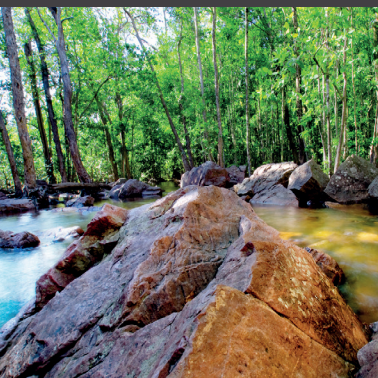


# Top News

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

FEB 2020





## CONTENTS

4	CFO / SECRETARY
5	ADRA
6	ABC CHRISTIAN BOOKS
7	CONFERENCE STAFF / CHURCH
8 - 10	CHURCH

## CALENDAR UPCOMING EVENTS

**02 MARCH**  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER

**16 MARCH**  
YOUTH CAMP

**17-23 MARCH**  
YOUTH WEEK OF PRAYER

**07-14 APRIL**  
STORM CO

**03-06 MAY**  
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS CAMP

**03-05 MAY**  
TENNANT CREEK REGIONAL

**24-26 MAY**  
NORTHERN YOUTH REGIONAL

### Seventh-day Adventist Church History



**Northern Australia  
1885 Conference 1955**

## GOT ANYTHING TO ADD?

**Be Quick!**  
360 Pages / History / Memories / Photos / Stories

Selwyn Hawken has spent several years compiling our church history  
1885 – 1955 .

Australasian Record, Newspapers, Photos, Verbal accounts have been  
recorded. End of March is deadline!

Post to: S Hawken, 7 Palm Dr, Cannonvale, 4802  
email: [selhawken@yahoo.com.au](mailto:selhawken@yahoo.com.au)

#### Editor

Elizabeth Suavai

#### Design

Alex Green Design

#### Contact

[elizabethsuavai@adventist.org.au](mailto:elizabethsuavai@adventist.org.au)

Ph: 07 4779 3988

Fax: 07 4779 8891

Post: PO Box 51,  
Aitkenvale QLD 4814

#### Contributors

If you would like to contribute to Top News, please contact us using any of the methods on the left.

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**  
“EXPERIENCING AND SHARING  
HOPE IN JESUS CHRIST”

Find out more about us at [na.adventist.org.au](http://na.adventist.org.au)

# HOT DOG PRAISE

A pastor was sharing a story of a memorable baptism he once conducted. It was with a man who had no church exposure before meeting Jesus. Enthusiastically he embraced his new found faith and heartily committed to everything he discovered in the Bible. On the day of his baptism he was lowered into the water and raised to walk in the newness of life. He came up out of the water clapping his hands and shouting, "Hot dog, hot dog, hot dog." The congregation tried to stifle their laughter. The pastor quickly asked them for silence as he explained that this man had not been around the church much and didn't know about "Amen, Praise the Lord, and Hallelujah;" his word was "Hot dog," and he was praising the Lord with the only vocabulary he knew.

It's good to praise God, and I know He accepts the shout of "hot dog" from a grateful heart as readily as an "Amen" or a "Hallelujah." As I reflect on 2019, I can see God's hand at work across our Conference, and in my family and personal life. I am incredibly grateful for His providence and many remarkable answers to prayer, and answers to things I hadn't prayed about. Here's some NAC praise points from last year:

1. Budget - after tracking well behind for most of the year, tithe income slightly exceeded budget for the year, plus we received an additional one-off tithe payment of \$100,000. Praise God for your faithfulness.
2. Staffing - having to replace a Youth Director, senior accountant, T&O support person, school principal and find four new teachers and a chaplain is no easy task. Plus we had two people step up to be volunteer departmental leaders. Praise God for the quality people that He impressed to fill these vacancies.

3. Grants while our operating budget remains very tight, we secured a lot of funding for different projects. The largest was \$403,000 Safer Communities funding for security, fencing and lighting around the Riverside Estate. Federal government also provided \$20,000 to Riverside school for fencing and the AUC provided \$71,250 to Riverside Convention Centre for electrical fit out for powered sites relocation. The SPD gave us \$30,000 to assist Literature Evangelists and churches working closer together. A generous donor also gave \$45,000 to add to the Camp Special Projects offering to employ Marty and Michelle in Tennant Creek for another year. Praise God for moving governments, church administrations and individuals to look favourably on the needs of our Conference.
4. Roadshow - having 80% of our attending members come to the Roadshow presentations with Pr Peter Roennfeldt was a real thrill. Praise God that you made this a priority as the Personal Ministries Roadshow seeks to inspire and equip for disciple making.

I just want to praise God for His generous provision to our Conference in so many ways. I can also praise him for our schools and staff, our pastors, office workers and camp ground managers. I can praise Him for our dedicated members who faithfully serve in so many ways. While there are so many blessings to praise God for, there are an equal number of ways to actually praise Him. "Hot dog" is one way! What's your way to express your gratitude to God for all He has done this past year?

"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ." (Ephesians 1:3)



Darren Slade  
President  
Northern Australian Conference

## NATALIE SCOTT - CFO/ SECRETARY REPORT

Hi everyone,

**Stewardship** is about **God First** - in **time, talents and treasures**. Thank you for serving Him in 2019 and I'm looking forward to the 2020 journey.

**God really blessed our Conference in 2019!** We have a great team across all our entities and it has been inspiring hearing stories of how God has touched people's lives during 2019.

**Staffing** - our **pastoral team** hasn't seen any changes to staff or locations for 2020, however, you will have read elsewhere in this edition that we have changes in our **Departmental team**, including the introduction of some more volunteers to assist local churches. Our **school teams** have welcomed a new Principal at Riverside, along with new teaching staff and support staff across all segments.

Our Conference wide **Special Projects Offering 2019**, which was launched at Big Camp, for **Tennant Creek Bible Workers** raised \$26,160 (as at 31/12/2019), with pledges still being received into 2020. The cost of having Bible Workers there is approximately \$65,000 a year. We were blessed with some private sponsorship and continue to look for ways to fund this ministry in 2021.

Pastor Don Fehlberg sent a report that there were **17 students** in the Graduation Block at Mamarapha College from the NT, and **2 baptisms** of NT folk who were the **first in their communities** to be baptised. The work of our Central Australian pastoral team is invaluable to sharing the gospel.

**School Awards Nights** are always a high day in our school communities, celebrating with staff, students and their families and friends. It was a great privilege to attend **Carlisle Adventist Christian College's** Awards Night in December and recognise the **first Year 12 graduating class!** Congratulations again students and community! Did you know that our secondary teachers at Carlisle had an extra big year in 2019? - they have had to transition from OP to ATAR which involved not only learning a new curriculum but teaching both streams!

The agreement for **Education Director Services** through South Queensland Conference is continuing to **strengthen our school system**. Jack Ryan and his team are providing invaluable support.

The agreement for **Education Director Services** through South Queensland Conference is continuing to **strengthen our school system**. Jack Ryan and his team are providing invaluable support.

If you pop past the Conference Office you will see that the signage for the **Adventist Book Centre** has been updated and increased to assist people to locate it. A small investment that has already been noticed by some of our neighbours.

Our **finance team** are focused on finalising budgets, year-end transactions and preparing for visits by the audit teams.

**Church Structure Review** - a good summary article in Adventist Record which is well worth reading in case you missed it at <https://record.adventistchurch.com/2020/01/30/have-your-say-on-church-structure-models/> and a website with details of upcoming Town Hall Meetings <https://corporate.adventist.org.au/australian-church-structure-review/to-be-involved-in-consultations>.

## STATISTICS

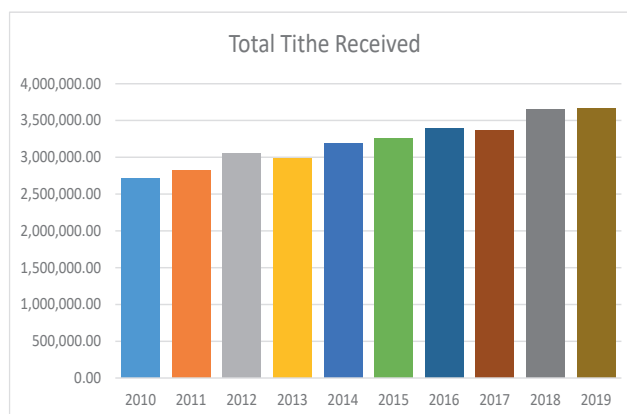
Our Conference **Membership** was 2,735 as at 31 December 2019 (down from 2,742 at 31 December 2018).

The 2019 year saw membership growth through 24 Baptisms, 8 Professions of Faith, and 24 Letters.

Sadly we also had a number of folk pass away or leave our church during 2019.

**Tithe** to 31 December 2019 was \$3,665,738, a 0.6% increase on the prior year.

The graph below shows the comparison of tithe over the past 10 years.



Thank you for faithful giving.



## THE ADRA CORNER



Here is another update about how your support has enabled ADRA to help those affected by the devastating bushfires. Below are just a few examples. A lot more is happening all around the country.

Albury Adventist Church members, with ADRA's help, coordinated the purchase and delivery of food and supplies to the Country Fire Association (CFA) volunteers in Burrowye for four days.

Families in Clifton Creek, Gelantiply, Buchan, Sarsfield, and Club Terrace have also received essentials such as water, groceries, hygiene packs, cleaning materials, solar energisers, steel posts, wire, insulators, generators and requested furniture.

In Victoria, volunteers sourced fencing to help emergency services contain freely roaming livestock. Access was also given to Cann River, where eggs, bread, meat, fruit, vegetables and generators were delivered. Volunteers in Sarsfield will attend a community meeting with other agencies to determine the next steps in the recovery process.

27 generators were delivered to Kangaroo Island in South Australia where ADRA worked alongside Island Care and the Australian Defence Force to distribute the generators to those needing it most. Copeville and Riverland church members delivered 30 round bales of hay to farmers in need of food for their stock.

The recovery effort is underway in Woodside, South Australia. On one property, teams from Flight Centre and ADRA helped pulled out burnt water lines and lay new ones as well as cutting off fire-damaged fruit to help the vines have the best chance of survival. More teams are heading out every week.

Thankyou for your continued support and prayers for those affected by fires, and for the on-going bushfire response.

## MEALTIME ON MILTON

Mealtime on Milton Community Dinner kicks off for its third year this year, continuing to serve the community in Mackay. Last year saw the addition of free hair cuts by Hair Aid Australia on six weekly basis, in addition to Orange Sky Laundry. The final dinner for 2019, was Christmas themed and saw over 70 community members attend and enjoy a delicious Christmas feast. We have been very blessed with regular attendance from community members, and all those involved have enjoyed making a difference in the community. Mealtime on Milton for 2019 served 909 meals to members of the community throughout the year and approximately 700 takeaway meals were sent home with attendees. We are eternally grateful for the volunteers from our church community, and also for members from the community who volunteer with us. This year has found the efforts of all being recognised locally with a nomination for an Australia Day Award. We're looking forward to see where the Lord blesses and leads this year.

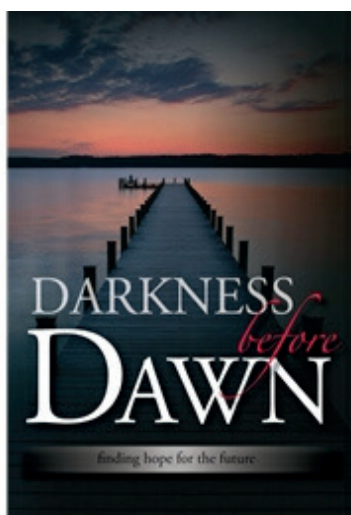




# ABC Christian Books

## ARE YOU READY FOR JESUS TO RETURN?

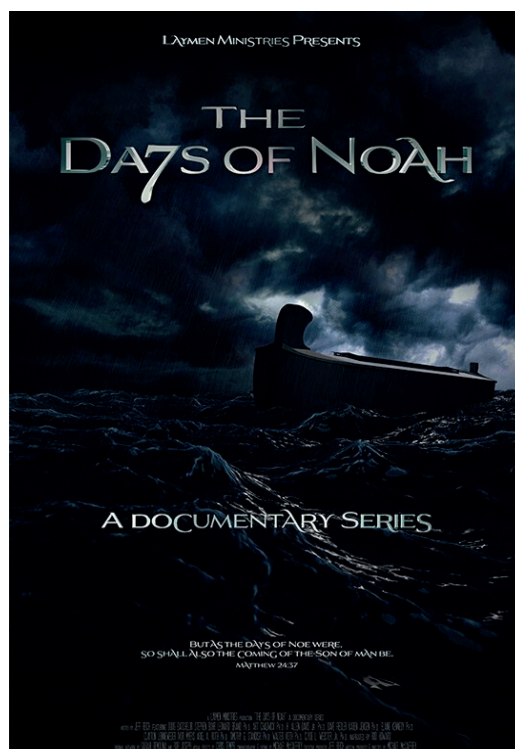
Look what we are promoting in February!



Darkness Before Dawn gives you the answers you need to understand what is happening in the world around you. You will know what direction our world is taking, how you are involved, and how it will all end. **\$2.00**

The Days of Noah series investigates the revealing prophetic parallels between the message of Noah and the book of Revelation to uncover as never before, The Truth about the Ark of refuge at the end of time and how to enter into it.

**\$49.95 Set of 4 DVD's**



**DID  
YOU  
KNOW?!**

**We can order in anything that  
Koorong sells for the same price?  
(Excluding sale items)**

**VISIT [AdventistBooks.com.au](http://AdventistBooks.com.au) or  
55 Leopold Street AITKENVALE**

**Email: [naabc@adventist.org.au](mailto:naabc@adventist.org.au) PH 47287097**



## WELCOME



### **KYLIE DAVIS - CHILDRENS MINISTRY LEADER AND ASSISTANT HEALTH LEADER**

My husband Brendan and I first moved to the Northern Australian Conference in 2006. Since then we have moved in and out of the Conference and we are currently church planting in Cooktown. I teach at Endeavour Christian College and have enjoyed teaching a range of subjects including Health and Physical Education, my speciality. I am interested in supporting our conference in spiritual, social, mental, emotional, occupational, intellectual and physical health. Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. 3 John1:2



### **BRONWYN GOODWIN - RIVERSIDE ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

Mrs Goodwin has been a teacher for over 30 years with experience in both Primary and High School. Most recently she has been the Head of Middle School in an Adventist school in Sydney and an Acting Principal in an Aboriginal Education Centre in Outback NSW. After visiting our school, she and her husband Ralph are excited about the move to North Queensland and becoming a part of the Riverside community. She is passionate about supporting children to thrive and develop a love for learning and believes that God has special plans for our school in the years ahead.



### **TRAVIS SIUTU - NAC YOUTH DIRECTOR, PERSONAL MINISTRIES AND SABBATH SCHOOL**

Travis Siutu was born in Auckland, New Zealand, and has Samoan heritage. He has lived in Australia since he was 7, mainly in Sydney. He graduated from Avondale College in 2011 and has served in Adelaide, South Australian Conference for the last 8 years in different roles such as school chaplain, Youth Pastor and Church Pastor. He's been married for the last 13 years to Puna and he has a son, Jeremiah, who is 5 years old. "Looking forward to our move to the tropical and sunny side of Australia and looking forward to teaming up with NAC."



### **OMERA LONDON - HEALTH MINISTRIES LEADER**

Omera-Faith London is a Nutritional Therapist and Natural Food Recipe Developer. Omera is a proud Kalkadoon, Malaitan and African American woman who loves sharing natural health through cooking. The kitchen is her lab and if you visit her home, you will certainly be invited to try something new. Over the past seven years she has developed a wholistic lifestyle program called Genesis Living. In the process she discovered a passion for experiencing and sharing Jesus through health.

Despite managing a chronic illness for over 20 years her outlook on life is "Blessed, to be a blessing!" She is excited to see how God will use wellness to bless and transform families in North Queensland. Omera has been married to Pr. James London for 15 wonderful years and feels privileged to minister alongside him. In her downtime she enjoys flying stunt kites and playing Tetris.

## FARWELL



Pastor Christos Spero has been called to the South Queensland Conference to serve as a Youth Director. His ministry in the Northern Australian Conference has been greatly appreciated and he will be missed. We wish all of God's blessings on him and Raquel as they continue serving God down south. Thank you Christos for all you have done for our Conference.

## ALICE SPRINGS

### CHIP

In October 2019 the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) was introduced in Alice Springs and the response from the community has been excellent. With help from Pam Townend (SPD) and Sharon Stevenson (Australian CHIP Coordinator), a team of volunteers and the CHIP Facilitator from the Alice Springs SDA Church commenced the program on October 27, 2019. The venue was donated by a community member (non Adventist) who has been one of the enthusiastic participants. A series of sessions were held - two sessions every week until Sunday, December 1, 2019. The series of CHIP sessions will resume on Sunday, February 9, 2020, and will run for four weeks, at the end of which there will be a graduation ceremony. The volunteers and participants have put in a lot of time and effort and are looking forward to the completion of the program. It was during one of the CHIP promotional sessions held at the town's Multicultural Centre that a community member offered the venue for this program. Attendances have been averaging eighteen participants and there are others interested in joining the second round of CHIP sessions when they commence later in March 2020. By the grace God, Alice Springs hope to run CHIP program four times this year and it will be a blessing to see more local church members being certified as CHIP Facilitators.



## MOSSMAN AND MAREEBA

### BAPTISM

Last year Mossman SDA Church was blessed with two baptisms and Mareeba SDA Church had one re-baptism. Pr Sean and Mossman Church Members journeyed with Dion Williams and Nick Rex Stevenson every Tuesday afternoon studying the bible and discovering Jesus, the gift of salvation and awesome plans he has for his children. So on 14th December, 2019, a Baptismal Service was arranged and joining in support and encouragement were the Mareeba SDA church, who sang songs of praise and joy during the service. Pr Sean baptised Dion and Nick in the Mossman River at the Foxton Bridge. As Pr Sean presented an appeal for anyone to follow in the same commitment, Jess Tevaga - serving member from Mareeba SDA Church, stepped into the waters for re-baptism. The day was full of praise to God as His Spirit filled peoples lives. Ending the service with a commission prayer with involvement of all the elders present and Pr Brendon Davis, they then celebrated with a good potluck lunch. "Count on it — that God's angels throw a party every time one lost soul turns to God" (Luke 15:10, MSG)





## RAVENSHOE

### BAPTISM

Recently at Ravenshoe church things have been getting pretty exciting. Since last year Ivy Silk of Herberton has been keenly coming to our church. She told us in her testimony that she always believed in God. Her daughter Trudy from Townsville City church, who introduced Ivy to the Sabbath has prayed for her Mum for many years. Ivy, a great Bible student, took the challenge to find out for herself. Pr Wolfgang and sister Lyn Joy would bring Ivy to Ravenshoe church on Sabbaths. Through the weeks our pastoring couple have been studying the Bible with Ivy to help her understand the Bible better. That led to Ivy's request for baptism. The congregation was a buzz with the news of a baptism. The date was set for Sabbath 18th Jan 2020. The morning arrived and sadly Pr Wolfgang took ill and was unable to lead out. However, the Lord provided His servant Pr. Eddie Hastie, who travelled many hours that day to baptize Ivy. Upon her coming up out of the water she was welcomed by many warm Christian hugs. Ivy was already considered part of our church family; this was just to make it official. Congratulations to Ivy and may Jesus lead and guide you.



## MACKAY CENTRAL

### ORDAINED

On Sabbath 25th January, two church members at Mackay Central were ordained into their new church positions. Together with ordained Elders within the church, Pr Ragaso Tagaloa led in the Ordination pray for both Andrew Jurello, as Elder, and Deyan Stoykovic, as Deacon. Pr Tagaloa prayed for God's blessing in their lives, support from and for their families and God's guidance as they serve in their new positions, not only in the church but in the wider community.



## FLY AND BUILD

### BE PART OF AN ANSWER TO PRAYER

Since 2009 Team Mackay under the leadership of Pr Tom Osborne have helped build 10 such churches in many different parts of Fiji and all have been an answer to prayer, in some cases it has been their prayer for well over a decade. It is very moving to see their happiness and tears of joy as their dreams and prayers are realised thanks to volunteers and donors here in Northern Australia. This year in early May another build is planned for Veikoba Church not far out of Suva. If you would like to be part of an answer to prayer, please contact Pr Tom Osborne [tpoeosborne@yahoo.com](mailto:tpoeosborne@yahoo.com) or Graeme Mau [mauis1@bigpond.com](mailto:mauis1@bigpond.com) for more info





## SAIBAI DEDICATION



November 30 marked a great day of celebration on Saibai Is in the Torres Strait. The dedication of the new church/chapel, the dedication of three babies and an afternoon baptism capped off a great weekend. The official opening/dedication of the chapel was the result of many hours by workers and volunteers, but particularly Mark and Learne Collins who were the pastoral team in the Torres Strait until the end of 2018. The chapel was built on land gifted to the church by the Waia family, whose daughters are now the mainstay along with other local members.

The dedication service was attended by members from Thursday Island, Moa Island, members from PNG, along with local members, community members and two local church pastors from Saibai, who assisted in the service. Following the dedication service, three little babies were dedicated to the Lord and the celebration was followed by a huge community feast (kai kai).

Following the feasting, a large crowd gathered at the beach to witness the celebration and baptism of Zoenda Waia, the daughter of Terry, one of the first members on Saibai. The fact that a large salt-water crocodile was sighted at the site of the baptism just the previous day made our time in the water rather nervous (and quick!!). Please continue to pray for our members in what is probably the most remote church group we have in Australia.



## THURINGOWA PRAYING FOR THE COMMUNITY

For quite a number of months members of Thuringowa Company have been visiting the doors of the neighbouring community offering prayer for whatever the people needed at the time. This offer has been well received. In concluding the year healthy homemade biscuits were baked, wrapped and handed out. These two happy boys were very eager to help their mother prepare these biscuits.





# 'Search For Certainty'

## Power Points

A NEW **FREE** EVANGELISM RESOURCE



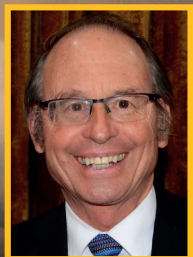
Pr. Mark Finley.  
Evangelist  
Assistant to the President  
General Conference

"Thank you for the outstanding work that you and your wife have done on the graphics for the Search for Certainty lessons. After looking at them I am convinced God will use these graphics in a very powerful way to lead people to Jesus and the prophetic truths of His Word in these last days of human history."



Pr. Gary Webster.  
Director, South Pacific  
Institute of Public  
Evangelism, President of  
Tasmania Conference

"Search for Certainty" are marvelous lessons to use in sharing Jesus with others. Now thanks to what you have both done together in putting these lessons into a graphics presentation, this resource can be used even more widely. Pictures are worth a thousand words and this is definitely something that is easy to use and that God will use to change lives."



Pr. Don Fehlberg  
Remote Area Minister  
Australian Union  
Conference

"On our last itinerary around out-back Australia we gave the 'Search for Certainty' PowerPoints to pastors, Bible workers and group leaders. In Ali Curung community in the Northern Territory, an African couple conducting regular Sabbath afternoon meetings were searching for suitable material to help indigenous people with literacy problems. They were delighted with the pictures in 'Search for Certainty' to help explain the messages clearly."



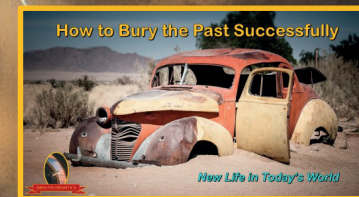
A new series of thirty Power-Point presentations in high resolution graphics designed to support the existing 'SEARCH FOR CERTAINTY' Bible study lesson sets (available from ABC Book Centres) written by Evangelist Pr. Mark Finley, Assistant to the President of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Washington D.C. U.S.A.

Compiled by West Australian lay members, Graham and Dianne Weir, the new PowerPoints are designed to empower lay members, church boards and Pastors to conduct in-home Bible studies as well as full-message evangelistic programs in support of, or without the need to depend on, visiting evangelists. They are extremely easy to use, even by people with no training or experience in giving Bible studies, and are well suited for in-home presentations just by connecting a computer or USB stick to a smart T.V.

The on-screen text is a 100% reflection of the text in the paper lesson sets sold by Adventist Book Centres, thus enabling the lesson sheets to be given to class participants as a take-home record of each study. It also is a great help to people with hearing problems and users of English as a second language.

Designed as 'OPEN ACCESS' presenters can copy the originals into a separate file and change the text into any language to suit any culture. All images and graphics are copyright cleared for sharing, public broadcast and use in social media. Full guidelines and examples of advertising designs are given in the first five slides in each presentation. The download package includes templates for registration cards, name tags and a graduation certificate.

### POWER POINT EXAMPLES



Request your **FREE DOWNLOAD PACKAGE** of the complete set of 30 Power Point presentations and support materials  
Email Graham and Dianne Weir [gmw@westnet.com.au](mailto:gmw@westnet.com.au)

*This is a completely free project in support of Total Member Involvement*



Graham & Dianne Weir  
Lay Evangelists and 'Search For Certainty'  
Power Point Compilers



# MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## *for eternity*



## *Join*

# LITERATURE MINISTRY



### *Person to Person*

Get out there and meet people where they're at. Whether you want to earn an income or distribute free literature as a volunteer, anyone can get involved!



### *Students*

Join a student Literature Evangelism camp event with likeminded young people and students.



### *Workshops*

Facilitate a workshop or book-party where books and other media will be on display for people to browse and purchase.



### *Pop-up Stalls*

Pop-up book stores allow you to meet people in a variety of neutral venues including school events, health expos, shopping centres and local fairs.

*Find out more*



like LITERATURE MINISTRY



visit LITERATURE.ADVENTISTCHURCH.COM