

THE WAY

JOHN 14:6

AUGUST EDITION 2024 NNSW SDA SCHOOLS

THE POWER OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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Have you ever had someone tell you they're praying for you or ask if they can pray for you? How did you feel in response? Similarly, have you ever offered to pray for someone, and how did they react? This kind of offer is rarely met with resistance; often, it brings comfort and reassurance. When someone offers to pray for you, it demonstrates a deep concern for your well-being and a desire to support you through challenging times. Personally, knowing that someone is praying for me or a loved one has been a source of significant relief, as if the burden is being shared.

“While it's often easy for us to pray for ourselves, our partners, our children, and other close family members, have you considered the importance of praying for others and how this practice can positively impact both them and you?”

Take, for instance, the story of Job. He endured profound suffering, yet his situation began to improve when he prayed for his friends. In Job 42:10, it says, “And the Lord restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends” (NKJV). This passage highlights that Job's fortunes were restored as a result of his intercessory prayer. It's important to understand that this does not imply that intercessory prayer will always lead to material gain. The broader context of Job's story reveals that suffering is not necessarily a sign of divine displeasure or a direct consequence of personal failings. Rather, Job's experience underscores the value that God places on those who extend grace and prayer towards others, even those who may have wronged them.

Jesus emphasises this principle in Luke 6:27-28: “But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who

spitefully use you” (NKJV). This teaching challenges us to rise above personal grievances and focus on the well-being of others, even those who may not treat us kindly. Similarly, James 5:16 advises, “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed” (NKJV). This guidance reflects a broader spiritual truth: intercessory prayer can lead to healing and restoration, not only for those being prayed for but also for the one who prays.

Why is there such emphasis on praying for others? Engaging in intercessory prayer can be transformative. It shifts our focus from our own struggles to the needs of others, fostering empathy and compassion. This practice of prayer can help us grow spiritually and emotionally as we extend our care and support beyond ourselves.

Consider how this applies to your daily life. Do you pray for the student who disrupts your class, or the colleague dealing with a serious health issue? What about the parents facing challenges in their marriage? Even in these everyday situations, the act of praying for others can create a ripple effect of kindness and understanding.

Jesus Himself exemplified this principle. As stated in Mark 10:45, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (NKJV). His focus was always on others, and it remains so today.



MISSIONAL NEWS

Macquarie College

Macquarie College recently enjoyed its annual Junior School FLAG Week (Fun Learning About God) program, following which 117 enthusiastic Year 5 and 6 students embarked on a journey of Bible study.

The FLAG Week follow-up Bible study program, deeply rooted in MC's aspiration to be an exemplar of Adventist mission in an educational context, is led by a dedicated team from MC, including chaplains, teachers and principals, who together with local Adventist pastors and lay people ensure that each of the 117 young people now have the opportunity to be part of a small, peer-based Bible study group. One such group, led by an MC principal, consists entirely of young Muslim boys who are seeking a deeper understanding of Jesus.

This year's FLAG Week, titled - *Jesus' Love for Me is Out of This World*, saw students engaged in an interactive space-themed worship

program which included a message each day from Astronaut Ash (Pastor Ashley Smith) designed to deepen students' understanding of Christ as their personal Saviour and ever-consistent Friend.

The FLAG Week program, which combines spiritual teaching and worship of Christ with intentional time for educational content which supports the authenticity of scripture, such as the Word of the Day delivered by Rocket Man or Girl (various staff), aims to make the Bible relevant and accessible to young minds. The resulting Bible studies highlight the importance of intentional collaboration between Adventist school and community in nurturing the faith journey of MC students.

MC staff and community welcomes your ongoing prayers of support as they seek to lift up Christ within their local Newcastle community.



The Heights Learning Community

The Heights Learning Community held their first SHINE week from August 12 to 15. Students from Avondale University volunteered their time and talents to share the love of Jesus with the students. They led worship programs, helped out with crafts, and built vegetable gardens for the students to learn lessons from nature.

Ethan Redman, a theology student at Avondale, organised the worship program, while Priscilla Mariassouce, the chaplain of Avondale University, coordinated the event. At the end of the week, the students had the opportunity to plant seedlings in their new garden beds. It was an inspiring week for the school, with students eager to come each day and learn more about the God who loves them.

Toronto Adventist School

In August, students from Toronto Adventist School had the privilege of leading worship at the Lakeside and Boolaroo Churches. The entire primary school, a choir of 22 children, blessed the congregations with their singing. The young violinists, including kindy students, performed alongside the primary school strings group. The heartfelt recitations of Psalm 91 and Mark 15 touched many hearts. It was wonderful to see God's blessings at Toronto shared with these two congregations in our region.



Blue Hills College

STORMCO TRIP

In the second week of the July school holidays, Blue Hills College ran a local StormCo trip. StormCo stands for Service To Others Really Matters and is an Australia-wide church initiative aiming to get young people involved in serving their communities in a variety of ways.

We partnered with Resilient Lismore, a registered charity and community-run organisation, to help out some locals who are still affected by the 2022 Lismore flood. Each day we mowed, made many trips to the tip with waste that we collected and washed muddy walls. While we were only few in number, we were able to form connections and make a difference. We'd love to see an even bigger team next year making an even bigger impact by showing Gods love to our communities.



CHURCH SERVICE

On Saturday, 3 August, Blue Hills College hosted the Lismore SDA church service. Our students led out in singing and playing some of our favourite songs from chapel and shared what we have been doing in Chapels and during our Week of Spiritual Emphasis, including our theme Bible verses. We had five fantastic young actors perform the story of Daniel and the lion's den to an enthralled crowd for the children's story, followed by a sermon by our Director for Adventist Education, Mr Paul Fua. We were privileged to have many parents, teachers and students attend this special Sabbath service. Thank you to those who came along to support and represent our school.

NEWS

BOOK WEEK

Book Week brought a wave of excitement across our Adventist schools in NNSW! The highlight was undoubtedly the dress-up day, where students, teachers, and even some principals joined in the fun, transforming into beloved book characters. Celebrated annually, Book Week is dedicated to fostering a love of reading and highlighting the importance of Australian authors and illustrators. Classrooms buzzed with shared reading experiences, reminding everyone of the joy of books. The involvement of the entire school community, from students to principals, made this year's Book Week an unforgettable celebration of literature and learning.





MANNING ADVENTIST BUSH SCHOOL

Manning Adventist Bush School recently celebrated the unveiling of its new school bus, an exciting addition for the community. Wrapped in the school's logo and contact information, the bus is not only a practical asset but also a moving witness as it travels around the area. The unveiling ceremony included a ribbon-cutting by principal Keryn Mowbray and other leaders in the community. The new bus is a testament to the school's growth and commitment to its mission.

PORT MACQUARIE ADVENTIST SCHOOL

The students and staff at Port Macquarie Adventist School recently participated in 'Duck Day'. The secondary students prepared and led games like the Duck and Spoon Race and Duck Hunt. Most of the students dressed in yellow, with some showcasing outstanding costumes. The senior students also organised mini market stalls, selling duck-themed cupcakes, old-fashioned lemonade, duck toys, and even crocheted ducks made by one of the seniors. It was a fantastic event, with students from Pre-Kindy to Year 10 coming together to have fun. The secondary students gained valuable experience in communication, event planning, and problem-solving. One Pre-Kindy student even asked her mom to email the teacher, saying it was "the best day ever!"



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PETER SOUTHON

Each recipient will receive a \$50 gift card in recognition of their outstanding performance. Congratulations to Peter – keep the flame burning!

Tweed Valley Adventist College was founded by a generous church community who had a vision to make Adventist education available in the Tweed Valley. Our school was built by humble men and women who gave liberally of their money, time and expertise. They could not have known that that their generous spirit would live on through their children.

Mr Peter Southon, our much-loved IT Manager, is one of these children who now continues the legacy. We could not ask for a more humble, kind-hearted and patient IT Manager, and we are grateful that he sees his role as a mission rather than a position.



Peter is a highly valued team member who has devoted his life to extending God's kingdom by generously using his God-given talents at TVAC. Only heaven can fully know the difference Peter has made by his servant heart, and Christ-like spirit.

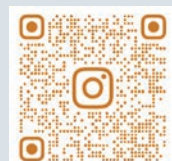
SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

 Facebook page:



Adventist Education North New South Wales

 Instagram page:



@adventisteducationnsw

The NSW Education Company has created both a Facebook and Instagram account to capture the stories happening around our wonderful schools. We see the exciting things taking place and would love to have a central location where these stories are shared.

NICE TO MEET YOU

STEFANIE GOOSSENS [PRE-KINDY TEACHER]

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

What is your name and where did you grow up?

Hi all, I'm Stefanie Goossens. I grew up in the Northern Rivers (NSW) my whole life and when I finished school, Paul and I studied at Avondale before moving to Melbourne to teach for 8 years.

Can you share a bit about your family?

My husband is Paul Goossens and he works at BHC as a Secondary teacher and Leader of Learning. Our children, Michael and Emilia are 5 and 3 years old. We also have a 12 year old rescue greyhound named Tessa.

What school are you working at?

Blue Hills College

How long have you been there?

We moved back into the area 2.5 years ago to begin teaching at BHC.

What is your role?

I'm primarily the Pre-Kindy teacher of 23 4&5 year olds, which is a part time role that I love. I also do creative projects for BHC on the other days, including organising the fortnightly school newsletter, photography, creating event posters, keeping tabs on social media, designing the Yearbook and creating the school calendar.

What made you want to join us?

I have a heart for Christian Education and it's been a blessing to come back home to where our families live and be close to them again, while also having the opportunity to teach at an Adventist school.

How does your faith effect your work?

My faith is why I teach. It's a true privilege to share God and my faith with the students I come into contact with everyday.

What do you do for fun outside of work?

I love anything creative; Bible journalling, watercolour painting for relaxation, photography (nature, macro, special family moments) and Lego (most recently a flower bouquet). We also collect and play an assortment of awesome board games!

Any hidden talents or hobbies?

I can sew.

Which Bible character are you most excited to meet and why?

Esther. I've always loved her story of bravery and courage. God has a special plan for each one of us.



Dates to Diarise

2-6 SEPTEMBER	PMAS WOW
16-20 SEPTEMBER	TVAC WOSE
21 SEPTEMBER	TVAC visit Kingscliff Church
	TAS visit Plus One Church
27 SEPTEMBER	Year 12 last day



Do you have news for the monthly newsletter? We'd love to hear from you! Submit by the last Wednesday of each month.

CONTACT US

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