

RECORD



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Daniel documentary to bring evangelism into prime time

Brenton Stacey

Commercial television will broadcast a Daniel 2 documentary if plans by the South Pacific Division (SPD) to launch a Year of Evangelism are successful.

The Ministerial Association secretary for the SPD, Pastor Anthony Kent, presented the proposal to members of the SPD executive committee during their year-end meetings, November 19-21.

The church will produce a one-hour documentary if its pitch to stations in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific islands is successful. The ideal would be to have a network of stations broadcast the documentary in prime time in late January, early February or at Easter, 2004. The documentary would then act as a launch for what the worldwide church has designated as the Year of Evangelism in 2004 (see "A time to reap . . .").

"Getting a religious program on commercial TV is big ask," says Pastor Kent. "But I am quietly confident station executives will be interested."

The documentary is timely, says Pastor Kent. "The interest of the world has focused, since September 11, on the Middle East and the historical causes of conflict there. More are asking questions about the end of the world. Daniel 2 answers these questions."

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"President of principle" retires

Holding the Father's hand

We were mentally prepared for chaos in the first hours of the year 2000. In fact, we were so well prepared that the relief seemed to be tinged with disappointment. Those who had put aside six months of supplies were left feeling a little foolish.

Two years later and we know what we're in for in the new year. We don't need scientists to tell us or politicians to warn us. We don't even need conspiracy theorists to spin another story. The headlines during 2002 tell us that the year 2003 will find more people living in fear.

A Pandora's box called terrorism has been opened and Muslim extremists and their copycats will not let it close easily. The events of September 11 were horrific and the tragedy monumental, but we saw it from a distance. In October of 2002 it came home with the death of 87 Australians on Bali.

Guerrilla warfare has been taken out of the jungle and brought onto main streets and tourist destinations. In this warfare, the targets are not always military, and the fear rises. With the current trend—seen, for instance, in the attacks in Kenya—it seems that these attacks will increase.

Security levels in Australia and New Zealand are at high levels. But that doesn't increase personal feelings of security when there are nagging questions about how you counter those who willingly give their lives for the cause they believe in.

So the fear remains.

And the fear is noticeable. You find it in the relief as passengers disembark from their plane. You find it in conversation among friends. And it is openly discussed on talkback radio, illustrated by the suburban Melbourne woman who told her husband to marry again if her shopping

centre becomes a terrorist target, and she doesn't return.

"Fear paralyses you," writer Salman Rushdie told a *Seattle Times* reporter. Rushdie was the target of a 1989 *fatwa*, a decree that sentenced him to death for blasphemy. "And therefore if you are not to be paralysed you have to find a way of setting it to one side."

Responding to fear

One response the media has reported from Europe is an increase in spending on luxury items. The logic behind this approach being that if the future is uncertain, you should make the most of today.

Another response is to attempt to ignore it or—as a study released in December 2002, *The Silent Majority IV*, shows—because we can't fix global problems like terrorism, Australians worry more about issues close to home.

Some suggest you tackle the problem with mathematics that go something like this: There were 5000 planes in the air over the United States on September 11, 2001, and only three were involved in the terror attacks. Even if you had been flying at that time, the chance of being on one of the three planes is quite low. This lottery of life approach is hardly reassuring.

There must be another way. Rabbi David Wolpe, featured on CNN after the September 11 attacks, made this point: "If religion can't provide some kind of comfort and meaning at such a time, then it essentially fails in its central mission, which is to bring meaning and illumination to God's world."

Christianity does have a response. It comes first in the recognition that fear is real, but there's assurance (over 100 times in the Bible to God's people and individ-

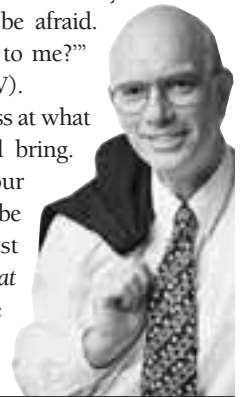
uals) that we do not need to be afraid.

Yes, bad things do happen to God's people, so it isn't always protection we're offered, but it is His presence. Even through "the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil," wrote David, "for you are with me . . ." (Psalm 23:4, NIV). "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you," is the promise (Hebrews 13:5, NIV).

Jesus adds a note about priorities: "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul." Remember, He says, you have no need to be afraid because you are greatly valued by the Father (Matthew 10:28-31, NIV). That value is revealed in the price the Father paid when He gave His Son. And that revealed His ultimate aim—eternal security. That hope, through Him, helps us understand the big picture God has in mind for us.

Rushdie was right in saying we must find a way of setting fear aside, but we cheat ourselves if we set it aside in the wrong way. We set fear aside best when we reach out and place our hand in that of our Father's and walk together through the shadows. That's when we can "say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?'" (Hebrews 13:6, NIV).

We can only guess at what the year 2003 will bring. Frankly, some of our darkest fears may be realised. The test then is not in *what* we do or *how* we react, but with *whom* we walk.



Bruce Manners



OFFICIAL PAPER
South Pacific Division
Seventh-day Adventist
Church
ACN 000 003 930

Vol 108 No 1
Cover: Peter Hagen

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Subscriptions: South Pacific Division mailed within Australia and to New Zealand, \$A43.80 \$NZ73.00. Other prices on application. Printed weekly.

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● With Pastor **Thomas Davai** (pictured) as the new president of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (as announced in the last issue of RECORD), **Dennis Tame**, the



former associate secretary, is the new secretary. Pastor **Blasius Managos** is the new associate secretary. Pastor

Managos is currently the church's Sabbath school and personal ministries director.

● The South Pacific Division will host a **Faith and Science Conference** in July 2003. Participation will be **by invitation** and open to church administrators, church pastors, theologians or Bible scholars, science teachers or professors, Bible teachers at secondary schools and science students at tertiary institutions. The General Conference organised an **international conference in 2002** then recommended divisions of the church organise **regional conferences in 2003**. It will organise another international conference in 2004.

● On-campus **enrolment at Avondale College, NSW, increased** in 2002. Some 723 students studied at the college in the **first** semester. This is **92 more** than the number who



Year of child and single for 2003

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific Division (SPD) is commemorating the Year of the Child and the Year of the Single in 2003.

Janet Rieger (pictured) from SPD children's ministries plans to organise a South Pacific-wide festival for children's leaders at the Watson Park Convention Centre near Brisbane, November 14-16. Her department will also translate children's Bible-study guides for use in the Pacific, train children's leaders in the islands to use the GraceLink curriculum, encourage churches to organise an evangelistic program for children in 2003 and 2004, and encourage children to sponsor wind-up cassette tape players for non-literate families.



The Year of the Child, an initiative of the Christian Churches of Australia, has won praise from the Prime Minister, John Howard. "We cannot afford to be complacent about the wellbeing of our children," he says. "Working in collaboration to ensure children are on the agenda is an important and highly worthwhile endeavour and one I fully support."

Adventist Singles Ministry will launch its new image in 2003. Along with a new name—Interconnect: Adventist Ministries for Singles—comes a new logo, leadership training manual, mentoring program, promotional video and web site.

The key message will be that "God loves every single one of us." The South Pacific Division will promote this by organising DivorceCare and GriefShare seminars, a national leadership conference and a national singles convention at Adventist Alpine Village in Jindabyne, NSW, December 30, 2003, to January 4, 2004.

studied in the first semester of 2001. About 15 per cent of the students come from countries other than Australia and New Zealand. The number of **inquiries also increased**, from 1542 in 2000, to 2042 in 2001 and 2395 in 2002. However, off-campus postgraduate students fell from 150 in 2001 to 117 in 2002.

● More than 400 students—the largest number ever—enrolled to study at **Pacific Adventist University** in Port Moresby,

Papua New Guinea, in 2002. **Secondary education**, with 150 students, continues to be the most popular course. **Business and theology** follow. The university also employed—at 38 budgets—a record number of staff. Enrolment rose from 290 to 376 when the College of Nursing at Sopas Adventist Hospital moved to the university as the School of Health Sciences in 2001.

● **Wallis and Futuna Islands** are no longer the "**Forgotten Islands**." When the South Pacific Division restructured in 2000, and new boundaries drawn, these islands were omitted. They are now officially part of the **New Zealand Pacific Union Conference**, under the care of the New Caledonia Mission.

● Dr **Harold Peters** (pictured, left) is **retiring** as vice-chancellor of **Pacific Adventist University** (PAU), Papua New Guinea. His replacement, Dr **Nemani**

Tausere (right), the education director for the South Pacific Division, paid tribute to Dr Peters during the year-end meetings. Dr Tausere spoke of the development at PAU under his leadership, and of his years of service, especially in Africa. "On **behalf of all Pacific islanders**, we thank you and your wife, Verna, for your commitment to the mission of the church."





Defending religious liberty now policy

Brenton Stacey

Seventh-day Adventists have always defended the universal human right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. Now it is policy.

Members of the church in the South Pacific Division's Executive Committee voted at their year-end meetings, November 19-21, to add a religious liberty litigation policy to the church's working policy.

Students owe half-a-million in fees

Brenton Stacey

Students studying at Pacific Adventist University owe the Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea-based tertiary institution more than K450,000 in fees.

The university deregistered almost 100 students when accounts receivable reached K740,000 in September.

"Most made satisfactory financial arrangements within a few days but we are still waiting for promised payments," says university vice-chancellor Dr Harold Peters.

The university will permit students who owe money to sit their final exams but will not award grades until the students pay their accounts. This is in keeping with other tertiary institutions in Papua New Guinea, which are experiencing similar problems, reports Dr Peters.

However, the university will not graduate final-year students and will not re-enrol undergraduates who owe money.

The devaluation of the kina and the announcement from the Office of Higher Education that it cannot honour scholarship commitments has stretched family budgets, "and this creates difficulties for many of our students when their fees are due," says Dr Peters.

The policy permits conferences and missions of the church to legally defend their religious liberty rights and the rights of their members, including the right of Sabbath observance.

However, the policy encourages out-of-court settlements. "Prudence should always prevail when it appears advisable to seek rights to redress through the judicial system, not the least because of the heavy costs that can be incurred and the possible far-reaching consequences of court decisions."

These settlements should include "direct negotiations with employers and representation to management by church leaders" and, perhaps, "mediation by government-sponsored agencies for implementing equal opportunity and anti-discrimination legislation."

The church's conferences and missions are to follow a five-step process for instigating legal action if an out-of-court settlement fails. They must:

1. Evaluate the genuineness of the case and the integrity of the individual as a bona-fide member of the church
2. Consult with appropriate lawyers to determine the range and scope of legal remedies and the chances of receiving a favourable outcome

3. Notify the church's union conferences or union missions of possible implications and costs of the case before proceeding

4. Monitor the expenses and possible implications of the outcome and report to the church's union conferences or union missions and to the church in the South Pacific, and

5. Consult with the church in the South Pacific Division, and administrators and the public affairs and religious liberty director at union conferences or union missions, before proceeding with litigation.

But who pays for this legal action? The policy states that conferences and missions are initially responsible but recognises that "as such cases may create legal precedents . . . the corporate responsibility of the church increases."

The policy outlines a cost-sharing guideline where:

1. Church members meet the first \$2000 per case
 2. Conferences and missions meet up to \$5000
 3. Union conferences and union missions meet up to \$10,000, and
 4. The South Pacific Division meets up to \$15,000.
- All parties will negotiate costs beyond this.

Domestic Violence Taskforce reports

Brenton Stacey

Domestic violence is widespread and under-reported, with one-third of women in Australia suffering some form of the abuse.

So began Dr Bryan Craig's first interim report from the Domestic Violence Taskforce to the South Pacific Division's Executive Committee. Dr Craig is the secretary of the task force and the family ministries director for the South Pacific Division.

The task force has met twice since forming. It has:

1. Renamed itself the Domestic Violence in Families Taskforce
2. Reviewed the General Conference position on family violence, and
3. Gathered resources from the church, other Christian churches and the government.

It is currently developing a strategic plan to help prevent domestic violence from occurring in Adventist homes.



Employment decisions help meet needs

Bruce Manners

The South Pacific Division (SPD) year-end meetings focused on employees in several ways. The issues of succession planning, a new policy on employment records and another on pre-employment checks were discussed and passed, and changes made to an employment scholarship scheme for students.

Succession job planning

A more focused approach to succession planning in the church has begun with each employing entity encouraged to develop professionally appropriate people so that there can be a pool of people available to fill management or specialist positions.

Church administrations are asked to take a three-step process in job succession planning. The first identifies major tasks the organisation, department or company will face in the next three to five years.

Then they are to work out management or specialist skills required to address these tasks and issues.



Pastor Brad Kemp.

Finally they are to identify "high-potential employees" who display ability and capacity to face those kinds of challenges.

This approach will in no way supersede or dilute present methods of selecting church leaders at sessions; rather, the SPD leadership director, Pastor Brad Kemp, believes it will help.

"It fits in with sessions by providing a pool of people to draw on," he says. "In most cases they would have been prepared for the possibility of leadership, not a role."

He recognises that a more focused approach is necessary for specialist positions.

"The purpose is to be intentional in developing the resources we have in the

church. It doesn't dictate or tie the church's hands in the appointments made, but creates this larger pool."

He quotes sociologist Max Weber, saying that institutions thrive not because of one leader's charisma, but because they have cultivated leaders throughout the system.

An employee-development program may include sponsorship through academic courses, conference and seminar attendance and job rotation. Another option is job secondment to other organisations within the SPD, for limited periods of time, to broaden knowledge and experience.

"We need to look at a number of people and widen their opportunities," says Pastor Kemp. "But we must remember that working for the church is about calling and mission—it's about vocation, not career. We have to keep that in perspective."

Employment records

A new policy on employment records for church employees was passed to ensure the church meets government privacy-policy and other guidelines, and that only appropriate people will have access to them.

"We're expanding and systematising our employment record keeping so we can adopt a more professional approach," says Colin Clark, the SPD human resources director.

Each employer will maintain records for employees, with access restricted to senior administration of the employing entity. Upon request, the union secretary, the SPD human resources director and the SPD associate secretary may also have access.

An employee can also request to view their records, but they will not manage or have direct access to their records. Those in administrative positions will not have direct access to their own files. Each viewing will be supervised.

Pre-employment checks

A policy has now been put in place to ensure that thorough background checks

of prospective employees takes place before appointments are made.

"The checking is to ensure more comprehensive background checks so our recruitment is more thorough," says Mr Clark.

While the employing body would normally carry out these checks, some positions require mandatory checks by statutory bodies (police checks, for instance, for those working with young people).

Employers' scholarship fund

Changes to what used to be known as the College Scholarship Fund means Seventh-day Adventists or the children of church members may receive assistance from a Denominational Employees Scholarship Fund to study at Avondale College.

Funding for the scholarships comes from a percentage of the payroll of Adventist institutions and the SPD.

In another change, 10 per cent of the contribution from the institutions and the division will be used for "targeted human resource development." This will be for students assessed as having potential to enter denominational employment in strategic needs identified within church work.

"We are trying to encourage more people to take up denominational service," says Mr Clark. "We want to identify them early, form a relationship with them and provide motivation."

Students who come under the scheme will be studying full time at an undergraduate level. Preference will be given to those who have completed their first year and, in a first, if a course of study is not available at Avondale College, students from other institutions will be considered.

The scholarship includes fee assistance, short-term employment opportunities and research grants.



Colin Clark.



Finance review sees growth and concerns

Bruce Manners

The South Pacific Division (SPD) treasurer says he is excited by what he sees happening in the church. It is evidence of "God's blessing in trying times," says Rod Brady as he reviews the current financial situation.

"Tithe is increasing, institutions have turned in good results and progress has been made in the Papua New Guinea Union Mission [PNGUM]," he says.

Tithe in the division has increased by 9.08 per cent overall, or almost \$A4 million in comparison to the January-September period of the previous year. The "Tithe increases" box gives further details.

"Usually the largest gains in tithe are made toward the end of the year," says Mr Brady, "so to be 9.08 per cent ahead at this point of time is a good indicator."

He adds that tithe reporting and payments from PNGUM are still below expectations even taking into account the catch-up that has taken place during the year. "But there are positive signs of improvement in recent months."

PNGUM targeted

An Australian Union Conference initiative organised teams to assist the PNGUM in bringing financial statements up to date. Staff volunteered from the union, conferences and institutions to assist.

"All our financial staff are under pressure in their own workplaces, but they saw the need in PNG as greater and were willing to assist. This is a lesson in what can be achieved when we combine our energies and consider the needs of others above our own. They need to be commended.

"The PNGUM treasurer expects that by the end of 2002 all financial statements up to 2001 should be completed with the possible exception of one mission."

Mr Brady reported to the year-end

meeting on what had been done since May, when the financial plight of PNGUM had been highlighted to the midyear meetings.

Each mission within PNGUM has been visited to assess the magnitude of the problem. In August Mr Brady and the SPD president, Pastor Laurie Evans, met with PNGUM and mission administrators in a "frank" meeting on the situation and plans were made to help remedy the problem.

Further measures included more personal accountability for mission administrators, with quarterly assessments. A strong emphasis has been placed on better education management because the growth of education has been a major factor in the current financial situation.

A strategy has begun to transfer treasury functions from Cairns, Qld, back to Lae, PNG.

"Since midyear there has been a noticeable improvement in the tithe and offering reports sent to the union compared to last year," says Mr Brady. "Education continues to be a major issue to be solved.

"PNG, as a nation, is suffering economically and that affects the church as well. Tithe isn't increasing in line with growth, and church employees are feeling the effects of a rapidly declining standard of living. We need to remember the situation in PNG in our prayers."

Insurance costs rise

The cost of insurance has become an issue for the church. Mr Brady reported that the church's Risk Management Service (RMS) has had a difficult year renewing denominational policies in a "hard insurance market."

In the past few months the following increases have been signalled:

- Local church property rates will increase by 40-60 per cent for 2003.
- The quoted business interruption insurance has increased by 1000 per cent.
- The legal liability insurance for Sydney Adventist Hospital has the potential additional cost of \$A2.5 million.
- Some aviation insurance will increase by 400 per cent.

Not only are premium increases an issue, but insurers are reducing the risks they are covering. For instance, RMS has been told that the sandwich panelling at the Sanitarium Health Food Company factory at Berkeley Vale, NSW, must be replaced—at a cost of \$A2 million.

"Risk Management Service is working with insurers on options to minimise costs with little success," says Mr Brady. "The outlook is for the current insurance market to remain the same or worse for the foreseeable future.

"This will continue to challenge our division on what risks, as an organisation, we are prepared to accept in order to contain insurance costs."

Tithe increases				
Tithe reports to SPD	\$A	\$A	\$A	%
	2001 Jan-Sep	2002 Jan-Sep	Variance	Variance
Australian Union	29,016,199	31,246,928	2,230,728	7.69
New Zealand Pacific Union	6,067,842	6,752,108	684,266	11.28
Papua New Guinea Union	3,924,499	4,468,943	544,444	13.87
Trans Pacific Union	3,799,737	4,225,697	425,960	11.21
Total	42,808,278	46,693,675	3,885,398	9.08



Alleged abusers must stand down from office

Brenton Stacey

Seventh-day Adventists being investigated for claims of child sexual abuse will have to stand down from local church leadership positions, according to a policy passed by the South Pacific Division (SPD) executive during the year-end meetings.

The local church board is responsible for ensuring this happens until an authority or the church in Australia and New Zealand's Professional Standards Committee proves or disproves the allegations.

The board must reinstate and reaffirm as a member in regular standing an individual cleared by an authority or the committee. However, it must also censure for one year or remove from membership an individual not cleared.

Individuals not cleared cannot hold any position of responsibility while under

censure, and cannot ever again hold any church office or position of responsibility that places them in contact with children or young adults.

The board of a local church can reinstate these individuals after one year, but only in offices or positions that do not place them in contact with children, and only after acting on the advice of an authority or the committee.

Dr Bryan Craig, the family ministries director for the SPD, says the denomination must always uphold its duty of care to its members. "We have a responsibility to make the church and its ministry activities a safe place for all worshippers, young and old."



Dr Bryan Craig.

Wanted: Tent makers

Brenton Stacey

Adventist Volunteer Service director Pastor Mel Lemke now has an additional title—Global Partnerships coordinator.

Global Partnerships, part of the church's Institute of World Mission, recruits professionals to train as "tent makers." This term refers to Christians who support themselves in non-church work while serving as cross-cultural evangelists.

The church particularly needs tent makers in the 10/40 Window—an imaginary window between 10 degrees and 40 degrees north of the equator stretching from West Africa through Asia in which 65 per cent of the world's people live. Few of these people believe in Jesus, and only 0.193 per cent of them are Adventists.

"My job will be to encourage Adventists to continue working in their professions but to start working as church planters," says Pastor Lemke.

Phone Adventist Volunteer Service on +61 2 9847 3275 if you are interested in becoming a tent maker.



Pastor Mel Lemke is encouraging Adventists to continue working in their professions but to start working as tent makers.

"President of principle" retires

Brenton Stacey

Pastor Wilson Stephen has retired as president of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission.

"It is a better place because of his leadership," said former secretary Pastor Brad Kemp in his tribute. Raphael Nagua, a visiting church member from Papua New Guinea, described Pastor Stephen as a man of principle.

Pastor Laurie Evans, president of the South Pacific Division, echoed the sentiment: "Wilson is not a man to be pushed around."

Pastor Stephen received an award from the Queen in 2002. His appointment as a Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) acknowledged his contribution to Papua New Guinea's growth as a nation.

He and his wife, Mary, have served the church for 35 years.



Pastor Laurie Evans (at right) described Pastor Wilson Stephen as a "brother."

Global Mission pioneers

Church employees in the South Pacific may now be granted leave of absence if they want to serve as Global Mission pioneers. Global Mission pioneers volunteer for at least a year to establish a church in an unentered area within their own culture. More than 19,000 are now working around the world and have established more than 11,000 new churches since 1990.

The church may also grant leave for sickness, study, overseas denominational interests, volunteer service and professional development.



Changes for retiree support in the islands

Bruce Manners

The existing Island Field Sustentation Fund, which provides retirement support in the Pacific islands, will be phased out. In the future, church employees will rely on employer and employee contributions to National Provident Funds (NPF) or similar funds to provide savings needed for retirement support.

“A lot of what has been done in the island field is modelled on the Australian experience,” says Kelvin Peuser, an



Kelvin Peuser.

associate treasurer for the South Pacific Division. He adds that the decision has come after considerable consultation with administrators and employee representatives in most Pacific island nations.

The island sustentation fund currently provides 1194 retirees with monthly gratuitous payments based on their length of service to the church. Those currently supported by the church's sustentation fund and those who have at least five completed, continuous years of service at December 31, 2002, will still receive sustentation support when they reach retirement.

Most church employers currently contributing to the island sustentation fund are also required by law to contribute to the NPF for each employee. These church entities are presently contributing an equivalent of between 20 and 25 per cent of their payroll to provide retirement benefits for employees.

Under this proposal, church employers will only place funds into National Provident Funds (NPF) for employees. Most Pacific island nations have an NPF program—the Cook Islands is expected to have a retirement fund by July 2003, but because there is currently no NPF in Tonga and Niue the current sustentation program will

continue there until one is established.

“This is something that had to happen,” says Mr Peuser. “In a number of countries in the South Pacific the church has been contributing to both the sustentation program *and* NPF for a number of years.”

The island sustentation fund has struggled to remain viable. Income has increased by 44 per cent, but expenditure has increased by 65 per cent. The SPD has appropriated \$A2.1 million to support the fund since its beginning. In an attempt to maintain its viability, employer contributions were increased from 9.25 per cent of tithe to 15 per cent of payroll.

Those who enter the church work force in 2003 will have no future entitlements to support by the sustentation program. This is what has happened in Australia and New Zealand, with sustentation being phased out since 1998. (There are, at present, 1713 sustentees in Australia and New Zealand.)

Some concern has been expressed regarding the long-term stability of the

NPF program in some countries. That uncertainty has been recognised with the SPD agreeing to provide contingency arrangements if the situation calls for it.

“While the new arrangement gives no immediate financial relief to the church, the changes are necessary to ensure that future generations will not be left with an even greater liability,” he adds. “We have to continue to support current sustentees and those who will still be eligible for sustentation support when they retire.”

“We expect that between now and the year 2023 there will be a graduated 50 per cent increase (in 2002 kina value) in the level of payments to support sustentees in PNG alone. Sustentation payments are expected to reach a peak in 2023 and will slowly taper off until there are no further denominational retirees who will be eligible for support. Initial predictions indicate that this will occur by 2054. If we hadn't done anything the problem would get worse and future liability greater.”

Health focus for 2003 outreach

Bruce Manners

Taking Charge of Your Health will be a major satellite outreach during 2003, which will also involve video and DVD resources for churches. A series of seven programs will be available in September.

“Taking Charge of Your Health deals with contemporary health issues and showcases how Adventist lifestyle principles can help people to live a healthier, happier and more fulfilling life,” says Jonathan Duffy, director of Adventist Health Ministries for the South Pacific Division.

He feels the program could help establish ongoing contact between the church and the community, and establish the church as a credible resource that has something meaningful and relevant to contribute. Those involved in the

churches will be trained, particularly in knowing where to refer people if serious health problems are raised.

“We want to help empower the community to decipher the mass of health information that's out there,” says Mr Duffy, “and make simple changes that will improve their health and wellbeing. This series will demystify the science of health and offer simple, doable, take-home messages.”

The series is designed for broad appeal, but targeted at 35- to 55-year-old females who influence family health behaviours.

Mr Duffy sees that the series introduces a number of issues that could lead into future seminars at local churches in areas such as parenting, self-esteem, stress management and nutrition.



Daniel documentary for prime time TV

(Continued from page 1)

He notes that other documentaries about prophecy broadcast on television have rated well. "Producing a documentary about the empires of the Middle East may appeal to even more viewers because few will ever have the opportunity to visit countries such as Iraq."

And Pastor Kent says the historical accuracy will help establish the credibility of the Bible and of the church as a group of Bible-believing Christians. "The Daniel 2 prophecy is one of the most important messages that Adventists have to proclaim. The emphasis on the second coming of Jesus is Adventism, but it is not contentious or offensive. And it is

acceptable to the Jews who are waiting for the Messiah to return and to the Muslims who are waiting for *Isa*."

Ministers at local churches will also be able to speak immediately during their follow-up seminars about the prophecies of the Bible because of the content of the documentary.

The church in the South Pacific will build its profile in 2003 as a lead-up to the documentary and the prophecy seminars. It will also train members and ministers to reach out to others as part of the Go One Million initiative, and distribute to members of the community six million brochures presenting hope in Christ (see "... a time to sow").



A time to reap . . .

Brenton Stacey

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is challenging its employees to reach out to others during the Year of Evangelism in 2004.

"We're encouraging each of our employees to initiate personal soul winning in the lead-up to an evangelistic program or to help with the program itself," says Dr Barry Oliver, the secretary for the South Pacific Division. He extends the challenge to the entities and the supporting ministries of the church.

"Jesus' mandate is clear," says Dr Oliver. "His instructions are plain. His commission compels us to reap God's harvest, now."

The General Conference will introduce the Year of Evangelism to administrators and ministers in a satellite uplink during its Council on Evangelism and Witness in April 2003. A promotional campaign will follow.

The church in the South Pacific plans to launch the Year of Evangelism with a

Daniel 2 documentary broadcast on commercial television.

The Year of Evangelism will incorporate most of the church's evangelistic initiatives, including the Adventist Discovery Centre's Bible correspondence courses, Adventist Health's *Taking Charge of Your Health*, Adventist Media's *Taking Charge of Your Life* video series, the worldwide church's Go One Million and Sow 1 Billion, the young-adult small-group movement, the Underground and *Signs of the Times*.

. . . a time to sow

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific is planning to distribute six million brochures presenting hope in Christ.

The church will translate the brochure into several languages, but each brochure will provide information on whom to contact for Bible studies. The brochure

will also include the address of an Internet site offering Bible correspondence courses in several languages. The site may also automatically give answers to questions in the course, print a certificate upon graduation and print a letter giving directions to the nearest Adventist church.

The so-called Sow 6 Million is part of the worldwide church's Sow 1 Billion initiative. It will complement the church's Go One Million initiative, which is to train one million Adventists to reach out to others.

"We could distribute the brochures in only one year if all the church members who join Go One Million share three a day," says the assistant to the president, Pastor Ray Coombe. "The biggest challenge will be to equip and train church members to respond to requests for Bible studies."

The General Conference will donate \$US30,000 to Sow 6 Million, enough to cover the cost of producing a brochure for one-half of a US cent.

Working in a changed world

by Laurie Evans

September 11, 2001, has been superseded by October 12, 2002. The Bali bombing tragedy confirms that this world has entered a new era of warfare. It's a different type of global confrontation that's far more frightening than anything the world has had to deal with before.

These recent events not only put the world on a high state of security alert, they have had a profound impact on the hearts and minds of thinking people as they search for meaning and understanding in these uncertain times.

A *Time* cover story on the Bible and end-time events (July 1, 2002) told of Todd Strandberg, an aircraft engineer in Nebraska and a webmaster at <raptureready.com>. He's the inventor of the Rapture Index—he calls it the “Dow Jones industrial average of end-time activity.”

Instead of stocks, “it tracks prophecies: earthquakes, floods, plagues, crime, false prophets and economic measurements like unemployment that add to instability and civil unrest, thereby easing the way for antichrist. In other words, how close are we to the end of the world? The index hit an all-time high of 182 on September 24, as the bandwidth nearly melted under the weight of eight million visitors: any reading over 145, Strandberg says, means ‘Fasten your seatbelt.’”

A recent survey in America revealed that:

- 36 per cent believe that the Bible is the Word of God, to be taken literally.
- 59 per cent believe the prophecies in the book of Revelation will come true and nearly one-quarter think the Bible predicted the September 11 attack.
- 17 per cent believe the end of the world will happen in their lifetime.

The environment in this division, particularly in Australia and New Zealand, is similar to North America. There's a hunger, by many, to know and understand the meaning of the times in which we live.



A changed world

September 11 and October 12 have changed our world forever. It is now a global village, no longer divided by oceans, time zones or continents. This is an era of large corporations and conglomerates. Globalisation has impacted on us and causes us to look at different ways of carrying on business and mission. Commercial activities of the church are especially affected. For example, in the past few years we have seen the sale of our hospitals in Auckland and Warburton. And this forces us to rethink how to best package our health message to impact the millions of people who live in these countries.

With some exceptions, an institutionalised approach is no longer as viable and effective. This should not cause us to lament the “departed glory” of an age that is passing, but inspire us to be more innovative and creative.

At the same time, in the past decade there has been an explosion in technology. It is exciting that, as a church, we now have the ability to communicate with every area of the world. We have more than 13,000 downlink sites located on the five continents of the world. Through Adventist World Radio, satellite and the Internet there is no corner of the globe we can't penetrate with our message. No other generation has had this capability. The church must take advantage of these modern discoveries.

No longer can the church afford the luxury of duplicating systems at each level. There has to be rationalisation of services to maximise efficiencies. This will involve creative thinking and, in some instances, a new approach to organisation to capitalise on synergies. There has been some progress, but we have a long way to go—and we must choose to be proactive rather than wait until we're forced to move by a series of crises.

There is no question that we live in a strongly secular society. Our large cities are filled with secular-minded people with little interest in spiritual things, who are so unfamiliar with Scripture they have no idea who Joseph, Mary or Daniel were!

It is estimated that, around the world, there is a migration of over one million persons from rural to urban areas every week. More than half the world's population live in the cities of the world. In Australia, 66 per cent of the population live in capital or main cities. In some capital cities that percentage is higher at around 75 per cent. The same is true of our island nations. Country towns are declining in size and some are dying, which also affects our country churches that have little prospect for growth.

How does the church interact with and penetrate in a meaningful way the growing millions of people who are swarming into our cities? How do we cater for the increasing number of small country churches that have an ageing membership? How do we best use our resources to reach the big cities and other places where we have no Adventist presence?

The technology is available and the environment is right for bold initiatives to penetrate our major areas of population with our message. Now is the time to think outside of the square to expose the nations of Australia, New Zealand and the island nations with something that is topical and uniquely Adventist in a venture of faith.

Insurance issues

Insurance issues are a major challenge for the church. We live in an age of increased natural disasters, spiralling liability claims and exorbitant payouts, along with the recent acts of terrorism. Not only are premiums rising dramatically, but so are claims against the church—there are 600 litigation cases against the church worldwide at any one time. And the growing number of sexual-abuse cases brought against churches in general, including the Adventist Church, is impacting significantly on their ability to obtain this type of cover.

Unfortunately, courts have a recent history of granting huge payments for seemingly trivial cases. For instance, 19-year-old Carl Truman of Los Angeles won \$US74,000 and medical expenses when his neighbour ran over his hand. Mr Truman apparently didn't notice someone at the wheel of the car when he was trying to steal his neighbour's hub caps.

Increases in medical indemnity insurance are almost prohibitive. A recent survey of the hospital industry conducted by Trowbridge Deloitte has revealed that premiums in 2002 increased by 130 per cent over 2001, averaging \$A1700 per bed (up from \$750 per bed). At the same time the per claim excess carried by hospitals is much higher, with many hospitals carrying the first \$A100,000 or more of each claim.

This turmoil in the insurance industry means a huge increase in premiums for the denomination that will find their way into the budgets of churches and all entities in Australia and New Zealand, as well as the Pacific islands. In most cases there's almost no opportunity to recoup this additional cost by charging it on, even in the commercial entities of the church.

The church is going to have to be much more diligent and proactive in managing the risk factor in every area of its operations to bring this spiralling cost under any kind of control.

Overview of the church

A study of the statistical data for the 12-year period from 1990 to December 31, 2001, reveals that for Australia and New Zealand, in the five-year period ending December 2000, there was a decrease in

baptisms compared with the previous five-year period of 3.1 per cent. And three conferences have experienced a decline in their membership. In the Pacific islands the same comparison reveals an increase of 14.8 per cent. Currently, for every person baptised in Australia and New Zealand, almost nine are being baptised in the islands.

Overall, the membership in Australia and New Zealand increased by 8.91 per cent (an average of 0.74 per cent per year). In the Pacific islands, the growth increased by 60.56 per cent.

Division membership distribution comparisons reveal an important trend, as shown in the box "Growth in the South Pacific Division." Given that Australia and New Zealand are a major resource for the islands from a financial standpoint and, to some degree, with personnel, the membership growth and distribution has significant implications for the church in the areas of national leadership development, pastoral care, organisation and financial support.

The growth in the islands places a huge strain on budgets at the division, and also on the missions. How to adequately nurture a burgeoning membership with the ability to employ only a limited number of field pastors is another major challenge.

At the same time as we have seen growth, the tragedy is that 45,806 members chose to leave our church in the past 12 years. This equates to a loss of the equivalent of 30 per cent of baptisms.

Completing the task

This is not a time for business as usual. We cannot be satisfied with the status quo or content to let things continue on as they are. When Jesus visited this planet He recognised the need for change. He could see that the established church of the Jews had slipped into complacency and had lost sight of its mission. The power rested with the religious hierarchy and the people were simply followers with no involvement.

To be true to our mission, the church must look at how it allocates its human

Growth in the South Pacific Division

Year	Members islands	Per cent of whole	Members Aust-NZ	Per cent of whole
1963	33,639	50	33,811	50
1987	146,125	73	54,456	27
1990	184,650	76	56,903	24
2001	296,478	83	61,973	17
2010*	443,384	87	66,666	13

* Projected figures


resources and hand over to church members the care and nurturing in the local church to free ministers to be more involved in growing the church. We can no longer have ministers serve as church maintenance workers.

We need to formally embark on church planting and other strategies of intentionally growing the church. According to research new Adventist churches, in the main, grow 10 times the rate of established churches. Most areas of the world showing evidence of growth, particularly in Western cultures, are involved in a well-thought-through church-planting initiative.

The Lord has greatly blessed this church financially and materially. No other denomination of its size carries on such a diversity of activities as the Seventh-day Adventist Church. However, we need to manage our assets in a more effective way if we're to meet the growing demands of the church. In maximising and, in some cases, rationalising our assets, we need to devise ways of increasing resources to conferences, missions and churches for the growth of God's kingdom.

A sense of restlessness

I find a restlessness among God's people. They want to go home. Our Father is suffering because of the prolonged separation. We have an Elder Brother becoming impatient—He wants to introduce His bride to His Father and His celestial friends.

It is time for us to seize the moment and embark on a fulfilling partnership with God as He works to bring to conclusion His work on this earth. 

Laurie Evans is the president of the South Pacific Division. This is adapted from a presentation he made at the division's year-end meetings.

Fond memories

Mike Brownhill, Qld

Reading in John F Knight's article "Where is God?" (November 16) about Professor John Yeo brought back fond memories of the former director of the Spinal Unit at Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital. As an incomplete paraplegic I was hospitalised there for the best part of 1971 and, while not a Christian at the time, I was immensely impressed with the caring, concerned manner of this professional gentleman. Dr Yeo, along with his staff, tried very hard—successfully, I might add—to get me back on my feet again, literally!

More on drugs

Lester N Hawkes, NSW

In the current discussion regarding drugs ("Wake-up call on drugs," October 5; Letters, November 2 and 16), I note several who would recommend harm minimisation as a way to solve the drug problem. Perhaps those who feel this way should get together and appoint a delegation to go to God and whisper in His ear that His old-fashioned concept of prohibition is out of date. He should be advised to "get with it." He needs to listen to those who have studied the matter and know better than He.

Name withheld

To legalise all drugs is missing a real look at where our sense of right and wrong comes from. We do have freedom of choice, but even in the beginning God knew He needed to prohibit our total freedom to protect us. Adam and Eve were not to eat of the fruit of knowledge of good and evil.

There are dangers in giving us total freedom of choice as we often choose to our detriment. Dollars do need to be spent on prevention and rehabilitation. And, yes I believe our church and individuals should be active in providing light on the negative effects of drugs and alcohol.

I have lost loved ones from heroin and its downfalls and believe it won't help anyone legalising something that destroys people's lives.

Our church is gifted in the knowledge people need about drugs and alcohol. Please let's be active in education and compassion for people like the schoolies who "celebrated" the end of high school on the Gold Coast.

Name withheld

I'm glad for the recent article on drugs because we need as much information as possible. Too many of us are isolated in our worries over loved ones who use drugs—and I include alcohol and nicotine. There is much ignorance, and a stigma attached to those who use drugs, and their families, and the love and support we need.

we mere mortals have? Give someone in need some time when you can—one day you could be the one in need.

Sabbath school appreciation

Wame R Sausau, NSW

I never really appreciated the hard work done by our children's Sabbath school leaders and helpers until this year when I took leave from full-time ministry and became an "ordinary" church member. For virtually every Sabbath in 2002 I had the joy of attending my two preschool-age sons' Sabbath school classes, something I could hardly do when busy pastoring.

Every Sabbath school class now is an

I have also come to appreciate the hard work put in by children's teachers and helpers. To them I offer my meagre thank you.

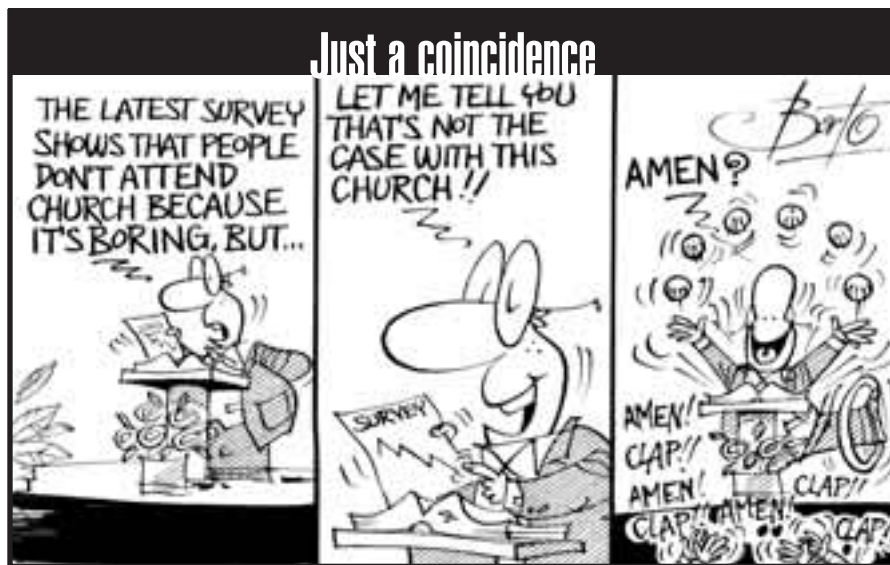
I was once ignorant and quick to judge until the problems were in my own backyard. The pain this has brought is, I hope, the worst I will ever experience. We need your care and practical suggestions, not indifference and judgment. The last thing we need is to be brushed off with a glib statement like, "You should worry less and pray more"!

Even God can't *make* anyone change. Even He veiled His face when separated from His beloved Son. Jesus needed friends in the garden during that long night of prayer. How much more need do

event to look forward to and not only for my kids. I enjoy sitting with my sons and seeing them participating, learning and enjoying themselves.

I have also come to appreciate the hard work put in by children's teachers and helpers. To them I offer my meagre thank you. Only heaven will reveal the rewards of the hard work you do for our kids.

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.



Anniversaries

Engelbrecht. Recently Les and Lola Engelbrecht celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary, with their children, at the Adventist Retirement Village, Victoria Point, Qld. With gratitude to God for His



leading and bountiful blessings, many happy memories were recounted and relived over the week they were privileged to be together. Ebenezer—"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

Hibbard, Nelson and Jean married in Adelaide on 11.11.37 and celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on 11.11.02. They were presented with a bouquet of flowers and a memorial card signed by members of the Murray Bridge



Adventist church. They also received congratulatory messages from Her Majesty the Queen, the Prime Minister of Australia; His Excellency the Governor-General; local MP, Mr Peter Lewis, who also sent a bouquet of flowers. They have three daughters, Mary, Joan and Ruth; and an adopted son, Bert.

Hutchinson, Ray and Ruby were married on 8.6.42 and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with family and friends cruising the Hawkesbury River on a paddle steamer at Windsor, NSW, on 16.6.02. Ray and Ruby were baptised in



1963 and attended the Ashfield church. After retiring, they moved to Kilarney Vale, where they attended The Entrance church. They now reside with their son, Graeme, at East Kurrajong. Ray and Ruby are pictured with their son, Graeme, and daughter, Susan Ball.

Nilsson, George and Eunice (nee Symes) of Clarks Beach, NNZ, were married on 21.5.52 by the late Pastor Forest Hollingsworth in the old Bendigo church, Vic. To celebrate their 50th anniversary, a surprise party was held with their four

children, spouses, family and friends attending from NZ and Australia. Their best man, Gillan Johnston, and bridesmaid, Letty Warren (nee Brown), who trained with them at the Sydney Adventist Hospital, were also present. A wonderful time was enjoyed by all. The appreciation to George and Eunice for their nurturing of many young people over the years was expressed.

Sanderson, Richard and Doris were married on 5.7.50 at Matura, SNZ. Their three children and six grandchildren organised a dinner and concert for 70 guests in the Domain Retirement Village, Ashmore, Gold Coast, Qld. Southport church members cared for the catering as a building-fund project.

Sherman, Bruce and Roma were given a Norfolk Island holiday by their family to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. The family, comprising Carolyn, Barbara, Gary and Ralph, moved back to NZ from Norfolk Island in 1970. Their daughter, Shelly, was born in NZ. The island church people celebrated the anniversary by hosting a surprise dinner for Bruce, Roma and their friends from both the church and community. Bruce and Roma now attend the Dargaville church.

Silva, Pastor Kevin and Thelma (nee Richardson) celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at the Nambour Adventist church hall on 1.9.02. Pastor AJ Dyaon officiated at their marriage in the Glenhuntly (Vic) Adventist church on 1.9.52. Daughter Gillian flew from Canada, and son Gregory flew from Cairns, Qld, to be with their parents for this special occasion. It was a family reunion as this was the first time in 32 years they had all been together as a family. Kev taught at Preston (Vic) and Mildura (Vic) SDA schools for 31 years; they served in the mission field in PNG and the Solomons in teaching, youth and administration. They have now retired in Nambour, Qld. Relatives from Melbourne, including the best man, and many friends were present for this occasion.

Smith, Ross and Olga of Christchurch, SNZ, were married on 14.10.42 at Papanui church by Pastor Griffin. They happily celebrated



their 60th wedding anniversary on 13.10.02 with all their daughters, families and many friends and relatives. On this special occasion they received congratulatory messages from near and far and shared happy memories of their lives together. Today, in retirement, they rejoice in their Saviour's leading and the many blessings the Lord has bestowed on them.

Stewart, Milton and Bernice (nee Grosser) were married in Millicent, SA, on 6.10.52. Milton and Bernice, now retired in Sydney, enjoyed the congratulations and love of their families on the day of their 50th anniversary, 6.10.02. Their joy was shared by Kaye and Pastor Jim Zyderveld, Marlene and Pastor Ken Vogel, Andrew and Lody Stewart; and also their eight grandchildren.

Weddings

Clark—Cannon. Dean Clark and Debbie Cannon were married on 6.10.02 at Nimboya Canoe Course, Grafton, NSW. *Wayne French*

Cole—Shepherd. Daniel Lloyd Cole, son of Clifford Cole and Roslyn McGillivray (Bundaberg, Qld), and Sharlene-Maree Hope Shepherd, daughter of Brian and Patty Shepherd (Mackay), were married on 24.11.02 in Queens Park, Mackay. *Jeffrey Poots*

Hitchmough—Griffiths. Kerry John Hitchmough, son of John Hitchmough and Marjorie Bushey (both of WA), and Jean Katherine Griffiths, daughter of the late Joseph Page and the late Millie Horton, were married on 23.11.02 at Twilight Beach, Esperance. *Malcolm Reid*

Hopson—Knight. Paul Hopson, son of Samuel and Mary Hopson (Lawrence, NSW), and Sarah Knight, daughter of David (Barnsley) and the late Eileen Knight, were married on 1.12.02 in the Lakeside Adventist church, Bonnells Bay. *Roger Nixon*

Lomas—Dubois. Melvyn Cobbett Lomas, son of the late Ernest and Valery Lomas, and Cheryl Maree Dubois, daughter of Leonard (Perth, WA) and Patricia Dubois (Coffs Harbour, NSW), were married on 24.11.02 in a garden setting at Bonnells Bay. *John Kosmeier*

Obituaries

Attwood, Edith Ellen (nee Clarke), born 10.4.1909 at Kerang, Vic; died 2.11.02 at Yarra View Retirement Village, Warburton. On 15.8.39 she married William, who predeceased her in 1975. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Maria and David West (Warburton), her son, Barry (Boronia); her brother, Reg Clarke (Mount Eliza); her five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Edith was a very respected member of the Warburton church community. She was known for her good works and for her practical living of the gospel. *Eric Kingdon*

Billingham, Dawn Joy, born 12.7.1928 at Albany, WA; died 8.11.02 at Rockingham. On 27.11.54 she married Robert, who predeceased her. She is survived by her children, David, Peter and Susan Smith (all of WA). Joy always put others first. *Kenn Duke*

Bland, Pastor Maurice Charles, born 10.5.1914 at Kingsland, Auckland, NNZ; died 29.10.02 in Fremantle Hospital, WA, after a brief illness. On 15.3.43 he married Irene Behrens. He is survived by his wife (Rossmoyne); his children, Pastor Kyrill Bland (Whakatane, NNZ), Ngareta Bylund (Carmel, WA), David (Redlands, California, USA); and his brother, Gordon (Wahroonga, NSW). Maurice was ordained to the ministry in 1950. He assisted and then ran mission programs in NNZ and pastored many churches. In 1958 he transferred to Victoria where he continued in ministry. In 1976 he retired in Manjimup, WA; then in 1985 they moved to Rossmoyne.

Murray House, Pat Downey

Camp, Sylvia Joan, born 14.5.1932 in Kent, England; died 8.11.02 at Mandurah, WA. On 14.12.57 she married Brian. She is survived by her husband (Mandurah); and her daughter, Patricia Harrison (Perth). After retirement, Sylvia and Brian moved from Dubai to Perth, where amidst illness they found the Lord and became part of a loving church family.

Brett Townend, Robert Kingdon

Dodd, Marjorie (nee Long), born 13.3.1924 in Sydney, NSW; died 9.11.02 in Adelaide, SA. She is survived by her husband, Geoff; her children, Tim, Nyrie and Moya; her brothers and sister, Norm, Gorman and Jessie; and her five grandchildren. A 1948 nursing graduate from the Sydney Sanitarium, she was a pioneer in presenting the Adventist health message through cooking demonstrations and on radio and television. She also promoted good nutrition and a healthy lifestyle through her books and many lectures in Australia and overseas. Marjorie had a strong commitment to her faith and an adventurous spirit that was daunted by nothing. She is greatly missed by her loving family, her many friends and the members of the Queenstown church.


Will Grobler

Duance, Rex, born 19.7.1922 at Inverell, NSW; died 21.11.02 at Bayside Aged Care Facility, Bonnells Bay. On 29.8.49 he married Lorine Sprengel. He is survived by his wife; his children and their spouses, Calvin and Michele, Narelle and Calvin Bowman; and his four grandchildren. Rex served in the Australian Army during World War II and gave faithful service in his work and to his church. He will be deeply missed by his family.

David Judd, Alwyn Salom

Kenney, Margaret (nee Rowe), born 12.4.1942 at Bairnsdale, Vic; died 22.10.02 at Bairnsdale. On 24.4.62 she married Arthur. She is survived by her husband; her children, Gary, Joanne and Adrian. Margaret battled ill health for many years, but kept her love of reading the Bible throughout. *Darren Croft*

Krauss, Edna Alice May (nee Turner), born 24.1.1914 at Kurrajong, NSW; died 31.10.02 in Canberra, ACT. On 13.7.35 she married Charlie, who predeceased her on 21.5.99. She is survived by her children and their spouses, Shirley and



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Leon Casier (Maitland, NSW), Reginald and Maude (Dora Creek), Marie and Placido Sbalchiero (Canberra, ACT); her seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. Edna was a dedicated Christian lady, loving, caring and generous to family and friends. She was greatly loved and is sadly missed by all.

Neil Lawson, Alan Watson

Lang, Clifton Albert, born 19.1.1933 at Subiaco, WA; died 12.11.02 at Warwick, Qld. In 1957 he married Hilma Wallace. He is survived by his wife (Toowoomba); his children, Ashley Kable (Lake Macquarie, NSW), Trevor (Hazelbrook), Carmen Oehlmann (Toowoomba, Qld) and Gary (Warwick).

Martin Brown

Lewis, Ivy (nee Humphries), born 29.9.1897 near Wentworth, NSW; died 17.10.02 in Mildura Base Hospital, Vic. Ivy was the last of 12 children, born to parents who had recently migrated from England. On 24.4.37 she married Harold, who predeceased her. She is survived by her son, John Lewis (Melbourne). Ivy and Harold became members of the Mildura Adventist church in 1948 after studies with the late Pastor Gathercole. In her latter years she lived with her niece, Hazel Garraway, for 26 years; then the last two years in a nursing home.

Tim Kingston, Des Hancock

Liversidge, Roy Walter, born 1.8.1917 in Melbourne, Vic; died 27.10.02 in Murwillumbah Hospital, NSW. On 6.8.38 he married Dorothy Denham. He is survived by his wife; his children, Lynette Hanna

(both of Gold Coast, Qld), Bill (Virginia, USA), Jeffery (Wewak, PNG), Julie Thompson (Auckland, NNZ), Andrew (Sydney, NSW) and Peta Drake (Gold Coast, Qld). Although Roy struggled with his health over recent years, he always had a joke or shared humour with everyone who visited him. His mind was always alert and sharp. Roy assisted in building the Ferntree Gully church in Melbourne.

Adrian Raethel

McIntyre, Aaron James (Mac), born 23.8.1916 at Bundaberg, Qld; died 30.8.02 at Murgon. On 17.7.36 he married Ruby Eckart, who predeceased him on 5.6.95. He is survived by his children, Ted, Ken, Maureen Stevenson, Ron and Alan; his 17 grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren. Ted was a poet of renowned; his poem titled *The March* is in the Canberra War Museum. He was also a photographer in World War II.

Ray Cross, David Edgar

McKay, Rose Edna (nee Buckland), born 2.8.1921; died 14.11.02 in Holywood Hospital, Perth, WA. She was predeceased by her husband, Herb, on 21.9.80. She is survived by her children, Trevor, Barbara Kentish, Laurel Lindgren and Beryl Patten (all of WA). Rose's life showed deep love for her Lord. Along with her genuine desire to help others, she demonstrated to all who knew her that Christ can be a real Friend.

Kenn Duke

McMahon, Vincent Ernest, born 9.6.1932 at Colac, Vic; died 17.10.02 at

Dereel. On 1.10.55 he married Mary Meeves. He is survived by his wife (Dereel); his children and their spouses, Garry and Rose (Taiwan), Margaret and Keith Simpson (Caboolture, Qld), John and Debbie (Adelaide, SA); his siblings, Ian (Yeppoon, Qld), Lola Gadstone (Bribie Island), Colin (Lindenau, Vic), Raymond (Lilydale) and David (Traralgon). Vin was a man well loved by his large extended family. He was a man of faith and a lover of nature; he took a great interest in helping young people to find their way in life.

Tony Campbell, Rodney Woods

Maxwell, Josephine (Joy), born 9.4.1907 at Mary Port, England; died 28.10.02 at Wahroonga, NSW. She was predeceased by her husband, Lionel; also her daughter, Beth. She is survived by her son-in-law, Ray McColl; her two grandchildren; their spouses; her six great-grandchildren; her brother-in-law, Pastor George Maywald; and her three nieces, Lyndrea, Yvonne and Joy. Joy worked at the "San" as a seamstress for 35 years, and in retirement as a "Pink Lady" volunteer for many years. She had a strong Christian faith and a happy disposition.

David Judd, Claude Judd

Peatey, Thomas William, born 7.9.1922 at Rockhampton, Qld; died 29.10.02 in Royal North Shore Hospital, NSW, after a brief illness. In 1949 he married Stella Newcombe, who predeceased him in 1996. He was also predeceased by his siblings, Lewis, William and Christina Lawson. He is survived by his children and their spouses, Christopher and Kathy

(Nambucca Heads), Dr Kim Peatey and Dr Punkaj Sah (Canberra, ACT); his siblings, Ina Hodgkinson, Grace Hall, Dorothy King, Pastor Neil Peatey (all of Victoria Point); and his five grandchildren. Tom was one of God's true gentlemen who lived by the golden rule and loved us all. All the cousins will really miss him.

Ken Lawson

Savage, David Eric Victor, born 30.1.1908 at Moe, Vic; died 20.11.02 at Sale. In 1928 he married Elsie Robinson, who predeceased him in 1989. He was also predeceased by his children, Victor and Merrylyn. He is survived by his children, Glenice Schultz, Phoebe Ward, Margaret Lapham, George, Barry, Christine Ford and Jenny McCormick. Vic's greatest wish was to have all his children and extended family in the kingdom.

Darren Croft

Stepniak, Michal, born 6.6.1930 at Lewin, Poland; died 5.11.02 at Nunawading, Vic. On 27.12.53 he married Nina. He is survived by his wife (Nunawading); his sons and their spouses, Daniel (Perth, WA), Marek and Kerri (Auckland, NNZ) and Michael and Nina (Washington, DC, USA); and his three grandchildren. Michal carried leadership responsibilities in the Adventist Church, both in Poland and Australia. He worked for General Motors Holden for 20 years in Australia; and later farmed at Wandin in the Yarra Valley, Vic. He was a Christian gentleman of many talents.

Edwin Totenhofer

Mark Ignasiak, Pawel Cieslar

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Wells, Cyril Hoey, born 27.8.1920 at Havelock, SNZ; died 31.10.02 in the Waterlea Rest Home, Blenheim. In 1947 he married Elizabeth Robson, who predeceased him on 2.10.89. He is survived by his children, John (Townsville, Qld), Jennifer Newman (Blenheim, SNZ), Rosemary Hartley (Murwillumbah, NSW), David (Picton, SNZ); and his 13 grandchildren. Cyril's love for his Lord was testified to at his funeral service held in the Havelock Anglican church. *John Wells*

Williams, Sylvia Dulcie, born 2.6.1915 at The Junction, Newcastle, NSW; died 22.10.02 at Waratah, Newcastle. In 1934 she married Arthur, who predeceased her on 1.5.84. She was also predeceased by her daughter, Joan, on 20.10.70. She is survived by her son, Jim Williams (Cooran-bong); her six grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. Sylvia was actively involved in the Women's Auxiliary of the Newcastle Technical High School. She devoted many hours doing craft work and assisted in catering for Happy Hour programs for senior citizens of the local Hamilton community. *Alwyn Gersbach*

Willis, Rita Norma, born 13.2.1916 at Northam, WA; died 29.10.02 in Esther Somerville Nursing Home, Sydney, NSW. On 22.6.38 she married Kitch, who predeceased her in 1998. She is survived by her sons, Ross (Sydney) and Murray (Adelaide); her grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. Rita was a wonderful Christian and she lived a very full and active life, serving the local church and denomination. Her varied

talents and astute business abilities led her into many successes in life.

Eric Winter, Lloyd Grolimund

Wynne, Ivy Martha, born 14.5.1912 at Rochester, Vic; died 29.10.02 in Mildura Base Hospital. On 19.5.33 she married Owain, who predeceased her in 1996. She is survived by her children, Brian and Margaret, and Denis and Lynette; her five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Tim Kingston, Albert Piez, Jean Moyle

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Notice of Session—North New South Wales Conference. Notice is hereby given that the 52nd special session of the North New South Wales Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be held at the Macksville High School auditorium, Boundary Street, Macksville, NSW. The business session will commence at 9 am Sunday, March 30, 2003. Delegates will be appointed in harmony with the constitution. The business of the session will be to give consent to the recommendation from the South Pacific Division and conference executive that there be created limited liability companies to operate the Adventist retirement services, school system and the conference general operation. *R G Dale Secretary, North NSW Conference*

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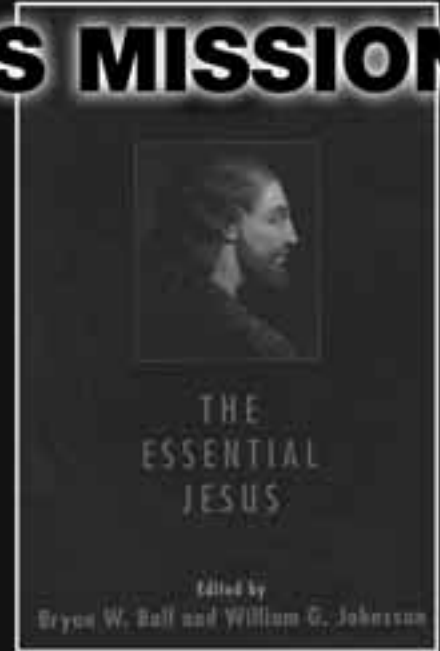
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