

northpoint

North New South Wales Conference News

Pastor Lizeth Commissioned

Record Staff

Lizeth Momonga's commitment to ministry was recognised on March 13 at Wallsend Adventist Church (NSW) during her commissioning ceremony. Feeling called to do God's work since she was a child, Pastor Momonga completed her studies at Pacific Union College, USA. She planted churches in Alaska and McAllen, South Texas. These accomplishments led her to attend the seminary at Andrews University while working for the church planting department of the North American Division Evangelism Institute. In 2018, she was called to Australia by the NNSW Conference as associate pastor for the Wallsend church, becoming the senior pastor in 2021.



Pastor Justin Ordained

Record Staff

Hamilton Adventist Church (NSW) was filled on March 20 to celebrate Pastor Justin Torossian's ordination to ministry. The sermon was presented by Pastor Danny Milenkov. North NSW President Pastor Adrian Raethel gave Pastor Torossian his ministry charge and NNSW Secretary Pastor Abel Iorgulescu offered the prayer. Pastor Torossian graduated in 2016 from theology at Pacific Union College in his hometown of Angwin, northern California, USA. In 2018, he was called by the NNSW Conference to pastor the Hamilton church alongside his wife, Charissa, who serves as NNSW prayer coordinator. The couple also joined the NNSW evangelism team in 2020.



President's Message

Pr Adrian Raethel
NNSW Conference
President



You are probably aware that Queensland, the ACT and Victoria have recently passed legislation banning Gay Conversion therapy. It is highly likely that other jurisdictions will follow suit. The Victorian legislation is the most far reaching to date regarding its impact on religious freedom. The Church in no way supports the use of shock or aversion therapy but does support the right of an individual to seek support and counsel regarding issues they may have with their sexuality and/or relationships. So how is the Church responding and how is it making its position known to law makers? Firstly I want to acknowledge the work of Pr

Michael Worker, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director (PARL) for the Australian Union Conference (AUC) based in Melbourne along with his other responsibilities.

1. The Record published the article "Church responds to conversion therapy bill" in the 4 February edition. The article can be accessed at <https://record.adventistchurch.com/2021/02/04/church-responds-to-conversion-therapy-bill/>.
2. Direct representation has been made to political leaders of both major parties regarding concerns about the legislation and its impact on religious freedom.
3. The AUC is actively working through organisations such as Freedom4Faith and the Institute

for Civil Society to campaign for religious freedom and submit amendments to legislation as appropriate.

4. The AUC is petitioning the Federal Government, along with a number of other religious organisations, to make amendments to the Federal Religious Discrimination bill to further protect religious freedom.
5. The South Pacific Division is looking into how Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) can be resourced at Division level.

Religious freedom has been a given in Australian society in recent decades but it is not difficult to see storm clouds on the horizon.

Financial Report February 2021

Russell Halliday
NNSW Conference
Chief Financial Officer

A big thank you to God for His many blessings and for the faithful support of North NSW Conference church members. The February report highlights are:

1. Surplus of \$2.5m for 2020, an improvement of \$4.6m on 2019.
2. Retained Tithes for 2020 was \$14.4m compared with \$13.2m in 2019, gross tithes increased by 9% over previous year.
3. 56% of tithes was spent on pastors and evangelism.

4. Working capital and liquidity ratios exceed 100% of requirement.

5. In 2020 we received \$664k from deceased estates and \$2.3m from government covid stimulus and jobkeeper grants.

6. Conference has a plan to achieve sustainable operating surpluses by 2022/23 without the once off boost to income experienced in 2020.

7. Capital refurbishments and upgrades at our campgrounds have been forecast as an ongoing investment for the next 5 years. Finally, we commit all our plans to the will and providence of God. We do not know what tomorrow will bring,

but confidently follow the footsteps of the one who knows the end from the beginning.

For more information and access to the full version of the financial report for February 2021 visit the following link.

nsw.adventist.org.au/news/financial-report-february-2021/



A Picture of the NNSW Conference Church

Abel Iorgulescu

NNSW Conference General Secretary

Throughout the Bible, God's church is represented as a temple, a lampstand, a family, a bride, and the body of Christ. The body metaphor is helpful because it shows that we are all different and we have different gifts that God has given us to serve in different ways.

I would like to share with you a detailed picture of God's church in the NNSW Conference. The three main areas of ministry in this Conference are through our Aged Care Facilities, Schools and Churches.

Aged Care

Amongst the five Retirement Villages (comprising 2 residential care facilities and 5 lifestyle villages all located at Avondale, Alstonville, Jewells, Wyee and Tweed Heads) the Aged Care Company employs 363 staff that are caring for almost 1000 precious people. Through this ministry, the NNSW Conference represents the hands of Jesus supporting our seniors when they need help the most.



363 Staff

1000 Precious people



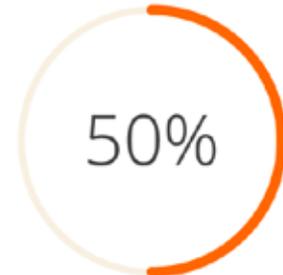
9 Schools + **2** Pre Schools

476 Staff **3,843** Students

Schools

We are blessed to have 9 Schools and 2 Pre Schools in our territory, with a total number of 476 staff and 3,843 students.

The schools represent the life-changing bridge between local communities and church families. In 2020, nearly 50% of the baptisms that took place in our Conference, were associated with our schools.



BAPTISMS

Churches

Across our 95 places of worship, members (our current membership is 12,348) meet every Sabbath to be nurtured, inspired, and trained for mission by our 63 pastors. It is encouraging to know that in our Conference we have:



We praise God, and we thank our church members and pastors for their resilience and commitment to mission throughout 2020. From 1 January 2020 - 31 January 2021 we can report 148 baptisms and 16 Professions of Faith. In a time like 2020 with social distancing, lock downs and church via zoom, the results are nothing short of a miracle.

I pray that we will continue to be the body of Christ- diverse yet united in the proclamation of the Three Angels' Messages (Rev 14:6-12).

Handling Differences In Relationships

Pr Neil Thompson

A whopping 69% of all that couples fight about never gets resolved according to the research of Dr. John Gottman, yet this does not prevent couples from experiencing relational happiness. The decisive factor is not trying to change your partner to your perspective but rather embracing a far more Biblical ideal of honouring and respecting each other while appreciating the differences. A perfect relationship isn't required for relationship happiness. You can still disagree with your partner while being attuned to your partner and continuing to be their friend and lover. What can really help is:

1. Reinvigorating a deep quality friendship with you partner. Remember friends like and influence each other, spend time together and regularly share with each other.

2. Happy couples have mastered the art of repair attempts which is any action by either person that stops a fight escalating out of control and brings the couple closer together – can be fun, silly or serious that when both people recognise, the fight stops. It is a way to say “Hey I’m sorry, we are doing our crazy thingy again” and reset the relationship. Almost all couples mess up and fight. What matters is do your repair attempts work and stop you saying and doing things that you will regret later.

3. PSO – positive sentiment override is a protective factor that we can cultivate in our minds. Philippians 4:8 tells us to think about pure and lovely things. PSO is about applying this to your partner. You could choose to notice all that is wrong with your partner which will take you to a dark place about your partner and put you on red alert to everything your partner does and says because everything they do, good, bad or neutral, will be interpreted as bad by your

negative thinking. Alternatively you could notice all that is good about them so that you would be more inclined to give them the benefit of the doubt on marginal things, preferring to see the best intent behind their actions and words. PSO helps keep conflict disagreements in perspective and helps to get couples more of what they want.

If you want to know more about these principles you can check out the best selling book by Dr John Gottman called “Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work” or join in with the next ADORE Relationships workshop that covers all of this and so much more in an educational relaxed weekend. If you are unsure if these principles will work in your relationship or you are in an abusive relationship then please talk to a marriage Counsellor for professional advice. Destructive and abusive relationships require very different interventions to what is described above.

Flood Water Baptism

Greg Furnance
Bible Worker

I have been studying with a guy for about two years now and time after time the enemy has tried to bring him down and stop him from being fully committed to God. Last year he made the decision to be baptised, but it just kept dragging out until it got to the point where I thought it wouldn't happen. Through patience and prayer he made the decision to fully commit no matter what the cost and he was baptised in a special spot down the back of his property on a Wednesday morning, flood water and all. I have never been so excited to step into brown water as I was on this day.

Please continue to pray for Robbie and his journey as I know God will use this guy as He already has been, in a powerful way.



Upcoming Evangelism Series

The End of Time
July 13 to August 5

This year's digital Adventist message evangelistic campaign will be new, creative and challenging. For the first time ever we will be presenting the entire series live in an interactive format over a series of presentations. It will be broken into short bite sized sections aimed at the YouTube generation that will include a presentation, rapid-fire Bible study and Q&A. Audience participation will be a major feature and encouraged throughout. Please start planning now about how you can invite your friends to participate.

Online programs available at:
theend.digital, youtube.com/theenddigital,
fb.com/theend.digital

NNSW Schools Mission Impact Report - 2020

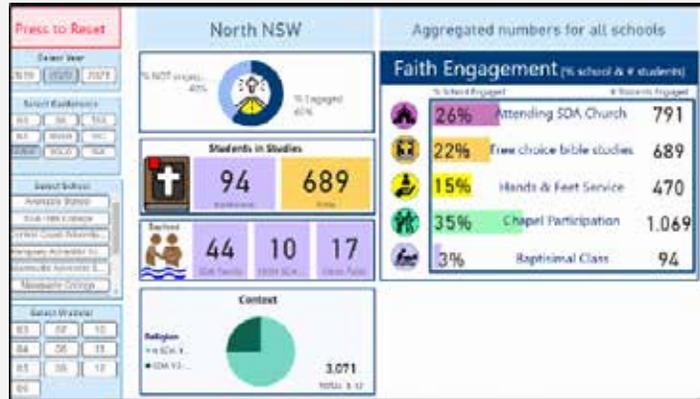
Alvin Schick
Chaplaincy Coordinator

In the January/February edition of Northpoint our President Pr Adrian Raethel introduced the 'Mission Impact report' that North New South Wales Schools in conjunction with ASA, has developed over the past few years. Joined by the expertise of Mark Hansen at the AUC, this annual report has now been developed into a "live" online data dashboard that can measure at any given time, the faith engagement of students in any of our schools.

The purpose of collecting this data is to gauge the impact that our Adventist Schools are

making in the lives of students' faith journey. Five 'faith-based activity' areas that students can freely choose to be involved in are measured by school chaplains entering the data into the instrument. These five areas, along with baptism figures and the religious demographics of our schools can be seen in the dashboard for 2020 below. In the year of the onset of Covid, and

many things being shut down, it was encouraging to see that there was still 60% engagement in faith activities by our students. Apart from giving us accurate data on students free-choice faith engagement, this data can now allow school chaplains and leaders to track trends and from that, to set strategic spiritual goals for the future.



Brewarrina Service Trip - Tikoicina Family

In February 2020, the Tikoicina family (Saki, Rose, Kelepi, and Tahliana) were asked to go on a service trip to Brewarrina, NSW. It was their first time going on outreach as a family.

While in Brewarrina, the Tikoicina family took the song service where they sang as a family and even taught a group of 20 attendees songs in Fijian. This was a very moving experience for the locals as for generations they had not been allowed to speak their mother language, and this experience was like letting them know that it was ok to speak in their language.

As part of the program, there was a sharing time where a couple of people shared some answers to prayer and testimonies, which was a blessing to all involved. Saki's sermon was centred around the topic of prayer, and he was able to draw a lesson from the local area, the fish traps, and the significance of these to the early

Aborigines. Being Fijian, Saki also made fish traps growing up so he was able to relate this to his personal life. Rose took the kids story and sang a kid's song about patience and self-control and how this related to Daniel and the lion's den.

After the church service, the Tikoicina family drove around town looking at some of the local sights, spent time with a group of 8 locals where they discussed the Sabbath School lesson and began another time of sharing. This was a beautiful time where they were able to encourage and pray for each other.

Rose Tikoicina described the day as 'one of the happiest and most blessed Sabbaths for our family...we would do it all over again in a heartbeat'.

To read the full story visit: nsw.adventist.org.au/news-and-events/



Emergency Flood Relief Provided

The NNSW Conference has provided \$66,000 to date in emergency assistance to church members whose homes have been damaged during the recent rain event on the east coast. Hardest hit areas have included Taree, Kempsey, the lower Hunter and surrounding districts. More requests for help

have been received and are being processed. The Australian Union Conference are matching local Conference commitments dollar for dollar.

The driveway leading to a church member's house.
P.C Gary Grant



KIDS CORNER

Read through Genesis 9 to discover the story of Noah's ark and the flood.

NOAH'S ARK AND THE FLOOD : FIND-A-WORD

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

NOAH
ARK
ANIMALS
DOVE
FLOOD
WARNING
SKY
RAIN
GOD
EARTH

GENESIS
OLIVE
LEAF
BRANCH
BUILD
PROMISE
LAND
RAINBOW
SAVED



World day of prayer - Glenn Innes

Michelle Hall

The first Friday in March is designated as World Day of Prayer, and this year Glen Innes SDA church had the privilege of hosting it for the local district, which was co-ordinated by Jenni Lloyd-Ward. Members from several other churches in our town attended.

The featured country was Vanuatu, and the theme was 'Build on a Strong Foundation'. Psalm 127:1 "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it".

Each visiting church had a segment in the program, and our local pastor, Pr Brad Cooke, gave a timely message on building on the Rock, not the sand, which everyone appreciated.

During our World Day of Prayer we were blessed by two special items - a men's singing group from Vanuatu, via video, and the second one, "Bind Us Together", was sung by some local church members.

At the conclusion of the program, we had wonderful fellowship over morning tea, and the positive atmosphere was a blessing to us all.



Recipe of the Month



VEGAN MINI PEACH CUSTARD TARTS

Ingredients:

CRUST:

½ cup quinoa flakes
1½ cups almond meal
2 TBSP avocado oil
2 TBSP maple syrup

FILLING:

1 300g packet organic silken tofu
⅓ cup raw cashews
2 large peaches, pits removed
2 TBSP maple syrup
juice ½ lemon

Method:

1. In a bowl, mix together crust ingredients until sticky. Divide evenly between 6x 6cm mini tart moulds. Press crust on to the base and sides of tart tins. Bake in the oven for 10 minutes at 180C. Remove from oven and allow to cool completely.
2. For the filling, add all the ingredients into a blender and blend until smooth. Pour evenly on top of crusts. decorate with chopped peaches and fresh mint or toppings of choice. Enjoy straight away or store in the fridge for about 3 days.

Find this recipe and lots more
online at hazelandcacao.com

Evangelism At The Samoan Church 2020

Dot Losila Greenfield

In the beginning of 2020, our church agreed to running small evangelism groups, with the focus on the Youth, Children, and young couples. Prior to COVID19, all the different groups worked on ideas and ways to run their small groups. The Pathfinder club had discussed the idea of running Bible studies as part of their program, but unfortunately, when COVID19 started, it became difficult to continue with the proposed plan. The only group that continued with some of their program on and off during COVID19 period was the youth. They ran Bible studies on most Friday nights, some via Zoom and others at the church venue. There were also family Bible Studies and prayer meetings that ran from the comfort of homes led by parents and the children because it was hard to gather together as usual. All these meetings were done in accordance with COVID19 rules & restrictions.

Our church started the Harvest campaign in September 2020 with the title "Accept Christ and be Saved" and this was done every weekend via Zoom throughout the month of September, and

then followed with a baptism on the first week of October 2020.

On the 3rd of October 2020, we held a baptism at church and four souls committed their lives to the Lord.

Two sisters – Tina and Jean-Clara Key. Tina and Jean-Clara are part of 6 children who sing as a trio. They are part of our Praise and Worship team. They provide our church special items most Sabbaths and sometimes, special items to accompany the message each Sabbath.

Owen Seiuli came from a strong Mormon background. His family are not Adventist but have relations who are Adventist. Owen started attending our church and enjoyed coming to Bible studies. Owen accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour and decided to be baptised in the Seventh-day Adventist Church as the true church of God.

Vaea Pupualii wanted to recommit his life to God and decided to get rebaptised on the day.



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Enquiries

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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.

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Adventist Church™

North New South Wales