

Top News Lite

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

ISSUE 7: 15/05/2020



MINITORIAL

I USED TO BE PERFECT

I used to be perfect, until I got married! While it's a bit of a tongue-in-cheek comment and is in no way meant to disparage my beautiful wife, there is a lot of truth to it. Let me explain. In my single life I was free to think and act as I liked (within reason). Even when Suzanne and I were courting, I was generally on my best behaviour and, as we only saw each other face to face infrequently, many of my undesirable traits remained hidden. So without any objections from others, it was easy to think that I was a pretty good human specimen!

It wasn't until after we were married that my wife noticed and gently pointed out a few objectionable traits. I was gobsmacked. Some of my shortcomings were unconsciously done, but others were deliberate though without any clue as to how they would be perceived by others. I fast came to the conclusion that my ego had to go and I needed to accept that maybe I was actually far from perfect.

What stands out about this experience is that it parallels my relationship with Jesus. While ever I only knew ABOUT Him, it was easy to think I was pretty good spiritually. I took pride in my knowledge and my actions and even carried an arrogant air which led me to be critical of others. But once I moved into an intimate relationship WITH Jesus, it fast became apparent just how flawed I actually was. And the closer I got to Him, the more imperfect I appeared.

My patient wife still points out the occasional issue of mine as it arises but I must admit I am a far better product than I was a handful of years ago. I know that my refinement will continue in our marriage because I now see that there is plenty in me that needs to improve. Ditto for my relationship with Jesus. I realise that the closer a person is to his/her Saviour, the more humble they will become as He "who began the good work within you, [continues] his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns" (Phil 1:6).



Darren Slade
President
Northern Australian Conference

CAIRNS ADVENTIST COLLEGE

ANZAC Day was commemorated early at Cairns Adventist College with fewer students than normal. Approximately 20% of the regular student body attended the school's 11am service, with school captain and college principal, Adam Coe, laying a wreath at the school's flag poles, while the students and staff present listened respectfully to the Last Post.

Afterwards students planted their own poppies out the front of the school as a sign of respect. We will remember them. Lest we Forget.

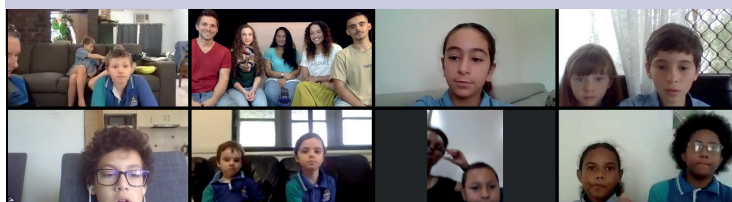


RIVERSIDE ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

"Riverside Adventist Christian School was privileged to have Endless Praise (Christian Music Band) run Chapel for us in Week 2 this term, via Zoom. The students were so excited to have EP interacting, singing songs and sharing a story. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to worship in this special way together and we are praying EPs planned visit in person in August will be a reality. Thank you EP, you made a difference, not just to the students but the staff as well.

The Covid-19 Learning from Home experience has been a challenge for all our schools and teachers and it has been such a blessing to be part of a God-directed, supportive system of schools. Our students have made cards to letterbox the community to say we care and are praying for them and we have been able to bless our families with little items such as toilet rolls when we send out our learning packs. Riverside staff have shared their gratitude for families who have worked so hard to keep their children on track with their learning and who in return gift us with little thank yous.

For all it's challenges, the Covid pandemic has brought new growth and opportunities for joy. God is Good!



Coronavirus COVID-19 Updates:

- These are being sent out regularly (at present weekly), following AdCom's Critical Incident Management Meetings, including to local church leadership teams (pastor, senior elder, treasurer, clerk). If you hold one of these positions and haven't been receiving the update we may not have your email address. Please contact ElizabethSuavai@adventist.org.au
- The Conference is recommending that churches follow the State/Territory Health Department legislation and guidelines on the easing of restrictions. These will impact your congregation differently depending on size of meeting space, size of congregation and location. While restrictions are lifting, church life as we knew it at the start of the year may not return for some months beyond July, particularly for larger congregations.

Adventist Book Centre – with the lifting of restrictions the ABC has re-opened to the public and resumed its regular trading hours. You will notice some changes in store for physical distancing and EFTPOS is preferred.

Schools and Early Learning – this has certainly been a different time for staff and families during the past several months. Thank you to our amazing staff, students and families who have found ways to work together to continue learning. We know it has been challenging at times and will continue to have periods of adjustment in transitioning back to classrooms. Our Schools and Early Learning Centres have been well placed and moving in line with Government recommendations.

NAC Constituency Meeting – previously advertised for August has been deferred to 24-25 October 2020 (or 30-31 January 2021 as a backup date should it not be viable to hold the meeting in October). Thank you to those churches who have returned their delegates lists.

Membership – total conference membership at 31 March 2020 was 2,738 (a net increase of 3 for the quarter).

Tithe and Offerings:

- We know our members have been impacted during this pandemic. Thank you for continuing to faithfully return your tithes and offerings.
- A reminder to continue to support local church expense offerings as while not physically meeting in premises, for the majority of our congregations there are still regular bills to be paid, akin to going on holidays and still having to pay the rent/mortgage, utility bills etc.
- Tithe received for the month of March was \$242,802.71. A strong January and February saw a cumulative tithe for the first quarter of 2020 being \$851,060.72 (an increase of \$16,060.34 on the same time last year).
- We are waiting for April tithe figures to be received from local church treasurers.

Jobkeeper – Seventh-day Adventist Church (Northern Australian Conference) Ltd has registered for this scheme. Declining income across the Adventist Book Centre & Riverside Convention Centre and predicted decline in giving through tithe & event cancellations triggered this decision. It is not anticipated that Seventh-day Adventist Schools (Northern Australia) Ltd will be eligible.

Church Structure Review – Town Hall Meetings scheduled, as expected, have been postponed due to COVID-19. At this stage the meetings scheduled in NAC for June will be postponed.

Mamarapha College – please pray for Mamarapha College. It currently has no students due to COVID-19 and we know Mamarapha is dear to a lot of our folk who have studied or know people who have studied there.

None of us have been in the situation that we are experiencing at the present time and I am constantly reminded of Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

This is my prayer for each and every one of us.



FLOURISH CONNECT GROUP

BEGINS TUESDAY NIGHT 19TH MAY

Here is the link to click on for our Tuesday night meetings at 7:15pm. I have set it up as a recurring meeting, so the same link can be used each week.

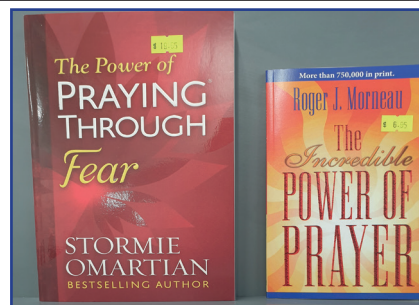
<https://adventistchurch.zoom.us/j/92033774918>

If you can't make each week that is fine. This is providing an opportunity where us ladies can connect with each other once a week and invite our friends to join too.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SHARING THIS TIME WITH YOU



ABC Christian Books



WE ARE FOCUSING ON PRAYER THIS WEEK

The Incredible Power of Prayer: \$6.95

Roger Morneau was a man of remarkable faith. When he prayed, things happened – exciting things! Patients dying in a hospital got well. Shattered families were reunited. Addicts found freedom. Hearts were changed.

The Power of Praying Through Fear: \$19.95

Is fear affecting your life? Does it ever steal your peace and disturb your sleep? In today's world, fear has become epidemic. It takes away our sense of well-being; stresses our mind, body, and soul; and can keep us from doing what we need to do.

Both books are a great read and will strengthen your faith and give you the tools to conquer through prayer.

WHILE STOCKS LAST.

CALL (07) 47287097 OR ORDER ONLINE AT

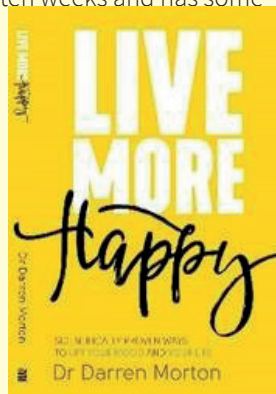
ADVENTISBOOKCENTRE.COM.AU

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CORNER

The Live More Project, provided by Elia Wellness (www.elia wellness.com), is a fantastic course aimed at improving both mental and emotional health and is offered for free. It goes for ten weeks and has some great clips (about 20 minutes each), including both daily and weekly challenges that would benefit the whole family. Studies have shown that the happiness effect can progressively increase up to six months, just by remembering and sharing three things that you are grateful for each day. So, let Dad or Mum know what you are thankful for every day and ask them what they are grateful for too!

This week memory text is:

"Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." Nehemiah 8:10



FULL TIME POSITIONS VACANT

CARLISLE ADVENTIST EARLY LEARNING CENTRE



Full Time – Kindergarten Teacher

Seventh-day Adventist Schools (Northern Australia) Limited (Approved Provider) is seeking to employ a qualified and experienced Early Childhood Teacher at Carlisle Adventist Early Learning Centre in Mackay, QLD. The role is a 12-month fixed-term, full-time position implementing and teaching the Kindergarten program. Applicants must have, or be actively working towards, a Bachelor of Education Early Childhood.

Full Time – Assistant Educator

Seventh-day Adventist Schools (Northern Australia) Limited (Approved Provider) is seeking to employ a qualified and experienced Assistant Educator at Carlisle Adventist Early Learning Centre in Mackay, QLD.

For further information and CV submission, contact Karen Petrie, Project Officer - Early Childhood on email at karenpetrie@adventist.org.au. Applications close on 25 th May 2020.

Resources for Local Church Health Departments

The South Pacific Division would like to support our members and communities during this challenging time by waiving the fee for our key wellness resources until 30 June 2020.

1. Live More Project (10 weeks): Aims to help people improve their emotional wellbeing from a whole-person approach. (Normally \$75 per person)
Darren Morton is offering an additional resource called "What the Bible Says" for free during this time so that the Live More Project can be effectively used in a small group resource in a church setting.
2. De-stress & Thrive (6 weeks): Exciting new resource to help you develop emotional intelligence and resilience so you can buffer the stress of life. (Normally \$25 per person)
3. Forgive to Live (6 weeks): Aims to help people free themselves from past hurt and emotions and start living a new life. To order your free workbook complete this link and pay \$10 for postage and handling. (Normally \$50)

For further information or to set up a group please contact Omera London:

omeradlondon@adventist.org.au



AUSTRALIA WIDE DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING

for the Hope Awakens Evangelistic Campaign

Friday 15th | May



WORSHIP WITH THOUSANDS OF ADVENTISTS
from across the South Pacific Division



**SPECIAL
EVENT**

**MAY
22—23**

#weRtheCHURCH

**MORE INFO AT
ADVENTISTCHURCH.COM**