

RECORD

What makes Adventist churches grow?

Doug Robertson



In this issue

*South Qld Conference
first to incorporate*

*Falling in love
with God*

*Go One Million
plans in Sydney*



Literature success in PNG

For a number of years, church leaders have been locked in a serious debate as to what ministry factors can help a congregation to grow. Ever since 1961 when missionary Donald McGavran established his Institute of Church Growth, church leaders have been scurrying about trying to discover which of the church-growth principles might make their congregations grow.

McGavran's now famous saying that "it is God's will that the church should grow," has inspired a whole generation of Christians to become part of the church growth movement and to focus on the preaching of the gospel so that God's church on earth can expand.

(Continued on page 10)

Christian but without Christ

The US Library of Congress contains some 18 million books. According to a computer analysis of their contents, there are almost twice as many books on Jesus Christ (17,239) as His nearest rival, William Shakespeare (9801), and four times as many as on Lenin (4492), in third place. And that doesn't include references to "God," who was ruled ineligible. With 7700 references, He would have bumped Lenin into fourth.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, has six times as many books written about her than does Joan of Arc. She is the only woman to make the top 30 and, despite the impression you might be left with after browsing in a Collins or Borders bookshop, Diana Princess of Wales doesn't begin to rate.

So religion, in one form or another, is popular reading these days.

I've been a subscriber to *Time* magazine for some 25 years. Over the past two or three years, I've observed a definite trend toward cover stories of a religious orientation. Obviously, religion sells magazines, too.

But practising religion—participating in the exercise of one's faith—isn't so appealing, it seems. People are content to read about it but don't want to participate in it. This is testified to by shrinking congregations in many churches, and even their complete abandonment, with art galleries and craft shops occupying space once filled with worshippers.

That's just my observation, but the facts support this view. According to the 2001 Australian Census (and my apologies to Enzed readers), the population of Australia rose 5.7 per cent over the period 1996 to 2001, but the number of people identifying themselves as Christian rose just 1.4 per

cent. Of a population of almost 19 million at the time, a total of 12,764,342 Australians identified themselves with Christian denominations!

That's a big number, although in percentage terms it is far below what it was a century ago, and the number who live without any affiliation is also large.

Christianity continues to lose ground. While our community happily accepts the Twelve Steps as relevant, even hip, it consigns God's Ten Commandments to the bin as an anachronism.

That most of those who identified with a denomination don't attend worship is obvious. An estimate based on other sources suggest a typical Sunday congregation, including children, of around two million.

That's a huge differential. It's also a huge challenge: How to reach people in need of a Saviour, many of whom still hold to some Christian tradition but don't darken the doorway of a church from one week to the next.

My guess is that this vast majority of "believers" in fact don't believe much at all, so there's a divide—a chasm, in fact—between what is and what used to be; between what is and what could be.

And what *could* be?

1. Our prophecy-based evangelism can flourish. Our times are extremely serious, so people's interest in spiritual or religious aspects of life has been piqued. Without making capital out of the war in the Middle East—and who knows what literalists will do with Armageddon given what the US is trying to achieve in the Middle East—many would find an outreach that explains the times and events intriguing and attractive. Why let *Newsweek* magazine,

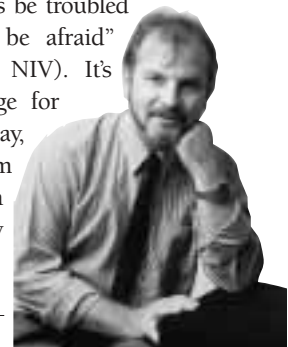
the *Age* or *New Zealand Herald* be the times' interpreters?

2. Personal contacts and friends will listen. Given the religious background of war in Iraq, with the Muslim world interpreting the attacks as an attempt by the Christian world to impose itself on the region, it's a natural step to move to a discussion of a religious theme. People will listen without feeling "preached" to.

3. The church's message can dissipate the fear that terrorism instils. We can have confidence in Jesus, based on a knowledge of the future He predicts. The Bible tells us that the world will be a terrible place just prior to the Second Coming. But our church's doctrine regarding this event inspires hope. A person with hope can survive any deprivation. Our church has a very positive message to preach in a time of gloom.

These are but three of many routes to the hearts of those who now have an ear for the spiritual, but don't attend church or haven't felt in need of a Saviour. Millions of those of other persuasions also need to hear Jesus' message of love, peace, reconciliation and salvation.

To the disciples, Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. . . . Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27, NIV). It's also a message for the world today, and one, I'm sure, to which it's now receptive.



Lee Dunstan



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

Vol 108 No 13
Cover: Lili Radziszewski

Editor Bruce Manners
Senior assistant editor Lee Dunstan
Assistant editor Kellie Hancock
Copy editor Graeme Brown
Editorial secretary Meryl McDonald-Gough
SPD news correspondent Brenton Stacey
Senior consulting editor Barry Oliver

Web site www.record.net.au

Mail: Signs Publishing Company
3485 Warburton Highway
Warburton, Vic 3799, Australia

Phone: (03) 5966 9111 **Fax:** (03) 5966 9019

Email Letters: editor@signspublishing.com.au

Email Newsfront: record@signspublishing.com.au

Email Noticeboard: editorsec@signspublishing.com.au

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

Our vision is to...
know
experience
and **share**
our hope in Jesus Christ!

- *Campground on the market* • *New book on child safety* • *Commitment ceremony for kids*
- *A first for Samoa* • *Sabbath issues in Moldova* • *The Bible popular in China* • *and more*

—Compiled by Kellie Hancock—

● Delegates at a **special session of the Victorian Conference** on March 16 voted that a sizeable portion of the **Nunawading campground** would be **developed for sale**. The motion allowed for the “surplus” of what is needed for use by the Nunawading Adventist College and Primary School, the conference office and Coronella Retirement Village to be sold. The conference executive had studied the needs of these institutions. A minimum of **\$A16 million** from the proceeds is to be kept intact and invested for future camp purposes.

● Adventist author **Kerene Whelan** has released ***Stop! I Don't Like That!*** as a teaching aid for adults wishing to help young children feel safe in their world. A preventive book for preschoolers and lower primary school students, it **addresses issues of bullying and child abuse** in a safe, non-threatening way. The book is available (\$A9.95) from Making Our Kids Safe on (03) 9427 7433. Four more books are being prepared and will be available later this year.



● **Sixty-nine** attended the first module of **Taking Charge of Your Life** presented by Pastor **Peter Jack** (pictured), the Adventist Media evangelist, at the **South Brisbane church** on March 11, of whom 33

Hillview bridges to Buddhists



As a result of English classes provided by Lyn Medhurst, a member of Hillview church and a lecturer at Avondale College, and two Buddhist nuns from a neighbouring Buddhist temple, Adventist representatives were invited to attend a Buddhist festival at Darling Harbour, Sydney, NSW, early this year.

Mrs Medhurst and Dr James Greive—a dentist who is also a member of Hillview church—were invited to attend the festival and present a prayer for world peace. Dr Greive’s prayer featured the gospel as found in John 3:16.

With the many Buddhists at the festival were Hindus, Sikhs, Baha’is, Catholics, Uniting Church members and Jews.

A full report was presented in the February edition of Adventist News. For your copy of the video, contact the South Pacific Division Communication Department on +61 2 9847 3290. A single subscription is \$A10.95. Yearly subscriptions are \$A42.00. All prices include postage and handling.

were visitors. “They actually had to bring in extra seats,” reports Pastor Jack. “The feedback was very positive and the minister, Pastor **Miroslav Stillinovic**, and the local team were thrilled with the response.”

● Guidelines for **commitment ceremonies for children** (seven to 10 years) are now available for churches, pastors and schools. Developed by the Children’s Ministries Department of the South Pacific Division, this resource is to affirm children who “want to **make Jesus their best friend**.” “For instance, when pastors make a call after baptism there are often young children who come to the front who want

to give their heart to Jesus and be baptised,” says **Janet Rieger** (pictured), director of the department.

“Rather than the pastor saying no, this ceremony recognises their decision.” During the ceremony the **children receive a certificate** to remind them of the commitment they have made. Available only from the division, Mrs Rieger can be contacted on <jrieger@adventist.org.au>.



● For the first time in Samoa, a Pathfinder club and an Adventurer club held independent **induction services**. “Our 32 Pathfinder members are served by a staff of 15,” reports **June Ryan**, recently appointed children’s coordinator at the Vailele church, **Western Samoa**. “The Adventurer club boasts 34 members and are served

by eight teachers.”

● **Moldova’s highest appeals court** has ruled that an employer had the right to **dismiss four Adventists** for not working on the **Sabbath**. The decision was described as “irrevocable.” “The church in Moldova is considering what to do next,” says Pastor **Valery Ivanov**, communication director for the Euro-Asia Division. An appeal may be made to the **European Court of Human Rights** in Strasbourg, France. However, says Pastor Ivanov, “The outcome of such a case could affect Adventists and other religious believers all over Europe.”—ANN

● **Penang Adventist Hospital** received a **three-year accreditation** from the Malaysian Society for Quality in Health (MSQH), making it only the **third private hospital in Malaysia to achieve the prestigious status**. Teddric J Mohr, Penang Adventist Hospital's president, called accreditation "a way to continue and improve quality through the eyes of an independent professional organisation." The hospital is a 212-bed facility established in 1924.—ANN

OAM recipient baptised in NSW

A recent recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia was baptised at Taree church, NSW, on March 1.

Geoff Bardon has been visiting the Taree church for three years, beginning with his attendance at a Sabbath afternoon seminar in 1999.

Trained as an art teacher, he was stationed in 1970 at Papunya, which is 150 kilometres west of Alice Springs, NT. He not only taught his pupils, but inspired older members of the community to portray their beliefs and legends in a way they considered appropriate and he supervised the birth of what is now known as dot painting.

After 20 years of political pressure and ill health, his book, *Papunya Tula: The Art of the Western Desert* was published. Since then, Mr Bardon, and his wife, Dorn, have supported the work of the indigenous artists and their 1500 page manuscript, *Papunya—A Place Made After the Story* is being prepared for publication.

Despite difficult times, Mr Bardon says he's found consolation and strength in the study and acceptance of God's revealed will in His Word. Six weeks prior to his baptism, he had surgery for a malignancy. Due to serious complications, he was advised that he may have only three to six months to live. While in the font a special prayer for extension of his life was offered, then Mr Bardon was baptised by retired minister Pastor Lyn Thrift.—*Dawn Jerrard*

● During a four-day visit to the central and southern regions of the **Philippines, Dr Jan Paulsen**, General Conference president, addressed some 750,000 Adventists at various venues, March 13-16. A **news conference** attended by more than 30 media representatives preceded a meeting in Cebu City. Responding on how the church sees the impending **war in Iraq**, Dr Paulsen said, "We do not know what the next week, next month, or the next year will look like. But as a Christian, as a believer in God, I know that men make plans but **the Lord has His own plans**, and He has a wonderful capacity to unmake plans that do not suit what He has in mind. So **I am a man of faith and therefore I go into the future full of hope and with assurance in my heart.**"—ANN

● It's official! The **Bible** is the **second best selling book** in China. A government official provided this information to **Tony Crook**, executive director of The Bible Society in Australia (Vic)—while they were standing on the Great Wall of China late last year.—*Vic News*

● Christians in western **India's Gujarat state** have been the target of government **surveys** conducted through the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) apparently **in preparation for an anti-conversion bill** in the state legislature. The pro-Hindu Indian People's Party, which won the election in Gujarat, ordered three different surveys beginning in February seeking details of conversions and finances. "Are we criminals that the state has to order the CID to conduct surveys on our communities and activities?" asks the Reverend **Dev Oza**, a Church of North India pastor. "This is precisely what they did to the Muslims before their programs against them last year." The Gujarat High Court has halted the surveys and awaits an explanation of the reason for them.—*Crosswalk.com*

Days and offerings

April 12—World Mission Budget Offering

April 19—Literature Evangelism Rally Day

Off the record

● Years 9 and 10 geography students from Tweed Valley College (TVC) threw themselves into cleaning up Old Lismore Road, Murwillumbah, NSW, on February 28. As their contribution to Clean Up Australia Day they collected a trailer load of rubbish. Students from Years 7, 8, 11 and 12 worked together to collect the rubbish on TVC's campus.—*Lee-Anne Dobson*



● New Zealand ear nurse specialist **Susanna Weber** visited Bali to help a Perth ear, nose and throat specialist **check the hearing of Balinese bomb victims** in February. While in Denpasar, she assisted with the training of five local nurses in the diagnosis of children's ear problems, screening some **800 children**. "It was interesting that they had fewer problems than I'd expected, with very few children having colds—a significant factor in children's ear problems. The Balinese don't drink milk and eat a lot of chilli!" Mrs Weber is pictured (right), in the Denpasar Eye Hospital, examining the ears of a bombing victim.—*Lee Dunstan*.



● They call him **the Faster Pastor**. A motorcycle-mad minister Paul Sinclair has built in England what he says is **the world's first fully enclosed sidecar hearse**. Since the late 1990s, two motorcycle hearses have been used in Sydney and Melbourne, but this new, fully enclosed design better suits the English climate.—*Assist News*

South Qld conference first to incorporate

Brenton Stacey

South Queensland has become the first conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia to incorporate.

Almost 500 of the delegates attending a special session—at the Watson Park Convention Centre north of Brisbane—voted to change the conference's constitution. The change gives the conference's Executive Committee the power to create companies to manage the operations, the schools and the aged-care facilities of the conference.

Thirteen delegates voted not to change the constitution.

The vote means:

1. The conference can continue operating its schools and its aged-care facilities, and

2. The operations of the conference and the members of the Executive Committee, the directors of the boards of the conference entities, and others appointed to committees of the conference are protected by limited liability

Pastor Ken Vogel, president of the South Queensland Conference, says



Pastor Ken Vogel.

while many of the delegates would prefer not to incorporate, they recognise how necessary it is. "At the end of the year the government would have withdrawn accreditation for our schools and our aged-care facilities if we hadn't voted to incorporate," he says.

Arnold Reye, a delegate from Springwood church, voted in favour of incorporation because "it means that successful litigation against one entity does not adversely affect another. This seems to me to be prudent management."

The session finished two hours early,

but this did not surprise Pastor Vogel. "The delegates read the documentation we sent to them before the session. Some contacted us to clarify some of the recommended changes. Delegates from at least one local church met with their minister to discuss the changes. The minister shared the delegates' questions with us and then shared our answers with them. We also shared the questions with Rod [Brady, the treasurer for the South Pacific Division], who then answered them during the session."

"Church leaders had done their homework," says Mr Reye. "They presented the alternatives in clear and unambiguous terms."

Prayer played its part, too. "We began the session reflecting on the priority of the mission of the church," says Pastor Vogel.

He says the vote will have little impact on members of local churches. "They will still control the agenda of the church. We will continue holding sessions where church members will hear reports from all the entities of the conference and where they will appoint church leaders and an executive committee."

Former Avondale College principal dies

Nalissa Maberly, Avondale College

Dr Edward E White—who worked for the church in a variety of roles around the world for nearly 50 years—died in his sleep at his place of retirement in England on February 21. He was aged 93.

A neighbour had given him dinner on Friday evening, as she had done nightly for years, and then had worship with him. He told her he was tired and planning to go to bed. The following morning when his blinds were still down she was concerned, and on checking found he had died.

Dr White was principal of Avondale College from 1953 to 1958. He was a man

of many parts—scientist, educator, administrator, ordained minister and musician. He also served as education director for the South Pacific Division.

He was fluent in French and German and is remembered for his remarkable talent for remembering people's names. He was kept constantly on the stretch, even in his retirement.

In 1968 Dr White authored *Singing With Understanding*, a commentary on each hymn and tune in the previously



Dr Edward E White.

used *Church Hymnal*. He was still teaching classes in Religious Music at Newbold College in the late 1990s.

Dr White and his late wife, Marjorie, were well known for their generosity and warm hospitality toward all with whom they associated. When living at Cooranbong, NSW, students regularly attended the Whites' residence for meals and fun.

His funeral was held at the Newbold College church, England, on March 4.

Literature evangelists doing well in PNG

Lee Dunstan

According to the Publishing Department area manager for Papua New Guinea (PNG), Brian Brunton, literature evangelists (LEs) in PNG are doing well in the face of significant problems, with sales up an average of more than 10 per cent for the past six months. This in the face of difficult economic and social issues.

Security, for example, has long been a major problem in PNG. The security measures mean that the wealthier homes are inaccessible, being surrounded by high fences, with locked gates, and guards who prevent casual access to estates. In poorer areas, where there is access, the risk of robbery is increased, particularly in the squatter settlements that surround the major population centres, such as Lae and Port Moresby.

Any cash LEs collect on their fortnightly rounds must be immediately banked, or they risk a hold-up. Mr Brunton says one of his LEs has been robbed six times. "We need a better risk-management arrangement for them," he says.

Despite such adversity, LEs can nevertheless do quite well for themselves, according to Mr Brunton. He wasn't revealing confidential details of income except to say that those who work hard make quite a "comfortable wage," suggesting that they could be among the better-paid nationals in the country. However, most tend to

work to a needs budget, earning accordingly.

On average sales have grown by more than 10 per cent over the past six months. This is despite high product costs, the result of a heavily devalued kina, a high unemployment rate and a low national standard of living.

One LE consistently among the best performing is Aaron Gaffin. Having worked in this capacity for 28 years, he is PNG's longest serving LE, and in fact was the first LE in the country. He is also unit leader of one of the most successful teams.

Mr Gaffin began selling as a teenager when, while a student, Pastor Lester Lock handed him some books and told him to go and sell them for his fees. He did so well that he didn't bother finishing his education, becoming a full-time LE instead. He now works around Lae.

There are currently nine LE teams in PNG, based mainly in provincial capitals, with three in Port Moresby, including a highly successful all-female team.

"This is very important work," says Mr



The Publishing Department area manager for Papua New Guinea, Brian Brunton (pictured left), with LE Aaron Gaffin, a group leader based in Lae, PNG.

Gaffin. "I can talk with the people. When a pastor can't get to a place or person, such as a politician or minister, the literature can. Sometimes an area is closed to ministers because they "belong" to another denomination, but I can still sell the books.

He mainly sells *The Bible Story*, *Family Medical Care* and the new *Medicinal Plants* sets, but also many Stampley Bibles and *Steps to Christ*. "People really want to know about Jesus," he says. "I've seen a lot of people coming to church because of my sales. Sometimes I give a Bible study and I sit with them, pray for them. We [LEs] go to a place and find the interests, then they build a church there."

Sea ordeal ends happily for Kiribati threesome

The principal of Kuama Adventist High School in Kiribati and two other Adventists have survived a month-long ordeal at sea.

Tekemau Ribabaiti and his friends had departed from the capital, Tarawa, on January 7. They were to visit several islands to promote the benefits of studying at Kauma Adventist High School on Abemama Island, but began drifting after the engine on their boat broke down.

"Tekemau is an experienced seaman," says Pastor John Horvath, president of the

Kiribati Mission, "but when he hadn't returned after 10 days, we became concerned."

Pastor Horvath contacted members of the local search-and-rescue service, but they could not find the Adventists. Crewmembers from the container ship *Reunion* eventually rescued the three more than 300 kilometres from Arorae, the southernmost island in Kiribati. Mr Ribabaiti and his friends had been drifting for 28 days.

Mr Ribabaiti called the church's mission

office from the ship. "We were all so relieved to hear from him," says Pastor Horvath. "God does answer prayer."

Pastor Horvath says the three were in good health, despite eating only coconuts found floating in the sea and raw fish.

Mr Ribabaiti shared his story at a feast the church had organised to celebrate his return and that of the other Adventists. "Tekemau told me the captain of the ship had not wanted to rescue them fearing they were pirates," says Pastor Horvath.—Brenton Stacey

Leaders assess new SS Bible-study guide

Brenton Stacey

Representatives of the International Bible Correspondence School Association met at Wahroonga, NSW, where they had their first look at a new formatted Adult *Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*, to be used in churches from the second quarter, 2003.

The meetings had been planned for Indonesia until the Bali bombing, which led to a change in venue.

The reformatting of the Bible-study guide includes a week-by-week list of discussion questions for use by small groups, and wider margins containing questions and statements relating to the theme of each day's study.

The guide makeover is an initiative of Signs Publishing Company (SPC), which prints (as distinct from publishing) all Sabbath school pamphlets for the division. Alan Holman, SPC print marketing manager, who initiated and oversaw the project, said the guides had a "very enthusiastic" reception. "They're looking forward to seeing how the teaching style of the extra material takes on," he said. The new format may be accepted worldwide following an assessment at the end of a 12-month trial.

Also attending the five-day conference were personal ministries, Sabbath school and Voice of Prophecy directors from around the world; the assistant director of Adventist Television Network; the editor of the Adult Bible-study guide; the presidents of AWR and Adventist Laypersons Services and Industries; and a special assistant to the General Conference president.

Erika Puni, the personal ministries and



A delegate to the Wahroonga summit of Sabbath school leaders studies the new reformatted and restyled Sabbath school Bible-study guide for the second quarter of this year.

Sabbath school director for the South Pacific Division (SPD), said the conference was also useful in helping to establish networks with specialists from other fields. He said personal ministries and Sabbath school directors within the SPD found the conference was also useful in establishing networks with specialists from other fields and divisions. "We received resources developed by other entities and other divisions of the worldwide church," he said.

The conference also heard a report on the progress of the Go One Million initiative, which aims to train one million-plus Adventists to reach out to.

According to Pastor Puni, training for the program has already begun in the SPD, which has a division-wide aim of 10,760 members involved.

Challenge given to churches

Bettina Krause, ANW

Leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's international network of Bible correspondence schools, meeting at Wahroonga, NSW, have moved to dramatically step up the church's ability to handle large numbers of Bible-study requests. The meeting voted a plan that would see local church-based Bible-school ministries established in up to a third of Adventist churches worldwide over the next two-and-a-half years.

The step was prompted in part by the soon-to-be-launched Sow One Billion initiative, a plan to hand out a billion Bible-study invitations before July 2004.

"We're talking about an unprecedented test of the church's ability to respond to Bible-study requests," says Kurt Johnson, assistant director in the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department of the General Conference, and a presenter at the summit. A mere 1 per cent response to the invitation means 10 million requests for studies. How do we, as a church, plan to deal with that? This strategy—to help equip local churches and their members to follow up on a large share of Bible-study requests—is a response to that challenge."

The administrators, representing each of the church's 13 world divisions, adopted a detailed action plan to establish local church-based Bible-school ministries in 10 per cent of Adventist churches by the end of this year; in 20 per cent of churches by the end of 2004; and in 30 per cent by the end of 2005.

According to Pastor Johnson, these local church Bible schools will be encouraged to be creative in finding different ways for following up on Bible-study requests.

Depending on the resources available to a local church, follow-up could include offering written Bible-study courses, one-on-one studies, videos or DVDs, and Internet study courses.

These local church ministries would work closely with the 110 central Bible correspondence schools already operating worldwide.

Falling in love with God

by Brad Townsend

Ever been in love? Deeply in love? Been off your food for someone? Had trouble keeping your mind on the job over someone? Most of us can identify with those feelings in some way. And these feelings are amplified when there's a reciprocal response from the person you love.

Sometimes I have these feelings for God. I say *sometimes*, because it isn't all the time! I wish it were, but there are times when I don't feel that close to God. Times when I feel like I don't feel a great deal of electricity or romance in my relationship with Him. There are times when I feel bad about this because, in my mind, I know that God is worth loving and worth being involved with, but my heart seems distracted. So how can we have a more exciting spirituality with God?

But wait, this is the wrong question.

It certainly isn't wrong to long for a better relationship with God, but the key to any good relationship is to build the spontaneity of romance on a solid base of familiarity. Within a relationship there must first be some respect and admiration established to give romantic gestures any real significance.

The better question is, "How can I get to know God better?" Then those spontaneous spiritual feelings will come of their own accord.

The Bible is quite plain in stating that in human relationships it is wrong to fast-track to the intimate sexual stages without putting the necessary preliminaries of familiarity and commitment in place. If those intimate stages are reached without the proper base, the relationship is inevitably unstable and the outcome could be disastrous.

Similar things can be said about our spiritual relationships. The current trend has seen a growing movement toward achieving a more Spirit-filled Christianity

charged with an emotional high toward God. There's certainly nothing wrong with honestly seeking a more meaningful relationship with our God. But we need to take care that we don't start this quest in the wrong place—by starting where we want to finish. The order is important.

Jesus said of the Holy Spirit, "When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you" (John 16:13, 14, NIV). And Paul adds, "Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father'" (Galatians 4:6, NIV).

These verses point out that the role of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Christ. He doesn't aim to glorify Himself. By seeking to have a Spirit-filled relationship with God we may in fact be embarrassing the Holy Spirit, who exists to bring glory to Christ. Clearly, the best place to start is by developing a relationship with Christ that will ripen and bear the fruit of a dynamic, spiritual Christianity.



Our church needs to focus more on Jesus. More on Jesus than how Christlike our life is. More on Jesus than on how theologically profound our doctrines are. More on Jesus than what political problems our church might have. More on Jesus than how many baptisms we've had this year. More on Jesus than the Holy Spirit.

These other things are important—all of them—and they certainly have their place. But if our church gets into Jesus first then, and only then, will we find we have the motivation and spiritual potency to be the Christians we want to be. Paul sets the example in his comment to the wayward and struggling Corinthians, "I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2, NIV).

If we understand the simple things of our faith better, then we will have a grounding to go on and understand the more complex aspects of it. Think about the Christian life. In simple terms it looks like this:

1. Jesus died, therefore I have life.
2. Jesus loves me, therefore I will love others.
3. Jesus forgave me, therefore I will forgive others.
4. Jesus gave His life for me, therefore I will seek to give life to others.

Once we understand our absolute need for Christ and develop a respect for what He has done for us, then the magnitude of what He has accomplished on our behalf can be our motivation. We will subsequently find ourselves becoming the kind of Christians we desire to be, and we will find ourselves wanting to get to know this amazing God more intimately.

So how can we get to know God better and develop more of an understanding and respect for Him? Here are a few suggestions

you are probably already familiar with:

1. *Bible study*: Do the research, listen to what God has to say to you.
2. *Prayer*: Say something back to God, communicate with Him.
3. *Nature*: Find out about some of God's interests, share those interests.
4. *Fellowship with believers*: Join the fan club and be enthused together.
5. *Sabbath*: Spend some quality time with God.
6. *Witnessing*: Talking about it will help you understand it better.
7. *Keep God's laws and principles*: This will help you build a lifestyle conducive to keeping in touch with Him.
8. *Praise*: Any marriage counsellor would agree that this is an important aspect of relationships!

The Bible often uses marriage as an analogy to describe the relationship God has with us, His church. We are described as His bride. Such terminology would certainly suggest an intent on God's part to have a deep and meaningful relationship with us. And God has shown a commitment to His relationship with us already—He died for us.

Marriage legally binds a couple together. It is valid regardless of whether the couple have an argument or a kiss, whether they feel particularly romantic or not, whether times are tough for them or not. Marriage is a statement of underlying love for each other.

We should not feel guilty for the lack of a spiritual feeling during the low times of our relationship with God. Relationships have their ups and downs. If in our heart we still acknowledge God as our best friend and seek to fervently strengthen our commitment to Him, then we can have the confidence that we are still His bride.

The contract does not depend on our emotions. Moreover, as a bonus, God has promised that if we have a relationship with Him, He will return and take us to the marriage feast to end all marriage feasts (Revelation 9:9). We will bask in the warmth of His presence forever. That's love. **R**

Brad Townend writes from North Avoca on the Central Coast of NSW.

Making a statement

by Owen M Adamson



The Australian Medical Association (AMA) has provided a position statement in regards to alcohol consumption and related problems. The organisation is committed to “achieving a reduction in the incidence of hazardous and harmful levels of alcohol consumption.”

It has been found that approximately 70 per cent of Australians consume alcohol—36 per cent at harmful levels. Additionally, 67 per cent of young Australians aged 14-19 years consume alcohol and, of these, 57 per cent of males and 74 per cent of females consume alcohol at harmful levels.

In 1996 it was estimated that alcohol consumption costs the community more than \$A4.5 billion every year. Statistics show that in 1997, 3290 Australians died from injury and disease caused by high-risk drinking—strokes, alcoholic cirrhosis, road injury, suicide or alcohol dependence.

Additionally, high-risk drinking caused 72,300 hospitalisations and 403,795 hospital bed days. Between 1990 and 1997, 31 per cent of all driver and pedestrian deaths on Australian roads were alcohol related.

In March 1999 the Federal Government presented a summary report, “Developmental research for a national alcohol campaign.” This research provided data for the government to reduce alcohol-related harm among young people.

The research found that young people up to 25 years of age were more likely to be involved in the harmful use of alcohol and are, potentially, more vulnerable to alcohol-related violence either as perpetrators or victims. Young women are more vulnerable to sexual abuse and harassment with alcohol use.

The social costs associated with the harmful use of alcohol include: alcohol-related violence (assaults, murder, manslaughter, threats with a dangerous weapon, torture and deprivation of liberty); domestic violence (including physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect); property destruction; and health problems.

The research argued that “parents represent key gatekeepers in terms of role modelling, information providers and educators.” However, parents were reluctant to take that role. They preferred to seek out external controls and assistance.

And that leads to these questions: Do we as Christians tend to leave the responsibility of role modelling, information provision and education to others? Do we offer our communities a better way by our behaviours?

Jesus commissioned His disciples to “go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation” (Mark 16:15, NIV). To be good role models we need to be salt of the earth, a light that gives light to the world (see Matthew 5:13, 14).

The social costs of alcohol consumption shows we can truly be salt, and truly be light by not partaking of the substance that brings darkness to so many in our communities. We have the chance to reflect on the issues as did the AMA, affirm our position and reveal our position statement on alcohol consumption by the way we live, and have an impact on our neighbours. **R**

Owen M Adamson is a social worker at the Woodford Correctional Centre, Brisbane, Qld.

What makes Adventist churches grow?

(Continued from page 1)

However, none of us really needed McGavran to tell us the church needed to grow. Church growth has always been on God's agenda. Ever since the early disciples took up the challenge of Jesus to "go and make disciples . . . baptising them . . . and teaching them . . ." (Matthew 28:19, 20, NIV) the church has been expanding.

But churches and congregations are prone to lose focus. The church growth movement has helped draw our attention back to the transforming power of God's grace in Jesus to build nurturing Christian communities and to experience growth.

What really makes a church grow? Are there identifiable factors that contribute to congregational growth? Indeed, why do some churches grow while others decline? Can we be sure that if a local congregation applies church-growth principles that it will necessarily grow?

Copy-cat methodology

Around the globe, there are a number of mega congregations where church membership numbers not just in the thousands, but in the tens of thousands. For example, the Saddleback Community Church in California; Willow Creek, Chicago; First Baptist, Dallas; Hillsong, Sydney; the Crystal Cathedral in Los Angeles; and the world's largest congregation under the leadership of Paul Yonggi Cho, in Seoul, South Korea.

All have experienced phenomenal growth over the past 20 years. After seeing the growth that has taken place in such



mega churches, many smaller congregations have adopted a copy-cat mentality and introduced similar styles of worship and ministry into their weekly services, in the expectation that they will also grow.

While there have been obvious benefits derived from copying the mega churches, smaller congregations—in taking

their lead from these bigger, growing churches—have more often than not failed to experience the expected growth. In fact, many adopting such growth methods have found that their congregation has actually declined in membership.

To their disappointment, congregations have discovered that church growth methods are difficult to identify and to define. They've discovered there's obviously much more involved in achieving growth than in merely introducing new and different methods.

For instance, just because a church introduces small groups into its ministries doesn't necessarily mean that this new method of ministering will make the church grow. Neither will "seeker services," nor video evangelism, nor community youth programs, nor preaching "the truth," nor church planting, nor overhauling worship services by introducing the latest in contemporary music of themselves guarantee growth. None of these methods, individually or collectively, will ensure the growth of your congregation.

Further, the practice of criticising churches for wanting to grow can be just as unproductive. A desire to grow, when

viewed positively, gives a congregation many more opportunities for church growth than a church that has no vision. Working with God in the process of growth provides members with wider opportunities for deeper, personal spirituality and a far greater regard for developing deeper relationships with God and with one another.

And we can't escape the fact that many of our churches have experienced significant growth since incorporating new methods into their ministry. So, despite the fact that church growth is a very complex process and difficult to define with any certainty, it is important to note that churches do grow when they intentionally set out to do so.

Varieties of growth

Church growth can occur in several different ways. For example, growth may be experienced when children, born to existing church members, grow up in the church and are baptised into membership. This is known as *biological growth*. Also, believers may move from a congregation in one location to become members in another. We call this *transfer growth*.

Perhaps the clearest indicator of real



growth is what is termed *kingdom growth*. When a local congregation reaches out into its surrounding community and shares the gospel with nonbelievers, and then draws them into the church to become new disciples of Jesus; that is kingdom growth. When we analyse growth statistics, it is important to consider where that growth has originated.

When some think of church growth, they think entirely of numbers. For them, church growth is increasing the membership, filling up the pews. For others (usually those with static or declining membership) the issue is not quantity but quality. While they may not be actively opposed to quantitative growth, growth in Christian virtue, growth in spirituality is their major focus.

Of course, any congregation that seriously wants to grow will be preoccupied neither with quantitative nor qualitative growth. They will understand that real growth is the natural outgrowth of the ministry of the Holy Spirit working through a healthy, biblically functioning church and that the ultimate goal of church growth is neither to bolster the membership nor to create a congregation of introspective, navel-gazing saints.

The ultimate test of church growth is whether or not it is sustainable. Whether or not a local congregation is reaching out into its surrounding community with the goal of winning people whom they will nurture and support so that they in turn also become enthusiastic, caring, sharing disciples of Jesus. In this way there is neither a preoccupation with quantity nor quality, but a balance of the two in ongoing, sustainable growth.



The Schwarz report

In 1996, a German church-growth researcher, Christian Schwarz, completed an extensive survey among growing churches in an attempt to discover any areas of commonality that could inform us as to why churches grow. His study was carried out in 1000 churches located in 34 different countries around the world. He received 4.2 million responses.

The study clearly reveals that if a local congregation scores highly in its practise of eight biblically supported, quality characteristics or principles, then that congregation will experience what he terms natural church development.

In the seven years since the study has been completed, experience has shown that when a church has actively adopted this principle-oriented approach to church growth and has intentionally cultivated the eight characteristics, they have experienced both qualitative and quantitative growth.

The eight biblical, quality characteristics are:¹

1. Empowering leadership. Where church pastors and leaders focus on empowering others for ministry and where they are people-oriented and partnership-oriented rather than goal-oriented and authoritarian.

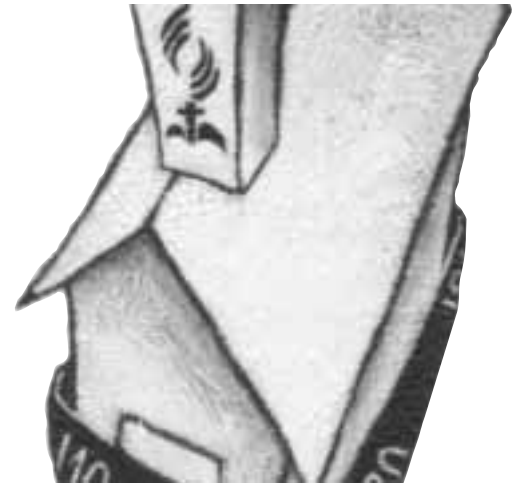
2. Gift-oriented ministry. Where members are encouraged to understand their giftedness and to be involved in ministries that match their passion, their spiritual gift(s) and their temperament.

3. Passionate spirituality. Where a high percentage of members are passionately committed to serving Jesus Christ and His church and practise their faith with joy and enthusiasm.

4. Functional structures. Where the various areas of a congregation's ministry are entrusted to gifted members to lead, organise and instruct.

5. Inspiring worship services. Where times of worship are planned in a manner that worshippers experience them as inspiring and joyful.

6. Holistic small groups. Where a high percentage of the members of a congregation are regularly involved in a small group that nurtures and serves the needs of the whole person.



7. Need-oriented evangelism. Where members are encouraged to develop their existing relationships with non-Christians, with a focus on their questions and needs as the starting point for evangelism.

8. Loving relationships. Where the members of the church are genuinely happy and loving.

Based on his research, Schwarz has pointed out "that there is no one single factor which leads to growth in churches; it is the interplay of all eight elements."² This means that none of the growth principles can be absent in a church if its members want sustainable growth to occur. If some churches are actively involved in evangelism, small groups and functional structures, but neglect the other qualitative factors, then real growth is unlikely.

It may also mean that if a church applies all eight factors but with only low levels of involvement, some numerical growth may occur, but it is unlikely to be qualitative. Only when all eight growth principles are in play together can we expect significant growth to occur.

Growing Adventist churches

A quick survey of Seventh-day Adventist churches around Australia and New Zealand show us that some churches are growing, some have static membership and some are declining. I spoke with the leaders of four of these churches that are growing. My discussion revealed that each of these churches was growing, not because of a single focus on any particular ministry, but rather through a combination of factors where the members have adopted a growth culture.

Melbourne

For the past four years, the Melbourne Asian Church in Forest Hill has sought to establish a second Asian church in Melbourne. They've focused on the large Asian population in the city's central business district comprising, largely, students and their families.

Johnny Wong, one of the elders of the church, reports that the church has a clear vision of seeking to meet the needs of the students and young Asian professionals of the central business district. Already 31 people are regularly meeting with church members both in small care groups and in combined, monthly worship services. In April of this year they have plans to start a new church that will be made up of those attending the care groups.

When asked about the kind of church support that is backing this growth initiative, Mr Wong indicated that all eight of Schwarz's qualitative growth factors were represented in the variety of ministries offered through the leaders and membership of the mother church.

Papatoetoe, Auckland

Situated on the south side of the city of Auckland is the Papatoetoe church, now the largest Adventist congregation in New Zealand. For more than 10 years, Papatoetoe has engaged in an intentional growth strategy that is meeting with good success. For example, over the past seven years the average Sabbath attendance has grown from around 250 to something over 600.

Pastor Brendan Pratt, the current senior pastor, says that his church's growth results from both biological and transfer growth, along with an average of 20 baptisms a year that represents excellent kingdom growth. Pastor Pratt attributes Papatoetoe's growth to a healthy congregation that practises the biblical principles of qualitative growth borne out in Schwarz's research.

Waitara, Sydney

The Waitara church, situated in Sydney's northern suburbs, is another growing church. The current church minister, Pastor Geoff Youlden, reports that the church has experienced a sustained period of growth now for several years. Over the past six years Waitara has averaged more

than 20 baptisms annually.

The majority of these new members, says Pastor Youlden, come largely as kingdom growth resulting from equipping church members for ministry and in needs-based evangelism. He attributes Waitara's growth to an intentional focus on creating a healthy church directed by quantitative growth practices.

Wyong, NSW

The Central Coast Community church near Wyong on NSW's Central Coast has also seen major change. Beginning five years ago as a church plant with only three members, the church now has more than 200 people worshipping each Sabbath. Many of these people are "seekers," still finding their way to faith.

Most attend a small group where they are being nurtured toward baptism. More than 20 have already taken that step and are now baptised members of a vibrant, caring, growing community of God's people. Pastor Wayne Krause has based his congregation's development on biblical principles of natural church development.

Secret formula?

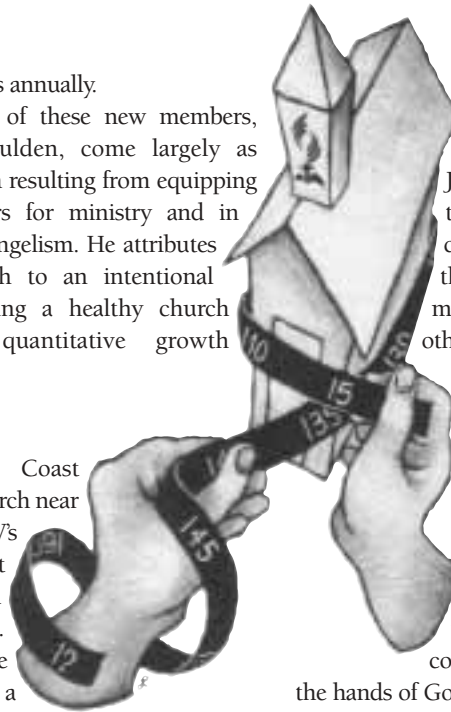
So, what makes Adventist churches grow? The application of the same

principles that has brought growth to God's church since the times of Jesus. When members of the body of Christ make a commitment to their Lord through worship and minister to the needs of each other in their church and in their community, the Spirit of God works among them and people are drawn into the community of the church.

There is no secret formula and no church has all the answers, but what is clear is that when a congregation puts itself into the hands of God and bases its ministry on qualitative growth principles, then growth inevitably takes place. This growth doesn't happen through some quick-fix method, or by copying other successful churches. It comes about naturally as the consequence of a healthy church that shapes its worship and ministry around those principles of growth outlined in God's Word. **Q**

1. Christian A. Schwarz, *Natural Church Development Handbook*, C & P Publishing, Emmelsbull, Germany, 1998, page 15.
2. *ibid*, page 38.

Doug Robertson is a senior lecturer in theology at Avondale College and the director of the Institute of Church Ministry.



Just for children

WHAT IF ...

... seals had elephant ears?

They couldn't swim as well.
If God gave seals this big, they would fill up with water and drag them down as they swam.
They would be slow and have no chance of catching food or escaping from predators.

Peta Taylor

Hungry, and you fed them

Nigel Ackland (Pastor), NSW

In a world gone mad with hate and greed, it's a great comfort to know that compassion and generosity are alive and well in many of our churches. I serve the churches of Coonabarabran, Narrabri and Moree in north-western NSW, areas hit hard by the drought.

We praise God for sister churches that, over the past four months, have selflessly donated hampers and money to help our needy families survive. We thank Bowral, Waitara, Wallsend and Maclean churches in particular for their generosity and continued support. May God bless these churches as they continue to demonstrate God's love and compassion to a suffering world.

Industry in mission schools

Colin Fisher, NSW

In response to the writer of "Already demonstrated" (Letters, March 15), I visited Kabiufa Adventist Secondary School in March this year and discovered there is still a pride in what the school can do with its gardens, thanks to the research of Pedro Cana. But he is frustrated with the plant and machinery.

The once-powerful Ferguson 290 that did the hard work ploughing in the days of prosperity is but a shadow of itself as it creeps around the campus minus its radiator and battery. A new battery costs K1100 (\$A500).

The sale of produce collapsed for the want of collecting debts. The pride is there to do what was once done, but the where-withal is not. What is needed are people who can supply and control capital.

Abounding works of love!

Mike Brownhill, Qld

I enjoyed Norman H Young's "What's so awful about works?" (February 22). But his New Testament conclusions appear so obvious that one wonders how any misconceptions on the importance of good

renewing our initial commitment to Jesus daily (see 1 Corinthians 15:31). Salvation begins and ends with Jesus, our Prophet, Priest and King—His consecutive roles in the plan of salvation. His successful role as prophet on earth qualified Him to be our priest in heaven, and His priestly role qualifies him to be the all-conquering King. But until He returns, full salvation remains incomplete.

Traditionally, Adventists have been humble and cautious about claiming to be "saved." It is dangerous to be over-confident, as complacency could lead to presumption. (Remember Peter, who

One wonders how any misconceptions on the importance of good works and their relationship to God's free grace could ever have arisen.

works and their relationship to God's free grace could ever have arisen, either in the days of James, the Reformation or our own. The regenerate human heart, being continually transformed into God's likeness, will abound in works of love. That's not denying grace—it's the ongoing work of grace!

boasted one day and denied Jesus the next?) Despite this, our pioneers had a quiet assurance.

I prefer the question "Are you *being* saved?" as I'm uneasy with the incomplete "Are you saved?" because different denominations bring a variety of meanings to the latter question.

More on salvation assurance

Elva C Fitzgibbon, NSW

In answer to the letter writer of "Salvation assured" (February 22), salvation is a process conditional on

Peter Dark, NSW

Maybe the question, "Are you saved?" would not have been posed 20 or 30 years ago to Avondale College students. This in itself would indicate a change in attitudes. Could it be that there has been a move in the direction of less reliance on works to more reliance on God? If so, it would reveal a healthy change, as the more we rely on God, the closer we move toward Him.

Perhaps the issue has less to do with a shift in Seventh-day Adventist attitudes and more to do with a sovereign move of the Holy Spirit. The question, "Are you saved?" really does provoke further pertinent questions. It's one that should be presented to more groups in the church.

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.



Positions vacant

▲ **Campground Manager—Western Australian Conference** is seeking a Campground Manager for Advent Park Convention Ground, Perth, WA. The successful applicant will be competent to operate the Convention Centre to ensure its financial viability; skilled in general mechanical work, irrigation and reticulation, welding and basic engineering, plumbing and general maintenance; and possess good marketing skills. **Applications in writing** (including details of current SDA church membership) should be forwarded to Mr S W Whitson, secretary/treasurer, Western Australian Conference, PO Box 134, Gosnells WA 6990; phone (08) 9398 7222; fax (08) 9398 7711; email <swhitson@adventist.org.au>, no later than May 2, 2003.

▲ **Graphic Designer—Signs Publishing Company (Warburton, Vic)** is seeking an enthusiastic Graphic Designer for a full-time position for 12 months in the busy, up-to-date prepress department. The successful applicant will be skilled in the Mac environment and the use of Quark Xpress, Illustrator and PhotoShop; also proficient in electronic design and layout; and have several years commercial experience in electronic design. Typical work includes a wide range of design opportunities, including magazines, folders, brochures, stationery and books. Any other connected attributes would be favourably considered. **For further information** contact David Blyde (03) 5966 9111; <david.blyde@signspublishing.com.au>. **Applications in writing** should be forwarded to David Blyde, Signs Publishing Company, 3485 Warburton Highway, Warburton Vic 3799, no later than April 14, 2003.



Great Rates
ACF Investments
(02) 9989 8355

Weddings

Carrasco—Guerra. Mario Christian Carrasco, son of Mario and Carmen Carrasco (Sydney, NSW), and Keila Guerra, daughter of David and Pamela Guerra (Melbourne, Vic), were married on 16.2.03 in the Wetherill Park Spanish Adventist church.

Walter Flamenco

Fish—Aguinaldo. Robert Edward Fish, son of Arthur and the late Margaret Fish; stepson of Joyce Fish (Morwell, Vic), and Mary Joy Aguinaldo, daughter of Joel and Meriam Aguinaldo (Tagum City, Philippines), were married on 9.3.03 at Henderson Central church, Auckland, New Zealand.

Terry Johnson

Phillips—Turner. Anthony James, son of Robert and June Phillips-Smith (Whyalla, SA), and Kerrilee Kaye, daughter of Marjory Turner and Roger Turner (Port Pirie), were married on 6.10.02 in the Port Pirie Adventist church.

Ross Simon

Obituaries

Burnside, Tom Jarvie, born 10.5.1916 at Christchurch, SNZ; died peacefully 5.12.02 at Bethany Village, Christchurch. He was predeceased by his brother, Pastor George Burnside; his brother-in-law, Ivan Whittaker; and his sister, Mary James. He is survived by his wife, Margo; his children, Eve Chater (England) and Kay Mil-list; his sisters, Helen Whittaker and Peggy Robins; his sister-in-law, Sheila Burnside; and his six grandchildren. Tom served on the SNZ executive committee for two terms; was also head elder at Nelson church for many years. He was a man who followed the Bible. *Robert Granger*

Casey, Allan Roy, born 29.6.1907 at Jer-rys Plains, near Singleton, NSW; died 25.2.03 at the Adventist Retirement Village Nursing Home, Victoria Point, Qld. On 15.12.42 he married Gladys Hore, who predeceased him on 23.12.99. He is survived by his son, Roy (Albury, NSW); and his daughter, Ruth (Brisbane, Qld). Allan was a faithful Christian gentleman who served as a deacon in the Wagga church and later as an elder in the Albury church. *David Mannington, Rex Cobbin*

Clifford, Grace Edith, born 8.1.1920 in London, England; died 1.3.03 in Melbourne, Vic. She is survived by her brother, Bert (England); her stepson, Dr John Clifford; his wife, Dr Wilvine Hill; and her seven step-grandchildren (all of Melbourne). Grace settled in Australia with her late husband, Arthur, in 1995. She had loved the Lord all her life and awaits the resurrection call. *Russell Standish*

Cooper, Eunice Sylvia (nee Jones), born 2.8.1919 at Bathurst, NSW; died 24.2.03 in Orange Base Hospital. On 11.9.75 she married Bill, who predeceased her in 1998. She was also predeceased by her sister, Miriam Cowie. She is survived by her sisters, Pauline Steen, Esther Edge and Lola Frecklington (all of Cowra). Eunice was passionate about her God, her church and her family. *Neil Lawson*

Children's Sabbath School leaders . . .

Are you short on resources?

Your Adventist Book Centre can help you.

Check out their

Christian Imprints

product line for . . .

- INCENTIVE DEVICES
- LEARNING ACTIVITIES
- QUIZ BOOKS
- PROGRAM HELPS

For Beginners, Kindergarten, Primary, Junior and Teens

Adventist Book Centres . . . here to help you!

Phone (03) 9259 2159 or email <vicabc@adventist.org.au> (Vic ABC) to find an Adventist Book Centre near you

Edwards, Margaret Jean (nee Thomson), born 22.6.1915 at Mount Gambier, SA; died 2.3.03 in Mount Gambier Hospital. In 1935 she married Osma, who predeceased her in 1961. She was also predeceased by her children, Coleen Edwards, Margaret Edwards and Allan. She is survived by her son, Christopher (Cairns, Qld); and her sister, Daphne Kelly (Mount Gambier, SA). Margaret judged highland dancing for many years and was a talented pianist. *Dallas O'Connor*

Engelbrecht, Lola Marie Belle (nee Gardiner), born 3.2.1911 at Cannington, WA; died 4.3.03 at the Adventist Retirement Village, Victoria Point, Qld. On 6.10.37 she married Les. She is survived by her husband (Victoria Point); her children, Maretta Johanson, Judy Derrick, Lorraine Everitt and Bernard; her 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Lola served for many years as cashier at the South Pacific Division office; also in her local church. Her efficient devotion to duty and happy disposition endeared her to those with whom she worked. *Ron Taylor, Selwyn Bartlett*

Harris, Madge (nee Johnston), born 4.9.1913 at Eurobin, Vic; died 1.3.03 at Bendigo. On 5.1.35 she married Jack, who predeceased her in 1976. She is survived by her nephew, John (Bendigo); and her niece, Esme Wilson (Victor Harbor, SA). Madge was a resident of Alawara Retirement Village, Bendigo; formerly of Moonee Ponds church, Melbourne, where she was a faithful member of many years. *Dean Giles, Ken Duke, Laurie Hogarth*

Hibbard, Nelson Albert Howard, born 24.3.1914 at Goolwa, SA; died suddenly 28.2.03 in Murray Bridge Hospital. On 14.11.37 he married Jean. He was predeceased by his daughter, Mary Trenowden, on 20.10.77. He is survived by his wife (Murray Bridge); and his children, Joan Hill (Adelaide), Albert (Gatton, Qld) and Ruth Wanke (Murray Bridge, SA). *Dallas O'Connor, Dave Hamilton*

Jessop, John Francis, born 15.10.1928 at Hamilton, Vic; died 19.9.02 in Bethany Nursing Home, Port Macquarie, NSW. On 22.6.78 he married his second wife, Josephine. He is survived by his wife; and his children, John (Hobart, Tas), Peter (NZ) and Mark (WA). *Justin Lawman*

Rush, Lorna Frances, born 26.9.1929 in Brisbane, Qld; died 24.9.02 in Port Macquarie Base Hospital, Port Macquarie, NSW. On 17.11.50 she married Leonard, who predeceased her on 23.2.87. She is survived by her children, Alicia, Leonie, Janis, Hilary and Vanessa. *Justin Lawman*

Zahmel, Ernest Herman, born 9.3.1916 at Mackay, Qld; died 21.2.03 in Good Shepherd Lodge, Mackay. He is survived by his sister, Grace Till (Slade Point). Ernie was blind from the age of 21 and really appreciated the service provided by the Christian Services for the Blind. He was appreciated for his musical talent, playing the violin. Ernie was a Christian gentleman and had a strong faith in the Lord. *Bob Borresen*

Volunteers needed

House Parent/Campus Ministries Coordinator—Lilydale Adventist Academy, Vic. Female required with 3–4 years college experience to assist with supervision of boarding house, consisting of separate girls and boys wing. Coordinate campus ministries within the secondary school. Furnished self-contained flat provided. Living allowance, insurance and food provided. Term: 12 months, commencing July 10, 2003.

English Language School Director—Romania—to administer the English Language School program and teach English. 1–2 years of college experience preferable. \$US200 per month and lodging provided. Term: 7–15 months negotiable, commencing asap.

Other countries needing ESL teachers include:
Ecuador, Poland, Korea, Bolivia, Peru, Japan and China.

Media Producer—AWR, England—to work with team to produce and voice features and news, editing programs, recording, sending programs via Internet and satellite, web-site updates. Must have 1–2 years college. Living allowance, meals and lodging provided. Term: 12 months, commencing August 2003.

URGENT—English Language Teacher/School Director—Romania—to administer the school and teach English. Must have 1–2 years of college experience. \$US200 per month, lodging in church member's home. Must pay own airfare. Commencing asap for 7–15 months. Length of service negotiable.

Mail: AVS, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076
Phone: (02) 9847 3333
Email: volunteers@adventist.org.au
Internet: www.adventistvolunteers.org



Advertisements

Note: Neither the editor, Signs Publishing Company, nor the Seventh-day Adventist Church is responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised. Publication does not indicate endorsement of a product or service. Advertisements approved by the editor will be inserted at the following rates: first 30 words or less, \$A33; each additional word, \$A1.65. For your advertisement to appear, payment must be enclosed. Classified advertisements in RECORD are available to Seventh-day Adventist members, churches and institutions only. See masthead (page 2) for contact details.

Manjimup Centenary—July 12, 2003. You are invited to attend. Past members, pastors and friends are invited to send written memories or photos of their time in Manjimup to: Centenary, PO Box 1148, Manjimup 6258 or email <gibletdn@wn.com.au>. Photos will be copied and returned.

Funeral directors—K & E Swanborough. Compassionate and professional care at an affordable cost from those who understand. Obligation-free advice on all your funeral requirements, including pre-planning. Phone (07) 3297 1141 24 hours.

Where is your membership? If you were once a member of **Avondale College church**, but have moved away, please contact the church regarding your address and contact details and/or your membership update requirements. Phone (02) 4980 2272; email <college church@adventist.org.au> or write to Avondale College church, PO Box 19, Cooranbong NSW 2265.

Adventist singles camp—Yarra-hapinni, NNSW. All singles are invited to join our ASM camp, April 17–21. Cost: \$A160. Please contact ASM secretary (Dot), 21 Pilot Street, Urunga NSW 2455 or phone (02) 6655 6198 for application forms.

Medical Ministry Certificate Course (correspondence). Share our health message more effectively. Prepare yourself NOW! Information/fees enrolment (02) 6043 1484 (evenings). "Murray Park" Health Education Centre, Corrys Road, Thurgoona NSW 2640, Australia.

A1 Rent-a-Car Christchurch (NZ). "Thrifty" cars, vans from \$NZ49/day, "Budget" cars from \$NZ39/day all inclusive (5/10 day minimum). Free pick-up. Phone 0011 64 3 349 8022; fax 0011 64 3 349 8218. Check our web calculator <http://www.a1rentacar.co.nz>.

Cashflow positive property investment for under \$A100,000. Return is government pension indexed and in excess of 6.5% net plus capital growth. Phone (02) 9651 7940 for information.

Finally

Leadership is the courage to admit mistakes, the vision to welcome change, the enthusiasm to motivate others, and the confidence to stay out of step when everyone else is marching to the wrong tune.



Adventist Theological Society
(Australian Chapter)

DR JO ANN DAVIDSON
Andrews University, USA
(Past President ATS International)

Keynote speaker at South NSW Camp Meeting, Goulburn

APRIL 18 - 25, 2003

Wahroonga SDA Church
Sabbath 26 April 2003
at 11 am

"An Ancient Honour Roll"
ALL WELCOME

Adventist Theological Society is not an official church organisation, but is supportive of the church.

ATTENTION ADVENTIST LAWYERS!

The General Conference publish a compilation of Adventist lawyers and update this every two years. The next edition of the Adventist Lawyer is scheduled for publication in 2004, so it is time to gather current information to forward to them.

If you are a Seventh-day Adventist lawyer or law student, please send details of your practice, including:

- address/contact information—name and mailing address, telephone, fax and email;
- education/qualifications—colleges/universities where you received your degree/s;
- jurisdictions where you are fully qualified to practise law;
- the areas in law in which you practise or offer services—the nature of your practice; to:

Archives and Statistics
Locked Bag 2014
Wahroonga NSW 2076

or email lrelihan@adventist.org.au before May 30, 2003.

Your details will be grouped in the publication by country and in larger areas by province or state.

BOOK
of the
MONTH

EMPOWERED LIVING

A TWELVE-WEEK PLAN FOR IMPROVING
YOUR MOST SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIPS

Most books don't come with guarantees. This one does.

Author and speaker Jim Hohnberger guarantees that if you read and actually implement the relationship principles in this 12-week plan, you will have a changed life, a changed marriage and a changed family. But you must work the plan!

Scores of Christians are discovering the power of the gospel in their everyday lives for the first time through Jim Hohnberger's best-selling book *Escape to God*. Now Jim takes the principles of the walking with God he has learned and, through the testimonies of individuals he and his wife have counselled over the years, provides a practical plan for change in *Empowered Living*.

SPECIAL

\$A27.50

\$NZ33.95

K50.95

REGULAR PRICE

\$A32.95

\$NZ40.95

K60.95

**ORDER FROM YOUR ABC SECRETARY
OR ADVENTIST BOOK CENTRE**