



Nurturing Disciples

In a Healthy Growing Church

Reaching Out and Connecting

# FOCUS

Newsletter of the South Queensland Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

## What Inspires You?

by Pastor Jorge Munoz, South Queensland Conference President

**T**his is a question that many people often find difficult to answer, especially in these times and the world in which we live. With so many things happening around us, it is easy to lose focus, panic, and begin to dwell on the negatives.

It reminds me of the story of the prophet Ezekiel. At the beginning of chapter 40, he is in captivity in Babylon with not many positive things happening around him. His wife has been dead for a few years and now he feels alone. Moreover, Jerusalem has been destroyed and remains in ruins, and the people of God wait for the time when they will be liberated. But Scripture says that, at this point in time, God shows him a glimpse of what is yet to come—to give him hope, strength, and to inspire him! God encourages Ezekiel by giving him a vision showing him that there is indeed a new life for the people of God. It is a reminder of the power of God and the life we can live today in Him. Yes, at the end of our time here, we will enjoy a new life and a new earth, but it is the hope of God triumphant that gives meaning to our lives today. We don't have to wait until the final liberation to have a more and abundant life. It is ours now.

As I travel around the Conference, many people tell me

they feel inspired when they see God in action. They tell me their stories of conversion and transformation, of the many who have come to the knowledge of Christ, of others who have found their way back to God, of lives restored, of families reconciled, of new friendships formed, and of harmful habits that have been left behind thanks to His power. It is always about what God is doing in the lives of people. Everything points to a God of not just words, but a God of action, constantly seeking people to join His kingdom. That is inspirational.

Here in South Queensland we want to be used by God. We want Him to live in us and thus inspire others as well. We want to continue learning more about God, living in His knowledge, and sharing that living knowledge of God. In the years ahead, we are challenging ourselves to LEARN MORE, LIVE MORE, and LOVE MORE, both for and with God.

Instead of asking the question, "What inspires me?," perhaps our focus should be, "How can I inspire others?" Despite the negatives and the adversities we face, our lives will always find joy and blessing when we focus on Christ and His kingdom, and let Him act in our lives. It is my prayer that you may be encouraged this year to LIVE MORE for Him.

LEARN MORE. LIVE MORE. LOVE MORE.



# Reaping the Harvest

by Sone Mariner & Uli Paga

The South Queensland Conference's Literature Evangelist team continues to see God's hand at work as they go out and reap the harvest. Below are a handful of the many encouraging stories of God's leading as they have been seeking out those who are far from God, from door to door.



## A Heavenly Appointment in Redcliffe

Five literature evangelists came together to support Pastor Mike Brownhill and the Redcliffe church in their efforts to reach their local community through a one-day outreach program. Together there was Thomas, Stuart, Uli, Julie and myself working together visiting homes to hand out literature, pray with those seeking prayer and encouragement, and creating a follow-up list of people who are interested to learn more about God and the Bible. We were all working side by side spreading literature like the leaves of autumn and searching for souls.

The results of our one-day outreach in Redcliffe:

- ▶ Beyond DVDs - 15
- ▶ Literature distributed - 240
- ▶ Prayers - 3
- ▶ Bible Studies - 10
- ▶ Demo - 25

One of the interests in watching the *Beyond* DVD was a doctor and his wife. But the more interesting one of the morning was five doors down from the doctor who also wanted to watch the *Beyond* DVD. I found a house with an open door and music quietly playing. It was a very tidy, open-plan home with varnished floorboards and many various sized cushions neatly arranged around the varnished floor. I was curious and wanted to meet the owner. I finally met her and we bonded quickly. She is a lady of around 45 year of age. It turns out that her father had recently died of a brain tumor and she was also going through a few problems herself. Yet she has a posi-

tive Biblical attitude to it all. I started to share with her our biblical-church philosophy about health and it connected with her powerfully. I moved quickly into the spiritual, biblical and church topic for she had to go, and again she was very interested. In the end she accepted and wanted to watch the *Beyond* series DVD. Her reasons were to give her more directions from the Bible. I complimented her on how open and nice her home was and she responded, "You just like the smell of fresh-baked cookies in the house." Of course I had to agreed for I knew it was her way of offering me a cookie. "Would you like some?" she inquired, and of course I wouldn't say no. Thus I walked away praising God and looking forward to lunch. God is wonderful in going ahead of us preparing people's hearts, then leading us to them.

Pastor Brownhill and the church will be following up the interests we sparked.

Thank you to Pastor and Mrs. Brownhill and the church for looking after us but more importantly for working in partnership, side by side in saving souls.

## Yeppoon & Mt Morgan: There's Something about, Maria.

I knocked on the last unit of the apartment block and was invited in by the owner, Maria. She was a lady in her 60s and lived alone with a cat. She had four grown children but

had lost contact with all of them, and sadly they weren't interested in making contact with their mother. She shared with me that her husband had left her and run away with his childhood sweetheart. She confided to me that she felt worthless, betrayed and alone.

As we spoke more, I found out with some relief that she is not a recluse. She goes next door to the Blue Nurse Activity Centre three times a week for fellowship and various activities, and that kept her connected to the outside. She had also been visited by Jehovah's Witnesses and had just started to



attend some of their meetings. I shared with her our holistic approach on health and how it includes biblical spiritual health. I continued to share with her what I believed in and the church I attend. She didn't seem to mind. We had a good discussion and she seemed open to God and the church. She knew of our Capricorn Aged Care in Yeppoon, which is certainly witnessing in the area, giving the church a good name. I invited her to visit our church the next Sabbath to compare fellowships and taste various vegetarian dishes at lunch. I was surprised when she agreed! As it turns out, just the night before I had met a lovely church lady (God's timing) who lived nearby to Maria, and she agreed to pick Maria up and look after her. I showed her the range of lifestyle books, including *Today, Tomorrow and You* and she decided to invest around \$500 on a number of books.

A special thanks goes to the manager of the Capricorn Retirement Village and Angela Colless for her wonderful support. It was truly a partnership effort in spreading the good news in Yeppoon.



## From Ex-Bikie to Buddhist

I (Uli Paga) met up with Les and his wife Hazel at Mt Morgan. I started off canvassing through an open window before they invited me into their home. They had no need of any books as they had plenty of books on health, and Les is a practicing Buddhist. An interesting fellow, he was an ex-bikie from New Zealand. He loved history and had read the Bible but focused more on Buddhism. To my surprise his wife Hazel shared with me her family history, that she is fifth generation granddaughter to the great American Indian Chief Sitting Bull. Wow! I said I was always interested in the history of the American Indians. From that point, we had a lot to talk about. We talked for a while, and I shared with them the book *The Great Controversy* and about the writer, Ellen White. They were so keen to read it, as they were concerned about the state of the world, wars and the economy. I shared my story and that Jesus is coming again. We had a prayer and as I was about to leave, they both hugged me and said to me, "God bless you in your work." I had a tear in my eye that afternoon. God had set me up again, and our God is an awesome God. I couldn't leave without a photo.

## "Train a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it."

After lunch on our second last day at Yeppoon, Uli and I drove around to find a promising street to work. We settled on a street that was not as promising but we had to start somewhere. The first house I called on, a fellow came to the door and he hesitantly invited me in. I find out later that he actually saw us pull in and he made up his mind then that he was not going to let us in no matter what, but when he saw me, he felt that he had to let me in; this, I believe, was only through the Holy Spirit. As I canvassed him he seemed to be very knowledgeable, yet he fitted the image of a recovering alcoholic, with some psychological challenges; a smoking pensioner who lives every day for the time to trot down to the pub for a drink. Yet as I got to know him better I realised my assessment was wrong. This guy does not drink and does not smoke much. He is fairly disciplined. He believes in cooking his own meal with plenty of vegetables and fruits. He believes in drinking plenty of water and he believes in God. He was living a normal Adventist lifestyle, bar the smoking. As I showed him the books, I felt a kinship with Brian. He ordered a few of our lifestyle books including the *Today, Tomorrow and You*—our message book. When Brian signed for the order, I decided to chat and get to know him more. I found out that his mother was a devout Seventh-day Adventist and spent the past six years of her life at our aged care centre before she passed away. His upbringing was Seventh-day Adventist, thus explaining his lifestyle. I told him that I am also an Adventist and he told me that his mother used to give him the *Signs of the Times*, and he enjoyed it even though he didn't go to church. He was pleased when I gave him four current issues of *Signs* magazine. I talked to him about the last days and what the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy predicts. He mentioned that he had heard about Ellen White but never read any of her books. Thus he was very pleased when I gave him *The Great Controversy* book and he promised to read it. We had a prayer together and I have arranged for the pastor to visit him and drop off some of the *Record* newsletters.



These are just a few of the stories of what God is doing out there. God's Spirit is working powerfully in people lives preparing them for His Church—you and I—to call on them. The Spirit of Prophecy says, "Everywhere the people are taking sides; all are ranging themselves either under the banner of truth or under the banner of the apostate powers."

If you are interested to know more of this Ministry, email: [sonemariner@gmail.com](mailto:sonemariner@gmail.com)

PS: A date to mark in your calendar, March 21, 2015—A special Literature evangelist Sabbath Reunion, Celebration and recommitment that will be at Springwood church.

# Safe Place

# Sabbath

by Ashley Bakay

**B**ecause, we're "Building a safe, faith-based community for everyone"

The South Queensland Conference has been advocating church safety for a number of years, but particularly during recent years and we're sure you've noticed!

It's been essential for us to spread the word about the importance of making safety a focal point in our ministry. Not just because the law requires us to do so, but because as God's people, we care for each other's health and wellbeing, in the same way that God cares for ours.

We want to expand the idea that the reason for safety in our churches is to protect our children. Yes, providing a safe place for children is an important reason, but it is not the only one. Our churches are comprised of many different people, including different ages, genders, social status, education, cultures, abilities and disabilities. For this reason, we need to be mindful of everyone so that we provide for their physical, emotional and spiritual safety.



God loves us and provides for our needs—"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:19)—and we should love people also, just as Jesus has instructed us: "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:31). We wouldn't want to harm ourselves or intentionally put ourselves in harm's way, so why would we do that to others?

Our desire is to make our churches safe places, where people feel welcome and free to worship and participate in activities, without any fear or threat of being injured, discriminated against, harassed, bullied or abused.

Our churches are places where God dwells with us, where His name is lifted up on high and He wants us to know that we are safe with Him. Proverbs 18:10 says, "The name of the Lord is a strong fortress; the godly run to him and are safe." Our churches should be places where those who are feeling down can be lifted up in the name of the Lord, just like Psalm 147:6 says, "The Lord lifts up the downtrodden; He casts the wicked to the ground."

So let's prepare for Sabbath, March



14, dedicated in our conference calendar as **Safe Place Sabbath**. On this day, let's promote our churches as safe places, nurturing a positive, friendly and loving environment, in a supportive spirit for young and old, and everyone in-between!

The South Queensland Conference will provide all churches, groups and companies with a DVD containing a short 5-minute promotional video. It is the first training video developed by the Conference Compliance Department, derived from our Event Safety Management training PowerPoints, available on the Conference Safety Management website <<http://sqsdasafety.org.au>>.

We pray that Safe Place Sabbath brings you many blessings and encourages you in love, and we pray that our training videos may prove to be beneficial to everyone!

God bless!

# Social Justice

*What Does it Mean for Christians in a Contemporary World*

by Pastor David Garrard, ATSIM Director

In today's modern world, the concept of social justice is often associated with left-wing political ideology.

The Oxford dictionary defines social as "relating to society or its organisation" and justice as "a concern for justice, peace and genuine respect for people."

In Aussie vernacular social justice is about everybody getting 'a fair go'.

You could argue that part of the modern concept of social justice is related to the redistribution of wealth through government taxes.

However, what does social justice mean to Christians, especially if you don't have a great deal of surplus cash to give away?

Luke 4:18-19 speaks of Jesus being sent to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and setting the oppressed free, and when asked which is the greatest commandment in Matthew 22:36, He replied, "Love God with everything you've got," and then added a bonus for the Pharisee, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Which is exactly how Jesus lived on a daily basis—He healed, fed, counselled and showed deep individual compassion to those around him (which incidentally cost him nothing) always looking for the opportunity to give someone a helping hand or 'a fair go'. One way for Christians to demonstrate social justice is to just simply follow the example of Jesus.

As Christians, we should focus on showing compassion to our neighbour.

Through prayer, God will lead us into a social justice mission in our own backyard. Somewhere near you there is an individual or a group that needs to receive compassion and justice.

For instance, in South East Queensland an ATSIM program called DreamTrack, which is supported by ADRA, provides mentoring for 30-40 "at risk" Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth aged 8 – 16 once a month. They engage in social, cultural and spiritual activities in a fun, safe and friendly setting.

Volunteers can help in a number of ways from organising events, catering and supervision for small groups of up to four or five children undertaking activities from water skiing, indoor rock-climbing to bowling, cultural activities, team building games and camps.

There are other ways to reach out on a personnel level. Whether it is through volunteering at local organisations, taking part in youth ministry or simple acts of kindness, we can all find ways to demonstrate compassion that leads to greater social justice in the world.

If you're interested in making a difference please visit <[www.dreamtrack.org.au](http://www.dreamtrack.org.au)> and sign up to volunteer. With DreamTrack, a moment of your time can affect a lifetime of change for a young person.

A note about the author:

Pastor David Garrard is Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries for the South Queensland Conference. Over the past 15 years he has ministered to Aboriginal people in remote, rural and city communities of Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia.



## GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEWEST MINISTRY TEAM MEMBERS HERE IN SOUTH QUEENSLAND

Over the past couple of months, the South Queensland Conference's pastoral and educational teams have grown with the addition of a handful of new staff members. In hopes of getting to know this group of highly talented and motivated staff, we asked them to answer a few simple questions. If you haven't already, we invite you to give them a warm South Queensland welcome next time you see them around the conference.



### Daniel Cinzio

**Current Role:** Pastor at Park Ridge and Flagstone churches.

**Family Details:** Husband of one wife (Tammy) and dad to three kids: Jonathan, Kiraleigh and Kassi.

**Previous Role(s):** I began in the ministry at the NNSW Conference. Some of my previous roles include Youth Director in the Northern Australian Conference and Global Mission Pioneer in the South Queensland Conference. Before my ministry appointments, I worked in a variety of roles including office clerk, out on the land, various practical trade environments and self-employment.

**Hobbies/Interests:** Outdoor activities such as four-wheel driving, swimming, carpentry and helping people.

**Ministry Aspirations:** To follow the leading of the Holy Spirit intimately as my family and I work in and with my church and community. In the words of John Wesley, "Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the

times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can."



### Leathan Fitzpatrick

**Current Role:** Associate Pastor at Caboolture church

**Family Details:** My girlfriend Steph and I have been dating for three years. Steph grew up on the Gold Coast and I grew up in Toowoomba but we did not meet until our first year at Avondale College. Our lives have been fun thus far and we are looking forward to what God has in store for us!

**Previous Role(s):** Prior to studying at Avondale College, I worked as a machine operator in a rotational moulding factory in the Lockyer Valley. It was there that I completed an apprenticeship in rotational moulding and was granted the title of Apprentice of the Year for my local district. I then received the call to study for the ministry at Avondale College where I became a Student Dean in the men's dormitories

**Hobbies/Interests:** I am a passionate rugby league supporter. I also follow other sports but they generally take a back seat when the rugby league season begins! I enjoy spending time with people, especially family and old friends. I can be found enjoying a variety of styles of music as I am a drummer (sorry, neighbours). I am fascinated by history and archaeology and have plans to travel around Australia and the world with Steph one day.

**Ministry Aspirations:** For people to realise the hope they have in Jesus Christ. I pray that the Spirit moves with power

in my city, and our church becomes packed each week with worshippers!



### Ernst William

**Current Role:** Pastor at Edens Landing and Helensvale churches

**Family Details:** I am married to lovely wife Marcha, who is a doctor, music evangelist and will soon be studying psychology.

**Previous Role(s):** I served as a Pastor in Townsville for five years and in Cairns for five years.

**Hobbies/Interests:** Travelling, photography, graffiti, Bible lands, archaeology, bass guitar, Reformation lands, Adventist heritage, good restaurants, Tim Hawkins (comedian), Fernando Ortego (musician), hanging out with friends (old and new).

**Ministry Aspirations:** To share Jesus' love with as many people as possible and to invite them to accept Him as their Lord, Saviour and Friend!



### Tammie Harrison

**Current Role:** I teach Kindy, Prep and Year 1 at Coral Coast.

**Family Details:** I help raise children for a career, so I am happy to go home to peace and quiet!

**Previous Role(s):** Preschool Teacher, Nanny (overseas and Australia).

**Hobbies/Interests:** Travel and learning languages.

**Ministry Aspirations:** To be a positive role model to my class, staff, parents and community. To help each child know their worth from God and those surrounding them.



**Kylie French**

**Current Role:** Grade 5 teacher at Gold Coast Christian College.

**Family Details:** My husband Luke and I have two girls: Keira (age 7) and Amelie (age 5).

**Previous Role(s):** Previously, I was at the Central Coast Adventist School on the central coast of NSW.

**Hobbies/Interests:** Gardening and spending time with family.

**Ministry Aspirations:** I have two hopes for my students: first, to see them reach their fullest potential, for them to be and do whatever they choose; second, that they may know Jesus as an all-loving best Friend.

able to express my creativity as I design unique and exciting ways for the little treasures in my class to explore their world. The happy little faces that I am greeted with each day make my job rewarding. I am particularly looking forward to immersing the children in art experiences and am excited to discover some hidden talent in my tiny students!

**Hobbies/Interests:** Craft—making things from “Pinterest” for my classroom! Spending time with my husband and children exploring the different parks around our area.

**Ministry Aspirations:** I aim to give the families of our kindergarten “time” this year. Time is so precious to all of us. I pray that I may show Jesus to the families by the time I dedicate to them as I carry out my role. I aim to give time by; lending a listening ear, providing a shoulder to cry on, celebrating their child’s accomplishments and offering friendly advice.



**Brenton Hobson**

**Current Role:** Secondary Maths/Chemistry teacher at BAC.

**Family Details:** Married to Tia-Nicole Hobson.

**Previous Role(s):** Studied at Avondale College.

**Hobbies/Interests:** Surfing.

**Ministry Aspirations:** To positively influence my students’ lives.



**Cara Lewandowski**

**Current Role:** Teacher at the BRAND NEW kindergarten at Ipswich Adventist School

**Family Details:** My husband Michael and I have three children: Eden (age 6), Zack (age 5) and Finn (age 2). Eden and Zack are attending Ipswich Adventist School where I am now working and are very excited to have Mummy work at their school!

**Previous Role(s):** I am an Early Childhood Teacher who has been working in a primary school with the state education system for 12 years. It was always a dream of mine to be a kindergarten teacher. I love the opportunity to be creative and I am



**Stacey Coralde**

**Current Role:** Working at Northpine Christian College as Visual Arts Teacher, also teaching Music and Digital Media.

**Family Details:** My husband Cloyd and I have a 4-year-old son, named Marley.

**Previous Role(s):** Studied at Avondale College for the past three years.

**Hobbies/Interests:** Visiting galleries/exhibitions. Always look forward to the annual outdoor sculptures!

**Ministry Aspirations:** Through the visual arts, I aspire to develop a sense of confidence and self-worth in the lives of the students, who will see the love of Christ through the inspirations of our surroundings.



**Tia Hobson**

**Current Role:** Year 1/2 teacher at Ipswich Adventist School

**Family Details:** Married to Brenton Hobson.

**Previous Role(s):** In 2014, I graduated as a Primary Teacher from Avondale College.

**Hobbies/Interests:** I love reading, doing crafty things, and indulging in a block of chocolate.

**Ministry Aspirations:** To share God’s love with the little ones I come in contact with!

# iTHIRST PATHFINDER CAMPOREE



On January 5, 2015, Toowoomba's Showgrounds were flooded with thousands of excited Pathfinders from 14 nations across the South Pacific for the SPD's 2015 iThirst Pathfinder Camporee. Camporee started with an impressive display of the Pathfinder Clubs marching their way onto the Showground's main oval where the opening ceremony commenced. There was a sense of excitement in the air as the official camporee flag was hoisted up the flag poll by the Pathfinder colour guard, followed by a mighty applause once the flag was waving for all to see.

Over the course of the five-day camporee, the Pathfinders enjoyed numerous activities that involved team-work, thinking strategically and of course plenty of fun, even if that meant getting covered in mud, drenched in water or covered in powder during the "colour run" activity.

The Pathfinders enjoyed the evening program presented

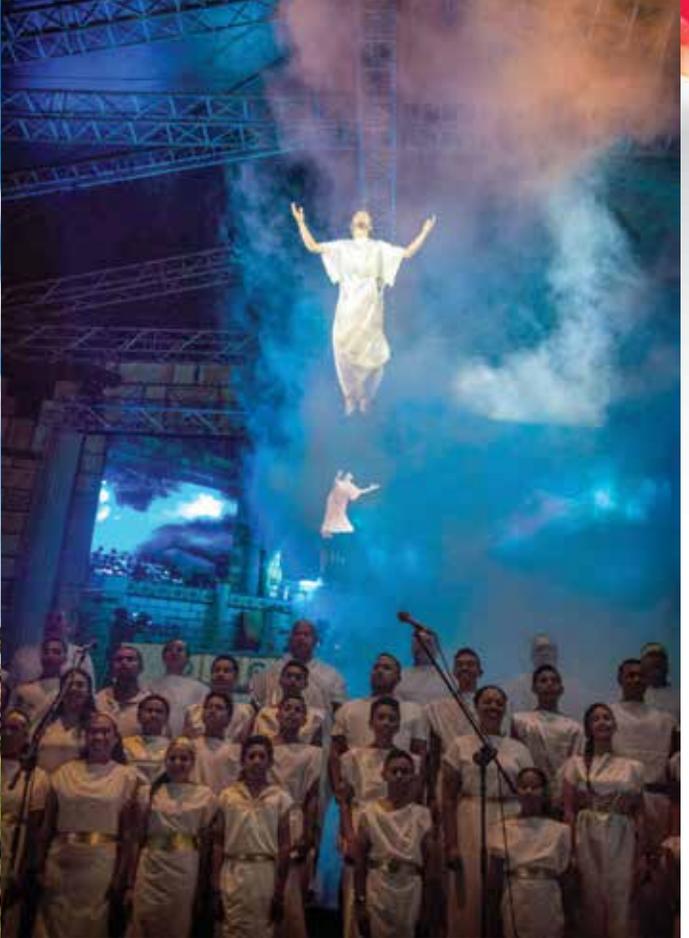
by Pastor Eddie Hypolite, senior pastor at the Avondale College Church. Pastor Hypolite preached powerful messages on how God wants to use them in significant ways even though they are young. On Friday night, Pastor Hypolite called Pathfinders to make a commitment to Christ. More than 3200 Pathfinder made a commitment that night, whether for Bible studies, baptism, committing themselves to Christ or to serve Christ. Praise God for the way He was working upon the hearts of our Pathfinders during Camporee!

Events like these play an important role in the spiritual development of young people. Camporees provide opportunities for intergenerational mentorship and the chance to meet other young people with the same spiritual goals and values. It also provides an Adventist sense of identity as young people see how our church is part of a worldwide family under the banner of Jesus Christ.

Photos by Charmaine Patel



# THIRST PATHFINDER CAMPOREE



## EMERALD CHURCH UNPACKING THE SEVEN PLAGUES



Sabbath afternoon, January 24, saw Emerald's members return for a meeting on the seven last plagues. Elder Keith Cerf presented the third angel's message in his morning sermon. Revelation 16:1 was read, which led to the question "What is the wrath of God?" followed by quotes from Ellen White. That was followed by the 10 plagues that God sent on the Egyptians and then a discussion on the seven last plagues. We were all greatly blessed by this discussion, which was to enlighten, not to frighten!

The afternoon meeting was run by Pastor Peter Karauria, elder Keith Cerf and head deacon Lazlo Honti. The members were invited to participate in any questions they might have. This led to an interesting discussion which came to the conclusion that now is the time to be ready for the return of Jesus. Closing prayer was offered by Lazlo Honti.

—Article by Sandra Petty and picture by Emerald Church

## GLENVALE SHARING THE HEALTH MESSAGE IN A NEW CONTEXT



The first sermon of the year for Pastor Casey Wolverton at the Glenvale Church was not delivered to an Adventist congregation; it was to New Hope Church, one of Toowoomba's largest and fastest-growing Pentecostal churches. The requested topic was not unfamiliar for an Adventist

pastor: the relationship between physical health and spirituality.

Pastors Chris and Sue Mulhare have lead the congregation of nearly 700 for the past 13 years. It's characterised by a remarkably young membership (average median age under 25), and a strong commitment to planting new congregations (four in the Darling Downs region, several more abroad).

"We began a series just before Christmas on 'Choosing a Life You can Love', and we just couldn't ignore this biblical principle of treating your own body as God's Temple" reported Pastor Mulhare. "In the time I've ministered here, I don't recall preaching specifically about this topic. So who better to talk about the Bible's take on health than a Seventh-day Adventist pastor? I've known Casey for several years so I trusted him to deliver, and he did." Pastor Wolverton did not mince words when it comes to a Christian's call to healthful living. "Authentic spirituality is the opening of every part of your life to the presence of God, and that includes your physical health." After each of the two services an invitation was given for people to accept God's help in making any changes the Holy Spirit was leading them to make. Several people expressed strong interest afterwards in attending Glenvale church's upcoming CHIP program.

—Article and pictures by Glenvale Seventh-day Adventist Church

## GYMPIE I WALKED TODAY WHERE JESUS WALKED



Gympie church was the venue on Sabbath, January 31 for another presentation of Maroochydore Ensemble's musical service entitled, "I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked." Gympie pastor, Ted White, thanked the Ensemble convenor, Lynn Howell, for "the blessings which God brought to the church today," and immediately booked a performance of the Ensemble's new presentation, "O Glorious Love" soon to be launched at the Ensemble's Maroochydore "home" church. Unfortunately, the Gympie performance of that work must wait until April, 2016, due to a

heavy bookings schedule. How God has blessed a small group of musicians gathered in 2007 by a focused church member and clarinet player! Their ministry now extends to many South Queensland churches as well as retirement villages, groups and even a wedding or two. Praise God!

—Article and pictures by Ken Dove



## HERVEY BAY CHURCH BAPTISMS



From left to right: Melan and Vicki Badovinac, Rod Tempest, Steven Styles, Pastor Gary Roberts, and Bill Gelitch

December 20, 2014, was an extra special Sabbath for the Hervey Bay church family. The day started with a special Christmas program and luncheon open to the community, followed by an afternoon baptism.

Steven Styles (baptismal candidate) had been searching for the truth for about five years before finding his way to the Adventist Church. Steven has been attending the Hervey Bay Adventist Church for over a year now and felt that it was time to take a stand publicly to die to his old self and be raised to a new life in Jesus. He is well-known in the Christian community and has a passion for serving others. Throughout his journey, he has come to know Christ more and more. Steven is grateful that Christ doesn't give up on us and continues to mould us to become more like Him.

Pictured are some of the members of the Hervey Bay and Maryborough churches that have greatly impacted his life through friendship and Bible studies.

—Article and picture by Antonia Ludwig

## IPSWITCH SENIOR'S MINISTRY



The Senior's Ministry of the Ipswich Church runs Joy Club, an acronym for Just Older Youth. Each month the Joy Club gets together for morning tea, good conversation and worship. A prayer journal is kept and we use this time also to pray for sick or lost members within our community. We encourage all ages to come along and bring a friend or neighbour. It is a good way to get this often disassociated section of the community together for fellowship, worship, prayer and some fun. The photo is of the Christmas Breakup, where a few of our number were unable to come along due to ill health. Each year, instead of bringing gifts for each other, we bring along a donation to ADRA's Christmas Tree. We have already raised \$153 to purchase a solar-operated dehydrator, which will feed 20 families in Africa, and seeds to enable a farmer to make a living by growing crops. Thanks to Lyn Goltz who was our loyal leader during 2014.

—Article and picture by Sandra Hunt-Mason

## KINGARROY FIRST FRUITS OF THE LAST EMPIRE



The Last Empire evangelistic series was well received in Kingaroy and well supported by the faithful members of Kingaroy church and Nana-ngo group. Committed members and regular attendees brought their friends and family and many interests from the community also came along. On the first night we had a couple who were expecting to see a free viewing of the fourth and final movie from the Star Wars trilogy movie series! As the series progressed with weekly presentations and appeals, we ended with nine people wanting baptism, re-baptism, profession of faith or they wanted to have further studies in preparation for baptism.

We are celebrating and praising God for these three "first fruits" who were brave enough to take the first step into the waters of commitment to Jesus Christ and His Body.



Sally Welk, who was born and raised in the Philippines in a Seventh-day Adventist family, was baptised at a young age and later in her life moved to Australia and married Kingsley. During The Last Empire, an appeal was made and she felt a strong urge from the Holy Spirit to recommit her life to Jesus Christ and to His church through baptism. Her journey with God has not always been steady and fully committed, but as she shared her testimony in front of the congregation, tears were streaming down her face as she expressed her desire to serve her Saviour completely. She is a willing and happy helper behind the scenes and her faithfulness and willingness has seen her become a deaconess in our church.

Laura Hobdell has had a journey with God that has not always been plain sailing and has encountered

some very turbulent waters. She is happily married to Kevin and last year saw her lose three significant people who were dear to her. Since being hurt in the past she has not wanted to commit or get too involved with the church. Attending the Last Empire gave her the opportunity to take a step of faith and commit to Christ's Body through profession of faith. She is always happy to use her musical talents for the worship services and this year she has accepted by faith a responsibility that she never imagined she would do, but she will do an absolute wonderful job—through God's strength.

Kiki Harris is a walking miracle. As a child, she had been in and out of foster care, abused, abandoned, addicted to an assortment of things and she wasn't expecting to attend a series like The Last Empire in her wildest imagination until her friend, Michelle Beard, invited her to come along. Michelle was also an interest from the community who was invited by Seth and Beryl Bichard. Each night both Michelle and Kiki would ask questions that really challenged the speaker. But each night they came back hungry for more of God's living water. I have witnessed some amazing miracles in Kiki's life. Since surrendering her life to Jesus Christ, she has been able to better manage her anger through God's amazing grace. Today she is all smiles and such a joyful new person despite receiving some devastating news just weeks before her baptism. Sue and Richard Whitworth, who regularly assisted her with transport, commented that she is a new person.

Praise God for the miracle of a new heart and a new life! Praise God for a team of people who supported this program and still do continue to support those that are being followed up! Praise God for the reputation that we earned around the community as having "the best scones and sandwiches in Kingaroy," which was a great "encouragement" to attendees during The Last Empire series!



—Article and pictures by Gideon Okesene

## SOUTH BRISBANE CHURCH SUPERSTORM



During the recent "Super Storm" experienced by Brisbane City and surrounding suburbs, South Brisbane Church did not escape unscathed. Extensive damage was done to the main church, including water damage, broken windows, damage to the roof and loss of equipment, Bibles and furniture. The church hall also suffered broken windows and water damage. Despite this adversity the South Brisbane Church family pulled together to board up windows and clear the mess from the storm. The main church will be out of bounds until it is declared safe and repaired and until then, members and visitors are meeting in the church hall for the main service and Sabbath schools. This area is a little snug, but we are thankful that we are still able to worship at South Brisbane.

— Article by Claire Tihi, picture by Kia Linkerhof

## INALA

### SOMEWHERE BEYOND THE BLUE, THERE'S A MANSION FOR ME



The theme was set for Inala's Concert at Victoria Point on December 13, 2014. With trumpets on hand to call us home, as on the last day, many church members, families and friends participated to make this concert a great success. After many hours of practice, we all took to the stage with the highlight undoubtedly being the children's performances. Children singing the praises of Jesus and His love for us can never be heard too often.

For 2014, this concert was the culminating event for this BIG little church of south west Brisbane. They may be small

in attending members but they are a very active group. Under the guidance of Pastor Neil Tyler and their personal ministries leader Shirley Hughes, they set about each year to promote God's message through their "Sunshine Lunch" program. The recipient of funds raised for the latter half of 2014 was the "Yooroonga Project" (Adventist Residential Care for Disabled Young Adults) at Victoria Point.

Somewhere beyond the blue there's a mansion for me, but on this earth where do elderly parents place their disabled children to be cared for in God's way? The Inala Church took up the task and at the end of 2014 had raised \$8000 towards this project. They would like to challenge all of the other churches within the conference to support this project so that families may get the help they need and deserve.

— Article by Julie Donlan and picture by Inala Adventist Church

## PINE RIVERS

### OFFERING A HELPING HAND: THE SMITH FAMILY BOOK AND TOY APPEAL



As a community outreach event, one of the Sabbath school groups at Pine Rivers Church collected books and toys for the Smith Family Christmas Appeal for disadvantaged families. A nice collection of children's books and toys were brought to Sabbath school each week. The Smith Family organisation were very appreciative for our church supporting their appeal

— Article and picture by Charles Russell

### THOUSANDS RAISED DURING TRASH AND TREASURE SALE



To help raise money for the Pine Rivers fly-and-build project in Vanuatu in July, 2015, a trash and treasure sale was held at the entrance to Watson Park. \$4000 was raised over the two days of the sale. Warren Bailey, who is coordinating the fly and build project said, "This was a great effort. The money raised will go toward a much-needed renovation of the church at Aore Adventist Academy and other projects." If you would like to donate to this project or are interested in being part of the team, contact Warren: 3886 6573.

— Article and picture by Charles Russell

## GETTING TO KNOW THE COMMUNITY AROUND US



With new estates rapidly opening up very close to Pine Rivers church, many new families are moving into the area. In order to meet and greet these new families, community welcome packs have been developed and personally delivered to the door.

The packs contain a range of material, including information about the church as well as Northpine Christian College, invitations to upcoming events, Bible-study enrollment cards, a sample of the *Beyond the Search* DVD series, a fridge magnet, *Signs* magazine, Sanitarium *Good Food* magazine, Christmas greeting card and a sample of Glow tracts. A bottle of water, packet of seeds and a chocolate were also included.

The response has been very encouraging with people showing their appreciation by taking the packs and being willing to engage in conversation. We were invited into some homes and also met a lady who used to be a Seventh-day Adventist.

"This is a very easy form of outreach," says Charles Russell (Communications Leader). "It meets people right where they are. While it is good to support overseas missions, our church has its own mission field right on its doorstep. We will continue this outreach project throughout 2015 as more and more families move into the area."

— Article and picture by Charles Russell

## DARLING DOWNS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

### ARROWSMITH PROGRAM



Emma Gostelow (right) with Arrowsmith coordinator Glenda Fitzpatrick

At 28 years of age, Emma Gostelow is about to make the biggest move of her life.

Leaving her family, friends and hometown of Sydney behind her, she is embarking on a journey to overcome severe learning difficulties that have handicapped her ability to work and communicate since she was a child. "I'm nervous about leaving home, but I am really excited to see what will happen,"

Miss Gostelow said.

Emma will be joining an adult Arrowsmith program established by Darling Downs Christian School in Toowoomba this year. Founded by Canadian psychologist Barbara Arrowsmith-Young, the program is based on the principals of neuroplasticity and the idea that a student's brain can be rewired.

The school has already seen successful results in their children's program,

which began in 2014. "The results have been beyond our expectations—we have seen big improvements in children who have been with us for just three months," DDCS Arrowsmith coordinator Glenda Fitzpatrick said.

Realising many adults struggle through a life of frustration due to below-average learning ability, Glenda decided to make the life-changing program available to people of all ages. "It's about setting people free to be who God created them to be," Glenda said. "Not only on an academic level but also on a personal level."

The program will be one of two adult Arrowsmith courses available in Australia. The program runs between one to three years, depending on the number of brain function areas that need to be addressed. "We design a program around each student's specific needs—both in how much time they can give as well as what areas they need help with," Glenda said. Students from New Zealand, Western Australia and New South Wales have already enrolled.

Emma's reason for making such a big move is simple—she wants to be able to read. "I feel as though I have a fog in my brain and I just need it to clear," Emma said. "To find out that all these things I've had trouble with for years can be fixed, that they aren't just something I have to live with (is amazing)."

For more information on the DDCS Arrowsmith program, email <arrowsmith@ddcs.qld.edu.au>.

—Article and picture by Elissa Dowling

## GOLD COAST CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

### THE SWEET SMELL OF LOVE



Five year old Reiya was nervous about her first day of school at Gold Coast Christian College. Like many kids starting Prep, Reiya wondered if she would make any friends. She was anxious about what her new teacher might be like, and what if she missed her mother too much and started to cry.

As she left the house, Reiya's mother slipped something into her daughter's pocket—a tissue with a few drops of her mother's favourite perfume on it. "If you're feeling sad today, Reiya" explained her mother, "smell this tissue and it will remind you of me."

Later that day, Reiya saw one of her new class mates sitting on a step crying. "Are you missing your mother?" she asked. Responding to the child's tearful nod, Reiya reached into her pocket and pulled out the tissue. "Here, smell this, and it will make you feel better."

And it did. "Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God" (Ephesians 5:2).

That "pleasing aroma" of Christ's love and sacrifice that the Bible talks about needs to be shared with others, not simply kept in our own pockets. Just like five-year-old Reiya, share Him today.

—Article and picture by David Riley



# POSITION VACANT

## BUSINESS MANAGERS

Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference)Limited

The following two new positions have become available as part of the existing South Queensland Conference Education finance team.

Business Manager – Full Time Brisbane based

Business Manager – Part Time (20 hrs per week) Sunshine Coast based

Both of these senior positions are responsible to the Chief Financial Officer and will be responsible for various areas of financial management within the growing Education ministry of the Conference.

The successful candidates will work in close consultation with the respective local school Principal/s to achieve positive financial/management aims and objectives for the individual schools concerned.

The successful applicants should be an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and hold Business/Management/Accounting academic qualifications (degree level). They should also be able to demonstrate current relevant experience in financial management and or administration and possess good communication and relational skills, essential for these positions.

Written applications for this position should be forwarded to:

Chief Financial Officer

Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Limited

19 Eagle Terrace

Brisbane QLD 4000

APPLICATIONS CLOSE : 25 March 2015

The administration of Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Ltd reserves the right to make an appointment to this position. Only current residents of Australia and New Zealand need apply for this position

## AGED CARE ACCOUNTANT

Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference)Limited

The above full-time position will become available commencing March 2015 as part of the South Queensland Conference finance team based in Brisbane. This senior position will be responsible to the Chief Operating Officer for all day to day financial transaction processing and reporting within the Aged Care ministry of the Conference.

The successful applicant should be a practicing member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and hold Business/Management/Accounting academic qualifications (degree level) and be a member, or be eligible to be a member, of a recognized Professional Accounting organization (CA/CPA). They should also be able to demonstrate current experience in financial management and preferably have current or recent denominational accounting experience.

The successful applicant should also possess good communication and relational skills both of which are essential for this position and be able to demonstrate a clear commitment to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

A more detailed written Job Description is available on request.

Written applications for this position should be forwarded to:

Chief Financial Officer

Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Limited

19 Eagle Terrace

Brisbane QLD 4000

APPLICATIONS CLOSE : 25 March 2015

The administration of Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Ltd reserves the right to make an appointment to this position. Only current residents of Australia and New Zealand need apply for this position

## ICT General Manager

Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference)Limited

Our school system is seeking an ICT General Manager to head up the ICT services division of its company. Reporting to the CEO the position will be full time and located in Brisbane Queensland and will have a strong focus on supporting the education ministry in the South Queensland Conference.

As a key member of the senior management team the ICT General Manager will provide leadership to the existing ICT engineers and technicians whilst providing valuable advice in relation to the future direction of ICT services within our education system to a range of stakeholders. As such the ability to communicate with key stakeholders at all levels is extremely important.

The successful applicant must be a practicing baptised member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with a strong commitment to its mission, particularly as such is demonstrated in the Education ministry of the church. It is envisaged that the person will have completed a tertiary degree and have significant experience in the ICT environment including recent managerial experience.

For a full position description please contact Jack Ryan, CEO Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) via email jackryan@adventist.org.au.

Applications close 3 March, 2015

## ASSISTANT CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference)Limited

This senior position is responsible to the Chief Financial Officer and will be responsible for various areas of financial management, reporting and administration functions in the Conference.

The successful applicant should be an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and hold Business/Management/Accounting academic qualifications (degree level) and be a member/eligible to be a member, of a recognized Professional Accounting organization (CA/CPA). They should also be able to demonstrate current extensive and relevant experience in financial management and administration.

The applicant should also be able to demonstrate sound knowledge of financial accounting computer packages, including the use of EXCEL for spreadsheet analysis. It would be of advantage to also have specific experience with CASEWARE and SUN systems software and general ICT knowledge within a financial framework.

The successful applicant should also possess good communication and relational skills both of which are essential for this position and be able to demonstrate a clear commitment to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

A more detailed written Job Description is available on request.

Written applications for this position, including detailed resume and references, should be forwarded to:

Chief Financial Officer

Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Limited

19 Eagle Terrace

Brisbane QLD 4000

APPLICATIONS CLOSE : 25 March 2015

The administration of Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Ltd reserves the right to make an appointment to this position. Only current residents of Australia and New Zealand need apply for this position

## JOB OPENING

### Library Assistant



Northpine Christian College is seeking an enthusiastic, motivated and creative Library Assistant to join our Library team. The position is fixed term, term time, 38 hours a week. The successful applicant will:

- Be experienced in working with and directing primary and secondary students in the use of learning resources through the active development of creative and engaging support learning environments
- Have experience in creating library displays and coordinating library events that promote the enjoyment and pursuit of reading, research and critical thinking
- Be experienced in working cooperatively with teachers to select and integrate appropriate current learning resources and technologies
- Hold library qualifications or equivalent relevant qualifications
- Be experienced in using Library management systems and maintaining resources
- Have high level IT skills and be experienced in maintaining and developing digital media resource
- Be experienced in resource ordering and purchasing, coordinating start and end of year processes including stocktakes
- Be a collaborative worker with demonstrated ability to be well organized and able to maintain a positive team work environment
- Have a commitment to a Christian World view of and the Christian ethos of Northpine Christian College

Applicants should include a cover letter outlining experience and suitability for the role and a resume including three current work referees. Applicants close Friday 27th February 2015. Please email applications to: [jenelleedser@adventist.org.au](mailto:jenelleedser@adventist.org.au)

# ADVERTISING



## 2015 Prayer Conference

May 1 – 3 Watson Park Convention Centre

With Special Guest - Troy Fitzgerald

Troy is the Youth and Young Adult Pastor at Walla Walla University Church. He has authored numerous books, study guides and articles and is a sought after speaker around the world.

This is one conference you don't want to miss!!



Cost \$100 Per Person for weekend or \$60 day pass

Bookings Essential



Register online at: [sq.adventist.org.au](http://sq.adventist.org.au)

Registrations close April 17

## Endless Praise

VOCALISTS/MUSICIANS/SOUND  
& BUS DRIVER WANTED

If you are a talented Christian MUSICIAN with a heart for service and are available for a minimum of 2 years for full-time Christian music ministry between the ages of 18-26, then we would love to hear from you ASAP!

### CONTACT

PHONE: (61) 2 8783 7000 MOB: 0466 727 191

EMAIL YOUR AUDITION TO [EP@EPRaise.COM.AU](mailto:EP@EPRaise.COM.AU)

## GET UP! Walk a DreamTrack with Jesus

DreamTrack provides a positive mentoring experience for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth aged 8 - 16 once a month to engage in social, cultural and spiritual activities in a fun, safe and friendly setting. If we're not learning about culture, we could be rock climbing, bowling or water skiing.

DreamTrack, who are supported by ADRA, offer a world of opportunity and fun to young people and we're ready to expand. To deliver our programs we need to bring on more leaders, from every background, who can support and make a difference to young people's lives. 12 days a year is all you need to give!

With DreamTrack, a moment of your time, can affect a lifetime of change for a young person. Our next volunteer induction will be held early in the year. If you're interested in making a difference please visit [www.dreamtrack.org.au/joinstaff](http://www.dreamtrack.org.au/joinstaff)

or email [emma@dreamtrack.org.au](mailto:emma@dreamtrack.org.au) for more information.

## CHEP Nutrition Update 2015 - Spirituality and Health

Presented by Sibilla Johnson,  
Director of Health Victoria Conference

Everybody is invited to this event, not just CHEP graduates.

Please register to attend by contacting Hayley Lambe at 32187777 or [haylevlambe@adventist.org.au](mailto:haylevlambe@adventist.org.au) before 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Numbers are limited.

Location: South Queensland Conference Office, 19 Eagle Terrace Brisbane

Dates: 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2015

Times: Sabbath 21<sup>st</sup> March 3pm – 7:30pm & Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 9:30am – 11:30am

Cost: \$10 per person (to cover light evening meal)



*Live More Spiritual*

South Queensland Conference Health Department

2015  
**IGNITE**  
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FUTURE NOW

# ADVERTISING

## WATSON PARK

by Tim Hutton, Watson Park Assistant Manager



With every New Year comes new challenges and opportunities. For Watson Park this year, we hope to take advantage of two brand-new opportunities we have been working on for a little while now: two new websites.

The first is our very own, you can find it at <www.watson-park.com.au> and/or <www.bigcamp.com.au>. It now allows those who may be interested in having their group hire our facility to have a sneak peak at some photos and download important paperwork for their future visit. We hope the site will be a first contact and assist in answering their initial queries and prompt a connection to be made.

The second website is a new and exciting concept. As you may or may not be aware, Watson Park is a part of a large network of convention centres, youth camps and campgrounds around Australia and New Zealand owned and operated by, or affiliated with, the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Until now, we have never really taken advantage of the cross-promotion opportunities available between the sites and this website marks the first step in linking the properties on the world-wide web. Why not jump on the net after Sabbath and check out both sites?



### EMPOWERING, EMBRACING & CELEBRATING EVERY LITTLE GIRL FOR WHO SHE IS!

A new magazine for girls 6-11 years old. Featuring Bible stories, adventures in nature, craft, games, cooking, and more. These four magazines a year will fill every little girl's soul with hope and love for Jesus.

Visit <www.gigimagazine.com.au> for sneak peek or to subscribe.

**Mission Hospital**

Serving the world with Adventist quality and affordable healthcare in Bangkok, Thailand.

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Plan your trip.  
[callcenter@mission-hospital.org](mailto:callcenter@mission-hospital.org)  
[www.mission-hospital.org](http://www.mission-hospital.org)  
 430 Pitsanuloke Road, Dusit, Bangkok 10300, Thailand.

### CARETAKER WANTED

DAVID HILL'S PROPERTY - BELLE

Come to enjoy and experience what the NT has to offer! Darwin offers a friendly multi-cultural, fantastic lifestyle, great weather, wonderful places to explore and enjoy, with supreme fishing year round. The caretaker needs a caravan. Ideally the position is suited to a couple who can undertake mowing, cleaning and general management of the property. Some benefits apply for a suitable couple.

Email application with character references to [stevefuller@gnt.com.au](mailto:stevefuller@gnt.com.au) or Phone 0427613175

### Attention FOCUS Contributors

FOCUS is produced by the South Queensland Conference Communication Department, 19 Eagle Terrace, Brisbane, QLD 4000. Phone: (07) 3218 7777; Fax: (07) 3236 1305; Email: [sqfocus@adventist.org.au](mailto:sqfocus@adventist.org.au)

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Editors—Murray Hunter and Christina Khabbaz  
Secretary—Joanne Donaldson  
Design—Luke Farrugia  
Art & Print—Signs Publishing Company

Subject to sufficient copy received the next general issue of FOCUS will be published in March.

Submissions should reach the FOCUS Editor, SQC Office, 19 Eagle Terrace, Brisbane, 4000, ([sqfocus@adventist.org.au](mailto:sqfocus@adventist.org.au)) NO LATER THAN March 5 at 10:30 am. All copy may be edited and late items may not be printed. Advertisements (1-10 lines) \$25. \$2.50 for each additional line.