



Australasian News Update

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1)

**Q&A with an
LCG minister.
Page 10**

**This edition:
Mr Rajan
Moses**



Feast of Tabernacles

Photos page 7



**YOUTH ARTICLE & QUIZ
PAGE 8 & 9**



L-R: Mr Montgomery, Dr Winnail, Mr Tyler and Mr Burnett at a barbecue lunch at the Clarendon office. Photo: Lucy Mager

Greetings from Clarendon

Dear Brethren,

The year has commenced with concerning momentum. So much is happening around the world there isn't room to describe it all. Wars and rumours of wars, nations increasing their military budgets like we've not seen in decades, weather events that are breaking records, western democratic societies unravelling, immigration crises, sabre rattling, governments toppling...and that is just the beginning. Christ clearly states that His people and the Church should be watching, praying, and preaching the gospel to the whole world - then the end will come. We don't know when the end will be exactly, but Christ has given us signs to watch for.

Continued page 2

Upcoming Events

Passover Service
March 31

Night to be Much
Observed
April 1

Unleavened Bread
April 2-8

Featured in this Issue...

Adelaide: Feast Memories Night

3

Adelaide: Semi-Annual Mail Out

3

Brisbane: Soup and Games Night

4

Melbourne: Feast Memories Night

5

Church Chat

6

New Zealand: Invercargill TWPs

11

For sermons, Bible studies, access to the latest Church publications and a host of other resources, go to lcgasiapacific.org

Continued from page 1.

Dr Meredith wrote a powerful booklet, “Fourteen signs announcing Christ’s return”. Not that Dr Meredith was a prophet, but he, through Bible prophecy, could see what will happen preceding Jesus Christ’s second coming. I highly recommend reading or reviewing Dr Meredith’s booklet. Perhaps many of us will live to see Christ coming back in the clouds. Others will be sleeping. But it is undeniable we are witnessing prophetic events already taking place, right before our eyes. This world is running out of time! We must be thankful for the knowledge of the Truth! Christ said to his disciples, “But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately” (Matthew 24:9). He also encourages us by stating, “Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near” (Luke 21:28). The Living Church of God continues to faithfully preach the gospel and prepare the flock for her marriage to the Lamb. Let’s thank God for the privilege of being invited to such an awesome future.

But while all these things are happening around us, we have another challenge to contend with - to avoid complacency and never forget that we are in a spiritual battle with the god of this world, Satan the devil. The apostle to the gentiles, Paul, reminds us in Ephesians 6:12, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places”. Our battles are not physical, but spiritual. He also admonishes us to put on the whole armour of God if we are to overcome and withstand Satan’s deceptive tactics – we cannot do it alone.

On the first commission front, we continue to have very positive responses from our Facebook advertising efforts. In the AP region, Facebook responses for 2025 ended with 58,817 individual requests for literature. Thousands of new subscribers were added via TV, Facebook, YouTube and we are also trialing

newspaper ads in New Zealand – these will go to print in February. Please continue to pray that God opens more doors to do an ever more powerful Work in this region of the world.

Another exciting development is the possibility of establishing and registering the Living Church of God in Fiji. Mr Paul Keans recently visited Fiji and our lawyers there. We held our first corporate board meeting in January which is the first step in allowing us to officially register with the Fijian government. A lot of work has gone on behind the scenes to register the Church and being registered in Fiji means we can open an official bank account and secure a post office box for mailing.

Later in the year, we plan to hold TWP’s in the island nation of Tonga. We are sowing seeds and hope to start a small congregation in time. Our prayer is that God will add many members from other nations in the region to be a part of His end-time Work.

Finally, I wanted to briefly mention that this year we will be holding a 20th anniversary Fellowship Weekend in Adelaide. Although the Living Church of God was registered in Australia in 1999, it was 20 years ago that God guided then Regional Director, Mr Bruce Tyler, to relocate the Church office from Brisbane to Adelaide, SA, and purchase the Clarendon property. Clearly God’s hand was involved in the decision to move. The work of God has been blessed abundantly as we strive to serve all God’s people and finish the Work. The Fellowship Weekend is planned for the public holiday weekend, June 5th to 8th. If you can make it, the Adelaide congregation looks forward to welcoming you!

In Christian love,

Robert Tyler
Regional Director

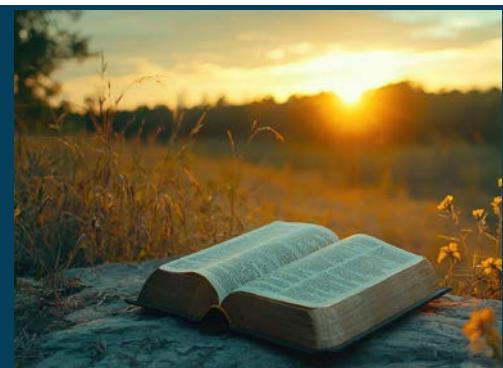


How to keep the Sabbath

Jesus Christ kept the seventh-day Sabbath. His first-century followers, Jew and Gentile, all kept it, and throughout history a continuous line of faithful Christians has kept it as well—just as God commands.

But exactly how should you keep the seventh-day Sabbath?

(How to keep the Sabbath, Wallace G. Smith, Tomorrow’s World, Jan-Feb 2026)



ADELAIDE: Feast Memories Night

On November 8, after Sabbath services, Adelaide brethren stayed on into the night for a special Feast of Tabernacles Memories and Soup Night, featuring slideshow presentations from five individual Feast sites around the Asia Pacific Region.

The evening started before sunset with a smorgasbord of deliciously homemade soups and dinner rolls.

After dinner Mr Brian McKenzie opened the evening as MC. This was followed by the presentations of Fiji, New Zealand and Philippines.

During the intermission, we rejuvenated and enjoyed homemade desserts from tangy lemon and rich chocolate caramel slices to American-style strawberry shortcake, along with coffee and tea. The evening was concluded with the presentations of the Victor Harbor and Forster Feast sites. *-Cristina Carpenter*



ADELAIDE: Gin Distillery Visit



A relaxed and easy-going afternoon was enjoyed by members of the Adelaide congregation at Never Never Gin Distillery in McLaren Vale. Most of the 30 people who attended on Sunday, August 31, took up the option of a gin tasting flight, which included four gins, each one paired with a wedge of citrus, a botanical and tonic. Brethren could also order from the lunch menu, with the wood fired pizza and mozzarella sticks proving to be quite popular. Seating was arranged for us in a private section of the venue on the outdoor deck.

The cooler weather was not a problem as the outdoor heaters kept us warm and outdoor blinds were closed. However we could still see through and look out to the magnificent rolling hills and trees.

The venue provided a wonderful vibe as brethren were able to fellowship over good food and speciality gins.
-Troy Kearns

ADELAIDE: Semi-Annual Mail Out

The Semi-Annual Mail Out galloped along at record speed. On Wednesday, November 19, fourteen brethren participated in helping process Mr Weston's semi-annual letter and DVD offer - The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

The activity took only three hours to fill 5,000 envelopes being sent to subscribers in many countries in Asia, most of which were sent to Malaysia and India. It was finished in record time compared with previous semi-annual activities as we only needed the morning rather than most of the afternoon as well. In addition, 7,500 Australian and 3,500 New Zealand semi-annual letters were also sent out from our local printing distributor. Altogether, Mr Weston's letter and DVD offer has been sent out to 20,000 subscribers in the Asia-Pacific region. Thank you to all who helped us fulfill the semi-annual letter mail out once again! *-Tim Mager*



ADELAIDE: Youth Hike



Fourteen adventurous brethren took part in an invigorating three-hour hike along the Steub Trail up to the Mount Lofty summit on Sunday, December 14.

Despite overhead clouds and a slight drizzle, the walk up and down the trail saw temperate weather making the trek a pleasant and refreshing one. It was fantastic to be with brethren amongst the summer wildlife and the

trees with the occasional kangaroo sighting that made the activity a truly memorable experience. Upon reaching the summit, we were truly in awe of the magnificence of God's creation as we looked down upon the wonderful world we live in from the peak of a mountain.

The Mount Lofty hike was a wonderful activity to spend with family and friends. *-Micah Javate*



ADELAIDE: Seniors' Lunch

On Sunday, December 7, a seniors lunch was organised for members of the Adelaide congregation.

It was a wonderful turn out with 17 brethren meeting at Italian restaurant Caffe Buongiorno, which was about fifteen minutes from the CBD.

It was a restaurant we had visited in the past and yet again it did not disappoint. There was an extensive variety of foods to choose from including Italian favourites like pizza and pasta as well as focaccias and salads.

A wonderful afternoon of fine food and fellowship was enjoyed by all. *-Jan Paxon*



BRISBANE: Soup and Games Night



Following Sabbath services on August 23, brethren from the Brisbane congregation stayed on after services to enjoy a soup and games night.

A variety of delicious homemade soups and crusty bread with butter warmed the hearts and bellies of everyone.

Following the meal, several teams participated in two rounds of Clay Pictionary. What is Clay Pictionary? This is a word guessing game that requires each team member to sculpt an animal or object from playdough for their teammates to guess. Each member of the team has their turn to sculpt something different as they race against the other teams.

Budding artists certainly had some very interesting clay creations. Judging by the merriment, the evening was a great success. *-Anthony Mew*

MELBOURNE: Feast Memories Night

After Sabbath services on December 6, the Melbourne brethren gathered for an evening full of laughter, yummy food, and great memories at our Feast Memories Night.

The evening began with a fun D.I.Y. pizza session, where everyone's pizza-making skills were put to the test. With the dough and sauce provided, some brethren kept it simple with a margherita pizza, while others topped theirs with various toppings like mushrooms, beef, and chicken. Rest assured, no pineapple was used for the evening.

After dinner, we enjoyed Feast presentations from members who attended the Feast in locations such as New Zealand, the Philippines, Victor Harbor and Forster. One of the main takeaways from the evening was that, no matter the location, the Feast is a time for us to rejoice with like-minded brethren and to learn and grow together.

-Joseph Susi



MELBOURNE: Spokesman Club Ladies' Lunch



The Melbourne congregation enjoyed a wonderful season of growth and comradery during its first Spokesman Club since Covid-19. Twelve men took up the challenge in this important training program, including five new members to Club, some of which had never spoken publicly before.

We had eight "Ice Breaker" speeches during the year which helped us get to know each other better and encouraged deeper bonds between

the men. The Club sessions went beyond the four walls of our meeting space, as we had a working bee at a member's house to help with gardening needs. Ladies and children also joined in to help.

The year ended with a Ladies' Lunch at a local hotel, and a lively table topics session with ladies contributing and responding to the questions posed. There were also three informative speeches, even one regarding a potato!

The enthusiasm for Club was evident and we all look forward to completing more speeches from the Spokesman Club manual as we strive to further develop our speaking skills. -Michael Alter

SYDNEY: Dinner and Booklet Review

After Sabbath services on November 1, the Sydney congregation were blessed to spend extra fellowship time enjoying a really delicious shared meal together, followed by a booklet review of "God's Plan for Happy Marriage".

Mr Lever led the session and the brethren contributed to the discussion based on personal experiences and by drawing on God's word. We explored the importance of faithfulness, trust, positive communication, working as a team, forgiveness and the sharing of hopes and dreams in marriage and the need to protect the sanctity of marriage. It also proved to be a wonderful opportunity for brethren to ask questions.

It was such a profitable and encouraging experience. We look forward to our next booklet review as part of our training for our roles in the Millennium and beyond. -Lisa Ogle



CHURCH CHAT...

We asked some of our youth around the region: "What was your highlight of the Feast?"



Achsah Laybeh, 7

Feast site: Thailand

My highlight of the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day was being at the Feast site and learning God's way of life with friends and family. I enjoyed outdoor activities such as going to a crocodile show, which was very fun and so enjoyable.



Riley Cobham, 14

Feast site: New Zealand

My highlight was being able to enjoy a whole Feast in good health. I've had some health trials to work through personally so the Millennial Scripture in Isaiah 33:24 that says, "and the inhabitant will not say, 'I am sick'" really struck a chord with me. I look forward to the time when mankind will obtain good health and the sicknesses experienced today will be gone.



Helena Godfrey, 10

Feast site: Fiji

My highlight of the Feast was the Talent Show. I enjoyed performing and watching everyone else with their talent. It was so much fun. I also loved the garden visit on the family day. I love nature and really liked the different flowers and plants I came across. Plus it was fun, like going on an adventure path in the forest!



Liam Carpenter, 8

Feast site: Victor Harbor

I enjoyed making a story book about life lessons and funny stories during church services using scratch paper and a scratch tool. It was a present from mum and dad.



Deeanne Javate, 10

Feast site: Philippines

The beach, because there were hermit crabs on the sand. Also the picnic, because there was lots of candy.



Ethan Jennings, 13

Feast site: Forster

Being together with the brethren and enjoying some fun activities with my friends. I especially loved the family day activity and then going to the beach.

FEAST OF TABERNACLES 2025

Australasian Region



New Caledonia



Malaysia



Forster



New Zealand



Philippines



Victor
Harbor



Wewak



Fiji



Pinjarra



Port Moresby

YOUTH PAGE



Paul Kearns

The game 'Super Mario Bros.' was first released on the Nintendo Entertainment System in Japan on September 13, 1985. It was later exported to North America and then across the world. Growing up in Melbourne, Australia in the 1990's, Nintendo was all the rage amongst my peers. My brother and I were no exception to this as we were also taken by the craze and, as young boys, spent countless hours playing the 'Super Mario Bros.' game, as well as my personal favourite, 'Duck Hunt'. Although many youths of today would laugh at the graphics of 'Super Mario Bros.' and 'Duck Hunt', compared to 'Pong', it was quite an upgrade. (If you're not sure what 'Pong' was, you need to Google it!)

For those in the younger generation bracket, it can be hard to think of life without visual entertainment and video games. However, there was a time when humanity existed without them! Just ask dad or mum about those times or, even better, grandpa or grandma, or an older relative. They had to play the "old fashioned way": going outside to run around, play a sport, be inventive by making up a game, or ride a bike. We are certainly living in different times today. But are they better times?

Although the advances of modern technology are not all bad (remember, this world and its civilisation is built on the tree of the knowledge of good AND evil – see Genesis 2:15-17), it is certainly not all good.

Let's get straight to the point: are you addicted to gaming? If you wouldn't say you're addicted, could you admit that you perhaps spend too much time

playing video games? If you answered no to both these questions (and it's very possible many of you could!), you're actually in the minority amongst today's younger generation.

Here are some statistics related to gaming in Australia according to the Interactive Games and Entertainment Association:

- 91 per cent of Australian households own a video game device
- The average age of a video game player in Australia is 34 years old
- Nearly half of those playing video games are female
- In 2018 Australians spent more than \$AU4 billion on games and associated hardware. This means Australians spend more on games than they spend on films, streaming services, pay TV, music, books or likely any other creative or entertainment activity (IGEA, "Australian Games Industry Statistics, at <https://igea.net/faq/australian-games-industry-statistics/>, accessed 27 June, 2025).

Collectively, Australian youth are addicted to gaming. The same can be said for young people in most other western nations around the world. If you are in this category, are you prepared to examine whether this is a path you want to continue? To be clear, this article is not telling you to never touch a video game again. However, the content of this article is designed to challenge you to think Biblically about this subject and encourage you to make changes if you need to.

Here are some points to consider:

- **What types of games are you playing?** It does matter to God what games you play. Any game that is associated with violence, demons, and sex is never appropriate for a young Christian. Games like 'Fortnite' and 'Grand Theft Auto' originate from the god of this world and should never be played. Of course, harmless sports or car racing games (and good old Super Mario) are typically acceptable. Again, not everything this world offers is inherently bad. However, if you're uncertain about whether a game is appropriate, ask your parents.



- **Are you really developing your masculinity or femininity by being a “gamer”?** Although gaming has historically been more of a male-dominated interest, many females are now getting hooked into it too. Whether you are male or female, is being a gamer really helping you develop life skills appropriate to your gender? Do you think that someone you might like to get to know better in the Church, would see a gaming habit as a desirable trait? The Apostle Paul wrote, there is a time for childish things – when we are children – but when we mature, we need to put away childish things (1 Corinthians 13:11). Do we still want to be known as a grown adult who likes playing games, even if they are sophisticated video games? Perhaps it's time to put away or at least reduce the amount of time you spend gaming!

- **Could your time be spent better elsewhere?** God's Church needs young people to serve others within the Body. Yes, we need YOU! Although you can choose to have hours of fun all by yourself playing a video game, is that really utilising your time well in an age where God exhorts His people to walk circumspectly in these evil times (Ephesians 5:15-16)? Can you perhaps use your time more effectively? For example, how about organising one or two others to visit an older member

of your local congregation? Men, is there a young lady in the congregation that could be encouraged by asking her out on a date or, more broadly, organise a group date for the singles in your congregation? Ladies, perhaps you could do some cooking for the family at home, or maybe you have noticed someone in the congregation who could do with a meal cooked for them, like a family with a new baby, or someone who is sick? In a world full of online interactions that are often shallow and incomplete, why not do it the old-fashioned way and spend time face-to-face with people, serving them and putting them ahead of yourself?

Young people, avoid the trap of being obsessed with gaming and, if needed, take steps to move away from this addiction and use that extra time to serve those around you, including family members, Church brethren, and friends. Spiritually speaking, Satan wants to distract you from more meaningful pursuits so that he can triumphantly claim it is, “Game Over!” Don't let him have that victory.

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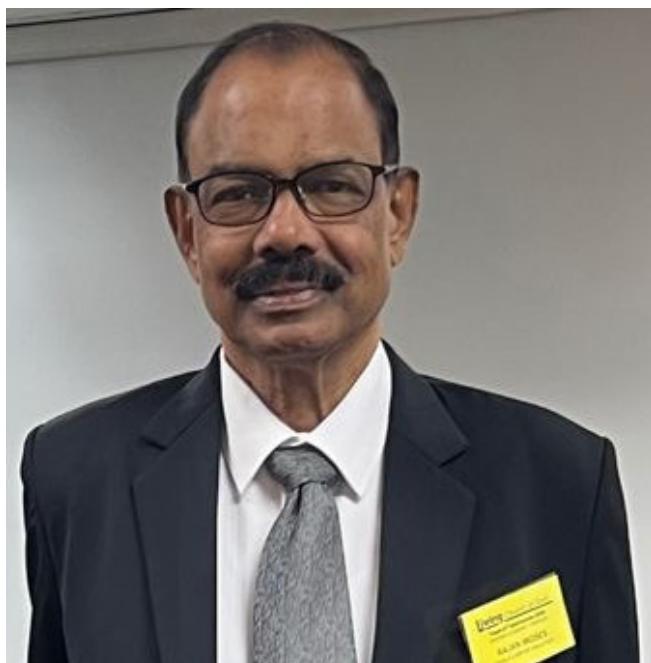
BIBLE QUIZ

1. What is the average age of a video game player in Australia?
2. In 2018, how much did Australians spend on gaming?
3. What 2 video games did the article mention are to be completely avoided?
4. As well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, what other main tree could be found in the Garden of Eden? (Genesis 2:9)
5. Where would you find the Scripture “...the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one”?
6. What is the Scripture that refers to “redeeming the time, because the days are evil”?

ANSWERS

1. 34 years old 2. \$4 billion 3. Fortnite & Grand Theft Auto 4. Tree of Life 5. 1 John 5:19 6. Ephesians 5:16

Q&A With An LCG Minister: Mr Rajan Moses



On what date were you baptised into the Church Of God?

September 24, 1972.

On what date were you ordained? Who ordained you?

I was ordained in 1999 in San Diego, California by Dr Roderick Meredith, Mr Carl McNair and Mr Bruce Tyler.

Where do you currently serve?

I serve as the Regional Pastor for Asia.

How did you first come to hear about the Church of God?

By reading the Plain Truth Magazine in 1969.

Can you explain how you navigated through the Worldwide Church of God apostasy and eventually ended up in LCG?

When the changes came, I was surprised that the Church was going back to Protestantism. I could see the Church was going in the wrong direction and I decided to follow Dr Meredith.

Do you have any special memories that stand out since being in the Church?

My special memories have been my attendance

at ministerial conferences, visiting the office of Dr Meredith and my first time being in Charlotte watching a live recording of a Mr Rod King telecast.

What do you feel are the greatest spiritual challenges in the end time?

Lukewarmness and the rise of false prophets that start their own group. The love of many shall wax cold. We need to suffer long and remain faithful despite anxiety or uncertainty. We need to endure and hold on to the faith once delivered.

What is your favourite scripture? Why?

Genesis 1:1 because the word "God" in Hebrew is Elohim, which shows God is a family.

What is your favourite Holy Day? Why?

The Feast of Tabernacles stands out but all the other Holy Days are as special as each other, because the plan of God is revealed in the Holy Days.

What is your most memorable Feast of Tabernacles?

Every year the Feast is the best and most memorable Feast. It pictures the time of peace and order and God's system of government on this earth.

Who is your favourite Bible hero?

The Apostle Paul is one of my favourite heroes because of the experiences he went through and the encouragement he gives us as we go through difficult times.

What are you looking forward to in the Millennium?

There will still be human nature on the earth, but Satan will not be able to influence people and God's spirit will be poured out.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Studying and preparing sermons and sermonettes. Sometimes I go to the market.

NEW ZEALAND: Invercargill TWP

On November 30 and December 7, the Invercargill congregation hosted two Tomorrow's World Presentations. The initial TWP, "Iran, Israel, and the Return of the King," brought in 14 guest attendees (a 20 per cent response rate), while the follow-up, "Who or What Is the Antichrist?" saw seven people return.

A couple of the attendees expressed an interest in attending Sabbath services. The local members did a great job in welcoming our guests and conversing with them after the Presentation.

Invercargill is one of the southern-most cities in the world so it's always encouraging to see the gospel being preached, quite literally, to the four corners of the earth. We now wait to see what spiritual fruit will be produced from these efforts. *-Paul Kearns*



BAPTISMS



L-R: Tony Leman, Graeme Hemphill, Junior Neno, Paul Kearns

Lake Puketirini was the venue for the baptism of **Mr Junior Neno** on a clear Sunday morning on September 28. Junior, along with his wife Nootu and daughter Esther, are members of the Auckland congregation. There were also many members of their extended family present to witness this wonderful occasion. The baptism was performed by Auckland Pastor Mr Graeme Hemphill with Regional Pastor Mr Paul Kearns laying on of hands. We wish Junior all the best in his commitment to God's way of life and his walk with Christ.



L-R: Tony Leman, Liesel Taylor, Paul Kearns



L-R: Setoi Kavaheeaga, Raymond Sem, Pierrette Le Bole

The Noumea, New Caledonia congregation were rejoicing after adding three new members into their fold.

On Sunday, August 3, **Setoi Kavaheeaga, Raymond Sem and Pierrette Le Bole** were baptised by New Caledonia Pastor Mr Graeme Hemphill.

The venue was a picturesque beachside park on the outskirts of Noumea township. After the baptism and laying on of hands we enjoyed a picnic lunch with much Bible discussion and fellowship at a nearby recreation area. It is with much joy we welcome new members into the body of Christ.



L-R: Benjamin Kuau, Jerry Sam, Juhane Kuau and Orap Deacon Willy Naguy

BAPTISMS cont.

Benjamin Kuau and his wife **Juhane** were baptized on Monday morning, October 6 in the Orap River in Vanuatu by elder Mr Jerry Sam. The baptisms took place on the same day as the opening night service of the Feast of Tabernacles 2025. We are overjoyed to welcome them into the body of Christ.

Benjamin and Juhane attend the Isangel congregation in Tanna, Vanuatu.

BIRTHS



Elias Sale

Elijah and Roini Sale and Tia and Semi Asafo of the Auckland, New Zealand congregation, are overjoyed to announce the birth of their respective new family members. Both sets of parents and newborns are doing well. This is the first child for the Sales' and second for Asafos.

Elias Savusa Sale, was born on September 19. He weighed 3.04kg and was 52cm. **Palolo Asafo** was also born on September 19. She weighed 3.9 kg and was 53cm.



Palolo Asafo

IN LOVING MEMORY



We are saddened to report the death of **Mrs Betty Arendain** last October 27, 2025, wife of Mr Jose Arendain - Area Pastor of western and central Mindanao. Her death was due to complications from advanced stage 4 cancer. She did not feel any major pain from the cancer and was not initially aware of the disease. Once the cancer metastasized, her health declined rapidly leading to her sudden death. She was 66 years old.

Mrs Arendain will be sorely missed for her warm and welcoming spirit that never wavered in sincere service to her family, husband, and the larger Church family. Please pray for the comfort of the family. -*Joseph Gonzales*

We are saddened to report the death of **Mr Joe De Pinto** of the Adelaide, South Australia congregation on November 1, 2025.

Mr De Pinto was hospitalised after a recent fall and died peacefully with his family around him, including his wife Rafaella.

Both Mr and Mrs De Pinto have been lovingly cared for by their youngest son Anthony in their later years during many health trials and his example should be an inspiration to us all. -*Martin Montgomery*



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