

August 2022

northpoint

North New South Wales Conference News



Spirituality at Your Home

Pr Adrian Raethel
NNSW Conference President

I recently had the privilege of leading out in a presentation to the first and second year intern pastors within our Conference on the topic of “Pastor’s Spirituality”. We began the session by sharing what spirituality was like in our families when we were growing up. Most interns were blessed in that they grew up in either an Adventist or a broader Christian home environment. Questions that were asked were:

- Was family worship conducted in your home? If so, what did it comprise of?
- Do you remember seeing your father and/or mother reading their Bibles and praying?
- Did either parent pray with you before you went to sleep?
- Did either parent have a special place where they would talk/pray to God?
- Were there other spiritual practices/habits evident in your home?

It was encouraging that nearly all intern pastors were positively impacted by many of the spiritual practices that were part of their family routine. However, there were some lessons that we drew out of the reflection time that the pastors agreed were important to incorporate into their home and family lives.

1. Keep family worship times short and interesting. Make them attractive and something young children and teens will look forward to, not have to endure.
2. Be creative and incorporate different learning styles.
3. Involve as many of those gathered for worship in the actual worship, especially children. They will learn and remember more when they are involved in the worship themselves.
4. Use a variety of different worship formats and resources such as object lessons, music, sharing, memorisation, journalling etc.
5. As parents, model in your lives what you talk about in your worship times.

(If you need some help with ideas and resources, contact the Family and Children’s Ministries department on 02 4951 8088).

If you don’t have children or if they have all left home and it’s just the 2 of you or even if you live on your own, do you engage in regular spiritual activities that grow your relationship with God? Are they meaningful and interesting?

How often do we read in Scripture where families set up an altar to the Lord, a sacred place, a physical reminder of God’s leading and blessing. Is there a special place and/or time where you regularly meet with God? Our lives and schedules are busy, but in our homes we must not neglect our time with God.

WESTERN YOUTH MUSTER

On May 27-29, 70 young people from across the NNSW and SNSW conferences came together at Narramine to enjoy a weekend away. Everyone enjoyed listening to Lyle Southwell, who was our speaker for the weekend. To enhance our worship with singing and music, Dan Higgins and friends travelled down from the Lismore area to join us. The weekend was enjoyed by all with fellowship, meeting new friends, worship around the campfire, church in the shearing shed, team games, walks, beautiful sunsets, and of course food. Everyone said that they were looking forward to doing it again next year and have also marked in their calendars the last weekend of May 2023 for the Western Youth Camp. Special thanks to the Heckendorf family for allowing us to camp on their property.



Setting New Heights

John Venegas
Foundation Principal

During one of the most disruptive seasons in recent history, development has been steadily underway to vision for and launch our tenth Adventist school in North New South Wales. Welcome to The Heights Learning Community.

A new school, with new aspirations for a new generation. Located in the Lower Hunter region of NSW in Gillieston Heights, The Heights is purposed to be a community-focused school, with a strong Adventist Christian ethos, and an emphasis on building core competencies with project and inquiry-based learning. It aims to be a part of, not apart from, its local community, with its objectives formed around its three foundational values to inspire, to inquire and to impact. Following the mandate of Matthew 5:14-16 (The Message), to be “a light on a hilltop”, “bringing out the God-colours in the world.”

Sitting on the former site of Valley View Adventist School, this re-imagined learning community will become an integral part of the local Maitland area as it rapidly expands to accommodate one of the highest growing populations in the state of NSW. Dean Bennetts, CEO of NNSW SDA Schools says, ‘The Heights has been a journey of seeing God’s hand evident at every turn. At every impasse He has appeared in the opening of doors, resolving of barriers, and making clear the path. It is an exciting time for mission growth in NNSW’.

Currently, the new school site is being renovated to prepare for its opening as well as continuing to progress with its planned construction of the Stage 1 Primary building thanks to the support of the NSW government. The Heights will begin with an infant’s program in 2023 and add on new grades each following year. We look forward to inviting expressions of interests from the community in the coming month and beginning the process of meeting the children and families that will be the first to experience The Heights.



WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

Joy Guy

It was with great joy that Wallsend members welcomed three young ladies into church fellowship on Sabbath 7 May. Naomi, Olivia and Prisila were baptised by Pr Lizeth Momanga following after-school studies facilitated by Pr Lizeth, Margaret Beale and Julie Norris. Loving parents and grandparents supported and encouraged the girls in their decision to choose Jesus as their best Friend.

Sadly, the day also marked Wallsend's farewell to Pr Lizeth and husband Richard as they return to the USA to reunite with family and pursue further studies. Wallsend has been blessed to have Lizeth and Richard as a pastoral team for four years and they will be greatly missed. Lizeth and Richard were presented with a framed painting of Newcastle's famous Bogey Hole, and shared a giant pink farewell cake.

Pr Ray and Hazel Eaton will minister at Wallsend until a Senior Pastor is appointed. They will be supported by Youth Pastor Adam Schulz and wife Kayla.



Pathfinder Expeditions – North and South

Congratulations to all the Pathfinders and Leaders in the North and South of the Conference who have just participated in the largest Expeditions that we know of in this Conference. We had 311 at the North Expedition, which was held at Buccarumbi, and 372 at the Southern Expedition which was held at Colo Heights. We had high winds and cold in the South and the Northern Expedition had very heavy frosts, but nothing could keep the Pathfinders from enjoying the great outdoors and God's nature textbook. While worshipping together, singing together, cooking and eating together, hiking together, camping together, regaining together, Pathfinders were learning valuable lessons and life skills. A big thanks to Aguer Dut (4th year theology student) who spoke to the Pathfinders in the South, and Pr Blair in the North; also, to the Avondale University crew who did the abseiling for the South.

Huge thanks to all the Club Leaders and Class Leaders who do an enormous amount of work before the Expedition getting the Pathfinders and equipment ready and to the site. We acknowledge also the parents and helpers who come along and back-pack hike with the Pathfinders, keep the club site clean and "home" fires burning collecting wood, and providing transport etc. Without your help Pathfinders would not have enjoyed their weekend. Also, a super thanks to the Pathfinders themselves. Not only did you enjoy the weekend, have fun, hike, mix with other Pathfinders, but you put up with all the leaders/helpers etc who snore so well in those very thin tents beside you! Expeditions couldn't happen without the support of District Director's, their friends and family. DD's put in many hours to make this happen for Pathfinders, and they are very much appreciated.

TEEN RALLY

High School students across multiple campuses had a great experience connecting and worshipping at the Teen Rally hosted by Gateway Church on June 25. Gateway Church designates one Sabbath each quarter as a "Share Sabbath" which is a day dedicated to doing something out of the ordinary to connect with their school and local community. This "Share Sabbath" was dedicated to prioritising young people and creating a space just for them. This event created an excellent opportunity for collaboration across the three schools and campus churches in the southern part of our Conference with Pastors and Chaplains from all campuses working together to organise this event. Buses from both Macquarie College/Wallsend and Central Coast Adventist School/The Haven made their way to join Avondale School where a total 180 teens gathered. The program began with a pancake breakfast and games, followed by a church service where the welcome, worship music, and items were all teen led. Pr Jack Ryder delivered a moving Gospel message after which everyone was sent home with take-away nachos.

It was so good to see young people connecting again in person, and the combined Campus Churches Pastoral teams are excited to announce the next Teen Rally which will be taking place on Friday September 3, at Wallsend Church. Keep an eye out for details.



The world is coming to us!

Greg Fernance

In the great commission (Matthew 28:18-20) we are commanded by Jesus to "make disciples of all nations" and previous to this Jesus said "And this gospel of the kingdom of God will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:14). Now, we are getting closer to the end, and I have never had the privilege to preach the gospel in another nation, but my experience this year has been that people from around the world are coming to me. God has really blessed us this year with the presence of some Vanuatuan men at Grafton Church. Harold, one of the guys can sing like an angel and it has been an awesome experience ministering to them and walking them through the waters of baptism. Out of the group that I have been studying with, 2 of the men Stephen and Romeo, decided to give their lives to Jesus! The radical change in their lives has been moving to watch as God calls them closer and closer to Him!



West Wallsend Korean Pathfinder Induction

On the 4th of June, Youth Director Pr Dana Howard, met with the West Wallsend Korean Pathfinders for their induction afternoon.

It was a moving service as each Pathfinder pledged to commit to Pathfinders and its ideals of being a friend to Jesus and others around them by lighting a candle of commitment.

The West Wallsend church have been working toward this induction for a long time with fundraising efforts such as the Korean eat-fest held at Big Camp Super Sunday this year in the camp kitchen at Yarra Holiday Park. It was an absolute success that they are already planning again for next year.

Their first camp out ever was to the Pathfinder expedition, hosted recently in the Northern and Southern areas of the Conference, at which 6 Pathfinder and 3 Staff participated.

Our prayers are with you all, Pathfinders and Leaders, as you journey down the Pathfinder road.



Women’s Retreat - A Blessing For Many

Alison Buckley

On June 3-5, over seventy women aged between fifteen and eighty gathered at Yarra Holiday Park (formally known as Stuart’s Point Convention Centre) for a weekend retreat. Keynote speaker Lea-Anne Smith, presentationed on the theme ‘More than Conquerors’ from Romans 8:37. It highlighted the need for faith, hope and love in these end times. Directed by Jessica Trevithick, a play featuring Deborah and Jael in Judges 4 provided some unexpected humour.

Psychologist Jessica Bishop’s presentation ‘Conquering with Balance’, enabled a self-assessment of attendees’ thinking styles. Led by Marcha William’s memorable workshops, three women requested Bible studies and many more re-committed their lives to Jesus. The \$2000 offering went to former Women’s Ministries regional leader Barbara Par-kins’ African Kini Project.

On Saturday night, Jael’s tent became the centre of Ali’s Bazaar. Participants, including Better Books and Foods and WCTU, promoted and or sold their products, gifts, and talents, after which the women conquerors’ fashion parade provided many more laughs. Prayer supporters, the renewal of old friendships and the creation of new ones all contributed to the enthusiastic development of caring networks.

Many thanks to North NSW Women’s Ministries Director Bethany Chapman, events co-ordinator Katie Dixon, Joy Butler, Kerrie Clement, and team for their hard work in making the retreat a success.



KIDS CORNER

PARABLES OF JESUS: FIND-A-WORD

S H G U M S L Z V T E S M F T
I P D O U H O K E I O J D X A
S U O S G E S N N W R R G T L
E E E K Y A T I E M W G A R E
D J G S E V S R X V Z U I D N
U R F X I E H G D E G T L N T
T L T N M N E X Q H E V B S S
I K R O K V E W T U X A P N V
T P U A Y T P W Q M E S G O C
L G N M E Y N N A D P F N S A
U R Y R Z P A F I G T R E E W
M B N R T B N A T I R A M A S
V K T F X P A R A B L E S N Y
Y V L O O K H J P U E J F G F
Y H X A D E E S G M Y C N T O

BANQUET
FIG TREE
HEAVEN
JESUS
LOST SHEEP
MULTITUDES
PARABLES
PEARL
SAMARITAN
SEED
SONS
SOWER
SPOKE
TALENTS
TAUGHT
VIRGINS



AYC Report

Shanna Duke

AYC was an inspiring weekend! As the name entails, ‘Adventist Youth for Christ’ brought around 350 young people together for the common goal of living missional Adventist lives for Christ. The theme for this year’s convention was “Witness to All Nations”. This is our calling found in the gospels, and what a calling! Each participant had the opportunity to attend three different 2hr long workshops on different aspects of discipleship training, hear messages from the keynote speakers: Pr Ashley Smith, Pr Cristian Copaceanu, Pr Justin Lawman, and Suki Goonatilleke, and there was also time in small discipleship groups to apply what was being learnt. God really blessed and many young people recommitted their lives to God, made decisions for baptism, and some chose to give their lives to full-time ministry.

A highlight of the weekend was having about 100 of the participants getting out in the community on the Sabbath afternoon sharing flyers for a free dinner with the Faith FM show hosts and doing spiritual interest surveys door to door. On the way to and from the outreach location, one of the buses had about 60 people praising God through song for what He was going to do and then what He did do! In an hour, 41 spiritual interest contacts and 23 Bible study contacts were found. Praise the Lord for opening hearts and for the team effort put forward to find them.

It is not just about attending an event though, as Pr Justin pointed out, discipleship is a lifestyle. So although the event was inspiring, convicting and encouraging, we are stoked to see how God will work through each of these young people as they apply what they learnt to their daily lives and see results for the kingdom. See you all in Melbourne, January 2023 for the next AYC!

A special thanks to Avondale University and Church for being hosts, specifically Pr Norman Hurlow, Pr Morgan Vincent, and Kevin Petrie.

I AM 18+
AND HAVE
NO WILL...
DOES IT
MATTER?



Visit Trust Services at
nsw.adventist.org.au

CONTACT TRUST SERVICES

P (02) 4951 8088
E KristinCurson@adventist.org.au
A 112 Lake Road Wallsend NSW 2287



Seventh-day
Adventist Church™

WAYMAKER

REFRAMING
church | culture | community | service | outreach

VIDEO ON DEMAND



Subscribe Today

WAYMAKER.TV



Subscribe to NorthPoint online!

Don't miss out on the excitement. Get the conference news straight to your inbox!
nsw.adventist.org.au/northpoint-bulletin

Visit our website for the latest news and events.
nsw.adventist.org.au/news-and-events



Enquiries

The NorthPoint Bulletin is printed 10 times per year by the Adventist Church (North New South Wales Conference).

Editor Marta Rutkowska
Phone (02) 4951 8088
Email MartaRutkowska@adventist.org.au
Website nsw.adventist.org.au

Contributions

We would love to share local news with the conference in print or online. Please send through relevant contributions to the above contact address.

Disclaimer: Articles express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Seventh-day
Adventist Church™

North New South Wales