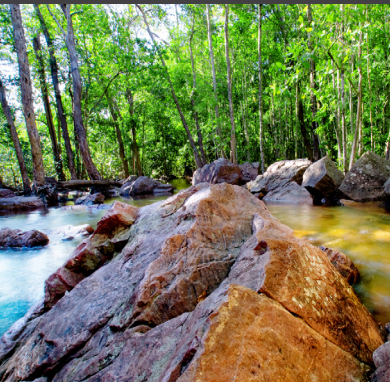


Top News

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

October 2022



Contents & Calendar

3	EDITORIAL
4	SECRETARY/CFO REPORT
5	SECRETARY/CFO REPORT/ STAFF NEWS
6	EDUCATION
7	LE CORNER
8 - 11	CHURCH NEWS
12 - 14	YOUTH

Calendar & Upcoming Events

15 OCTOBER

DARWIN REGIONAL

15-18 OCTOBER

NORTHERN TERRITORY PERSONAL MINISTRIES ROAD SHOW

22-23 OCTOBER

GROWING TOGETHER SUMMIT

5 NOVEMBER

ALICE SPRINGS INVESTITURE

11- 13 NOVEMBER

MEN'S MINISTRIES CAMP

12 NOVEMBER

DARWIN INVESTITURE

12-18 NOVEMBER

EWEEK OF PRAYER

19 NOVEMBER

MOUNT ISA INVESTITURE

26 NOVEMBER

TOWNSVILLE & AYR, MACKAY INVESTITURE

3 DECEMBER

MAREEBA & FNQ INVESTITURE

10 DECEMBER

CAIRNS CENTRAL & EDMONTON INVESTITURE

13-18 DECEMBER

SPD YOUTH CONGRESS

3-8 JANUARY 2023

AUC CAMPOREE TUMBARUMBA NSW

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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.

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MOVEMENT"

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EXTRAVAGANT GIFTS

Note: This editorial was written prior to the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II

What gift do you give to someone who has everything, especially if that person is the Queen of England and the second longest reigning monarch in the history of the world? That's tough, but I have the answer! In the accompanying photo you can see the Christmas present that is being sent to Queen Elizabeth this year from Australia. Yep, it's a comb, but not just any comb. It was handmade over a period of 60 months from the 75 year old horn of one of the Queen's own Merino sheep and is valued at \$4.8M (yes, that's 4.8 million dollars!).

But wait, there's more, the comb is shortly to have \$16M of Argyle diamonds added to it before it heads to Her Majesty, and that makes it such a spectacularly valuable piece that the Queen won't even get to use. It goes straight into her museum so people like you and I can admire the opulence that accompanies royalty. So to ensure Her Royal Highness doesn't miss out, another comb of lesser value is also being sent across for her personal use (see the pic with both combs), valued at \$1.4M.

While many would enviously desire to be the Queen or have the means to procure such expensive items, there is a Biblical worldview that turns this decadence on its head. The Apostle Paul summarised it well when he wrote, "Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him..." (Philippians 3:8,9). It was an amazing opportunity to hold such an expensive item and get a picture of the moment, but that comb doesn't have any eternal value whatsoever. That comb can't bring me peace, or hope, or comfort, or a new life into eternity. That comb might refine my hair, if I had any, but it can't refine my character and make me a more loving and loveable follower of Jesus.

For Paul, the thing of "surpassing worth" for him was not a rare, handmade, diamond encrusted comb but rather knowing, and being known by, Jesus. I like to admire the extravagance this world has to offer, be it a mansion, car, clothing, electronics item or whatever. There are some amazingly expensive things out there for those who have too much money. But, like for Paul, such luxuries have little appeal to me because I've got something far more extravagant; an intimate friendship with the Lord of the universe which will continue through all eternity. And so do you. And so does the Queen, which kind of makes this comb seem not only over the top, but as Paul puts it - "rubbish!"



Darren Slade
President
Northern Australian Conference

General Secretary/ CFO Report

REFLECTIONS FROM GENERAL SECRETARY/CFO

In my second year of ministry in NAC, I thank God for the opportunity to visit eleven churches for the first time this year to preach God's Word and fellowship with the church members. I've heard some challenges raised by our members because of lower church attendance post-COVID-19, inconsistent attendance, or lower participation of church members.

But on the other hand, I've met new people in church during my visit or people who have not been to church for a long time who have returned to church. I have also heard about people who came to church to look for someone to do Bible studies with. A couple of weeks ago, the Conference Office received a call from someone who wanted to have Bible studies.

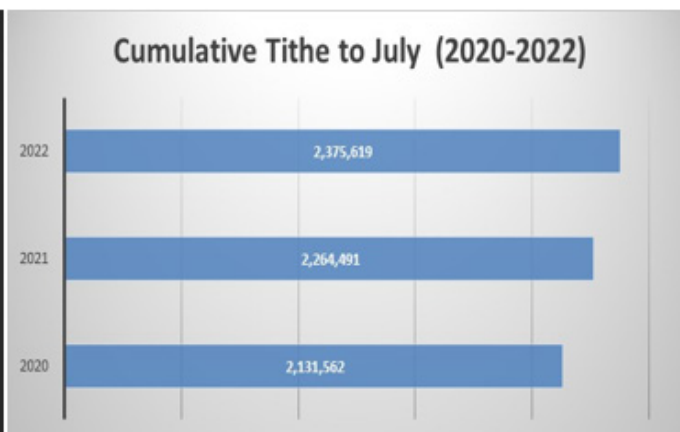
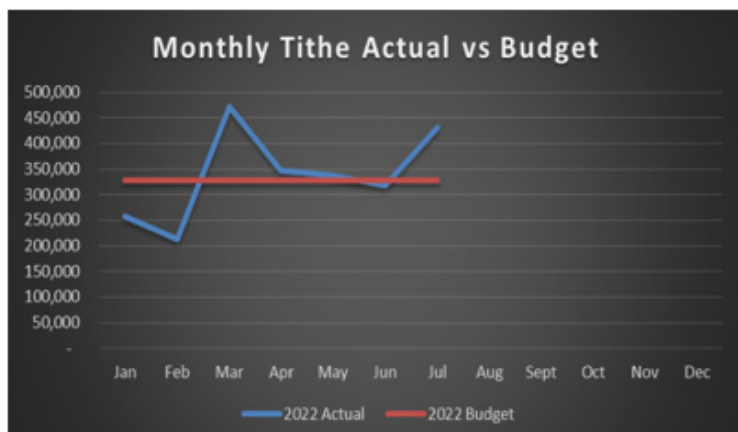
As I reflect on the progress this year, despite challenges around COVID-19, God is always faithful and good. Baptism and tithe showed an impressive result, and many people seek to know the Truth in Jesus. My favorite chapter in the Bible is Romans 8, and Paul says in verse 31, "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us who can be against us?". There are always challenges in our life, problems in the church, or unexpected things that happen to us, but remember, Paul further says in verse 37 that "we are more than conquerors through Him [Christ] who loved us."

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us who can be against us?"
Romans 8:31

TITHE REPORT

We thank God for His blessings within our Conference and the faithful stewardship of church members in returning their tithes. The year 2021 saw the highest tithe received in the last five years but this year tithe is even higher than the prior year by 5% or \$111,128.

The first chart shows the monthly tithe received versus budget and second chart shows the cumulative tithe received to July compare against 2021 and 2020.



MEMBERSHIP AND BAPTISM AT THE END OF JUNE 2022

Church membership has increased by 31 people at the end of June 2022, from 2,804 to 2,852. The increase of membership were primarily due to baptism and transfer of membership. Praise the Lord for 24 baptisms this quarter alone.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

- Riverside Estate Development – The project to demolish and replace the ablution block, expand the commercial kitchen and install disability access to the hall was delayed because of the readiness of tender documents and personnel issues of the project manager. We are aiming to complete the development before Big Camp 2023 and we have appointed a new project manager for this project.
- Carlisle Car Park Construction – The completion of car park was pending because of a water easement issue. After a long discussion with the neighbouring land owner adjacent to Carlisle School, we finally received an approval on the easement to allow the car park construction to be complete. The plan is to complete construction by year-end.

LONG SERVICE LEAVE FOR THE PRESIDENT

Darren Slade is taking combined Long Service and Annual Leave from September 21, 2022 to January 15, 2023. After 25 years of continuous ministry service, he is looking forward to a good break in order to refresh and recharge. Pr Jeffrey Masengi will be Acting President in his absence. This period of time was chosen because it is the quietest period in the NAC for the next couple of years. We wish him well as he follows the words of Jesus to “come aside... and rest awhile” (Mark 6:31).



"Come aside... and rest awhile"
Mark 6:31

STAFF NEWS - BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



On September 3, our Youth Director, Pastor Travis Siutu became a father again with the birth of his daughter, Ivanah Le-Peninamailelagi Salota Matalena Siutu. We are glad that both baby and mother are doing well and pray that God blesses the Siutu family as they start this new chapter in their lives.

RIVERSIDE ADVENTIST SCHOOL

INAUGURAL BILLY CART DERBY

Riverside Adventist School held its inaugural Billy Cart Derby on August 14. Students, teachers, parents and Pastors were all involved in the races with trophies, medallions and chocolates given out at the end of the day. In addition to the races, there were various fundraising stalls such as ADRA, Townsville Pathfinders, and the senior students. The day turned out to be a success and the school is looking forward to doing it again next year!



END OF TERM CAR WASH

Riverside Adventist School held an end of term service activity offering to wash the cars of families, staff and anyone who turned up. They certainly had a lot of fun learning about the joy of service.



CARLISLE ADVENTIST COLLEGE

TEACHER AIDE APPRECIATION WEEK

To celebrate Teacher Aide Appreciation Week, the Leadership team at Carlisle Adventist College hosted a breakfast for their dedicated Teacher Aides. The students also made personalised cards for the Aides, praising the work they do in the classroom. Carlisle Adventist College would like to thank all their Aides for the value, support and commitment they provide to students and staff at Carlisle.



WELCOME BACK JOHN*!

I met John at a freedom Rally where I was giving out a different book each week, starting with *Hope for Troubled Times*.

John recognised one of Ellen G. White's books and indicated that he used to go to the Seventh-day Adventist church. I caught up with John every week, and he accepted a book each week.

John began attending the local church and has been enjoying it ever since!

I was astonished, it was an amazing experience. You don't know how God is working in people's lives. My prayer is that God continues to work in me for healing and to continue using me to share Jesus with others, that many more may come to know His love and mercy and join His kingdom.

I know the impact that an LE knocking on my door has had on my life, and the lives of my family, and I want to share it with others.

Please keep praying for God's working in the lives of the people receiving books.

Raewyn Page

**Not his real name*

*"Cast your bread upon the waters, for you
will find it after many days.
Ecclesiastes 11:1*

ONE LAST HOUSE

Everyone was headed back to the Ingham church to finish the book give-away for the day but I had just one last house on my street and I had to finish! Kelly, a busy young mum answered the door and was happy to hear about the books. She took a kids pack and health pack, then said, "I've moved here from Cooranbong, I'm used to Seventh-day Adventists coming to my door every three months, bringing some tract - they're so lovely to talk to! I'm not a Seventh-day Adventist, but I miss their visits! I've been here over a year, and nobody has knocked on my door!"

Kelly has been connected with Maryanne, PI and Sandy, members of Ingham Church, and I'm welcome to come for a cuppa any time I'm passing through. I gave Kelly the *Life of Jesus* pack in the event she feels the need of some TLC. We prayed together and I'm looking forward to that cuppa!

Praise God for the lovely faithful members at Cooranbong doing their part!

LITERATURE MINISTRIES CAMP

57 people attended the Sabbath of the Inaugural Literature Ministries Camp that was held at Crystal Creek from July 1-5, with 30 people staying the whole weekend. Presenters included Lucy Pontil, Mark Gallo, Arlene Jurello and Karen Gallo. Some of the sessions included: Biblical Marriage, Hydrotherapy, Eating God's Way and Patterns in Revelations. The attendees shared stories about the encounters they experience and their love for sharing the Word of God through literature. They also spent time door knocking and handing out books. Younger attendees made clocks, patterned mugs, pottery lamps and had a fun-day out at the Bluewater rest area as adults gave out books.

God blessed. God was present. Everyone went away encouraged, uplifted, healed in some way and fortified for the days ahead. Next year's theme? Build a Sanctuary.



MACKAY

MEN'S MINISTRY FATHER'S DAY SHOOT

A great blokey day and father/son day was had by the 22 who attended the SSAA Gun Range on Father's Day afternoon. It was a fun day that involved a lot of non-Adventist community members including Seekers, Anglicans, Pentecostals, Ex-JW's, Secular, all bonding in friendship over a competition shoot that included pistols, rifles and shotguns. It's important that young and old learn gun safety and how to have responsible clean fun. The competition winner, on points, was Lance Hacker from the North Mackay SDA church who laughed at the irony of 1st prize being a packet of Liquorice Bullets. Last place Jorrie Enoch, an out-of-town visitor, was gracious in receiving his wooden spoon award. Everyone looks forward to this annual event and it is growing in numbers every year. It is a good outreach to non-Adventist community men and facilitates witnessing through developing friendships.



AYR

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

On Friday, March 4, Ayr Seventh-day Adventist Church had the blessed privilege to be the host church for the World Day of Prayer. It was a wonderful opportunity to be a beacon of Jesus' light, and to offer friendship and hospitality which is what they pray for and always long to do in their church. 60 precious people, old friends and new from the various other denominational churches, and the community, attended the event, where the local youth presented each attendee with spiritual gifts.

World Day of Prayer is celebrated annually in over

170 countries on the first Friday of March, with the theme for this year being 'Hope' and focusing on Jeremiah 29:11. All were invited to a fellowship supper and it was heart-warming to hear the many expressions of appreciation from both men and women for both the service and the hospitality. A person from the local Anglican church said "your church has a lovely feel to it". All Praise to our All-Loving Lord God.



ALICE SPRINGS

WEEK OF WORSHIP

Pr Travis Siutu and Pr. Laufili Ah You went to Alice Springs from August 1-6 for a Week of Worship with the local youth.

The theme for the week was Waiting on the Lord! Psalm 27:14.

Pr. Laufili spent the nights talking about wisdom, faith and service, with a special agape feast and communion on Friday night.

About 25 people attended the program each night, with over 50 people attending on Sabbath.



Pr Laufili said, "Alice Springs has been a real eye opener for me. I see the power of the Holy Spirit moving here and the work that Pr David Gilmore and the team have accomplished, and it's something I will take back to my region in Cairns. The young people have been awesome and very engaging. The young people in Alice have a culture of deep bible study and a relationship with Jesus."

We pray the young people in Alice Springs were blessed from the Week of Worship and continue to be on fire for God and share his love in their community



KATHERINE

BAPTISMS

Roy and Kathleen Tyler, and Mary Suka were baptised at the Katherine Hot Springs on August 27, 2022.

Five years before meeting Roy, Andrew canvassed his younger brother, Dale, who purchased the Desire of Ages. They developed a friendship and continued to read the Bible, so when Dale moved to Darwin he suggested Andrew contact Roy, which he did. That contact developed when Andrew's wife, Jeanette, who was manning the blood pressure screening at the 2019 Katherine Show, invited Roy and Kathleen to Nola Cooks Natural therapies program. As their friendship grew, so did Roy and Kathleen's love for God. The Katherine SDA Company are blessed to have these two former Salvation Army Soldiers as members who willingly continue to do acts of service for the sick and needy.

Mary stated that her spiritual rebirth was the third significant birth in her life. The first was her birth on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait and the second was the birth of her eldest daughter - where Mary accepted the Sabbath through the influence of her dad, Eric. The Katherine SDA Company is happy that Mary has joined her husband, Kaleveti, as a member of their congregation.



Church News

TOWNSVILLE

OAM MP VISITS ADRA FOOD PANTRY

OAM MP Phillip Thompson joined the ADRA Food Pantry in Townsville on August 12, and helped them as they served the community. Their volunteers and guests truly appreciated him being there and valued his help. “I know many in our community are doing it tough,” stated OAM MP Thompson, “I’d like to say a big thank you to the amazing organisations in our community looking after our most vulnerable, like ADRA’s Food Pantry.” ADRA Northern Australia knows how important the Food Pantry is to the locals and appreciate the volunteers who help make the Food Pantry possible.



MACKAY

MEN’S MINISTRY WEEKEND

About 18 local church men, teenagers and seekers ascended into the mountains to Dalrymple Heights from the Friday afternoon 5th August till the Sunday. Here they enjoyed the peace and tranquillity of nature and fresh mountain air. Chris Kirkwood was the key note speaker who delivered spiritual enrichment in an interesting way with his knowledge of Greek and Hebrew which really put scripture into context. Activities included 4-wheel driving in 3 Odyssey type buggies to Massy Gorge, camp fires and target shooting. While some just enjoyed being unplugged from the world and getting some much needed rest.



DARWIN

BAPTISMS

Pastor Esava Koro baptised eight people at the Darwin Seventh-day Adventist Church on August 6. Six of those baptised were from an extended family where two brothers, Lufrey and Clifton Eliorda, lost their jobs in 2020 and began watching Christian videos on YouTube where they came across the Sabbath truth. They had grown up in the Catholic Church and didn't realise they were not following the Ten Commandments. After some personal study they were determined to find a church that followed all Ten Commandments.

A search for this church led them to Darwin SDA Church where they could feel the Holy Spirit and knew that is where God wanted them to be. They attended the church on a second Sabbath where they listen to Intern Pr Soani Vosalevu give his testimony and were led to tears. After this, they decided to take Bible Studies with Pastor Esava.

During their time studying the Bible, both brothers lost their houses and moved their families in with their mother but they stayed faithful and kept coming to church. They have since been reinstated into their positions working for the Northern Territory Government and hospital, but have returned to work with a new mind-set.

"We are coming to the same place of work but with a different mission," the brothers stated, "to share Gods love and the gospel of His kingdom."

The seventh baptism was Karo Augerea who had been attending the Malak SDA Church with her family, who were already baptised. Pastor Koro had been studying the Bible with Karo for more than a year when she made the decision to give her life to God.

The finally baptism was Kasanita Sailasa, who grew up in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and had known God her whole life but made the decision to publically declare her love to God on this joyous day.

The testimonies of those who were baptised vary significantly but they have all found salvation in Jesus Christ. "These baptisms show that what the Holy Spirit can do is above and beyond what we can offer," stated Pastor Esava, "we need to recognise the power of the Holy Spirit and know He can move in places that we wouldn't have even thought to go and touch the lives of those we never would've."

"Even though we did not run any evangelistic outreach in Darwin this year, the consistent intercessory prayer of our church members in a small group every Wednesday night, is as powerful in winning souls for the kingdom."



TOWNSVILLE YOUTH RALLY - AUGUST 13

Over 100 youth from around the Northern Australian Conference attended the Townsville Youth Rally on August 13.

Youth were blessed with special items from Mount Isa and Shona MacKenzie, a youth from Aitkenvale church, shared the main message.

Shona gave her testimony on her journey to find 'what is truth?' which ended in her finding the ultimate truth, Jesus Christ.



YOUTH TOUCH COMP - AUGUST 13

Eight teams from around the Conference signed up for the Touch Comp held on the evening of the Youth Rally. Four teams formed Division A: Mareeba Bucks (winners), Tully Bombers (runners up), Wakanda Good and Aitkenvale Youth, and four teams formed Division B: ADVENGERS (winners), Can't Touch This (runners up), Outback Squad and Teenage Dreamers.

While the teams were competing for first place, the Townsville Pathfinders were selling food and fundraising for Camporee. A great night was had by all.



CAIRNS YOUTH CAMP



Over 60 people attended the Cairns Region Youth Camp at Quinola Lakes from July 29-31. There were fun and games, singing and sports, team building and most importantly, learning more about God.

Pr Soani Vosalevu, from Darwin Church, reminded the youth that God accepts them as they are, how they can be influenced by others and how they can influence people and share God's love.

WORLD PATHFINDER DAY RALLY @ FAIR DAY

Approximately 100 Pathfinders from seven clubs attended the World Pathfinder Day Rally and Fair that was held at the Riverside Convention Centre and Riverside Adventist School on September 17 & 18. The Pathfinders were blessed by guest speaker, Natasha Sua, who encouraged them to Change the World. They were challenged by an 'Amazing Race' activity in the afternoon where they searched for 'treasure', followed by some fun at Ninja Parc on Saturday evening.

Pathfinders were up bright and early on Sunday morning for the Fair Day where they were able to show their skills and knowledge in marching, knot tying, navigation, fire making, cooking, wound management and teamwork. The Fair ended with a water fight, allowing the Pathfinders to cool down before they headed back home.

Everyone had a great time and it was excellent to see all the hard work and preparation from the Pathfinders and Pathfinder Leaders, put into action.



CHOSEN

Six teenagers from the Northern Australian Conference were selected to attend CHOSEN - the National Teen Leaders Convention, from July 4-8.

Danika, Reagan, Jamie, Nathan, Greg, and Nahshon joined 58 other teens from around the country for the five-day event. The purpose of CHOSEN is to train our young people to become future leaders in our churches and in their personal lives. Many who have attended have decided to go into pastoral ministry or have become leaders in the church. We spoke to some of the teens who attended CHOSEN to see what they thought of the convention.



Name: Danika Arrutchz

Age: 17

Church: Aitkenval SDA Church

How was CHOSEN? "It was so good, words can't explain how good it was. I liked how it really focused on young people and trying to bring out the leadership character in them."

How did you feel when you were asked to go to CHOSEN? "It concerned me at first, because I didn't know what CHOSEN was and I was worried because I didn't think I had the leadership potential but I was grateful that my pastor chose me."

What would you say to those who are nominated to attend CHOSEN in the future? "They should definitely go for it. It's a really good opportunity to find your leadership postential - even though you might not see it, others do. CHOSEN is a really good way for you to find your leadership style and build on it."



Name: Nathan Thwaites

Age: 17

Church: Townsville City SDA Church

How was CHOSEN? "I thought it was amazing, it was a really good experience to meet alot of like-minded people in that sort of environment."

Do you feel more prepared to be a leader after attending CHOSEN? "Absolutely, it has definitely helped me alot to figure out what kind of leader I want to be in my church. It has been really helpful."

What would you say to those who are nominated to attend CHOSEN in the future? "Just do it. Step out in faith and do it. There is nothing bad you can get out of it. Everything they give you is incredibly helpful and it benefits you in every way you can think of. There is no downside to going, so just do it!"



Name: Nashon Fonu

Age: 15

Church: Mount Isa SDA Church

How was CHOSEN? "CHOSEN was good, I got to meet alot of new friends. The best part was when we were all having dinner and singing Disney songs together."

How did you feel when you were asked to go to CHOSEN? "I felt excited. I was happy my Pastor saw the potential in me."

What would you say to those who are nominated to attend CHOSEN in the future? "It will be good to go. It's fun, you can meet new people and learn about God."





ABC Christian Books



Christmas is fast approaching!

Help keep the focus of Christmas on Jesus this season with these great ideas:

Devotionals

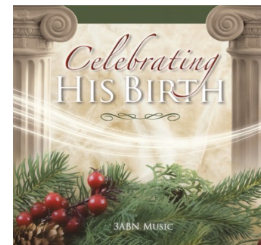


ADVENT & ADVENT FOR KIDS

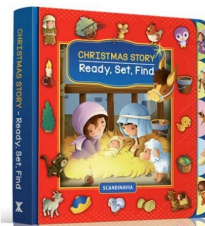
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NAC BIG CAMP 2023 RIVERSIDE CONVENTION CENTRE

Save the Date

23 June - 1 July 2023

ADULT SPEAKER
Pavel Goia

Editor, Ministry Magazine;
Associate Ministerial Secretary GC



YOUTH SPEAKER
Murray Hunter

Associate Ministerial Association Secretary Chalcplancy;
Waymaker Media Ministry AUC



SEVENTH-DAY
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