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Cover credit: Reuben Ennor
"Aboriginal Pastor Johnny Murison emerged on the smoke-clouded stage to start the celebration."

Our vision is to be a church that... knows experiences and shares our hope in Jesus Christ!

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Neglect or nurture

David Tasker

His bumper sticker said it all. On the back window of an old pick-up, parked in the driveway of a rundown house, was the statement, "End terrorism–ban religion!" At the edge of his yard was another sign, explaining that he was letting native bush take over "as a gift to his neighbours". He believed he was giving them a reserve in their own street in which native flora and fauna could flourish. But his tall weeds and piles of rubbish looked more like a refuge for rats. Probably the only gift he was giving to his neighbours was a continuous supply of live food for their cats.

People don't need cynical bumper stickers. They need authentic people who live balanced lives and whose friendship they value. As Ellen White put it so cogently, "If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tender-hearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one" (9T 189).

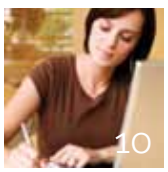
I was interested to read of a Mr Anderson who was driven out of the Church by people misusing Ellen White's writings. He's not the only one. Later, he attended the Napier camp meeting in New Zealand in 1893, and after listening to Ellen White in person, re-joined the Church.

Time is too short to allow our piles of neglect to be masqueraded as beneficial to the community of believers. But neither do we need the destructive blasts of self-proclaimed reformers in our midst.

This edition of RECORD celebrates the legacy that Ellen White left us. I invite you to dust off one of her books and read it afresh. Ignore both the "terrorists" and the piles of neglect and let this prophetic voice rekindle your "first love". Move from the neighbourhood of the guy with the cynical bumper sticker, and follow our friend Anderson's lead.

Dr David Tasker is Spirit of Prophecy coordinator for the South Pacific Division.

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