

November 2024

# SOUTHLANDS

A South New South Wales Conference Publication



## A Team of Pastors in Every Church

Justin Lawman, President

It sounds extravagant, that every church has a team of pastors. Who could afford it? Where would you find that many pastors? Before you write this idea off, you already attend a church that has a team of pastors. Yes you do, they are called Elders!

The role of the Elder is the same as the Pastor is in the Bible (See 1 Peter 5:1-4) In fact a Pastor is an Elder and an Elder is a Pastor. It is a different name for the same position. The Elders were to protect and care for the new converts by prayerfully teaching Scripture and protecting them from false teachers and bringing new people to the faith (1 Tim 4:11-16). We have made a distinction between the fulltime Elder who we call Pastor and the part time Elder we refer to as the local Elder.

While there are paid and unpaid Elders in the Bible (1 Tim 5:17) the New Testament never had a church with a single pastor leading it. Paul appoints elders,

in the plural, to every church (Acts 14:23). These New Testament churches had a team of pastors working together to look after the believers in every city. Somehow we have fallen into the dark ages mindset that there is a special class of individuals who lead in isolation to the members. We are a priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:4-5). We need again to return to a team of Pastors leading every church.

### SOLID NOT FANCY



04 Care

1. Active pastoral care team





## Heresy: How to Navigate It.

Tom Kent

'For there must also be heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you'. 1 Cor 11:19

There are a few points worth considering from this passage:

1. Heresies 'must' circulate among God's people.
2. God allows these heresies in order to manifest those who are 'approved'.
3. Paul implies that not all that have their names on the church roll are 'approved'.

With this in mind, we would do well to consider the following: How can we ensure that we are among the approved, and have the ability to correctly navigate heresy?

The Bible gives the answer to this question in three points: firstly, we must **understand the truth**; secondly, we must **love the truth**; and, lastly, we must **live the truth**.

### UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH

'The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned'. 1 Cor 2:14, NKJV.

Although the Bible is written in English, it can only be spiritually discerned.

This means, in order to have a correct understanding of the scriptures, we must have the Holy Spirit as our Teacher. Not as some unknown power or influence, but as the third Person of the Godhead. It is the Spirit, not man's ideas, who leads us into the truth (Jn 16:13).

It's important, then, that we make time for prayer before studying the scriptures. We should make sure that those iniquities which have separated us from our God are all confessed to our Lord (Isa 59:2). Then we can know that He will grant us His Spirit, to lead us into the things that 'have been freely given to us by God' in His word (1 Cor 2:12).

Furthermore, to understand the truth, we need to study God's word diligently. You want a good spiritual meal? Then this is no 2-minute noodles. To have this kind of study experience takes time. Getting to know Jesus, who is the Truth (Jn 14:6), needs investment like any relationship.

It requires *reading* (Lk 10:26) and *comparing* scripture with scripture (Isa 28:10). You must dig! You won't find much gold as a surface reader. And even after you've taken the time to dig and study, you need to consider what you've studied (2 Tim 2:7). This means you need to think about what you've read.

Think and talk about it, with whoever will listen, 'when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up' (Deut 6:7). Ask questions, and make sure the answers don't come from your own ideas—the answers need to come from the scriptures.

Lastly, don't throw out the Spirit of Prophecy in this whole process. It's such a biblical gift to our church which Satan is warring against (Rev 12:17). Don't join him in his work.

So, simply put, "We should diligently study the Bible, asking God for the aid of the Holy Spirit, that we may understand His Word." ST, June 25, 1902.

To be continued...

# Commonwealth Honours Adventist School

Kiera Bridcutt

Canberra Christian School in the Australian Capital Territory has received the honour of being included in a limited edition book to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Commonwealth.

The Adventist-operated school is one of just 12 educational institutions that will be featured in The Commonwealth at 75, which is being officially launched next month in London.

Published by St James's House, 400,000 copies of the book will be distributed worldwide. Exploring the origins, history and impact of the Commonwealth, the fully illustrated album celebrates the family of nations and the ideas, individuals and organisations who have contributed to its success.

"We're aware that the school has received attention for its high standard of teaching and dedication to the future of learning," Partnerships manager at St James's House, Kian Husain Bor stated.

"Also highlighted was the focus and impact the school has on providing an outstanding holistic education and personalised learning. This aligns with the Commonwealth's long-term plan to serve communities and improve global education.

"Education holds paramount importance in the Commonwealth and beyond for several reasons, we firmly believe that Canberra Christian School will be a wonderful benchmark in highlighting best practice in primary education."

School principal Bree Hills said the invitation to be included in the book was unexpected and indicated that the school is held in high regard.

"We are immensely proud of this recognition," Mrs Hills said. "It is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff, students and community. Being featured in such a distinguished publication highlights our commitment to excellence and our role in advancing education not only in Canberra but across the Commonwealth."

The book will be published under Crown copyright and will feature the crowned portcullis—the official emblem of the UK Parliament. It will be officially launched at an exclusive invitation-only event at Westminster Abbey to be attended by more than 700 guests including members of both Houses of Parliament, as well as other key dignitaries. Mrs Hills and South New South Wales Conference secretary Calvin Drinkall will be among those attending the launch.



The banner features a dark blue background with a white molecular structure graphic in the top left. The text '2024 AMEN CONFERENCE Testify of Me' is prominently displayed in white. The Amen logo, consisting of a diamond shape with four icons (a heart, a hand, a globe, and a cross) and the text 'amen Adventist Medical Evangelism Network Australia', is in the top right. A circular portrait of Dr. Eric Walsh is on the left, and a photograph of Jesus walking up a set of stairs towards a bright light is on the right. A QR code and registration information are at the bottom left.

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# Royal Recognition for CCScy

We're thrilled to share that our team has travelled to the UK for the exhilarating launch of the "The Commonwealth at 75" publication at the iconic Westminster Abbey. This remarkable event brought together individuals from across the globe, celebrating the unity and diversity of the Commonwealth. It was a true blessing to represent Canberra Christian School on such a prestigious international platform. Being among a select few educational institutions featured is a testament to God's leading and our commitment to excellence. We are incredibly grateful to showcase our school's achievements and connect with the global community in such a meaningful way.



## The Thief on The Cross (Remember Me)

Roslyn Skinner

"Remember me Lord", the thief cried out  
"Remember me", he wanted to shout,  
"Remember me", when Your kingdom comes  
"Remember me", O Holy One.

I think of the thief on the cross that day  
As he turned his face to the Lord to say  
Just two little words, "remember me",  
As he hung on a cross on Calvary.

In Jesus, the thief saw an innocent man,  
A man like no other since time began  
He made no murmur or moan of complaint  
His face remained calm, though His body was faint.

Great drops of sweat stood upon His brow,  
No pitying hands to wipe them now,  
Words of sympathy there were none  
He was treading the winepress all alone.

While the soldiers were doing their fearful task  
Not one word of mercy did Jesus ask.  
His face remained pale, but calm and serene,  
As the thief looked on to that dreadful scene.

As Jesus was nailed to the cross that day  
With no thought of self, He began to pray,  
"FATHER, FORGIVE THEM", was His earnest plea.  
He was also thinking of you and me.

When Jesus died on the cross for our sins  
He promised the thief that was next to Him  
That he'd be with Him in heaven one day  
For his faith was strong in the Light and the Way.

So remember me too, when Your kingdom comes, Lord,  
Help me to learn from Your Holy Word,  
Help me to remember the price You paid, From the cross to  
the grave, in the tomb where You laid.

I'll remember You Lord, in all that I do  
With my body and soul, I'll worship You  
I'll remember the thief and Your promise to him  
Though the way becomes rough and the pathway dim.

But Your love for us, Lord, will carry me through  
All the good times and bad, I'll remember You.  
For You've taken my life in the palm of Your hands  
And moulded me into Your perfect plan.

My life, dear Lord, is no longer my own  
For I give it to You with all that I am,  
So hold me and keep me secure in Your Love  
Till You take me to live with You, up above.

As Jesus hung on the cross that day  
With no thought of self, He began to pray,  
He was begging the world with heartfelt plea,  
"PLEASE HARKEN MY CALL, AND REMEMBER ME."

# big camp 2025

## JOIN OUR TEAM

The Big Tent team is looking for members willing to help operate the AV and live stream in 2025. Training and laughs provided.

This valuable ministry helps people who cannot attend watch live along with us, and gives us a record for Youtube and Facebook for the future.

**CONTACT BEN**

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# African Day, Canberra National Church

Ben Kosmeier

On October 12, the church was packed with members and lots of visitors. Extra seats down the aisle and seats in the foyer. They came in great expectation of experiencing God in beautiful African style worship. The experience far exceeded expectation in; dress, testimonies, the African choir and Elder Tobias's inspiring sermon on "God can do anything."

There was truly a heavenly presence with the Holy Spirit filling each heart and mind with unspeakable joy and love for one another as if Pentecost was replaying. God was glorified and exalted. A new commitment to Him was

made by many present. The three groups comprising Canberra National church; the Karen, the Hall and the Main, where further unified as one body in Christ.

Further to worship, there was rejoicing and celebration over the lavish and delicious African food served for lunch. Relationships were strengthened and members shared a meal with visitors, of which many of them had never experienced such a loving and accepting community before.

The day was a sure taste of heaven. I'm so glad, I'm a part of the family of God. Aren't you?



## Adventist Development and Relief Agency Christmas Tree

Lazio Crescentini

Registrations are now open for the ADRA Christmas Tree fundraiser! During the season of giving, the ADRA Christmas Tree is the perfect way for your congregation to support those going through tough times, both in Australia and overseas. For Christmas, ADRA has created baubles that represent items from the ADRA Gift Catalogue. Display these baubles at your church, and church attendees can choose to make a gift to ADRA and take the corresponding gift bauble. Register your church at [adra.org.au/christmas-tree](http://adra.org.au/christmas-tree) and you will receive your ADRA Christmas Tree pack in the mail (includes baubles, gift slips, payment summaries, and posters).





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South New South Wales Conference

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Justin Lawman

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Kyle Morrison

Want to read or share news from your local church or ministry?... because we want to publish it! Please send us an email so we can work at getting your articles and photos published in the next conference newsletter.

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**Southlands Newsletter**

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*South New South Wales*

## EVENT CALENDAR



### NOV

9 Regional - Griffith

12-14 Life Coach Training

17-24 Medical Missionary Training

### DEC

11 Faith FM Strong Man - Narromine

13 NSW School Term Ends

17 ACT School Term Ends

27-2 Conference Office Closed

Seventh-day  
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