

July 2024

# SOUTHLANDS

A South New South Wales Conference Publication



## Bible Based Sermons

Justin Lawman, President

Growing churches have a Biblical sermon at the centre of the worship service. Have you ever asked why? Have you ever questioned if we should drop the sermon? What would happen? Or, why is the sermon so important that growing churches build their public worship service around the sermon?

### **A Clear definition of Biblical Preaching**

To understand why the sermon is so important for growth, a clear definition of what Biblical preaching is goes a long way to finding an answer. John Stott believes that Biblical preaching *"is to open up the inspired text with such faithfulness and sensitivity that God's voice is heard and his people obey him."* [1]

Everyone who is seeking meaning or understanding wants to hear God's voice. John Stott says that is what should happen when true Biblical preaching takes place in church. Not only do we hear God but are encouraged to obey Him.

### **How it all started**

Many trace the origin of Biblical preaching to the time of Nehemiah and Ezra after the return of Israel from captivity. These godly leaders wanted to put an end to the continual cycle of Israel's neglect and apostasy from the one true God.

Their solution was not just preaching, but Biblical preaching! Notice what the record says took place:

*"All the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which the Lord had given to Israel."* Nehemiah 8:1 NASB

Note that the people did not gather to hear Ezra; they came to hear from the book he brought with him, the book of the law.

*"He read from it before the square which was in front of the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, those who could understand; and all the people were attentive to the book of the law."* Nehemiah 8:3

## SOLID NOT FANCY



02

Worship Service

2. Bible based sermons



Note that we still finish church at midday.

*"Ezra stood on a wooden podium which they had made for the purpose..."* Nehemiah 8:4

*"Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up."* Nehemiah 8:5

*"They read from the book, from the law of God, translating (explaining) to give the sense so that they understood the reading."* Nehemiah 8:8

*"...For all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the law."* Nehemiah 8:9

**Note the Key ingredients of Nehemiah's account:**

The people were gathered

The book was read

Speaker stood above the crowd

The people reverence the Law

The Speaker gave it meaning so the people understood

The people responded with broken hearts

May the churches of the SNSW Conference always value the power of the spoken word, and may we continue to open the Bible and give it meaning. In doing this we will not only continue to grow and introduce new people to Christ but continue a practice that dates back over 2500 years.



## Canberra - Mums At The Table

Rochelle Ford

When I became a mother, I went from being very actively involved in ministry to feeling like I was doing nothing. I knew I was doing the most important work, looking after my son, but I wanted to do more. I eventually realised that I could still minister to others. However, it was going to look different.

I came across a ministry called Mums at The Table and decided to use their branding and support to start a Facebook group and a mother's group. They helped a friend and I set up a Facebook page, and we paid for the group to be advertised on Facebook for two weeks. Over

100 mothers in Canberra joined. We have only run the mother's group for five weeks, and twelve mothers from the community have come along. It's so wonderful to meet people from the community.

It has been hard to connect with people and form friendships, but with Mums at The Table, the people come to you! Which is really great for every time-poor mother out there who wants to do more in ministry. If you are a mother and have a mother's group running or plan to start one, why not make it evangelistic and look into getting support from Mums at The Table?



# Eugowra 120 Year Anniversary

Calvin Drinkall

Sabbath June 1 saw over a 100 people join together to celebrate the 120 year anniversary of the dedication for the first Seventh-day Adventist Church west of the Blue Mountains in Eugowra.

Family representatives of the original founding members including Kent's, Gersbach's and Chatman's shared stories of how God has led since 1904 when the church opened, and praised Him for the impact the little Church has had across Australia and beyond. Pr Anthony Kent, current Associate Ministerial Secretary for the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, led out in a sharing time for Sabbath School and then Pr Gary Kent, speaker for The Incredible Journey media ministry took the sermon on Bible Truths and the foundation of the Seventh-day

Adventist Church. Following lunch, the group headed out to the location of the church, where the current property owner had opened up the gate granting access to the site allowing an up close look at the church building.

Prior to the weekend, a group of cyclists set out from Brisbane to ride to Eugowra, completing just over 1,000kms arriving in Eugowra on the Friday afternoon of the celebratory weekend. This ride was in recognition of the literature evangelist Philip Reekie who rode his bike through New South Wales and shared the book *The Great Controversy* with Tom Kent. From that book and the church in Eugowra, an estimated 20,000 lives have been transformed. A prayer of thanksgiving was offered and we look forward to Jesus' soon return.



## Go Big or Go Home

Lorenzo Berry

Many no doubt are familiar with the expression 'Go Big or Go Home.' It evokes an all or nothing approach to whatever we do. As we've been discovering, that isn't the best mantra to adopt when it comes to making desirable behaviours stick. Or is it?

While the Go Big or Go Home mindset can lead to self-sabotaging our best efforts in changing for the better, there are some elements that we can apply to good effect, the first of these is commitment or resolution. A resolution brings with it a firmness of intent and a higher degree of self-discipline. These are necessary elements in the change process, without them, we can all too easy be all too easy on ourselves. We know when this is happening as we have a self-justifying conversation in our head, eg., "well you know you've had a big day", and "besides you deserve to take some time to yourself." Both mental conversations could be true, but self-discipline and firm commitment reframes our desired behaviour into the taking time for your self experience. This reframing, then makes the intended behaviour a reward rather than a chore.

The next positive of Go Big or Go Home is that it calls us to make our intention BIG within our environment. That

is, we want to make our desired behaviour as obvious as possible within the flow of our daily lives.

Consider this example, suppose you have a goal of writing your memoirs or family tree and you intend to write 500 words at 9pm every Monday and Wednesday after the dinner dishes are cleared away. However, you frequently catch yourself looking at Facebook on your phone while watching the latest reality TV show, because you've had a big day and need some you time. To effect the desired change, we could put a post-it note on the TV remote reminding ourselves that at 9pm we are writing 500 words of our memoirs. As we commence writing, we discover the joy and are better able to see this self-disciplined action as an investment not only in our goals, but in our future selves.

Action steps: Reflect on your attitude to your desired/ intended behaviour. Do you see it as an investment or a chore? Ask - How can you make your intended behaviour BIG in your daily environment? 2 Tim. 1:7 ESV "for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."



# CANBERRA REGIONAL

26 & 27 JULY, 2024

**FRIDAY  
NIGHT**

CHARNWOOD  
CHURCH

**FUTSAL &  
VOLLEYBALL**

CANBERRA  
NATIONAL

**SABBATH**

PCYC  
QUEANBEYAN



**NIC COUTET**  
AAV & PASTOR



**JUSTIN LAWMAN**  
PRESIDENT

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# Tumut Youth Rally

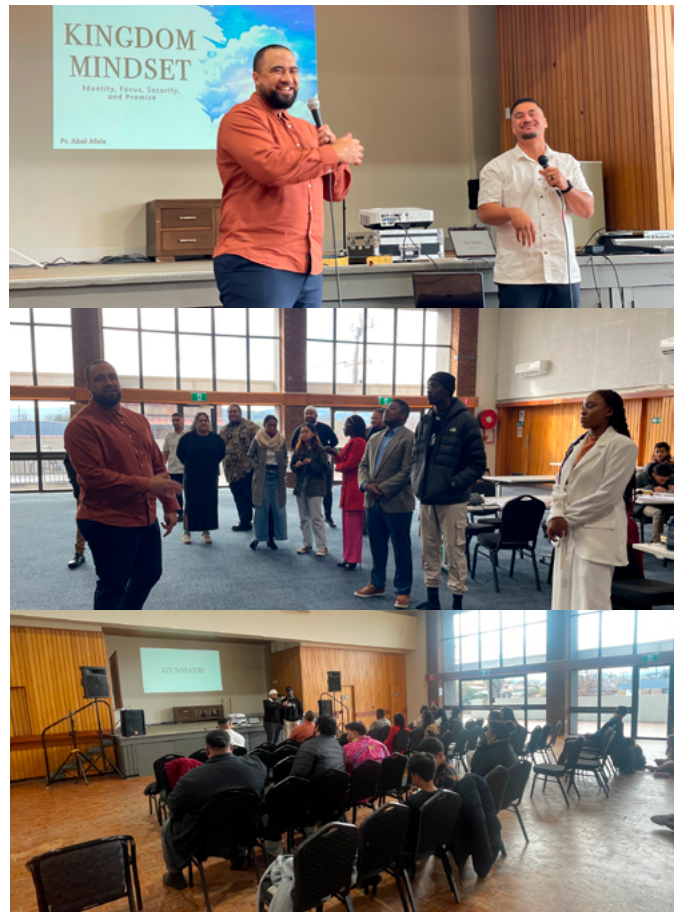
Sophie Bullock

On Saturday 15th June, Youth from all around SNSW gathered in Tumut to hear Pr. Abel Afele share about 'Kingdom Mindset'. The powerhouse Afele brothers (Pr. Roger and Pr. Abel Afele) led a workshop and church service focusing on Colossians 3 and how we can live a practical life with a 'Kingdom Mindset'.

In order to live a 'Kingdom Mindset' we were encouraged to 'Love God First' then 'Love our Neighbour' – how can we love our neighbours if we don't love God first? We were challenged to 'set our mind on things above, not on things on the earth' (Colossians 3:2) in order to seek the Kingdom of God. When we seek the kingdom of God, we start to see God's love and everything else aligns.

Pr. Abel used the analogy of an umbrella – An umbrella protects you in the rain but it doesn't stop the rain from happening. God's love for us is the same. His love doesn't stop the rain (or the challenges in our life) but it allows us to stand firm and strong.

*"Kingdom Mindset is having a living output of Kingdom Culture"*



## VOLUNTEER @ HENTY FIELD DAYS

We are looking for volunteers to help us run the Faith FM booth at the upcoming event, 17 - 19 September. Robbie Berghan will be joining us to run activities and a strong man contest while promoting the FaithFM app to 50,000 attendees. We invite you to join us.



### JOIN US!



ROGER



ABELE



PHIL

Email Roger →

[RogerAfele@adventist.org.au](mailto:RogerAfele@adventist.org.au)



# Mums! Do you enjoy making friends?

**Mums At The Table** is a fantastic friendship outreach / ministry opportunity which uses Facebook to find mums who are searching for connection. It's a great tool to connect church and community mums together from the online platform to in person meetups!

Did you know we've just launched our very first Mums At The Table group in the SNSW conference? The Canberra Mums At The Table group recently launched and has over 150 members already! Here is the link if you'd like to join: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/canberramatt/>

We would love to have more groups all over our conference. We are looking for mums (of any age or stage) who would be interested in getting involved in our existing group or starting a new group in your local area.

We would love help with posting or commenting online (remembering that it is an outreach, not an Adventist mums page)

We would also love mums who are keen to meet up in person and make friends

Meetups can be whatever interests you and could range from walking groups, Dessert nights, playgroups, park play, to clothes swaps! It's also a wonderful platform to advertise our community programs to Mums/families outside our church!

**Please email Elise at [Hello@mumsatthetable.com](mailto:Hello@mumsatthetable.com) if you're interested, or would like to ask any questions about this worthwhile ministry.**

# SOUTHLANDS

South New South Wales Conference

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Justin Lawman

## Editor

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.

## Email Southlands Newsletter at

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## Southlands Newsletter

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*South New South Wales*

**MILDURA  
MUMS AT THE  
TABLE IMPACT  
REPORT 2024**

SCAN ME



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church™

*South New South Wales*

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