

RECORD



Alan Holman (far left), of Signs Publishing Company, is pictured with expatriate SPD personnel Dr Gil Valentine (third from left), his wife, Gail (fourth from left), and Pastor Peter Colquhoun (third from right) on the campus of Mission College, Thailand, with its president, Dr Siriporn Tantipoonvinaï (fourth from right).

SPD expats on Thai campus

Lee Dunstan

Signs Publishing Company print marketing manager Alan Holman recently spent almost two weeks on the campus of Mission College, Thailand, developing a marketing strategy for the college's international program. The prestigious and impressive educational facility, which expects to receive university status shortly, is located in a rural setting about two hours from Bangkok and has students from many southern and eastern Asian countries.

Mr Holman, a graphic designer with long experience in marketing at both Sanitarium and Signs, helped in the development of corporate imaging and in the design of a new corporate logo. He was accompanied by his son, Benjamin, 14, who helped prepare computer presentations, which helped the college administration in their decision making.

"Mission College is a remarkable place," says Mr Holman. "The staff and students deserve our congratulations. The campus is immaculate and the faculty, from more than 20 countries, is friendly and committed."

Among others, Mission College is also home to Dr Gil Valentine, a former vice-president at Avondale College, and Pastor Peter Colquhoun, a conference president in Australia before his retirement, who now teaches Bible and assists with Mission College PR in a voluntary capacity.

In this issue

First female to head SPC Book Department

Adventists "outraged" at Bali tragedy

President challenges churches to increase local community focus



She's out to change the world

A time to . . .

The Bali bombings have brought terrorism to our front door, tragic images to our screens and the seriously wounded to our hospitals. Violent death has been visited upon many homes. There's the horrible suspicion, at the time of writing, that the Australian death toll will be greater than that created by the Vietnam War.

The Australian Prime Minister, John Howard, was correct in calling it a "foul deed, this wicked, evil act of terrorists. . . ." It is again a reminder that, since September 11, 2001, a different type of conflict has been emerging. This is a worldwide battle brought about by shadowy figures with powerful weapons and munitions—and fear—to support their cause.

How do we respond?

A time to grieve

Mr Howard's call for a national day of mourning is a positive response. It is a recognition that lives have been lost, and that every life is important. It also helps to build a sense of solidarity. It gives the message that those who have lost family members are not alone. We are in this together. And that needs to continue way beyond any *day* of mourning.

A time for anger

Of course. Any deliberate act that takes life should make us angry. And it should be condemned in the strongest possible way. If I'm not angry about the unnecessary deaths of 200 and more people—fellow Australians or not—what *will* make me angry? Anger is a valid Christian response.

A time to hate?

Yes, it is time to hate what has happened.

But let's not be driven by hate against the carriers of death. Let's support attempts to track them down, but not for vengeance. The motivation must be from a sense that these actions are criminal, and that we do need to protect others.

If, as has been widely suggested, Islamic fundamentalists were responsible for the bombings, we need to remember not all Muslims follow their way of thinking. The majority are law abiding and peace loving.

Just as Christianity is divided into many factions, so are Muslims. Remember how often Christianity is judged by the violence and terrorism in Ireland. We shouldn't judge the Muslim world only by their terrorists, either. And we need to support peace-loving Muslims who also want to rid the world of terror.

A time to pray . . .

For the families of those who have died. For the injured. For those attempting to prevent further attacks. For those trying to piece together what happened, because wrongly directed blame can be destructive.

Most of us will have no direct influence on decision making as various governments plan their response to this act. But we can pray for cool heads and wisdom as these plans are prepared and followed through. The wisdom of God is needed.

And let's pray for those who believe they have to kill—and have the right to kill—in order to make their point.

A time to speak

Terrorism is unacceptable. That's a given. We need to be vocal about that. And terrorism in response to terrorism is also unacceptable. We must pray and work and speak for a response that is measured,

responsible and humane. Anything less will only perpetuate a cycle of terror.

A time to hope

Is there hope? The Bali bombings are a dramatic reminder that so much of life is outside our control. They are a reminder of the short distance, the short breath between life and death. They remind us that few things are certain. But God is a present hope, and He's our hope for the future. He is something solid to hold on to.

A time to live

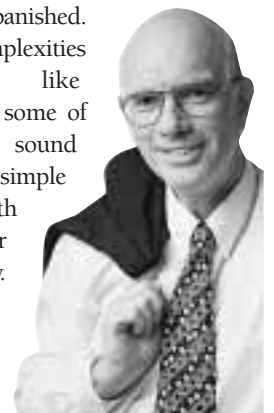
Now! The object of terrorism is to terrify: "Kill one and scare 100" is the plan. Life may be uncertain, but that doesn't mean we have no assurance. All our assurances are found in Jesus. In Him we find life.

In Jesus, that life is for now and the future. Living life to the full (even if it may have to be lived with appropriate caution) defeats terrorism in the end.

A time to . . .

Laugh and dance and to enjoy peace may have to wait for awhile. But it will come. And we wait for the blessed hope that will usher in a kingdom where tears and sorrow are banished.

Often the complexities of situations like terrorism make some of these responses sound naive. But in the simple certainties of faith we find our ultimate security.



Bruce Manners



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- Day surgery earns maximum accreditation • Adventist keynote speaker at Christian conference
- Nutmeat sales soar • PNGUM president awarded MBE • Heralds to tour Australia and NZ
- Rebels in Uganda kill Adventist merchant • VeggieTales hit the big screen • and more

● The **San Day Surgery**, Hornsby, NSW (formerly the Hornsby Day Surgery Centre), has been awarded **maximum accreditation** (valid until August 2006) from the Australian Council on Health Care Standards. "Everyone has worked really hard and put in a tremendous amount of



effort. It's fantastic to see such a great result," says centre manager **Justin Greenwell** (pictured, left, with nursing unit manager **Karin Wheeler**). "Accreditation is a significant achievement," he says. "It serves as a **sign to our community** that our day surgery is committed to delivering quality patient care and service."—*Janine Van Den Tillaart*

● **Dr Don Roy** (pictured), associate education director (curriculum) for the Australian Union Conference, was invited to make a **keynote presentation** at the annual **Sydney Christian Education Conference** on October 14. A copy of the paper, "The Christian school—A community of grace," can now be read online at the Adventist Schools Australia web site <www.adventist.edu.au/Publications>.

● During July readers of the RECORD had an opportunity to purchase the

NZ youth meet aquatic challenge

An 80-kilometre kayak expedition was completed by some 100 youth and Pathfinders in the Marlborough Sounds, South New Zealand (SNZ), September 20-29.

"Yes, there were challenges," reports Pastor Darrin Parker of Nelson church, SNZ; "some real, others imagined. On several occasions, one participant was heard to say, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,' and she completed the entire expedition without being towed once!

"Our expedition chaplain, Julene Duerksen, was brilliant," says Pastor Parker. "She drew spiritual insight from the many water stories of scripture." Youth director for the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference, Pastor Nick Kross, said, "Julene finished on the story of Jesus' baptism. As a result of her invitation to accept Jesus as our best friend, nearly the whole group responded.

"We visited some of the most beautiful places in the Marlborough Sounds conservation area," says Pastor Kross. "We saw seals, penguins, a wide variety of wildlife, and spectacular native forest." Pastor Kross reports that several outstanding testimonies have been shared of how the expedition has changed participants' lives.

Pastor Parker believes that success was not measured simply in distance travelled, but in fears faced and challenges conquered. "I believe every participant went home knowing they had gone beyond their perceived limitations."—*Kellie Hancock*

Sanitarium range of canned vegetarian products at a **special price** during a limited period at Woolworths or Safeway. Sales hit record levels. The people of Lismore in northern NSW apparently love Nutmeat, with some **535 cans of Nutmeat** sold there during the two-week promotion. "Woolworths was somewhat overwhelmed by the success of the promotion!" reports **Julie Praestiin**, communications manager for Sanitarium. "Rumour has it," she says, "that shop assistants who were previously puzzled while trying to find Nutmeat in their own store, have now become confident in directing customers to the right aisle."



● The president of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM), **Pastor Wilson Stephen** (pictured), has been appointed Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) in an investiture ceremony held at Government House in Port Moresby on October 17. The **MBE award** states that it acknowledges the years of service he has given to others, and his **contribution to Papua New Guinea in its growth as a nation**. Pastor Stephen has served the church for 35 years.—*Vic Bonetti*



● The longest running, continuous gospel quartet in America, **The Heralds** (which began more than 70 years ago with four college students), is **touring Australia and New Zealand** in December. Over the years their music ministry has reached out with the good news of Jesus in song in 28 different languages, and in more than 100 countries via recordings, radio and television. The second tenor, **Jerry Patton**, who has been singing with the Heralds for the past 35 years, will retire after the concert tour of Australia and New Zealand. See page 16 for dates, venues and cost.



● Attacks by **Kony rebels** on the highway between the Ugandan towns of Kampala and Arua have dramatically increased recently, **resulting in the death** of an **Adventist merchant**. The merchant, from Sudan, was killed when the bus he was travelling on came under attack. The **risks involved** in transporting food and other necessities have caused many, including the United Nations (UN), to **suspend deliveries** to

towns and refugee camps. Kony rebels have attacked the refugee camps in Acholpii and burned more than 150 grass huts, causing about 25,000 refugees to flee further south, leaving their possessions behind. Some **175 Adventist members** have been scattered and their **situation is unknown**, reports Pastor Beat Odermatt, president of the South Sudan Field of Seventh-day Adventists.—ANR

Still on call at 80



Dr Calvin Palmer is well known in the South Queensland Conference as the camp doctor, but he's also a resident and the doctor at the church's Melody Park Retirement Resort at Nerang. He continues to make home visits to some 200 patients, and he regularly plays tennis for three hours straight. And he turned 80 this year.

"They say 70 is regarded as the limit to a doctor's career and after that you age very quickly," he says.

Dr Palmer (pictured with a patient at this year's camp-meeting) has had a varied career including being in charge of a leper colony in the Solomon Islands, a surgeon at the Warburton Hospital, Vic, and on the medical staff at the Sydney Adventist Hospital for 26 years.

He calls what he does semiretirement, and plans to keep on working until a replacement can be found.

"I've had such a happy existence," he told the local newspaper that reported on his 80th birthday celebration, "and the thing about being a doctor is you are helping people. That's the happiest aspect."

● The **Nile Union Academy**, Egypt, has had two **landmark achievements**. It recently received an **accreditation diploma** from the Commission on International and Trans-regional Accreditation (CITA), an American institution. The academic year began with more students enrolled than ever before. "We know that the Lord helped us on this great step in our history," explains **Dwight Rose**, principal. "For the first time in our history, the admission committee had to refuse some of the students who wanted to enrol."—ANR

● The creators of a best-selling direct-to-video series for children have **released** their first **big screen** project **Jonah—A VeggieTales Movie**. The release of the biblical account of Jonah features computer-generated, animated vegetables acting as the main characters. **Mike Nawrocki**, co-founder of the company that markets VeggieTales, says the movie is not only entertaining, but also has a **relevant message**. "It follows closely to the biblical account, besides the absurd things that we normally throw in with a VeggieTales film," he says. "But really, the theme of the story is about **God's compassion and mercy**—how He demonstrates that to us and how we, in turn, need to demonstrate that to others."—*Agape Press*

Days and offerings

November 3—Adventist Book Centre Open Day

November 9—Bible Emphasis Day
—World Mission Budget Offering

Off the record

● Members of the **Bundaberg** church, Qld, recently allocated one Sabbath as a **day of fasting and prayer** for the blessing of the Holy Spirit on their *Taking charge of your life* seminars. An ordinance service was conducted during the worship service by **Pastor Ken Martin**. He is pictured here on the same day baptising **Laird Parsons**, who was introduced to Jesus by some Adventist youth attending the local state high school, and has since been a regular attender of Underground meetings, Sabbath school and church.—*Iris Grotherr*



● The **Internet address** for Adventist Development and Relief Agency's (ADRA) Advocacy was incorrectly printed in Features, October 5. The **correct** web-site address is <<http://youth.adventist.org.au/advocacy/>>. To access ADRA's password-protected information you will need to type in **adraoz** as your username and **truth as your password**. This will give you access to a **letter-writing campaign** for politicians and media and friends in regards to **funding for drug rehabilitation** programs.

● The **Log Cabin**, an Adventist youth camp facility in the Numinbah Valley, northern NSW, **celebrates 40 years** this year. Constructed in 1962 on 20 acres of land, the Pathfinder hut, known as the Log Cabin, was built of timber from nearby trees. During the 1990s church members from the **Tweed Valley** added many new buildings. However, the Log Cabin still stands and is in regular use by student, church and tourist groups.



New book team at Signs



Elizabeth Dunstan (pictured centre) heads a revamped Book Department team at Signs Publishing Company, which includes new personnel Bryce Wegener (right) and Wendy Kum Yuen (left).

Kellie Hancock

Signs Publishing Company (SPC) has appointed a female departmental manager, which, according to a company spokesperson, is the first in the company's century-long history. Elizabeth Dunstan—a 10-year veteran of the department and a former Adventist Book Centre (ABC) manager in South Australia—was appointed acting Book Department manager by the SPC Board in October.

She is joined by new support staff Bryce Wegener and Wendy Kum Yuen in providing ABC and literature evangelist (LE) client services.

"We're a new team," says Mrs Dunstan, "and that has its own challenges—but we bring a lot of energy and enthusiasm to the task. We're all excited about the opportunities ahead to update and expand our marketing and customer service to both church members through their local ABCs and to our LEs, who are meeting people on doorsteps around the division. For example, a priority will be to develop web-based, online ordering.

"As a team, we're first of all committed to

God and His church and, second, to expanding His kingdom through the book and literature ministries."

Previous manager Rod Nixon and his wife, Verley, who also worked in the Book Department, have recently retired.

"Rod played an important role in the development of the department over 25 years," says SPC manager Warren Jones. "And Verley carried on a family tradition of working with books. The community wishes them a happy retirement."

Welcoming the new team members, Mr Jones says, "They've accepted the responsibility of caring for our retail outlets—the ABCs and LEs—with the many challenges they face. They are a vital team, and I know they'll be successful.

"There's a huge product range for our team to sift through; client preferences and tastes vary considerably, and today's market goes way beyond just the written word—the word is *multimedia*. The new team has a big task in caring for not only readers, but listeners and viewers as well. Unfortunately our market is small, which is reflected in costs, so it faces a daunting task."

New Euro mags launched

Feedback following the initial distribution of the British Union Conference's (BUC) *LIFE.info* magazine has been positive, according to *LIFE.info* editor Lee Gallaher. Some 35,000 copies of the new magazine were distributed as part of a radical, modern evangelistic program recently launched in the UK.

"We have had a couple of people concerned about the inclusion of items related to pop culture, films and entertainment, but to some extent we expected that," says Mr Gallaher. "These articles are 'handles' to get people's attention and lead them through the magazine to the other articles, which do include spiritual content. Generally, I think our members understand that the people we're targeting with the magazine aren't regular churchgoers, and we have to start from where they are."

LIFE.info is similar in concept and content to the South Pacific *Signs of the Times* published by the Signs Publishing Company, and contains a proportion of editorial content borrowed from it. Like *Signs*, it is distributed to the general public.

Meanwhile, in response to concerns regarding the growing tensions in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and South-East Asia, the Euro-Asia Division has printed a special edition of *Adventistsky Vestnik* devoted to promoting understanding and friendship between Seventh-day Adventists and Muslims. Entitled *Islam: Points of Contact*, the magazine aims to introduce Adventists to the basic beliefs and customs of Islam while also providing material for church members to share with Muslim friends and acquaintances.

"This is an attempt to start a meaningful dialogue between Muslims and Adventists," says Valery Ivanov, the chief editor. "We feel it is especially important for Christians to offer their friendship in the current atmosphere of prejudice against Muslims."

Articles in the special issue discuss the Koran, the five pillars of Islam and Muslim beliefs about family, health and morality.

"Adventists and Muslims have more in common than we realise," says Mr Ivanov. "In this issue we want to talk more about what unites us rather than about what divides us."—BUC News/ANN

ADRA bakery project allows expatriates freedom to move around

Pyongyang, North Korea

An Australian has recently joined the Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA) team in Pyongyang, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Wesley Brightman, from Sydney, is technical assistant for ADRA's bakery project funded by ADRA–Switzerland, with flour provided by the United Nations World Food Program (Flashpoint, September 28).

According to Mr Brightman, the bakery is the most sophisticated in DPRK and produces 50,000 high-calcium bread rolls every day to support 25,000 kindergarten children. ADRA's role is to monitor the program by randomly selecting schoolchildren and measuring their height and weight on a regular basis.

"The nature of this project allows ADRA staff a privilege afforded few other foreigners," says Mr Brightman. "The ability to visit schools, hospitals, orphanages and even backstreets



Wesley Brightman, an Australian working as technical assistant for a bakery in Korea, says the project allows expatriates a privileged freedom to visit schools, hospitals and orphanages while undertaking program monitoring.

within DPRK." While DPRK appears to be cautiously opening up to the West—the government plans to establish a Special Economic Zone at the city of Sinuiju on the Chinese border—there are still restrictions placed on the movements of expatriates within the country.

Having also worked with ADRA in Kosovo, Albania and Cambodia, Mr Brightman says that ADRA is currently one of only 10 agencies resident within this country.

"In addition to the bakery project," Mr Brightman reports, "private funding of some \$A2000 has been obtained to provide new mattresses for an orphanage in Sariwon. Winter in DPRK is usually extremely harsh and the orphanage has an insufficient number of mattresses to keep children off the floors in the unheated building."—*Nick Brightman*

Adventists "outraged" at Bali bombing tragedy

The Seventh-day Adventist church condemns the act of terrorism that claimed the lives of many innocent people in the recent bomb blasts in Bali. "We are outraged at what has happened," says Pastor Laurie Evans, president of the South Pacific Division. "Our hearts go out to the families, relatives and friends of those who died in this tragedy. We also think and pray for those who still wait for final word on their loved ones."

The Seventh-day Adventist Church supports the various governments and agencies involved in looking for the perpetrators and bringing them to justice. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Australia and Indonesia have offered to assist. The Indonesian and Australian governments are considering ways that such assistance could be given where it is most needed.

Adventists in Australia and the South Pacific have been called to pray for those affected by this tragic event.

Task force explores new technology's potential for evangelism

Silver Spring, Maryland, USA

The use of new technology was the focus for the Council on Evangelism and Witness held at the General Conference (GC) in October.

The group, made up of evangelists, church administrators and church members from around the world, was established as a creative forum to review the effectiveness of current methods of evangelism, and encourage new approaches. Most of the presentations at the gathering dealt with new technology, and how it is being used for evangelism throughout the world.

Experts believe the Internet and other new media are important because of their practicality and because it is the primary means to reach young people.

"You want information now—you go to the web," says Will Baron, from Norwalk church in California, who has built web-

evangelism sites. "Young people now go to the web for all their information. Our Adventist message needs to be on the web."

"I have two kids," said Walter Rodrigues, a lay member on the committee. "I see in their daily lives they are so used to the new technologies. We need to use media technology, and keep up to date with it."

Members of the council are quick to point out, however, that these technological advances are not eliminating traditional methods of evangelism. "Web technology does not replace conventional evangelism," says Mr Baron. "Web technology supplements conventional evangelism."

Pastor Ted Wilson, a vice-president of the GC, and co-chair of the council, says, "It's absolutely essential for our future. I think the church has to invest, it has to be involved in it, and we have to realise this is the future, and it's here right now."—*ANN*

President challenges churches to increase mission focus in their local communities

Bettina Krause, Adventist News Network

The General Conference president, Dr Jan Paulsen, has challenged church leaders and members to be more engaged with the everyday concerns of the communities where they live.

The “broad and comprehensive” nature of the church’s mission, which responds to people’s “everyday pain,” was one of the major themes of Dr Paulsen’s opening address to Annual Council, a three-day meeting of international church leaders that began on October 7.

“We would fail as a church if we become indifferent to the suffering of this world,” he said, “or become so wholly ‘other-worldly’ in our thinking that we are insensitive to the suffering of humanity, and cannot be bothered. For this is the world in which we also live. And Christ’s death for humanity describes its value to Him.”

During his address, Dr Paulsen urged church members to make mission—sharing the message of hope in Christ—a part of their everyday lives. “Without mission, personal spirituality, however well attended to, is like ‘being all dressed up, but nowhere to go,’” he said.

In talking about the scope of the church’s mission, Dr Paulsen called on leaders and members to think beyond the norm. It is right that Adventists be involved in disaster relief, education and health care, he said. “It is right that as a community of faith we should also be a mouthpiece for the poor, whose number is ever increasing; for the refugees, who come to us in waves asking for nothing more than one more chance to build a life for their children. And it is right that we should be a mouthpiece for other disenfranchised minorities. Is not this also mission? I think it is!

“We’re not changing our mission agenda of many years,” Dr Paulsen reassured his listeners. “We just need to make sure that it is large enough and

inclusive enough to reflect the breadth and depth of Christ’s care for suffering and lost humanity.”

Dr Paulsen also highlighted significant challenges facing the worldwide church today. In talking and thinking about church growth, he said, we must guard against becoming preoccupied by numbers. He cited instances where “mega-campaigns” have resulted in mass



Dr Jan Paulsen.

baptisms, where the names of thousands of new believers have not even been recorded. True growth only comes through evangelism that teaches and nurtures new believers over many months, he said, so they “know who they are, and what they believe, and they have a network of friends in the church.

“The very word ‘growth’ means to become bigger, stronger, healthier and more capable of functioning effectively,” said Dr Paulsen. “Growth lies imbedded in the three [strategic] values we have

chosen: growth in size, growth in unity, and growth in the qualities that define our life as Seventh-day Adventists.”

While some parts of the world church grapple with the challenge of rapid expansion, Dr Paulsen also acknowledged the problem of stalled growth in many parts of the developed world.

“It is not for lack of commitment, nor because leadership has lost the vision and the church is in apostasy and is off course,” he said. “Nor is it because the Spirit is gone. So, what is it?” Dr Paulsen suggested that the answer may lie, in part, in the level of personal involvement of church members in sharing their faith.

He called “contagious enthusiasm,” “involvement” and “joy in the life of the church” key ingredients of a healthy spirituality that results in growth. Without involvement in mission, Dr Paulsen added, “our lives become stale and spirituality loses its shine.”

The full text of Dr Paulsen’s address to the Annual Council and the audio file are available online at: <www.adventist.org>.

Service with a smile results in baptisms

Madang, PNG

Through their specialised after-sales service, literature evangelists (LEs) in PNG continue to add to the church. Following on from the baptism of five notorious prisoners at Madang’s Beon Prison last year (reported in PNG’s *Post Courier* and *Pacific Record*, No 2, 2002), the local unit leader Jonathan Wambu prepared another group for a baptism held inside the jail on September 28. “After I took the worship service inside the maximum security enclosure,” reports PNG LE area manager Brian Brunton, “the retiring president of Madang Manus Mission, Pastor John Wawah, conducted the baptisms. Between 20 and 30 Beon inmates regularly attend church outside the prison each Sabbath, which enables some to attend with their families.

The inmates and their families built two small haus wind shade constructions and the Madang Fire Brigade filled the baptismal tank just outside the maximum security fence. After the five inmates were baptised, many hands were raised from among the several hundred inmates watching through the security fence when Pastor Wawah made an appeal.

“Mr Wambu has an ongoing commitment to the prisoners,” says Mr Brunton, “and they are being changed by books he has placed in the prison library in partnership with Victorian LE Ruth Harris.”—*Lee Dunstan*

More than a building

by Nathan Brown

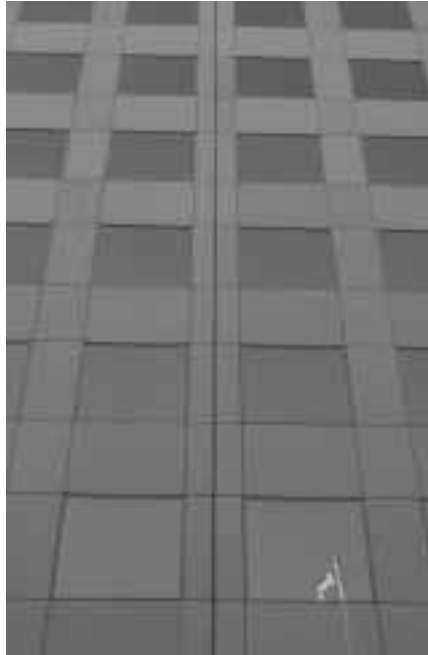
For the past couple of months, I've been employed in the office of *Adventist Review* at the General Conference. Generally it's been a quiet place. On most days one would rarely guess that more than 700 people work in the building. In most ways, it's just a regular office building, with everybody going about their work with the addition of a staff worship every morning, a cafeteria that serves good, vegetarian-only food, and most people you pass in a hallway greet you in a genuinely friendly manner.

But over the past weeks, things have changed. The car park overflowed onto adjacent lawns; the many conference rooms are more often filled; you get to say hello more often in the hallway (often in a different language); there are more suits about; and flags from countries around the world adorn the three-storey central atrium.

A sign fronting the busy Old Columbia Pike, which runs past our building, proclaims it to be the "Seventh-day Adventist Church World Headquarters." Over the past week, as preparation for the Annual Council of the General Conference peaked, it's actually felt like a world headquarters.

No longer is it just another office building. For the past week it's been occupied by an invasion force of pastors, administrators and church members from all corners of the world. The building has taken on the appearance it deserves as the headquarters of one of the fastest-growing, most diverse churches in the world.

It is against this backdrop that the more than 250 members of the General Conference executive committee meet. But they also meet with a knowledge of the challenges facing the worldwide church, both internally and externally. A diverse and growing church brings many challenges.



The church's successes and rapid growth in some parts of the world stretch resources and raise questions of faith, culture and organisation. The church's apparent lack of impact in other parts of the world is also troubling. With a mission to the entire world, the questions of priorities in focus and resource allocation, between local and global, and between tradition and innovation are difficult.

Even with significant growth, the Adventist Church struggles to keep up with the increase in world population. During the time in which Adventists added the most recent one million members, the global population increased by 130 million. While our church as a proportion of the world's people improved a little, the number of people we have not as yet reached increased markedly.

And the Adventist Church does not operate in a vacuum. Instability and disasters in various regions of the world impact on the church and its mission. Financial squeezes affect the church's available funds, directly and indirectly. There is a practical side to running a

church that comes disturbingly close to running any other large organisation and it is frustrating when mission initiatives and opportunities are impaired by "business realities."

Yet among "a people of hope" working for a God of hope, it isn't long until the big pictures and big plans begin to emerge. The secretary's report shows a worldwide church membership of 12.6 million people, making the Adventist Church the eighth largest religious entity in the world. The General Conference budget weighs in above \$US115 million.

A new administrative region is created in Africa—the East-Central Africa Division, a reflection of the tremendous growth of the church in this area. A DVD is launched, produced to introduce the church to government and community leaders and emphasising the significant roles the Adventist Church can and does play on a global stage. A task force is established to work toward the distribution of one billion tracts, offering Bible studies, around the world.

To the casual observer, these bold moves are done with relative ease and simplicity, belying the behind-the-scenes work to prepare the proposals and the work still to be done to bring them to reality.

The General Conference building cannot look the same after one has witnessed the work of these representatives from across the world. They're people committed to telling—and to changing—the world. The General Conference is more than just another office building—it's the world headquarters of something truly significant, a church that is making a difference and sharing hope across the world. **R**

Nathan Brown, an Australian, is working as an intern at the offices of Adventist Review. He plans to return to Australia at the end of the current year.

My parents prayed

by Phil Ward



My life changed instantly when my car left the road, burst through a fence and smashed head-on into tree. Everyone else escaped, but the car had crumpled around my seat. There was no way out for me. If it caught fire, I was dead.

All I could do was sit and look at my mangled body. The 45 minutes before the ambulance arrived seemed an eternity. But they could do nothing. This required the “jaws of life” to cut me from the wreck. Another 45-minute wait in pain.

I spent a day-and-a-half in Sydney’s Windsor Hospital—another car-accident victim in a “satisfactory” condition. That changed during the night.

Bone marrow escaped from my broken legs and broken sternum. The bone marrow was carried through my bloodstream until it found a blood vessel too small to fit through. Then it blocked that blood vessel.

Most of the bone marrow lodged in my lungs, where it blocked almost every blood vessel. My body became oxygen deprived and this “satisfactory” patient was moments away from death.

The nurse on night duty walked into my ward at that moment. She saw my face, a blotch of white and red. She understood the telltale signs.

Windsor Hospital didn’t have the equipment or staff to keep me alive, so she immediately called an ambulance and arranged a transfer to a larger hospital with more sophisticated equipment.

At 3 am the phone woke my parents: “If you want to see you son alive again, go to Westmead Hospital. We’re transferring him and he may not survive the transfer.”

My parents and wife arrived at Westmead at the same time as the ambulance carrying my near-lifeless frame. They watched in horror as I almost died being transferred from one resuscitation system to another.



Normally, when the bone marrow is carried through the blood vessels, within two days a person is either taken off the resuscitator or they have died. I was on the resuscitator for more than a week.

Two things kept me alive: I had never had a cigarette (except one when I was three years old!), so my lungs were in good working order. And I’d been a vegetarian for 18 years, so my blood vessels were in the best working order. If not, I would have died.

However, I was about to take a turn for the worse. My brain wasn’t getting enough oxygen. Strange thoughts occur when your brain is oxygen deprived. As I slipped in and out of a comatose state, my mind told me, *I’ve paid for private health insurance. I should be in a private hospital. I want to transfer to a private hospital.* I didn’t know I couldn’t survive the transfer.

I wanted to get out. I reached for the tubes keeping me alive to pull them out of my body. If I did, I was dead. A nurse grabbed my hands and held them away from the tubes. She called for help, and they tied my hands to the bed.

Another phone call to my parents. “We’re losing him, Mrs Ward. If you want to see him alive, come now.”

As I wrestled to free my hands, my parents tried to talk sense to me. But my brain wasn’t getting enough oxygen to listen to their pleadings.

Eventually the nurse said, “Mrs Ward, this isn’t doing you any good. And it isn’t doing Philip any good. You’ll have to leave.”

My parents had been praying. But while Heaven was listening, their prayers didn’t

seem to be getting through.

On their drive home they decided to go to a church, any church, to find people to pray with them. It was Wednesday night and they thought they’d find people at a prayer meeting. They hadn’t realised how late it was. Prayer meetings were over.

They drove from one closed church to another until they came to the church I attended, the Epping church, in Sydney. The door was slightly ajar. There was a faint light inside. A chubby young man was playing a brand-new organ.

“Philip’s trying to tear the tubes from his body. Will you pray with us?”

“Certainly,” said the young man. In the semidarkness, they knelt and poured their hearts out to God.

My parents drove the 10 minutes home, then immediately phoned the nurse at my bedside. “A wonderful thing, Mrs Ward. The crisis is over. Ten minutes ago he stopped fighting. Now he’s resting peacefully. He’s going to live.”

The next Sabbath, my parents decided they must tell the young man about their answer to prayer. They went to the Epping church to find him and looked around the congregation, but he wasn’t there. They described him to regular worshippers who said, “There’s no-one here of that description.”

Eventually they spoke to a church elder. He said, “The church was locked on Wednesday night. I personally locked it. And that’s a brand new-organ and we haven’t issued the keys yet. The organ was locked. I have the only keys.”

My parents were stunned. They could think of only one explanation. When they so desperately wanted to pray with someone, my parents had prayed with an angel. **R**

Phil Ward writes from Bribie Island, Qld.

The dripping tap method of changing the world

by Bruce Manners



Margaret Jackson never stops. And she never makes money from what she calls her “community services.” From the quiet town of Cambridge, NNZ, she has been involved in the church’s welfare work (now ADRA-care), a federation leader for 30 years, and a North New Zealand Conference volunteer assistant director for welfare work for 10 years.

She’s a member of the Bible Society. She teaches Bible in schools. She helps the Citizen’s Advice Bureau. She and her husband have run stop-smoking classes. That’s only the short list, which doesn’t include things like her floral art classes.

She’s also a strong campaigner against alcohol. For the past 12 months she has been world president of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) after serving for five years as WCTU president of New Zealand.

“Adventists have a long connection with the WCTU,” says Mrs Jackson. “It goes way back to Ellen White and to Serepta Miranda Irish Henry, who was a faithful WCTU worker in the United States.”

She became involved in the WCTU after the General Conference temperance leader, Pastor James Scully, visited New Zealand in 1963.

“I was very interested in what they had to say, particularly his wife who spoke about foetal alcohol syndrome, which no-one had heard of. I became interested and realised that this education work was something I could do.”

WCTU agenda

Foetal alcohol syndrome is still on her agenda, but there are other causes she is battling. She shows a series of advertisements from Europe where children as



young as three months are featured in alcohol advertising.

“This boy [about seven or eight years of age] is holding some packs of alcohol. This is what they want to do; they’re encouraging children so they can have a market for tomorrow.”

The World Health Organisation is attempting to do something about these advertisements, but she fears that the “drink industry” has just too much power.

“I know most countries would like to ban alcohol advertising, but I don’t think they will win. There’s too much money involved. The breweries are the only ones with money these days; that’s where everyone invests their money, and they want to use it for advertising.”

And there is the public perception of alcohol that she has to fight.

“I find it strange that we have more scientific evidence today than we’ve ever had of the dangers of drinking alcohol. The proof is there. But nobody wants to look into the proof. They listen to the breweries,

who say so much beer or wine will help your heart.”

She speaks of a recent radio program in Melbourne that suggested that men could drink four or five glasses of alcohol a day, and women could drink two or three glasses a day.

“Some women rang the radio station upset that they had been discriminated against. I think you’ll find that most young women will want to keep up with the boys these days.”

The WCTU focus has broadened to include street drugs as well as alcohol. It is what Mrs Jackson calls a natural progression. But, she adds, “Alcohol will always be the worst drug.”

Adventist connections

Her connections to the Adventist Church have never been a problem with working with the WCTU, which has surprised her because she finds those within WCTU know little about Adventists. But she does hope to see increased activity from church members in support of the WCTU and their cause.

“I had someone contact me asking if I intended to set up little WCTU groups in every church,” she says. “No, I don’t, but there is much that Adventist women can do.”

She speaks of the past when seminars on drugs and alcohol would draw an audience. Those days are gone, she suggests. But there are other ways of influencing the public.

“Adventist women could be encouraged to use their computers to send email messages to people in the community and the government. Every day things are published in the news media we can pick up on. I think we could really turn the

world upside down if all over the world we had these women sending emails to important people, telling them what alcohol is doing.

“Few people or governments oppose the breweries and they’ve had it so good for 40 years and they’ve been able to lay down a good foundation for people to accept their stories, which are simply not true. And they have never been asked to donate any of their profits to help fix up the mess they’ve created. I feel the time has come when they should be made to pay for this damage. And this will come only through political agitation.”

Today’s WCTU

She laughs when asked what the Christian aspect in the title of WCTU does for the organisation: “It puts us in a bad light because so few seem interested in Christianity anymore.

“As far as we’re concerned, it helps us because we want to share the good things we enjoy in life. And Christian women want to help those less fortunate than themselves.”

The word *temperance* is now old fashioned, she suggests.

“It isn’t known by young people today. A girl asked me what I was president of and when I told her she burst out laughing. She said, ‘Temperance. What on earth is that? I’ve never heard of it.’

“Most young people would feel like that and wouldn’t have the faintest idea of what it was. But when you take out words that people may not like you can lose your identity.

“In some countries they’ve changed the name to White Ribbon. What does White Ribbon mean? In Australia they have names that mean something, like Winners Without Drugs. I am looking for other options.”

An image of the WCTU is of a group of old women almost ready for a nursing home rather than about to tackle government policy. Mrs Jackson admits that most of those involved are over 65, but mainly because that is the age when women are freed from work and have the time to be involved.

She says she has seen a number of women’s organisations close in New Zealand because women are working,

Beginnings of the WCTU movement

Because of problems caused by alcohol in Europe, when the Pilgrim Fathers left Portsmouth, England, in 1620, they planned to set up an alcohol-free nation. Within a few years, though, alcohol was being brewed. Within 100 years the new nation itself was in jeopardy because of alcoholism.

About the same time, England also had a problem with alcoholism. The government passed laws preventing gin production because so many people were dying, and fewer babies were being born to replace them.

In the United States the alcohol problem became particularly bad in the early 1800s. Even small towns had several taverns. A women’s movement against alcohol developed as women grew tired of living in poverty and losing their husbands and their sons to drink. The growing practice of enticing children into taverns with gifts of lollies became a turning point in the campaign against alcohol.

Usually these campaigns were led by Christian women whose husbands supported them well. They felt sorry for their poorer sisters and wanted to do something to help these struggling families. One group of women visited taverns and prayed for the men in there, and in any place where they were allowed.

Unknown to these women in the United States, women’s campaigns against alcohol were being fought in other countries as well. In 1885, Mary Clement Levitt from the Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) visited Australia, New Zealand and 68 other countries, and found women ready to set up “unions” to fight the liquor trade.

At the time, because there was no government help for poor families, the WCTU helped set up orphanages, homes for girls and homes for alcoholic women. They also fought for prohibition in Australia and New Zealand, as well as the United States.

“In America prohibition was in force for 13 years and was very successful,” says Margaret Jackson, world president of the WCTU. “We hear the brewers’ story about what happened in America with Al Capone, but he did no harm compared to what alcohol does in America today.”

The WCTU is not calling for prohibition, because there’s a sense that this would now prove impossible. As well, says Mrs Jackson, there are other drugs that need to be tackled. Today the main emphasis is on education—of children, adults and governments.

“Women just have to work and they can’t do anything else, and it’s just so sad.”

On the age question, she’s encouraged by two things: The fact that so many WCTU members live so long—a sign of the positive lifestyle they promote. And that the age of the women does not change the kind of impact they can have.

“I believe this group of women in the WCTU can turn the world upside down,” she says.

To change the world

“I feel a burden to reach the governments of the world, which are obviously not hearing any information about the damage alcohol is doing. I plan to use my computer to get messages into places

where people cannot go.

“This is going to be difficult because a lot of countries are not as willing to have anything to do with Christianity.

“My aim is to try to reach every country where we have WCTU work to pick up on these things around them and just bring it to the notice of governments. Like a dripping tap, it has to be something constant and ongoing until they get sick of us.”

And that is her method to change the world. **R**

Bruce Manners is the editor of the RECORD. This interview took place earlier this year when Margaret Jackson was in Melbourne as guest speaker for the

Helping young people to grow

by Braden Blyde

T

he thought that the youth of the church are wandering, flailing and falling from their

Christian beliefs and practices is encountered too often in today's church environment. As the baby boomers and busters age, it seems their memory is prematurely ageing as well.

Would you care to take a walk with me down memory lane? For the boomers and busters, the 1960s was a time of cultural revolution, a time when individual freedom became the focal point for teens and young adults. Young people of society sought freedom from parents and social restraint.

At this time the generations of parents and those who had gone before them began to worry about the direction of their rebellious children. They began to fret about the wayward actions and inclinations of their children and their peers. They were left wondering where the belief system they had instilled in their children had gone.

The same situation is present in today's church with the difference that those doing the worrying are the children of the 60s.

As children, we accompanied our parents to church and learned to love God and Jesus as our Saviour, although most of us didn't understand the implications of their faith. As we entered the teenage years, our perspective changed—as we matured mentally, physically and spiritually. Then we began to doubt what we'd believed previously and, at times, even ourselves. For most, the teenage years are a time of rediscovery. For this you need freedom.

In many churches, the teens and youth Sabbath schools are often viewed as outrageous and, at times, lacking a Christ-centred focus—just a Sabbath-morning hangout for kids. Sometimes that's true.

Sabbath school is definitely a time that many teens and youth look forward to as a




time to meet with friends, relaxing after a week at school. But be warned: It's definitely not a non-Christ-centred environment. Though not as structured and planned as most senior Sabbath schools, it is without a doubt a place where Christ remains the reason for being there.

The lessons learned in teen Sabbath school may not be as Bible oriented as the seniors' lesson plans. It often concentrates on society and how God can influence you as an individual today, but that's not a bad thing.

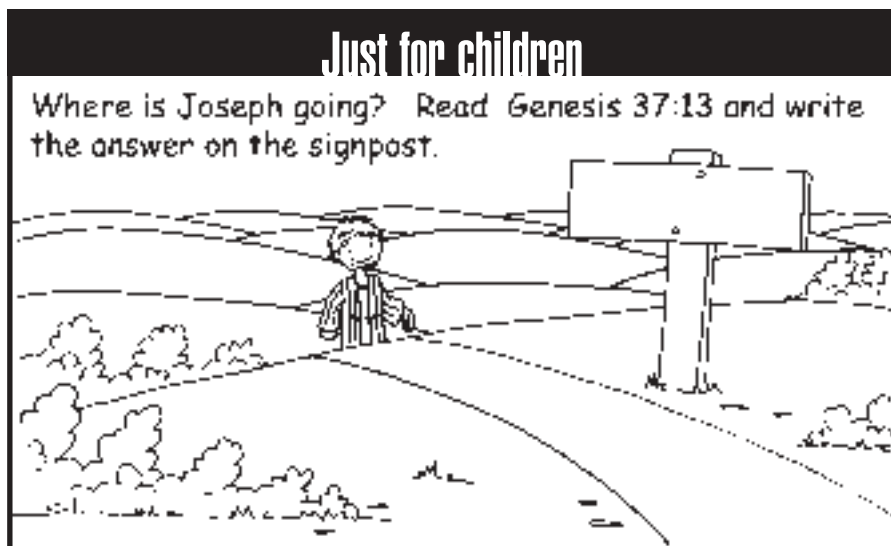
The teenage years are a time of rediscovery, and this facilitates learning to love oneself again. This is something that I and most like me have struggled with. I ask

you: How can you love a person—in this instance God—you've never met when you can't love yourself? For this reason, teen and youth Sabbath school lessons are structured in a way that the participants will gain some understanding of what God is, but also allows them to learn about themselves.

So when you feel that the young people of your church are slipping away from God, stop to think for a minute: What was I like at their age? And consider the struggles you had in those years. I'm not saying you should let young people always behave as they might wish—according to the lowest common denominator—but consider their personal situation before fretting about the path they seem to be taking.

Encourage your young people to make a right decision. Help them grow both in the relationships they build with God, and with others. Help them to love themselves. In doing this, the church will have a strong foundation on which to grow. 

Braden Blyde, aged 16, writes from Cooranbong, NSW.



Peta Taylor

Drugs: A variety of views

A Kent Kingston, SA

Gary Christian's article on drugs ("Wake-up call on drugs," October 5) was astounding. Rather than a balanced presentation regarding the debate over drug treatment forms, this was a one-sided diatribe against harm minimisation.

Are the thousands of policy makers, drug counsellors and social workers (including myself) in this country who come into daily contact with drug users and promote harm minimisation all blind dupes of a gigantic conspiracy?

I agree that rehabilitation programs are woefully underfunded and waiting lists are long. But not every drug user is willing or able to go cold turkey or enter a residential program. It's for them that harm minimisation has its place—as part of a broader campaign against drugs. A combative debate such as that advanced here dooms society to more years of drug-related fatalities.

J W Topperwien, Vic

Our church once conducted drug and alcohol programs, of the kind Gary Christian is advocating, at its Warburton Hospital, which we sold. I agree with the view that "harm minimisation" and "harm reduction" approaches are virtually useless. Total abstinence is the only successful method of treating substance abuse.

The program at the Warburton Hospital was based on a highly successful abstin-

ence model from the US, and was widely considered by many experts to be the best in Australasia. It's unfortunate that we no longer own the hospital that for more than 90 years brought health and healing to thousands.

David Pennington

Congratulations to Gary Christian for his thought-provoking, well-researched and penetrating article on Australia's drug problem. I see the medical effects of illicit drug taking almost every week as a doctor—the effects that are never given much publicity, such as permanent

paralysis, severe pressure sores, kidney failure, brain damage and various other permanent physical and psychological damage among overdosed addicts.

I for one will follow his suggestion to lobby our political leaders to turn away from harm minimisation.

Mr Christian's suggested conclusion that we have a Christian duty of care in both the areas of active rehabilitation and of informing our politicians are sound ones. Moreover, we have an answer to the emptiness that causes young people to take up drugs: introduce them to Jesus, the great life Rehabilitator.

An old earth: Theory or fact?

Kevin Ferris, Qld

William Johnsson's determination to preserve our traditional view of Creation ("In the shadow of Galileo," October 5) shouldn't come at the expense of Scripture. The wealth of information now available calls for God's originally intended interpretation of Genesis 1:1.

The words "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" refer to the Milky Way system along with its numberless balancing galaxies, brought into being without recourse to pre-existing matter. When, aeons later, God came to work on the formless and void Planet

Not every drug user is willing or able to go cold turkey or enter a residential program. It's for them that harm minimisation has its place. . . .

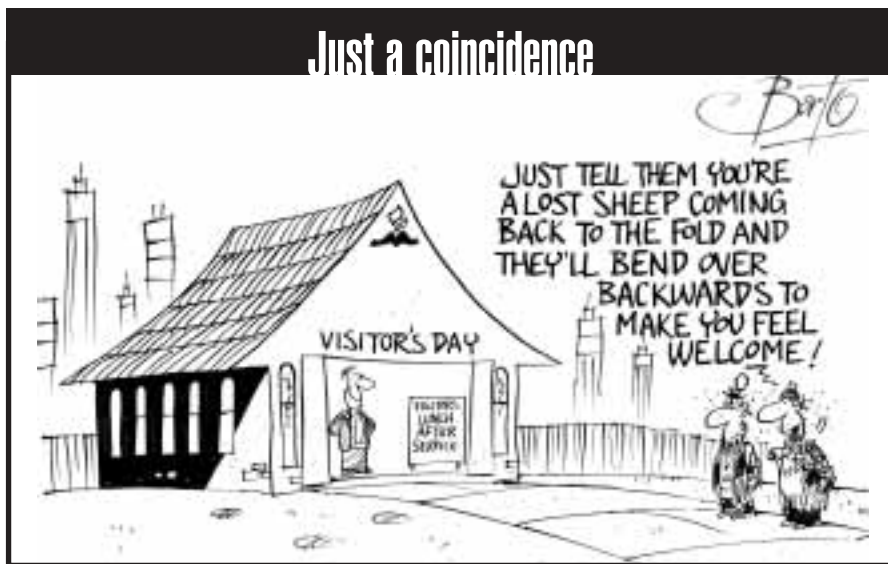
Earth, He didn't push aside other solar systems to make room for a new one. The earth and its sun were already in place and in balance with its neighbours. A spiral form galaxy has no place for latecomers.

This interrelated system was not created just 6000 years ago; we know that because light from our neighbours within our galaxy has taken millions of years to arrive here. Attempts to dismiss this by talk of God "speeding up" light are not supported by Scripture, are unscientific and fraudulent. God's specific work on this planet took place relatively recently, but the earth itself bears all the marks of being hoary with age, matured and ready for habitation.

We can only blame ourselves if our blind insistence on preserving cherished fallacies has deprived us of a sound basis of interaction with the obvious facts. God's Word does accord with nature—when we read it as He intended.

According to the SDA Bible Commentary (Vol 1, page 48), since 1860 there have been contrasting Adventist views about what was present before Creation week, including this view.

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. See masthead (page 2) for contact details.



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Appreciation

Uprichard. Jennifer Rolfe and Gavin Uprichard would like to thank their family and friends for the expressions of sympathy, cards and donations in the recent loss of their mother, Mona.

Weddings

Jaensch—Freeman. Rodger Dean Jaensch, son of Mr and Mrs Jaensch (Murray Bridge, SA), and Maree Dawn Freeman, daughter of Pat and the late Tom Freeman (Echuca, Vic), were married on 6.10.02 in the Echuca Adventist church.

Lyman Ritchie

Richards—Sisson. Warren Richards, son of Ross and Wanda Richards (Moree, NSW), and Joy Sisson, daughter of Ruth and the late Michael Sisson (Coffs Harbour), were married on 8.9.02 at Alstonville.

Wes Tolhurst

Obituaries

Austin, Dorothy Margaret Mortimer, born 2.10.1913 in Melbourne, Vic; died 12.9.02 at Nunawading. On 26.2.39 she married James Tayler, who predeceased her 11.1.66. On 28.6.67 she married John Austin. She is survived by her husband; her daughters, Margaret Astling (Blackburn), Patricia Rose (The Patch) and Catherine Chivers (East Ringwood); her 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Neil Marks

Rowe, James Reginald, born 19.7.1914 at Bairnsdale, Vic; died 15.9.02 at Bendigo. On 11.1.44 he married Ella. He is survived by his wife; his children, Marjorie (all of Bendigo), and David and Sandy (Seattle, Washington, USA); and his two grandchildren. Reg was a loyal Adventist who loved God and gardening.

Joseph Maticic

Stride, Nelson William, born 27.7.1938 in Hobart, Tas; died suddenly 14.8.02 at Goondiwindi, Qld. He is survived by his wife, Colarie, Megan and Eleanor, Anthony, Sharon, Angela, Katrina, Ellana and David; and his 22 grandchildren. Nelson was baptised by Pastor David Currie in 1982 and was a faithful member of the Goondiwindi church.

Brian Enoch

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