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# FOCUS

SOUTH QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

## GOD CALLS

Late last year, I received a phone call that changed our plans and direction for the future. It was a call that would bring many changes to our lives, presenting many new challenges and new opportunities. The voice of the retiring Union president (Pastor Chester Stanley) asked, "Would you accept the invitation of the Appointments Committee and move south to lead the South Queensland Conference?"

Somewhat daunted by the question, my thoughts went immediately to another question: *Is this God's call for me at this time in my life?* Being the type who clings rather loosely to the idea of leading, I really needed to know that God had His hand over this.

Growing up in a pastor's family, my parents had modelled the idea of asking this question. A few years ago, I was running an Adopt-a-Clinic project in the Western Highlands of Papua New Guinea with my church. Although we were only there for two weeks, I felt the isolation and the huge cultural differences, the many risks involved, the apparent lack of law and order, and lack of health and education services that we in Australia take for granted. But in many ways I felt at home. I had lived in PNG for five years as a young boy. It struck me that my parents had made a brave move to uproot themselves and their three children and head off to work in a comparatively unknown and primitive part of the world in a totally different culture. Would I have done that with my family? I wasn't so sure I'd be keen. So why did they do it? I knew the answer to that; it was simple! God called! Yes, that's it. God had called. Mum and Dad felt this call to serve as missionaries in PNG, and they responded. It turned out we enjoyed five great family years there in PNG and have many fabulous memories.

Rae and I have moved places we never thought we would go and, to be honest, there were times we went somewhat reluctantly—but we did it because we sensed that God had called. And God not only called, but He empowered and blessed us immensely in so many ways. Again, I sense God's call in our move to work here in the South Queensland Conference. Reflecting on God's guiding hand in the past, we now trust God's leading into the future. At this point of the journey, we accept that where God calls, He equips.

What about you? Do you sense God calling you to serve Him? I'm convinced He places that call on everyone who receives Him, not just those in full-time pastoral ministry. Perhaps that call comes through the Nominating Committee, perhaps it comes as you look around and see the needs of your community, perhaps it's something you see needs to be done for God in your workplace, or perhaps it's the needs you see for more involvement in your local church. But God does call you to do something for Him, and it is my prayer that you will respond with a willing and humble heart to be used by Him.

As Rae and I reflect on our call to serve Him here in South Queensland, I pray that you reflect on what God is calling you to do in 2016. Let's be a part of what God is doing to extend His kingdom, and let's trust His hand to fulfill His purposes.

May all glory be to God, who, as Paul says in Ephesians 3:20, "is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

**PASTOR BRETT TOWNEND, PRESIDENT**

ADVENTIST CHURCH *in South Queensland*  
LEARN MORE. LIVE MORE. LOVE MORE.™

## New truck for ADRA

In a community far, far away, there resides a place that is viewed by its residents as a beacon of light and hope. This beacon is the ADRA Community Centre located in Logan Central, which endeavours to service the needs of the community to which it belongs.

The area in which the community centre is located is the lowest socio-economic group in the entire state of Queensland. Unemployment and underemployment are as high as 25 per cent, according to the 2011 census. This forces many to live in ways that would be intolerable for most of us. That is why the ADRA Community Centre is viewed by all levels of government in the area as supplying outstanding services to the local community. The centre provides food, clothing, furniture and many other things to those suffering the effects of relocation because of causes such as domestic violence, homelessness, floods and fire.

The staff and volunteers at our ADRA Community Centre provide as many as 500 food parcels each week to those in need. An ADRA Op Shop supports our centre along with a “Training for the Work for the Dole Scheme” program. A soup kitchen is run in our car park every Monday night by our local church, and is currently meeting the needs of more than 100 people every week.

However, as the demand continues to rise, we need to find new ways to meet this.



The purchase of a refrigerated truck is pivotal to supplying food for the growing needs of a community, one that is devoid of services from any other agency of our kind in the local area. It has enabled us to bring 25 per cent more food from Foodbank each week and, as the increase in clients is often overwhelming, this is much needed.

ADRA Community Centre in Logan services more than 70,000 people a year—and we love what we do. Thank you for your prayers and donations, and we ask that you please help us to continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a community that is in high need.

*For more information on the Conference-wide offering for ADRA Logan, see the Notice Board section.*

**PAM WOOD**  
COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGER—ADRA LOGAN CENTRAL

## The Journey: Sabbath School Workshop

**Have you ever wanted to learn how to make your Sabbath school class more dynamic? Have you ever wished your class would be more of an adventure through Bible study, mission, service and fellowship?**

On the last Sabbath afternoon in January, almost 50 Sabbath School teachers from across Brisbane and Ipswich came to learn just that.

Presented by Pastor Greg Pratt, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Director for SQ, the participants were taken through the Journey of effective Sabbath school teaching, personal preparation and powerful presenting. With plenty of resources available, such as a workbook, several books and resource sheets, the afternoon was a fun learning experience with all the leaders expressing their appreciation.

Reflecting on the presentation, Pastor Pratt said:

“I was blessed to spend this afternoon connecting, resourcing and sharing with such a dedicated room full of Sabbath



school teachers, and I look forward to sharing with other teachers around our conference as we conduct Sabbath school training events for other regions throughout the year. It is our desire as a department to resource and equip our Sabbath school teachers to bring each Sabbath’s study alive, making each class an unmissable adventure in Bible study.”

**PASTOR GREG PRATT**  
DIRECTOR OF PERSONAL MINISTRIES & DISCIPLESHIP  
SQ COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



## Restoring Lives in Cambodia

Cambodia: a land of gentle people who have lived through unspeakable horrors; a country mired in poverty but filled with laughing, curious children.

Nine members of Springwood Church had the privilege of joining a Restore One Charity team for two weeks in January. There were times of joy, devastating heartbreak, exhaustion, and exhilaration. And time to learn more about each other, about the other members of our team from New South Wales, about this country known mostly for its ancient temples and the loss of millions of innocent lives during the time of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge.

The list is long for what was achieved during this time. In Phnom Penh we: sourced tiles for dirt floors in the homes of women in the slum district (women who will be taught to sew by Restore One so they can earn an income and keep their children safely at home with them rather than scouring for rubbish to sell); sourced a sewing machine for one of these women (an entertaining exercise when you don't speak the language!); visited the poorest of poor hospitals to wash patients' hair and to massage hands (a confronting experience with patients on iron beds with open wounds and surgeries being performed in the rooms in front of us; I cannot begin to describe how traumatic it was nor how immensely rewarding when blood-soaked hair was washed clean; the simple things that bring so much comfort). Never ever complain about Australia's health system! Visits to The Killing Fields and S21 brought vividly to life for us the enormity of what had happened not so many decades ago.

Approximately four hours drive from the capital brought us to a village that has been steeped in poverty with malnutrition rife. A village that now has a flourishing school thanks to Restore One. A place where illiterate parents can send their children for free to gain an education so they can grow up healthy and wise, and become strong forces for change in their country.

Some team members—Reg, Lee, Geoff and Kendell or “the blokes,”—built a house for a young couple with a tiny baby. This little family have been living underneath their parent's home where it is impossible to even stand up. They sleep in hammocks a few inches off the dirt. The baby was clearly not well and two days later members of Restore One took her and her parents to see

a doctor—no phones, no transport, no ambulances. It's survival of the fittest in the raw. The doctor was not optimistic about her chances of survival but Restore One paid for the young family to travel three hours to hospital in Siem Reap. We prayed and wept and fervently pled for a miracle. We have just heard today (early February) that the family is home with their precious little girl! Such a blessing!

Other team members transformed the two Grade One classrooms. Fresh paint on the walls and floors and fish murals have created an enjoyable learning space. And the children are delighting in drawing the fish with their new pencils in their new pencil cases donated by the school where one of our team members teach.

Marj, assisted by Jenni and Didee took the first music classes for the school. These included learning to sing “What a Wonderful World,” play recorders (34 donated by a Springwood gentleman), and dance, with great joy and exuberance, the “Chicken Dance.” A whole-school performance of the song and dance was a soul-stirring moment. A memory that will last a long time.

The storeroom was organised thanks to Gladys, timber eaten by borers removed, in-service classes for the teachers were held each afternoon, assistance was given during English classes, Grade 6 made tin whistles. Thankyou Reg for that joyful noise! Grade 4 got to make and fly and keep kites. Repairs were made to the plumbing and solar system. Hygiene and bra-fitting classes were held in surrounding villages. And so many more little repairs and improvements.

Leaving the school on the last day, we were filled with mixed emotions. Elation at all that had been achieved to help better the lives of the families in this little village, sadness at saying goodbye, worry about the little baby, relief at the thought of rest, thankfulness that all had been kept safe and gratitude for all the blessings we have received by living in Australia.

Glad we went? A resounding YES! Will we go again? YES! Want to come with us next time? Or thinking about service somewhere else? Just go.

SPRINGWOOD  
ARTICLE & PHOTO: CAROL BACON

# SQ Teachers RISE

At the beginning and midway through each school year, educators from all over South Queensland come together for CASE/CAPE (Curriculum and Secondary Education/Curriculum and Primary Education). Older teachers will remember carting folders and programs of work to these meetings, and the day was spent gathered in subject or year-level groups around tables preparing content.

But with technology changing the way we work, the reason educators meet as a collective has changed. Our schools have grown, and technology now allows us to meet together online more efficiently and more effectively. The name CASE/CAPE no longer accurately describes the purpose of our day. It's now a forum that we use to build staff wellbeing, to re-focus on our mandate as a school system, and to re-invite and re-commit us to God's service. It's a time of spiritual focus, and it's a time to enthuse and motivate our teachers to each of their ministries. CASE/CAPE is intended to be a day where the teachers get fed for a change.

This year, our theme was "Rise", and we invited our special speakers to reflect on how we can personally rise in our relationship with God. We wanted something that would motivate, make our educators reflect on how proud they were to be Adventists and Christians, and for them to rise to the challenge of a new year and rise to our unique mandate.

Pastor Leighton Heise, visiting from South Australia, took the worship thought for us in the morning. Using praise songs as a social experiment of sorts, he had almost all the teachers rising to their feet for songs they felt had helped them in their



own spiritual walk. Our main speaker for the day was conference president Pastor Brett Townend, who had the teachers captivated with his personal stories of how God had called him out of his previous career into ministry.

There are always, over time, pressures from society for us to grow, and we often start measuring our success by numbers or by buildings, when in fact our original mandate was about education, serving as an evangelistic tool. We need to go back to that. We've intentionally changed our language too, to reflect the intent and the mandate of the day, in that we're using the term "teacher minister", because we want the teachers to know very clearly that it is definitely a ministry.

There is a significant statement in the book *Mission Drift*, given to some of the teachers, that says that growth and professionalism are subordinate values to mission. That, I think, is what our focus of CAPE/CASE is all about.



**TEACHER'S THOUGHTS FROM CASE/CAPE**

**Kimberley Jones, Years in Teaching:** Graduate  
**School:** Gold Coast Christian College  
**Teaching:** Music, Drama, History, Geography and Year 7 Encounter

**I'm Feeling . . .** Right now, really overwhelmed! But I'm glad to be back home in South Queensland and am excited for my first year of teaching!

**Holly Munro, Years in Teaching:** Graduate  
**School:** Darling Downs Christian School  
**Thoughts on SQ:** I love Toowoomba—it is missing the coast and some rivers, but it's beautiful, it's laid back, and I love the country lifestyle.

**I'm Feeling . . .** Right now I'm a bit nervous, but I'm also so excited for what this year is going to hold. I'm excited to just get in and start!

**Josh Davison, Years in Teaching:** 1  
**School:** Gold Coast Christian College  
**Teaching:** Business, Science and Sport.  
**Thoughts on SQ:** I love teaching in South Queensland—I'm originally from Sydney and I've never been back!  
**Best Part of Teaching:** I really love the kids at my school—that's why I wanted to keep teaching there—and this year I'm looking forward to connecting with and getting to know more of them.

**Cindy Sykes, Years in Teaching:** 3  
**School:** Northpine Christian College  
**Teaching:** Drama and English Communications.  
**Thoughts on SQ:** I love the environment and the friendships you create here in South Queensland; it's a tight-knit community.  
**Best Part of Teaching:** Building really positive relationships with the students, and making a difference in those lives. I had a really great relationship with my Drama teacher when I was in school, and I wanted to have that influence on other people.



**James Laconi, Years in Teaching:** 5  
**School:** Brisbane Adventist College/Ipswich Adventist School  
**Teaching:** Physical Education (Primary, BAC) and Physical Education & Sports (Primary, IAS).

**Best Part of Teaching:** I never thought about being a teacher while I was at school. It wasn't until I left, tried a few other things, and then started working with kids in After School Care that I decided to become a teacher. I love teaching because I get to work with the kids and make a difference in their lives; working with other teachers is like working with family; and finally, we get to teach the kids about Jesus. That really makes a difference.

**Graham Baird, Years in Teaching:** 28  
**Currently:** Principal at Northpine Christian College  
**Best Part of Teaching:** It's been a long time since I've taught; I love teaching, I enjoy kids, but I enjoy my role as a Principal too, and right now that's what I've got! The best part about teaching is having the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children—it's about people.

**Thoughts on SQ:** Well, you can't beat living up here, I love living in South Queensland. But for me, from a Principal's perspective, I love the camaraderie that we have on our team. We work well together, and I think [CASE/CAPE] is evidence of that: We're all one big team that just splits itself into different places.

**One Piece of Advice for New Graduates:** Teachers, it's not about information, it's about relationships.

JACK RYAN (DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION)  
 AND SQ COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



# Stories from Literature Evangelism

There were a couple of Book Outreaches that we conducted in October–November, working with local churches and in partnership with other church ministries, such as Adventist Aviation Association. It’s always exciting to witness the powerful working of the Holy Spirit in the timing of our visits and conviction on people; it more than compensates any sacrifice or inconvenience we experience.

## Maryborough—Leigh’s Story

In October, a team of three literature evangelists landed in Maryborough. We spent four days visiting as many people as we can could, sharing the gospel, praying with people, distributing literature to families that had bought them, and connecting people who requested visitations with the local church pastor. However, the highlight of the week was when we all came together on Sabbath to worship and share what the Lord had done during that week. Here is Leigh’s story:

When I knocked on Leigh’s door, we chatted at the door for a while, and finally, he invited me in. He was not aversie to God; as a matter of fact, as we exchanged thoughts and ideas, it became apparent to me that Leigh was open to God, yet caught up with all sorts of satanic ideas.

Leigh told me about a dream he had 40 years ago that still remains fresh in his mind: He was in a black tunnel, suffocating and afraid. However, as his eyes accustomed to the darkness, he saw a light at the end of the tunnel and angels with other bright beings all around him, bringing more light to the tunnel. (At this point in the conversation Leigh choked up and could not speak for several minutes.) A being then said to him, “I want you to be with me and enjoy all these.” Leigh was so happy when he woke up.

However, two days later, he had another dream. This time, he saw an angel with black wings, snarling and looking intently at him, saying, “You would never make it, and I will not allow you.” Leigh realised that must be the devil. He had never forgotten the dream, but had never told it to anyone until that day.

I knew God was using me to encourage Leigh, so I told him I was there because God really wanted him and was doing all He could so Leigh would be saved. I also told Leigh about *The Great Controversy*, a book he needed to read. Leigh took

it and gave us a generous donation. Please remember Leigh in your prayers as he reads!



## Longreach—Betty’s Story

In November, Uli and I, working in conjunction with Pastor David Edgar and the AAA went to Longreach for a week. Even though we do not have a church presence there, we had a powerful week where God came through in a mighty way! We met with various leaders of the community, mingled and ate with some of them, visited many people in their homes and prayed with them. The highlight of this week was when some of the AAA members flew in on Sabbath and together with some of the community, we had a Sabbath meeting. We prayed and fasted for this week, and God certainly came through. Here is Betty’s story:

I remember knocking on Betty’s door. She wasn’t keen on being disturbed, but she agreed to let me in briefly and I was grateful for her air-conditioning. Like most people, Betty was interested in becoming healthier in all areas of her life, including the spiritual side. Because her interest was on diets, food, and spiritual growth, I offered her the food books and *Today, Tomorrow and You*. Praise God—she placed an order.

Betty confessed that she used to go to various churches, but found them irreverent and thus has fallen away. That Sabbath, I was giving a talk on the end times and the biggest prophecy of Daniel 2, so I invited her to come. And she did! We had a wonderful time with the group, including sharing lunch and praying together. Betty admitted that she has been trying to run away from God, but it appears that He always sends someone. Praise God that He sent me at the right moment!

*Christ’s Object Lessons* page 229-230 says, “We are not to wait for souls to come to us; we must seek them out where they are. When the word has been preached in the pulpit the work has just begun. There are multitudes who will never be reached by the gospel unless it is carried to them.”

SONE MARINER





# Honey & Lemon Tofu Stir-fry

## Ingredients

650g firm tofu, sliced into rectangular, domino-like pieces  
 50g soy sauce  
 1 capsicum, sliced  
 1 large white onion, halved and cut into thin wedges  
 1 large red onion, halved and cut into thin wedges  
 2 handfuls of mushrooms, sliced  
 2 handfuls of green beans, cut into pieces  
 1 large bunch of coriander, finely chopped  
 1 tbsp. coconut oil  
 1 tbsp. honey  
 1 tbsp. sesame seeds  
 ½ lemon  
 Small handful of cashew nuts (to garnish)

### Marinade:

½ cup soy sauce  
 3 cloves of garlic, crushed  
 1 lemon

Let tofu sit in marinade for at least 30 minutes.

## Method

1. Heat a frying pan on high, and add the tablespoon of coconut oil
2. Add the white and red onion, and sauté until slightly crunchy. Once it has reached this point, add the tablespoon of honey and mix well.
3. Add marinated tofu to the pan, and cook until lightly browned and slightly crisp on the outside
4. Mix in beans and capsicum, cooking only for a few minutes. Add mushrooms and let the mixture cook together for a further 1-2 minutes.
5. Remove from heat and stir through fresh coriander.
6. Garnish with cashews, sesame seeds, and squeeze half a lemon over the dish.

Serves 4 people



# PASTORAL STAFFING 2016

Name		2016	Name		2016
1	Afamasaga, Sam	Logan City Samoan	22	Je, Young	Gold Coast Korean, Mt Tamborine (0.5 FTE)
2	Ah Siu, Jedidiah	Cornubia Samoan, Ipswich Samoan, Riverview Samoan	23	Kane, Steve	Coastlife, Gold Coast Christian College, Associate Chaplain
3	Campbell, Lachlan	Ipswich Associate, Ipswich School Chaplain, Harrisville Associate	24	Karauria, Peter (Lay)	Emerald, Longreach
4	Cinzio, Daniel	Park Ridge, Flagstone Company	25	Kelava, Jakob	Brisbane Croatian, Rosewood
5	Cobbin, Kendall	Springwood, Cook Island Group	26	Krause, Andy	Gatton, Esk, Laidley
6	Collum, Mike	Gold Coast Central	27	Krklec, Mladen	Springwood Associate, Cook Island Group
7	Edgar, David	Landsborough, Maleny	28	Martinez, Jean-Pierre	BAC Chaplain
8	Faiumu, Tusi	North Central Samoan, Deception Bay Samoan, Scarborough Samoan	29	Masci, Arturo (Lay)	Beaudesert
9	Faraimo, Toetu	Springwood Samoan, Brown's Plains Samoan, Harvest SDA Community Company	30	Mawer, Trevor	Stanthorpe, Warwick, Summit
10	Fitzpatrick, Leathan	Caboolture Associate, NPCC Chaplain (0.3 FTE)	31	Melville, Brad	Southpine, New Life
11	Feaveai, Andrew	Toowoomba Central, Millmerran	32	Milosavljevic, Dusan	Hinkler, Gin Gin, Childers
12	Flamenco, Walter	Brisbane Spanish, Gold Coast Spanish supervisor, Brisbane Spanish Bilingual	33	Minns, Gary	Albion, Redcliffe
13	Garrard, David	ATSIM – Group, ATSIM – Director	34	Okesene, Gideon	Kingaroy, Murgon, Nanango Group
14	Gibson, David	South Brisbane Associate (0.5 FTE), Victoria Point / Victoria Point ILU Chaplain (0.5 FTE)	35	Parker, Darrin	Garden City, Trust Services Director
15	Gillespie, David	Eight Mile Plains Associate	36	Pearce, Mark	South Brisbane, African Company, Great Lakes SDA African Group
16	Hamilton, André	Pine Rivers	37	Piturlea, Emmanuel	Sherwood Romanian
17	Hebbard, Steve	Gympie, Yandina, Gayndah (oversight)	38	Popovic, Miljan	Salisbury
18	Hobbs, Ray	Rockhampton Associate, Yeppoon Associate, CARV Chaplain	39	Pule, Francis	Ipswich, Ipswich School Chaplain, Harrisville
19	Humphries, Wayne	Brisbane Central, Redhill	40	Rattray, Carl (Lay)	Roma and District
20	Hutton, Simon	Northpine Associate Chaplain	41	Redman, Neil	Northpine Christian College Senior Chaplain
21	Je, Young-Gab (Brian)	Brisbane Korean, Mitchelton			

	Name	2016
42	Reilly, David	Cooroy, Noosa College Chaplain
43	Riley, David	Reedy Creek, Melody Park Chaplain Coordinator
44	Rivera, Humberto	Sandgate, Deception Bay, Kingston Samoan
45	Roberts, Gary	Bay City, Hervey Bay, Maryborough
46	Rusterholz, Heinrich	Bribie Island, Nundah, Sunshine Coast Adventist Fellowship
47	Scheffer, Ricardo	Dalby, Chinchilla
48	Toogood, David	Gold Coast Central Associate, Surfers Paradise Company
49	Turner, Mark	Rockhampton, Yeppon CARV Chaplain
50	Tyler, Neil	Logan Reserve, Inala
51	Urrea, Tony	Capalaba, Victoria Point ARV Chaplain
52	Van Rensburg, André	Eight Mile Plains
53	Vidacak, Zeny	Mt Gravatt Fijian
54	Ward, Steve	Caloundra, Maroochydore
55	Wareham, Scott	Nambour, Kilcoy
56	Webb, Joseph	Caboolture
57	William, Ernst	Edens Landing, Helensvale
58	Wojnar, Ernie	Gladstone, Biloela, Monto
59	Wolverton, Casey	Glenvale, Highfields
60	Yeo, David	Mt Gravatt Associate
61	TBA	Pine Rivers Associate, Refresh
62	TBA	Glenvale Associate, Darling Downs Christian School Chaplain
63	TBA	Wynnum (0.4 FTE), Springwood Associate (0.6 FTE)
64	TBA	St Andrews, Rosedale



## BRISBANE ASIAN COMPANY

### A CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

Pastor Simon Siew from Singapore is currently the trainer for the Structured Discipleship Program, which he developed for the Southeast Asia Union Mission.

Having read about Pastor Siew's background through email, I was very impressed. Meeting him at our Tuesday Bible-study group on January 19 and listening to his testimony was a wonderful privilege. His experience and exposure to cross-cultural ministry is evident in his character and manner. He talked about his family first, whom he holds dear to his heart. In his travels around the world, he has experienced and heard the agonising cry of human pain, which has become the dominant voice of the world today. His ministry and heartfelt "Call to Discipleship" was his main topic that evening.

His Sabbath service on January 23, Pastor Siew continued his talk on "A Call to Discipleship". He emphasised the importance of mentoring and nurturing our new members. First, we must be imitators of Christ, a people with compassion and conviction (see 2 Corinthians 5:17) and always acknowledging that we can do nothing without Jesus Christ.

Pastor Siew ended his sermon with the story of Arthur Stace, a Sydney legend known as "Mr Eternity". He was an Australian eccentric and soldier, a reformed alcoholic who converted to Christianity. In the strength of Jesus Christ, he helped hundreds of people to know Jesus by writing the word "Eternity" around Sydney: "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones" (Isaiah 57:15). Pastor Siew delivered his message with an earnest and heartfelt outreach to us all.

ARTICLE & PHOTO: CECILIA SEETO

## YANDINA

### HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

It is becoming an annual tradition of the Yandina church to provide food and backpack beds for “The Shack”, a service that caters for the needs of the homeless in Nambour and surrounding areas. The Shack, run by the Community Relations Officer Pastor Dale Dowler and his wife Donna, commenced operating in 2002, and is open six days a week. They rely heavily on their dedicated and loyal team of volunteers to provide meals, complete bathroom facilities, counseling and, where necessary, referrals to other services to numerous people throughout the year. In 2015, there were 10,000 visits to The Shack.

According to Pastor Dale, other than affordable housing for those who frequently visit the Shack, the greatest need is keeping the pantry stocked for day-to-day requirements and the unexpected. That’s why Anne Tinworth, the Welfare Coordinator at the Yandina church, encourages other churches and community service organisations to consider helping out with the growing need for increased food supplies at The Shack.

If you have a heart for those who are marginalised and want to help, please call 5441 5928 or 0402 204 961.

ARTICLE & PHOTO: BRIAN SODEMAN



## GIN GIN

### A HEALTHY FOCUS



In November, the Gin Gin church was blessed to have Dr Eppinet visit us for the day. He spoke on the Daniel diet in the Bible, showing us how other countries living on a plant-based diet often lived to 100 years and older, and also touched on the topics of cancer and diabetes. We had a full church with a lot of people from the community. In the weeks following his visit, we held cooking demonstrations every Tuesday evening for four weeks. During that time, we had almost 30 people attending, including eight people from the community. All enjoyed the program, and with God at the head, it was a success! This year, we are planning to run a CHIP program! Praise God.

ARTICLE & PHOTO: JAN BOON

## MAROOCHYDORE

### ORDINATION OF PASTOR STEVE WARD



The current pastor of Maroochydore and Caloundra churches, and Caloundra Adventist Retirement Village, Steve Ward, was ordained to ministry on Sabbath, 28 November 2015. Fellow South Queensland pastors, family, and friends gathered at Caloundra church for this momentous occasion, officiated by Pastor Colin Renfrew. Pastor Steve and his wife, Gabe, were warmly welcomed to ministry by all present, as their involvement in their past and current churches has been greatly appreciated. We love you, Steve and Gabe!

ARTICLE & PHOTO: KEN DOVE / BARBARA MALLER

## MT GRAVATT

### SPECIAL BREAKFAST FOR BAC STAFF



Holidays are over and it’s time to get back to work, but not without a treat. Brisbane Adventist College (BAC) staff members were formally welcomed back to school on Monday, January 18, with a breakfast being prepared for them by Mt Gravatt church members. We as a church gladly recognise that the Adventist education our children receive is so valuable for their growth and maturity. We recognise and value the role of dedicated Adventist Christian teachers at BAC, and the breakfast we prepared for them was a token of our appreciation.



ARTICLE & PHOTO: MT GRAVATT CONNECT NEWSLETTER



**TOOWOOMBA CENTRAL  
TOOWOOMBA REACHES OUT**

*“I thought I had a good understanding of depression and how to help my family. But this program has opened my eyes to many other options that I can implement in my family.”*

*“This program has given me tools that I can use in my own life and I am able to help my mother live with my father’s depression.”*

*“This program has provided me with a ‘toolbox’ that I can now reach into whenever I find myself falling back into depression. It has provided me with knowledge and strategies, tailored to my specific needs.”*

These are some of the positive comments made by participants at a recent Nedley Depression Recovery Program run by members of the Toowoomba Central church.

This 10-week program, the fifth of its kind run by specially trained Toowoomba Central members, was held at the Withcott Church of Christ, for members of that church and the surrounding community. There were 14 participants.

Many of those who completed the program felt the great benefits of weekly support and information meetings. They were given the option of continuing to meet regularly by joining with the “Hope and Healing” Bible-study and support group run at Toowoomba Central church.

Over the years the Nedley program has been running, many other participants have attended a variety of follow-up programs, such as “New Habits”, “What’s the Connection?” “Celebrate Recovery” and “Recovery Road”.

ARTICLE & PHOTO: HEIDI LANGLEY



**EIGHT MILE PLAINS  
LUNCH FOR THE COMMUNITY**

In the past, Eight Mile Plains church has always held Christmas Carols for our church family and also as an out-reach for the community. However, last December, instead of our Carols program, we decided to put on a Christmas lunch for those in our community who are needy and lonely. Our church already does a wonderful ministry through the food parcels we hand out through ADRA. These people need food and friendship, and this lunch was one way to get closer to them.

The first hurdle was wondering whether there would be enough people to support this initiative from our church—But we were amazed at the amount of support. It just shows again that our people respond to real ministry and want to serve the Lord. On the day, we had our members arrive at church from early in the morning to begin cooking and preparing. Tables



were set up and the hall was decorated beautifully, ladies wrapped gifts for the attendees to take, and the atmosphere was wonderful.

The responses from those who came to the lunch were amazing. Our members not only served them a delicious meal, but also befriended them. We heard incredible stories of heartache, but so many people asked us what else we do as a church and expressed interest in our church.

I am so proud of EMP, extending the love and hope of Jesus. Due to the need and the response from this Christmas lunch, this year our church is going to organise two more lunches.

ARTICLE & PHOTO: ANDRE VAN RENSBURG



**STANTHORPE**  
**THIRSTING FOR MORE IN STANTHORPE**



The annual community show rolls around at the end of January every year in Stanthorpe and, as is the custom, the local Adventist church hosts a booth to interact with the community. It is an opportunity to share who we are, what we do and what we have to offer. This year, the team handed out over two hundred bottles of water with the church logo displayed proudly and the words of John 4:14, “Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst”, to many dusty, thirsty visitors. Along with this, the team handed out, in almost equal quantities, Sanitarium Weet-Bix breakfast biscuits and Smooshd wholefood bars. Many thanks go to Sanitarium for the supply of these products at no cost.

In conjunction, the stall also made room for an Literature Evangelism book display team to showcase the parenting and healthy eating resources we have to offer the community. This worked well in tandem with Pastor Neil Marks and the health team conducting stress-level tests for interested showgoers. It is with this data the church hopes, later in the year, to conduct depression recovery courses and family ministry events.

Another of our regular features is the team from Creation Ministries, Heather and Ian Heartley, who gain the interest of the young and young at heart with their ever-popular Noah’s ark display. Their knowledge and insight into the Biblical belief in six literal days of creation has left many a worldly chal-



lenger with much to ponder and perhaps seek after the God of creation.

And, of course, there were the main attractions of the Thompson family and their balloon-creation team, face-painting experts, and this year, the added bonus of the impromptu reptile display.

Many thanks go to the hard working setup and pack-down team and all those involved over the weekend to present the hands and feet of Jesus to our community. Let us pray we left them thirsting for more.

ARTICLE & PHOTO: TREVOR MAWER

**WARWICK**  
**NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS**



The New Year always brings new beginnings and resolutions, many of which are forgotten by February. That is, of course, unless they happen to be totally life changing.

Brett Weier is one young man who has started the year with a handful of new beginnings. On December 2, Brett publicly declared his allegiance to Jesus Christ by being baptised at Leslie Dam in front of celebrating church members and others camped along the edge of the dam. Brett’s mentor, Chris Jackson, assisted Pastor Trevor Mawer in this special occasion.

On the 3rd, Brett married his beautiful bride Kacey (nee Howard) and entered into one of the great gifts our Lord has given us (pictured right). To cap it all off, as a recent teacher graduate, Brett has started his first year as a teacher at The School of Total Education (SOTE). It is the prayers of many that God be able to lead Brett in his role as teacher, husband, and newly admitted church member. To



Brett and Kacey, may God richly bless you both going forward hand in hand with Him.

In a double celebration of marriages to start the New Year, Warwick church was also blessed with witnessing the union of Dean Gentile to his beautiful bride Lora Masculino on January 14 (pictured above). Dean and Lora are committed Literature Evangelism workers in the mission fields of the Southern Downs, and this common cause has united them as a strong team, with a common purpose in marriage. The church thanks you both for your commitment and prays a special blessing on you both, your marriage and the work ahead.

ARTICLE & PHOTO: TREVOR MAWER





## CORAL COAST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SENT WITH LOVE

On Thursday, December 3, Coral Coast Christian School entered a float in Bundaberg's "Pageant of Lights" parade, and we are so excited to announce that CCCS were the winners for the 2015 schools/youth category! The parade is well attended by the Bundaberg community, and it has been a tradition for many years for CCCS to have a float entry. The 2015 "Pageant of Lights" entry from the students of Coral Coast Christian School takes us back to the origins of Christmas gift giving, when God sent His only son Jesus as a gift of love to the whole of the world. Bathed in light, a nativity scene and heavenly angels are surrounded by tagged gift boxes, reminding us of the very first Christmas gift that was "sent with love" from heaven. The inspiration and putting together of the float is the work of Rosalie Cherry and team and always features a nativity scene. The students love being a part of this evening!

ARTICLE & PHOTO: TAMMY HOWSE



## DARLING DOWNS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL DDCS STUDENTS BECOME MASTERCHEFS FOR A DAY

Mystery was on the menu for students in Darling Downs Christian School's Kitchen Garden program recently.

The Year 5 and 6 students discovered that they would be participating in the ultimate challenge—a "Masterchef Extraordinaire".

The children were divided into three different "colour" groups.

They then had to race against time to first plan, then collect ingredients from the garden, and finally design and make their own "Salad Creations".

Energy was high and creative juices were flowing as the amazingly artful apprentices discussed, drew and delegated in order to achieve their magnificent masterpieces.

After gathering their fresh ingredients, the hard task was bringing their creations to life.

In the kitchen, teamwork was the flavour of the day as students worked together to make their plans a reality.

The apprentices dressed their salads to impress the judges, three teachers from the school.

In order to win the challenge, students needed to demonstrate outstanding teamwork, design skills, creativity and skill with the tools of their craft: knives, peelers, graters and scissors.

Time flew past and before students knew it, the judges were ready to inspect the final evidence of their culinary creations.

The judges ate with their eyes as they chewed over the difficult decision that lay before them.

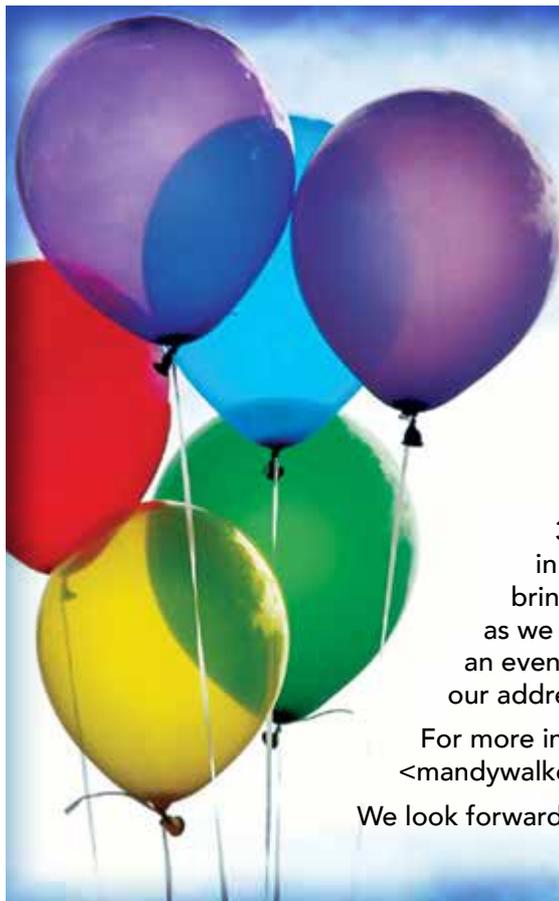
Finally, after much deliberation, the judges came to their conclusion.

After the judging, students devoured their delicious delights.

The suspense continued as students waited to hear who the champions of Masterchef were, with the winners of "Masterchef Extraordinaire", the Red group, receiving their individual food hampers as the fruits of their hard work and effort.

The class is looking forward to their next Masterchef adventure

ARTICLE & PHOTO: ELISSA DOWLING



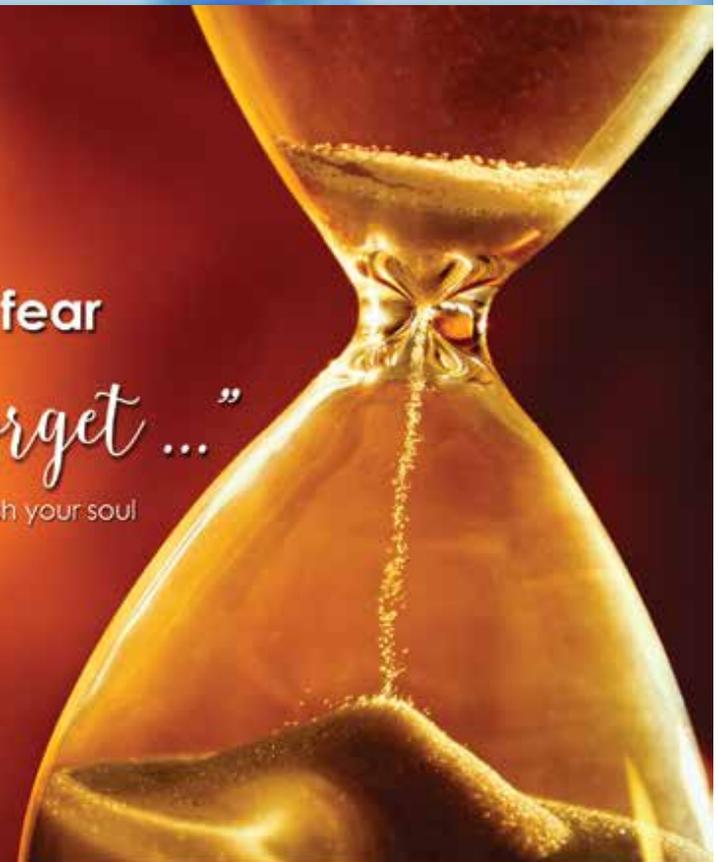
# LOGAN RESERVE Seventh-Day Adventist Church IS TURNING 21

Calling all past and present members of Logan Reserve Seventh-day Adventist Church.

You are invited to join us for the Sabbath of April 30, 2016, our 21st Anniversary Sabbath "Reunion in Heaven"! There will be a fellowship lunch (please bring a plate of food to share). Then come and join us as we close Sabbath, share a meal (provided), and enjoy an evening of fellowship and fun. In case you've forgotten, our address is 558 Logan Reserve Road, Logan Reserve.

For more information, contact Mandy Walker on <mandywalker@hotmail.com.au>.

We look forward to seeing you then.



## DR ALLAN LINDSAY

**"We have NOTHING to fear  
for the FUTURE...  
*except we forget ...*"**

Affirm your identity • Grow your faith • Nourish your soul

**March 11 - 19 • 2016**

- Friday evening • March 11
- Sabbath morning • March 12
- Wednesday evening • March 16
- Friday evening • March 18
- Sabbath morning • March 19
- Sabbath afternoon • March 19

**SPRINGWOOD ADVENTIST CHURCH**  
121 Barbaralla Drive, Springwood

## CONFERENCE-WIDE OFFERING—MARCH 5

The Conference-Wide Offering on March 5 will go toward providing the refrigerated truck that is so necessary for ADRA Logan's ongoing operations.

If you would like to give a donation, you can do so using the methods below (all donations are tax deductible):

### MAIL:

Name, address and amount given need to be sent to  
ADRA Community Centre  
31 Station Road, Logan Central, QLD 4114 – marked "Truck Donation."

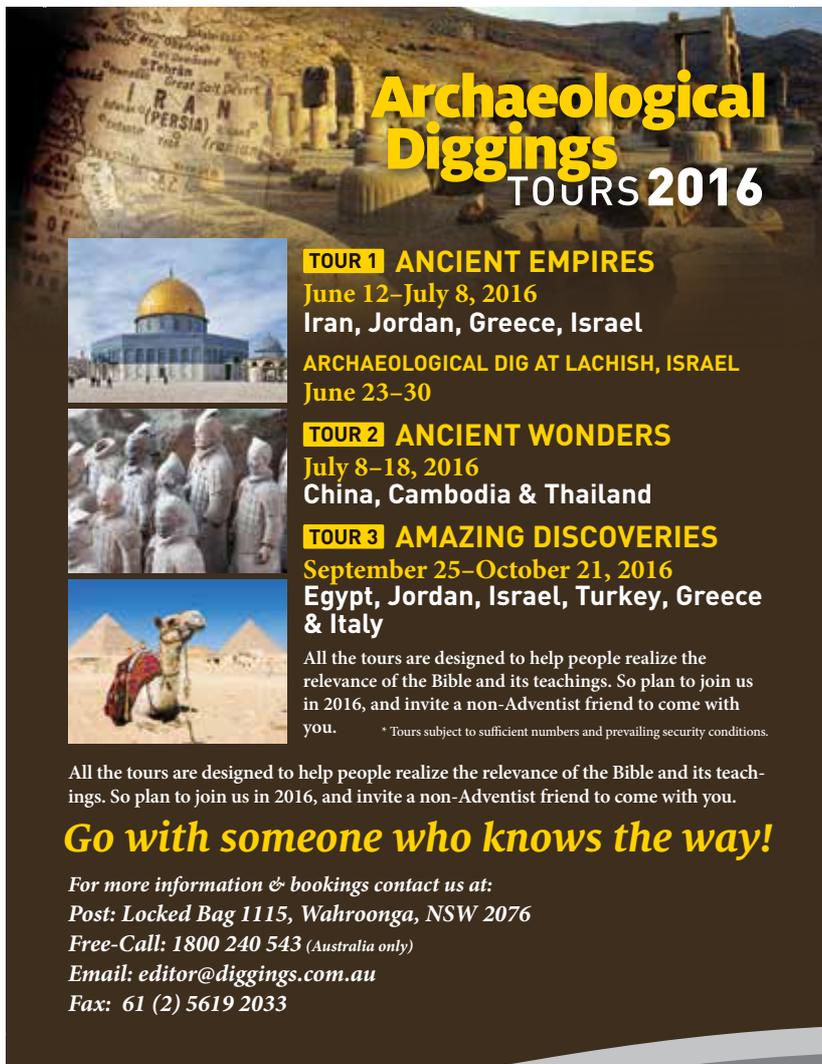
### BANK TRANSFER:

Account Name: ADRA Community Centre  
BSB: 034-076  
Account No: 219 071

Credit card donations are also accessible at our Centre.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Phone: 3290 3011  
Email: [manager@adralogan.org.au](mailto:manager@adralogan.org.au)  
Facebook: ADRA Community Centre Logan Central  
Website: <http://adralogan.weebly.com>



# Archaeological Diggings TOURS 2016



**TOUR 1 ANCIENT EMPIRES**  
June 12–July 8, 2016  
Iran, Jordan, Greece, Israel  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG AT LACHISH, ISRAEL  
June 23–30



**TOUR 2 ANCIENT WONDERS**  
July 8–18, 2016  
China, Cambodia & Thailand



**TOUR 3 AMAZING DISCOVERIES**  
September 25–October 21, 2016  
Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Turkey, Greece & Italy

All the tours are designed to help people realize the relevance of the Bible and its teachings. So plan to join us in 2016, and invite a non-Adventist friend to come with you. \* Tours subject to sufficient numbers and prevailing security conditions.

All the tours are designed to help people realize the relevance of the Bible and its teachings. So plan to join us in 2016, and invite a non-Adventist friend to come with you.

## Go with someone who knows the way!

For more information & bookings contact us at:  
Post: Locked Bag 1115, Wamboona, NSW 2076  
Free-Call: 1800 240 543 (Australia only)  
Email: [editor@diggings.com.au](mailto:editor@diggings.com.au)  
Fax: 61 (2) 5619 2033

### Marketing / Communications Officer (Part time position)

Gold Coast Christian College is seeking a qualified and experienced marketing/communications officer for a part-time position, 20 hours a week commencing as soon as possible but no later than March 1, 2016. This position involves providing assistance with the college's marketing plan and events, writing for different audiences and channels, and creating and producing promotional resources.

The successful candidate will:

- Hold or be eligible to hold a Positive Notice Blue Card for Child Related Employment.
- Hold relevant marketing and communication qualifications.
- Have current and proven experience in a range of marketing activities.
- Previous experience in school marketing.
- Be a practising Christian and be supportive of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
- Gold Coast Christian College reserves the right to fill this position at its discretion.
- All applicants must be able to show that they have the legal right to work in Australia.

Please email your application and supporting documentation to the Business Manager: [anitagregory@adventist.org.au](mailto:anitagregory@adventist.org.au). Only candidates who successfully provide written responses, a current resume and three referees (all work related) will be shortlisted.

For a full position description, please email: [anitagregory@adventist.org.au](mailto:anitagregory@adventist.org.au)



# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following are some of the highlights and decisions that were made by the Executive Committee and the Board of Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Limited during December meetings.

## The Executive Committee:

- Approved for listing the sale of 22 Potter Street, Gladstone.
- Approved the proposed development of the Capalaba Church including a building loan of \$120,000 and a requested Conference grant of \$10,000.
- Approved, subject to costing report, the development of a new demountable classroom block and staffroom facilities at Darling Downs Christian School for a projected amount (including additional furnishings) of \$500,000.
- Voted to approve renovations and extensions to classroom facilities at Ipswich Adventist School for a projected amount (including additional furnishings) of \$330,000, subject to costing report.
- Approval given for the establishment of the Child Protection Reserve Fund.
- Approved a range of membership transfers to and from the Conference roll.

## The Board of Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Limited:

- Recorded the action of the Mt Gravatt church to remove from membership the name of Daniel Kyei.
- Received an update report from the Staffing Committee.
- Approved the activities of Queensland Wilderness Association Club (QWAC) as presented for 2016.
- Received interim Tithe Analysis Statement.
- Approved the Operating Budget for Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Limited for the 12 month period ending 31 December 2016, indicating a projected surplus of \$3894.
- Approved the 2016 Conference Offering Calendar recognising 53 Sabbaths in 2016, and to approve the following local churches to receive the allocated Conference-Wide Offerings in 2016 in support of local church building and development projects:

March 5, 2016	ADRA Logan Central
August 20, 2016	Gladstone Church
December 3, 2016	Logan City Samoan

**PASTOR COLIN RENFREW,  
GENERAL SECRETARY**

## Attention FOCUS Contributors

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