

What are the religious beliefs of Adventists?

Seventh-day Adventists share common beliefs with most other Christians, including belief in the Trinity and salvation through Jesus Christ. We accept the whole Bible as the revelation of God, and believe the Ten Commandments express God's love, will and purposes. Our beliefs include:

The Bible

We believe the Bible is the only basis for Christian living and God's guide for life.

The Trinity

There is one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons.

Prayer

Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Prayer is talking to Him through worship, expressing thanks, praise, confessing our short-comings and making requests of Him. God answers prayer. He is our Peace, our Provider, our Healer, Comforter, and Saviour. The hospital encourages staff, patients and their families to pray and seek prayer, and promotes prayer using the maxim, 'We treat, Jesus heals'.

God the Creator

God created all things and rested on the seventh day of Creation Week, celebrating and enjoying what He had made. Man and woman were the crowning work of God's creation.

Paradise Lost

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the trust God bestowed on them was broken and the certainty of immortality was lost.

The Ten Commandments

In The Ten Commandments, God explains very clearly and simply what our love relationship to him and others should be.

Jesus Christ

God became human in Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He experienced temptations as a human being, but lived his life to demonstrate the righteousness and love of God. At age 30, He began His public ministry of teaching and healing. Three and one-half years later, He was crucified and died on the cross. His body was placed in a tomb on Friday, where it lay over the Sabbath. On the first day of the week he arose and later ascended to heaven thus giving to people of all ages the hope of eternal life.

The Church

We believe that the Christian Church is comprised of all people who believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Seventh-day Adventists are a community of believers. We join together in local congregations for worship, fellowship, instruction in the Word and celebration of the Lord's Supper. The Seventh-day Adventist Church believes in undertaking humanitarian service and communicating to people the message of hope contained in God's word - The Bible.

Sabbath

Just as God rested on the 7th day after Creation, Seventh-day Adventists observe Sabbath from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday to celebrate and give thanks for all that God has created and has done since.

At AHCL, the needs of patients remain our highest priority and continue to be met during the Sabbath hours. All essential medical care and services are provided.

Baptism

Baptism is a public celebration of our faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, and a declaration to live the Christian life. In the Seventh-day Adventist Church, baptism is by immersion in water.

The Lord's Supper

Participation in the Lord's Supper (Communion) is an expression of faith in Jesus Christ. In the Seventh-day Adventist Church, communion is open to all believing Christians.

Lifestyle

Christian behaviour arises out of gratitude for what God has done for us and a desire to honour Him. Among other things, we believe we have a responsibility to care for our bodies with adequate exercise, rest and a healthful diet. Many Seventh-day Adventists are vegetarians. They abstain from the unclean foods identified in the Scriptures as well as from alcoholic beverages, tobacco and the irresponsible use of drugs and narcotics.

Second Coming

Adventists believe Jesus will come again to deliver His people and to restore all things. It will be a literal and personal return.

New Earth

God is preparing a perfect world where He will live with His people forever. This eternal home will be a perfect environment free of pain and death. It will be a real place where people fully experience everlasting life, love and joy in fellowship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

What does the AHCL logo mean?

The Adventist HealthCare logo represents our heritage and future. The logo is in the form of a cross, made up of two stylised symbols:

- The book – representing the story of God's care recorded in the Bible
- The flame – representing the Spirit of God

Taken together, these symbols represent the activity of God in the world. His generosity toward vulnerable people restores them to physical and mental health, and places them in a community of compassionate people, who support each other. God's example inspires us to reach out to others in the same way.

Our aim

It is our aim to live our Mission of 'Christianity in Action' through all that we do. We will endeavor to remain a leader in healthcare, maintain our financial viability, and continue to focus on holistic care.

Adventist HealthCare will continue to support the Adventist Mission by extending the healing ministry of Christ to all.

Seventh-day Adventist hospitals, nursing homes and other healthcare facilities extend their circle of care and friendship to all without regard to religious affiliation. Doctors, employees, volunteers, board members and others who help fulfil the mission of Adventist HealthCare represent diverse religions and cultures.

Those interested in learning more about Seventh-day Adventists are welcome into our fellowship. We are happy to answer questions regarding our beliefs and lifestyle.

Contact our Chaplains in **Spiritual Care Services** on **02 9480 6160** or **spiritualcare@sah.org.au**

For further information on the Seventh-day Adventist Church visit **www.adventist.org.au**

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Christianity in Action

What does it mean?



CHRISTIANITY IN ACTION

Who are Adventists?

Formally organised in 1863, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is a mainstream Christian church with over 20 million members worldwide.

It grew out of a religious revival that started in the 1840's as the result of passionate study of the Scriptures and a firm commitment to live in harmony with its teachings. The Church operates a world wide system of hospitals of which Adventist HealthCare is part. It also supports the largest protestant education system in the world.

What is Adventist HealthCare?

Sydney Adventist Hospital commenced at Wahroonga on 1st January 1903 as a service to the community. It was known as Sydney Sanitarium - a place where people learnt to stay well and is still affectionately known as 'The San'.

Today, AHCL operates Sydney Adventist Hospital (SAH) the largest private hospital in NSW with the largest and busiest private Emergency Care facility in the state, as well as the San Day Surgery Hornsby and other related businesses.

Its reputation in the community has been built on the continuous provision of high quality, excellent medical services, and most importantly, on the 'unique' commitment and care shown by staff along with an holistic approach to healthcare which is underpinned by our Adventist beliefs.

We are among 175 Adventist hospitals and over 380 clinics and dispensaries around the world.

What motivates Adventists at the San?

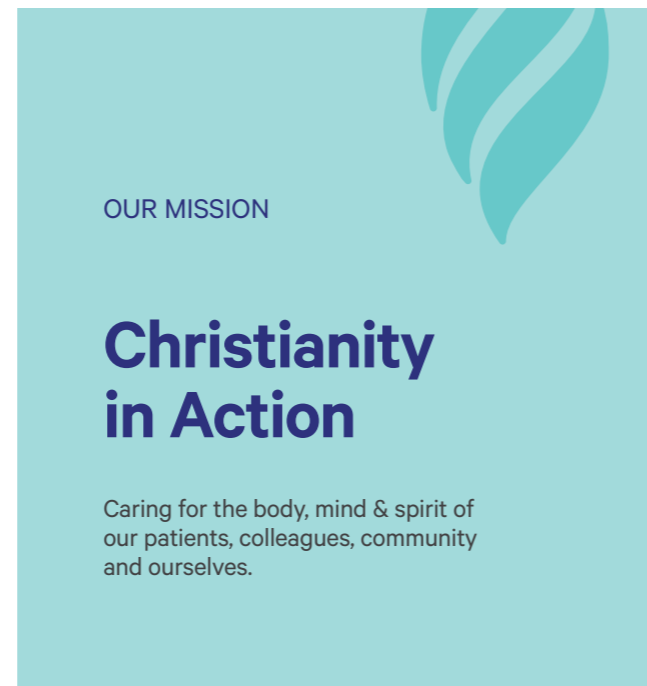
As Christians, we believe the best way to show our love and respect for God is to be the best that we can – physically, mentally and spiritually. We believe that a wholesome lifestyle contributes to good physical health, which enhances a person's mental and spiritual potential. We believe in providing facilities for treatment, healing and health where people can learn how to prevent disease through lifestyle changes such as nutrition and exercise.

Adventists value every person as a unique creation of God. We encourage abstinence from alcohol, tobacco and harmful drugs and embrace a balanced life of work, leisure, rest, exercise and diet.

We promote wellness and a healing environment by healthy living, humour, positive attitude and prayer.

How are adventist beliefs applied at AHCL Facilities?

By providing the finest healthcare in the spirit of Christian compassion and following the AHCL Mission:



OUR MISSION

Christianity in Action

Caring for the body, mind & spirit of our patients, colleagues, community and ourselves.



The Mission Statement incorporates principles of caring that apply to all persons regardless of their religious beliefs. Its beliefs underpin values which include Excellence, Dignity, Integrity and Continuity of Care.

“Caring for the Body, Mind & Spirit of our Patients”

AHCL facilities provide a comprehensive range of acute care services which meet the community's health needs. Providing quality, up to date services, technology and facilities are a key priorities.

We complement acute care with other services that meet patients' holistic needs. For example: Cancer Support and Jacaranda Lodge, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Nutrition consultations, Wound Clinic, Fox Valley Medical & Dental Centre, and on-site services for health assessments. Patients also benefit from AHCL's spiritual care service – with the chaplains and trained volunteers supporting patients' spiritual needs.

We actively promote good health by providing healthy choices for patients, adequate rest, providing a clean environment and natural outlook and peace of mind.

“Caring for the Body, Mind & Spirit of our Colleagues”

AHCL cares for all health professionals through dedicated medical liaison personnel, GP education programs, publications, consultation, involvement and other activities.

“Caring for the Body, Mind & Spirit of our Community”

We actively promote good health and highlight healthy living to our local community through free public health education forums and health information.

Working with other organisations, the Open Heart International program (initiated by SAH) enables staff to share their skills and expertise caring for people in medical need in overseas communities.

“Caring for the Body, Mind & Spirit of Ourselves”

The key to achieving the AHCL Mission is our most precious resource - our staff and volunteers.

Across our facilities, we are committed to caring for the physical, mental and spiritual needs of more than 2400 staff and 300 volunteers. We:

- Organise preventative health and employee support programs, counselling support and on-site child care
- Maintain safe workplaces through focus on risk management and OH&S
- Encourage a healthy work / life balance
- Ensure a strong emphasis on learning & development initiatives like our enhanced New Graduate Program and Professional Recognition Program for nursing staff, and e-learning
- Have a quality improvement program to encourage and develop new ideas and improvements
- Offer a rewards and recognition program – encouraging excellence in service
- Encourage staff to be mission and customer service focused through appropriate training, education, communication and tools.