

## Upcoming Events

### **East Timor Mission Trip**

Dates: July 30 to August 27, 2024  
Location: East Timor

### **QLD Camp Meeting**

Dates: August 30 to September 1, 2024  
Location: North Tamborine, QLD

### **NZ Prophecy Seminar**

Dates: September 14-22, 2024  
Location: New Lynn, Auckland

### **QLD Youth Camp**

Dates: October 4-6, 2024  
Location: Kenilworth, QLD

### **NSW Youth Camp**

Dates: October 25-28, 2024  
Location: Batemans Bay, NSW

### **WA Camp**

Dates: November 8-11, 2024  
Location: TBC

### **Week of Prayer**

Dates: December 6-15, 2024

### **GC Delegation Session**

Dates: January 20 - February 3, 2025  
Location: Bogotá, Colombia

### **GC Session Public Meetings**

Dates: February 6-9, 2025  
Location: Medellín, Colombia

### **Pastoral Families Conference**

Dates: July 13-17, 2025  
Location: TBC

## SDARM AUC Strategic Plan 2023-2025

Updated for 2024 – The following is a condensed version of the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan approved by the AUC Council. Church and department officers can obtain a full copy by emailing our office.

### **Theme**

“Uplifting Jesus, Serving People, Proclaiming Truth”

### **Rationale**

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” Matthew 28:19, 20.

“It is the work of every one to whom the message of warning has come, to lift up Jesus.” (*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 362)

“There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen.” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143)

“God has given us light in regard to the things that are now taking place in the last remnant of time, and with pen and voice we are to proclaim the truth to the world, not in a tame, spiritless way, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power of God.” (*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 470)

### **Our Vision and Mission**

**OUR VISION:** The AUC is to be proactive, Christ-centred and driven to Uplift, Serve and Proclaim.

**OUR MISSION:** To fulfil the Gospel commission by service to the community, uplifting Jesus and proclaiming the truth.

### **Our Union-wide Aims and Objectives 2023-2025**

- Goal 1 – To support members of the AUC.
- Goal 2 – Encourage and enable total member involvement through empowering, training and preparing lay people to lead out and serve
- Goal 3 – Support incoming department directors.
- Goal 4 – To proclaim the truth in our local communities

*continued on p. 2...*

## Something to share?

Email events and news to  
[goodtidings@sdarm.org.au](mailto:goodtidings@sdarm.org.au)

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### **Children's Department**

Vision: To be a living example of God's love and character to our children, guiding them in their walk with God.

Mission: To share God's love and character through Biblical principles, object lessons in nature and developing personal relationships with like-minded people.

- Goal 1: To organise Camponotus events for children between the ages of 5-12 to learn, socialise and understand more about our loving God.
- Goal 2: To organise a children's program to run throughout the end-of-year Elim Heights Camp.

### **ChurchSafe**

Vision: To be a team actively working with a priority on prevention and education. To be a voice for minors, the vulnerable and those who need care and protection. To be a support and seek support for those who have been harmed and who are alleged to have harmed.

Mission: To work to prevent incidents. To respond appropriately to incidents/concerns relating to minors and the vulnerable. To ensure that our church is not only compliant, but also a safe, uplifting and encouraging place to grow spiritually.

### **Education Department**

- Goal 1: Support of officers and department leaders at each level of responsibility
- Goal 2: Training and the development of a Registered Training Organisation (RTO)
- Goal 3: Educational support for children ages 5-16

### **Elim Heights Youth Camp**

Vision: To be a space that fosters the spiritual and social development of church youth and serves worthy needs of the surrounding community.

Mission: To manage the maintenance and development of the youth camp, and to improve amenities and the overall experience for whoever attends events held there.

- Goal 1: Carry out needed repairs
- Goal 2: To continue the rebuilding project
- Goal 3: Proposed enclosure for the kitchen area

### **Elim Missionary College**

Vision: To be a self-supporting, Christ-centred educational institution that supports and facilitates the mission of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement of Australasia, in line with God's blueprint of education.

Mission: To prepare persons for effective Christian ministry, by training missionary workers, both lay and employed, for positions of trust and activity in the work of the Lord.

- Goal 1: To better understand the educational needs of the work in Australasia.
- Goal 2: To provide for the rapid training of lay missionaries in core aspects of gospel work.
- Goal 3: To lay the groundwork for a more thorough and practical training program.

### **Health Department**

Vision: To be a visible, active and vibrant inspiration, supporting a grassroots movement of wellness

and service to others.

Mission: To inspire and encourage members in the health message in their own lives, so they may be effective in sharing the message with others.

- Goal 1: To work with and encourage local churches in experiencing better health by creating teams and providing resources.
- Goal 2: To run health events Australia-wide.

### **Missionary Department**

Vision: To serve as a vessel in the hands of God, empowering church members to embrace their missionary calling and fulfil their divine purpose.

Mission: To fervently proclaim the Gospel, employing diverse methodologies, with a distinct emphasis on the proven efficacy of canvassing work.

- Goal 1: To promote canvassing work across our Union by furnishing members with essential tools and skills.
- Goal 2: Enabling the public and church community to book our ministers, Bible workers and lay members for online and in-person Bible studies, extending our focus to every field and local church in Australia and New Zealand.
- Goal 3: Equip and encourage lay members to cultivate reliance on God and develop essential skills.

### **Sabbath School Department**

Vision: To act as a main pillar of support for the AUC. To foster discipleship within its membership, elucidating the teachings of the Bible and promoting the principles, doctrines, and beliefs of our church.

Mission: To motivate and assist every unit and church in serving as a preparatory institution for the development of Christian workers. To instruct and prepare church members to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in accordance with the Three Angels' Messages. To support members of all ages in strengthening and solidifying their connections with God, our church, and others.

### **Welfare Department**

- Goal 1: To raise awareness and funds for different projects, and keep sponsors up to date with regular project progress and updates.
- Goal 2: To develop and establish the RAWAID (charity) as the primary vehicle for welfare throughout the Australasian Union
- Goal 3: To promote and encourage young people to give their time and energy to assist in welfare projects within the South Pacific Union Mission or other regions.

### **Young People's Department**

Vision: To be a supporting, encouraging department providing assistance and inspiration to the Youth of our church.

Mission: To create a strong sense of community among our young people and inspire them in a closer walk with God and a heart for service.

- Goal 1: To develop connections between the youth in individual churches and states to create a sense of community and belonging
- Goal 2: To run events which will encourage youth to better serve Jesus and their community.

## Tasmania News

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” Matthew 28:1

A missionary visit to this beautiful island state has resulted in a heartwarming outcome, with two individuals, Lance and Marj Smith, deciding to embrace the present truth and join the church.

Lance and Marj Smith, with an Adventist background, were introduced to the Present Truth through personal inquiry and research. Their keen interest and growing understanding of the teachings led them to a very important decision: to become members of the church. Their sincere quest for spiritual truth and their heartfelt commitment to the faith have gladdened our hearts.

During the two missionary visits this current year, a series of studies were held, providing an opportunity for Lance and Marj to dig deeper into the teachings of the church. These sessions were marked by thoughtful discussions and earnest prayers.

The Victorian Conference board has approved their baptism request. This decision has been met with gratitude and praise to the Lord, as the church community welcomes these new souls who have chosen to dedicate their lives to the truth. Lance and Marj’s decision is a testament to the power of faith, the ef-

fectiveness of missionary work, and the boundless grace of God.

Their upcoming baptism is eagerly anticipated by the entire congregation. We are deeply thankful to the Lord for guiding Lance and Marj on their journey and for bringing them into our fold. Their decision to join the church is a reminder of the ever-present work of the Holy Spirit in leading souls to the truth. It is also a call to continue our missionary efforts with renewed vigor and faith, knowing that there are many more hearts open to receiving the message of the Gospel.

As we prepare to welcome Lance and Marj through the ordinance of baptism, we celebrate this momentous occasion with joy and gratitude. We pray for their continued growth in faith and for the Lord’s blessings to be upon them as they embark on this new chapter in their spiritual lives.

In thanksgiving and praise, we look forward to the blessings that Lance and Marj will bring to our church community, and we remain committed to supporting them in their walk of faith. Their story is a reminder of the transformative power of the Gospel and the incredible work that can be achieved through dedicated missionary efforts.

Welcome, brother Lance and sister Marj Smith, to the family of faith. We are blessed to have you with us and thankful to the Lord for your decision to join us in the Present Truth.

~ Miguel Mendoza

## Easter Camp 2024

From March 29 to April 1 this year, the Victorian Easter camp took on a refreshing new format. Traditionally held at a hired venue, this year’s camp was hosted at Maranatha Church, blending the aspects of a camp and seminar to create a unique experience.

The camp theme was “Navigating Modern Challenges With Faith and Leadership.”

The camp commenced on Friday evening with a delicious dinner, followed by a thought-provoking presentation on “Faith in Today’s World.” This set the tone for a weekend of deep reflection and fellowship.

Sabbath’s program began with the Sabbath School, followed by the main service, which focused on the theme, “Navigating Modern Challenges with Faith and Leadership.” After a spiritually uplifting service, attendees enjoyed a fellowship lunch at the church. In the afternoon, a Young People’s Meeting was held in the serene setting of Yan Yean Reservoir Park, offering a perfect blend of nature and spiritual discussion. The day concluded with a light dinner back at the church and a heartfelt closing of the Sabbath.

Sunday brought an exciting outing to the Macedon Ranges, where participants visited the Hanging Rock. The day was filled with fun activities and camaraderie, capped off with a delightful lunch amidst the scenic beauty of the ranges.

On Monday morning, the camp con-

cluded with a meaningful missionary activity. Participants distributed leaflets offering free copies of *The Great Controversy* around the Kalkallo area. This initiative proved fruitful, resulting in seven book requests so far.

We are grateful to the Lord for the opportunity to enjoy freedom and Christian fellowship in such a blessed setting. This Easter camp was not only a time of relaxation and fun, but also a profound spiritual journey, navigating modern challenges with faith and leadership.

~ Miguel Mendoza



# A Heart for East Timor

## Martha Barat's Birthday

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35.  
 "We are in a world where hearts need human sympathy; and God has given us benevolence, that we may realize this need, and be kind and charitable to all with whom we come in contact." *Bible Echo*, December 1, 1886.

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon on the June 2, church friends and family gathered to celebrate Sister Martha's birthday, but this year's celebration was unlike any other. Sister Martha, known for her generous spirit, decided to turn her special day into an opportunity to support a cause close to her heart: the East Timor mission.

The event was held at Maranatha church, elegantly decorated to reflect both the joy of the occasion and the significance of the mission. The atmosphere was filled with warmth and excitement as guests arrived, ready to share in Sister Martha's unique celebration.

Instead of traditional birthday gifts, Sister Martha had one simple request: contributions to aid the mission in Timor-Leste. Her invitation read, "Your presence is the best present, but if you wish to give more, please support the East Timor mission." This selfless gesture set the tone for a memorable evening dedicated to making a difference.

The highlight of the event was a detailed presentation of the East Timor mission by Brother Luke Phillips, who has been deeply involved with the mission. He shared compelling stories and insights into the ongoing projects and the positive impact they have on the local community. Everyone learned about the mission's efforts in education, Bible studies, healthcare, and community development, and they were all moved by the testimonies of those whose lives had been touched by the mission's work.

The presentation was followed by a lively choir song. Sister Martha's passion for the cause was evident, and her heartfelt words inspired many to contribute generously.

After the program, guests were treated to a delightful meal. The menu was thoughtfully organised by Sister Martha, and a few sisters lent a hand in the preparation of the meal. As they dined, guests shared stories, laughter, and a delightful time together.

By the end of the evening, the collective contributions exceeded expectations, reflecting the guests' generosity and commitment to Sister Martha's willingness to support the mission. The final amount was a little bit over AU\$9,000, and we praise the Lord for touching the hearts of everyone who contributed. The funds raised will go a long way in supporting the mission's projects and improving the lives of many in East Timor.

Sister Martha's birthday celebration was a testament to the power of compassion and love. It highlighted how one person's dedication can inspire many to come together for a greater good. As guests departed, they carried with them not only the joy of celebrating Sister Martha's special day but also a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper connection to the mission in Timor-Leste.

Martha's birthday was more than just a celebration; it was a call to action, a reminder that we can all play a part in making the world a better place. And in doing so, we honour the true Christian spirit of giving and the joy of helping others.

Happy Birthday, Sister Martha! Your generosity and vision have truly made this a birthday to remember. All glory and honour be to the Lord forever!

~ Miguel Mendoza

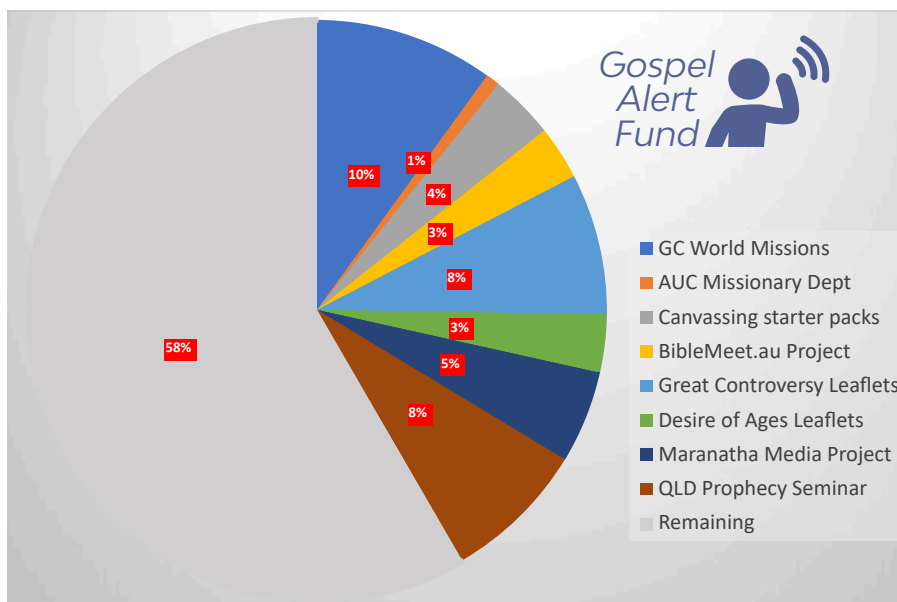


# Gospel Alert Fund

We are happy to report new projects being claimed against the Gospel Alert Fund. Your church or field can be next by submitting a proposal to the AUC Treasurer.

## Funds Allocated:

GC World Missions:	5,000.00
AUC Missionary Dept:	386.28
Canvassing starter packs:	1,800.00
BibleMeet.au project	1,500.00
Great Controversy Leaflets:	3,937.73
Desire of Ages Leaflets:	1,618.38
Maranatha Media Project:	2,579.00
QLD Prophecy Seminar:	<u>4,000.00</u>
Funds Remaining:	\$ 29,178.61



- GC World Missions
- AUC Missionary Dept
- Canvassing starter packs
- BibleMeet.au Project
- Great Controversy Leaflets
- Desire of Ages Leaflets
- Maranatha Media Project
- QLD Prophecy Seminar
- Remaining

# Baby Dedications

By Miguel Mendoza

“But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.” Luke 18:16

The joy and blessings of dedicating children to the Lord were beautifully exemplified recently in Melbourne, Victoria, with the dedication of two precious children.

- Luca Tomoiaga - Luca was dedicated to the Lord on February 10, 2024 at age 4 months. The ceremony was a touching moment, filled with a heartfelt prayer as Luca's family and church friends gathered to commit his life to God's guidance and protection.
- Jannik Boje – Baby Jannik was dedicated to the Lord as a newborn on March 23, 2024. Surrounded by loved ones, Jannik was dedicated as a sign of his family's faith and their commitment to raising him in the light of God's love and truth.

These dedications were not just ceremonies, but deep acts of faith and commitment. They remind us of the blessings that come with entrusting our children to the Lord, seeking His guidance and grace as they grow. Each dedication was a celebration of new life, faith, and the unwavering love of God's people on earth, reflecting the joy and hope that these children bring to our lives.

We are thankful for these moments, which reaffirm our faith and highlight the importance of nurturing our children in the ways of the Lord. May Luca and Jannik grow in wisdom, faith, and love, always guided by God's hand.



# The Shoebox Project

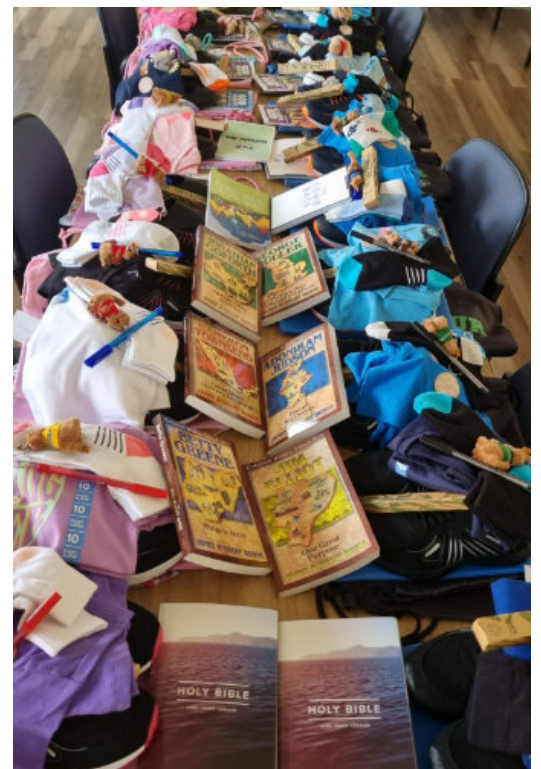
We are thrilled to share the completion of our recent missionary work in the Philippines. With immense gratitude, we have successfully delivered around 10 boxes filled with personalised shoes, t-shirts, books and devotionals, pencil cases, pens, Australian souvenirs, and socks for our school-aged and kindergarten children—benefiting over 150 children. Additionally, we were able to provide numerous clothes for families and friends from the church.

We thank the Lord for His provision and for inspiring the church and our generous donors with hearts to serve and help others. Your contributions have made a significant impact, bringing joy and support to many. We extend our deepest thanks to everyone for their efforts and help.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank our church members and friends who played a crucial role in completing this first stage of the “Shoe Box Project” for the Philippines. Your unwavering support and generous contributions have been instrumental in making this mission a success.

Blessings from the Clayfield Church Missionary Department and Queensland Conference Missionary Department.

~Monica Balarezo



# Weddings

“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Genesis 2:24

Victoria has recently been the backdrop for three beautiful weddings. Skopje – Macedonia has been the backdrop for one beautiful wedding, as well, for one of our Victorian sisters. And in Western Australia, another new couple also shared their vows. Each of them marked the beginning of a new chapter filled with love, commitment, and the blessings of marriage. These joyous occasions have brought together families and friends to celebrate the sacred union of these couples, each of whom have found a unique and profound connection with one another.

1) Jared Chapman and Irina Duna: on January 28, 2024, Jared and Irina exchanged vows, promising to support and cherish each other through all of life's journeys. Their wedding was a heartfelt celebration, filled with joy and the promise of a blessed future together.

2) Jomar Delmoro and Linda Newman tied the knot on March 4. They shared their joy with family and friends, who gathered to witness their union and wish them every blessing in their life together.

3) Jared Balbach and Amy Duna: Just two months after her sister, on March 25, 2024, Amy Duna was joined with Jared Balbach in marriage. Surrounded by loved ones, they committed to a life of shared dreams and mutual support, embodying the happiness and fulfillment that God desires for their lives.



4) Dejan Dimitriev and Luiza Spirkoski: On June 23, 2024, Dejan and Luiza took their vows in Skopje, Macedonia, creating a special bond that transcended borders. Their wedding was a beautiful testament to love's ability to unite people from different parts of the world, reinforcing the joy and blessings that come with such a union.

5) Rico Szabo and Melissa Chapman: Most recently, on July 1, 2024, Rico and Melissa celebrated their wedding. Their ceremony was a testament to their deep affection and commitment, reflecting the happiness and divine blessing that marriage brings.

“By His presence Jesus honored the marriage ceremony. The active interest that He manifested on this occasion showed that He came not to put a cloud over the happiness of the family and the guests. Jesus was in full sympathy with the pure joy to be found in this occasion. By His presence He showed Himself to be in harmony

with the blessed institution of marriage. And He gave His sanction to every gathering that is pure, and lovely, and of good report.” *Pastoral Ministry*, p. 201.

As these newlyweds step into their futures together, we extend our heartfelt congratulations and prayers for their continued happiness and fulfillment. May their

marriages be filled with love, joy, and the blessings of God, and may they always find strength and comfort in each other.

~ Miguel Mendoza and Nathan Tyler

## **Harold Craig Cunningham**

*December 3, 1962 – November 26, 2023*

Born in a Melbourne hospital, and growing up in Laverton, Craig was a Victorian through and through. He and his older brother Scott spent a lot of time in the backyard in simple pleasures, at one time playing cricket with a piece of fence timber.

When a family moved in next door, many days were spent over there playing with Julie and Sandra. Dad was a shift worker, and mum was happy for them to spend as much time as they wanted there. Many times the holidays were spent together, travelling around to regional destinations. The kids all got on well, which years later would bear unique fruit.

The boys looked forward to times spent out at Deniliquin, NSW, at Nan and Pop's place. They enjoyed exploring the town, and they found the freedom exhilarating after being confined to home back in Laverton. Nan and Pop were quite happy, as long as the boys were back for meals.

Craig grew up and followed his brother Scott into service in the Navy, in the footsteps of their father and grandfather. He spent 6 years on three different postings. He took up scuba diving as a hobby and ended up doing a bit of work on the side, cleaning yachts and retrieving lost items at the marina.

When Craig got home from service in the Navy, he developed an interest in Sandra, the girl from next door. Meanwhile, Scott took a shine to her sister, and both couples were married within a month of each other.

Craig and Sandra settled in Laverton, not far from their roots, and three children graced their home. While they had their ups and downs, Craig and

Sandra agreed to put the children first.

Craig became a Seventh Day Adventist in the late 1990s. It was a time of searching for him, together with his mother, Olive Elizabeth. In their SDARM days they were associated with the Keilor Park Church, and later Craig spent time in the Werribee, Schofields and Uranquinty churches.

After his mother passed away in 2011, Craig moved to Bacchus Marsh. That's when his path crossed with Domenic, a baptismal candidate and future missionary student from Sydney.

Around this time an interest was struck up, and Nadine, Craig's daughter, married Domenic in June, 2013. In time, four grandchildren would brighten Craig's life. His last years were spent not far from them at Wagga Wagga, and he would often come over to spend time with his precious grandchildren.

It was on one of those trips to see his dear ones, that Craig's car was hit from behind by a careless driver. The complications from this tragic accident eventually took Craig's life. He was laid to rest in the Wagga Wagga Lawn Cemetery on December 6, 2023, with many friends and family attending.

Harold Craig Cunningham is survived by his brother Scott, his wife Sandra, his three loving children, Nadine, Nicholas and Paul, and four adoring grandchildren, Immanuel, Eleazar, Manasseh and Eden.



## **Arnold Matthies**

*November 6, 1931 – May 6, 2024*

"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints." Psalm 116:15.

On Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 2pm, family, friends, and the church family gathered at Bunurong Cemetery to celebrate the life of Brother Arnold Matthies. The ceremony was to remember Brother Arnold who, in his later years, found his way back to the Lord and surrendered his heart completely to Him.

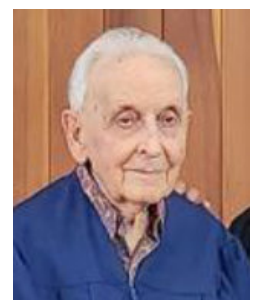
A student from Hebron Missionary College and pastoral worker, Arnold was posted to the state of Victoria in the 1950s. Sadly, he left church employment and his church attachment in the 1960s. However, many years later, Arnold resurfaced by making contact with the brethren in Melbourne.

Brother Arnold's journey back to faith was marked by a deep love for the truth and a heartfelt commitment to God. His words, often paraphrased, resonated with many: "The only thing I regret in life is hav-

ing walked away from God, but I've returned to Him, and there is no turning back." He was rebaptised on November 25, 2023. Less than six months later, after a brief stay in hospital, he passed away, on May 6, 2024, at the age of 92.

Arnold Matthies is survived by his brother Allan and sister Noelene, both from Christchurch, New Zealand. Gwen, his beloved wife of many years, passed away in 2022. His niece Jodie, daughter of Arnold's late brother Lawrence, from Wagga Wagga, is well known to many.

As we bid farewell to Brother Arnold, we hold on to the hope of seeing him again on the special resurrection day. His life and words serve as a powerful reminder of the grace and redemption found in returning to God's embrace. May his memory inspire us all to cherish our faith and remain steadfast in the truth and our journey with the Lord.





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