

RECORD



Pictured from left: Pastor Chris Foote, Roma Waterman and Marlene Foote in front of the display for the special worship service as a part of the Australian Gospel Music Festival in Toowoomba, Qld.

Adventist church part of gospel music festival

Nathan Brown

Worship at the Toowoomba Central church (Qld) was an advertised part of the Australian Gospel Music Festival (AGMF) held in Toowoomba over the Easter weekend.

The church is located directly opposite Queen's Park, the major site of the festival's program. "Being so close, our church has a unique opportunity," says church minister Pastor Chris Foote. "We put up a banner inviting festival-goers to worship with us. It was very positive. We had a wide range of people, including many visitors from other Adventist churches and a number of visitors from the festival."

The worship service explored aspects of the Easter service through creative worship. Roma Waterman, one of the AGMF artists, contributed musically. "Roma has sung before in Adventist churches and she and her husband were delighted with the response and appreciated being a part of our worship service," says Pastor Foote.

The Australian Gospel Music Festival has become one of Australia's largest Christian music gatherings, this year featuring 140 artists and attracting crowds of some 30,000 people.

Pastor Foote sees the small role of the Toowoomba Adventist church as significant. "As Adventists we have something unique, but events such as this are great opportunities to let the community know we're Christians and a part of the wider body of Christ."

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The ultimate reality

In the past, warfare was with weapons that “knocked off the enemy, one by one.” Even in ideological warfare of the past—the 18th and 19th century—proceeded to convince by “persuading individuals to adopt new points of view, one at a time.”

“Electric persuasion by photo and movie and TV works, instead, by dunking entire populations in new imagery.” Put the quaintness of “electric persuasion” down to the fact that this was written in 1964 by Marshall McLuhan in his, at times, prophetic book *Understanding Media*.

McLuhan is perhaps best known for the concept of the world as a “global village.” That term was first coined in this book. He could see the media drawing the world together to create this village.

McLuhan came to mind as I watched the Iraq war unfold on television. Think about that sentence. I *watched* the Iraq war unfold on television. We were spectators to a war. For the first time, we were “embedded” with troops as they went to battle. Wherever the troops were, cameras were; wherever cameras were, we were.

Big Brother, *Survivor* and *Temptation Island* may call themselves “reality TV,” but the war in Iraq was the ultimate in the reality genre. The bombing, the killing, the bodies, the weeping, the anger, the joy, the pain—all real.

A bomb goes off near a convoy and a cameraman’s blood spatters onto his television lens. *This* is reality TV.

We ate our evening meal as we digested the news of the day. We discussed what happened for us during the day in the ad breaks. Then we returned to watch experts second-guess what would happen next as images of war played in the background.

Yet we weren’t getting the full picture.

The media can’t do that. It has two problems: the first is its limited view, and the second is the spin placed on the story by the presenter, producer or editor—whether it’s intended or not.

The media itself becomes a weapon.

Watching Western TV, it seemed ludicrous that Iraqi Information Minister Muhammad Said al-Sahhaf would bother to deny the obvious when American troops were battering down doors in Baghdad. That wasn’t the point. Television and the media was his weapon to hold the Iraqi troops and people behind Hussein’s regime. The facts probably would have had the opposite effect.

He well understood the use of media to build an impression, to promote a cause. Television, in particular, is an ideal tool for this.

McLuhan tells the story of Archimedes who, in a discussion of levers and fulcrums, once said, “Give me a place to stand and I will move the world.” “Today,” wrote McLuhan, “he would have pointed to our electric media and said, ‘I will stand on your eyes, your ears, your nerves, and your brain, and the world will move in any tempo or pattern I choose.’”

Television is a huge tool to persuade, but not for reality. The ultimate reality is not found on television, and it isn’t what we witnessed in Iraq. The ultimate reality has good and evil battling for our planet. This is global, and broader than any media can depict. It reaches every nation. Every heart. Every mind.

Television gives glimpses, with evidences like Iraq, that this reality is in progress. But the reality isn’t found on television—it’s in the lives of individual Iraqis.

For Iraqis, the reality is that they can’t

turn off the pictures we saw on the screen; they’re living with them—and the frightful ones we didn’t see. They now have to rebuild lives out of rubble; they now have to overcome the grief of loss; they have to attempt to pull themselves together as a nation. They have to try to get back to the ordinariness of routine—something that doesn’t make good reality TV, so it won’t be done before the cameras.

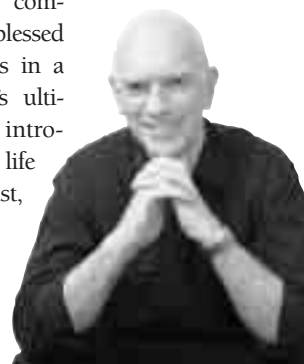
For all of us, the reality of the great conflict between good and evil, between God and Satan impacts at various levels. Most isn’t dramatic enough to make it to television screens. But that doesn’t lessen the pain. So many live lives of quiet suffering. And there is frustration, untapped potential and a longing—a longing for something better.

What the war in Iraq does is remind us (as if we needed to be) of how much of the earth is scarred by the evil one. That reminds us that this is not what life should be like.

And that’s a reminder of the promise that ends the Bible: “Yes, I am coming soon.” We respond, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20, NIV).

His return brings peace to a planet torn apart. The promise found in His birth, life, death and resurrection becomes reality at His second coming. This blessed hope ushers in a reality that’s ultimate and introduces us to life that is, at last, really real.

Bruce
Manners



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

Vol 108 No 19
Cover: Angela Brown

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Email Letters: editor@signspublishing.com.au

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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!

- Gateway church supported by Global Mission • Link up with the prayer newsletter
- Inaugural musical performance for school • Adventist teacher dies of SARS • and more

—Compiled by Kellie Hancock—

● **Gateway**, the new church in the heart of Melbourne (RECORD, April 26), is an **initiative supported by Global Mission. Barbara Reynolds**, the director of Global Mission for the South Pacific Division, says she is encouraged to see people prepared to **try something different in bringing the gospel to groups of people.** More than 80 per cent of the church's budget for the past two years has come from Global Mission, which shows that Global Mission is alive and well, she says.

● Catch the next episode of "**Adventist News**" via satellite on **May 23**. The program includes stories about: Kempsey church's big baptism; the **Adventist who ministers to racing-car drivers**; the Bible Society's Easter Celebration of Word and Song; the **Adventist who illustrates for Australian Geographic**; and an interview with the president of the Australian Union Conference. Churches without satellite dishes should phone the South Pacific Division's Communication Department on +61 2 9847 3290 to subscribe to "Adventist News."



● Have you read **Uplink**? It's an Adventist newsletter that communicates information and news about **prayer**. The April issue featured for the first time a column specially for men. In it, **William Carr**

Hampers touch hearts at Easter



Touched by the hardship being endured by those in drought-affected areas of western New South Wales, Adventists were motivated to help in a practical way at Easter time.

Waitara church members (pictured) packed 17 pallets of food—with donations from Sanitarium and storage and packing facilities from ADRA—and Toowoomba church members also delivered several car loads of foodstuff for distribution.

Barbara Watson, a member at Coonabarabran church, received a call from Pastor Nigel Ackland, who ministers at her church and the Narrabri and Moree churches. She was asked to coordinate the delivery of a portion of the goods to families in their local district.

"We delivered 30 large hampers, beautifully packed, with a covering letter of support and comfort for those suffering the ravages of drought," says Mrs Watson. Coonabarabran members rallied to help deliver the hampers over the Easter weekend.

"If the Waitara and Toowoomba members only knew the joy we gained in sharing their donations around this district," she says. "The smiles, tears, handshakes and hugs we received will remain with us for a long time."

One young man with three children, who lost his wife two years ago, lives on an isolated farm. His youngest son looked up at Mrs Watson with a cheeky grin as he carried some Weet-Bix and Fruity Bix Bars away with him and said, "Gee, thanks missus."

reminds men about the advantage of agreement—why praying with others is important. "**Uplink** is prepared with everyone in mind," says **Joy Butler**, coordinator of Prayer Ministries for the South Pacific Division and editor of the newsletter. "It is not a Women's Ministries production; **it is for the whole church membership.**" Every conference office and local church receives a copy of **Uplink**. Ask your pastor or church clerk for more information.

● Some 40 students from **Noosa Christian College** (NCC) and their parents assembled at the Gympie church,

Qld, to **perform three items in the worship service for their inaugural performance.** "The students looked stunning in their new uniforms and many expressions of admiration were received," says principal **Ross Reid**. NCC desires to present items at churches on



the Sunshine Coast, "not only to fly the college flag," says Mr Reid, "but to also bring listeners closer to Jesus."

● It is safe again to visit **Adventist Alpine Village.** This is the message from the ranger, **Owen Amos**. A bushfire came within metres of destroying the Jindabyne,

New South Wales-based village on January 30 (Flashpoint, March 22). It burned around the village's bush chapel, power supply and water tanks. The only damage came when one of the bulldozers clearing a firebreak caused rocks to fall through a wall. "The bush's been knocked around a bit, but **it's bouncing back,**" says Mr Amos. "Erosion's now our major problem, but we've dug new drains and planted new vegetation. The village is as safe as we can make it." He says the number of bookings are still down—the village has lost some \$A30,000 worth—"but we've **had the best Easter on record.** We had only one empty room."—**Brenton Stacey**

● **Hugo Wong**, a science teacher at Clearwater Bay Sam Yuk High School, located on the campus of Hong Kong Adventist College, **died on April 20 of complications from severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)**. Before Mr Wong was diagnosed with SARS, he had already been absent from the school for a number of days. He was treated at public hospitals, according to Jeremy Low, director of marketing at Hong Kong Adventist Hospital.—ANN

WA community impacted by Adventist educator

Thanks for nothing, Prawnhead” was the comical title of a public address by Dr John Hammond, director of Adventist Schools Australia during a visit to Esperance Christian Primary School in April.



But, according to a positive media report in *The Esperance Express*, the underlying message of his address—that teaching children was one of the most important jobs in society due to these early experiences helping to shape students' lives—was firm and serious.

During his Esperance visit, Dr Hammond initiated a time-capsule project in which students wrote letters to future students, and sealed them along with a copy of two newspapers into a jar and buried them in their schoolyard (pictured). Dr Hammond says that students get a sense of history and a vision for the future from this exercise.

● The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) office in Spain has received a grant of 500,000 euros (\$US538,442) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain for **humanitarian relief operations in northern Iraq**. The funded project will enable ADRA to organise and **operate camps** for 2700 internally displaced persons in the districts of Atrush 1 and Sarsink. —ANN

● Christians in Nigeria defied a **three-day ban on Easter celebrations** across the country and trekked to their churches to participate in Holy Week services. Police officials ordered a dusk-to-dawn curfew from Friday to Sunday and designated Saturday a no-travel day in order to stem electoral fraud and political violence as the country held its elections. Church leaders denounced the ban as a deliberate attempt to curtail the religious liberty of Christians. Two Christians were killed and several others injured on Saturday evening in political violence while returning from worship services in the city of Ilorin.—*Compass*

● Americans who attend church, read the Bible and pray during a typical week were found to be more happy with their lives (at 73 per cent, who strongly agreed with the notion) compared to those less active in religious life (at 64 per cent). People with **an active faith were more likely** to say they were in **excellent physical condition** (42 per cent, compared to 34 per cent of those less active in their faith). Some 84 per cent of evangelical Christians strongly state they are very happy with their lives compared to 57 per cent of agnostics and atheists. While 14 per cent of evangelicals say their lives are more stressful each year, 29 per cent **with no faith feel their lives are increasingly stressful**.—*Crosswalk.com*

Days and offerings

June 7—ADRA Disaster and Famine

Relief Offering

—Women's Ministries Emphasis Day

Off the record

● The New Zealand Pacific Union Conference's associate secretary-treasurer is on the money when it comes to the game of golf. **Gavin Howie** was selected to play in the **New Zealand Open Pro-Am** earlier this year. “Of course, I had to take the day off work, which was a bit hard to take, but it was my birthday after all,” he says. “I had the privilege of playing with **Andre Stoltz** from Australia.—*North NewZ*

● **Norm Young** (pictured), senior lecturer in New Testament for Avondale College's Theology Department, recently joined students in a **50 kilometre walk** from Newcastle to raise funds for Asian Aid and Adventist Development and Relief Agency. The event **raised \$A4000**.



● The Seventh-day Adventist Christian Community Centre, **Murray Bridge, SA**, was **flooded** when a **water main burst** opposite their building on April 21. The violent jet of water, propelling tonnes of mud and stones, erupting from a two-metre hole in the roadway, showered the building and broke several panes of glass in a window. An emergency team from SA Water acted quickly to turn off the mains water, but not before the community centre and church were flooded, with several centimetres of water over the entire floor area. While many members were away at camp-meeting, those remaining were appreciative of help received from other Christian communities in the big clean-up.—*Ron Clarke*



New place, new time for Victorian campers



Pictured at the first Victorian Conference "big camp" to be held at Lardner Park are (rear L-R) Lorraine Birkett, Warragul church member; Pastor Denis Hankinson, Victorian Conference president, Stan Selent, Warragul church member; (front L-R) Marion Abel, Warragul church member; Pastor William Johnsson, editor of Adventist Review and keynote speaker; and George Abel, who was involved in the original establishment of the Lardner Park facility as first chairman of the committee, and also a member of Warragul church.

Warragul, Victoria

Almost 3500 Seventh-day Adventists met at Lardner Park, Vic, for their annual camp over the Easter weekend. The meeting is a first for the Adventist Church in Victoria, which has held camp at its convention ground in Nunawading since the late 1940s.

"But meeting occupational health and safety standards became prohibitively

expensive," says Pastor Denis Hankinson, president of the Victorian Conference.

Nine hundred people—double the usual number at Nunawading—registered to stay at the park for the duration of the camp.

"Camp brings our church members—especially those who live in the country—together," says Pastor Hankinson. "It's also a time to focus again on the important things in life, such as spending time with God and with our families."

Pastor Hankinson and his colleague, Pastor John Denne,

typified the spirit of fellowship by shaving their heads for \$A8000 (see box below). The money will help a group of young adults travel to Thailand to serve as short-term volunteers with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency.

"Some Christian friends of mine even cancelled their own church camp to come to ours," says Lorraine Birkett of the Adventist church in Warragul. "They

couldn't believe we were using Lardner Park."

"The facilities aren't tailor-made for us, but they're close," says Pastor Hankinson.

A storm on the first day of set-up, April 13, knocked down 50 of the tents that Pastor Hankinson and his team had pitched. "The force of the wind twisted some of the frames and ripped some of the canvas," he says. "We lost two days work." But camp started on time. "We enjoyed the peace and quiet of the country," says Pastor Hankinson.

The church has plans to hold its camp permanently at Lardner Park.—Brenton Stacey



Camping at Lardner Park offered families a chance to focus on the important things in life such as quality time together to focus on God. Pictured L-R are Zac Holton, Vicki Holton, Rhys Holton and Paul Holton.

President and pastor lose hair over cash-strapped youth

A Saturday-night concert held in the youth tent at Victoria's "big camp" was dubbed the "Thailand Concert." The aim was to raise funds for Victorian youth planning to attend the World Youth Congress in Thailand and an associated service trip.

After a young adult offered \$A500 to see the Victorian Conference president's head shaved, Pastor Denis Hankinson was duly called in. "After some negotiations the president's head was shaved," says Pastor Kane, associate youth director, "much to the delight of the youth."

The senior tent was



Going bald for the cause: Pastor Denis Hankinson, Victorian Conference president, succumbed to the shaving skills of Michal Styk, youth events coordinator, while Pastor Steve Kane, associate youth director, lends a hand to capture the costly locks.

then challenged to match the youth tent, so by the next evening Pastor John Denne, the associate ministerial secretary and program coordinator for the senior tent, also faced the shaver.

A young adult, Michael Malarek, also donated his head to be shaved. In total \$A8,160 was raised from the shaving of their heads. A further \$A1,000 came in from items auctioned off and the Hangout Cafe proceeds.

Nearly 60 young people from Victoria are planning to go on the service trip and attend the World Youth Congress. Pastor Kane says, "Please pray for these young people—along with all the young people across Australia and New Zealand—who are going to Thailand."—Kellie Hancock



Pastor John Denne (centre) rose to the challenge and helped the senior tent raise funds for the youth project.

Serbian churches attacked, pastor beaten

Belgrade, Serbia

Seventh-day Adventist Pastor Josip Tikvicki has been hospitalised with a concussion to the head, several fractured ribs and a broken jaw after being attacked on April 15 when he attempted to stop some individuals from attacking his church in the city of Zrenjanin, 65 kilometres north-east of the Serbian capital, Belgrade.

His physical condition worsened on April 27, when he “collapsed from pain and stress inflicted on his body,” according to church sources in Belgrade.

Just before midnight on April 15, Pastor Tikvicki and his wife heard glass breaking. He went outside to investigate and

confronted a group of three men who were throwing stones at the windows and vandalising the church. He was then attacked. According to church sources, Tikvicki was kicked, hit and then fell to the ground, losing consciousness. He was reported to have asked his attackers, “How long are you going to beat me?”

Church sources say he was found unconscious by the police, and was taken to the city hospital by an ambulance. The three assailants were arrested, according to local police.

Attempting a faint smile, Pastor Tikvicki said in a soft voice that his “assailants didn’t know what they were doing. I have forgiven

them because that’s a Christian attitude to have.” He said how overwhelmed he is by the outpouring of love from his church in Zrenjanin and from other parts of the world. “This incident has had a powerful effect on my church. They are more united than ever. I thank everyone for their prayers,” he said.

Several minority churches have been subjected to attacks in recent years, including the Baptists, Nazarenes and the Church of Christ. The attack on Pastor Tikvicki was widely reported in the Serbian press and drew international condemnation.

In the past few weeks, 10 Adventist churches were targeted by what is being viewed as an “orchestrated campaign against a religious minority” in a predominantly Orthodox country, church officials say.

The Adventist Church in Serbia continues to appeal to the authorities to deal with what is termed as an “escalating and vicious campaign against the church.”

The influential Democratic Party of Serbia, whose Prime Minister, Zoran Djindic, was recently assassinated, issued a protest statement against the attack in Zrenjanin. The official statement said, “We strongly condemn the brutal attack on an Adventist pastor, Josip Tikvicki, having in mind that this is not the first time, and potentially can endanger good relations in our multi-ethnic society.”

In a television interview, the Serbian Minister of Religious Affairs, Dr Vojislav Milovanovic, condemned the attack on Pastor Tikvicki and stated that the situation will be dealt with.

The Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) office at the General Conference in Maryland, USA, voiced a concern about the Zrenjanin attack. In a letter sent to Serbia’s ambassador in Washington, DC, PARL director Dr John Graz said that Adventists don’t understand “why they are the victims of such vicious and unprovoked attacks,” and expressed a conviction that the government of Serbia “will protect Adventist citizens and their churches, and all religious minorities against violent intolerance.”—*Adventist News Network*

Adventist members and church safe in Iraq

Julio C Munoz, ANN

Iraqi Adventists, their church and their homes have survived the recent war activities in Iraq, according to church officials for the Middle East Union Mission.

“We’re especially happy to be able to report that all of the Adventists are safe,” said Pastor Michael Porter, president of the union mission, with headquarters in Nicosia, Cyprus. “We just received word after a couple of weeks of no telephone contact at all. We’re just really thankful to hear that everybody’s safe and also that the church building itself was not damaged during the war.”

The chairman of the church in Iraq, Ghanem Fargo, managed to gain access to a satellite phone and sent word through his daughter in California, USA, that all members and their property were safe.

“We are all doing well and urge you to keep praying that this situation will be over soon,” said Mr Fargo.

Although relieved that the church and its members are safe, Pastor Porter and Pastor Bertil Wiklander, president for the church’s Trans-European Division, are concerned about the uncertainty that Iraqi Adventists will face as a new leadership for the country is selected.

“Under the regime of Saddam Hussein, the church had quite a lot of freedom and liberty to operate,” said Pastor Wiklander. The Adventist Church was one of 13 religions and denominations registered with the government. This entitled them to receive free utilities and the right to own property.

“There is concern that a new government might not be as interested in religious freedom or as interested in allowing Christians to worship. There is concern for sure,” states Pastor Porter.

“We hope that the degree of freedom we have had will continue and that Iraq will follow a democratic system of government,” adds Pastor Wiklander. “But there are of course possibilities that it could go the other way and that would mean that the church would have to work under more difficult circumstances.”

News reports in Western media note that Christians in Iraq have expressed fears about religious freedom after the war, despite the commitment to individual rights expressed by leaders of the United States-led coalition in the recent war activities in Iraq.

First baptism for Thursday Island

Kellie Hancock

A literature evangelist's (LE) sale of a full set of books, and a minister's help to read and explain the books led to the baptism of Kokobe Ansey on Thursday Island, Torres Strait, on April 5.

"After more than 10 years of Adventist presence on Thursday Island this is our first baptism," says lay pastor Ben Kosmeier.

Eunice Winship, an LE from Cairns, visited Mrs Ansey, and she ordered the full set of books. "Eunice asked me if I could deliver the books she had sold on Thursday Island, and that is how I met Mrs Ansey," says Mr Kosmeier.

"She asked if I could read her the health books by Dr James Wright and explain the medical terms to her." Mr Kosmeier did that for a couple of weeks, but he was having difficulty understanding the medical terms himself and suggested they study the Bible instead.

"Her eyes opened wide with excitement," he says. "That was equally as challenging—studying the King James Bible with her—but God taught her and gave her amazing insights."

After a couple of months Mr Kosmeier invited her to church. "The church members were wonderful to her," he says. "The friendship and love made her feel



Kokobe Ansey (left) with Ben Kosmeier (right) during the first baptism on Thursday Island since the church established an official presence there 10 years ago.

welcome, even with people from a different culture." Members at Thursday Island church are mainly composed of mainland Australians who are involved in Government work there.

On the weekend of the baptism, members from the main Adventist church in the Torres Strait, on Kubin Island, came over to Thursday Island on the church boat.

"On Friday night we held a fellowship/sharing time at our place, and it was a very moving time," he says. "Mrs Ansey was able to meet the other Adventist

islanders and feel she has a church family here."

Mrs Ansey was baptised in the public swimming pool on Sabbath morning, before it was opened to the public. Pastor Eric Davey, director for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries, was there on his annual visit and conducted the service and baptism.

"Although not Adventists, Mrs Ansey's family attended her baptism and were happy for her decision," says Mr Kosmeier.

A couple who had been having Bible studies with Mr Kosmeier, but had stopped, had helped raise Mrs Ansey's daughter, and so they attended her baptism also. The woman said to Mr Kosmeier, "I've had a wonderful time studying the Bible with you. I miss that in my church." She has now asked to study the Bible again.

"This was an answer to prayer," says Mr Kosmeier. "Every Sabbath morning for the past year we have been praying as a church for this couple—who had attended the Adventist church for some six months—to come back."

Mr Kosmeier asks church members, "Please keep praying for our churches here and for the people to keep coming to the Lord."

Church in Fiji launches radio station

Brenton Stacey

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has applied successfully for a radio licence in Fiji. Its station, 97.6 Hope FM, broadcasts from a studio at the church's Fiji Mission office in Suva. The signal reaches as far as the towns of Navua and Nausori.

The station's transmitter is temporarily located on the same tower—in Tamavua, a suburb of Suva—as Trinity Fiji Television and its sister radio station, FM97. The church plans to build its own tower on land subleased from one of its members.

The station plays only Christian music, but the style of the music varies. "The mix

of contemporary Christian, gospel, Indian and Fijian music is different," says Aisake Tiko Kabu, the station manager.

Hope FM says it will broadcast more morning news bulletins than any other radio station in Suva. "By having one of the best news services, we expect to attract a large number of listeners to our Christian messages," says Mr Kabu.

A news team of 20—including Melba Lala, a former newsreader on Fiji TV's FIJI 1—are producing the bulletins. Another former FIJI 1 newsreader, Joe Talemautoga, hosts "Good Morning Suva" from 9 am to 12 pm on weekdays.



Tevita Wagamailau presents the "Voice of Hope" from a studio at the church's Fiji Mission office in Suva.

The station's staff members—all of whom are Adventists—commit to serve a day a week for three months. "But I'm also receiving calls from other Christians who are keen to volunteer," says Mr Kabu.

The death of marriage

by Peter C Raymer

She* was about 75 years old when I met her—thin and incapacitated—she found it difficult to walk and, because she lived alone, she relied on others for daily care. In the course of conversation I asked about her husband. With a wry smile she told me that, a few years previously, he arrived home one day to announce that he was leaving her and wanted a divorce. He had met another woman with whom he said he was in love—at 75!

They divorced. She was left alone, physically crippled and emotionally devastated. Divorce knows no age barriers.

John* sat with his head in his hands and sobs intersecting his words, "I just can't believe it. We've been married for 20 years. I never dreamed for one moment that anything was wrong.

"If anyone had asked me, I would have said we had a good marriage, but I arrived home from work to find my belongings in suitcases on the porch and my wife standing there telling me it was over. Our marriage was finished.

"There was no explanation or anything! She wouldn't even let me in the house to talk to the kids. It was as though I was watching a movie about other people, in slow motion. These things happen to them, not to us! I can't believe it. I don't know what to do. I'm devastated and fear I'm going out of my mind. Please help me!"

Dianne and Andrew,* in their mid-20s, had been married only a short time. Theirs was an idyllic courtship. He was as handsome as she was attractive, but in just two short years they felt they no longer loved each other and were considering divorce. In fact, they'd already decided.

Three sad cases—different, but alike. Somewhere love had disappeared. These are just a sampling of many such cases in just one professional experience. In speaking with one young married mother

recently, I was told that of 17 of her friends who had married around the time she did, 14 had divorced just a few years afterwards! The available national divorce-rate figures show that one divorce occurs in Australia every 10 minutes!

Divorce in the church

Our church isn't immune to the awful reality of divorce. According to the latest statistics from the 2001 Australian National Church Life Survey (quoted in RECORD, March 1, 2003), Seventh-day Adventist divorce, separation and de facto relationship statistics are higher than the national Church Life Survey average, which included 700 congregations from 19 denominations.

According to the survey, "7 per cent of Adventists are either separated, divorced or in a de facto relationship." This equates to almost 3600 of the Australian membership of 51,000 (and I suspect the ratio would be the same in New Zealand). That's equal to the combined membership of the South NSW and Tasmanian Conferences, or 800 more than the total membership in the South Australian Conference.

We aren't told the breakdown of these figures into a three-way split—how many are divorced, separated or living in de facto arrangements—but the overall ramifications for our church in terms of family breakdown are, at the very least, alarming.

Of course, we don't know how many members were divorced or separated prior to becoming Adventists. But we also have no idea how many of the 51,000 Australian members are in unhappy relationships either, and who may be considering separation or divorce, or who may be in the process of divorce.

What happens to a religious institution when the foundations begin to give way? And how much attention is being given to this aspect of our church life? How much

more does our family life have to suffer before we heed the wake-up call?

Realities of divorce

Divorce is destructive and emotionally devastating—just ask anyone who has been through one. And even if, further down the track, things turn out all right, it isn't before a lot of heartbreak and emotional agony on the part of all concerned—including the husband, wife and children.

After divorce, things can never be the same again. The scars remain even if those concerned refuse to admit it. For children it has an absolutely devastating effect, attested to by a plethora of statistics and anecdotal evidence. And this negative effect is both short and long term. It affects children's emotional development (particularly their self-image), their relationship with their peers (particularly the opposite sex), their abilities at school, their behaviour patterns (particularly as teenagers) and even their choice of life partners.

Sadly, many of these children from divorced homes later become divorcees themselves. That signals a bleak future with over one million Australian children now from broken homes.

Divorce is in reality a death—the death of a marriage. Death involves grief and loss. In both death and divorce, there is the removal of a loved one and the ending of a significant, meaningful relationship.

Without question the two crucial emotional needs of every human is to be loved and to love. We are made for relationships. Without them, we die. Our basic emotional needs were ideally meant to be filled first in a relationship with God and, second, with another human being of the opposite sex in a lifetime monogamous relationship and the presence of children.

In the Garden of Eden, God brought the first couple together and celebrated their

union, commanding them to “be fruitful and multiply.” Divorce was never on God’s agenda, although the Scriptures allow for it under certain restricted circumstances. Marriage, ideally, was to be for life.

No-one involved in a divorce escapes its inevitable negative consequences. The consequences come in varying degrees, of course, but they are there all the same. There are no winners, even though marriage can be sweeter the second time around, if the first marriage has been disastrous. But the resultant emotional trauma remains.

Help is available

Seeking God’s help directly should be a Christian couple’s first option, and hopefully this is all that is necessary. Realistically, though, we often find that God may also choose to use Christian professional assistance, which often proves extremely beneficial as the couple are encouraged to consider alternatives that may not have been obvious to them, to help guide in the direction of reconciliation.

Depending on the circumstances, reconciliation isn’t always possible. But

divorce should never be taken lightly, and every step should be taken to avoid it.

Most couples in difficulty put off seeking help until the terminally ill stage of their relationship. If we left the servicing of our motor vehicles for the length of time most couples in difficulty leave the servicing of their deteriorating relationship, our highways would be choked with potential or actual wrecks.

When asked why they didn’t seek professional help sooner, the answer is almost inevitably: “We thought we could work it out!” Obviously they couldn’t.

It’s a deeply saddening experience to observe the death of love. Of witnessing two people who were once so in love and who had pledged their undying affection ‘til death they do part. Often they reach the point of hurling accusations and hurtful epithets at each other across a not-so-crowded room.

Love and hate seem very finely balanced, and when that line is crossed there is potential for enormous pain.

None of this should be construed to infer that people involved in divorce are not necessarily good, decent people. There are exceptions, but in most cases they are

people just like anyone else—dependable, hardworking, devoted, friendly, normal people who have had the misfortune to go through a marriage breakdown for whatever reason. Sometimes it is completely out of their control.

Since we live in such an egocentric world where the happiness of the individual transcends the happiness and good of the whole, we aren’t going to easily turn these awful divorce statistics around, at least not to a very great degree. However, some do regain their former love and stability after a lot of hard work and God’s help (if they seek it), and that is heartening.

Sadly, in the minds of many, marriage today seems to operate much like a city bus terminal—if you miss one bus another one will be along in a few minutes. Thus some pundits state that traditional marriage is virtually finished and must give way to a different model—perhaps based on the incredible number of de facto relationships that abound today. More than 75 per cent of all new relationships are de facto, too many of them in our own church.

Now the bad news

So what can a couple expect who are not happy in their relationship and are considering separation and divorce as a solution?

There are predictable emotional reactions to the grief and loss that follow the death of any relationship, but particularly marriage. They may include disbelief and shock, panic, fear, anxiety, hurt and anger, guilt, confusion, jealousy, blame of the other person or self, discouragement and depression, eating and sleeping problems, lack of self-care, thoughts of self-harm or harm to the other person, thoughts and even incidents of revenge.

Almost inevitably there is a loss of a sense of value as a person—as though either partner is looked upon as expendable, not worth anything. Domestic violence is often the result and our print media and television news are replete with instances of domestic violence as a result of a couple going through the trauma of separation or divorce.

In extreme cases, physical injury and even death may eventuate. I mention these to indicate that not all separations and

Ninth Wonder

Malcolm Ford

I read somewhere:
Put a man in uniform
(Or sculpt him in bronze
Or richer gold)
And you could change his personality,
Usually for the worse.

There was goldenhead;
Proud King Neb
Of ancient Babylon,
Who built a massive image
On the plain of Dura:
Gold from head to toe—
Outshone the dream:
And everyone bowed down
But Meshach, Shadrach and
Abednego.

Malcolm Ford writes from Whangarei, North New Zealand.

And lately
In that same land,
I saw the image of a man
In the uniform of tyranny,
With outstretched hand
Come toppling down—
Headfirst hit the ground;
Decapitated: The base metallic head
Dragged away in triumph.
And the world wondered
At the teletronic image.

Change channels
From Bagdad to New Babylon—
The image on the screen
Could dramatize the scene:
The Beast Power
Once wounded, healed;
Emerging from the shadows
While the “whole world wondered.”

divorces are amicable and cooperative, where two sensible adults realise their marriage is over, remain friends and sensibly and mutually agree to what is fair and just for all concerned. In fact, very few are like that, but, thankfully, there are some.

At the very least, it seems that most couples become estranged, choosing not to associate with each other except where necessary—perhaps where children are involved. Unfortunately, children often become pawns (intentional or unintentional) in an emotional tug-of-war between their parents.

Children, many of them too young to understand the complexities of adult relationships, are trapped between divided loyalties. They're confused, traumatised and often used as bargaining chips. Their parents are love-objects, their god-figures, who are there one minute, gone the next.

Children become insecure, blame themselves for their parents' difficulties ("If I had been a good girl/boy, Daddy/Mummy wouldn't have left me") and often live a bundle of contradictions with severe attendant behavioural and emotional problems.

Then there's the trauma of dividing assets. Who gets what? This is often a minefield that only divorce lawyers can walk across and survive, and be rewarded handsomely for doing so. In effect they may be the only winners in separation and divorce.

The death of a marriage is a tragic event, minimised by the theatre of society at large, but filled with hurt and pain by the players. Readers in that category are well aware of the trauma involved and the length of time it can take to normalise—often it's years.

Most don't really ever get over it; they just learn to cope. Even if they find happiness elsewhere the scars remain, and the baleful effects will almost certainly be played out in the lives of the children.

God set the ideal

God had it right in the beginning when He instituted marriage as a monogamous union for life. As our great God and Creator, He surely must have known what He was doing. Jesus then reiterated the sanctity of monogamous marriage while He was here on earth, while genuinely

allowing for divorce under certain conditions.

We Westerners, it seems, have thought to be wiser than God and altered the divine plan unrecognisably. We now pay the price and it is too high!

Divorce, although sometimes legitimately necessary for the emotional and physical survival of one or both of the parties, should ever only be a last resort—for in the

death of a marriage there really are no winners. **R**

** Names and cases have been modified to protect individuals, but the cases themselves are based on real events.*

Peter C Raymer is the Family Ministries director for the South Queensland Conference. He is also a marriage and family therapist.

Did you feed your brain this morning?



When the pressure is on with work commitments, family schedules and extracurricular activities, you may feel like you could do with some extra brain power. While it sounds strange to “feed your brain,” we’re convinced that one of the most important factors for brain performance is starting the day right. Yes, eating a healthy breakfast.

Here’s why.

When you get up and start your daily routine, your body performs better if it has a supply of energy. “Breaking the fast” provides this much-needed energy, not just for body movement, but to

the brain. This is important as the brain relies on a certain amount of blood glucose (a type of sugar that circulates in the blood) to function optimally and coordinate the rest of the body. Eating breakfast will give you greater alertness to complete your work or study!

It’s important to choose a quality breakfast that includes a good source of fibre and longer-lasting carbohydrates. This type of meal is better at promoting brain alertness than foods of a high-fat and low-fibre nature. Ensure you include items like:

- Wholegrain varieties of bread and breakfast cereals (for instance, Weet-Bix)
- Muesli (a great mix of oats, seeds, nuts and dried fruits)
- Fruit (fresh, dried or canned)
- Dairy products or calcium-enriched soymilks (for instance, So Good).

If you’re on email and would like to know more about healthy food and meal ideas, then our free “Good Food News” email is for you. Produced four times each year by the Sanitarium Nutrition Service, Good Food News contains nutrition and health topics, recipes and new-product information. To register, just visit the Sanitarium web site <www.sanitarium.com.au> or <www.sanitarium.co.nz> and click through to the online subscription form.



Mission in the impossible

by Lee Dunstan

Met Pastor Richard Rikis, president of Papua New Guinea Union Mission's Bougainville Mission for some three-and-a-half years. Bougainville, in Papua New Guinea's (PNG) North Solomons Province, is geographically and demographically closer to the Solomon Islands than to mainland PNG.

It contains the now defunct Panguna open-cut copper and gold mine (the world's biggest hole), which produced huge export and royalty income for PNG until clandestine warfare forced its closure. That rebellion, instigated by Francis Ona, eventually developed into open warfare. As a result, the mission has operated under extremely adverse conditions for more than a decade.

Everything Pastor Rikis tells me about Bougainville somehow relates to the rebellion—before, after, because of or despite it.

Pastor Rikis, from Mussau, is a foreigner on Bougainville—a “red skin,” which contrasts with the ebony of the indigenous population. Following his graduation from Sonoma College as a minister, in 1974, Pastor Rikis worked for a number of years before marrying Noshe. Then followed his first tour on Bougainville, prior to the troubles.

Although hostilities have eased and aid workers are rebuilding the island's economy and infrastructure, it isn't completely safe. Noshe and their two boys, Junior Richard, 16, and Richie Max, 14, live at Kavieng, New Ireland, a short flight north-west across the Solomons Sea from Bougainville.

Pastor Rikis visits his mission on three-monthly rotations. He says he feels safe, for the church has the respect of the various factions, some of whom are still well armed. During the rebellion, the church maintained a strictly apolitical stance. More recently he's refused UN peace-keeper overtures to be involved. He says many pastors continued to work despite

the lack of a regular wage—even the death of a colleague—and the church continued to grow.

“One pastor only was allowed into the no-go zone. That pastor did all of the baptisms.” And no church property was destroyed, although the mission relocated to the nearby island of Buka. (He was in the process of moving back to Arawa when interviewed in late 2002.)

Bougainville has more than 5000 members. With the closure of the mine and the rebellion, there's little regular income. This has brought a number of the mission's 10 primary schools under threat, which has caused some disquiet. However, tithing income is sufficient to maintain a pastoral team of 26 caring for more than 50 churches.

Communicating with church workers and the union office is another headache for Pastor Rikis. “The phone lines get cut regularly, and often there's no power,” he says. “We've looked at expensive satellite phones, but can't afford them. And the national government doesn't help with repairs.”

Pastor Rikis moves relatively freely through the various zones of influence—on occasions with a former rebel commander, a convert to Adventism, in the back of his vehicle to secure safe passage. The commander, Glen Govrika, was once Ona's second-in-command.

“He was an Adventist, but during the crisis he left the church [to take up a command]. He was eventually shot and taken to Atofi Hospital [in the Solomons] where he talked with Dr Chester Kuma. He was baptised, then came back. Eventually we called him as a [Cliff Morgan] Volunteers in Action worker. He's now a district director. He's a good fellow and works with the other [faction] commanders to try and bring them over the line.”

The Adventist Church has respect in Bougainville, including that of the influential Ona, whom Pastor Rikis has



Pastor Richard Rikis, president of the troubled Bougainville Mission, PNGUM, where a civil war has been waged for almost a generation.

met on three occasions. “I presented him copies of *The Desire of Ages* and *The Great Controversy*. I told him I would come back and talk to him about them. He's a good man, but he's under pressure.

“I was challenged by Ona, who comes from a cargo cult area where they don't believe in God, but in traditional things, to take our brand of Christianity there. So far Volunteers in Action workers have opened two villages and baptised eight locals. They're in areas that [non-local] pastors can't get into. Because pastors can't cross lines, we need another 20 volunteers to do the job. We have to have local people.”

The Bougainville Mission has unique challenges. “Our [mission's] goal is to get the people together for reconciliation,” says Pastor Rikis. “But first we must tell them of the love of Jesus. I believe we can through the work of our teachers, pastors and volunteers. The people listen to our church like none other.” **R**

Lee Dunstan is senior assistant editor of RECORD. This is one of a series of interviews with mission presidents of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission.

My name is Victor

by Victor Bejan

My name is Victor Bejan and I'm eight years old. I live in Don Valley, a small community about 15 kilometres from Warburton, in Victoria.

God is so good. He gave me life and preserved it in a miraculous way. I hope my story may cause you to stop and realise how wonderfully God works in your life, too.

It started as a pretty normal day. The weather was dull and overcast. I woke up early to go to Sunday English and maths classes with my older brother. When school finished, Mum picked us up.

We headed for home. We live around 50 kilometres from where we go to have our classes. We started to get hungry and my parents thought it would be nice to have some chips. So Dad decided to go into the village and stop at the shops.

Dad stopped the car and he and my brother, Joshua, went into the fish-and-chip shop across the road. I was asleep in the car.

When I woke up, Josh and Dad had given their order and were in the shop next to the fish-and-chip shop. I asked Mum if I could go and join them, and she said yes.

I jumped out of the car and looked right, but not left, and ran at full speed across the road. All of a sudden a car hit me at about 55 km/h. Actually it was a ute, with a bulbar. I never saw it before I felt it hit me.

I flew into the air and landed with a crash on the ground.

Mum came out of the car screaming, expecting to find me under the ute. But I had enough strength, and stood up and walked to the footpath. Mum helped me to lie down on the ground.

My head was sore and my right eye and nose started to swell. My tummy was sore and my legs didn't feel good either, but I could still walk.

When Dad came out of the shop and saw my legs and my pants hanging out of the crowd, his heart sank.

Someone called the ambulance. Luckily it was only 500 meters away, but it still seemed like it took a long time. They put me on a hard stretcher and lifted me up into the ambulance. They put a collar around my neck, which was really annoying, but I had to wear it because they thought I may have neck or spinal injury.

Mum came with me in the ambulance and Dad followed behind in the car with Aaron, Joshua and Daria (my two brothers and sister). About 40 minutes later we arrived at the hospital and they put me on a trolley and wheeled me into the emergency department.

In no time I was being X-rayed and CAT scanned all over my body. I didn't escape needles either, as I had to have a drip in my right hand. Wonder of wonders, every test gave good results. There was no brain damage, no broken bones, not even a broken rib.

My mum and dad were relieved and happy. And I was so happy for the neck collar to be taken off and the needles taken out of my arm.

The hospital released me that night.



There were tears of joy in my family. Sure, my face was still a mess and it took about two weeks to get back to normal. Three weeks have now passed since my accident and I've fully recovered.

I went back to school after only two days, but got a bit tired so Mum decided to keep me home for that week. God saved me in a mighty way and surely He has great plans for me.

Dear Lord, help me to learn my lesson and to look where I leap. I want to praise You for this miracle in my life and I want all to know how much You love me and all people. I want to do awesome things through You because I'm still here! 🙏

Victor Bejan writes from Don Valley, Vic.

Just for children

WHAT IF ...

... koalas had flippers?

They couldn't climb trees or grip gumleaves. Without their strong paws and good grip, koalas would be confined to the ground, vulnerable to attack and very hungry!

Peta Taylor

Salvation: Once more, with feeling

Rolf Vaessen, email

When people used to ask “Are you saved?” or, “When were you saved?” it would give the inquirer an indication as to whether that person was born again. But a person raised in the church often cannot recall a specific time or date. But no-one can ever say “I am saved,” according to Ellen G White. This would be so people wouldn’t become careless and slack.

Ellen White’s comment must be taken in the context of the specific problem she was facing when she made this comment. Some were using the expression to mean once saved, always saved. She was not against assurance of salvation.

Carolyn Barnett, Qld

In my teens, when a speaker at our church asked “Are you saved?” the entire congregation remained mute. A woman later commented that she felt unable, at that point, to say she was because she “still had a few things to work on,” the implication being that she wasn’t yet good enough to be saved. I suspect that most of us felt the same.

There may not have been a change in the official teaching of the church since, but there certainly has been a change in attitude. I believe this began in the 1970s when there came about a focus on the concept of righteousness by faith. We finally started to understand the idea of salvation as a gift, and sanctification and

good works as being love responses to that gift, not the way to earn it.

The once-saved-always-saved theology implies that we accepted the gift of salvation once, and that’s all there is to it. The idea that we’re *being* saved implies that salvation is something we need to keep working for. However, at any given moment, regardless of how far along we are in the process of sanctification, and so long as we continue to accept Jesus’ offer to stand in our place before the accuser, we can say with confidence, “Yes, I am saved!”

Ken Killoway, Vic

To the question “Are you saved?” one needs to add, “From what am I saved?” The answer is sin. And my own experience has pointed to two types of sin: The sin I choose and the sin that is *inherent*. Today I am saved from the compulsion of my carnality. I don’t have to sin because I choose and God strengthens. But I am still host to my inherent carnal nature.

When Jesus comes I am saved from my hated carnality. Then I will be like He was when on earth and like Adam before he chose poorly and got himself a carnal nature. Now I don’t fear Jesus’ coming in spite of my sinful nature, because I know He comes not to judge it, but to remove it.

Ron McGrath, WA

For what it’s worth, I believe in once saved, always saved—if you remain saved. Salvation is an ongoing personal

relationship with God, like the vine and the branch. Likewise, it is said, “We are saved from our sins, not in our sins.” I believe I will be saved in spite of my sins.

After 55 years as a Seventh-day Adventist, I am still a sinner: “So long as Satan reigns, we shall have self to subdue, besetting sins to overcome; so long as life shall last, there will be no stopping place, no point which we can reach and say, I have fully attained. . . . None of the apostles and prophets ever claimed to be without sin” (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pages 560, 561).

However, they did have the promise and assurance of salvation.

Russ Pringle, Vic

Salvation assurance comes through a personal daily relationship with Christ. Personally, I was saved 2000 years ago; I know from reading John 5:24, which says, “Anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has everlasting life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life” (NRSV).

Salvation was “done” at Calvary. It is not “being done.” We are being decontaminated. However, we’re not saved because we are decontaminated; we are decontaminated because we are saved. That would mean there was merit in our good works of decontamination.

Both genders need help

Lynette Rowland, NSW

There is discrimination everywhere, not just in the church? The letter “Give the blokes a go!” (April 19) said something I’ve been saying for quite awhile.

While working in the Ranges [Shire] Community Health Service, in Lilydale, Vic, we implemented a number of men’s programs as research revealed that they needed help and were being pushed under for lack of support. Well done!

Note: Views in Letters do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Letters should be less than 250 words, and writers must include their name, address and phone number. All letters are edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author’s original meaning will not be changed. Not all letters received are published. See masthead (page 2) for contact details.



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Weddings

Barker—Brighton. Simon John Barker, son of Les and Wendy Barker (Toowoomba, Qld), and Nichole Ralie Brighton, daughter of Colin (Mackay) and Sheryl (Toowoomba) Brighton, were married on 20.4.03 at Westridge church, Toowoomba. *Lewis Parker*

Wright—Meaola. Kenneth Wright, son of Petelo Wright (Australia) and Evelyn Eddishaw (Auckland, NZ), and Jennifer Meaola, daughter of Tauiuaola and Fufui Meaola (Melbourne, Vic), were married on 6.4.03 in the Botanical Gardens, Melbourne. *Paul Gredig*

Advertisements

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Position vacant

▲ **Sales Representative—Sanitarium Health Food Company** is seeking a highly-motivated person to join ACT (Canberra) sales team. The successful applicant will have sound negotiation and interpersonal skills, a high level of self-motivation and dedication, ability to work as an individual and within a team environment, competent computer skills and a current driver's licence. **Applications in writing**, specifically addressing the selection requirements, should be forwarded to: State Operations Manager, Sanitarium Health Food Company, PO Box 390, Castle Hill NSW 1765, no later than June 17, 2003.

For church-related employment opportunities visit the Employment section on the SPD web site <www.adventist.org.au>.

Barrier Reef and Red Centre Discovery Tour—July 20–29, 2003. Travel with fellow Adventists on this special tour to Cairns, Alice Springs and Ayers Rock. Our wonderful program includes a cruise to Green Island, Kuranda Scenic Railway/skyrail combination, School of the Air, Take a Camel to Dinner, Royal Dr Flying Service, Optional Balloon flight over Alice and Uluru and watch the sunset over Ayers Rock. For full details and prices please contact Debbie at Allround Travel Centre; phone (07) 5530 3555; or email <alltrav@bigpond.net.au>.

Calling all former staff and graduates of Sydney Adventist Hospital. Come to Centenary Homecoming, June 27–29, as we celebrate 100 years of Christian caring. Catch up with old friends, enjoy programs, special church service as satellite broadcast, *SAH: This Is Your Life* with Roger Climpson, tours, museum, Graduates Association dinner. Contact: Margaret Smith (02) 9487 9411; <margaretsm@sah.org.au>; or 0414 489 825.

Interested in history of the San? Sydney Adventist Hospital Centenary History Conference at Wahroonga, NSW, Sunday, May 25, 2003. No charge, but need to register booking. Margaret Smith (02) 9487 9411; <margaretsm@sah.org.au>.

If you know the whereabouts of Mrs Karen Mahony, previously of Singles Ridge Road, Wimallee NSW, please notify the Warrimoo church pastor, Sam Braga (02) 4782 9249 or the head elder, Ivan Webb (02) 4739 3856.

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Giant book sale—Nunawading church, Central Road—Sunday, May 18, between 11 am and 3 pm. 2500 books at bargain prices, choir music (multiples), videos, SPC tin food, garden hoses, non-alcoholic wines, plants. Make a calendar note.

25th anniversary Northpine Christian College (Qld). Past students, parents and staff of Northpine Christian College (formerly known as Pine Rivers Adventist School/Brisbane North Adventist College) are invited to join us in a weekend of celebration on June 21 and 22, 2003. For further information please phone Katy (07) 3204 6511.

Still more Adventist business partners (working and financial) required to launch and operate **Trevor's Ticker Tucker**, a viable health food business at 151 Wellington Road, Sefton NSW 2162. Please contact Dr Trevor Adie on (02) 9644 3479 or 0414 416 007 or Peter Manser, business manager, on 0415 252 149.

Graduates Association dinner. Sydney Adventist Hospital graduates from 1903 to 2002 are invited to register for the Centenary dinner on Sunday, May 29. Details: Lena Jowett (02) 9487 9129; <lensah@sah.org.au>.

A book worth reading! *The San: 100 Years of Christian Caring* by Dr Arthur Patrick. Sydney Adventist Hospital's Centenary volume, 278 pages, 550 pictures. \$A45 plus postage. Contact Margaret Smith <margaretsm@sah.org.au> or (02) 9487 9411.

Digital photography. Like a camera but don't know where to start? Have a camera but want to improve your skills? Give Andrew a call on 0411 078 382 or see <www.ircomm.com.au>.

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“Avondale College has played an important part in the success we now enjoy and our gifts of time along with our financial contributions to Avondale Trusts and Legacies are just two small ways we have given to benefit Avondale College in training our Church’s leaders of tomorrow.”

Dr Owen & Mrs Jan Hughes

*Jan: Avondale Theology Diploma and
Teaching Graduate 1959*

*Owen: Avondale Accountancy Graduate 1954
Avondale Secondary Teaching Graduate 1960*

There are many ways you can assist Avondale College. Please telephone Dr Bruce Youlden, Vice-President Planning & Administrative Services on 02 4980 2284.

**PLEASE TELEPHONE
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