

Top News

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

MAY - JUNE 2021



CONTENTS

- 4 CFO INTRODUCTION
- 5 CONFERENCE NEWS
- 6 YOUTH / SCHOOL
- 7 - 11 CHURCH NEWS

CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

24 JULY

CHILDREN'S SABBATH

30 JULY - 01 AUGUST

CAIRNS REGION YOUTH CAMP

31 JULY

MINI BIG CAMP EVENT (DARWIN)

20 - 22 AUGUST

TOWNSVILLE YOUTH CAMP

28 AUGUST

MINI BIG CAMP EVENT (TOWNSVILLE)

SUMMER CAMP CATERER NEEDED

We are currently looking for some helpers that can cater for our Summer Camp next year at Quinola Lakes. Summer Camp dates are 17 - 23 January 2022

TO EXPRESS INTEREST PLEASE CONTACT THE CONFERENCE OFFICE
ON (07) 4779 3988 OR EMAIL TRAVISSIUTU@ADVENTIST.ORG.AU

Editor

Elizabeth Suavai

Design

Alex Green Design

Contact

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 IS TO BE A
"CHRIST-CENTRED THRIVING
DISCIPLE-MAKING MOVEMENT"

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

FREEDOM

I just finished a book on the conversion story of a Muslim lady in Pakistan who became a Christian. It was distressing to read how the woman had to flee the country, and remains anonymous in her new homeland, to escape her father who was/is desperately trying to kill her. To be a Christian in Pakistan means living in poverty as no decent jobs are open to you, and converting from Islam to Christianity there often means a death sentence.

Similar stories of hardships, persecution, imprisonment and death for Christians are common in many countries around the globe and so it is with a grateful heart that I enjoy the freedom of living as a Christian here in Australia. And yet some of those freedoms we take for granted are being eroded, and that was the focus of the recent Religious Freedom weekend on June 11-13 where Muslims, Jews and Christians all shared and prayed about safeguarding the rights of people of faith to be able to live out, and freely express their views, without prejudice or discrimination.

Under threat in our country are traditional beliefs and values on sexuality, family life and ethics concerning the beginning and end of life. Victoria has passed new laws in which it can even be an offence to pray for someone struggling with their sexuality, as it is deemed to be suppression or coercion. And those laws have extra-territorial reach, meaning that if I say or do something here in the NAC in this space and someone in Victoria is offended by it, then I am called to answer for my actions in a Victorian court of law.

Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia have Euthanasia Bills which permit assisted dying in certain circumstances and, at the other end of life, the ACT has abortion laws which have no gestational limit, meaning that abortions can take place up until the birth of the child! One of our Adventist schools just over the water in Fiji is going to the Supreme Court after losing an appeal in the High Court allowing them to only employ Adventist teachers rather than the government appointed staff of any background or persuasion.

Things are getting more challenging in this region of the world to the beliefs and values we hold dear.

As a result it is good to remind ourselves of three key freedoms we wish to continue to see protected in this country:

1. Protection of religious people and institutions from discrimination on the basis of their beliefs or activities.
2. Rights for faith-based institutions and communities to retain their identity and values through shaping their membership, leadership and staffing according to their beliefs.
3. Rights for religious people to decide how they pray, who they pray for, and what they pray for.

So continue to pray for our politicians and lawmakers, and don't hold back in signing petitions, writing letters and making your opinion heard in some way on these matters. The dissenting voices are very loud and so must ours be so that we can continue to enjoy religious freedom. I like what Paul said to Timothy in this regard:

“I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior...” (1 Tim 2:1-3).



Darren Slade
President
Northern Australian Conference

CFO INTRODUCTION

At the end of my first week in Townsville, I was delighted because the weather was warmer, I grew up with tropical weather, so this is what my body temperature was used to. Then, on Sunday morning we went to a market in Thuringowa, and I was so happy to find tropical fruits (sweet pawpaw, jackfruit, rambutan, mangosteens) and veggies that I liked. Guess what, I was hoping to find Durian fruit in season.

I was born in Indonesia, our neighbour country in the North. I graduated from university with a bachelor's degree in accountancy and a master's in business administration. Since then, I have worked for US oil and gas company for about 24 years in the areas of accounting and finance. I was so determined to climb the ladder in my career and God has been so good to me. After working for 12 years in Indonesia, I had the opportunity to work in Singapore, Malaysia and Brisbane in the finance leadership team level. Our lives made a drastic turn when after we prayed and surrendered our life in 2016, God called me to ministry. So, we went to Andrews University in the US where I completed my master's in divinity. I then received the calling to serve as a pastor in the South Queensland Conference, before I accepted the call to come to NAC.



My wife's name is Catherine. She is a psychologist but when we moved from Indonesia, she did not continue her profession. She is now completing a medical missionary course. We have three children. Our eldest child is Raysha, she has just completed her psychology degree and she is now looking for a job. Ryano is our second child, he is studying at Andrews University and he is taking medical laboratory science. He is waiting for a final confirmation to go for a year-long student missionary abroad. Gio is our youngest and he is in Year 10 at Tweed Valley Adventist College.

My hobbies are sports, outdoor and travelling. I try to run three times a week (looking forward to meeting you in the fun run at Big Camp). We love hiking, going on road trips and one thing that we liked to do in our annual leave was to go snorkeling and scuba diving. The very first holiday when we came to Australia in 2012 was a visit to Cairns. Yes, this region is the best spot for the above adventures.

I am humbled to be called to serve in the Northern Australian Conference. We prayed and fasted over the weekend before I accepted the call and God clearly answered our prayers and affirmed us to follow the call to NAC. I believe that God has a special purpose for our service here. With my background in both finance and ministry, I can apply my experience and passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and service to the community. I am looking forward to meeting you and collaborating with you to help others know Jesus.

When I worked for the oil and gas company, I used to go scuba diving every year as part of my annual break. I truly enjoyed underwater experiences with colourful coral reefs and different kind of amazing fish. We normally go 15-20 meters below the surface to watch different kinds of marine life.

It was so beautiful to see God's creation that we would often forget to check how much oxygen we have in the tank. It is very important to regularly look into the oxygen barometer to make sure that oxygen is sufficient. The more we know that the time is almost the end, the more frequently and urgently we need to check the oxygen barometer.

Friends, we are living in the last days and we need to increase our prayer life to grow in faith in Him, to unlock the potential in our conference and to passionately share the love of Jesus to the people around us. "Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence" (Steps to Christ, p. 93). When Jesus's disciples prayed, the Holy Spirit was poured out (Acts 1:14, 2:4, 4:31), when the church prayed together, the church broke the barrier and grew (Acts 2:42-47), when the church prayed, miracles happened, and Peter was freed from prison (Acts 12:5-7). Friends be fervent in prayer and watch in the Spirit.

HEALTH GET MOVING

The physical activity and exercise guidelines for Australian Children aged 5-17 years of age is one hour a day. An article from the Health | Adventist.org website titled 'Playtime: Tips to get your kids active', recommended the following. "If you want your kids to be more active, one of the best things you can do is participate with them," says Shavise Hargro, an exercise physiologist at Johns Hopkins Weight Management Center in Baltimore. "Kids learn behavior from watching their parents."

Depending on your children's ages and interests, there are a variety of ways you can get your kids up and moving more:

- **Turn sedentary activities into active ones:** If your kids love video games, look for Wii or PlayStation games such as tennis that get them up off the couch.
- **Make active time together as a family a priority:** Play tag or Frisbee in the backyard, plan a family bike ride, or walk several times a week.
- **Follow your kids' interests:** Some kids enjoy team sports such as basketball and soccer, while others may prefer to learn how to rock-climb or do other individual sports.
- **Cut back on "screen time":** The more time your children spend in front of the television and computer, the more likely they are to be overweight and inactive. When your kids do watch TV, use commercial breaks to do jumping jacks, sit-ups, or push-ups.
- **Talk to your kids about the connection between activity and health:** Kids who move more perform better on tests, are more likely to play sports, and are less likely to experience anxiety and depression.



JOB VACANCY

EDUCATION ACCOUNTANT/BUSINESS MANAGER – SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOLS (NORTHERN AUSTRALIA)

SDA Schools (NA) Limited is seeking an experienced Accountant/Business Manager to maintain the education accounting systems and processes, prepare financial reports and process transactions. Good communication skills are also required to work with the Education Director, Segment Leaders and staff at the schools and ELC in Northern Australia. This full-time role will report directly to the Chief Financial Officer and will be based at the Conference office in Townsville. Tertiary qualifications in accounting or finance with at least three years of experience is essential. For full selection criteria, please go to <adventistemployment.org.au>. To apply, please send a cover letter addressing the selection criteria, your CV, three work-related referees and the contact details of your Adventist church pastor to: Mr Jeffrey Masengi, Chief Financial Officer, Seventh-day Adventist Church (NAC) Ltd, P O Box 51, Aitkenvale Qld 4814 Australia; or email to jeffreymasengi@adventist.org.au. The appointing body reserves the right to fill this position at its discretion and close applications early; only those who have the legal right to work in Australia may apply. **Applications close July 23, 2021.**

MACKAY YOUTH COMBINED CAMP

May 14 – 16 we were blessed to have youth from Mackay Central, Farleigh, Proserpine & Mackay North join together at The Diggings Camping Grounds. It was a great time of fellowship, worshipping God together, connecting with other youth groups, hiking to waterfalls, 4-wheel driving and sharing life stories around the campfire. Thank you to everyone that came along.



CARLISLE ADVENTIST COLLEGE KITCHEN BUILD UNDER WAY

Praise God, building has started!

Included in this build:

- A commercial Kitchen, Café and classroom on the ground floor;
- two classrooms, withdrawal room, store and clean tech room on the first floor;
- the Prep classroom will be getting extended and refurbished;
- the Tuckshop will be refurbished!

The new building will be placed where the current back carpark is, so a new carpark has just been completed.

Funding is in place to provide the basic buildings. We still need about \$100,000 to put tables and chairs, furniture and equipment in the kitchen and classrooms.

As we approach “tax time” please note that tax-deductible donations can be made to the Carlisle Building Fund. Thank you to all those who have already made this project possible by generously donating funds.

To make a donation select the Carlisle Adventist College Hospitality Building offering in the list of offerings on E-giving or call the conference office on (07) 4779 3988.



BATCHELOR CHURCH MINISTRY AT THE PARK



Sabbath 27th March saw the final presentation of our five consecutive weeks Batchelor Ministry in the Park program titled “Come and See”.

How do we gauge the success of these meetings? Only God knows the hearts of all the folk who attended this five week program, including our church families from Darwin, Palmerston and Malak. The last four meetings we had three Batchelor adults, two of which came four times. The third local who came this week is a Fijian chap who used to work for Radio Rum Jungle at the Batchelor Institute. He has offered to promote any future programs that we hold in Batchelor. He was very impressed with what he saw and heard including Corey Sutton’s powerful testimony at the end of the program. Joe wrote a few words and posted some photos on the Coomalie Community Watch facebook page.

Miss Wills mentioned to me that God had woken her from her afternoon sleep each Saturday and impressed her to come to the meetings. It is not easy for her as she is in her mid 80s and uses a “wheelie walker”, but she made the effort each week. The Dad of four of our Sabbath School children who has now come to Sabbath School on the bus with his children three times and stayed for the duration, assisted Miss Wills each week. He was a big help to me also. His young daughter told me that “Daddy never used to believe in God but since he has been coming to Sabbath School and the meetings he believes in God now”. Praise the Lord.

Elder Tongai had previously invited Miss Wills one of Batchelor’s elderly icons who was Senior Territorian Volunteer of the Year 2020, to play the keyboard and sing a song for us and she was joined by Kiri one of our Sabbath

School children. Together they sang “All Day All Night Angels Watching Over Me My Lord.” We were blessed with the African Choir; the Fijian Choir; Corey, Linda and Havilah Sutton; Ima Cokanasiga and also the children singing beautifully for us.

Mrs Tetha Koro presented the final of our NEWSTART Health Message with Rest and Trust in God. This NEWSTART program was very well received by Miss Wills she said it was very easy to follow with excellent information and she was pleased to receive the Handout that Elder Tongai had printed for us.

Last but not least, Pr Esava Koro presented his Sermonette “Welcome Home”. This was a powerful message based around the parable of The Prodigal Son. I am sure the Holy Spirit would have touched our Dad’s heart as He never fails to touch my heart when I hear this parable about our Heavenly Father’s unconditional love for his sinful children. Indeed this parable exemplifies from the guttermost to the uttermost.

Prayer for the out pouring of the Holy Spirit was a major part of our planning, preparation and presentation of our Batchelor Ministry program. We had been praying since November and one of our requests to God was that He hold back the rain on Sabbath afternoons. From week one we prayed for no rain on Sabbath until we were all on our way home and very little rain on Friday. Week three it started to rain during our setting up, we prayed and it stopped. Week four half way through the program it started to rain and we all prayed silently and the rain stopped. We believe God was testing our faith and He honoured our prayers by holding back the rain. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness.

Thank you to the Coomalie Council who supplied the venue and the power free of charge. Thank you also to the Council for providing us with their community bus each week, year in, year out, to collect and drop off the children for Sabbath School.

We give thanks and praise to our heavenly Father for pouring out His Holy Spirit each week and touching the hearts of all who came to our programs.



ATSIM STORY

WE OF THE NEVER NEVER



New We of the Never Never statues were unveiled by local Mayor Judy MacFarlane and Florence Peters in Stan Martin Park at the Never Never Festival in Mataranka, Northern Territory.

The ceremony was well attended and included special guest Florence Peters, the Lord Mayor of Darwin and Seventh-day Adventist representatives including the Pastor of Darwin Church Esava Koro and lifelong literature evangelists and global mission volunteers, Andrew and Jeanette Johnson.

To celebrate the special occasion, organisers distributed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Ministry (ATSIM) book *The Girl Who Talked to the Stars*, 200 copies of Gary Kent's *Incredible Journey* DVD of the same name and the Johnson's set up a booth where they were able to sell Adventist literature.

We of the Never Never and *The Little Black Princess* are famous novels written by Jeanie Gunn in the 1900's about her time spent in the outback at Elsey Station. The books talk about a little Aboriginal girl called "Bett Bett" and refer to her as the little black princess. Her notoriety around Australia and the world had many people wanting to know the true identity of the little Aboriginal girl in the novels.

Over half a century later it was revealed that the little black princess was Dolly Bonson, who was introduced to God by Jeanie Gunn and over the years held on to what she had been taught.

In her later years, Dolly and her daughter, Florence Peters, attended an evangelistic meeting run by Pastor Billy Otto in Darwin, where she saw a picture of the second coming, something she had dreamt about and knew she was in the right place when she saw it. Dolly and Florence went on

to study the Bible with Pastor Tom Ludowici and decided to become Seventh-day Adventists. At her baptism, Dolly was able to finally tell the world her hidden identity and since then Florence has helped tell her mother's story and continues to tell her story, even after Dolly's death in 1988. "This was an exciting event for Seventh-day Adventists, especially Aboriginal Seventh-day Adventists," explained Pastor Don Fehlberg remote area senior pastor for ATSIM at the Australian Union Conference (AUC), "for a whole generation *We of the Never Never* was a reading textbook at school, many people grew up knowing about this book and many people have travelled to see the statues."

"The characters from *We of the Never Never* allowed people to gain insight to what the outback was like back then," stated Pastor Darren Garlett director for ATSIM at the AUC, "it romanticised Australia and the first people and left readers wanting to know more about us and the outback."

"Many people I visit from that generation still remember the book and "Bett Bett" and it is great to have that connection when introducing them to ATSIM and Seventh-day Adventists," added Pastor Garlett.

Florence is the only living child of Dolly and at 89 years old was honoured to be at the unveiling of the statues. She shares the same passion as her mother, to see people ready for the Second Coming of Christ. Nick Creta from Faith FM had the opportunity to interview Florence at the event and will share her story in his "In the Footsteps of Jesus" podcast on the Faith FM website.

If you would like to know more about 'Bett Bett' and how she came to know God, *The Girl Who Talked to the Stars* is available at Adventist Book Centres.



ATHERTON CHURCH REVIVAL

Atherton Church held a series of revival meetings between 26 and 29 May.

The meetings were conducted by Pastor Sam Braga who travelled by road from Alice Springs (where he had recently held an outreach program), to conduct the meetings in Atherton. Pastor Braga was pastor of Atherton Church between 2010 -2012.

The parable outlined in Matthew 19:16-22 featured during the talks, with Pastor Braga covering the topics of justification, sanctification and glorification and the reality that Jesus our Saviour has provided everything necessary for our salvation because of His love for all mankind.

The revival program culminated with a special Sabbath service followed by lunch and a final meeting to summarise the program in the afternoon.



AYR AND HOME HILL CHURCH MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

“All things Beautiful” was the theme of the Mother’s Day breakfast that was shared on Sabbath before Mother’s Day.

We were hesitant to have to be there by 7.00am, but it was well worth the effort; We were pleasantly surprised and felt nurtured,” were some of the comments made by visitors, as well as members of Home Hill and Ayr churches.

All of our faithful sisters provided generously in advance and everyone was treated to a magnificent breakfast, replete with colorful flowers and adorned with beautiful decorations. We were offered beautiful placemats and book markers with inspirational messages and Scripture verses; artistic dinnerware; prayer scrolls; bundles of nuts & chocolates; and gifts of socks & soap to take home as take-home gifts. The young members of our church showed their appreciation for all the mothers by presenting each one with a corsage and sharing a poetry of love.

After the warm welcome, reading of the Psalm 139, prayer, and the heartfelt hymn, “How deep the fathers love for us”, Mavis, our most senior sister, blessed our food, which was varied and flavorful. Sister Dulci, made a delicious porridge, which was accompanied by delicious fruits and by a raspberry coulis that Sister Loretta made. Our newly-baptized sister Rose also made Thai Fried Rice with tomatoes and spring onion roses.

We shared that from God’s Word we learn that everything is made beautiful in God’s time, so that whichever situation we are facing has the potential to build God’s beauty in us - perseverance, humility, grace, and obedience, which leads to everlasting beauty.



THE THREE PRAYING DESSERT DONKEYS



In 1999 Ronald Morton and Raylene Ferguson tied the knot by joining together as partners in the remote indigenous community of Aputula. Another more well-known name for this aboriginal landowners village is Finke. This isolated settlement is situated 230 kilometers South of Alice Springs, only a short distance from the geographical centre of Australia.

In this same year, Lorraine Ferguson, who is Raylene's older sister, living in Port Augusta, discovered the wonderful truths of the Bible. She began keeping the Seventh-day Sabbath. Enthusiastically, she began sharing the Scripture texts relating to this topic with the members of her Finke homeland. She rang up friends and family, and shared how she was now attending Saturday Sabbath services.

Lorraine sent the complete set of Net 99 DVDs to various would be viewers. This preaching Crusade, which was presented by Doug Batchelor, is a fairly complete message series. In fact, she sent not only these spiritually eye opening resources, but anything else she could find to spread the good news. After some time, she reported that a number of people in Finke were wanting to attend the ATSIM (The Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Ministries) Mamarapha College (the Seventh-day Adventist Indigenous Training College in Australia).

Eventually, Lorraine, accompanied pastor Don Fehlberg in his car, along with some other returning community member passengers, on a trip to Finke. They had an ambitious purpose that would prove to be inspired by the Spirit of God to drive all this way that has proved to have borne good fruit ever since. Pastor Eric Davey, the national ATSIM director at the time, also came in his car. They began travelling from various faraway places and converged along the highway that runs right up the centre of the continent. The final leg of the long trip traversed the 134 kilometers of red dirt road diverting off the Stuart Highway. This long unsealed road, that crosses quite a number of usually dry gullies, and long open stretches, brings the travelers East from Kulgera to this impressive Simpson desert community.

Lorraine, and the somewhat intrigued missionary team visited this isolated Red Centre settlement in 2002. It had been reported that a keen interest was aroused among these Southern Arrernte and Luritja people to learn more from God's Word. Lorraine and the visitors were very warmly welcomed.

Don Fehlberg signed up a few early interests to Mamarapha Bible

College and ran many evangelistic series over the following years. This ground breaking work continued until and after a Church was built. The grand opening of the Finke Church began on Friday evening the 26th of November, 2012. This lifted the bar of the spreading of the gospel to an even higher level. The spiritually hungry and thirsting desert mob gratefully responded. Concerts by Steve Darmody and other special events enhanced the interest and commitment of this little town. The number of people acknowledging the truth of the gospel messages that were presented swelled into a significant proportion. The ratio of Sabbath believers has now grown to around one out of every four inhabitants in this parched, arid setting.

Raylene started to think about baptism around 2000, and later publicly demonstrated her faith by being buried in the watery grave at Finke in 2013. This beautiful location is nestled among the red sand dunes on the edge of the Simson desert. Raylene's mother Christine, and son Arthur, along with other community dwellers were also baptized on a number of different occasions.

Ronald and Raylene shared a common belief in Jesus right from the beginning of their relationship, but Ronald wouldn't buy into the seventh-day Sabbath. Raylene was keen to have him unite with her in keeping the Sabbath holy. But Ronald was not budging from his Sunday keeping tradition. Lorraine and Raylene prayed that God would give him some dreams that would influence Ronald to accept the Sabbath. God answered their prayers. However, his reaction was: "that these were only dreams." In his mind that didn't really prove anything. The sisters persisted in prayer.

Toward the end of February 2021, Ronald, Raylene, and Kurt Lee, their grandson; visited the homeland of Ronald's parents. It can be found outside of Titjikala, which is another community consisting of the Southern Arrernte, Luritja and Pitjantjatjara traditional landowners. This major community is similar in population numbers to Finke with around 200 inhabitants. It is located approximately 100 kilometers South of Alice Springs. Titjikala is around half way along the famous "Finke dirt desert race track." which spans the entire distance between the two towns.

On this particular Sabbath day a supernatural, life changing event occurred. Raylene invited her husband to join her and Kurt Lee in a Bible reading and worship service they were about to embark on. He remonstrated: "that's your Churches Sabbath, my day of worship is tomorrow."

Raylene and Kurt Lee began their devotions with prayer as Ronald went nearby to tinker with his car. As the grandmother and grandson began their time with the Lord in prayer, they heard footsteps approaching them from behind. On opening their eyes 20 wild desert donkeys cantered purposely up to them in a most unusual encounter. Stopping only a few meters away from the enthralled pair, this most unexpected congregation of bush animals proceeded to nod their heads up and down vigorously. Kurt Lee commented: "Look Nana they want to join our worship and they want to keep the Sabbath too."

Well that is exactly what this mob of 20 desert dwellers did. After the Bible reading and a song ("Just a little talk with Jesus makes it right" a rendition sung in language and English by Raylene and Kurt Lee) they proceeded to kneel in a benedictory prayer. The sun had now climbed high into the sky. It had nearly reached its midday zenith. At the conclusion of their closing supplicatory talk with Jesus the two worshippers opened their wondering eyes to an extraordinary spectacle. The three leading donkeys were kneeling reverently in prayer. Meanwhile, the rest of the donkey congregation bowed their heads in an act of worship, which demonstrated their solemn respect to the Lord. "Hey Ronald, come and look at this," Raylene called out excitedly. "Something is happening here." Ronald turned from his car to behold the amazing sight. He and Kurt Lee, fully absorbed in the captivating scenario unfolding before their riveted, and undivided attention, walked slowly up to the Sabbath keeping donkeys. To their delighted surprise, these normally shy and unapproachable mob of desert dwellers, allowed the grandfather and grandson to affectionately stroke them. This most unlikely mix of believers mingled together, as all good Sabbath keepers do, after the worship service. Never before had such a Sabbath day worship service been witnessed or orchestrated and executed, by the Holy Spirit and angels, in such a strikingly supernatural manner. That is, of course, not in this Red Centre desert region. Balaam's donkey now has around 20 descendant companions that have joined him in demonstrating that the Lord of the Sabbath is still in control of His creatures. The animals in God's marvelous handiwork are often more responsive to His bidding than the human race are prone to be. But Christ delights in drawing precious souls into the truth of the Bible, no matter what it takes. Well, Ronald was finally convinced about which day is the Sabbath day. He immediately started to join the Finke mob in worship. He didn't only join, but also became one of the keyboard and guitar music players, leading out with Nevel Goodwin in praise and worship services. The Finke Church folks were now much more inspired, energized, motivated and galvanized into action than ever before. Mancel and Jubilee Dougherty, the Bible Workers for eight years there, were somewhat surprised and delighted in this unusual turn of events. They invited the district church pastor located at Alice Springs to come and run some revival meetings.

On the first day of May, during the labour day long weekend, twenty-nine enthusiastic church members drove the four hundred and thirty kilometers to Aputula by the long way of better road. This comprised by far the biggest contingent of Alice Springs Church members to participate in Sabbath Services at Finke since the Church opening almost nine years beforehand. The Pathfinders and Master Guides with a few Adventures joined the happy throng of visitors. Everyone enjoyed God's Holy day, participating together as they worshipped, sang, and fellowshiped over delicious food. They also handed out food hampers brought all the way from Townsville by pastor Darren Slade in the ADRA truck. This filled in the Sabbath afternoon activities in a way that lifted up Jesus and His care for all. But the highlight came after closing Sabbath. Everybody was inspired by a sacred concert performed by the Finke Church musical devotees. Young and old Aputula Church members recited the well-rehearsed and inspiring sacred songs mostly in their language, which they had practiced for months. This Red Centre Church is now sharing its faith in a much more effective way than ever before. The whole cluster of around 10 relatives at Kenmore Park outstation, across the border,

are now keeping the Sabbath. This witnessing pattern is a result of the desert Church parishioners joyfully explaining from God's Holy Word vital truths everywhere they go. The whole musical ensemble of Finke artists are travelling over to Mt Liebig later this year to spend a week ministering in the Central Western Desert Region. This opportunity has come about at the invitation of the Lutheran Pastor and district elders there who have heard of the Finke mob's musical talents and Bible based faith. Mt Liebig is over 700 kilometers from Finke.

As Mancel and the pastor conducted meetings in the first week of May; Ronald, Kurt Lee and 15 others requested baptism. On the 20th of May the Finke mob drove to Alice Springs and camped in tents and swags on the church compound. Only a few days later on the 22nd was the climax of God's leading. This was a never to be forgotten baptism because of God's miracle working way of initiating the whole process. Now four generations of Lorraine and Raylene's family have been baptized into the beautiful Sabbath keeping Church of the last days. But an even more amazing blessing is: that Raylene's husband is now a vibrant and active part of the ministry too. The Lord has added to the Church one more precious person that only the Sabbath keeping donkeys could convince. Just before the baptism, Alice Springs were concluding two weeks of Revival programs, conducted by their guest speaker pastor Sam Braga. Because of the appeals made during this revival series, seven more sons and daughters of God attending the Alice Springs meetings decided to be baptized too. There were now two lovely groups wanting to be buried in the watery grave of baptism. Altogether the two bunches of believers (24 in all) made up the biggest baptism in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Alice Springs. Although most of these candidates had already been studying God's Word for long periods previous to this time; the baptism had not been planned or anticipated.

Churches rallied together in outstanding harmony of action and sacrificial support to contribute to the success and strong bonding effect created between the two clusters of these very diverse Church groups. The very short notice to follow this spontaneous leading of God in an unprecedented and remarkable outpouring of the Holy Spirit for this district brought and will continue to bring glory to God wherever the story is told.

Over 50 lovely people have now been baptized from the Finke community since 2010. Surely the Spirit of God is moving over the red sand dunes into the hearts and souls of His wonderful people who are waiting to join together at the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. There was great joy and rejoicing among the heavenly angels and Church members at this incredible occasion. To God alone be all the glory for such an amazing turn of events in the spreading of the three angel's messages in this large mission field of central Australia. Without any shadow of a doubt, the Lord gives the increase, as demonstrated by this spontaneous result to the preaching of the gospel in that very merry month of May. The message Jesus gives from the sacred Scriptures for the last days has been faithfully presented by various servants of God over the previous 21 years in the Finke region. The Lord always prevails, even if donkeys are needed to convince precious souls such as Ronald. Ronald now has no doubts as to which day is the Sabbath day.

Pr David Gilmore

Alice Springs
Northern Australian Conference



ABC Christian Books



We are coming to you!!

AS PART OF THE MINI BIG CAMPS WE WILL BE VISITING YOUR AREA ON:

DARWIN: 14TH AUGUST

MACKAY: 4TH SEPTEMBER

ALICE SPRINGS: 16TH AUGUST

CAIRNS: 11TH SEPTEMBER

TOWNSVILLE: 28TH AUGUST

CHECK YOUR BULLETINS FOR TIMES AND LOCATIONS CLOSER TO THE DATE.

DETAILS WILL ALSO BE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE facebook.com/abcchristianbooks

LOOK FORWARD TO:

NEW TITLES

GIFT LINES

EXCLUSIVE CAMP
SPECIALS AND CLEARANCE
ITEMS

CAMP PROMOTION:

SPEND \$60* AND RECEIVE A FREE GIFT!!!

*EXCLUDING FOOD AND DRINK

** AVAILABLE WHILE STOCKS LAST.

TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT AND SO WE HAVE AN IDEA ON QUANTITIES TO BRING, PRE-ORDERS ARE WELCOME (ESPECIALLY FOR PATRITTI AND VEGIE DELIGHTS), PAYMENT NOT REQUIRED UNTIL PURCHASE.

CONTACT DETAILS ARE BELOW



Non-alcoholic Juice and wine

We currently stock:
Flagons:

- Dark Red
- White Grape
- Golden Muscatel
- Apple
- Apple & Pear

Sparkling:

- Red
- Medium White
- Shiraz
- Canada Muscat
- Golden Muscatel
- Apple



We currently stock:

- Casserole
- Mince
- Nutmeat
- Nutolene
- Savoury Lentils
- Tender Pieces
- Vegetarian Sausages

By purchasing your Vegie Delight products from us, 100% of the profit goes to supporting the work of the church.

To order Ph: (07) 47287097, online: www.adventistbookcentre.com.au or visit us instore
55 Leopold Street, Aitkenvale QLD 4814 Hours Mon-Thur 9am-5pm Fri 9am-12:30pm