



Volume 25 No 1  
April 2020

# FOCUS

SOUTH QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

## COVID-19 and the Church

How the world has changed since our last *Focus!* Coronavirus has drastically impacted our community and the world at large. It has dominated the news reports, impacted the share market and the broader economy, virtually shut down travel, shut down businesses, and changed the way people go about their daily lives. The Australian Government estimates suggest up to 2 million Australians will be unemployed. How long will this all last, and what impact will it have on our lives when it is all over. It is clear that this issue is a defining moment in our generation.

The impact on the church is significant. As part of our community many church members will lose jobs, suffer

hardships, and potentially lose members to the virus if we can't halt its spread. Our church has acted, and will continue to act, responsibly in harmony with the various Government updates and directives that are issued.

Romans 13: 1 says, "Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God." Our duty is clear. This passage from Paul's hand goes on to tell us that the "commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfils the requirements of God's law" (Rom 13:10).

Loving our neighbour takes on a whole new meaning under the current social distancing requirements. Our love means we stay away from our neighbour, but we don't stop caring and connecting in the many and various ways still available to us.

It's tempting to dwell on the negative, but will there also be a positive impact on the church? I hope so, and I pray so. Here are three positive outcomes we can work towards.

### New Church Emphasis

The physical doors to church have been closed, so we need to start talking more about 'being the church,' and less about

*Continued on the following page...*



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church™

South Queensland

*Continued from the front cover...*

about worshipping God for an hour on Sabbath morning, it's 'going to church.' We can go to church every Sabbath but not take our responsibility as Jesus' disciples seriously. Perhaps many of us have lapsed into that position. Our faith is not about a daily walk with Jesus, 7 days a week. These concepts aren't new, but the urgency to make this a reality has been forced upon us. Our 'going to church' was always intended to revive us and energise us to leave the worship gathering to "go into all the world (Matt 28:19)" with a message of hope and love, to 'be the church' that God calls us to be.

### **New Personal Priorities**

God's people, His disciples, will take Jesus' words seriously. In the Sermon on the Mount He tells us to stop worrying about material things, else they become our master and the focus of our concerns. Our worrying is of no benefit neither to Him, or to us. "It can't add a single hour to your life" Jesus says (Matt 6:27). He is a God of provision and care, as demonstrated by nature. Look at the birds, the fields, the flowers. He provides for them, and we are of more value to Him than they. So, the shifting sands of our current economy will re-orient our priorities. Our number one priority (or our worry if you like) should be to focus on Jesus and His Kingdom. "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matt 6:33).

### **New Opportunity for Sharing**

The Bible talks about the last days with the words of Jesus, "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth" (Luke 21:26). There's no doubt we see this happening around us. People are edgy! They are not sure about the future, but they sense that it may not be very bright. Hearts are failing for fear and it seems the best many can do is run for toilet paper—of all things! How should God's people respond? Well, we have a message of hope to share with a troubled world. We will find more receptivity in many people than ever before. Is it possible that there could be a viral spread of the love of God and the hope we have in Jesus? It will depend on us. Jesus is the good news that changes lives, and we are His carriers. May we be infectious with His love and not quarantine the gospel.

Please know I'm praying for you during these challenging times. I pray God's blessing on you each one as we follow Jesus in a changing world.

Many of the news items in this edition of Focus remind us of how things were under better circumstances. It takes us back to Christmas celebrations and events at a time when we could not have imagined our current situation. I hope you enjoy the news.

### **CHURCHES THAT CURRENTLY OFFER SERVICES VIA LIVESTREAM (FACEBOOK, YOUTUBE OR ZOOM)**

Beaudesert – [bit.ly/2X3sb6m](https://bit.ly/2X3sb6m)

Brisbane Spanish – [facebook.com/yimid](https://facebook.com/yimid)

Caboolture – [bit.ly/2w4Zw5J](https://bit.ly/2w4Zw5J)

Deception Bay – Zoom, ID 930-355-5299

Edens Landing – [facebook.com/edenslandingsdachurch](https://facebook.com/edenslandingsdachurch)

Eight Mile Plains – [facebook.com/empyourchurch](https://facebook.com/empyourchurch)

Gatton and Laidley – [facebook.com/gattonsdachurch/](https://facebook.com/gattonsdachurch/)

Gold Coast Central – [facebook.com/GoldCoastCentralSDA](https://facebook.com/GoldCoastCentralSDA)

Harvest SDA Community Company – [bit.ly/347A1xd](https://bit.ly/347A1xd)

Inglewood Group, Stanthorpe, The Summit and Warwick – [waynehumphries.org/live-presentations](https://waynehumphries.org/live-presentations)

Kingaroy – [facebook.com/kingaroysda](https://facebook.com/kingaroysda)

Logan Reserve – [bit.ly/2Jzk5KR](https://bit.ly/2Jzk5KR)

Maroochydore – Zoom, ID 930-355-5299

Mitchelton – [youtu.be/N-nAPfd6PQ0](https://youtu.be/N-nAPfd6PQ0)

Murri-Wantok – [facebook.com/murriwantok.church.i](https://facebook.com/murriwantok.church.i)

Park Ridge – [facebook.com/groups/28571939733/](https://facebook.com/groups/28571939733/)

Pine Rivers – [facebook.com/groups/207977632661672/](https://facebook.com/groups/207977632661672/)

Rockhampton – [bit.ly/3aBUw7N](https://bit.ly/3aBUw7N)

South Brisbane – [bit.ly/2X8xliy](https://bit.ly/2X8xliy)

Springwood – [youtube.com/user/SpringwoodSDATV](https://youtube.com/user/SpringwoodSDATV)

Springwood Samoan – [facebook.com/springwood.samoan](https://facebook.com/springwood.samoan)



*Shaping for Mission*

# Seventh-day Adventist Church Australia Press Release—COVID-19

The nine Conferences in the Australian Union unanimously voted to suspend worship services in their churches, just prior to the Australian Government issued directive for all churches to do so. The following press release was circulated to members across the AUC on March 17. We continue to act in harmony with the latest Government guidelines. Notably, small groups and home gatherings are no longer permitted!

Dear church members,

Today, we met as Union officers and Conference presidents from across Australia. We met for several purposes, but at the forefront of our meeting was prayer and the wellbeing of our members and the wider community. Today, we prayed for you—for our elders and our children, our young people, and the thousands of faithful church members we have across this country. We prayed for the current pandemic affecting millions of people around the world, and we prayed for those directly involved.

As we are sure most of you are aware, last week a decision was made by the executive committees of four conferences to cancel their camp meetings for 2020. Today, as leaders, we have taken an action to recommend that churches suspend all services until the end of April 2020.

As a leadership team, we recognise the importance of community and worshipping together, especially on Sabbath. However, we have considered the current advice of the Australian Government and their health experts; as well as many of our own Adventist health professionals; and similar actions by Adventist church leaders around the world, and have made this decision—one we believe is timely and needed to protect our members, particularly those who are more vulnerable in our churches and the wider community. As Christians, we have a responsibility to help minimise the stress on our health system and those who work in it.

This is an unprecedented measure for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia, and please know that it is not a decision we have taken lightly. But while the doors to our churches are shut, it is our prayer that today, more than ever, we open our lives and our hearts to our God.

These next few Sabbaths will look a little different to what most of us may be used to. We will miss our churches, and being together. But our worship does not depend on the place; but rather, in our hearts we will choose to worship the Father, as Jesus called us to, “in Spirit and in truth.” We may not be together physically or sharing a meal with others, but we will be worshipping together, praying together, singing

together, and meditating in the Word together. This pandemic may have closed our churches, but there is nothing that can stop us from worshipping God together. He will receive our adoration and our praise, no matter where we are. If you are able, you may want to gather together in a home group—either in person, or through digital means.

We invite you to take this crisis as an opportunity. Today, we close our church doors, but we invite you to open your hearts. Let us use this time to connect in creative ways with others that may be on their own or isolated. Reach out to your neighbours to check that they are well; offer to help and pray for them. If you are able, offer to help your neighbours and friends to pick up essentials or assist them as needed.



The time will come when we will re-open, so let us re-enter our places of worship as people who have prayed intensely for one another, for our communities, and the world in which we live. Above all, pray for God to continue leading in the affairs of this world until we see Him face to face.

Blessings,

**Darren Slade, President, Northern Australia Conference**

**Brett Townend, President, South Queensland Conference**

**Adrian Raethel, President, North NSW Conference**

**Terry Johnson, President, Greater Sydney Conference**

**Cristian Copaceanu, President, South NSW Conference**

**Graeme Christian, President, Victorian Conference**

**Gary Webster, President, Tasmanian Conference**

**David Butcher, President, South Australia Conference**

**Steve Goods, President, Western Australia Conference**

**Peter Cameron, Chief Financial Officer,  
Australian Union Conference**

**Michael Worker, Secretary, Australian Union Conference**

**Jorge Munoz, President, Australian Union Conference**

# Seventh-day Adventist® Church

*South Queensland*

26 March 2020

## **CIRCULAR:**

### **2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION (Big Camp) – CANCELLATION NOTICE**

Dear Members of the South Queensland Conference,

Today has been a difficult day, in that the South Queensland Conference Executive Committee of the Seventh-day Adventist church wrestled with the issues surrounding the convening of our 2020 Annual Convention in light of the ongoing escalation in the transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

Taking into consideration all factors, including the significant lead time required by all staff and volunteers to prepare for September, the costs involved from both Conference and camper perspectives, and not least of all the current directives from federal and state governments regarding measures to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus, it was voted by the Executive Committee to cancel the SQC Annual Convention for 2020.

The health and welfare of our members is the primary consideration at this point, and while we are disappointed for the cancellation of the 2020 'Big Camp' and all the wonderful spiritual blessings camp provides, the safety of each one of our children, families and elderly members is our chief concern moving forward.

Thank you for your ongoing faithfulness to following all government directives and guidelines as we all work together to be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

Kind regards



Colin Renfrew  
General Secretary

#### **Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Limited**

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## Adventist Aviation in Action

The last trip of 2019 for AAA was Saturday the 23rd of November. Flying out to Dirranbandi with pilot Michael Grady and his wife Dorothee, was retired pastor Jerry Matthews. We're hoping for a pleasant flight. As is the custom, Jerry started our day off with prayer for a safe and rewarding trip. Although the flight was safe, the smoke lingering from the coastal fires and the red dust inland made aerial photos impossible.



After just over two hours in the air, the crew were welcomed by Graham Symes and a few kangaroos lingering under the shade of a lonely tree, hoping in the dry for a little green feed around the water tank at the airport. As always we received a lovely warm welcome from Graham and Cathleen and we were soon joined by Peter from Gundi. The day was hot but Graham had the house very cool with his aircon going.

Some singing and talking gave time for Stan to arrive, who had a long association with Jerry Matthews. He only lived about eighty kms away but was slow starting the day after being away twice that week picking up stock feed from Victoria. Pastor Jerry took the service, and told the story of how Stan led him to Jesus. This beautiful service left everyone thinking about their own relationship with Jesus.

After a beautiful lunch, and while enjoying some simple country fellowship, pilot Michael received a adverse weather report with thunderstorms on the way. The visiting party had to make haste and leave quickly to beat the weather. The weather report was right. There was moderate turbulence, rain and lighting, and cumulus clouds on the horizon. Fortunately the AAA flight dodged the lot, even the acrobatic plane performing at Watts Bridge, and landed safely back at Caboolture airport.

ARTICLE BY MICHAEL GRADY, AAA PILOT

## Ministers Meetings

Feb 10-13 saw the annual Ministers' meetings held at the Log Cabin, in Nerang. These meetings are a great opportunity for our team of ministers, chaplains and spiritual carers (aged care) to come together for fellowship, worship and training. Our team was blessed this year to have Drs Darius and Edyta Jankiewicz, (recently returned from Andrews University) join us for the 4 days. Darius is now the SPD Field Secretary and Ministerial Association Secretary, and presented on the history of salvation issues that persist to this day. Edyta cares for the SPD Women's and Family ministries department and shared presentations on caring for the pastoral family, and ways to plan messages that impact those with different learning styles to our own. Our pastoral team enjoy a special camaraderie and the meetings were a tremendous support and encouragement to all who came. At the meetings we also welcomed new team members Joe Azzopardi (Springwood Associate), Lachlan Campbell (Gold Coast Intern), Harley Southwell (Logan Reserve Intern) and Shaun Lieder (Redcliffe & Sandgate Intern).



It was also an opportunity to celebrate the various ministry progressions of our interns, Licensed ministers and pastors. Highlights included a late night excursion to the thundering natural arch waterfall and its glow worms, and the seasons of prayer for our church families, pastoral families and each other.

ARTICLE BY PR RUSS WILLCOCKS AND ANITA THEW, CSD TEAM



## Toowoomba Central Adventist Church Seek The Holy Spirit—10 Days of Prayer

For 10 days from 8th to 18th January 2020, each night for one hour an average of 14 people met in our church's prayer room to seek the Holy Spirit in a special way. Others who were unable to attend participated in their own homes.

Each Elder presented a short message in their own style, focusing on the important role of the HOLY SPIRIT and sharing personal testimonies of the Holy Spirit's power and influence. The sessions were prepared by the General Conference for the world church to take part in the 10 Days of Prayer.

Each person was aware that there were literally millions of believers praying at the same time, across the world.

The culmination of the 10-days was the Divine Service on 18th January where 4 types of prayer were outlined by four different speakers. Each speaker finished by praying that type of prayer.

1. Prayer of Praise / Adoration. Praising and thanking God for His goodness and blessings.
2. Prayer of Confession. Period of reflection for personal silent prayer of confession.
3. Prayer of Supplication. Asking for special requests.
4. Prayer of Thanksgiving. Thanking God for answering prayer.

The Almighty God of the universe is the Creator of every person who started as one simple cell containing all of the DNA and complex heredity. Therefore, the solution for every prayer request is no problem with the Creator God who desires to be our friend.

Several participants of the prayer sessions shared their experiences. Each testified to the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, and answers to prayers during the 10 days.

“Each person was given a little promise card, on one side a Bible text and on the other side a space to write out a special prayer,” recalls Eva Polyvas-Peers, the Prayer Leader who organized the event for Toowoomba Central SDA church.

ARTICLE BY EDDIE CRAIG  
PHOTO BY EVA POLYVAS-PEERS



## Combined Forces Respond to Drought in Biloela

On an early Sunday morning, three days before Christmas a small but committed team of volunteers banded together for a road trip north to Biloela to provide much-needed drought relief to the community. It is an area, like much of Queensland, that has been hit hard by the on-going drought. What is often forgotten is that drought doesn't end when the publicity ends, and it affects communities, families and individuals in multiple ways.

This need tugged on the heart-strings and the purses of several churches – Nambour, Gympie, Gladstone, Biloela – as well as Sanitarium, ADRA Nambour Op Shop and ADRA Australia. The plan was to deliver Christmas hampers to the drought-affected families of Biloela in time for Christmas. The response was co-ordinated by Pr Steve Ward, pastor for Nambour SDA Church, who pulled in the efforts of several groups. The ADRA Nambour Op Shop donated a portion of its takings, Sanitarium donated Weet-Bix and So Good and had it delivered on-site to Biloela, local churches donated dry goods and funds towards the project and ADRA Australia supported the travel costs for the team and contributed gift vouchers towards the food hampers.

In addition to this, there were donations given locally in Biloela including one anonymous donation of several gift vouchers. Such is the power of working together with the local churches and the local community in a time of need.

On the morning of service, several volunteers were ready for action and waiting to be Christ's hands and feet to the community of Biloela. In total twenty-three gift cards were given out, in addition to food hampers and other vouchers. Two large families came through to Biloela church to collect that were doing it really tough and "to see the surprise and gratitude in their eyes...was very humbling. It really was a day where we received such a blessing by being the hands and feet of Jesus," says Rebecca de Git, member of Biloela SDA church. Pr Steve Ward shared "a big thank you to our churches, our [Nambour] op shop, to ADRA and to Sanitarium...We then went on the road and delivered to [several] farms, some of which their houses were unliveable and they received with tears and joy."

How wonderful it is to be able to represent and share Christ in this way: practical, genuine and with no strings attached. This is true disinterested service – Christ's method of ministry in action. If you and your church want to respond to a community in need, then QLD ADRA Director, Irena Pule, would love to hear from you.

If you would like to support ADRA's response to the current drought and fires, go to: [www.adra.org.au/project/disasters/](http://www.adra.org.au/project/disasters/).

ARTICLE BY IRENA PULE

## LOGAN

### ADRA LOGAN'S CHRISTMAS BASH

What do you do if you have over 200 guests, 76 volunteers, special guests, 13 emergency service appliances, hundreds of Christmas presents, 34 brand new bikes donated and a Christmas Day Holiday? Answer..... you have a party with Jesus, the centre in sharing love and mercy.

It started with a promise of rain and our fantastic volunteer crew start setup at 6:30am. By 8:20am the pancakes, mushrooms, baked tomato, toast were ready to roll. Eager guests waiting at the entrance to get in, with hunger and anticipation on their faces. They were greeted by our friendly welcoming team who gave instructions about the drinks, face painting, food options, Christmas hampers and kids presents are, after they have eaten. Our tables are decorated and set with table hosts sitting and sharing joy and the blessings that only "The One" can give, the reason for being and for the blessings we get.



The huge emergency services crew arrived with Santa in his big red truck. The attention and troubles of life were momentarily forgotten as lollies and photos were taken everywhere. This added to the ambience of the wonderful musicians playing music and singing songs. Our volunteers were challenged with how to give away the bikes to families and making it fair for all. Over 100 food hampers were given out, so that our community people had some food whilst the services in the area were closed. Other presents and care bags were also supplied to those in need.

Then it came, great big dark clouds and a massive down pour which soaked everyone. I thought a great picture was made, showing the reason community can work. Minster



for Housing Hon. Mick Debrenni held up an umbrella for a recent Australian family receiving a new bike, whilst one of our fantastic staff (Michelle) is drenched through and true to mission in giving. All spectrums of humanity mixing at a birthday party for Jesus.

Here is a story from one of our young lovely volunteers:

"I gave two 2-3 year olds a bike each from different families. They both were very excited about their new bikes! I felt so warm inside that I knew I did such a wonderful thing. One of the little boys kissed his bike which brought tears to my eyes."



The other little boy saw Michelle, the ADRA Assistant Manager at the Chemist the following week, and ran up and gave her a hug—to give to me it was so sweet. His parents came over and spoke to Michelle and said to tell me that he loves his bike and has spent all holidays on it, even in the house. I was so happy to hear about his reaction! I'm so glad I picked those two little boys.

ARTICLE BY HENK LA DRU

## SOUTH BRISBANE

### DECEMBER ON O'KEEFE



A very busy December was enjoyed by members and visitors at South Brisbane Church and on December 6th Our Carols by Candlelight Night was a beautiful success. The delightful decorations in the church complimented the singing, music and items. This was followed on December 21 by a joyous Christmas Service with the Christmas story narrated while the children enacted the entire story. Pr Gideon Okesene's message was followed by carol singing and a final recessional. Under the ADRA Christmas Tree there was \$2,648 worth of various gifts from generous donations.

ARTICLE BY SHIRLEY GLOVER  
PHOTOS BY MAUREEN ELLSON

### PATHFINDERS AND ADVENTURERS INVESTED



On Sabbath December 7, the South Brisbane Pathfinder Investiture Service was a delight to see as 15 Pathfinders and 20 Adventurers, including seven "Little Fish/Lambs," received their Awards for their hard work during the year. It all happened under the leadership of Maureen Ellson and her team of four that devoted their time and energy to run the clubs.

ARTICLE BY SHIRLEY GLOVER  
PHOTOS BY MAUREEN ELLSON

## LANDSBOROUGH

### A SWEET CHRISTMAS GIFT

A team of church members both young and old delivered 500 pineapples and connect cards to homes around Landsborough church. "This is an annual outreach event leading up to Christmas," reports Charles Russell, Landsborough member. It allows the members to make direct contact with their local community. The gift also supports local pineapple producers in the area. "Each year our church neighbours look forward to us knocking on their door with this free gift," says event coordinator David Beaden.

ARTICLE BY CHARLES RUSSELL

## TOOWOOMBA CENTRAL

### GHETTO PREACHER IN TOOWOOMBA



Pastor Willy Ramos, known as the ghetto preacher, visited Toowoomba from Florida, USA, and was speaker for the high school students Week of Worship at Darling Downs Christian College. He also conducted special meetings for the young people in the Toowoomba Central SDA church each night, including the two Sabbath services, from 1st February to 8th February where 40 young people committed their lives to Christ.

Willy proved to be very dynamic, often using humour, but always speaking from firsthand experience, explaining how an awesome God can change a person who was an alcoholic caught up in gangs and drugs. Stabbed 23 times, Willy experienced firsthand the way God protected him from being killed by gangsters. The awful ordeal he had to go through to leave his gang added to the impact as he shared his personal experiences.

Willy presented Jesus as real, someone who loves even the outcasts, and explained that being a Christian can be a fun experience. There were many tears at each presentation as the Holy Spirit touched the hearts of listeners.

A fitting conclusion was a baptism in the Toowoomba Central SDA church on Sabbath morning. Three of the Toowoomba Central SDA youth were baptized, Johanna McMicking, Tabitha Allen, and Emeshe Honti. Also one young person from nearby Glenvale Church, Shanze Wilkins was also baptized. The church was literally packed with an extra overflow of 30 or more seated in the foyer.

The words “HOME COMING” were lit up in bright yellow coloured lights across the front of the church. This helped to focus on Willy’s message as he spoke about the “Home Coming” soon to take place. With reference to Revelation 21:1-5, Willy contrasted his beginning of life in a gang environment where death, sorrow and no hope was the expectation, with the life he now enjoys with Christ and the hope he has in the home coming where there will be no more death, sorrow, or tears.

As well as the four who were baptized that morning another fourteen stood on the Friday night to express their desire for baptism in the future.

ARTICLE BY EDDIE CRAIG  
PHOTO BY EVA POLYVAS-PEERS

## EIGHT MILE PLAINS FIRST ADVENTIST RAAF CHAPLAIN



After a lengthy recruitment process Miljan Popovic was inducted as a volunteer chaplain to the Royal Australian Air Force, making him the first seventh-day Adventist pastor to be accepted as a chaplain into Military services.



On 17th January, 2020, Miljan stood with 6 other inductees, and took the oath on the Bible. He was the only candidate who chose this form of commitment. Miljan continues to serve the church as pastor of the Eight Mile Plains church in Brisbane, and some members joined Miljan and his family for the special occasion, as did some fellow ministers and friends.

As the officiating Captain congratulated the candidates, he noted that Defence Force Recruiting receive around 150,000 applications each year, and only offer around 8,000 positions. The process is even more selective for those seeking to be commissioned officers, as is the case with chaplains. God’s hand was clearly leading Miljan as each hurdle that threatened his selection was overcome during the 12 month process.

ARTICLE BY BRETT TOWNEND  
PHOTO BY MILJAN POPOVIC

## SURFERS PARADISE SURFERS PARADISE CHURCHES MISSION TO THE PHILIPPINES

Despite an average weekly attendance of only 20-35 people, the Surfers Paradise Company (SPC), Queensland, pastored by volunteer John O’Malley, helped facilitate 1440 baptisms in the Philippines in 2019. Known by SPC as “The Iligan Project”, the initiative was inspired by key church members Minardo and Lynda Baldonado from the city of Iligan in Mindanao, who desired to support church growth in their home city. Each year, the project is funded by an annual offering from SPC members of around \$A30,000, a sacrifice beyond their normal tithes and offerings.

Utilising the funds, SPC uses Vacation Bible Schools (VBS) to teach hundreds of young people, and financially supports two graduate Adventist ministers from the Philippines who follow up contacts made during each VBS. Every child receives a Bible at VBS graduation, and parents often enquire about the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Philippines as a result.

Mr Baldonado visits Iligan once a year to touch base with the conference, meet with the ministers, follow up on contacts made through VBS and arrange baptisms. In the early months of 2020, SPC hosted four simultaneous revelation seminars in the cities of Acmac, Libertad, Sambulawan and Suarez, resulting in 75 more baptisms.



“It is obvious that the people in Iligan and the surrounding municipalities are seeking for truth, and this is now our greatest God-given opportunity to fulfil their desire to know the Saviour by our prayers and support, plus the working power of the Holy Spirit,” said Mr Baldonado.

SPC’s overseas ministry is tracking well each year. In 2018, 1620 people were baptised—most of whom were whole families—and from 2007 to present, 8250 baptisms have been conducted.

ARTICLE BY JOHN O’MALLEY AND MARYELLEN FAIRFAX

## ROSEWOOD

### RANDY SKEETE VISITS ROSEWOOD

Randy Skeete, an American-based itinerant Revival Evangelist was the reason the Rosewood Seventh-day Adventist Church at Thagoona was overcrowded on Saturday January 18. These faith-building presentations are timely in view of the world situation where trials and persecutions are becoming the norm for Christians.

Three Bible based topics were presented. ‘Believe it or Not’ centred on the love of God for sinful humanity; ‘From Everlasting to Everlasting’ showed Jesus Christ as the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of this world; and ‘Behold the Man’ on developing a personal relationship with Jesus as a friend.



Many re-committed their lives to Christ and a number indicated their desire for baptism. They were advised to talk with the pastor of a church in their locality. Over 200 persons attended the meetings, stretching the facility to its limits. Extra seating outside the windows enabled late-comers to see and hear the presentations, the car park was full by 9.30 and deacons were busy directing traffic till 11 am. Local church members and visitors contributed to the lunch, which was served in the hall behind the church, and there was no shortage of food.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY MARJORIE ENTERMANN

## BLACKBUTT

### BLACKBUTT HEALTH



Late last year the local Adventist group in Blackbutt (South Burnett region), ran a health outreach program out of a local hall. The group showed video presentations from Hans Diehl about the benefits of eating a healthy plant-based diet.

The group also enjoyed a meal with all who were attending after each presentation, giving examples of healthy recipes to try out at home. Attendees loved the chance to get to know some of their community better, and have plans to host another program later in 2020!”

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY LEATHAN FITZPATRICK

## SOUTH QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE PIONEERS NEW MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (MD)

Over the past 5 years, South Queensland's ministerial team has been integrally involved in the development of the new Ministry Development Framework, known as MD. Funded by the South Pacific Division, the project has been a project developed by the Australian Union in partnership with the South Queensland Conference. The framework is designed to assist in two main areas. First, Seasonal Ministry reports facilitate leadership conversations at the local level. The helps pastors and chaplains work closely with their church and school teams to explore God's plans for the future, and chart their journey online in a way that is easy to share with the Conference and the wider church.

These online ministry reports are now in use across all Australian Conferences, with plans for New Zealand to participate later this year.

Secondly from this year onwards, our South Queensland team along with interns Australia-wide, will pioneer the new REAP cycle, aimed at helping ministry leaders gain insights into their strength and challenge areas, from those that work closest with them. Each minister is then able to use this feedback to tailor a growth plan for the coming year. For more information on MD, please talk to your pastor or chaplain, or for a free copy of the e-booklet, email [russwillcocks@adventist.org.au](mailto:russwillcocks@adventist.org.au).

ARTICLE PR RUSS WILLCOCKS AND  
PR BRETT TOWNEND, CSD TEAM

## BUNDABERG HOPE AVENTIST SCHOOL



2020 represents a new beginning for Hope Adventist School, (previously Coral Coast Christian School). We have a new name, a new principal, Mrs Kristy Norman and refurbished classrooms embracing flexi learning while catering for student's needs with a differentiated curriculum. Our students are also excited to be wearing a brand-new uniform.

Community is very important to us, and we believe our new name gives a strong message regarding our beliefs to the community. Our new uniform has an equally strong message with the inclusion of indigenous artwork. This artwork is taken from a painting by a local aboriginal artist, Maxine Zealey from the Gooreng Gooreng tribe and reflects our school's principles and beliefs; reconciliation, inclusion, and hope.

The original painting features traditional indigenous circles as follows; reconciliation (top left), inclusion (top middle), hope (top right). Indigenous Camp (lower left), non-Indigenous Camp (lower right), the coming together of those two camps (lower middle).



Exciting things are happening at Hope Adventist School this year. We praise God for His leading and guidance. It is our prayer that we do indeed bring hope to our students, their families, and our community.

ARTICLE BY LEANNE JENSEN AND FAY GRIEVE

## NORTHPINE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE WEEK OF WORSHIP

Week of Worship (WOW) 2020 at Northpine Christian College was definitely a WOW week. Students were blessed to have world-renowned speaker for teens Pr Wazza. Returning to



his old school where he worked as a chaplain 10 years ago, Pr Wazza presented the theme for the week, NXT LVL (Next Level). Students from year 7-12, no matter where their walk with God was at, were challenged as he presented what going to the next level looked like. By the end of the week students were called for baptism, bible studies, service and leadership. Students signed up so they could go to the next level. Pr Wazza was supported by the students for the students as they led out in worship through music and drama.



As chaplains there is nothing more amazing than seeing students lean in and be blessed by these weeks. We were overwhelmed by the response of the students wanting to be a part of the program and serve. Nothing warms the soul more than seeing students grow in confidence as they lead their peers to a closer walk with Jesus. Some gave their heart to the Lord for the first time, whilst others wanted to learn how to share Jesus with their friends.

It all culminated on the Friday where we witnessed over 80-100 students stay and worship God through their lunch break in music and prayer. That was so amazing, so wow, so fantastic, so blessed. Young people of Northpine you are the best.

ARTICLE BY NEIL REDMAN, PHOTOS BY CHARMAINE PATEL

## BRISBANE ADVENTIST COLLEGE

### GO WEEK



This year BAC experimented with a new style of Secondary Spiritual Emphasis Week, calling it GO Week. After enjoying a healthy breakfast at school each day, guest speaker and BAC alum Pastor Raymond Moaga led the students in Zuu fitness training, a message on growing spiritual fitness habits designed for the body and mind, then a spiritual challenge. Focussing on the theme 'Ready, Set, Go,' the program focused on this question: What is your physical and spiritual fitness, with God and for God, and explored the keys to forming spiritual habits and living your faith in everyday life (finding your Go).



Chaplains Jean-Pierre Martinez and Annalise Cherry felt that the mix of eating together, doing activities together, and exploring God's word together was a winner and allowed students to explore their relationship with God in a fun new way.

ARTICLE BY MEL LEMKE

## Teachers Gather to Connect

On January 23, approximately 300 teachers, school leaders, chaplains, pastors, and conference leaders joined together for the annual Education Connect conference. Traditionally, this day was spent on curriculum and programming; however, in recent years, the focus has strategically shifted to nurturing and uplifting staff spiritually as Teacher Ministers and collectively focussing on our mission.

Pr Alina van Rensburg, Church Support and Development Team (Young Adult Ministries), began the day by casting a vision of church and school partnering to empower and engage our young people. She inspired the attendees to work with pastoral and lay ministry to 'grow together' and reiterated her challenge from last year to help 'break down the silos' and work together as a church to build and grow God's kingdom.

Those who were present were then further inspired hearing how God is moving in mighty ways through the work of Sam Luteru and the ADRA team in Logan, and Henry Suluvale and his family with the refugees on the border of Thailand and Burma. Staff were challenged by both speakers to serve without bias or condition.



Education staff were celebrated through Innovation Awards and Service Awards acknowledging those who had reached significant milestones. Mr Robert Rinsma, Mrs Raelene Abrahams and Mr Colin Wilson were each awarded for 35

years of dedicated service to Adventist Education, a very significant contribution. Teachers who had completed National Certification for Highly Accomplished or Lead Teacher, as recognised by the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership, were also awarded. Miss Aimee Paige, Northpine Christian College, achieved Lead Teacher National Certification, and Miss Kristin Hankins, formally of Northpine Christian College, achieved Highly Accomplished National Certification.

The afternoon Key Note Speaker was Lorin Nicolson, a Christian motivational speaker. The audience laughed, cried, and was deeply moved as he gave his personal testimony of facing life without sight, and how the influence of God in his life helped him achieve well beyond society's expectation.

Staff were able to return to their schools with a renewed connection and sense of mission.

ARTICLE BY HEIDI MAZZ AND PHOTOS BY IRENA PULE

### 2019 EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION AWARDS

Adventist Schools South Queensland presented their annual Education Innovation Awards at the January Connect meeting. This year saw the introduction of two new award categories: Innovation Awards – Classroom (Early Learning) and Innovation Award – Community Engagement (sponsored by ADRA). It was also the first year that our sister schools in Northern Australia Conference were included in the awards.

Associate Education Director, Mrs Heidi Mazz, comments, "Presenting the Education Innovation Awards is one of the highlights of our year! Every year we have so many teachers that do amazing and innovative work; it is wonderful to have an opportunity to recognise and acknowledge their hard work and time investment in front of their colleagues."

Congratulations to the 2019 Award Recipients, as follows:

#### INNOVATION AWARDS—CLASSROOM (EXPERIENCED TEACHERS)

##### **GOLD AWARD: Julie Stefani (Northpine Christian College)**

For adapting the Positive Living Skills for use in an Adventist Christian context, embedding material from the Live More Happy book.

**GOLD AWARD: Dustin Dever, Lynden Chester, Jared Benard (Northpine Christian College)**

For innovation in further growing and developing The Challenge Programme.

**SILVER AWARD: Barbara Wright and Joanna Westerink (Northpine Christian College)**

For innovative work supporting staff to meet the requirements of the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD).

**SILVER AWARD: Michelle Litster (Darling Downs Christian School)**

For her innovative work in developing a creative Business Project for Years 5 and 6.

**INNOVATION AWARDS—CLASSROOM (GRADUATE AND EARLY CAREER TEACHERS)****GOLD AWARD: Naomi Green (Darling Downs Christian School)**

For innovation in developing ways to use the school spelling program more effectively.

**SILVER AWARD: Ryan McClelland (Carlisle Adventist Christian College)**

For introducing an online platform to streamline processes for sport selection.

**INNOVATION AWARDS—CLASSROOM (EARLY LEARNING AND KINDY EDUCATORS)****GOLD AWARD: Tiffany Flatley and Samantha Lee (Northpine Christian College Early Learning Centre)**

Developing and implementing a new process for documenting student goals and planning forward. They also developed an outdoor classroom for intentional teaching, as well as spontaneous play experiences.

**SILVER AWARD: Cara Lewandowski (Ipswich Adventist School)**

For the development and implementation of a social-emotional space.

**INNOVATION AWARDS—CHAPLAINCY****GOLD AWARD: Cathy Campbell and David Toogood (Noosa Christian College)**

Developing age specific chapel programs, Spark (K-4), Surge (5-8) & SALT (9-12), to increase student engagement and leadership opportunities.

**INNOVATION AWARDS—SUPPORT STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS****GOLD AWARD: Sophie Standley (Cairns Adventist Christian College)**

For innovative practice within the Cairns context in over a large number of areas of operation achieving efficiencies in both time management and finances.

**SILVER AWARD: Anthony Whyatt (Brisbane Adventist College)**

For implementing a bus monitoring system to ensure high levels of safety and monitoring.

**SILVER AWARD: Andrew Bennett, Kim Lomas (Gold Coast Christian College)**

For implementing a bus monitoring system to ensure high levels of safety and monitoring.

**INNOVATION AWARDS—ADMINISTRATION****GOLD AWARD: Yola Lieder (Ipswich Adventist School)**

For facilitating the development of a whole school spiritual master plan working towards the goal of building a community of faith.

**SILVER AWARD: Jaco Tams (Northpine Christian College)**

For innovatively seeking ways to dramatically change the school's approach to students who were challenged to meet deadlines and complete assessments, and working with a team to implement the Growing Learning and Academic Development (GLAD) programme.

**INNOVATION AWARDS—COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (ADRA)****GOLD AWARD: Shaun Lieder, Francis Pule, Nadia Goltz (Ipswich Adventist School)**

For leading in a number of quality community service projects including 'Shoes that Grow', Water Drive, and Joy Club.

**SILVER AWARD: Jeanine Sandy (Darling Downs Christian School)**

Jeanine created and implemented the 'Week of Health' engaging the community in a collective focus on health intentionally highlighting our Adventist mission of health.

**INNOVATION AWARDS—MISSION ADVANCEMENT****GOLD AWARD: Guy Lawson (Gold Coast Christian College)**

For the planning and implementation of "Imagine 2019" where staff, along with their families, spent a weekend at Camp Somerset for a deliberate time for spiritual contemplation and renewal.

# Pastoral Staffing for 2020

SDAC (SQC) Ltd Report for Print—February 18 2020

Afamasaga, Sam	Logan City Samoan
Ah Sam, Timothy	Biloela Emerald
Ah Siu, Jedidiah	Cornubia Samoan Ipswich Samoan Riverview Samoan
Azzopardi, Joe	Springwood Associate
Berkeley, Sean	Gold Coast Christian College Chaplain
Campling, Greg	Ipswich Rosewood
Cobbin, Kendell	Springwood
Collum, Karen	Chaplain, Gold Coast Christian College
Collum, Mike	Gold Coast Central
Duarte, Yimi	Brisbane Spanish Gold Coast Spanish Group
Faber, Mike	Yeppoon CARV Chaplain
Faiumu, Tusi	Deception Bay Samoan North Central Samoan Scarborough Samoan
Feaveai, Andrew	Toowoomba Central Millmerran
Fitzpatrick, Leathan	Kingaroy Murgon Nanango Group Blackbutt Group
Foote, Chris	Chaplain, Melody Park Retirement Village Aged Care and Hospital Chaplaincy Coordinator
Gillespie, David	Southpine New Life
Goldsmith, Mark	Hervey Bay Maryborough Childers
Groves, Darryl	Gatton Esk Laidley
Hamilton, André	Brisbane Central Redhill
Harders, Lachlan	Intern, Gold Coast Central
Harrington, Sharyn	Chaplain, Northpine Christian College
Hebbard, Steve	Gympie Yandina Gayndah (oversight)
Hobbs, Ray	Rockhampton

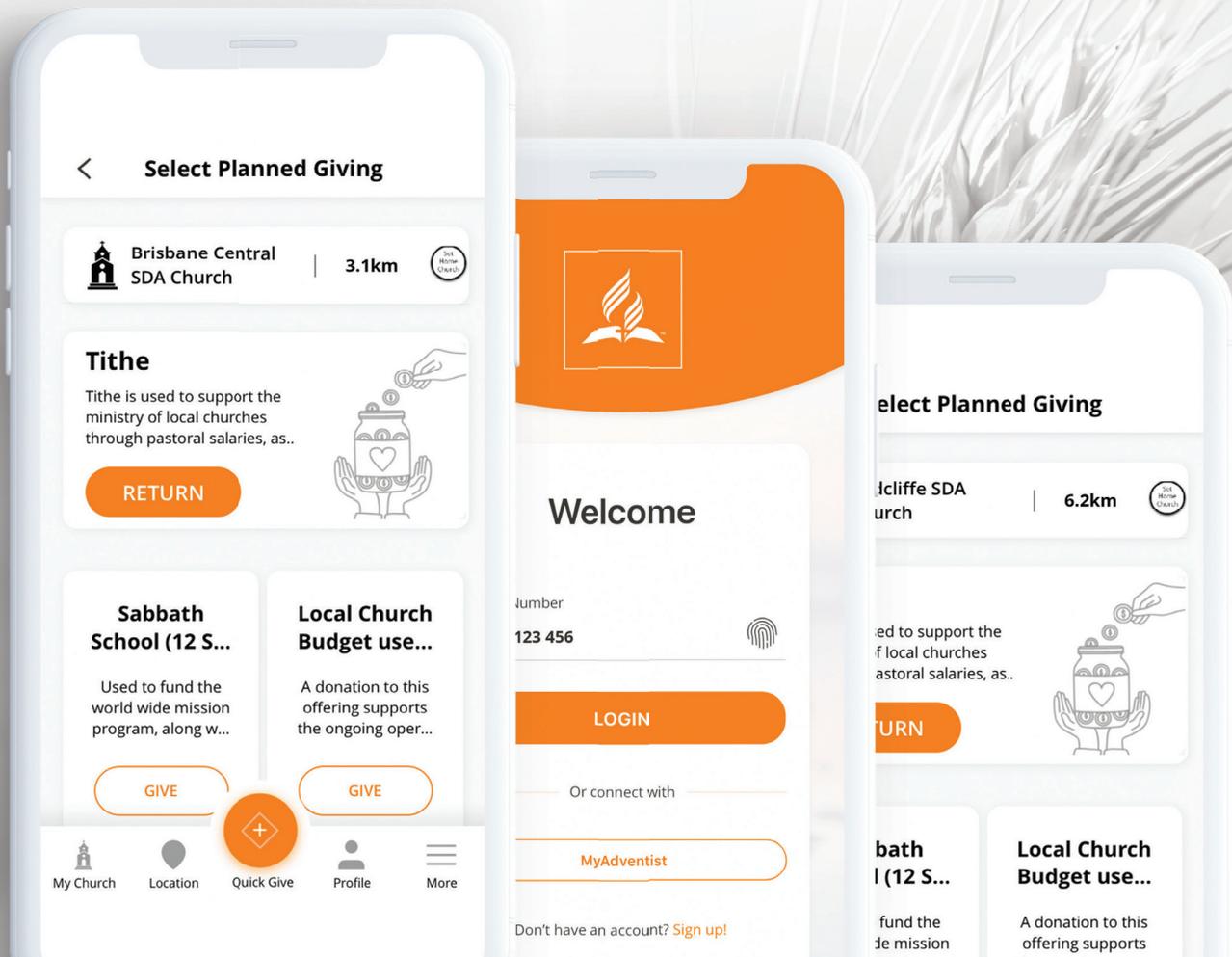
Humphries, Wayne	Stanthorpe Warwick
Je, Young	Gold Coast Korean
Kane, Steve	Coastlife Mt Tamborine
Kelava, Jakob	Brisbane Asian Company Brisbane Croatian Garden City
Kelsey, David	Landsborough Kilcoy
Kewley, Daniel	St Andrews Rosedale Chaplain, Hope Adventist School
Ko, Scott	Brisbane Korean Capalaba
Lieder, Shaun	Redcliffe Sandgate
Lindsay, Annalise	Chaplain, Brisbane Adventist College
Marks, Neil	Brisbane Croatian Mitchelton Wynum
Martin, Jared	Mt Gravatt Associate
Martinez, Jean- Pierre	Chaplain, Brisbane Adventist College
Mawer, Trevor	Pine Rivers Intern Supervisor -S Lieder
May, Graeme	Intern Eden's Landing Intern Helensvale
Milosavljevic, Dusan	Salisbury
Moaga, Ray	Springwood Samoan Brown's Plains Samoan Harvest Community Company
Nelson, Caitlin	Intern, Springwood
Okesene, Gideon	South Brisbane Bay Islands
Parker, Darrin	Maroochydore Deception Bay
Penate, David	Intern, Park Ridge
Piturlea, Emmanuel	Sherwood Romanian
Popovic, Miljan	Eight Mile Plains
Pule, Francis	LifeSwich Church Plant Harrisville Ipswich Adventist School Chaplain Intern Supervisor – G May
Redman, Neil	Chaplain, Northpine Christian College

Reilly, David	Eight Mile Plains Associate
Richards, Kelly	Pine Rivers Associate
Riley, David	Reedy Creek
Roberts, Gary	Chaplain, Victoria Point Adventist Retirement Village
Rusterholz, Heinrich	Albion Bribie Island Nundah
Scheffer, Ricardo	Inala Kingston Samoan
Southwell, Harley	Intern, Logan Reserve Intern, Beaudesert
Stefani, Wolfgang	Park Ridge Intern Supervisor – David Penate
Strickland, Willie	Brisbane African Cook Island Group
Stuart, Luke	Murray Wantok Company
Turner, Mark	Hinkler, Gin Gin
Tyler, Neil	Logan Reserve Beaudesert Intern Supervisor – Harley Southwell
Ugljesa, Jacob	Cooroy Chaplain, Noosa Christian College
Van Rensburg, André	ADRA Logan Chaplain Refugee Church Planter
Vidacak, Zeny	Mt Gravatt Fijian
Ward, Steve	Nambour Maleny
Wareham, Scott	Caloundra Chaplain, Caloundra Adventist Retirement Village
Webb, Joseph	Caboolture
Wolverton, Casey	Glenvale Highfields
Yeend, Phillip (Lay Volunteer)	Dalby Chinchilla
Yeo, David	Gladstone, Monto
TBA	Glenvale Associate, Darling Downs Christian School Chaplain
TBA	Roma and Districts
TBA	Brisbane Tongan (Maranatha) Company
O'Malley, John (Volunteer, Retired Pastor)	Surfers Paradise
Lambe, David (Volunteer, Retired Pastor)	Sunshine Coast Adventist Fellowship (SCAF)

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Seventh-day Adventist Church

South Queensland



## POSITION VACANT (Full-time) Adventist Retirement Plus, Operations Manager

Adventist Retirement Plus South Qld Conference is seeking a Full-Time Operations Manager based at Yeppoon. The successful applicant will manage the support services and independent living units of this site, ensure that we meet our Retirement Village Act legislative requirements, manage multiple service delivery teams and must also Work collaboratively with the site Care Manager.

This position requires relevant tertiary qualifications, excellent communication skills and previous management experience and be a committed member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with a strong commitment to mission demonstrated within the Aged Care ministry of the church. Sales experience in Real Estate will be an advantage.

**Applications close on Friday April 24, 2020**

For more information and a position profile, contact:

Chief Operations Officer, 400 Boundary Street,  
Spring Hill, QLD 4004

P: 07 3218 7777  
danielv@arplus.org.au  
www.arplus.org.au



## CHURCH@HOME OPTIONS

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-  **eGiving App.** Set up a schedule on pay day.
-  **Credit card/Debit Card** direct giving.
-  **Phone payment.** Call Administration & Resourcing Centre on 07 3218 7777
-  **Direct bank transfer.** Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Ltd. Bank: Westpac. BSB: 034-002. Account: 672-519.
-  **Personal deposit** delivery direct to Administration & Resourcing Centre.
-  **Mail donations** to Seventh-day Adventist Church, Administration & Resourcing Centre, PO Box 577, Spring Hill, QLD 4004



South Queensland

**Australia: [www.egiving.org.au](http://www.egiving.org.au)  
New Zealand: [www.egiving.org.nz](http://www.egiving.org.nz)**



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Spring Hill, QLD 4004

NO LATER THAN APRIL 30, 2020.

All copies may be edited and late items may not be printed. Advertisements (1–10 lines) \$25.

\*\$2.50 for each additional line.

Subject to sufficient copy received,  
the next general issue of *FOCUS* will  
be published in June, 2020

President

Editor

Print

Brett Townend

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Signs Publishing



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

South Queensland