


# THE WAY

JOHN 14:6

JUNE EDITION 2024 NNSW SDA SCHOOLS



**SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP  
IS NOT EASILY DEFINED,  
BUT YOU CAN TELL WHEN  
IT IS PRESENT, AND ITS  
IMPACT IS POWERFUL.**

*Peter Williams*

The book of Acts records that when the early church began to grow, there were too few leaders able to care for the growing converts and all the needs arising, especially among the poor and widows. The Bible notes that more leaders were needed. "Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them" (Acts 6:3). Ellen G White in *The Acts of the Apostles* records that "The appointment of the seven to take the oversight of special lines of work, proved a great blessing to the church" (AA, 89.2). Under the wise leadership of these spiritual leaders, who "labored unitedly in the power of the Holy Spirit, the work committed to the gospel messengers was developing rapidly" (AA 88.2).



For us called to minister in Adventist Education, Spiritual Leadership remains a crucial component in helping to meet the goals of our work also. There are four essential criteria placed upon our schools: 1) To provide genuine education in that it continues throughout the life span – we need to be lifelong learners for whom learning becomes second nature; 2) it includes

the development of all the powers of the body, giving us the best chance of a fulfilled life; 3) it prepares the person for ministry, and educates for service; and 4) it considers eternity, emphasising the development of character. The relationships between these interconnected principles should emphasise the importance of spiritual leadership for each of us as stewards of Adventist Education and the children in our care, binding together the various interests of our schools into a united whole.

Importantly, it is evident there is one key element in the Spiritual Leaders' tool kit that is paramount: they need to be in close relationship with God. One cannot fill another's cup when our own cup is not full. Time and again we see Jesus in the Bible withdraw to spend time alone with God. Our Lord and Saviour found time to be alone with God 'very early in the morning,' 'in the evening' and even 'spent the night praying to God'. This time mattered to Jesus – this is how he began (Mark 1:12) and ended (Mark 14:32) his ministry. It should matter to us also. "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest" (Mark 6:31-32).

Many a book emphasises that the Christian should make his constant earnest prayer that becoming more like Christ would ever increasingly be incorporated into his or her own personality. Spiritual leadership requires that we examine ourselves, and that we deeply consider the character of our Lord. Jesus demonstrated five-character traits important to Spiritual Leadership that readily emerge best from an exploration of the Bible.

Firstly, we see that true leadership involves serving others. In Mark 10:45 we hear Jesus say "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many". We see him wash the feet of the disciples, demonstrating humility and the importance of serving others (John 13:1-17).

Secondly, Jesus showed deep compassion and empathy towards people. He healed the sick, comforted the mourning, and reached out to the marginalised and oppressed. His interactions with individuals like the woman at the well (John 4:1-42) and the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11) exemplify his compassion and understanding.

Thirdly, Jesus consistently upheld moral principles, challenging hypocrisy and injustice. He fearlessly confronted religious leaders who prioritised rules over compassion (Matthew 21:1-36) and stood against the exploitation of the vulnerable (Matthew 21:12-13).

Fourthly, Jesus empowered his disciples and encouraged them to grow in faith and leadership. He invested time in teaching and mentoring them, imparting spiritual wisdom and preparing them to carry on his mission (Matthew 28:19-20).

Lastly, Jesus exemplified obedience to God's will and unwavering faith. He prayed fervently for guidance and for strength (Luke 22:42) and consistently sought to fulfill his divine purpose (John 4:34).

---

“ The work of education and the work of redemption are one (White, 30.2) ”

---

Thus we see Jesus' model of spiritual leadership emphasises humility, compassion, integrity, empowerment, and faithfulness to God. Is it time that we considered these character traits of Jesus more fully in an effort to better understand how we also can live out spiritual leadership? The book *Education* states simply: "The work of education and the work of redemption are one" (White, 30.2). The goal of our work is laid out clearly and simply. Now is the time to 'labor unitedly'.

## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

### NNSW Adventist Schools Principals Business Managers Council

On 4-5 and 18-19 June, the principals, business managers, and Corporate Office Leadership Team gathered to discuss the strategy and direction of the NNSW Adventist Schools. Paul Fua (Education Director), Peter Williams (General Manager for Education), Johanna Gatti (General Manager for Finance), and Pr Ashley Smith (General Manager for Mission) presented their specific strategy for 2025 and beyond. The central theme of the discussion was mission, and we celebrated the remarkable work God is doing within our schools. This gives us tremendous confidence as we look ahead. We are blessed with outstanding leaders across our school company. Please continue to uphold them in prayer.



# CHURCH VISITS

## Toronto Adventist School

Students at Toronto Adventist School enjoyed praising God at Hillview Church on 25 May and at Toronto Church the following Sabbath. The little choir of 22 children involving every primary school child in the school, astounded some of the members as they sang in parts. The tiny violins in the hands of the kindy students delighted the congregation as they played with the rest of the primary school strings group. The recitations of Psalm 91, and Mark 15 melted hearts and Pr Ashley Smith preached a convicting sermon on Adventist Education. Pr. Brad Rae commenced the week of spiritual emphasis on the theme of lighthouse and the pre-kindy students won the hearts of the congregation with their bells item. God has certainly blessed the little school, and students are flourishing in the sunshine of His presence.



## Tweed Valley Adventist College

In Week 4, Tweed Valley Adventist College hosted the Sabbath church service at Murwillumbah Adventist Church, a local church in its area. They were honoured to have Elder Ted Wilson, President of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and his wife Nancy, in attendance. The program's theme was *Remember*; an extension of the theme attached to the Staff Week of Worship at the beginning of the year. The church program featured items from the Infant, Primary, and Secondary Choirs, special items performed by students, and a children's story led by the former Education Director of the South Pacific Division, David McClintock. Mrs. Wilson and Mr. North, the Principal and Deputy Principal of TVAC, each shared messages of how God has led TVAC in the past, and how He is leading TVAC presently. Elder Wilson then shared how God is leading His church internationally through the PNG For Christ evangelism campaign. It was a blessed Sabbath and God was glorified.

## Avondale

This month, the Avondale School Orchestra took the lead in the church programs at both Hillview and Lakeside. The young musicians showcased their talents throughout the service, bringing joy and inspiration to everyone present. During the service, Psalms 150 was recited.

“ Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament! Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness! Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp! Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord! ”



# WOSE/WOW/FLAG WEEK

## Manning

WOSE at Manning Adventist Bush School was from 6-11 May. Pastor Mike Colum was our guest speaker, our theme was the "Armour of God". During the week Mike went through the different parts of the Armour with stories and illustrations. On Sabbath, 11 May, we finished the week with a regional at the school, inviting all the local churches to come. The students enjoyed icebreakers, video clips, prizes, Blacklight Signing, singing, and craft. At lunchtime we ran games for the students, which they thoroughly enjoyed, for example Parachute games, Long Thongs, and Mini pushbikes. WOSE has encouraged the students with their Spiritual growth. Bible studies will continue at Manning.



## Blue Hills

On May 20-24, Blue Hills College enjoyed its annual Week of Spiritual Emphasis (WOSE). The theme was 'The Case for Christ'. Each day our guest speakers, Pr Dana Howard for Primary and Pr Steven Teale for High School, shared stories and gave evidence to prove that Jesus was not just a historical figure but the son of God. We had a great response from our students and from the appeal with 70 students now participating in Bible studies and 34 wishing to start the journey toward baptism.

## Avondale

Avondale School recently hosted its Primary campus Week of Worship. Being an Olympic year we leaned into the theme of "Going for Gold", encouraging our students, as the apostle Paul did, to strive in our faith as athletes do on the field. Pr John Michael Ghosn from Gilson collage did an excellent job relating scripture to sport while making it fun and engaging for our kids. Many students made commitments to become passionate followers of Jesus in various aspects of their lives and also for Bible studies and baptism. Our Campus Church (Gateway) hosted a kids rally on Sabbath morning to wrap up the week. Hundreds of students and families came along for the pancakes, games, crafts, challenges, worship from our primary band and choir and finally a message from Pr Johnny. Weeks like this truly highlight the missional power and potential in a united campus ministry between school and church.



## Dates to Diarise

1-5 JULY	WOSE TVAC
5-7 JULY	StormCo Trip CCAS and AS
8-26 JULY	School Holidays
15-19 JULY	StormCo BHC
22-26 JULY	Professional Development Week



## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

# MICHAEL KOSMEIER

As one of the most dedicated and impactful educators at Central Coast Adventist School (CCAS), Michael has been recognised for over 20 years of exemplary service as a teacher and sports coordinator. Michael's commitment to education extends far beyond the PE classroom. As a sports coordinator, he has introduced innovative programs that have significantly enhanced the quality of our sports department. His efforts have ensured that our students enjoy an outstanding sporting experience.

Michael's willingness to contribute wherever needed truly sets him apart. He consistently volunteers at concerts, school functions, and whole-school

events, demonstrating his flexibility and unwavering commitment to our school's success.

Michael's positive attitude, reliability, and exceptional work ethic have made him invaluable to our school community. We thank Michael for his outstanding contributions and steadfast support for Adventist Education.

---

“ As a sports coordinator, he has introduced innovative programs that have significantly enhanced the quality of our sports department. ”

---



## NICE TO MEET YOU

# BRAYDEN MORTON [ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - SECONDARY]

To foster a sense of community across our Conference, we will spotlight one employee each month.



**What's your name and where did you grow up?** My name is Brayden Morton and I was born in Taree and grew up in Sydney.

**Can you share a bit about your family?** I am married to Luisiana and we have 4 children together. Meila aged 12, George aged 10, Anja aged 8 and Lukas aged 5.

**Which school are you working at?** I am working at Port Macquarie Adventist School.

**What's your role?** Assistant Principal - Secondary

**What made you want to join us?** Moving closer to family and moving back to areas where I grew up, whilst still serving God and revealing Him to youth in another area of the world.

**How does your faith affect your work?** My faith is the reason for my work. I wouldn't do what I do if I couldn't share Jesus. You can teach anywhere, the ability to

easily share Jesus with others sets Adventist Schools apart.

**What do you do for fun outside of work?** I play and watch a lot of Sport for fun as well as spending time with family and fishing.

**Any hidden talents or hobbies?** I drive a lot of talented people around.

**Which Bible character are you most excited to meet and why?** I am most excited to meet Elijah and hear about the stories and see if there are more stories that he can share that didn't make it to the Bible. The power he was able to get through Faith still amazes me whenever I read about it.

---

## CONTACT US

**Editor: Pr Ashley Smith**  
phone: 02 4911 7530 | email: ashley.smith@nsw.adventist.edu.au