

March 5 2011

Record

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PRESIDENT IN TUNE WITH SOUTH PACIFIC

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DOCTORS TO TRAIN AT SAN page 5

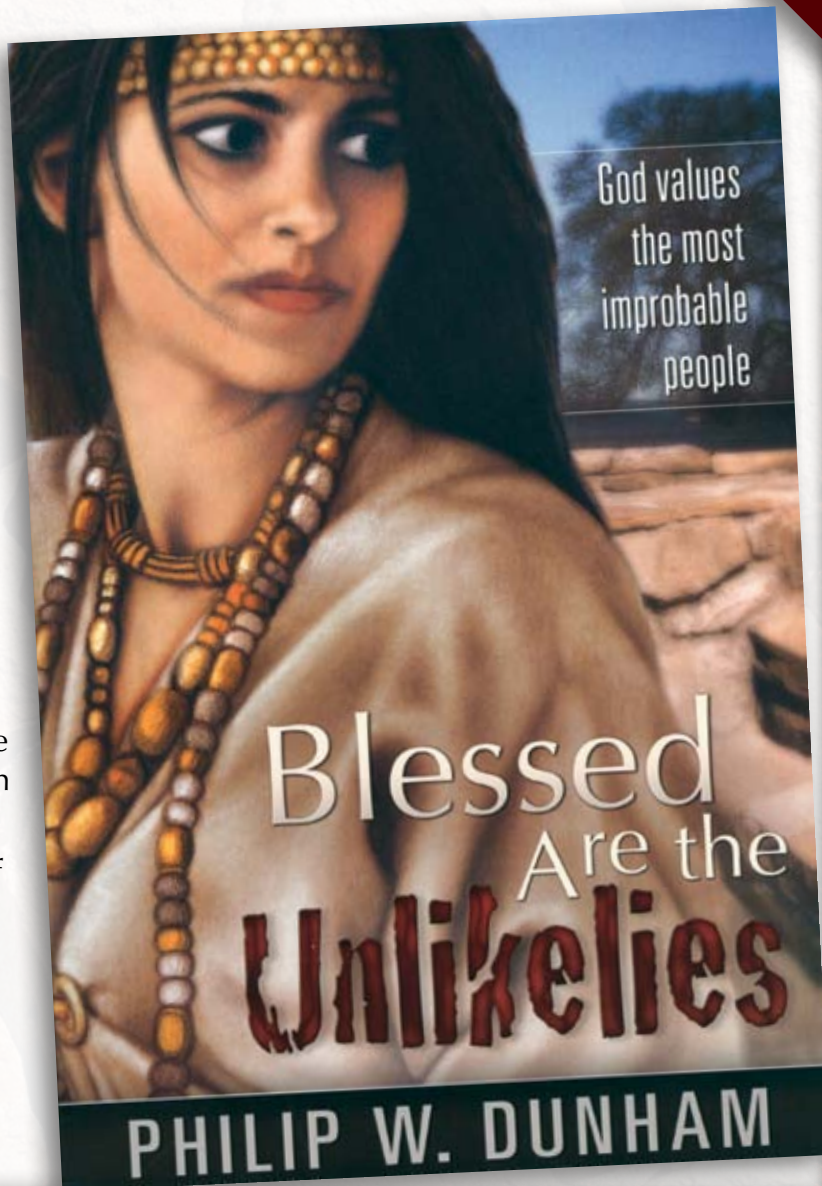
March Book
of the Month

Are you caught in the tension between wanting to do great things for God, yet finding yourself dragging through life with a dull sense of failure? Then consider Gideon. A member of a divided tribe, he was "a man unknown, and unheard of, whose occupation was to thresh corn stealthily, lest the Midianites should take it, a man thought nothing of by his own countrymen, and contemptuously overlooked by his foreign masters." An unlikely candidate by human standards, yet Gideon was chosen by God as the instrument through which to deliver Israel.

The Bible is crammed full of stories of men and women who seemed just as unlikely: people like Samson, Jephthah, Rahab, and Nebuchadnezzar.

Blessed Are the Unlikelies takes a refreshing look at these and other familiar characters, and challenges us to look beyond their shortcomings to a place where we can see how the name of God was magnified in their lives. Relying heavily on insight from the Spirit of Prophecy, the author reveals the miraculous transformation that takes place in the heart of each one.

While, deep down, we are all very aware of our own shortcomings, secret struggles and failings, Dunham reminds us that we serve a God who is not willing that any should perish. A God of mercy, love, forgiveness, and grace. A God who isn't interested in impressive resumes or sterling character references, but in willing obedient hearts.



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Health centre given facelift

Joe Talamaitoga—Suva, Fiji

Members of the Vugalei Adventist Church (VAC) in Suva, Fiji, gave their local health centre in Lami, its first facelift since the establishment of the building over a decade ago.

The group ranged from children to grandparents and even people's pets arrived just as the sun came up at the health centre.

They came equipped with cane knives, mops, brushes, brush cutters, buckets, sponges and detergents.

The Fiji Ministry of Health confirmed that there had been no clean-up like it since the centre was established in 1998.

The doctor in charge of the centre, Akuila Tabuavou, said he was "impressed, appreciative and immediately humbled for the enthusiasm and hard work accorded by the group".

"This health centre sees over 100 patients per day on average with two doctors, two nurses and one pharmacist at its general outpatients unit," Dr Tabuavou said.

The health centre also has a children's clinic with two nurses who attend to almost 100 children a day; and a dental clinic consisting of three staff—a zone nurse, a dentist and a dental therapist.

VAC elder leader Kaminieli Tausere said the church members had happily supported the initiative.

"For the past year, we spent Sundays constructing our church building," he said.

"Today, we are all happy to give our time, skills and heart into helping out the community for a worthy cause."



All ages turned out to help with the clean-up.

Adventists provide support after bushfire

Pablo Lillo—Perth, Western Australia

The Adventist Disaster Relief Agency (ADRA) has assisted people



Devastation as more than 80 homes were destroyed.

affected by the devastating bushfires in Perth, WA.

ADRA was asked to fulfil the agreement it has with the State Government and coordinate temporary accommodation for those who needed it. At least seven Adventist families offered temporary accommodation for those affected by the fires. Rossmoyne Adventist Residential Care also offered some units to house people.

David Shaw, the new director for ADRA services in WA, has also been working with local authorities. "The

church and ADRA have been proactive in working with government bodies in responding to their requirements," Mr Shaw said.

"The loss of 87 homes in the Roleystone and Kelmscott area of Perth has shocked us all and brought us and many others to God in prayer," said Glenn Townend, president of the Western Australian Conference.

If you would like to support ADRA, please donate online at <www.adra.org.au> to the Disaster Preparedness and Relief Fund.

Vegetarian gourmet challenge

Evan Fray—Christchurch, New Zealand

Suzanne Goulding has won the inaugural "ADRA Gourmet Challenge" at the South New Zealand camp meeting at Pascoe Park in Christchurch.

The challenge was a light-hearted and family centred competition along the lines of the currently popular television food shows hosted by celebrity chefs.

Lack of basic cooking skills has been identified as a major contributor to the increasing costs of running a family and the rationale behind the event was to have a qualified chef present a selection of options of meals and methods of cooking that could be shared throughout the community.

Auckland chef Jeremy Dixon answered many questions from the large gathering about his Thai curry options and then invited the six prospective chefs to step forward and prepare their own masterpieces.

Sophie Bashford was the youngest at 10 and with her friend, Sara Crellin, they showed that cooking covers all ages. Michael Fray was the only male entrant and was commended for his unusual use of almonds in his tofu on rice creation. Evelyn Violich and Katie Snyder closely challenged Ms Goulding's winning dish but according to the chief judge, Paul Rankin, the final decision was made purely on taste and each meal was highly recommended.



More than 90 people gathered to watch the competition.



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Seventh-day Adventist Church

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"Pastor Ted Wilson plays the pipes
with Fulton College students in Fiji."

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our hope in Jesus Christ!

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Out-reach or in-drag?

Kent Kingston

Michael Frost and Alan Hirsch's landmark 2003 publication, *The Shaping of Things to Come*, gave me a laugh-out-loud moment in suggesting that what Christians call "outreach" could be more accurately described as "in-drag", as we intend to "drag" people "in" to the church. There's more than a grain of truth in this. Our evangelistic efforts so often involve "us" organising programs that we hope will attract "outsiders" to church. But that's not what we see in the ministry of Jesus. He was found eating with "outsiders" and talking with doubters.

I wonder sometimes when I hear someone say at church, "I think we should start up an Adventist four-wheel-drive club [or walking club, or painting class] and invite our unchurched friends." I wonder: "Why don't you find an existing club in the community and join that? You'd be guaranteed of mixing with unchurched people then!" Or are we nervous about their barbecues, cigarette smoke and beer? Can we only do outreach when we're in control of the situation?

I think it's fear that's holding us back. We've let our negative preconceptions of people who don't know Jesus get in the way of actually making friends. We don't realise that many people are curious to know more about what we believe and why. They just don't want to be force-fed or feel like an evangelistic "project".

And there are more public and cultural spaces open to clear expressions of Christian faith than you might think. Community festivals and expos, mind/body/spirit fairs, open mic nights, internet chat-rooms, community radio . . . the list goes on.

Jesus used the metaphor of salt to illustrate how Christians should offer something distinct to the world. But have you ever found a lump of salt in your food? Not nice. Salt is only useful if it is spread out, flavouring the whole dish. Maybe that's why Jesus said, "Go!"

In this edition of RECORD, Rochelle Melville asks if we as a church are able to embrace "messy sinners" (page 14). Ken Long suggests a new way to look at stewardship—or maybe it's just Jesus' way (page 16). And on page 9, there's a report on the official launch of the RECORD iApp by General Conference president, Pastor Ted Wilson, and we announce the winners of the 10 iPads.

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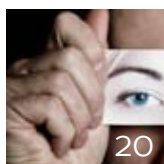
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Doctors to train at San

Pablo Lillo—Sydney, New South Wales

NSW Governor Marie Bashir officially opened the Sydney Adventist Hospital Clinical School (SAHCS) on February 9.

It's the first fully-fledged private hospital clinical school in NSW—a partnership with The University of Sydney School of Medicine.

"The partnership between the Sydney Adventist Hospital and the University of Sydney is significant for us—an event of which we are very proud," said Dr Leon Clark, chief executive officer of the Sydney Adventist Hospital.

"Clinical training opportunities at the SAHCS mean that medical students from the very first stage of their study and other health profession students will benefit from the mix and variety of patients we treat and the expertise of the enthusiastic specialist potential mentors who work here."

The establishment of the clinical school has been supported by \$A1.75 million in funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing under an

Increased Clinical Training Capacity Grant.

"The hospital has an excellent reputation and it's great to see it's strengthening its ties with Sydney University. As a local person, it's great having a hospital where I've had family members attend, to train at," said Isabelle Kapterian, first year medical cohort.

During his address to the new medical students, Professor Bruce Robinson, Dean of the School of Medicine of The University of Sydney, said the San has three ticks of approval in terms of the quality of its teaching and medical care.



Dr Barry Oliver, Marie Bashir and Dr Leon Clark unveil a plaque to open the clinical school.

Adventist teen awarded Citizen of the Year

Pablo Lillo—Melbourne, Victoria

Chantel Amiss from the Living Waters church, Victoria, was awarded Young Citizen of the Year by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

Miss Amiss was recognised for raising \$A18,000 for the Cambodian Kids Foundation (CKF) Saing Sy Centre and a new kindergarten in Sok San Village in Cambodia.

"I received a letter in the mail about the award. However, I was in Cambodia on Australia Day and had to send my mum to receive it on my behalf," she said.

In 2010, while completing Year 12 studies, she helped raise the funds and spent time in Cambodia working on CKF projects. Miss Amiss said it took her less than a year to raise \$A18,000 by organising many small unique fundraisers at school and by selling hot food at various events. She donates \$A50 a month to CKF and offers private horse riding lessons to fund her travelling expenses.



Chantel Amiss raised \$A18,000.

Conference stirs minds, hearts and hands

Nathan Brown—Cooranbong, New South Wales

"This conference is about changing mindsets," said presenter Pastor Rudy Dingjan, director of church growth for the Netherlands Union Conference.

"There is no point in talking about church in the 21st century if we are

planning to just keep doing things in the same way we have always done them."

Such was the challenge posed—and addressed—by each of the presenters to the 80 pastors, academics, students and church members who attended the international conference on "Church and Adventist Identity in the 21st Century", hosted at Avondale College from January 16 to 18.

"As an educational institution we should be stirring up people's minds to think on issues like this," said Dr Ray Roenfeldt, Avondale's president.

But the conference was not just about stirring minds, there was also a

strong emphasis on heart and hands—how the church shares and lives out its faith in the circumstances, culture and society in which it finds itself.

Pastor Dingjan drew on his experiences as a church planter and leader in the very secular society of the Netherlands. A significant cultural shift in recent decades has been from modern to postmodern worldviews.

"I wish more of our church leaders would understand a little better that this is not a matter of thinking differently about a few things but this is a completely different way of looking at life," Dr Reinder Bruinsma, author and academic, explained.



Pastor Dingjan uses Brainy Smurf and Smurfette to illustrate the need for balance of intellect and heart in church.

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President asks for help

Kent Kingston—Ringwood, Victoria

The president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia is urging members to share their perspectives and ideas on why people leave church and how to most effectively invite them back.

Pastor Chester Stanley said he had a "burden" for Adventists who no longer attend and suspects he's not the only one. "There's not a family that hasn't been impacted by this. Yes, we rejoice every time we win new people, but the numbers in terms of apostasy are too high."

Between 2000 and 2009, 11,582 people became Seventh-day Adventists in Australia. But for every 10 people who joined, four died and three left the Church. That's 3751 people listed under "missing" or "apostasies".

Pastor Stanley wants to see specific strategies put into place for the Australian context. He's convening a summit focused on reclaiming missing members. Themed "There's always a place at the table", the summit will run from March 18 to 20 at the Australian Union Conference offices in Melbourne.

Five hand-picked representatives from each conference—church employees and lay people—will explore the factors that lead people to leave church and develop strategies to bring them back.

"We need an ongoing focus on this issue," Pastor Stanley said. "This is not a one-off event. We need to develop a systematic ministry focus at conference and local church level."

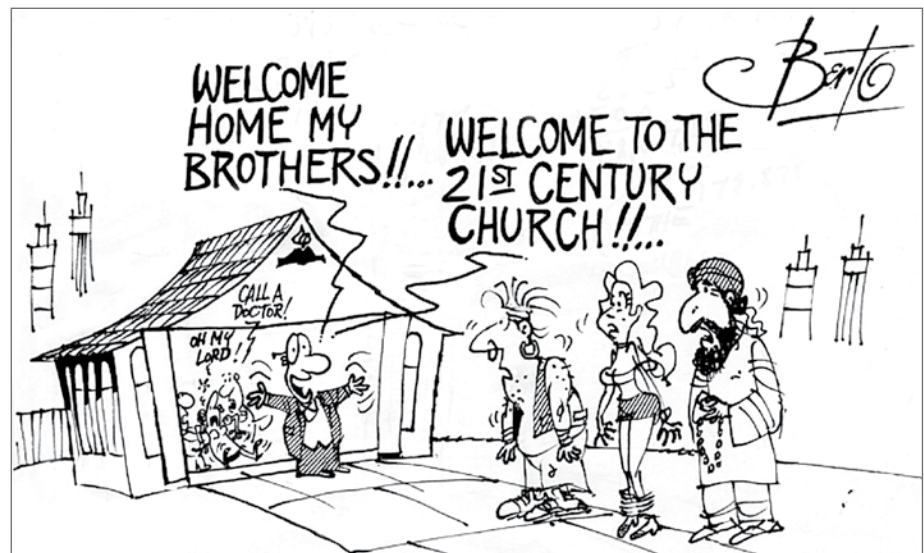
Pastor Stanley is also calling for all church members to contribute to the summit deliberations by sending in their feedback on why people leave church and how best to invite them back. And he specifically welcomes the views of those who are no longer attending.

"This is a very significant issue," he said. "We need to come up with a strategic plan for our future."

Email your perspectives and ideas directly to Pastor Stanley: chesterstanley@adventist.org.au.



Pastor Chester Stanley.



Refer to *We need more sinners in church* (page 14).



Warrior welcome
General Conference president, Pastor Ted Wilson, was met at Nadi and Suva airports and the Fijian Mission (above) by hundreds of well-wishing church members as well as traditional warriors.



We will never forget
Pastor Wilson visited the grave of the first Adventist missionary to Fiji in 1891. John I. Tay came from the USA but died only six months later. It's the first time the grave has been visited by a General Conference president.



A tooth for a tooth
Watched by hundreds of school children and church members, Pastor Wilson receives the traditional tabua—or whale tooth—during a traditional ceremony at the Fijian Mission. The tabua is the highest, legal recognition given in Fijian culture.



Brought to his knees
In front of 10,000 people in Suva, the world president dropped to his knees to write a prayer. He joined hundreds of others praising God and calling for spiritual and physical healing on a large white flag.



Time to beat it
Ted and Nancy Wilson joined Fulton students to play the pipes outside the Trans Pacific Union offices in Suva. You can watch as the Wilsons join in at <http://www.vimeo.com/19767966>.



Presidents shake on it
President Wilson visited with the president of the Republic of Fiji, Ratu Nailatikau. He gave him a signed copy of the book *The Desire of Ages* by Ellen White. "Please do not put this book on a shelf somewhere," he asked. "Please add it to your personal library."



Frank visit
Pastor Wilson visited Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama at his offices in Suva. He recommended the counsel found in Micah 6:8 and urged him to rule justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with his God. The PM said, "The counsel from God's Bible is wise . . . and I have heard it." Watch the leaders pray together online at <http://vimeo.com/19687037>.



Children pray and preach to 1000s
Six-year-old Navitalai Qerenavanua and seven-year-old Eric DeMesa didn't mind taking the microphone to pray and preach to the 10,000 people who gathered at the TGL stadium in Suva. This was a day where everyone young and old chose to be more connected to God, and to pray unitedly for the latter rain experience of the Holy Spirit.



Looking for peace
Salaseini, 78, came to hear Pastor Wilson in Suva. Two days later she caught the bus to the mission office. "Listening to Elder Wilson has given me the inner peace I have been looking for. I want to join the church."



Dug in
Watched by Nancy Wilson, Pastor Jerry and Janet Page, Pastor Wilson plants a sandalwood tree at the Fijian Mission office. The fruit will be picked every year and taken throughout Fiji as a remembrance of his call for the Holy Spirit.



Feelin' mighty fine
Ted and Nancy Wilson visited Fulton College which has been operating since 1940 on the eastern side of the main island of Viti Levu in Fiji. The students broke out in song, "we're feelin' mighty fine, we have heaven on our mind". You can watch the Wilsons join in singing at <http://www.vimeo.com/19744841>.



Viewing new Fulton site
Visiting the changing landscape for the new college in Sabeto near Nadi, Pastor Wilson said "a strong foundation for education was a true knowledge of God". He reminded those gathered that in the future "this will be a place that will train an army of youth". He is joined by Pastor Waisea Vuniwa, Jona Waqavou and Timoci Saukuru.



Goodbye but we will return
Nancy and Ted Wilson farewell the people of Suva, Fiji, and the South Pacific at the end of their 14-day visit. "We will take a good report back to the General Conference." Pastor Wilson called all Adventists to put Jesus first, then pray unitedly with the rest of the world Church—16.7 million adult members in 203 countries—for the latter rain experience of the Holy Spirit.



Forward looking

Church leaders in West Africa have nominated 2011 as the "Year of the Adventist Youth". Pastor Samuel Adama Larmie, president of the Ghana Union Conference, said some were quick to criticise young people when they should be listening to them and providing opportunities to channel their energy positively. —*GhanaWeb*



Not so voiceless

Church leaders in Nigeria say hundreds of thousands of Adventists will be disenfranchised if the government holds April's presidential election on a Saturday. The president of the Eastern Nigeria Union said Adventists won't vote on Sabbath and has threatened to take the government to court over the issue. —*Nigerian Compass*



Can't stop the music

Legendary gospel singer George Beverly Shea, 102, has been awarded a Lifetime Achievement Grammy award for his contribution to popular music. Shea is the oldest person ever to receive a Grammy and said he was "grateful for the countless opportunities around the world to sing about our precious Lord". —*Billy Graham Evangelistic Association*



Dark rising

Catholic priest Gary Thomas, the real-life exorcist who inspired the new Hollywood movie, *The Rite*, says occult sites on the internet and spiritual ignorance, are to blame for an increase in demonic possessions. He warns that dabbling in Wicca, the occult and pagan practices opens a door to the devil. —*Catholic World Report*



Open season

Most retailers in Victoria are in favour of a lift on the Easter Sunday trading ban. But Anglican bishop, Phillip Huggins, says allowing shops to open will spiritually impoverish Easter Sunday. Catholic Church leaders have shrugged off the concerns, saying parishioners can attend services on Saturday night instead. —*Herald Sun*



Step forward

After an Adventist congregation in the central Asian republic of Azerbaijan was raided by police, church leaders have met with government representatives to look for solutions. Vasily Stolyar (vice-president, Euro-Asia Division) said help had been promised to finally register the Adventist Church after eight years of unsuccessful applications. —*ANN*



WOMEN AND THE WORD

EXCAVATING GOD'S TRUTH

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6.30pm

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9.30am

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iRecord captures President's imagination

by Revona Govender

GENERAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT, PASTOR Ted Wilson, launched the new RECORD iApp at the Adventist Media Network studios at Wahroonga, NSW, on February 1.

Pastor Wilson travelled to Sydney from the world church headquarters in the USA just to launch the iApp—the first integrated news application for use by Adventists on smart phones.

"This iApp shares the Gospel in fresh, new, exciting ways—through news stories, articles and video clips," Pastor Wilson said. "More people will be added to the Kingdom of God because of it."

More than 3000 people have already downloaded the free iApp from iTunes onto their iPhones and iPads.

"People who cannot get to church, or have lost touch with the Church, have discovered the iRecord app," said David Gibbons, communication director for the South Pacific Division.

"Others are serving the Church including ADRA in remote places. They say they are pleased to be able to keep in touch with news from the South Pacific both in print and video formats."

RECORD head of news and editorial, Pablo Lillo, said the ability to inform anyone, anywhere, at any time, was invaluable.

"The new application, iRecord, is one of the most powerful communication tools we have as a church," Pastor Lillo said.

AMN chief executive officer Neale Schofield said the iApp captured Pastor Wilson's imagination.

"The vision at Adventist Media Network is to use media to ensure the Adventist message is 'never more than an arm's length away'," Mr Schofield said.

Pastor Wilson drew the 10 winners of a free iPad from the hundreds of entrants who had written in saying why they love the new-look, colour RECORD.

Western Australian resident Belinda Morton said, "I live

in a remote Aboriginal community with no other Adventists; iRecord connects me to my worldwide Church with the click of a button."

Prize winners have been notified, and the names and their winning entries are printed below.

1. Joseph Mapuor (NSW): "The new RECORD looks great! It is colourful, eye-catching and attractive/appealing. It is an ideal magazine for 21st century readers."
2. Carol Williams (Qld): "It's inspiring, up-to-date, newsy, easy to read, relevant for all ages, keeps us in touch with our church family and with our God."
3. Marlene Kruis (North NZ): "It even inspires my non Adventist friends and family to pick it up from my coffee table and read it."
4. Melefue Puloka (Tonga): "The colour and online RECORD is very attractive and eye-catching. Also bright and interesting to read compared to the old RECORD!"
5. Mark Hansen (WA): "New-look RECORD looks crisp, clear and contemporary. The idea about getting it 'electronically' is fantastic."
6. Melinda Axthelm (QLD): "The RECORD is full of great stories, something for all ages and a great testament to God's great work which can be shared!"
7. Ben Chapman (NSW): "The RECORD is now much more digestible for busy people like myself, with a good range of pithy, relevant articles addressing contemporary issues."
8. Tracy Ling (South NZ): "Informative, colourful, creative, intentional, interesting, attractive, insightful, modern, filled with variety—FANTASTIC! I look forward to reading it every second week!"
9. Graham Wynniatt (SA): "Christianity needs to be vibrant and up-to-date with current trends to meet the community where it lives. The new RECORD is vibrant."
10. Aaron Orellana (Vic): "The new RECORD is: colourful, vibrant, simplistic, informative, humorous, family-friendly, community-based, inspiring, faith boosting and awesome."

Revona Govender is a communication intern.

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OPINION

Justin Lawman

Whipping a dead horse

You and I both know that it does not work! If the horse is dead, it's dead. And it does not matter how hard you whip or how loud you yell, it's not going to move. Your only chance is to perform CPR, praying that God will somehow bring the poor creature back to life, or dig a hole and bury it.

The same is true of churches. Scripture tells us that churches can die spiritually. Jesus said to Sardis, "you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead," (Revelation 3:1). Remember that this is not based on the eloquence of the preacher or the power of the music, but a lack of connection with God (see John 15:6). If your church is spiritually dead, one thing you can be sure of, no matter how hard you whip it, or what new and creative programs you run, it just won't grow.

Is it possible you are in a dead church? Is it possible you have lost your connection with Christ? Even Sardis the dead church of Revelation 3 had "a few people" (v.4) who had not fallen asleep. But if you are in such a church it would be pointless whipping it with endless rounds of programs and activities.

It seems smarter to me that we take the time to have a long, hard, honest look at ourselves. A Natural Church Development, National Church Life Survey or some other diagnostic tool can help us discover our true spiritual condition. Then prayerfully ask God to breathe life back into the body. A church that is alive will never have to be whipped or pushed into mission because alive churches "bear much fruit" (see John 15:5).



Pastor Justin Lawman serves the NNSW Conference as evangelism coordinator.

OPINION POLL

Is there a place for Christian rebuke?

- No, never
- Yes, only between close friends
- Yes, only between church members
- Yes, whenever required

Refer to *We need more sinners in church* (page 14)
Visit <record.net.au> to answer this poll.

Options don't suit you? Send a letter to the editor (250 words or less)





Wholegrains

Spelt, durum, quinoa and triticale. To many of us these could be exotic plants or deep sea creatures, but they are all types of wholegrains.

Wholegrains have shaped our eating habits since earliest times and health authorities recommend we include wholegrains as part of our daily food intake.

What is a wholegrain?

Wholegrain foods contain all of the layers of the grain—the outer bran layer which is fibre rich, the nutrient-rich germ and the starchy endosperm. They are an extremely good source of fibre, vitamins and minerals, phytochemicals and carbohydrates for sustained energy.

When grain-based foods are refined, one or more of these natural components is often removed. Think of white flour—both the bran and germ have been removed, losing up to 70 per cent of the essential fibre, vitamins and minerals during the refining process. It's only when the three layers of the grain are included that we get all the benefits of wholegrains. Research indicates that wholegrains:

- ▶ Protect against cardiovascular disease
- ▶ Assist with weight control
- ▶ Reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes
- ▶ Improve bowel health and regularity
- ▶ Have a low glycaemic index, meaning slow release energy
- ▶ Protect against certain cancers
- ▶ Provide essential nutrients such as fibre, folate, vitamin E, magnesium, B vitamins, zinc and antioxidants.

Increasing wholegrain is easy

It is recommended that at least half of the grain foods that we eat are wholegrain. So, if we eat a minimum of six

serves of cereal foods each day (as is recommended for good health), we need to make at least three serves of these wholegrain. Single serve examples are: 1 slice of wholegrain bread; 1 cup cooked brown rice; 1 cup cooked wholemeal pasta; ½ cup cooked porridge; ½ cup muesli.

It doesn't take much to increase our intake. Making some of the changes below may be all we need to meet our daily requirements.

- ▶ Choose wholemeal or wholegrain breads where possible. You can gradually change from white bread by having a sandwich with one piece of wholegrain bread such as rye bread and one piece of white bread.
- ▶ Choosing a wholegrain breakfast cereal is an easy way to get one wholegrain serve into the day.
- ▶ Use wholemeal flour for baking, when practical to do so.
- ▶ Snack on a handful of homemade popcorn instead of chips or salty crackers.
- ▶ Add unpearled barley to hearty winter soups.
- ▶ Snack on wholegrain crackers instead of plain varieties.
- ▶ Add rolled oats to biscuits, cakes and muffins for some extra wholegrain goodness.
- ▶ Serve brown rice and wholemeal pasta. If brown rice is not your favourite try a mix of brown and white rice.
- ▶ Eat corn tortillas or taco shells with spicy beans.

Call and speak with one of our nutritionists, 1800 673 392 (Aus) or 0800 100 257 (NZ). Alternatively, email us with a nutrition question at <nutrition@sanitarium.com.au> (Aus) or <nutrition@sanitarium.co.nz> (NZ). And don't forget to order your FREE copy of *Food for Health and Happiness Cookbook*—it has plenty of delicious and wholesome recipes. You may order the cookbook by visiting our website <www.sanitarium.com.au> or <www.sanitarium.co.nz>.



RECIPE

Honey and soy fried rice



- 2 cups long-grain brown rice
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 100g baby corn, thinly sliced
- 1 cup frozen green peas
- 1/3 cup unsalted roasted cashews, chopped
- 2 ½ tablespoons reduced-salt soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon peanut oil
- 3 green spring onions, thinly sliced
- 1 carrot, coarsely grated
- 1 cup bean sprouts, trimmed

1. Cook the rice, following packet directions, until tender. Drain well. Refrigerate until cold. Whisk soy sauce and honey in a jug. Set aside.
2. Heat 1 teaspoon oil in wok over medium-high heat. Swirl the eggs around wok to form a thin omelette. Cook for 1 minute. Roll omelette and cook until just set. Place on a board. Slice omelette into thin strips.
Heat remaining oil in wok over high heat. Add green onions and corn to wok. Stir-fry for 1 minute.
3. Add rice, carrot, peas and soy mixture. Stir-fry for 2-3 minutes until hot. Toss through bean sprouts, cashews and omelette strips. Spoon into individual bowls and serve.

Serves 6. Preparation time: 10 minutes. Cook time: 15 minutes.

Tip: Brown rice takes longer to cook than white rice, but the time is definitely worth it—it's packed full of fibre and has a wonderful, nutty flavour.

PER SERVE: Kilojoules 1700kJ; Protein 11g; Fat 10g; Carbohydrate 65g; Sodium 280mg; Potassium 310mg; Calcium 32mg; Iron 2.3mg; Fibre 5g.



OPENING HIS WORD

David McKibben

The person of the Holy Spirit

All of the historic creeds of the Christian faith contain a statement of belief in the Holy Spirit. However, when it comes to the practical impact of this teaching upon the life of the individual believer and the corporate life of the Church, there is a wide range of experience from neglect to a major emphasis on spiritual phenomena associated with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

What does the Bible teach about the personality of the Holy Spirit?

-The Holy Spirit is described in personal terms.

Read John 16:13, 14. In these two verses Jesus uses the personal pronoun six times in reference to the Holy Spirit. This is consistent throughout Scripture; the Holy Spirit is referred to as 'He' and never as 'it'.

-The activities of the Holy Spirit identify Him as a Being who is personal. He convicts (John 16:8-11), helps and intercedes (Romans 8:26, 27), guides (John 16:13) and teaches (John 14:26), to name but a few. These activities are personal in nature; they cannot be performed by a mere power or influence.

-The Holy Spirit has personal qualities. **Read** John 14:16-18 and Ephesians 4:30. The word 'Counsellor' conveys the idea of someone who comes alongside us to help and encourage. According to the verse in Ephesians, it is possible to hurt the Spirit, which indicates that He has feelings. This provides an insight into the words of Jesus about the unpardonable sin.

Read Matthew 12:31, 32.

In summary, therefore, the Holy Spirit is a Person. He does not have the outward form of a person as we usually conceive it, but He has personality and we can have a powerful and meaningful relationship with Him.

Pastor David McKibben is senior pastor of Parramatta church, NSW.



HEALTH WISE

Dr James Wright

The black dog

Depression is impacting more and more people. Although more common in older folk, no age group escapes. It is more than temporary mental misery. It creeps on insidiously, often associated with negative events and gradually takes over mind and body. It starts with difficulty in coping with routine matters, becoming less agile physically and mentally. Small incidents become big ones.

Sleep difficulties are common, and minor issues become mental mountains during the night. Then this horrible black feeling of hopelessness takes over. It's commonly called the "black dog", for this is all a person sees. Normal mental acuity falters, enthusiasm drops, one often wants to stay in bed and avoid contact with others, or avoid their usual work. In many it can be destructive, with a downhill spiral. Thoughts of self harm or worse may take over. Increasing numbers take this fatal step. Please seek help. Try simple changes. Exercise more, speak to others, look at flowers and gardens. Music is soothing. Don't resort to food as a solace. Many do, get fat and feel worse. Many resort to prayer and a spiritual solution. Read Psalms 77 twice a day.

This helps, but most need more. See a doctor. Cognitive behavioural therapy helps. SSRI medication is also effective. It takes up to six weeks for a beneficial outcome. If one brand seems ineffective, the doctor may prescribe another. National depression initiative [beyondblue](http://beyondblue.com.au) is an excellent self-help resource.

Unwell? Go to <docwright.com.au>. Enter symptom and click for immediate help. If symptoms continue, see your doctor.



TAUPO, New Zealand

Rochelle Rielly

I am from the Taupo church (pronounced Toe-paw) on the north island of New Zealand. Although our church only has 21 members, we are a growing church. Attendance has increased in the past few years from nine adults and four children to a young church with lots of kids.

A main reason for the growth has been having a resident minister. He and his family came in and it has made the biggest difference.

Our Pathfinder club had eight children and five adults who attended the Under Oath Pathfinder Camporee in Australia. We have a fairly big club for the size of our church. We were hosted at the camporee by the Mackay Central club. It was a wonderful experience and I would recommend it to anyone. We plan to pass it forward and host another club at the next camporee we attend.

Nearly everyone from the school has gone to the church. One Pathfinder who attends from the school is a non-Adventist. The friendly young people at our church are always inviting and bringing friends to church and programs like Pathfinders. That is what I love about the Adventist church. It is the only church that offers such a huge variety of interests for people. Clubs like Pathfinders, our health emphasis, our education work—there is something for everyone. If you can't find something to interest you, you have a problem.



Push stewardship

by Ken Long



OUR STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS NEVER SEEM TO work” or “Their impact is only temporary” are common complaints. Unless there is a change in focus, they will continue to fail.

Push marketing describes where a retailer tries to reach a large, demographically diverse audience with a single message in order to reach the few that may be currently interested in the product or service. Most traditional advertising methods (magazine, billboard, newspaper, TV, etc), as well as online banner ads and email broadcasts, are push marketing.

In essence, push marketing is an attempt by the retailer to manipulate the consumer to buy what the retailer is supplying irrespective of whether or not the good or service supplied meets the customer’s needs or expectations. Push marketing is encapsulated in the quote by Henry Ford who said Ford customers could have any colour car they wanted as long as it was black.

Morris Tabaksblat, the former CEO of Unilever, one of the world’s biggest advertisers, said, “The maker can no longer make the consumer do what he decides. The era of ‘push selling’ is definitely over.” Push marketing is largely ineffective because it focuses on the supplier’s point of view and fails to focus on the point of view of the consumer. When the customer poses the poignant question, “What’s in this for me?”, he struggles to find a meaningful answer.

Push marketing is finished. And so is push stewardship. Push stewardship is the way we typically do stewardship. We focus on the obligation to give, the obligation to be faithful. We focus on the need to support the work of the Church and its missions and to support the Gospel (see *Church Manual*, Chapter 12–Gospel Finance). We focus almost exclusively on giving from the church organisation’s perspective. Push stewardship is finished because it focuses on obligation and not blessing. It’s finished because of its singular and dated approach to a diverse and complex population. It’s finished because it promotes giving in a way which, while scripturally sound, ignores the compelling, giver-oriented way in which Jesus presented stewardship.

Most church stewardship programs seem to be developed on the mistaken understanding that change in information equals change in behaviour (see Michael Schrage, *Serious Play*). The reality is that change in information rarely

results in change in behaviour. This may well explain why the myriad of stewardship brochures and programs rarely result in sustained and meaningful changes in giving behaviours.

What is the alternative? Effective marketers generate interest by focusing on what potential customers want and the problems they need solved. They look at the product or service from the customer’s perspective. They use this client-centred marketing strategy to pull prospects in. Customers purchase products or services because you understand their needs and the products or services you sell solve their problems or offer compelling and real benefits.

When it comes to stewardship promotion, the potential giver asks the question, “What’s in it for me?”, and generally comes up with nothing. Why? Because everything is framed from the Church’s perspective or a biblical perspective without regard to promoting the benefits to the giver.

Yet, when the Bible talks about giving it spells out frequent and compelling giver benefits:

no worries—“I tell you, do not worry” (Matt 6:25). What greater selling benefit could there be in a world overcome by anxiety and worry?

guaranteed necessities—“. . . all these things (food, shelter and clothing) will be given to you AS WELL” (Matt 6:25). WOW, the necessities of life will be provided on top of not having to worry.

reciprocity—“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap” (Luke 6:38).

the abundance effect—“. . . see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it” (Mal 3:10).

Sustained changes in stewardship behaviour can be achieved by focusing on pull stewardship:

- by promoting the benefits of stewardship to the giver rather than spelling out the obligations;
- by directing the stewardship communications to specific target markets in a relevant and culturally sensitive way;
- by understanding that stewardship is not about running stewardship programs—it is about behaviour change and culture change;
- by understanding that changes in information do not equate to changes in behaviour.

Ken Long attends Kellyville church, Sydney, NSW.





We need m sinners

IF I INVITED MY TWO LESBIAN FRIENDS TO CHURCH WITH THEIR DAUGHTER, how would you react? Would you be uncomfortable? Would you overlook certain aspects of their lifestyle if they were not Christians yet? What if they began attending church regularly and began studying with the pastor? That might be tolerable because we'd be expecting to see life-change as they got to know Jesus, right? What if they stayed in their lifestyle and kept coming after one year or more? How would we feel if they didn't 'change'? How long would we tolerate their behaviour in church?

This article actually isn't about being gay. It's about creating an environment of acceptance in our churches. Most people would agree outwardly that church should be a place of refuge, a safe place from an unloving, self-absorbed, disconnecting world. But do we as a church intentionally embrace messy sinners as they are? Do we expect people to 'clean themselves up' before they come to church?

God is sending thousands of spiritually curious, messy, sinful people to our churches every week—how are we going with loving them? What about the defectors in your church? What about the teenager who gets smashed every Friday night after vespers? How about the 'stud' who is methodically sleeping his way around the girls at school? How are we going loving that girl in the short, short skirt and Marilyn Manson singlet? What about her Muslim friend? The alcoholic? Feeling uncomfortable yet? Blood pressure on the rise?

I think we should fill our churches to the brim with sinners. Yes, the hurt, scared, unsure, broken sinners, beaten up by a world full of hate and violence, evil, abuse and selfishness . . . just like us. They are so in need of a Saviour . . . just like us! In fact, I think creating an accepting culture where sinners feel comfortable will cause a stampede:

"God is responsible for the growth, for changed hearts, but the soil is the responsibility of the leaders and Christ-followers who make up that church. Creating a come-as-you-are culture is the most important task leaders can undertake to engage a post-Christian society, and yet we often give culture creation little mental effort."¹

I'd like to see big flashing neon signs on the front lawns of our churches reading "Imperfect people needed, come as you are, all welcome". And mean it. I believe having more sinners in our churches has many benefits. Consider the following:

1. We get to be 'grace with skin on'². To be filled with grace is to stand experiencing death to self and experiencing a spiritual rebirth. God's grace seems to align freedom, joy and inner peace as the default of the soul; let us not keep it to ourselves³. Once we have experienced grace God wants us to become a dispenser of grace. Grace with skin on distributes kindness when people deserve anger, love when people deserve discipline and inclusion when people deserve to be ostracised. Those who don't know God will not reach up for grace; they don't even know it exists. We can be like the

by Rochelle Melville



ore in church

empty tubing that distributes oxygen from the tank to an oxygen mask. We can be the human link for those gasping for breath as the world tries to choke them. When sinners experience grace face-to-face in the limited way we can offer it, we give them a stick figure drawing of what Jesus is like. Jesus never saw church as a place to 'go', but as a community of people who love Him and who are learning to love others. When we model a grace mentality we demonstrate an understanding that it's not an 'us' and 'them' world, but it is sin-sick humanity vs the evil one; we are all journeying to Jesus.

2. Sinners confront conformity. We need to stop trying to make sinners like us and concentrate on letting them become more like Jesus as we try to become more like Jesus. As sinners don't know the unwritten codes of church going, they may: clap in the sanctuary, duck down to KFC for their pot luck contribution, use street language during personal testimony time or bring a different girlfriend to Bible study each week.

When we are confronted by the rawness of sinners' questions, we may struggle to find answers and that is good; we need to wrestle and ask 'Is this just formalism or is it authentic Christianity expressed?' It forces us to really know what and why we believe, not just habitually follow a religiousness handed down by our parents.

Their questions will keep us relevant and reaching the unchurched: Why do we have three offerings and pray after each one? Why do we sit, stand, sit, stand, sit, stand, sit, in church? Why should we get married when Adam and Eve weren't? And what is a 'pascal lamb'?

Sinners don't mind if we don't have all the answers but they dislike know-it-alls who give superficial answers, those who have not wrestled with issues or difficult passages of Scripture. Sinners need compassionate listening; we don't want to be so heavy-handed in showing them the truth that we lose our relationship with them. Let us confront what are just traditions and personal preferences and ask 'What do we need to do to bring hope to a disengaged world'?

3. Gets rid of religious pride. Creating a culture of acceptance for all sinners is a weekly leveller that reminds us that our acts of goodness, kindness and love are as dirty rags and not our ticket into church or into heaven. There are no big sins or little sins; sin is sin and all have the same death

penalty. Some of us get pretty good at hiding our sin; at church we put on our 'church face'. . . but wouldn't it be great to actually have an authentic community of believers who were intentional about being real about difficulties and admit where we are at spiritually. What if church became a place to admit that, yes, as Christ followers we still struggle with porn, addictions, unfaithfulness, rage, guilt, (insert personal vice here)? Wouldn't it be great if church was a place where nobody felt alone and where we share life together at a deep, authentic level?

The Acts 2 church is commonly upheld among Christ followers as a model for church but rarely do we intentionally move our church towards that kind of interdependency.

When we allow people to be ostracised by our congregation for outwardly obvious 'sins' (yes, they did cheat on their spouse, or yes, she's 16 and pregnant) we contribute to a church based on fear instead of grace. When sinners walk in our door they have very sensitive internal alarms that ring at the slightest whiff of hypocrisy. Sinners will see this practice of judgement and we will hear the door slam shut as they leave. Who wants to come to a church where there is the potential that their sins will be pointed out to them, when they can live out in the world and everyone says 'You're OK to me'. Secular society is accepting to the point where there is a blurring of black and white into grey to the point where it is difficult to recognise right and wrong. But they sure know how to tolerate sinners.

So let us fill our arms and our pews with messy sinners. Let us intentionally develop a grace-filled-and-spilling-over revolutionary community of believers that invites people to bring their warts, but not stay that way. We have been commissioned to be the arms of Jesus until they get to know Jesus Christ for themselves and love them until they dare lay it all at the foot of the cross and are changed.

*Please note that I am using the term 'sinner' a little tongue-in-cheek, confronting the often unspoken 'us' (Christ followers) and 'them' (sinners) culture that sometimes pervades our thinking.

¹ John Burke, *No Perfect People Allowed*, p 23.

² Term created by Philip Yancy

³ 2 Corinthians 2:15

Rochelle Melville is a homeschooling mum-of-three who lives in Brisbane, Qld.



WHY I BECAME AN ADVENTIST



with Dr Barry Oliver

Sound framework

Our doctrines are to the Church what the skeleton is to the body. Our skeleton holds us up and holds us together. It gives shape to the body and provides a framework through which everything else happens. It stops us from flip-flopping all over the place. When our skeleton is strong our body is able to function as it should. When it is weak we are in real trouble. Of course, there is a lot more to the body than the skeleton. And there is a lot more to the Church than its doctrine. If we were just a skeleton we would be dead—and this holds true for the Church!

Our doctrines or teachings are derived from the Word of God. The Bible alone is our rule of faith and practice. Nothing usurps the place of the Bible. But the Bible was written as a narrative. It was not written as a systematic theology. Therefore Seventh-day Adventists have developed a statement of our teachings which enables us to succinctly describe the doctrinal framework through which we live and experience our relationship with God and the world around us. That statement is known as our 28 Fundamental Beliefs. It is like a series of boundaries which help to provide us with our identity. If we were to dispense with such boundaries we would cease to exist. When "anything goes", everything usually does—and the Church would be no more.

Our Church is special because we have a clear succinct doctrinal framework which is based on the Bible and which gives meaning and purpose for life. Don't let anyone tell you it doesn't matter. Just ask anyone who has a few broken bones!

Dr Barry Oliver is president of the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

I remember sitting on a mountain side with a group of friends, high on drugs, out of control, disillusioned, unsatisfied, feeling as if I was dying. We had taken way too much LSD. Our drug-induced euphoria had turned to a crazy nightmare of paranoia, misunderstanding and physical collapse on the side of a walking track somewhere in South Africa. Despite wasting the better part of my youth rejecting God, He miraculously introduced Himself to me at the point when I was addicted to drugs, suicidal, disillusioned and despondent.

Over time He showed Himself to be the God of truth and freedom. He helped me understand His laws were there to protect me. I realised there was a great spiritual battle raging over my life for loyalty and commitment. Through careful study of the Bible, I learned about Jesus and the plan of salvation. I accepted His gracious offer of a second chance at life as I had nothing to lose at that point in time. I also came to understand the message and mission of our Church.

Today, I serve God as a Seventh-day Adventist pastor in Whangarei, north New Zealand. I believe our Church was raised up by God to be a witness to the world that people cannot save themselves. Jesus' love provides freedom from guilt and from slavery to habits and addictions. I also discovered freedom to be what God intended me to be. He has a plan for everyone. I thank God for not giving up on me 13 years ago—though I'd given up on Him.—*Adrian Webster*



MY MINISTRY IDEA

Two years ago my friend Keith Allen was invited to visit India and asked me to join him. One of the places we visited was the village of Jaggampeta where evangelical pastor Surendra Kumar's HIS Ministries is based. We discovered that Surendra and his wife, Neelu, had a passion for helping widows and abandoned women in the village. His desire was to set up a tailoring training centre for these women to enable them to earn an income to provide for their families. We agreed to fundraise for the project.

The project provides six months training and a free sewing machine to graduates. Quickly, the project expanded into the neighbouring village of Ragampeta, so now two centres train 20 students each. It now includes young girls who are housebound awaiting marriage. So far, around 100 women and girls have graduated and received sewing machines, and another 40 were expected to graduate last month.

Many of the women in this program are Hindus. Every morning there is Bible study and prayer before the training begins. A number of women have received miraculous healing through prayer, including two women who had suffered from serious epilepsy. Many have come to know Jesus as a result.

Last year I took a team of eight people from the Cherrybrook Adventist Church (Sydney) and other churches to visit this project. We visited the homes of the women and heard their personal testimonies of how the training had impacted their lives. Most were sewing for their family and their neighbours through a small home-based business. For more information, contact Bruce at <b.judd@unsw.edu.au> or phone 0411 257 202.—*Bruce Judd*



LETTERS

NAVEL-GAZING AND AVOIDING CHANGE

Danny Bell, WA

Dear editor, you've said what many are thinking but too afraid to say in "An inconvenient truth" (Editorial, February 5).

We need to come out of our dreamworld as Seventh-day Adventists and get a grip on reality. The Church is growing in reverse and nobody is saying boo.

We continue to have a flurry of activity—but it's awards and retirement celebrations—evidence that the Church is navel-gazing and avoiding change in order to turn the situation around.

For many Adventists, it's sadly about being good rather than doing good. We are all strapped in on the plane but it is not due to take off for ages—as people have yet to be helped aboard—very sad.

TRULY BLESSED

Esther Chan, NZ

I felt truly blessed to read "The Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian"(Feature, January 22).

I'm impressed the power of the Holy Spirit can lead people to accept Christ and be baptised.

The Holy Spirit can also lead people to preach the Gospel, heal the sick and prophesy.

I fully agree with the author of this article that it's necessary for Christians to experience the Holy Spirit in their lives—so that they can serve God more effectively and gain victory over Satan, just as Jesus did.

COVERED

Errol Webster, NSW

Without the Holy Spirit we would never accept Jesus

and be covered with His righteousness, nor could we live the Christian life.

The author says we need the Holy Spirit to "have the victories necessary to become just like Jesus and be ready for His Second Coming".

Does this mean we have to become sinless and perfect "just like Jesus" to be ready?

A SURVEY?

Name withheld, NZ

Regarding "Role call" (Feature, January 22), as someone who enjoys receiving RECORD, but who for personal reasons doesn't attend church. Might I suggest a survey for readers who don't attend church to see if they still wish to be on church membership rolls.

COUNT ME IN

Werner Tubbe, WA

Thank you for the thought-provoking article "Role call". I'm in. As membership secretary and previous church clerk, I have been struggling for years to keep a meaningful church roll.

Unfortunately, neither members nor elders see this as a big deal. Inreach is as important as outreach, but is widely neglected. And commitment tends to be low for some members as 'floating' has become fashionable, particularly amongst youth.

Our roll has reached a level where more than half of the members don't attend worship services regularly.

With the support of our pastor limited progress has been made, however, there are many names on our roll who haven't been seen at church for over 20 years. We need to take a serious look at our church rolls to be relevant.

MEMBERSHIP: THE ONLY TIE

Daniel Matteo, NSW

I appreciated the intent of "Role call".

Unfortunately, church membership is so much more than a name on a roll. It's a sign we've accepted a person into our church family.

As a former inactive member, I can tell you membership is the only tie many have with the Church—a tie that ensures the Church does not entirely forget that they exist or want to sever.

For leaders, even if inactive names are an administrative headache, let's work to bring those people back instead of erasing them from our memory with the stroke of a pen.

For those out there who haven't been for a while, please come back! We love and miss you. And we can't finish God's work without you.

TOO PERFECT?

Lena Jowett, NSW

In reference to "Ellen White, the Bible and Perfection" (Feature, December 4, 2010), I often think of those who are discouraged and wonder why?

I'm reminded why this may be so. I was visiting another church and was a little late in arriving. I heard the sound of worship inside the church. Should I enter being a little late?

I noticed someone else late and started to chat. She told me she had never been to any church before and was just walking past. You could see that she was a little reluctant to enter and so I asked why. "They are all so perfect, I don't think I belong in there," was her response.

Note: Views in letters do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Letters should be less than 250 words, and writers must include their name, address and phone number. All letters are edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author's original meaning will not be changed. Not all letters received are published.

Usheering in the Kingdom of God
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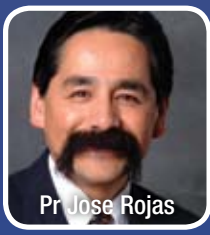
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RECORD REWIND

Arthur Patrick

Advent movement gathers momentum

As 1844 neared, the Millerites started many magazines, heralding their urgent belief in the soon return of Jesus. Some titles still arrest our attention: *Morning Watch*, *Signs of the Times and Expositor of Prophecy*, *Second Coming of Christ*, *Voice of Elijah*. One Millerite paper, *The Midnight Cry*, was so named because its publishers felt that they were giving the message of Matthew 25 at earth's midnight hour, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him".

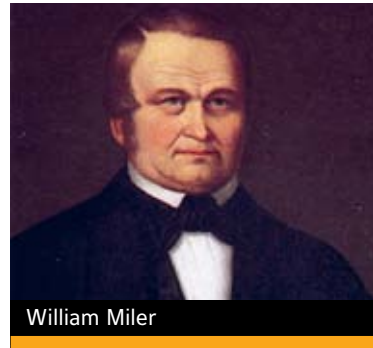
The Midnight Cry of March 24, 1844, suggested that between 1500 and 2000 "lecturers" were "proclaiming the kingdom of heaven is at hand". We learn much about our Seventh-day Adventist roots by tracing the experience of ministers and lay people who dedicated themselves to the Advent cause.

A pioneering historian, Everett Dick, analysed the church roots of 174 of these "heralds of the Advent near". He concluded that 44 per cent were Methodist, 27 per cent were Baptist, 9 per cent were Congregationalist, 8 per cent were Presbyterian. Some were Friends (Quakers) or, like James White and Joseph Bates, members of the Christian Connection.

I've created a "character silhouette" of Charles Fitch from the stirring primary sources that are available. On March 5, 1838, as "pastor of an orthodox Congregational Church" in Boston, Fitch wrote to William Miller that "a few weeks since, your lectures on the second coming of Christ were put into my hands". Fitch created "quite an excitement" in his Marlborough Chapel in Boston on February 27, 1838, when he took the second advent as his theme and Revelation 22:20 as his text. "In discoursing from these words," he said, "I propose to consider: I. What we are to understand by the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is here brought to view; II. Some things Christ will do when He comes. III. Inquire whether there is any reason to believe that the coming of Christ, brought to view in this text, may be near."

Twice Charles Fitch lost employment for preaching his convictions. In the next RECORD Rewind we will unpack more about what it meant for him to believe in "the Advent near".

Dr Arthur Patrick is an honorary senior research fellow at Avondale College, NSW.



William Miller

Photo: Andrew University

MYSTERY HISTORY



Do you know?

- Taken in the Solomon Islands
- The date the photo was taken
- The people in the photo

Send to heritage@avondale.edu.au

BIBLE TEXT CRYPTOGRAM

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Isaiah 53:5

*Hello in Chinese (Mandarin)

Kids' SPACE



Ni Hao*
Kids

Colour in the picture
 and write the words
THANK YOU JESUS
 on the cross.



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Hidden masks

REMEMBER MY DATING YEARS AS A 20 SOMETHING. It was a time when the motto “image is everything”, dictated my actions. I had a well-inflated opinion of myself, a feeling that came from a false identity filled with self-indulgence on material things and social status—expensive clothes, convertible sports cars and a manipulative charm on women. This air of arrogance fuelled an ego with a standard for getting what I wanted. I flaunted the image until I hit 30 and began a professional career in corporate America—while having one foot in the door of the church.

Then I met Lizette*. Six months after meeting Lizette on the dance floor, I slipped a one carat diamond on a solitaire setting around her ring finger. What ensued was the beginning of a rollercoaster ride straight out of a Stephen King horror novel.

My life-altering choice in this story was to marry a woman with differing values—a stout believer of new age teachings. Yes, she had a god. She called it her “inner god”. It was an appealing humanistic spirituality, and I immersed myself feet first in her brand of gospel during a time when I had no relationship with the only One who can save.

During most of our relationship, I ignored a series of warning signals, mostly from out-of-control fits of rage that erupted after silly arguments. “It’ll be okay,” I told myself. “She’ll change.”

As arguments and resentments piled up, we were stuck in a cycle of inflicting pain on each other and we never found a way out. This was a stand-off that, according to one trusted pastor’s wisdom, would have never been resolved without the basis of two committed Christians surrendering to a relationship built on trust and unconditional love under God’s sovereign grace.

Numerous blow-ups conditioned me to live next to a ticking time bomb. I was always on edge. The verbal abuse had caused me to shut down emotionally. On any average evening coming home from work, I didn’t know which wife I was going to get. I could “sense” the enemy

present even before I walked in. It was a home divided, with angels and demons in the spiritual world waging war in the living room, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom.

One such event happened in our apartment after an argument. I was accustomed to the vulgar expletives, but this episode was different—the physical. She swung several times toward my face but never actually connected. Lizette was strong from 16 years of training and swimming competitively. Looking back, some things don’t make sense in the physical world until you get to analyse it later with a spiritual perspective. I could only attribute this to angels protecting me.

My misguided adult journey up to this point was a case study of an insecure man hiding behind many masks, unaware of the counsels of the Redeemer that would transform me from making self-destructive life choices to living life abundantly. Up to this point, I had no heavenly compass.

In therapy sessions, my own “crimes” in the marriage began to surface. My diagnosis was the “silent knight”. I was a husband not able to be completely transparent with my wife; a man not able to speak truth about what he truly wanted, which was a life of service and ministry to God. Doing so would mean losing control of the false identity—losing the trophy wife I had. Instead, I took the easy way out—dishonesty and emotional withdrawal.

When Lizette needed me to offer her grace, gentleness, understanding and validation of her feelings, I wasn’t equipped to do so. Early in the relationship, she, the staunch agnostic, asked, “Will this Adventist Sabbath-keeping stuff get in the way of us?” and I answered smugly, “No”. I knew the truth. But ego and willpower had the upper hand again.

My truth was devoid of the love I never knew I needed—one of a Saviour who stood in place of my sins so I could live, love, serve. The moment I realised my dysfunction, the reality of change became present. The change encapsulated one word—surrender.

Already clinically depressed, I was at the lowest point



Marcel Schwantes

of my life. At work one morning, I was desperate. I walked into the men's room, locked myself in and turned off the lights.

In the dark, I began to feel a calming. In a symbolic gesture of a man who reached his lowest point, I, the brash, cocky, image-conscious, manipulative womaniser, now found myself on bended knees using the toilet as my altar. I had reached breaking point. I knelt over a place where people sit to expel their human waste. And now, in a way, I was doing the same—expelling the waste of my life in one swift spiritual purging. I was about to be made clean by a force I never knew.

"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).

I hugged the porcelain toilet like a long lost friend, closed the lid, buried my head in my arms, and spoke these words of repentance:

"Lord, I can't do this any longer. I have nothing left. I don't know what to do. So I surrender my life to you. I need you more than ever. I don't know if you're there, but if you are, please come into my heart now Jesus. Take over and give me a new life. I give my life to You. Please come in. Please come in."

Immediately, I felt a presence I had never felt before flooding over me, comforting me, assuring me. I now released this body of flesh full of carnal lusts, hatreds, impulsiveness, sexual sins, shame, guilt and a myriad of other sinful patterns to Him.

I stood up, legs trembling from this amazing experience. With the most peaceful calm I have ever felt, I walked outside, took a deep breath and filled my lungs with purified air. I was set free.

I drove home from work having shed a mask that I wore for years—the one which kept me from making eye contact with the Redeemer who had just rescued me. R

* name has been changed

Marcel Schwantes has remarried and attends CONNECT, a multi-generational contemporary worship service in Collegedale Seventh-day Adventist Church, TN, with his wife. Marcel now works as a professional life coach.

POSITIONS VACANT

■ **Administration assistant—It Is Written Oceania (Wahroonga, NSW)** is seeking a full-time admin. assistant. Flexible working arrangements are possible. For information about It Is Written Oceania visit <www.itiswrittenoceania.tv>. The successful applicant will assist in day-to-day management of the database system for recording donations, creating reports and mailing lists; handling phone and web enquiries; coordinating the ministry resources; providing general administrative support and other administrative support activities as requested from time-to-time. The successful applicant must be a baptised member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with full commitment to its message, mission and lifestyle. He/she should have interest, skills and experience in working within a small team; effective communication; coordinating projects to ensure deadlines are met; attention to detail and accuracy; willing to take the initiative to develop the role's responsibilities; and public and personal evangelism. Overseas applicants should ensure they can satisfy Australian working visa requirements before applying for this position. Applications and enquiries should be directed to: Calvin Dever, Corporate Services, Adventist Media Network on (02) 9847 2222 or email <kalvindever@adventistmedia.org.au>. Applications close **March 11, 2011**.

■ **Audit manager (GCAS)—South Pacific Division (Wahroonga, NSW)**. The General Conference Auditing Service (GCAS) is seeking expressions of interest for the position of audit manager. Based at the South Pacific Division (SPD) head office in Wahroonga, NSW, the key function of this position is to conduct large and complex audits as assigned by the regional manager with the primary objective of determining that financial statements fairly present the financial condition of the client and to report non-compliance with policies, laws and governmental regulations as may be discovered during the audit. For more information and a full job description on the selection criteria, please email Mark Pannekoek on <markpannekoek@adventist.org.au>. To apply, please forward all written applications, including your CV, three work-related referees and the contact information of your church pastor, to: Human Resources Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Ltd, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga, NSW 2076, Australia. Fax (02) 9489 0943 or email <hr@adventist.org.au>. Only those who have the legal right to work in Australia may apply for this position. The appointing body reserves the right to fill this position at its discretion. Applications close **March 20, 2011**.

■ **Audit senior (GCAS)—South Pacific Division (Wahroonga, NSW)**. The General Conference Auditing Service (GCAS) is seeking expressions of interest for the position of audit senior. Based at the South Pacific Division (SPD) head office in Wahroonga, NSW, the key function of this position is to conduct small and medium sized audits as assigned by the regional manager with the primary objective of determining that financial statements fairly present the financial condition of the client and to report non-compliance with policies, laws and governmental regulations as may be discovered during the audit. For more information and a full job description on the selection criteria, please email Mark Pannekoek on <markpannekoek@adventist.org.au>. To apply, please forward all written applications, including your CV, three work-related referees and the contact information of your church pastor, to: Human Resources Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Ltd, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga, NSW 2076 Australia. Fax: (02) 9489 0943 or email <hr@adventist.org.au>. Only those who have the legal right to work in Australia may apply for this position. The appointing body reserves the right to fill this position at its discretion. Applications close **March 20, 2011**.

POSITIONS VACANT

■ **Healthy Adventist Churches assistant—North NZ Conference.** Take on a brand new ministry opportunity that focuses on supporting local churches to reach and serve their communities. If you love being part of an action team, a full-time position is available. The NNZC Healthy Adventist Churches team provides mentoring, coaching and support to local churches in the areas of leadership, church planting, church health, children, youth, worship and spiritual growth. A job description is available on the NNZC website <www.nnzc.org.nz>. If you wish to apply for this exciting new position, send us your CV with a statement on why you believe you are the best person for this role. Email <btimothy@adventist.org.nz> or send to The General Secretary, North New Zealand Conference, Private Bag 76900, Manukau City, Auckland 2241.

■ **Clinical placement officer—Avondale College (Wahroonga, NSW).** Avondale College's Bachelor of Nursing course has over 1000 hours of required clinical experience for each student. This experience is arranged in various healthcare facilities predominantly in the Sydney, Central Coast and Hunter region, but on occasions, elsewhere across Australia. Clinical placement agreements are made with NSW Health (public hospitals) and other private health care providers such as Sydney Adventist Hospital and bookings are arranged in advance of the semester. Rosters for student placements and clinical facilitation staff are generated based on bookings and then records of attendance and clinical areas are made. The clinical placement officer will assist the clinical coordinator with organisation of the clinical education program within the faculty in conjunction with the clinical office administrative officer. Further information is available from Paul Race, Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Health, <paul.race@avondale.edu.au>. Telephone (02) 9487 9630. For a full job description visit our website at <www.avondale.edu.au>, go to "staff" and "vacancies". Applications, addressing the selection criteria, with contact details of at least three referees, should be emailed to <employment@avondale.edu.au> or HR Officer, Avondale College, PO Box 19, Cooranbong NSW 2265, (02) 4980 2284. Avondale College is an equal opportunity employer and reserves the right to make a delayed appointment, not to appoint or to appoint by invitation. Applications close **March 15, 2011**.

■ **Building project manager—Seventh-day Adventist Church (Lae, PNG).** The Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Limited is seeking expressions of interest from suitable candidates for the position of building project manager. The successful applicant will have the capacity to lead and administer building projects in the context of the church's policy and local culture, the ability to relate well to people from various cultures and sound building maintenance skills and knowledge. For more information and to apply, please contact Korey Dowling on (02) 9847 3208 or email <koreydowling@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **March 18, 2011**.

■ **Sales Representative—Sanitarium Health and Wellbeing (Melbourne, Vic)** is seeking a highly motivated person to join our sales team based in Melbourne. This role provides an excellent opportunity for someone who wants a challenging and satisfying role and provides the scope to develop a career in the FMCG industry. Responsibilities include the introduction and ranging of new products to stores, ensuring store compliance with sales initiatives and managing and implementing shelf management at store level. You should possess sound negotiation and interpersonal skills, be highly self-motivated, dedicated and be able to work as an individual as well as within a team environment. Previous sales experience would be an advantage. If you would like the opportunity to work with a mission and values driven company, then we would like to hear from you. Please apply online at <www.sanitarium.com.au/about-us/career-opportunities>. Applications close **March 11, 2011**.

For more employment options, go to <adventistemployment.org.au>



APPRECIATION

Nicholls, John Hilton. Eileen and family would like to express our appreciation and thanks for your kind expression of sympathy shown to us, on the loss of our loving husband, father and grandfather. We deeply appreciate all those who sent flowers, cards or called with the kindest words. After the night the morning.

WEDDINGS



Botha—Howie. Jeremy Botha, son of Cecil and Soreen Botha (Auckland, NZ), and Shari Howie,

daughter of Gavin and Robyn Howie (Canberra, ACT), were married 13.12.10 in a beautiful beachside wedding at Gerrin-gong, NSW.

Ian Howie

Patrick—Kammermann. Sanjay Patrick, son of Toti and Usha Patrick (Hagerstown, USA), and Michelle Kammermann, daughter of Tony and Lyn Kammermann (Dubbo, NSW), were married 19.12.10 at Windmill Gardens Chapel, Melbourne, Vic. Michelle

and Sanjay are establishing their home close to where Michelle teaches at Heritage College.

Peter Roennfeldt, Faye Stothers



Roennfeldt—Mote. Jonathan Roennfeldt, son of Ray and Carmel Roennfeldt

(Morisset, NSW), and Tiffany Mote, daughter of Donald and Rene Mote (Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA), were married 6.12.10 in an outdoor ceremony at Peppers Anchorage Resort, Nelson Bay. Jonathan will continue to teach Studies of Religion at Macquarie College in Newcastle while Tiffany is studying physiotherapy at the University of Newcastle.

Ray Roennfeldt

Utarid—Mundu. Stanislaus (Stan) Utarid and Rani Mundu, daughter of Pastor Peter and Procena Mundu, were married 12.12.10 at Oakleigh Polish church. Relatives and friends travelled from India for the celebrations. Rani and Stan will make their home in the western suburbs of Melbourne where Rani teaches at Gilson College.

Peter Roennfeldt, Peter Mundu

POSITIONS VACANT

■ **IT manager—Seventh-day Adventist Church (Suva, Fiji)** is seeking expressions of interest from suitable candidates for the position of information technology manager for the Trans Pacific Union Mission. The successful candidate will promote the mission of the Union by developing and maintaining a reliable information systems network. A degree in information systems/computer technology or an equivalent is essential. For more information and to apply, please contact Korey Dowling on (02) 9847 3208 or email <koreydowling@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **March 18, 2011**.

■ **General manager—Dalcross Adventist Hospital and San Day Surgery Hornsby (NSW).** This exciting new role will report to the chief executive officer of Sydney Adventist Hospital Limited. For the long-term success, culture and profitability of Dalcross Adventist Hospital and San Day Surgery Hornsby, the successful applicant will possess the following skills and abilities: a demonstrated strong commitment to the ideals and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; a postgraduate degree or equivalent professional certification relevant to hospital management; a level of skill commensurate with a minimum of 10 years healthcare management experience; previous organisational exposure to managerial financial analysis and interpretation and business development; previous healthcare experience in a leadership role is essential; demonstrated positive organisational outcomes both financially and culturally; proven ability in negotiating effectively; and is articulate and persuasive and a demonstrated commitment to continuous learning. To make further enquiries and/or for a position description, please contact Dr Leon Clark, CEO on (02) 9487 9421. Email applications to <Leon.Clark@sah.org.au>. Applications close **April 8, 2011**.

OBITUARIES

Nicholls, John Hilton, born 20.2.1932 in North Sydney, NSW; died 10.3.10 in Box Hill, Vic. On 11.5.1954, he married Eileen Adams. He is survived by his wife; his children, Kenneth (Melbourne), Stephen (Mildura) and Ruth (Melbourne); and his grandchildren, Jonathon, Jason, Kristen and Kenneth. John was a well-known, respected and loved teacher, who taught in Adventist schools for 46 years. He leaves a strong legacy of learning, care for others and love of God. John loved his Lord with a passion and enjoyed preaching and sharing God's eternal message of grace.

Morrie Krieg, Jody Eddy

Price, Emily Joan (nee Taylor), born 9.1.1928 at Carnarvon, WA; died 18.12.10 at Bicton. On 18.1.1951, she married Howard Price at Fremantle. Joan is survived by her husband, Howard; children, Brandon and Schellie-Jayne and their spouses, Nola and Adrian Goudie; grandchildren, Callum and Amelia Price (all of Fremantle). Joan began her career teaching in the Fremantle Adventist School. She is remembered for organising sing-a-longs and activities for seniors at Sherwin Lodge. She was influenced by her grandmother to join the Adventist church. From that time, her faith never faltered in her Saviour.

Cyrus Adams, John Horvath, Bruce Price

Raine, Mary Brannen (nee Stewart), born 5.7.1920 at South Shields, England; died 23.12.10 in Brisbane, Qld. On 4.7.1942, she married Charles Henry Raine who predeceased her on 20.5.1999. She is survived by her children,

Stewart (Bald Hills), Joan Stan (Warneke of Penguin, Tas); six grandchildren, Derek, Neralie, John, Rick, Tim and Marianne; and seven great-grandchildren. Mary and her husband were members of the Mount Gambier church, SA, for many years.

Angus McPhee

Ridley, Jason Mark, born 12.2.1979 in Lae, PNG; died 16.8.10 in Auckland, NZ. He is survived by his dad, Philip and Ann; sisters and brother-in-law Annelise and Andrew, and Joanne, and nieces and nephews, Zara, Caleb, Azlyn, Peyton and Amelia. Jason loved his family. He excelled at playing the drums and kick boxing. He loved Jesus and studying his well marked Bible. Jason loved life, but continually battled with depression which eventually cut his life short. Loved by all who knew him and resting until Jesus returns.

Leanne and Stephen Davies

Scotland, Pamela, born 19.1.1949 at Tumut, NSW; died 23.10.10 at Modbury Hospital, Adelaide, SA. She is survived by her husband, Stuart; her daughter, Vanessa and Steve, and her son, Andrew. Pam fought a long and brave battle against cancer, and her faith and courage were an inspiration to all who knew her. She will be sadly missed by her loved ones, friends and her church family, but she rests in anticipation of the call to life on the Resurrection morning.

David McKibben

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Retired Workers' Fellowship, Vic. From time to time the Retired Workers' Fellowship, Victoria, organises events for the benefit of all retirees. The next outing is a day trip on March 16. Further events are planned for July 20, Oct 19 and Nov 30. All church members and their non-Adventist friends are invited to join our activities. Interstate visitors especially welcome. Details: call Ken Killoway (03) 9801 8986, Ken Knight (03) 5966 5147 or Arthur Johnson (03) 5967 1914.

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Medical practitioners needed for the Logan Adventist Health Association Health Centre. Full-time and part-time practitioners

needed. Contact 0428 486 455.

Law firm in Sydney. JYP Legal is a law firm run by Adventist church member, Jane Park. Areas of law include property, wills and estates and family law. Please call (02) 9267 7171 or email <jane@successfulways.com.au>.

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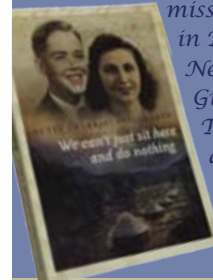
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SUPPORTING MINISTRY

Doctor or naturopath—Cedarvale Health and Lifestyle Retreat has a position for an individual who has a passion for a lifestyle and natural therapy approach to health, treatment of disease and its prevention. Responsibilities include consultations, health lectures, and community/church health presentations. A great opportunity may also exist to be involved with teaching health subjects and working with mainly youth in our one-year health evangelism training program. Cedarvale has for over 20 years offered health recovery programs for a wide range of conditions. For location and health centre details see <www.cedarvaleretreat.com.au> and for more position information click on the "courses" tab. For an application form contact the manager at <cedarvale@fastrac.net.au> or phone (02) 4465 1362.

Cedarvale Health and Lifestyle Retreat, a ministry, is independent of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organisation but is supportive of the Church.

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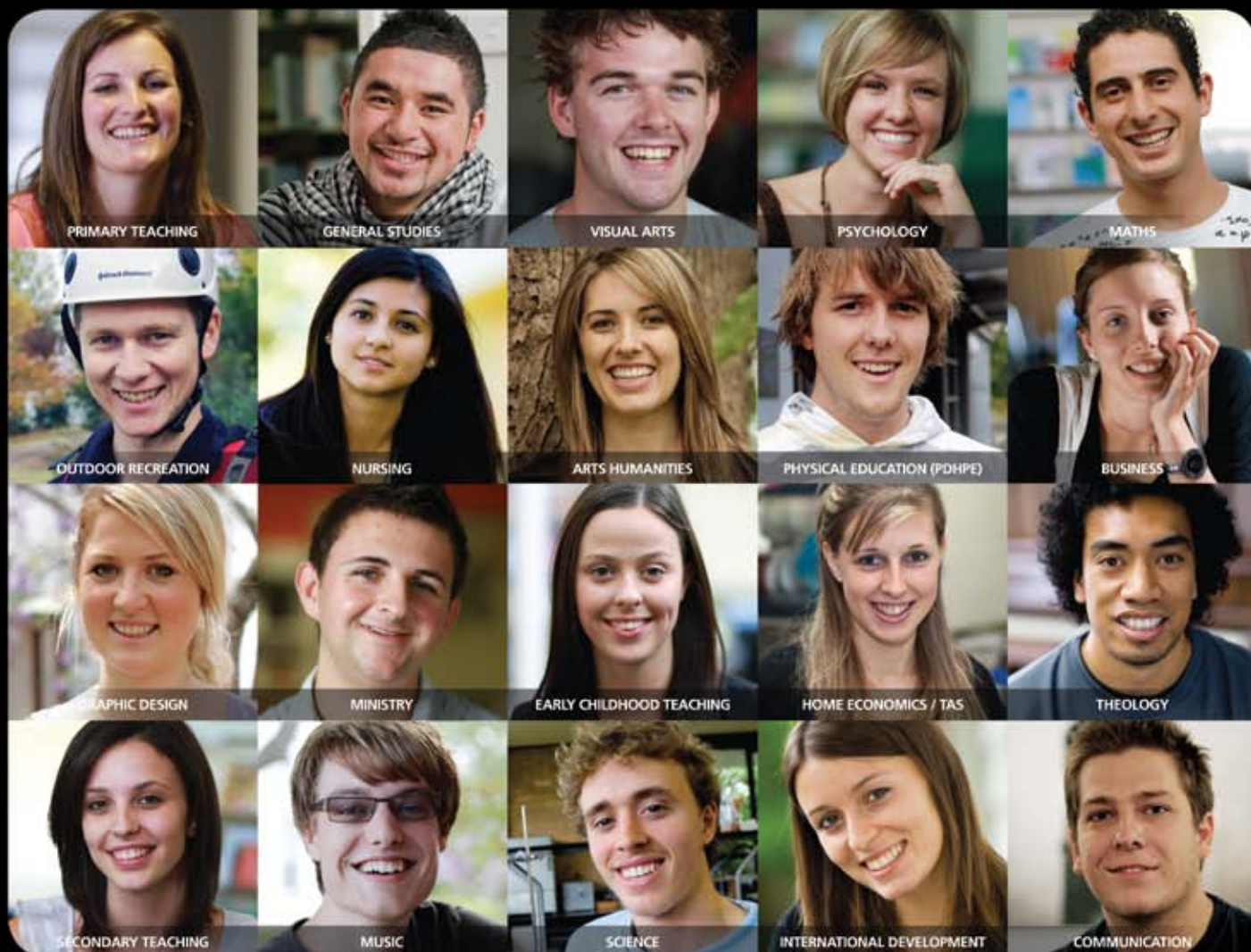
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