

Top News

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

FEBRUARY 2018



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MANAGEMENT
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2-4 MARCH
YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

17 MARCH
GLOBAL YOUTH DAY
TABLELANDS REGIONAL

18-24 MARCH
ENGAGE: YOUTH REVIVAL

3-9 APRIL
STORMCO

21 APRIL
ATSIM SABBATH MACKAY

27-29 APRIL
WOMENS RETREAT MACKAY



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Please include photos with your submissions wherever possible.

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”

Find out more about us at na.adventist.org.au

MY BELOVED

On the 29th December I married for the second time (keep reading...) to a beautiful lady and a cute five year old. At forty five, after being single for decades, the adjustment has been a bit of a shock to the system! Those of you who have gone before me could share your secrets of marital bliss but it didn't take me long to realise that for this marriage to work some key things were required:

1. A significant time investment – whether it is conversation, recreation or just the mundane duties of life, the more time spent together, the more the relationship has grown and flourished. Any reverting back to solitary practices of the single life have produced negative outcomes!
2. Open communication – my inclination is sometimes to shut down and go quiet when things aren't going well, but this is not helpful with my wife. The fastest way to a good resolution has been to step forward and talk it out in complete honesty and openness.
3. Full commitment to the relationship – looking at other options or wishing for your own way or space is a fast way to kill off the love. Our marriage needs my dedicated attention each and every day, all through the day.

On the 10th December 1983, I married for the first time, at my baptism. I publically acknowledged that I had chosen to enter into a lifelong relationship with Jesus. Curiously enough, the above three points apply equally as well to my first marriage/baptism. My relationship with Jesus will not flourish without a significant time

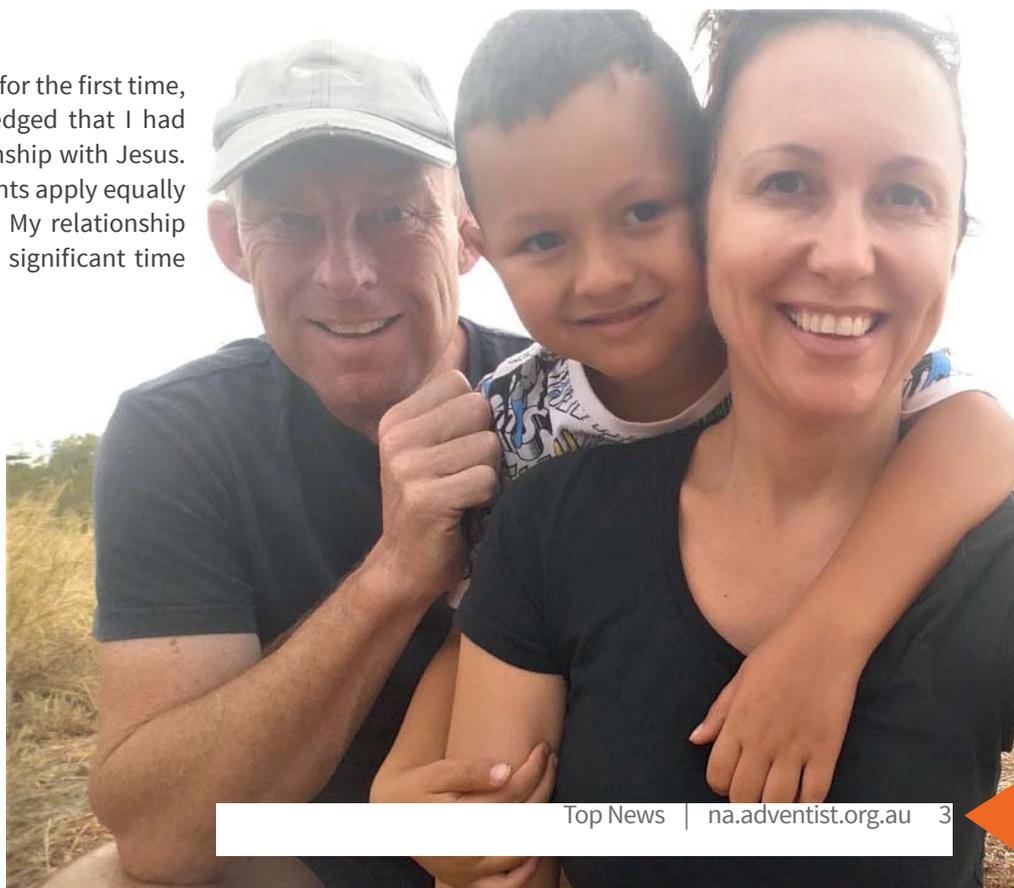
I want my walk with **JESUS** to be closer and more intimate than ever before.

investment, open communication or a full commitment.

As I compare the two relationships I am currently in, I see a lot of room for improvement with my relationship with Jesus. This year I want to make those improvements. I want my walk with Jesus to be closer and more intimate than ever before. And I want to help others experience the same. How about you?



Darren Slade
President
Northern Australian
Conference



GOD USES POP-UP TO REACH SENIOR MANAGEMENT

The health message continues to pave the way into the working class - slowly but surely! Setting up a pop-up bookstore in Cairns largest shopping complex for the first time, I didn't know what to expect. (In 2016, the Centre's turnover was \$394million and people traffic-10million.) But from the very first day, the Holy Spirit moved upon the staff of the Centre including the Senior Executive Centre Manager - Christie Lee and the Sales Executive - Kerri Ballard. Nothing went according to plan on the first day of the initial set-up. However, now I know it was God's perfect plan. Through a chain of events, the Holy Spirit connected me with staff who set up for me and connected me with two senior management ladies. Both ladies not only bought books, but accepted the signs of the times -Great Controversy. Neither one opposed the fact that I was handing out biblical literature in their shopping complex as I explained that I like to be upfront about my faith based ministry/business. In fact the response was so positive and encouraging. Christie and Kerri said they hoped we would return to the Centre. Only God could do something like that! I knew God was using our pop-up to reach people with an understanding of our

great health message and His ultimate plan of salvation and His amazing love for people in the workplace. One lady was in tears and we took her behind the counter to pray for her family and parents who had cancer. We put this lady in touch with the local pastor who followed up immediately. Another lady told me she was talking to her daughter-in-law about where they could find bible story books for her son on their way to the shopping centre. You can imagine how amazed they were when I told them the Holy Spirit had led her to our pop-up. It was a very humbling experience for both us. As a result, I have been invited to her home to showcase the bible stories. The owner of Healthy Bites (franchise) who was looking for new ideas, said she would promote a "juice for the week" and prepare salads from our books (Revive) to sell at her food bar. Cathy was so grateful when I handed her the Great Controversy book. She is a believer and loves history!

Results:

Sales of health books: \$1,154.00 (cash and card)

Health Literature/Lead Cards: 350

Signs of the Times Great Controversy: 14

Leads to follow-up: 17

Eunice Winship

Literature Evangelist, Cairns

FEEL CALLED?

Every day, hearts are turning to God thanks to the work done by our Literature Evangelists.

Wherever you are and whatever you do, God can place people in your path that you can touch and make a difference in their lives.

If you feel the call and would like to be a literature evangelist, please get in contact with Willa Brough on willabrough@yahoo.com.au



RIVERSIDE ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

RIVERSIDE BY THE RIVER'S SIDE

The second and seventh of the eight “Riverside Ways” that the staff and students developed in 2016 (which every Riverside student knows by heart) are “we serve generously”, and “we act responsibly”. Recently, Mrs Watkins made an agreement with Townsville City Council for Riverside Adventist Christian School to play a routine and significant role in the surveying and care of the river ecology of the Ross River behind the school. Our students are undergoing training from the voluntary group that currently cares for our section of the Ross. The students will soon be reporting to Council on prevalence of birdlife by species, the quality of the water, the spread of certain noxious plants and the story of the river ‘told’ by the presence of certain invertebrates. We hope that by ‘hooking’ the learning to practical tasks in natural surrounds we will encourage higher levels of engagement, skill retention and genuine care. “We must have in our schools those who possess the tact and skill to carry forward this line of work, thus sowing seeds of truth.” (6T 205) .

Mr Ian Humphries

Principal, Riverside Adventist Christian School



AVONDALE

APPLY NOW FOR 2018

Why travel from far and wide to get an education at Avondale? There are more than enough institutions across Australia.

The personal and catered experiences are what set us apart from the rest. Then there are the lecturers and peers, who inspire future world leaders, and encourage individuals to strive for and excel in what they set their minds to after study. I think of Dr Lachlan Rogers (recognized for completing world-first research on diamond colour centres) and Jacob Windle who started out in the Diploma of General Studies at Avondale, later graduated from Teaching, won the 2016 Teacher of the Year Award and was invited to attend the 2017 NASA Space Camp in Alabama, USA.

If you're considering study, don't be afraid to step out from far and wide to reach your potential. Join the #avondalexp.



TOWNSVILLE CITY

BAPTISMS AND AN ORDINATION



Townsville City's Church was filled to capacity on 25th November to witness the baptism of Nathan Thwaites, aged 12. Nathan had been studying with Pr Tom Osborne who observed him as being a very switched-on student who knows his Bible well. The congregation also witnessed the ordination of two new elders, Brad Thwaites and Tui Tuilimu.

On the 20th January, City Church was blessed with another baptism. Lindsay Gallon had decided to re-dedicate his life to God. A number of people came forward in response to the Pastor's appeal, indicating their desire to be baptised in the near future.

AYR

ADVENTURERS GET INVESTED



Ayr Church held their Adventurer Investiture on 2nd December 2017. Six Adventurers received their badges from Youth Director Pr Christos Spero assisted by Adventurer Leader Fina Towler and Adventurer Teacher Danae Fidow.

For this special Sabbath service, the Adventurers ran the church proceedings. Pr Christos took the children's story and a sermonette, titled 'Overflowing with Gods Love'. The day was enjoyed by the children and their church family. Well done Adventurers!

EDMONTON

CAROLS, COMMUNION AND STUDY

Edmonton SDA Church had a stall at the Gordonvale Christmas Carols where we were able to give away balloons, animal masks and finger puppets. It was a great way to meet children and young people. Once the word got out, the stall was very popular keeping us busy blowing up balloons.

At our communion in early December, our pastor, Pr. Daniel Matteo did something a little different. He placed the tables in the form of a cross. Each table had a few nibbles and we sat around the tables for both the sermon and communion. This was a special experience for all involved.

Edmonton has had to say goodbye to one of our young members, Liam Shuttleworth as he commences the next stage of his life....study. Edmonton Church would like to wish him all the best in this exciting new chapter.



MALANDA

SPREADING THE LOVE AT CHRISTMAS



The whole of Malanda Church rallied together on a sunny Saturday morning in December to pack special Christmas bags to hand out to pensioners and elderly folk in their area. Throughout the year, the Malanda Church members spent time and their creative skills etching some tall tumblers so that each Christmas bag had one artistic gift inside. Along with this gift went home-made cookies, jam, pickles or lemon-butter (all made by the church members), fresh fruit, an ADRA shopping bag, chocolates and some reading material. The elderly folk who received the bags loved them, and the church received some thank you cards from recipients, expressing the impact the bags had on their Christmas.

One elderly man, in response to a church member saying “We have a little Christmas gift for you” said “I’m not having Christmas this year.” He told of how his wife hurt her hip a month earlier and was in rehab, and he was alone at home. When he looked inside the ADRA bag his face lit up with gratitude as he looked at the home-made goodies.

The truth is, there are a lot of lonely people at Christmas time, and Mareeba Church really spread some Christmas love and cheer with those in their community.

TOWNSVILLE CITY

ENDING 2017 IN STYLE



Townsville City Church had a busy end to 2017, closing out the year with two major socials.

The annual ADRA trivia night and cake auction organised by Marguerette Phipps was once again a highlight on the social calendar for the church. Even though the numbers were down from previous years, those who attended opened their hearts and emptied their pockets to raise over \$600 for the ADRA Appeal.

December saw the start of a new tradition at the church, with the inaugural Adventist City Church Awards (ACCAs). Dressed in formal attire with a touch of Christmas, church members were presented with certificates for their contributions throughout the year, and given an opportunity to deliver a short speech to their church family. Hollywood has ‘The Oscars’, and now Townsville City church has ‘The Osbornes’, affectionately named after Pastor Tom and Va Osborne, who think that they are retiring at the end of 2018...

ADRA UPDATE

ADRA APPEAL AWARDS

Congratulations and a huge thank-you to Bowen Church who raised \$4,455 for the ADRA Appeal 2017 and for Mossman Church who won the award for Most Raised per Church Member. These two awards will be presented to the churches in the coming weeks as a thank-you and also as an encouragement for all churches to keep the 2018 ADRA Appeal in mind and think of creative ways to raise money and spread awareness of the good work of ADRA. As a conference, we have raised more than \$35,000 which will see so many lives changed right here in Australia and around the world, well done! Amazing things are happening at ADRA. "Like" our page on Facebook to keep up to date with events, opportunities and great stories www.facebook.com/adranac



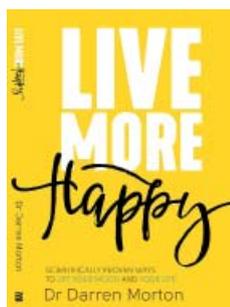
Visit Canada & Alaska

Join an Adventist travel group to North America in August/September 2018 - West Canada Rocky Mountains Tour, Alaska Cruise and optional extension to East Canada via Battle Creek and Andrews University. Singles welcomed – no single supplement if you'll share



ABC LATEST RELEASE

BY DR DARREN MORTON



Do you want to be happy? Of course you do - we all do! In **Live More Happy**, Dr Darren Morton shares with you in a fun and intuitive way the very latest information from science about how to live happier. You learn how the home of happiness in your brain is wired and experience powerful and proven strategies for boosting your happiness in a 21-day educational adventure. It covers a wide range of happiness modifiers, such as food, exercise, friendship and de-stressing. **Live More Happy** has the potential to change the colour of your day, week, year and life—honestly. It can help you **Live More Happy!** Available now from the Adventist Book Centre.

DARWIN

'DRIVE AND MAINTAIN' TO KATHERINE CHURCH

Following on from their Youth Week of Prayer with guest speaker Pastor Sau Finau where they were challenged to "Serv Ur King (Luke 1:34)", the Darwin Church Youth headed to Katherine, NT for a "Drive & Maintain" weekend on 6 & 7 October 2017. No small feat when you think Katherine is 300km south of Darwin.

Having been through Katherine Church a couple of months earlier on the way to Darwin with his family, Myles James, a builder, saw the need to lend a hand to the Katherine Church folk. Discussions with Darwin Church Pastor Siggie and several other skilled tradesmen saw the idea and vision grow. Based on the premise of a



'fly & build', the 'drive & maintain' vision was born, with the concept to get a group together, travel in a bus together and get the jobs done in an intense weekend.

The jobs list was created, key adults with specific skills targeted, young people identified, people to feed the team, a coaster bus, a few cars and we were off! With a 5am start from Darwin we reached Katherine before Sabbath School started. The Katherine church led out praise and worship, the young people did a children's story skit and Pastor Siggie shared a great message.

We were doubly blessed this Sabbath as there were a large group visiting from Vanuatu, over for the mango picking season, who came as well. They provided us with some special items and the wonderful harmonies when they sang were heavenly. They were so impressed that we had driven 300km to help that they wanted to come help us on Sunday. We were blessed to have the coaster bus and be able to pick them up.

Many hands make light work. The work began Saturday night and was finished by Sunday lunchtime (we even managed a quick swim at the Katherine Hot Springs!). Young or old – all were involved. We were able to get so many more jobs done with all these people than we thought possible! We ended up with over 50 people helping (double the team we had planned for). God provides! Thanks so much to all the coordinators and especially Pastor Siggie and the team who fed us all! Thanks also to Brat Pack for loaning us the coaster bus and the Darwin church for sponsoring the trip.

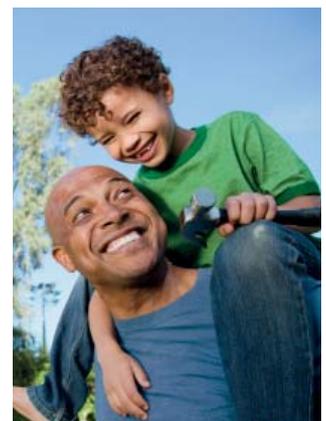
The Katherine Church and grounds were sparkling when we left. Praise be to God.



YOUTH MESSAGE

THE IMPORTANCE OF SERVICE

Service is crucial to the faith of Youth and Young Adults. It is a vehicle in which people can get to know Jesus on a far greater level. Often, churches think a good youth ministry exists based on the amount of youth socials or of AY programs included in the calendar. While such programs are crucial, if service is not a part of the picture, youth are really missing out on what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Service is a tool that allows cross generational mentorship through shared experiences, allows young people to see the world through a larger window and gives experiences and memories like no other. What can you and your youth group do to serve in 2018?



BUT WHAT ABOUT TOMORROW?

When I decide to give to a good cause the question arises, “How much can I afford to give but still have enough for my future?” It’s an excellent question that should be asked. However, my answers are often guided too much by worries about tomorrow and my gifts often shrink from relatively ‘generous’ to ‘safe’, or even worse.

God’s promises remind us of some universal principles of giving that are as sure as gravity.

In Proverbs we read, “One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.”* That’s a promise from our Father.

Jesus tells us, “Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things” and He promises “Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap.”

Our Father is the Great Provider

Our Father is the Great Provider. He gives us food, clothing, shelter, work, strength, education and so much more. Let’s be about our Father’s business. Let’s live, and give, by faith, and let God prove His promises for both today and tomorrow.

* Proverbs 11:24-25 (NKJV)

** Matthew 6:34 & Luke 6:38 (NKJV)

Learn more at www.faith-vs-finance.org

JULIAN ARCHER is the founder of Faith vs Finance—a global ministry working with Christians who seek to maintain a vibrant relationship with Jesus amidst the pressures of materialism and self-centred lifestyles. Somewhere between joining the globe’s wealthy in the revered “1% Club,” and becoming spiritually bankrupt, Jesus knocked on the door of Julian’s heart—again—and totally transformed his life.

JULIAN ARCHER

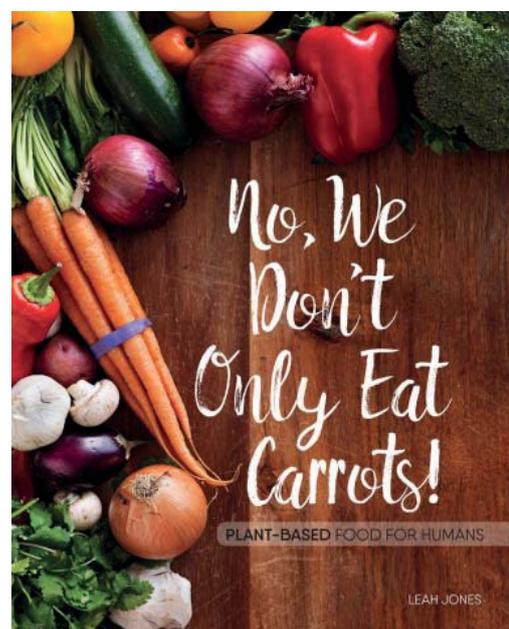
Founder Faith Vs Finance



ABC - PRACTICAL NEW COOKBOOK

Are you tired of bland, boring food? Don’t have the time to come up with creative meal ideas? Then this cookbook is for you!

No, We Don’t Only Eat Carrots! is packed full of 50+ delicious, plant-based recipes everyone will enjoy! Every recipe features a full-colour photograph and is not only healthy but vegan-friendly & easy-to-prepare. Measurements are for Australia/New Zealand and the ingredients are those you can find in our supermarkets. As a bonus, two sets of instructions are given for each recipe – there are instructions for conventional cooking methods as well as instructions for use with a Thermomix machine. *Available now from the Adventist Book Centre.*



ARE YOU CYCLONE PREPARED?

Anyone who has been through a major disaster can tell you of the importance of preparation. Being prepared helps to reduce stress, anxiety and losses that are often associated with disasters. Of course there is no one-size-fits-all when it comes to disaster preparedness- we each have to look at our own unique circumstances, and plan accordingly. But there is general advice which can help you to be prepared.

What Should We Do as a Church?

If a disaster hits your area, make sure that your own household is safe and secure. Then it is time to act! Over this coming year, ADRA will be encouraging churches to be more prepared and to be Disaster-ready churches. The NAC ADRA Department will be sending out information over the coming weeks to the ADRA Representatives in each church. Some of the initial, basic questions that will be asked to start off the process include:

- Is your church vulnerable to any specific risks? Do you know your local hazards?
- What capabilities do you have within your church to respond in a disaster situation?
- Do you have an up-to-date phone tree for your congregation? (Enabling a brief message to be communicated quickly across a large group of people in a short space of time)
- Who are your main church contacts that ADRA should contact in preparation for and in the wake of a disaster?

In the meantime, I encourage churches in disaster-prone areas to continue these types of discussions, and see that times of disaster are opportunities to serve your local communities in a time of great need.

To prepare your own household:

Take the time to go through the lists below as a family/ household to see what you can do to prepare for a cyclone, or any disaster. Such as:

- Check with your local council or your building control authority to see if your home has been built to cyclone standards. Check that the walls, roof and eaves of your home are secure. Preferably fit shutters, or at least metal screens, to all glass areas.
- Trim treetops and branches well clear of your home
- Clear your property of loose material that could blow about and possibly cause injury or damage during

extreme winds.

- Prepare an emergency kit containing:
 - a portable battery radio, torch and spare batteries;
 - water containers, dried/canned food/can opener;
 - matches, fuel lamp, toilet paper, portable stove, cooking gear, eating utensils; and
 - first aid kit, masking tape (windows), waterproof bags.
- supplies for your baby, and for your pets.
- Keep a list of emergency phone numbers on paper.
- Check neighbours, especially if recent arrivals or elderly, to make sure they are prepared.

When a cyclone warning has been given:

- Re-check your property for any loose material and tie down (or fill with water) all large, relatively light items such as boats and rubbish bins.
- Fill vehicles' fuel tanks. Check your emergency kit and fill water containers. Ensure that you have clean drinking water enough for 3 Litres per person, per day.
- Ensure household members know which is the strongest part of the house and what to do in the event of a cyclone warning or an evacuation.
- Tune to your local radio/TV for further information and warnings.
- Check that neighbours are aware of the situation and are preparing.

In most emergencies you should be able to stay in your home. Plan to be able to look after yourself and your household for at least three days or more. Assemble and maintain your emergency survival items for your home as well as a portable getaway kit in case you have to leave in a hurry. You should also have essential emergency items in your workplace and in your car.

For more information, go to www.qld.gov.au/emergency/dealing-disasters/prepare-for-disasters

Charlene Luzuk

Northern Australian Conference ADRA Director



WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR ONE LIFE?

APPLY NOW FOR 2018

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN TO COMMENCE
STUDY IN SEMESTER 1, 2018

COURSES AVAILABLE IN:

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