, but what happens when you sacrifice a complete system of truth for one teaching? You lose your balance. For example, a lot of twisty Adventists spend all their time thinking about Bible prophecy. Their strange interpretations and un-Christlike approach serve to alienate believers and unbelievers alike from our Church. To them the Spirit of Prophecy declares: "Never should a sermon be preached, or Bible instruction in any line be given, without pointing the hearers to "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29. Every true doctrine makes Christ the centre, every precept receives force from His words."—Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 54, emphasis added. If you come across a teacher saying something that sounds new, ask yourself, "Are they preaching the whole gospel, or just one idea that is important to them?" Is Jesus the centre of their teachings? We have a complete message: 28 fundamental beliefs, all of which are encapsulated in the Three Angel's Messages of Revelation 14, and every single one of which has the beauty and loveliness of Jesus Christ as its centre. We need to preach all of our message, not just the stuff that fascinates us, and we need to keep Jesus Christ as the hub around which all our teaching revolves.

6. Tactics

In Acts 20:29, Paul compares apostate teachers to "...savage wolves..." among sheep for good reason. Wolves use strategy. They do not target the big, strong ram in the centre of the flock with the gigantic horns. They sniff around the periphery of the flock searching for the weak, old or ill sheep. Apostate teachers, almost without exception, do the same. They look for the disaffected, the sick, the lonely, the immature, the young, the hurting. They watch for them, and wait until they are far enough away from the protection of the wider flock. That is when they attack. It seems that they almost have a sixth sense for sniffing out the most vulnerable members of the congregation. They play on these people's concerns and disappointments with Church leadership. They show friendship and care. They sow seeds of discontent and dissatisfaction. Very rarely will they speak directly to the pastor about their plans, or make their views or intentions plain to the Church Board. Instead they use deception, sneaking around and trying to secretly organise events, or rally people to their cause. If left unchecked, this will continue until such times as they can garner enough support for a power-grab. If this type of strategy sounds familiar to you, it ought to be. Ellen White tells us that this is exactly how Lucifer gathered the support of one third of the angels in heaven in his rebellion. On the other hand, Jesus taught us in Matthew 18:15-16 that when we disagree with another Christian we should speak to them face-to-face about it. If they will not hear us, then we must seek support of our

brothers and sisters to help resolve the situation. When you encounter a new idea, ask yourself, "Is it out in the light, like Jesus preached? Or is it subversive and covert, refusing to show its hand and sneaking around behind the leadership's back?" Always remember, God does things honestly. Satan uses deception and underhandedness.

So, that is the six characteristics of apostasy that, in my experience, DeFACEIT (the character of God). How do we really avoid falling into the trap of apostasy though? I just want to point you one final verse of Scripture that shows us how we can have positive fruit in our Christian lives.

John 15:5 says, "He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

We need to keep our eyes and hearts set firmly on Jesus only, always.

The Christian church has been waiting for Jesus to return for 2000 years. That is a long time. No-one waits more than a lifetime, but some of us have been waiting decades! We have had Him reveal Himself and His truth to us in mighty ways and we have felt His providence and His power. We have experienced the beauty of His divine watch-care and enjoyed thousands of quiet and beautiful moments where He has lifted us up.

Wouldn't it be a horrific tragedy if we fell away now, when the return of Christ is closer than it has ever been?

By all means, study and ask questions. But don't fall off the solid platform of the Word of God. Deceptions and trials will get worse before the end, but Jesus' voice is still calling to us through the might of the tempest: "HOLD FAST 'TIL I COME!" (Revelation 2:25)

Daniel Matteo
NAC Local Church Pastor



TOWNSVILLE CITY BAPTISM

November 26, 2016, was a very special day at Townsville City Church as the congregation witnessed the baptism of Emma Teariki. A group of family and friends filled the church with music, singing lovely Cook Island renditions of songs to support Emma as she committed her life to the Lord. Pr Tom Osborne baptised Emma and welcomed her into membership of Townsville City Church. Also welcomed on the day was Antoinette Ngwasi, who entered membership by profession of faith.



AITKENVALE WEDDING

Aitkenvale sisters Gisele and Chantal and their family went home to Rwanda November, 2016 where they could celebrate their weddings with extended family and friends. The first sister to get married was Gisele Sifa et to Paul Niyonzima (pictured left). Their wedding was held on Sunday, November 27, at Kigali/Rwanda. The second wedding was for Chantal and Wilson Rudatinya (pictured right), Sunday, December 4, in Gisenyi, Rwanda.



AYR HACKSAW RIDGE

For a small town of around 11,000, the Ayr Adventist Church members were very excited and on board with promoting the Hacksaw Ridge movie in the community. Church members were given tickets to sell and social media used to promote the movie premiere.

The premiere screening for the movie was held on Thursday evening November 10; at 6:30PM. The guests enjoyed an array of vegetarian finger food and ice cold Patriitti Grape juice provided by our Ayr Church members, whilst Pr. Luke addressed everyone with the story about Desmond. T. Doss, and gave free handouts for the guests to take home and enjoy. Many of our guests were from other denominations who had heard about the true story of Desmond Doss and his faith in God.

The evening saw 99 people attending the movie with 88% from the community.

We were blessed to hear that a woman contacted Mrs Lina White regarding her conviction about the seventh day Sabbath after watching the movie and reading the free Hacksaw Ridge book that was handed out that night. She is now searching the scriptures and finding out more regarding the truth about the Sabbath.



TOWNSVILLE CITY PROGRESSIVE TEA

In excess of fifty people attended a Progressive Tea Social run by the Townsville City Church on 19th November, 2016. This was a record attendance for a Progressive Tea, with the crowds cramming into the Wakelin's home for entrées, the White's house for mains and Pr Tom and Va Osborne's house for dessert. The night finished on a curious high with Tom and Va wearing wigs and answering questions on each other's preferences (they didn't seem to know each other very well!). It was a night full of laughter and fun and is sure to be repeated.



AYR ADVENTURER INVESTITURE

It was a hot 35 degrees plus, Sabbath morning on November 25, 2016. The Ayr SDA church has air-conditioning in the hall, so it was decided to hold the Ayr Adventurers Club Investiture there. Thankfully the District Director, Pete Smith, had a portable microphone and speaker to use for the day.

The Adventurers Club ran the main service. A huge Thank you to Mr. Pete Smith for being our DD and for making the children feel special. There are 14 children in Adventurers with more children attending every year.



Congratulations to Cassie Towler and Ezekiel Capper for receiving special prizes and earning the, "AYR Adventurers Prayer Warrior AWARD."

NORTH MACKAY GABENSIS



The North Mackay church has worked very hard over the last six years to raise about \$45,000 to construct a new girls' dormitory

for Gabensis Seventh-day Adventist primary school in Morobe Province, PNG. Construction began in January and is expected to be completed in coming weeks. Further funds raised will go towards furnishing and fencing the dormitory, and constructing a bathroom underneath the dormitory. Currently the 100-odd female boarding students are accommodated in a single shed-like dormitory in bunk beds crammed together like sardines. The girls rely on two pit-toilets and bathe in a nearby river. Donations can be made by direct deposit into the church bank account with "Gabensis" in the reference line. Bank details: BSB: 064707, Account: 00904925, Account name: North Mackay SDA.

MACKAY CENTRAL DEACON ORDINATION

Troy Van de Wetering has taken steps of faith with enthusiasm for the love he has with God. He was baptised last year and passionate about young people as he serves as a Secretary for the Youth and has now been ordained as a Deacon. He is a young man on fire to serve with a willingness to participate in the mission of the church locally and worldwide. Troy's wife Claire serves as a primary teacher in the Carlisle Adventist Christian College, complimenting in service. Abundant blessings as you continue to serve others and God's church.



TOWNSVILLE CITY 10 DAYS OF PRAYER



Fifty people attended the first evening of the 10 Days of Prayer Program at the Townsville City Church held late January, 2017,

rising to over eighty on the last night. Pr Tom Osborne lead the members through a series of studies on the Sanctuary, spending a short time in discussion and allowing extra time for prayer and stories of answered prayer. Attendees were invited to list names of those who needed prayer, and during the course of the ten days over 500 people were being prayed for. The final evening of the 10 Days of Prayer climaxed with special prayer followed by a shared meal. Many prayers were answered that week, and those attending were blessed with a special spiritual experience.

FAR NORTH CHURCHES

'MISS BRENDA' VISITS

The 21st and 22nd of March were very special for the Cairns region churches as 'Miss Brenda' Walsh, producer and presenter of the 3ABN kids show "Kid's Time" visited to share messages of hope, encouragement and forgiveness.

The whirlwind visit was scheduled only in February, and started with a comment by Mrs Laurian Baillie on a Facebook discussion. Pr Daniel then received a call from Miss Brenda's schedule organiser and the Innisfail, Cairns, Malanda, Cairns Samoan and Edmonton churches, as well as Cairns Adventist College, all agreed to throw in some money to get her up here. The two days were an absolute blessing. Miss Brenda spoke on both mornings to the kids at Cairns Adventist College, telling them thrilling stories from her Bedtime Stories books, and answering their many questions. On both evenings she also spoke at Cairns Seventh-day Adventist church and members from around the region came to be blessed by her words: not to mention an impromptu piano concert! She also announced the launch of a new kids devotional smart phone app (with a link to watch the Kid's Network 24 hours a day) that no one in the United States yet knew about. (Search for "Kid's Time" in your



app store.)

As Miss Brenda made appeals on both nights for people to follow Jesus, many eyes were damp and many hearts challenged. Pr Daniel remarked, "If we will take on board what Miss Brenda has shared with us tonight, there will be some real healing in our churches."

Please continue to pray for Miss Brenda's Kid's Network, and support the ministry at www.brendawalsh.com.au

TABLELANDS CHURCHES

FLY AND BUILD

Nine volunteers arrived in Myanmar in Nov 2016, of which six came from the NAC and three from Germany. Their Fly & Build project was to install a new ceiling at Mountain View Adventist Seminary in Taungoo, Myanmar. The large chapel that holds around 400 students had lost its ceiling, due to the ferocious appetite of termites. Builder Tom Gigliotti noticed on arrival that the roofing iron had many holes in it and decided to replace the roof as well. "It was amazing to see the transformation" explained Pr Wolfgang, the team leader. Together with his wife Lyn Joy, this is the fourth Fly & Build project they had organised for the school in four years.

While part of the team was busy replacing the roof, the others started repairing the ceiling frame and replacing sections of wiring for lights and fans.

Currently, the greatest tool for evangelism that the Adventist church in Myanmar has is its Adventist School system. Public evangelism is still confined to Adventist Church buildings. In the evenings, Pr's Wolfgang and Alvin conducted an evangelistic campaign in a church several kms away, with Pr Alvin translating. Among the 150 - 200 nightly attendance, it was believed that about half of them were Baptist believers.



By Thursday of the first week, the roof was completely finished. Then all the team focused on the ceiling, being helped by many of the older students. Every day the progress was noticeable and as soon as a section of ceiling was covered, the students painted it before the electricians fitted lights and ceiling fans. When the ceiling was completed, it was decided to give the walls also a new coat of paint. Everything was completed on time and on budget and it looks splendid.

Their joy at the completed project was so great, that it was decided to have a dedication service on the last Sabbath, followed by a mass baptism of 25 precious people, whom God added to His church

TOWNSVILLE CITY

WEDDING

Emma Mataa married her childhood sweetheart, Travel Teariki, on Thursday, 17th November at 5 o'clock in the morning on the beautiful, palm-fringed shoreline of Townsville. She was walked down 'the aisle' by her Mother, Ruth, accompanied by her two daughters, Ruth and Florida. Friends and family happily made an early start to make it to the Strand for the beautiful dawn wedding. Pr Tom Osborne conducted the service under the pergola, instructing Emma and Travel to walk their road together with God at the head.



LE Corner: Today, Tomorrow and You

Speak to this one or that one of the love of Jesus. No sooner is the name of Jesus mentioned in love and tenderness, then angels of God draw near, to soften and subdue the heart (CM 112)

As a Literature Evangelist, *Today, Tomorrow and You* is one of my favorite books because I love promoting biblical truths that the book contains. I especially love to draw people's attention to the chapters that uphold the true character of our creator God and the rich promises that He is willing to bestow upon all His children, and conclude with the chapter that promotes the promise of Jesus' Second coming, a truth that many are not aware of.

Teagan is one of these people who have no idea that Jesus is coming soon with thousands and thousands of angels in the clouds. She has no idea that a decision has to be made by her before that glorious day happens. At the end of my visit, the question was raised. Do you see the value of this book? Teagan exclaimed Yes. Yes, if He is coming, then I want to see Him when He comes, she continued. According to Teagan, she has never attended a church before and has never heard that the Lord Jesus loves her. Would you like to study the bible and learn more about Jesus? Yes was her reply. She happily accepted the bible correspondence course study, a bible and a book called *Bible Reading For Your Home*. Teagan is encouraged to read her bible everyday to pursue knowledge and thirst for her new found friend -the Lord Jesus. Meeting Teagan is one the "highlight" of my day's experience and I highly praise the Lord for the sacred work entrusted to all literature evangelists around the globe.

Willa Brough
NAC Literature Evangelist

POSITION VACANT

Receptionist & personal assistant for Youth Ministries & Communications - Northern Australian Conference (Townsville, QLD)

The Northern Australian Conference is seeking an enthusiastic and competent individual as receptionist and to provide support for the Youth Ministries department and Communication Director. This full-time position requires an individual who is self-motivated, well organised, has a high level of computer skills, and excellent written and oral communication. Commencing late June, this role involves providing administrative and clerical support to the youth director, developing design concepts and final artwork for all promotions and publishing material, maintaining the youth and conference websites, and assisting with the organisation and running of youth department events and activities and compiling and editing of the Conference newsletter. Graphic design skills would be an advantage. This position is for an initial 12-month period, whilst the current Receptionist takes maternity leave.

Send applications with Curriculum Vitae to the General Secretary, Northern Australian Conference, PO Box 51 Aitkenvale QLD 4814, email: robellison@adventist.org.au.

The applicants should also provide at least two written references with their application. For further information and a full job description please contact the Conference General Secretary. Applications close Monday May 15, 2017.

INTRODUCING ADSAFE



AdSAFE Ltd is the new service for protecting children and vulnerable adults in Adventist organisations across the South Pacific Division.

AdSAFE's role is to develop and implement prevention strategies to mitigate the risk of sexual and physical abuse against children and vulnerable persons and to assist Adventist organisations respond to alleged incidences of sexual and physical abuse against children and vulnerable persons. This includes the coordination of training all Seventh-day Adventist Church denominational employees and Church appointed volunteers who interact with children and vulnerable persons; providing psychological support and legal justice or restorative justice pathways for survivors of abuse and their families; coordinating independent investigations into allegations received; and managing persons of concern and known offenders.

AdSAFE is available to provide advice to Adventists and Adventist organisations in relation to all the matters listed above.

From January 31 2017 AdSAFE will replace Safe Place Services.

AdSAFE's contact details are –

Address: PO Box 966, Wahroonga NSW 2076, Australia

Email: info@adsafe.org.au

Ph: 02 9847 3488 or 1800 220 468

SANITARIUM MEDIA RELEASE



Sanitarium Ceases Production of its Loose flake cereals Range and Boosts Focus on Flake Biscuit and Convenience Breakfast Foods

The Sanitarium Cooranbong Factory is on track for closure in August 2018 and the first reminders of this significant change are becoming evident. Staff at the factory are working through the transfer of Weet-Bix Bites technology to the Sanitarium Brisbane site and the setup of new Weet-Bix factory lines at Berkeley Vale. An important step in the closure program is the process of completing production on Sanitarium's loose cereal products as the company commences exiting its small range in this section of the breakfast cereal category.

This means that Sanitarium staff have made the last batch of Honey Weets and an Adventist Church family favourite, Granola. There is more to come with production coming to an end on Granola Clusters, Cornflakes, Light 'n' Tasty and Puffed Wheat.

Australian consumers will commence seeing in-store notification of product range deletions in coming weeks as product lines

become unavailable. Estimated stock run out dates range from the end of June to the end of September, 2017. Some products will continue to be available in Independent stores longer than in the larger supermarket chains.

On the announcement of the Cooranbong Factory closure Sanitarium management indicated that changing consumer breakfast eating trends was resulting in a worldwide steady decline in the loose flake cereals market. In Australia, consumer spend in the loose flake cereals category has decreased significantly year upon year and as a company we have experienced a 65% reduction in loose cereal production volumes over the past 5-6 years. Therefore, to continue investing in this range was not a financially viable option for us.

“These changes in product range relate only to the Australian market and it will lead us to continued development of new food innovation for our Weet-Bix and liquid breakfast range and new, relevant, healthy, portable and tasty breakfast foods for the future”, says Todd Saunders, Executive General Manager for Sanitarium Australia and New Zealand.

“I am sure you can appreciate the significance of this change; not just to some of our heritage brands loved by loyal consumers. This change is also impacting our people who have faithfully produced these quality products for many years”, he continues. “Please remember our staff in your thoughts and prayers as they begin to make the difficult transition in their work and personal life”.