

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW BIBLE WORKER

Charlene Su'a

I was asked to write an article about myself and I said yes with all reluctance.

However, I can always look at the opportunity to share how the LORD has been with me and blessed me so much and continues to draw me close to Him where He continues to lead me.

Both of my parents are Seventh-day Adventists and migrated to New Zealand in the 1960's. I have one older brother and one younger sister. My whole family reside in Auckland, including myself, after I've lived overseas for a couple of years – it's a blessing to be home.

I have always been public-school educated and it was during my high school years that I started to drift away from church. I lived a life that was "go-with-the-flow" and didn't stop to think about anyone else or consequences of my actions. God was not a priority in my life.

After completing seventh form, I went to work at the New Zealand Post sorting mail, earning good money and travelling. Then in 1994 I started a bridging course at the University of Auckland and began my degree in 1995. In my final year of my undergraduate studies my life took a turn in coming back to God. In the journey of rebuilding a relationship with God, His providence led me to Watford, England in 1998. It was here I did my first stint for Adventist Volunteer Centre working at Stanborough Boarding School. Being away from family and friends, I opened up more to God and integrated him more into my daily life through personal prayer. I worked there for six months and then returned home to do my post-graduate studies at the University of Auckland in 1999.

Upon finishing my studies, I went to South Korea to teach English at the SDA Language institutes for two years. It was God putting me in training for what was to come – meeting new people and leading them to Jesus.

Upon my return to New Zealand in 2004 I started doing volunteer Bible work at my

home church – Glen Innes. It was here that I developed a passion in sharing Christ one-on-one with people in the home.

In 2005 I returned to South Korea for a 4-month teaching stint then in November I went to England to visit my cousin who had just become a Mother. During my time there I first heard of Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) – a congregation of Seventh-day Adventist youth in America gathered together to be trained to share the Three Angels Messages to the world. I would have loved to have gone but the expenses were out of my reach. I returned from England to New Zealand in December.

However, GYC had inspired similar conferences amongst young people all around the world. In January 2006 I had the delight to attend the first New Zealand Youth Conference (NZYC). Then in February 2006 I had the opportunity to go to Melbourne for the first Adventist Youth Conference (AYC) – which also had the same vision as GYC and NZYC. God's providence enabled me to go and it was the beginning of God leading me into full-time ministry as a Bible Worker. It was there that I first heard the appeal for full-time Bible Workers to come and work for Ps Mark Finley's evangelistic series to be run in 2007. I was set on going back to New Zealand to do Bible work – never imagined doing it in Australia.

In August 2006 I ended up going back over the Tasman to study at *E a s t w a r d* Missionary College (EMC) in New South Wales. While at EMC we attended Pr Mark Finley's training in Melbourne for his

Discoveries Evangelistic Seminars that were to be run the following year in 2007. It was then I heard the second time an appeal for full-time Bible Workers to do ground work for Discoveries. So my classmates and I applied.

Before returning to New Zealand in December, I learnt that my application for Discoveries was successful so I was heading back to Melbourne in January 2007 for my calling in life – being a full-time Bible Worker for the Lord.

I've just returned from Melbourne after serving the Lord at Gateway Adventist Centre for three and-a-half years. I'm ever so grateful the Lord brought me back home so that I can continue to learn in the School of Christ as I serve Him at Royal Oak and also to share and, God-willing, inspire others to be passionate in sharing Jesus for others because He has chosen us!

God blesses, char :)



### Discovery Series

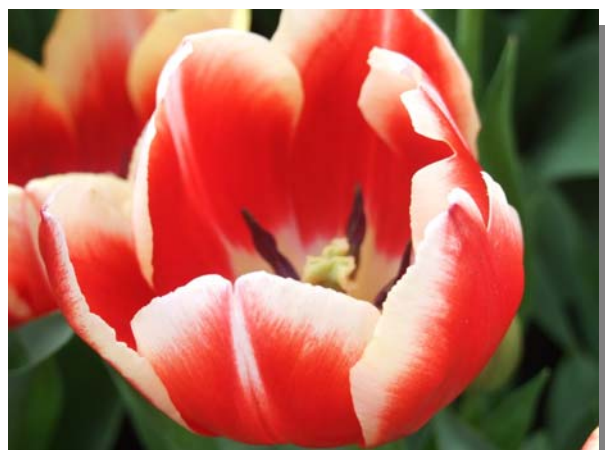
The Biblical search for the Red Sea Crossing, Mt Sinai, Noah's Ark, Sodom & Gomorrah, The Garden Tomb, and Bible Prophecy. Check updated seminar times, dates and venues on our website - [www.rocsda.co.nz](http://www.rocsda.co.nz), or refer to your church bulletin on Sabbath.

# Church Family Updates

## Staying Connected & Celebrating our Fellowship

OAK Club, our Outdoor Activities Klub visited the Winter Gardens at the Domain on Sabbath 28th of August. A group of 20 from our church family and a few visitors, meandered through the wonderful foliage and flowers in the weather-tight green houses, so although it was inclement weather the experience was a calm and pleasant walk through some wonderful vegetation.

These photos are of some of our church members and visitors walking through the gardens, and some of the flowers. The colours of these flowers are best viewed by downloading a copy of Connect from our website - [www.rocsda.co.nz](http://www.rocsda.co.nz).



# 31/7/10 CHILDREN'S SERVICE

## PRAYER CORNER

What a pleasure to have our children take our service on the last Sabbath of July. Thank you to our hard working teachers and parents for organising this program, and of course thank you to our children for their dedication and commitment to using their talents to worship God in this way.

Limited space won't allow more detail on the program but here are a selection of photos showing our children participating and enjoying lifting our church family in worship of our Lord. We look forward to seeing more programs from our young people, and seeing them continue ministering this way into adulthood.



A call to all our church family members and prayer warriors, to please pray for...

... for **Sister Bhikhe Patel's family**, who mourn the loss of their mother. Sister Patel was a faithful member of our Royal Oak Church family for many years. She collapsed in church a few weeks ago, and passed away only recently. Please pray for the Lord's peace and comfort to attend her grieving family.

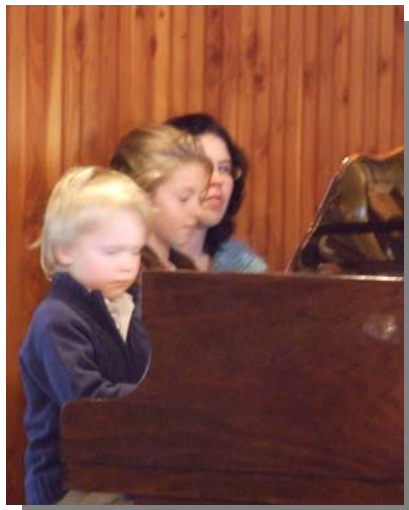


...for our **Discovery Seminars Outreach Program**. We need your prayers, support and attendance to make our outreach program a success. Please make this a priority, and help our outreach team in whatever way you can, including (more especially), your prayers.

... for **Pastor Geoff Garne**, who is also recovering from age-related illnesses. Please pray for the Lord to bring peace and joy to Pastor Garne, God's most willing servant.



... for church members facing **difficulties**. Several of our church members are looking for employment while others are experiencing broken relationships. Please pray for the Lord's guidance and providence, and for their prayers to be answered in the best way according to His will. Many of these folk don't want to be identified but would appreciate our prayers on their behalf.



Several church members have asked for intercessory prayers for their friends and the families. Their names and situations are too numerous to mention here and some wish to remain anonymous for personal reasons, but our Lord knows their needs and we invite your prayers for God's will to be done in their lives, and for their best. The Bible is clear, the Lord will bless us and provide the best for us, if we trust ourselves into His care.

# The Book of Romans and Four Stories that have changed the World

*Ben Reynolds*



Without question, the Bible has been the most important and influential book in the world. Since the invention of the printing press in the 1450s, it has retained its position at the top of the best-selling list year after year. But within the 66 books of the Bible, there is one book in particular that has been considered by many to stand out a little higher in terms of its impact on individuals – the book of Romans. This brief article will highlight four such stories of those who have changed the world as a result of studying this magnificent book.

Though raised a Christian by his devout mother, he threw it all away to pursue a lifestyle of pleasure, hanging out with gangs who boasted of their experiences with women. As a result he began living with a prostitute, who gave birth to his only son. He went on to become a greatly respected professor of rhetoric and literature in Milan, Italy. While in despair at the lifestyle he had chosen, his praying mother was relentless in her interceding before God on behalf of her profligate son. Late one summer's afternoon, he went through a profound personal crisis. His heart was broken as he struggled to find deliverance from his guilt and salvation for his soul. So he stumbled out of his home into the backyard garden. "I cast myself down I know not how, under a certain fig tree, giving full vent to my tears." Here is a grown man, 32 years of age sobbing his heart out in the corner of his backyard. Then all of a sudden, from across the garden wall came the voice of a little child calling out "take up and read, take up and read." He interpreted it to be a command from God to open that book he had disregarded for so long. Stumbling back into the house and finding where he had laid it aside, he opened it and the words he began to read were none other than Paul's letter to the Romans. He would later write, "No further would I read nor had I any need as instantly at the end of the sentence a clear light flooded my heart and all the darkness of doubt vanished away." That summer afternoon in 386 A.D. marked the conversion of

Aurelius Augustinus, who we have come to know as the greatest Latin Church Father and theologian – Augustine. His contribution to Christendom has been so significant that one noted scholar has said that "it is beyond our power to compute."

Centuries later a young Augustinian monk was plunged into the same spiritual crisis. He was a professor of theology at Wittenberg University in Germany. In November 1515, he began a new class for his students which lasted until the next September, in which he lectured day after day on the book of Romans. His heart would have been free if it were not for one ball-and-chain that tied him down. "I greatly longed to understand Paul's epistle to the Romans and nothing stood in the way but that one expression "the righteousness of God," because I took it to mean that righteousness whereby God is righteous and deals righteously in punishing the unrighteous." He wrestled long and hard with this phrase, trying to understand what Paul meant. Continuing to describe his experience he wrote, "night and day I pondered until I grasped the truth that the righteousness of God is that righteousness whereby through grace and sheer mercy He justifies us by faith. Thereupon I felt myself to have been reborn and to have gone through doors into paradise. The whole of Scripture took on new meaning and whereas before "the righteousness of God" had filled me with hate, now it became to me inexpressibly sweet in greater love. This passage of Paul became to me a gate to heaven." So wrote that professor – Martin Luther. A year later in 1517, the mighty Protestant Reformation was ignited, all because of the book of Romans.

It was the evening of May 24, 1738. A man went "very unwillingly" to a meeting in an upper room on Aldersgate Street in old London town where a group of friends had gathered for Bible study and prayer. The man up front began to read from the preface of Martin Luther's commentary on the

book of Romans. This reluctant man in that upper room who didn't even want to be there would later write in his journal: "About a quarter before nine, while he [the leader] was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death." That night marked the conversion of a young, struggling preacher in his 30s named John Wesley, who sparked one of the greatest revivals in the Christian church. It was the result of reading the book of Romans.

In these three stories we see a common thread that is woven throughout the corridors of history. Beginning with Paul, we can trace the thread through to Augustine who was influenced by Paul, then through to Luther who was influenced by Augustine and Paul, and on to Wesley who was influenced by Luther, Augustine and Paul. By now you're probably expecting to hear the fourth story? Well, the fourth story is still being written at this very moment, while you're reading these very lines. This story is yours. Will you, like these three great men in times past, experience a dramatic change in your life as a result of studying Romans? It is my prayer that it may be so. In closing, let me share something a noted New Testament scholar wrote in his commentary on Romans: "There is no telling what may happen when people begin to study the epistle to the Romans. What happened to Augustine, Luther and Wesley launched great spiritual movements which have left their mark in world history. But similar things have happened much more frequently to very ordinary people as the words of this epistle came home to them with power. So let those who have read thus far be prepared for the consequences of reading further. You have been warned" (F. F. Bruce).

# Following in Old Testament Footsteps



Above (left) - Debra Beckett, who wrote the informative article about her travels in Turkey last month, is here standing on what is believed to be the bow of Noah's Ark, and (right), posing with Ross Patterson, one of the touring party, next to the sign leading to the ark. This sign is near the border between Turkey and Iran. The site of the ark is near the village of Uzengili in the mountains of Ararat.

Below (left) - This magnificent carved statue by Bernini in the St Peters Basilica is called Truth. It depicts a woman, personifying Truth, clutching the sun to her breast and with her foot resting on a globe of the world. Her toe is pierced by a thorn, a metaphor for Protestantism, depicting the Roman Catholic Church's view of Protestantism as just a thorn in the toe of the 'true' church.

(Centre) - This stone head is one of many placed on the man-made summit of Nemrut Dagi, traditionally known as Nimrod's Mountain. This and many other stone heads mark the tomb of Antiochus the first, built around 100 BC, also in present day Turkey.

(Right) - Debra is standing next to what is an anchor stone believed to have been used as storm anchors or ballasts in the ark. This stone are located about 25 km from the ark site near the town of Arzap. Arzap was formerly known as "The Village of Eight", perhaps in reference to the eight people who were in the ark.



Left - Debra stands next to the Bernini 'Truth' statue to show the scale of the sculpture.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

# THE TEN MINUTE RULE

Charlene Su'a

I've been asked to write about the "Ten Minute Rule!"

What would that be you ask? I know the "Three Second Rule" someone said to me, "Isn't ten minutes too long?" Well, let me put it in this context.

Have you ever attended a meeting or gathering against your free-will? Someone dragged you or conned you to attend the meeting with them and you reluctantly go out of your Christian duty, gave in and went?

What did you hope for while you were there?

Here are a few options:

1. You and your mobile phone became best of friends – playing games, texting to anyone and pretending to speak to someone on the other end.
2. You would go to the refreshments table and keep your mouth full so you don't have to speak to anyone.
3. You would hope no-one would notice you sulking in the corner.
4. You would hope someone would come and talk with you, notice you and make the effort to meet you.

For me, my options would be two and four (option one is too expensive).

Coming back to the "Ten Minute

Rule" – the Ten Minute Rule is when we place ourselves on the other side of the situation. We are the person that actually goes up to the person who is waiting for someone to come up and acknowledge their presence (or meet the newbie at the refreshments table) eating and talking with them for the next "ten minutes".

The "Ten Minute Rule" is when we purposefully step out of our comfort zone to go talk with people we have never met before or talked to (as opposed to people we do know) ... **for the first "Ten Minutes" before and after Sabbath School AND/OR before and after Church service AND/OR before and after lunch.** **The "Ten Minute Rule" applies when we go up to a visitor (or any person) we have never seen before at church and talk with them for the next ten minutes before talking with others that we know or talk with.**

Of course we don't have to be pedantic with time, because once you get to meet someone for the first time, it usually takes longer than ten minutes to get to know them.

Remember the first time you came to Royal Oak? What kind of reception did you receive? I know on my first Sabbath at ROC I was greeted by so many lovely people who introduced themselves and chatted a little while, that I knew I

would enjoy coming back to ROC. Thank You for that 😊

Let's hope that as a church we can give 'everyone' who comes to church the same 'time-of-day' (note, it's more than just a greeting) so that they can know ROC is where they would enjoy coming back...to know Jesus!

Often at my previous church, many members would practice the "Ten Minute Rule" after the sermon. As a result, many new friendships were built for the kingdom of God.

Often testimonies were given at baptisms, over and over again, the new brethren would share, "It was the friendliness of the people that drew me to want to be part of God's family/church."

So what can we say? We could ask a lot of great questions:

Great to meet you today! How did you come to ROC? What do you usually do on a Saturday? Did you enjoy your time here? Did you learn anything new today? Hope we can see you next week we would love to see you next week! As you step out to try and apply the "Ten Minute Rule" I know you will be blessed as much as the person you are talking with.

May people see Jesus in us as we apply the "Ten Minute Rule" so others can know God lives in the heart of people at ROC! God blesses, He will, char ;)

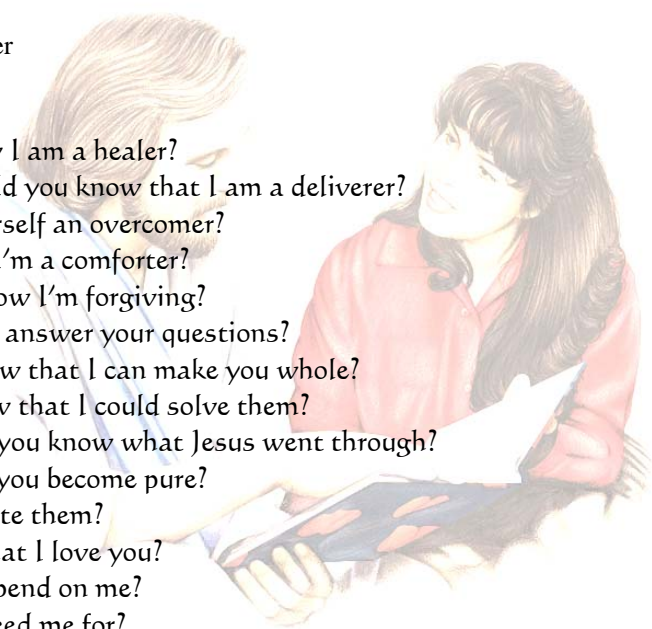


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# IF YOU NEVER - by J.B. Morbitser

(submitted by Kirsten Bland)

If you never felt pain, then how would you know I am a healer?  
If you never went through difficulties, how would you know that I am a deliverer?  
If you never had a trial, how would you call yourself an overcomer?  
If you never felt sadness, how would you know I'm a comforter?  
If you never made a mistake, how would you know I'm forgiving?  
If you knew all, how would you know that I will answer your questions?  
If you were never in trouble, how would you know that I can make you whole?  
If you never had a problem, how would you know that I could solve them?  
If you never had any suffering, then how would you know what Jesus went through?  
If you never went through fire, then how would you become pure?  
If I gave you all things, how would you appreciate them?  
If I never corrected you, how would you know that I love you?  
If you had all power, how would you learn to depend on me?  
If your life was perfect, then what would you need me for?



**For every action, there's an equal and opposite government program.**

## GOTTA PENCIL?

These photos are of pencil leads that have been carved to produce miniature sculptures. Lots of patience and skill, and lots and lots of time!



**You should not confuse your career with your life.**

**Experience is a wonderful thing. It allows you to recognise a mistake when you make it again.**



FROM OUR EMAILS FILE

# POINT OF VIEW

Mark Ryan

If we were to take our church's temperature, what temperature would it be? Would it be within a 'normal' range, or will it be cold? Would we have a high temperature, perhaps a fever; and how would we know? How would we go about measuring the overall health of a church?

If we were a sports team, we could measure the physical health of each player. We could measure our success by the number of wins and losses, or by how high we climb in the competition standings. We could compare ourselves to other teams, and endeavour to emulate their success, or perhaps get them to help us improve. If we were a business, we would have financial goals and measures for our success. We would know from month-to-month and quarter-to-quarter how we're doing. We could also measure how well we're using our resources; our money, our people, our plant. We would have measures or Key Performance Indicators or KPIs, targets that if we were to reach, confirm that we're successful.

If we were a university, we could measure our success by the number of graduates, and degrees awarded each year, or perhaps by the length of the waiting lists for entrance into our institution. Perhaps success for our university might be in the amount of research we undertake or the breadth of our subjects taught.

In all these examples, success can be 'quantified' in some degree. We can count wins and losses, we can count sales and stock, we can count graduates and degrees.

What is not so easily counted are the intangibles; the culture of a team, business or university. The warmth and friendliness of a good open plan office, the camaraderie of a close knit

sports team, the quality of teaching and instruction at a university.

These measurements are more about the quality of people on the team, or in the company or university. It's more about what they bring to the enterprise rather than the enterprise itself. It's foundational to the success or failure of the enterprise, but it's not the enterprise itself.

No team, business, school, or enterprise is successful because of one or two people. It takes everyone and every stakeholder. Everyone must do their work and play their part.

It is how those in the enterprise interact and relate to each other, and contribute to the plan, that determines the success of the enterprise. It is about people and relationships.

So perhaps if we are to measure the temperature of our church, we need to measure the contribution each of our members makes.

So how can we do that easily?

Well perhaps we can borrow from a coaching principle I've learnt, and that is to start with the basics. Learn the basics and the harder stuff comes easier.

In my view, the first 'basic' for any church is the study of the Bible. This is hard to measure on a personal level. We each need to take responsibility for our own study. Corporately though, our Sabbath School is a quick and easy measure of how well we're doing with this 'basic'. Measurement of both Sabbath School attendances and the number who study their lessons indicate our church is ill and in need of treatment.

It seems to me that we're wasting a valuable opportunity to grow in our understanding of God's character,

when we don't attend Sabbath School. And we've heard all the reasons - it's boring, it's irrelevant, it's too early, Sabbath's my only day to sleep in, and so on. These are not 'reasons', but 'excuses'.

The real reason is we don't value the 'basic' study of God's word any more. And yet the day comes, and we're the ones telling everyone else, when the Bible will not be accessible any more, and the study of the Bible will be detested (perhaps that time is here already). So now is the time to prepare.

Our church temperature right now is lukewarm, in my view, and I present as evidence the lack of attendance in our Sabbath Schools. As I've said earlier, it's a quick and easy measure of how we're doing and how much we're committed to our growth and wellbeing as a church.

I would encourage us all, me included, to take these opportunities, while we still can, to dig deeply into the word of God and to instil into our own hearts the words that bring salvation.

Sabbath School isn't the answer to our church success any more than the success of a company is due to its building. Personal Bible study is a major factor in our church's success. Sabbath School is only the forum for sharing our own study, and it's up to us to make our class time more interesting and relevant to our situation.

I look forward to seeing you all, nice and early, at Sabbath School next week.

**If you look like your passport photo, you probably need to trip.**

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Thanks to Richard Germain (See Genesis 6-8)

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