

RECORD



Strategy will help tackle HIV/AIDS in the South Pacific

Wahroonga, NSW

The first steps of forming comprehensive strategies to help confront the growing problem of HIV/AIDS in the South Pacific were taken at the midyear meetings. A commitment statement and a strategic framework for action were voted.

“The South Pacific region is at risk, especially the islands of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands,” says Dr Ron Mataya, the director for health for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)—International.

“Australia and New Zealand seem to have contained the rate of spread. Papua New Guinea reports a prevalence rate of about 1 to 2 per cent, but also reports that the rate of increase is between 15 and 30 per cent. Papua New Guinea has the highest prevalence rate of sexually transmitted infections, which, together with other factors, contribute to the easy spread of HIV.”

The main cause of death in the Port Moresby hospital is currently HIV/AIDS related. Some 15,000 people in Papua New Guinea (PNG) are infected and, of those, one in four is a housewife.

HIV/AIDS in PNG is distributed equally between men and women. Ninety per cent of infections come from heterosexual transmission and 8 per cent from parent to child. The 15 to 34 age group is the most affected.

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*Time
for
decision*

The human touch

She was blind. I touched her on the shoulder and spoke to let her know I had to get by to my seat. The plane wasn't full so there was an empty seat between us.

I made a couple of comments, but they seemed to be ignored, so I settled in for the flight home. Once in the air she opened a laptop computer and worked away at it.

The stewards were impressive in how attentive they were to her needs. (Congratulations, Virgin Blue.)

About 20 minutes from landing, she dropped something onto the floor. I picked it up for her. That started the conversation.

She was an executive member of a blind

can't wait to get to the "Seventh-day Adventist Church" part to see what reaction there is. The reaction varies from a vague kind of look as if they have never heard of Adventists, to, "My auntie is one of those."

Sometimes it becomes a conversation stopper or dampener.

When I told her what I did and that I worked for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, her reaction was immediate: "I know Seventh-day Adventists!"

"How do you know them?"

"I once went to a blind camp they held."

She couldn't remember where it was, but

mentioned. The church logo and how the print appeared under the logo (something logophiles worry about) had no impact because she couldn't see it.

It was the program, one that met her specific needs, and the human contact made at that time that made the impression. She was a reminder that it's the people of the Adventist Church who can have a far greater impact than any other resource the church—and God—has.

We can spend millions advertising the church, attempting to sell it with McDonald's and Holden cars on television, to create an image. We can have the most consistent branding possible. We can run the most successful evangelistic program of all time. But all these will ultimately fail without the added warmth and friendship of Adventist people.

That sound you can hear is applause (mine) for evangelism and effective branding. But we, the people of the church, can supply something those things can't—a listening ear, a friendly smile and an attitude that says that being an Adventist is an attractive proposition.

We waited while the others left the plane. We were last because she needed help off and the stewards had asked her to wait. I was in no hurry, so we chatted some more. I don't know if my conversation helped add to the positive impression she had of the Adventist Church. I hope it did.



Bruce Manners

We can spend millions advertising the church, attempting to sell it with McDonald's and Holden cars on television, to create an image. . . . But . . .

society and was on her way to meetings in Melbourne. They were hoping to make decisions at the meetings that would help a variety of groups working for people with disabilities to coordinate their efforts better.

Well travelled, she'd spent 12 months living in the United States and was planning to do more trips overseas. She obviously didn't plan to let blindness slow her down.

I asked her what dumb questions sighted people asked her. (I didn't want to ask one of those dumb questions.) I was surprised when she told of those who asked her about other disabilities she must have. She was obviously annoyed by those who assume that because she has one disability she must have a whole raft of them. Worse was when she was treated as if she were dumb as well as blind.

She asked what I did.


I find it an interesting study of human nature when I'm asked that question. I

it sounded like it had been held at Crosslands in Sydney and, from her age, it would have been some time ago. She said that, for her, the camp had been a little too controlled, but conceded she was much older than most of the others attending and understood why it was that way.

She seemed impressed by what the church was doing for blind children. The conversation then drifted in another area.

I was flying home after attending the South Pacific Division's midyear meetings with an emphasis on evangelism and effective "branding" of the Adventist Church. In other words, following the Lord's commission, and projecting a positive message to the community. Effective branding also involves the consistent use of the church name and logo.

This woman had a positive impression of the church through a program she'd participated in. She hadn't been to an evangelistic campaign—at least not one she



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

South Pacific Division
MIDYEAR Meeting

21-22 MAY 2003

These meetings occur twice a year to overview the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its activities, providing a forum for nominated members across the South Pacific to contribute to policy and future direction.

executive committee



FLASHPOINT

● A message of support to the wife of a murdered missionary was the first recorded minute of the South Pacific Division's mid-year executive committee meetings. Members voted to "extend . . . sincere **condolences to Jean Gersbach and her daughters, Louise and Anita,** as well as to the extended family, following the **untimely death of Lance Russell Gersbach** (pictured) while he was serving as business manager at Atoifi Adventist Hospital."



● The **strong emphasis** at the South Pacific Division's midyear meetings was on evangelism, in preparation for **2004 as a Year of Evangelism.** Each union conference and union mission president presented plans being formulated for next year. It is expected to be a year for the **greatest evangelistic thrust** seen within the division. RECORD will report more on these plans later in the year.

● **Bruna Tawake** (pictured) of the South Pacific Division's Communication Department is now the **associate director.** She has been serving as an assistant director.



● A **conference considering issues relating to Ellen White** and her gift of prophecy is planned for February 2 to 5

Fulton College safe . . . for now

The future of the Adventist Church's tertiary institution Fulton College is safe . . . for now. The church has reached an agreement with local owners to renew its lease on the land at Tailevu in Fiji. The lease was due to expire next year.



Pastor Bruce Roberts, the president of the Trans-Pacific Union Mission, says the owners' insistence that the church vacate the land delayed negotiations with the government's Native Land Trust Board (NLTB).

"The owners had hoped to turn the college into a government university or district hospital from which they might gain substantial rent," he says. "But the government wasn't interested."

The church and the NLTB eventually agreed on terms, but delays in signing the lease—the church had to sign it in Australia for legal reasons—gave the owners time to take out an injunction blocking its registration.

"We have a receipt stating that the lease is ours," says Pastor Roberts. "We also have legal assurances we have the next 75 years tenure. But we expect legal proceedings to go on for years."—**Brenton Stacey**

next year. "The conference will answer more than just questions," said South Pacific Division president, Pastor **Laurie Evans** (pictured), during the church's midyear executive committee meetings. "It will also help us recognise the value of her life, ministry and writing." The conference will be held at **Avondale College, NSW.** Attendance is by invitation only.



● The **incorporation of Avondale College** was approved on the basis of a draft constitution presented to members of the committee. Incorporation is a necessary step if Avondale is to gain **university status.**

● A search committee has been established to find an **editor for RECORD and editor-in-chief for Signs Publishing Company** (see advertisement in Noticeboard). Pastor **Bruce Manners** has asked to be relieved of those duties at about the end of this year. He has worked as an editor for almost 16 years. "I have enjoyed this work," says Pastor Manners, "but I sense it is **time to move on** for myself, and for the church to have a different person in these roles."

● The steering committee for the next **South Pacific Youth Congress—in Fiji,** December 30, 2004, to January 4, 2005—meets for the first time this month. The **University of South Pacific** has been secured as the main residential venue,

with a new gymnasium (built for the South Pacific Games in July this year) booked as the main meeting area. The Youth Department says this is the first division youth congress to be located in a mission area. It is expected that **5000 will attend.**

● A search is also on for a **deputy vice-chancellor for Pacific Adventist University,** Papua New Guinea (PNG) with Dr **Ross Cole** returning from PNG on permanent return to Australia at the end of this year (see Noticeboard).

● Pastor **Kevin Silva,** who died recently, was recognised as "**the father of youth ministry**" in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.



Growth problems in Papua New Guinea

Wahroonga, NSW

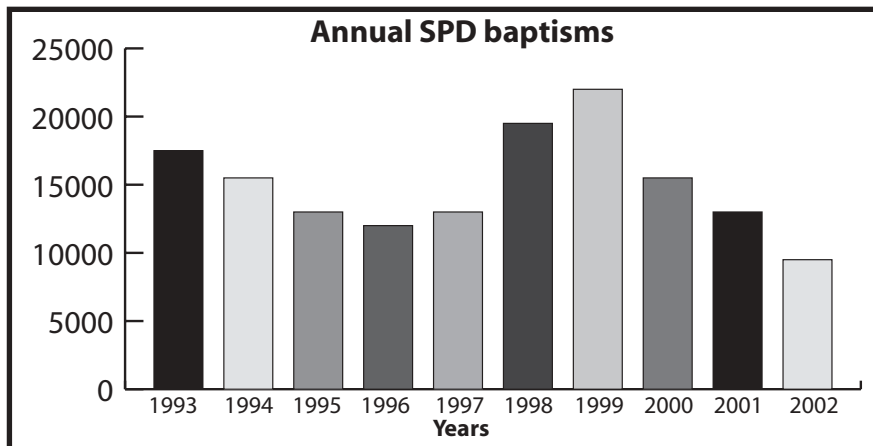
The Adventist Church in Papua New Guinea (PNG) is not growing. At least, that is the way it seems. This is the most surprising aspect of a report presented to members of the South Pacific Division's executive committee by general secretary Dr Barry Oliver.

Some 4338 people joined the church in PNG through baptism or profession of faith last year, but 4665 people left.

Dr Oliver referred to his 2002 report where he had noted that the number joining the church had more than halved between 1999 and 2001.

"Of course considerable resources were channelled into the ACTS 2000 program in Papua New Guinea in 2001. It is to be hoped that the results of this investment . . . yields its richest harvest in this current year of 2002.

In his report this year, he added, "Unfortunately, the considerable investment does not at this time seem to have resulted in the anticipated growth in membership," says Dr Oliver in his report this year. However, "some of the statistics as recorded most likely reflect poor reporting practices in some missions. This is one of



the issues that these missions will need to confront if they wish to be considered for conference status."

Committee members expressed concern about the rate of growth of the church in the South Pacific. While the number of members continues to grow (to 361,758 in 2002), the number of baptisms continues to fall (from 22,788 in 1999 to 9178 in 2002). Actual member growth is only 3307.

Actual member growth in Australia is 305, half of what it was in 1991, but 112 up on what it was in 2001.

Actual member growth in the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference rose for the third year in a row, to 163.

Actual member growth in the Trans-Pacific Union Conference—which has

averaged more than 2300 for the past 12 years—also rose for the third year running, to 3166.

It is projected that more than 500,000 people in the South Pacific will call themselves Adventists by the year 2012.

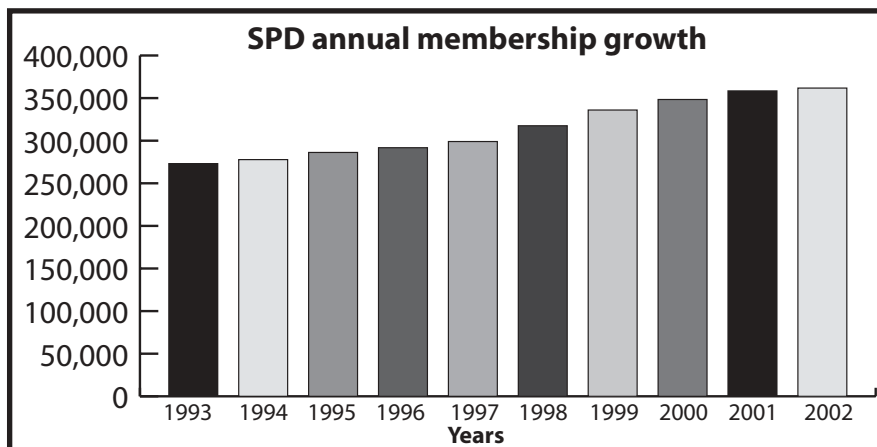
Members of the executive committee have asked administrators of the church in the South Pacific to identify reasons for the slowing growth rate and present strategies to address the situation.—*Brenton Stacey*

Evangelism institute baptises 801

Members of the South Pacific Division's Institute of Public Evangelism baptised 801 people in 2001 and 2002, according to a report by Pastor Anthony Kent, the Ministerial Association secretary for the division.

The institute was established in 1998 and currently has 32 members or associate members, with all but two of the ministers employed by the church in Australia.

Membership of the public evangelism institute is open to ministers who have presented at least one recent evangelistic series and have a passion for this form of outreach. Student membership is open to ministerial students at Avondale College.





"Clearer" statement on unions voted

Wahroonga, NSW

A new statement, "Seventh-day Adventists and trade unions," was voted during the South Pacific Division's mid-year meetings. The statement was developed to "update the wording and the presentation of our position on trade unions from the existing statement, which was voted back in 1987," says Pastor Ray Coombe, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director for the division.



Pastor Ray Coombe.

He adds, "We've had increasing calls from various church entities on the church's attitude and relations to trade unions. This has come about because of impending and past litigation cases. We felt a need to express a little more clearly and succinctly the church's attitude."

The document is divided into three, giving theological and historical backgrounds before the position statement.

"The previous statement, available in little leaflet form, was in prose language,"

says Pastor Coombe. "It didn't have points that were easily recognisable and it was a little too long. And it was written as guidance to church members rather than a statement that could be given to trade union people or others."

The new statement will be available in printed form and can be seen in full at <www.adventist.org.au>.

The theological background recognises the work of God in Creation and salvation as an important base for the philosophy for human societies. It emphasises the freedom of conscience to choose religious beliefs and to exercise those beliefs.

The historical background recognises the attitude of the church toward unions that had their beginnings in rural, pre-industrial, mid-19th-century United States. Recognition is also given to Ellen White's comments against organisations or individuals that devalue the principle of liberty.

Today, the operation of unions varies and in many countries they are a natural part of the negotiating process. And "some unions," says the document, "cater solely for the professional development of workers within the trade, while in other places,

controlling and antidemocratic tendencies are very strong."

The statement of position also notes the positive contribution unions have made, and the fact that many enjoy benefits brought by the union movement without having participated in the process.

"We have been more direct in acknowledging the positive function and role that trade unions have in negotiations these days, in setting of awards and things like that," says Pastor Coombe.

He says that the church has, over the past 10 years, been more directly involved with award negotiations with trade unions. "That has led us to recognise the importance of acknowledging their positive role."

Also recognised is the right of members to choose whether or not to join a trade union. "While this has not been spelt out as clearly in the past, we have always recognised the right for members to choose," says Pastor Coombe.

On the surface, he recognises that this support for unions may seem to go against the historic position that the Adventist Church has maintained, and against Ellen White's counsel.

"If you read the statement carefully, it hasn't happened. We've explained the situation theologically and historically. We've supported the church's position on trade unions and reaffirmed it. I think we've probably just clarified the broader view of it.

"We've also said what Ellen White has written has to be taken in a historical context in that the operations of trade unions is different to what they were in the 19th century."

There is recognition that "trade unions may also be used as forces of control and oppression" and events before the Second Coming "should make us particularly sensitive to any organisational threat against the individual's right to free choice."

The document ends with a series of affirmations, "The church affirms" (see box).—**Bruce Manners**

The church affirms:

- That it understands its work as a divine calling, and commits itself at all levels to fair and equitable treatment of its employees.
- That no individual or organisation should diminish the trust between an employer and the employee.
- That governments should uphold and protect the right of each individual to choose his/her religious belief and to exercise this belief without losing any of the civil or economic rights that society bestows.
- That its members maintain their conscientious right not to join any organisation that they perceive as a threat to their religious freedom or their freedom of individual choice.
- That no member should participate in the work of any organisation that (a) does not uphold and respect the rights and the free choice of the individual; (b) does not respect the duly established structures and processes of government; (c) uses force or coercion to achieve its ends.
- That in order to fulfil its divine mission it maintains independence from any employee, community or government organisation.



Plan to help tackle HIV/AIDS in the Pacific

(Continued from page 1)

The commitment statement voted at the meetings recognises that the church has failed in the past to embrace this “growing reality” and effectively prevent or diminish the impact of the disease on society and church members.

The call is for church members to address the concerns “compassionately and intelligently” in their homes, places of work and worship, church schools and training institutions, and clinics and hospitals.



Dr Ron Mataya.

The commitment made is to:

- Find ways to talk about sexual behaviour and the prevention of HIV/AIDS despite “cultural roadblocks.”
- To work lovingly with those whose lives and relationships put them at risk from HIV/AIDS.
- Train church members to provide home-based care to all needing support in the community.
- Help parents realise their responsibility to counsel their children on sexual behaviour and HIV issues.
- Work with governments and other organisations “to stamp out the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS in all its forms.”

The strategic framework suggests an epidemic of HIV/AIDS is likely in some areas of the South Pacific within the next five to 10 years. Dr Mataya, who is originally from Malawi, presented a picture of what can happen from what he has seen within Africa.

He reports: “ADRA—International staff carried out an assessment of the HIV/AIDS situation in the Adventist Church in Malawi, Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe and the findings were very disturbing.

“The church has lost some pastors, teachers, medical personnel, other workers and members, and yet there continues to be a disturbing denial of the problem. In some countries church income has gone down because the high-income earners have died from AIDS. Health-care benefits to church employees as well as time lost due to illness continue to increase.”

For Dr Mataya the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa is more than statistics. It is personal. His sister died of HIV/AIDS three years ago.

It is expected that Adventists in the South Pacific (including Australia and New Zealand) will be affected in some way by HIV/AIDS.

All union conferences and union missions within the South Pacific Division have been asked to prepare a strategic plan of action to be coordinated by a commission within each union.

There is to be integration and cooperation with ADRA and other church organisations and departments. And cooperation is expected with agencies outside the church.

Workshops and training programs within the church are anticipated. A process of monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the strategic plan will also be set up.

These decisions are important says, Dr Mataya: “It has been demonstrated that commitment at the highest level of authority in a country or organisation acts as a catalyst for behaviour change as it spurs people to more action.

“The strategies will guide each union to plan according to its resources and capacity. I’m delighted by the full acknowledgment and ownership of the problem, particularly in Papua New Guinea, by church leadership.”—**Bruce Manners**

Taskforces to work at the prevention of domestic violence

Wahroonga, NSW

The South Pacific Division will encourage its conferences and union missions to establish taskforces to help prevent domestic violence.

The initiative comes after members of the division executive committee accepted a proposal presented by the Domestic Violence in Families Taskforce during the committee’s midyear meetings.

The taskforce—now a standing rather than ad hoc committee—has volunteered to organise a one-day conference on domestic violence in each conference and union mission during 2004 and 2005.

It has also accepted responsibility for: Providing resources to each conference and union mission, and among Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders; and for implementing an Abuse Prevention Day in churches.

“The word, ‘taskforce,’ implies we have only a limited time to deal with the issue of domestic violence,” says Dr Bryan Craig, the Family Ministries director for the division. “But now that the taskforce has developed strategies, those strategies need to be resourced.”—**Brenton Stacey**



Dr Bryan Craig.

More notes from the midyear meetings

●The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) reports that there is an **increased government (Australia and New Zealand) donor interest** in the South Pacific. And AusAID (the Australian government's overseas funding body for aid) has decided to work more with **church agencies** "in special contexts."

●The archives of the South Pacific Division, formally established in 1985, contain over **1700 archival items**. These include boxes, minutes, account books and ledger cards. The supervisor, **Les Relihan**, says it is unfortunate that a "considerable amount" of documentary material was thrown away in the past.

●A book on a study of Ellen White's selection of health principles by Dr **Don McMahon** of Melbourne is expected "soon," according to Dr **Lester Devine**, the director of the Ellen G White/SDA Research Centre. He says it is likely to be co-authored by Dr **Leonard Brand** from Loma Linda University.

●Adventist Health reports that it is currently developing a series of programs. They include a **weight-loss program** that can be used by churches that will encourage people to attend on an ongoing basis. Materials and strategies are being developed for churches to host **walking clubs**. And a training program will enable interested church members to become **registered fitness leaders**.

●The Australian Union Conference is planning **elders meetings** to be conducted in January and February 2004.

●A total of **53 Global Mission projects** have been approved from 2001 to 2003. Churches have been planted in the South Queensland, Victoria, South New South Wales, Western Australia, Greater Sydney and North New Zealand Conferences, and within the Trans-Pacific and Papua New Guinea Union Missions.

●The Central Papua, Fiji and Samoa Missions have started **work toward attaining conference status**, reports Dr **Brad Kemp** (pictured), the director of leadership and Pacific resources for the South Pacific Division. Other missions will be added to the list during this year. "It is hoped that at least one of these missions will be ready for conference status by 2005," says Dr Kemp.



Dr Brad Kemp.

●More than **1300 copies** of the book **The Essential Jesus** have been requested by Adventist pastors to deliver to ministers of other denominations.

●As well as being the head of department for Personal Ministries and Sabbath School for the South Pacific Division, Dr **Erika Puni** ran three evangelistic reaping campaigns in support of church members' witnessing programs. They were in **Fiji** (at Lautoka), and **Armidale and Stanmore** in NSW. A total of 121 were baptised from the campaigns.



Dr Erika Puni.

Church property development push

The South Pacific Division will take a more active role in managing its real estate. The decision comes after the division executive committee endorsed a concept to protect the future use of the church's real estate and to enhance its value.

The concept includes a condition that the church use proceeds from "active asset management" greater than the capital in those assets only for projects that will grow the church.

The condition does not include real estate owned by unions, conferences and institutions of the church, although they will be encouraged to follow suit.

The Board of Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Ltd voted, in March this year, to create the position of division property development officer. The board appointed Eric Howse, treasurer of the Greater Sydney Conference at the time.

Mr Howse divides his time as property development officer for the division and the church in Sydney. Funding for his work for the division will come from the sale of surplus houses not on the church's Wahroonga, NSW-based estate.

Mr Howse's responsibilities include:

- The Wahroonga estate
- Wahroonga house lots and potential redevelopment
- The Manly Holiday Flats and potential redevelopment
- Land at Jindabyne, and
- Land utilisation opportunities in Papua New Guinea and in the Trans-Pacific Union Mission.

He will also help Avondale College and conferences on request.

"We've lost both value and utilisation opportunities because we've been passive with our real-estate holdings," says Dr Barry Oliver, the division's general secretary. "The task ahead for Eric is, initially, greater than the time he has to give to it."—**Brenton Stacey**



Tithe up, offerings down

Wahroonga, NSW

Tithe giving from church members in Australia and New Zealand increased by almost 5 per cent last year. The increase, representing an additional \$A2.1 million, is the largest in the past 10 years.

This is according to a report presented by treasurer Rod Brady during the South Pacific Division's midyear executive committee meetings.



Rod Brady.

Tithe increased greater than inflation in the church's union conferences and in the Trans-Pacific Union Mission, but "Papua New Guinea continues to be of concern," notes Mr Brady in his report.

The kina decreased in value by 13 per cent against the Australian dollar last year, but tithe from Papua New Guinea when reported in Australian dollars decreased by 22 per cent.

While tithe is increasing, offerings collected for the church in the South Pacific and for the worldwide church increased by only 0.58 per cent or decreased by 2.12 per cent if measured as offerings per dollar of tithe.

Reasons for the poor figures include lower Sabbath school attendance and the trend for local churches to concentrate attention on local needs, says Mr Brady.

E-giving, now e-reporting

The church is trying to make the job of a local church treasurer easier.

The first stage of the treasury-sponsored tithes and offerings project gave every conference and local church in Australia access to electronic giving. This has been available for about two years. The church's Central Bank covers set-up costs for conferences and churches using Central Bank.

The second stage is an upgrade from paper to electronic-based record keeping and reporting. Mr Brady says the church will test the new system in Australia, but notes it could be implemented anywhere—all that is needed is access to the Internet. The church will retain the paper-based system as an option.

The final stage of the project will be to marry stage one and two together.

"The work of the local church treasurer is the financial backbone of the church," he says. "The more effectively they are supported, the stronger the backbone can be."

Exchange no cost to church

Movements in exchange rates have not been a cost to the church over the past year. Despite a decrease (by 8.72 per cent) in the value of the United States dollar against the Australian dollar, the church has recorded a \$A72,000 gain on its unincorporated* ledger from currency transactions this financial year. This is offsetting a \$A68,000 loss from the transactions on the church's incorporated ledger.

"The decrease in the US dollar is significant because it represents a reduced value for the appropriations we received from the General Conference," says Mr Brady. "The decreasing rates in the Pacific [the Solomon Islands at 36.05 per cent, for example] have the greatest impact on our expatriate program."

Staff and treasurers thanked

Mr Brady ends his report by thanking the church's treasury staff for their contribution. "Some work in difficult circumstances, but they persevere because of their commitment to and belief in what they are working towards."

Members of the executive committee voted to express appreciation to murdered missionary Lance Gersbach for his "invaluable contribution" in "difficult circumstances," as they voted to accept Mr Brady's report.

Sanitarium question

What does the church do with money it receives from the Sanitarium Health Food Company?

Answer

Australian Health & Nutrition Association Ltd—"Sanitarium" is one of its trading names—transfers 100 per cent of its profits to Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Ltd.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Ltd also receives royalties for intellectual property used by Australian Health & Nutrition Association Ltd.

Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Ltd then includes these with earnings received from other entities plus investment and property income.

Australian taxation law requires the Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Ltd to spend or appropriate its major source of income on a range of charitable functions predominantly in Australia. However, this allows for use of other church funds outside Australia.

Mr Gersbach, business manager at Atoifi Adventist Hospital at the time of his death, left Australia for Malaita in the Solomon Islands with his family on February 11 this year. He had previously served as business manager at the former Sopas Adventist Hospital in Papua New Guinea between 1991 and 1993, then as director of Administrative Services at the former Auckland Adventist Hospital until 1994. He and his family had agreed to serve at Atoifi for 12 months.—**Brenton Stacey**

* The church prepares two budgets. One, an unincorporated budget for the work of the church in the South Pacific, and an incorporated budget for the work of the church primarily in Australia. See the next page for further information.

Budget focus on evangelism and growth

Wahroonga, NSW

The South Pacific Division is giving almost \$A1 million more for evangelism and church growth this financial year than it did last year. The church has set aside:

- \$A719,000 for Year of Evangelism initiatives and the Institute of Evangelism
- \$A500,000 for church growth initiatives
- \$A100,000 for satellite evangelism

●\$A83,000 for frontier evangelism in the Pacific islands.

These figures are from the church's unincorporated budget. The church prepares two budgets, an incorporated and an unincorporated budget—see the budget summary below.

Avondale College, NSW, will receive \$A1 million as a special appropriation in the incorporated budget for 2003-04. The money is to refurbish the men's dormitory, Watson Hall.

Church thanks you

The church has thanked you again for your "loyal [financial] support."

"We express our sincere appreciation for this support through tithes and mission offerings. These funds make possible continued advancement of the work of the church."—**Brenton Stacey**

South Pacific Division budget summary

Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Ltd (Incorporated)

Income	\$A
Royalties, property and earnings	20,236,000
South Pacific Division appropriation	17,540,000
Other	213,454
Total income	37,989,454

Expenditure	\$A
Adventist Development and Relief Agency appropriation	2,290,000
Adventist Media appropriation	1,213,300
Australian Union Conference appropriation	91,500
Avondale College appropriation	3,396,497
Division and other expenses	8,440,000
RECORD	740,000
Publishing Department appropriation	558,305
Special appropriations	1,329,000
Sustentation payments	14,000,000
Sydney Adventist Hospital appropriation	5,928,300
Total expenditure	37,986,902

South Pacific Division (Unincorporated)

Income	\$A
Institutions, offerings and other	4,655,520
Investment and property	6,250,000
Reserves	1,843,540
Sustentation contributions	11,182,000
Tithe	6,650,000
General Conference	2,781,240
Total income	33,362,300

Expenditure	\$A
Base appropriations and expatriates	11,300,659
SPD Ltd appropriation	17,540,000
Special appropriations	4,521,297
Total expenditure	33,361,956
Total spent exclusively in mission areas	12,668,515

This budget supports the operation of the church outside of Australia and of Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Ltd, with funds from a variety of sources.

It also supports the church's mission field by direct grants and the funding of expatriate salaries.

Budget explanations

Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Ltd exists to:

- Perform mainly Australian functions assigned to it by the South Pacific Division
- Receive Australian income from Australian Health and Nutrition Association Ltd, Sydney Adventist Hospital Ltd, Signs Publishing Company and other church services and institutions
- Receive royalty and property income for the assets owned by the division in Australia
- Support charitable functions in Australia
- Support retired employees in Australia with sustentation.

Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Ltd receives an appropriation from the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to help with some expenses. Most of the appropriation covers the sustentation expense.

Glossary

Base appropriations

The church adjusts the amount of these recurring grants annually. Organisations are dependent on them from year to year.

Special appropriations

These are non-recurring grants. The church considers these each year from its available income after meeting its recurrent commitments.

From the “doable” to the impossible

Wahroonga, NSW

We live in a volatile and unpredictable world.” This is how Pastor Laurie Evans, the president of South Pacific Division, began his report to members of the division executive committee.

He spoke of the United States of America’s response to the events of September 11, specifically the invasion of Iraq and continuing acts of terrorism in various parts of the world. While not making any link between the terrorist



Pastor Laurie Evans.

attacks or the war to any specific prophecy—“except that these are vivid examples of the general condition of the world, which Scripture makes clear will exist before the second coming of Jesus”—he made this

observation:

“It seems clear that the change of nature ascribed to the United States in Revelation 13 has taken place. . . . This should keep us mission focused and dispel a ‘business as usual’ attitude.

“We have an opportunity to share the hope we have in Jesus Christ with a world that is desperately looking for hope. We must not squander this opportunity.”

Pastor Evans highlighted branding and leadership as challenges the church must address given the world in which we live. His report follows:

Building a trusted name

Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is a good name. It has meaning and significance and is of divine origin.

“We are Seventh-day Adventists, and of this name we are never to be ashamed,” writes Ellen White (*Selected Messages*, Book 2, page 384). “I have been shown that this name means much, and in adopting it we have followed the light given us from heaven” (*ibid*).

We are responsible for building “Seventh-day Adventist Church” into a trusted brand name. We do this by:

- Responding in a practical way to the needs of victims of injustice, oppression and poverty

- Being people of integrity and reflecting the hope inherent in our name

- Refraining from pointing the finger and malicious talk

- Realising while we may not be of the world, we are in the world and, as disciples of Christ, are to permeate the community with a salt preserving influence.

We do not become more credible and palatable by diluting our name. To do so is an admission our brand name is not trusted, and an indictment of our self-worth. “This is no time to haul down our colours” (*Selected Messages*, Book 2, page 385).

We have not been left without guidance on this matter. “A company was presented before me under the name of Seventh-day Adventists, who were advising that the banner or sign which makes us a distinctive people should not be held out so strikingly; for they claimed it was not the best policy in securing success to our institutions. This distinctive banner is to be borne through the world to the close of probation” (*ibid*).

We need to add value to our God-given name by showing the community we can make a positive difference to their lives. This will give credibility to our witness. As the Bible writer, Isaiah, says, “Then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday” (58:10).

Nurturing loyal and visionary leaders

A document presented to the worldwide church’s Spring Council in April this year describes maintaining unity as our biggest challenge, and nurturing loyal and visionary leaders as critical to this unity.

The document notes that by 2020 the church will be a community of more than 50 million coming from a multiple number of diverse cultures, religions, languages and socioeconomic levels. Only 12.5 per cent will have been Adventists in the year 2000.

The church in the South Pacific is a microcosm of the worldwide church. The more we grow, the more our unity is tested. This calls for a true understanding and acceptance of biblical authority and of the principles of governance as described by Ellen White. It calls for leaders and governing bodies to be strong in resisting calls by pressure groups to do their own thing. It calls for leaders to put the wellbeing of the corporate church ahead of their own goals and objectives.

A golden moment for the church

William Johnsson, in an editorial published in the *Adventist Review* on May 10 this year, makes this point: “Within 25 years the world’s Christians will number 2.6 billion, making Christianity by far the world’s largest faith.”

This is a golden moment for the church. We must always push the limits of what we think is “doable” into the realm of the impossible. We must then let God take over and make it happen.—

Brenton Stacey

New role brings another Evans to town

The visit of Pastor Larry Evans, the new undersecretary of the General Conference (GC), to the midyear meetings signalled a change in a relationship with the GC.

Pastor Evans replaced Pastor Athal Tolhurst, an Australian who retired and returned to Australia. He has also taken on Pastor Tolhurst’s role as liaison officer at the GC for the South Pacific Division.

Pastor Evans met conference, union and division leaders in Australia and New Zealand and visited church institutions as part of an orientation program to learn more about the division.

Pastor Evans has been a conference and union president in the North American Division (NAD), and was working at the NAD before taking up his current position.

Decision time

by John Silver

Joseph of Arimathea was, to quote from God's Word, "a good and upright man" (Luke 23:50, NIV). And not all characters mentioned in the Scriptures have received such an endorsement.

As was his colleague Nicodemus, Joseph was wealthy, influential and greatly respected as a ruler of the Jews. Both belonged to the great Sanhedrin, and both became secret followers of Jesus prior to His crucifixion.

Both, publicly and boldly, demonstrated their loyalty to Him with the provision of a costly, rock-hewn tomb and 45 kilograms of expensive myrrh and aloes for His embalming (Luke 25:53).¹

Subsequently, both men continued to use their considerable wealth to support the infant Christian church.

But, of course, not every response to the Spirit's pleading is as positive as was theirs. Some failed badly.

The rich young ruler, on whom Christ's blessing of the children had made such an impression, ran to meet Him and called Him "good Master." He was also a member of the honoured council of the Jews, the Sanhedrin.

Sadly, the record states that the young ruler's decision was to turn away sorrowfully. The sorrow came from the fact that he had "great possessions" (Matthew 19:16-22).²

The firstborn of a woman made a decision and defiantly offered the fruits of his labours in worship. Maybe it made him feel good. He did it his way.

Cain tilled the ground that God had cursed. He planted and he nurtured and he reaped and then, obligated to no-one, he offered of his harvest. And it was rejected.

Had Cain, in faith and obedience, added



are, by nature, against God. That means the only meaningful decision on offer is to decide for Him.

Failing that, we simply remain lost. The only real difference that leaving home made to the prodigal son's spiritual standing was that instead of being lost among God's people, he remained lost among the Gentiles in a far country. The only spiritually changing decision he made in the whole drama was to return home to the love of his father.

That was, and still is, the only effective decision we can make. A decision not to make a decision for God is no decision at all, because lost is what we already are. **R**

References

1. Ellen G White, *The Desire of Ages*, page 773.
2. *ibid*, page 520.
3. Ellen G White, *The Story of Redemption*, pages 52-3.

the blood sacrifice of the lamb, which represented Jesus, to the fruit of his works, his offering would have been accepted.³

Our good works become offensive to God when we offer them as substitutes for the saving works of Jesus.

In these "final decision" days there is ultimately no neutral position to take. We

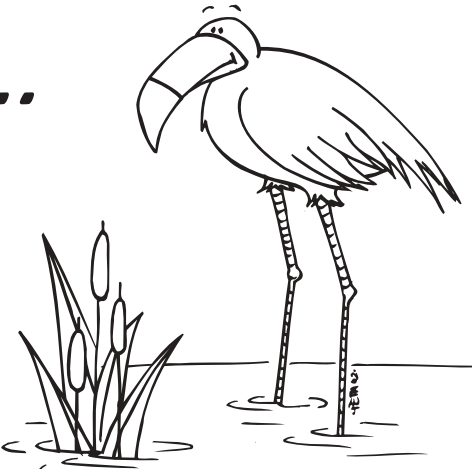
John Silver, a retired pastor and church administrator, writes from Brooklyn, NSW.

Just for children

WHAT IF ...

... flamingos didn't have long necks?

They couldn't scour through the water and scoop up their dinner! God gave them long necks and long legs so they can wade and feed in the water.



Peta Taylor

Yet more on salvation

Mark Friend, email

On the letters of salvation (April 5 and May 17), the following comes to mind: Those “whom he predestined, these he also called; whom he called, these he also justified; and whom he justified, these he also glorified” (Romans 8:30, NKJV). Further, “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9, NKJV).

More such texts state that those who accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour are saved now and instantaneously. It’s sanctification that’s a process, and sanctification isn’t a prerequisite of glorification, only justification is. Sanctification is a natural part of Christianity, but it’s a personal experience between the person and Christ.

There are many texts regarding salvation and the Christian life, however, the most pertinent question is, “What is the lowest common denominator of salvation?” I believe that is outlined in the texts I’ve quoted. There are no “buts” in these texts, only simple, concrete truths and promises regarding the simplicity of salvation: “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.”

It’s time we started helping believing people through life’s crises and difficulties with the firm assurance that, their conflicts and pain aside, they are saved.

Eric Trounson, WA

According to the apostle John, the person who has the Son has life (see 1 John 5:9-12) and, according to Paul, it’s in Christ that we become the “righteousness of God” (see 2 Corinthians 5:19-21) and avoid condemnation (Romans 8:1). So when we’re asked if we’re saved, we should be able to respond with an emphatic yes—because we have accepted Jesus.

Errata and addendum

E Wesley Hughes, Qld

I read with interest Reg Brown’s history of the church (“Back to the beginnings: 2,” May 24). But in respect to the section on Queensland an important correction is

needed. The Toowoomba brothers who owned the cabinet-making shop and became foundation members of the Toowoomba church were listed as Harold and Charles *Head*. In fact, they were Harold and Charles *Hughes*, Harold being my grandfather, the father and grandfather of many of the Hughes name in our division’s employ over the past 60 years.

On their way home from the “circus” tent meeting at which he first heard the Sabbath truth, Harold’s brother Charles

was a medical missionary in the Gatton district, specialising in water treatments.

Ray Hobbs, email

In respect to the triplets born at Atoifi Hospital story of May 24 (“Birth of triplets a first for Atoifi Hospital”), Dr *Samuel Lecciones*’ Christian name is in fact *Lemuel*. Also, the hospital has three donated humidicribs that arrived in November last year—nobody yet knows how to use them.

Harold’s brother Charles asked him what he was going to do about [the Sabbath], to which he replied, “Keep it, of course!”

asked him what he was going to do about it, to which he replied, “Keep it, of course!” And the sign went up in his shop that week. The two brothers introduced the Sabbath message to their mother in Brisbane and, as far as I know, great-grandmother Lucy became the first convert in Brisbane with her home being the meeting place for the new group.

Grahame Bernoth, NSW

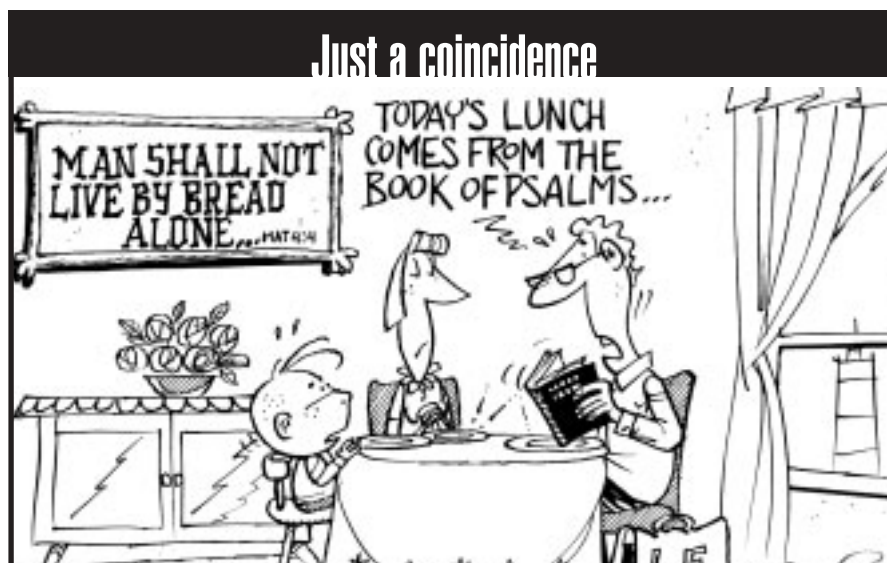
In addition to his translation work, Pastor Michael Bernoth, my grandfather, pioneered the work among German immigrants in the Rockhampton, Qld, area between 1894 and 1896. He was either the first or second employed minister in the state. From 1896 until his death in 1913, he

Understand this!

W J Everett, Vic

Our world is under Satan’s authority, who does his best to destroy God’s family. Paul says our struggle isn’t against humankind but such supernatural forces (Ephesians 6:12). So we shouldn’t wonder why Christians are persecuted (“Serbian churches attacked,” Newsfront, May 17). We always have been and always will be—at least until Satan is deposed and Christ is made Ruler of our world.

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



Anniversaries

Ellis, Ron and Nola (nee Bransgrove) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 20.4.03 in New Plymouth, NNZ, with their four children, David, Marilyn, Stephen and Sharon, and friends. Married in the New Plymouth church on the same date in 1953, Ron and Nola shared many laughs together as the family presented their time with a pictorial history on screen and reflected on the many blessings they had received during their marriage.

Haskins, Peter and Dawn (nee Thomas) were married on 8.4.53 in the Royal Oak church (Auckland, NNZ) by the late Pastor Arthur White. A celebration, arranged for them by close family and their four daughters, was held in Napier on Easter Sunday, in conjunction with a family reunion. Dawn, originally from Woodville, and Peter, from Gisborne, transferred to Christchurch just after they were married, where Peter worked for Sanitarium, then later set up his own motor mechanic business. Dawn also worked for Sanitarium in Christchurch, the SDA church offices and school. They are currently actively involved in the Papanui church.

Judd, Pastor Claude and Yvonne Judd, of Avondale Memorial church (NSW), celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 23.3.03. They were married by Pastor W E Batye in the Glen Huon church, Tas. Family gatherings were held in Cooranbong, Sydney, and Melbourne, Vic. Pastor Judd spent 47 years in full-time ministry. Their many friends, relatives and fellow workers wish them continued health and happiness and much of God's blessing.

Morgan, Rudolf and Catherine (nee Lass) were married on 7.3.51 in Leoben, Austria. They celebrated their golden anniversary by renewing their vows in Maida Vale church, Perth, WA, before Pastor Lynn Weber, their four children, 10 grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and the Maida Vale church family

Appreciation

French, Verlie and family would like to thank the many friends and relatives of the late Ernie French, for the expressions and kind thoughts of sympathy and support and the many cards and phone calls that have been received. They have meant so much to all the family.

Peach, the family of the late Moira Peach acknowledge the love and concern shown during her final weeks by way of phone messages, cards, flowers and tokens of love—thank you! Special thanks to Pastors Kayle de Waal, Geoffrey Garne and Warwick Sheffield. Also, sincere thanks to former Remuera pastors, David Bertelsen and John Denne.

Appointment

●**Lynden Milner**, a 2002 Avondale College graduate, to teach Upper Primary, Brisbane Adventist College, South Queensland Conference, Australian Union Conference.

Weddings

Allen—Watts. Damian Allen, son of Thomas and Olive Allen (Buderim, Qld), and Litiana Watts, daughter of Ken and Robyn Watts (Nambour), were married on 20.4.03 at Maroochydore.

Horrie Watts

Frauenfelder—Bullock. Gary Frauenfelder, son of Keith and Phyllis Frauenfelder (Cooranbong, NSW), and Katrina Bullock, daughter of Peter and Judy Bullock (Perth, WA), were married on 4.5.03 at Jeff Joseph Reserve, Applecross, Perth.

Andrew Skeggs

Howie—Wiangkaew. Brayden Graham Howie, son of Ian and Margaret Howie (Morisset, NSW), and Wilaikanya (Bee) Wiangkaew, daughter of Bunpeng and Nausawat Wiangkaew (Si Saket, Thailand), were married on 11.5.03 in the Beecroft Presbyterian church.

Ian Howie

Luamanu—Malaga. Luamanu Luamanu and Sarai Malaga were married on 23.1.03 in the New Lynn Samoan church, NNZ.

Neone Okesene

Peleti—Fidow. Peleti Peleti and Puletele Fidow were married on 16.4.03 in the New Lynn Samoan church, NNZ.

Neone Okesene

Swain—Harvey. Simon Geoffrey Swain, son of Laurie and Angela Swain (Mangrove Mountain, NSW), and Fiona Joy Harvey, daughter of Chris Reynolds (Matcham) and John Harvey (Qld), were married on 25.5.03 at the home of Chris and the late Dr Bryan Reynolds, Matcham.

Tom Turner

Trebucias—Sluiter. Maida Francisca Trebucias from the Philippines and David Anthony Sluiter of New Zealand, were married on 23.3.03 in Oratia, West Auckland, NNZ.

Terry Johnson

Turner—Adam. Winston Russell Turner (Lake Haven, NSW) and Linda Aileen Adam (Windermere Park), were married on 1.6.03 in the Lakeside Adventist church, Morisset Peninsular.

Roger Nixon

Wegner—Lowrie. Jonathan Rafael Wegner, son of Erwin and Ewa Wegner (Canberra, ACT), and Larissa Cheryl Lowrie, daughter of Ashleigh and Cheryl Lowrie (Wishart, Brisbane, Qld), were married on 20.4.03 in the Springwood Adventist church, Brisbane.

Peter Stojanovic

Signs of the Times everytime

Positions vacant

▲ **Editor—Signs Publishing Company (Warburton, Vic)** is seeking expressions of interest and/or nominations for the position of Editor commencing January 2004. The successful applicant will have a degree in theology, education, journalism or appropriate equivalent; a documented background in quality writing; a strong aptitude for journalism; and a passion for the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. **For further information** contact Dr Barry Oliver, General Secretary, South Pacific Division, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076; email <boliver@adventist.org.au>; fax (02) 9489 1713; phone (02) 9847 3211. Nominations should include the written endorsement from the person being nominated. The appointing body reserves the right to fill this position at its discretion. Applications close July 21, 2003.

▲ **Deputy Vice-Chancellor—Pacific Adventist University (Port Moresby, PNG)** is seeking expressions of interest and/or nominations for the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor commencing January 2004. The successful applicant will have a strong background in tertiary-level teaching and administration; appropriate qualifications to PhD level; and a passion for the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. **For further information** contact Pastor Laurie Evans, Chancellor, Pacific Adventist University, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076; email <levans@adventist.org.au>; fax (02) 9489 1713; phone (02) 9847 3222. Nominations should include the written endorsement from the person being nominated. The appointing body reserves the right to fill this position at its discretion. Applications close July 21, 2003.

▲ **Public Relations Coordinator—Avondale College** is seeking a Public Relations Coordinator for a 3-year renewable term. Responsibilities include: assisting in developing a PR strategic plan, promoting Avondale to its various constituencies and assisting in the operation of the department. Suitable qualifications required from competent writer and speaker with experience in PR. **For further information** contact the web site <www.avondale.edu.au>; phone Sonya Muhl (02) 4980 2284; or email <sonyamuhl@avondale.edu.au>. **Applications in writing** should be received by July 3, 2003.

▲ **Management Accounting Opportunity—Sanitarium Health Food Company (Auckland, NZ)** is seeking a qualified accountant who is looking for a challenge and interested in furthering their accounting career with the supply chain section of a leading FMCG company. Responsibilities: Performance monitoring and detailed variance analysis, standard product costing and budgeting; experience with computerised accounting systems (eg SAP) and strong analytical and EXCEL skills are required. **Applications in writing** (including CV) should be forwarded to the HR Coordinator, Private Bag 92127, Auckland, NZ; fax (09) 624 2490; email <carolyn.hargreaves@sanitarium.co.nz> no later than June 24, 2003.

▲ **Middle Primary Teacher—Northpine Christian College (Kallangur, Qld)** is seeking expressions of interest for a contract teaching position for Terms 3 and 4, 2003. Applicants must be practising Seventh-day Adventists with appropriate teaching qualifications. **Applications in writing** (including current résumé) should be forwarded to Dr Grant Watson at the South Queensland Conference office, 19 Eagle Terrace, Brisbane Qld 4000; or emailed to <gwatson@adventist.org.au>.

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

Obituaries

Ah Him, Lafaeele, born 27.5.1942 in Western Samoa; died 27.3.03 in Auckland, NNZ. He was predeceased by his wife, Feaveai. He is survived by his two sons, his four daughters; and his grandchildren. Lafaeele was a wonderful father, a faithful church elder and a passionate choir member.

Neone Okesene

Baker, Maurice, born 6.7.1922 at Sussex, England; died 4.5.03 in Joondalup Hospital, Perth, WA. On 19.4.59 he married Elsie Boley. He is survived by his wife; his daughter, Susan (both of Landsdale); and his son, Philip (Perth). Maurice was a genuine Seventh-day Adventist Christian.

Patrick Marshall

THE EDGE

Youth magazine
next issue out June 28

Bardon, Geoffrey, born 2.8.1940 in Sydney, NSW; died 6.5.03 at Taree. He is survived by his wife, Dorn; his sons, James and Michael; and his brother, Jim. Geoff was the catalyst that initiated the Western Deserts Art Movement at Papunya in 1971 to 1972, and so was involved in the launching of what is now known as "dot painting." His contribution to the progress of Aboriginal art was recognised by the awarding of the Order of Australia medal in 1988. He was a valued member of the Taree church and his confidence in the Lord was strong to the last.

Raymond Jerrard, Lyndon Thrift

DEALING WITH STRESS IN MINISTRY

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Bettesworth, Alma Jean, born 22.2.1922 in Rockhampton, Qld; died 11.5.03 at Bonnells Bay, NSW. In 1942 she married George, who predeceased her in 2002. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Gloria and Bev; and her grandsons, Christopher and George. Jean had a simple trust in Jesus and was known for her gentle, kind and warm disposition.
Roger Nixon, Bert Godfrey

Black, Olive Vera, born 14.4.1911; died 12.4.03 at Hastings, NNZ. She was predeceased by her husband, Jack, in 1978. She is survived by her son, John; and her daughters, Joan and Mavis (all of Hastings). Olive was a wonderful mum who loved her Lord. She is sadly missed.
William Strickland

Blackie, Delma, born 29.8.1944 at New Lampton, NSW; died 5.03 at Newcastle. She is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Elaine and Neville Roberts, and her two nieces and their families (all living in Newcastle). Del's generosity touched many people. Her service in the community will be missed greatly.
Colin Renfrew

Brook, Hilda Ellen Clara (nee Cameron), born 21.8.1917; died 4.5.03 in Nambour Hospital, Qld. In 1943 she married Emmett, who predeceased her in 1984. She is survived by her children and their spouses, Jennifer and Selwyn (Caloundra), Lois and Barry (Maleny), Alison and Neil (Innisfail), Rob and Marilyn (Gympie) and Christine (Brisbane); and her sister, Lola (Gore, SNZ). Hilda loved her Lord; a truly Christian lady serving others when she was physically able.
Mark Pearce

Chasey, Ruth Ethel, born 6.6.1906 at Glenpark, Vic; died 20.12.02 at Pickford House, Ararat. She was predeceased by her husband, Austin, in 1980; also her son, David (twin), in 1967. She is survived by her children, Margaret Wood (via Elmhurst, Vic), Phyllis McClelland (North Tumbulgum, NSW), Win Jordison (Lilydale, Vic) and Theo (Miga Lake).
Alwin Hilton

Drost, Peter, born in Bandung, Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia); died 4.5.03

in Melbourne, Vic, of a terminal illness. He is survived by his wife, Mary (Melbourne). Peter was educated in Holland and served as an officer in the Dutch Army. He had a degree in Agricultural Science and worked in Australia in the 60s, and from 1969 to 1996 in Indonesia. He was a member of the East Prahran church, Melbourne.
Brian Lawty

Headford, Maureen (nee Gilmore) born 12.5.1935 in Brisbane, Qld; died 13.4.03 at Buderim after a long illness. She is survived by her husband, Peter; her brother, Vince; her sisters, Yvonne, Joan, Dulcie and Lorraine; and many nieces and nephews. Maureen's happy spirit and loving nature are greatly missed.
Gordon Lee, Neil Tyler

Leudar, (Popovic) Viktor, born 22.2.1922 in Yugoslavia; died 24.4.03 at Stanthorpe, Qld. He is survived by his wife, Precy; and his daughters, Dorothy (Brisbane) and Ellen (Gatton). Viktor was a concentration camp survivor who migrated to Australia in 1949. Soon after his arrival he became an Adventist and worked for the Sanitarium in Lewisham; then later as a builder until his move to Stanthorpe in 1989.
Warren Fedorow

MacFarlane, Margaret Dorothy (nee Miller), born 17.10.1918 at Rockhampton, Qld; died 26.4.03 at Kings Langley, NSW, after a prolonged illness. In 1942 she married Charles Clarke, who predeceased her in 1984. She was also predeceased by her daughter, Helen Astill. She is survived by her husband, Stan; her daughters, Jan Pearce (England) and Sharon Parkinson (Sydney, NSW); her brothers, Bill Miller (Cook Islands), Pastor Keith Miller and Dr Peter Miller (both of Sunshine Coast, Qld); her three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Margaret was widely known and much loved, especially throughout Qld, where she spent most of her life. She served the church with distinction as a teacher for many years.
Kerry Hortop, Wal Taylor

MacLean, Ruth Dorothy, born 18.12.1917 at Angaston, SA; died 4.5.03 in Adelaide. On 22.6.40 she married

Volunteers needed

Mission trip—Mongolia. If you are a doctor, dentist, physiotherapist, nutritionist, nurse or other health-trained professional, you are needed for an evangelistic and health mission trip commencing September 17, 2003 for 2–3 weeks.

Youth Assistant—Toowoomba Central church, Qld. Mature young person with youth experience. Accommodation, meals and living allowance provided. Term: August 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004 or February to November, 2004.

Elementary Teacher—Elia, Austria—to teach children from 1st to 8th grade. Subjects include PE, Industrial Art and Music. 3-4 years college required. Living allowance, apartment and insurance provided. Term: August 15, 2003 to July 15, 2004.

Pastor—Okinawa International church, Japan. Married male to serve for 2 years commencing August 1, 2003. Bachelor's degree required. Lodging is in a 3 BR western style home. Airfare and living allowance provided.

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



John, who predeceased her in 1975. She is survived by her sons, Colin (Adelaide), Richard (Sydney, NSW), Douglas (Adelaide, SA) and Brenton (Darwin, NT). Ruth was a wonderful mother with strong ties to her family; gracious and very sociable, with great tenacity and strength of mind and spirit.
Robert Porter

Miller, Victor Ross, born 14.6.1925 at Inverell, NSW; died 28.4.03 at Tamworth. He was predeceased by his wife, Marie, in 1978. He is survived by his children, Brian (Tamworth) and Colleen (Alicia, Qld); his sister, Betty Berginey; and his three grandchildren. Ross served in the Australian Army during World War II and was seriously injured on the island of Bougainville; he spent most of his life as an invalid.
Frank Cantrill

Papertalk, Taffy Edward, born 11.3.1949 at Mullewa, WA; died 6.5.03 in the Perth General Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer. The Papertalk family were members of the early Adventist community nurtured by Pastors Vaughan and Dadds. He was one of 16 children born to Eric and Gladys Papertalk. Over a thousand people attended his funeral to grieve the parting of a dedicated citizen, who worked tirelessly to bridge the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous members of his community. He will be greatly missed.
*Eddie Hastie
Ray Giblett, Errol Wright*

Rabe, Lindsay John (Perry), born 27.6.1924 at Glen Huon, Tas; died unexpectedly 25.4.03 in Wyong Hospital, NSW. On 26.6.47 he married Loloma Thoresen. He was predeceased by three of his children. He is survived by his wife (Kressville Hostel, Cooranbong); his children, Helen Smith (Melbourne, Vic), Kevin (Sydney, NSW), Richard (Burnie, Tas) and Leanne Head (Sydney, NSW); his foster daughters, Roslyn and Robyn; his 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Perry loved nature and had a strong faith in God. He is sadly missed by a loving and devoted family.
Elwyn Raethel, Bert Cozens

Rainer, Voyen Esther, born 2.2.1945 at

Wellington, NSW; died 6.5.03 in Gosford Hospital. She married William (Billy) in 1988 and they spent 15 happy years together. She is survived by her brothers, Clem, Robert and Doug. She loved her Lord and was a gentle, kind person, who will be missed by her loved ones and many friends.
Len Barnard, Russel Stanley

Read, Wallis Brian, born 20.11.1923 at Kaitiaki, NNZ; died 4.5.03 in Whangarei Hospital. He was predeceased by his son, Daniel. He is survived by his daughters, Marilyn Meelvec (Auckland) and Grace Jones (Melbourne, Vic). Wally battled through many difficult periods in his life, but was a steady friend of many people in the Northland churches.
Ken Curtis

Rogan, Marjorie Jane (nee Dodds), born 9.5.1914 at Kempsey, NSW; died 2.4.03 at Lismore, after a long illness. On 28.5.38 she married Ernie, who predeceased her in 1986. She is survived her children, Nancy Lewis and Colin; her eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Marjorie embraced Adventism in the late 1940s.
Gavin Rowe

Rozema, Antje Van Der Lei (Anne), born 18.1.1923 in Holland; died 1.5.03 in Sherwin Lodge, Rossmoyne, WA, after a prolonged illness. On 13.2.46 she married Mark and migrated to WA in 1952. She is survived by her children, Gerbina Thomassone, Roelof, Helen Orchard, Mary Rozema, John and Phillip. Anne was faithful to her God, family and church over many years in spite of over 40 shifts to new places within WA.
Keith Godfrey

Savea, Maa Savea, born 12.12.1937 in Western Samoa; died 24.2.03 in Auckland, NNZ. He is survived by his wife, Luisa; his 10 children; and many grandchildren. Savea was assistant head elder of the New Lynn Samoan church. He was loved and respected for his humility, kindness and generous, happy nature.
Neone Okesene

Ward, Muriel Isabel, born 25.7.1951 at Gympie, Qld; died 7.5.03 in Brisbane. On 6.6.71 she married James Hain. On

ARCHAEOLOGY PROVES THE BIBLE WRONG

That is what recent TV programs and magazine articles have been saying, and as archaeology is currently interpreted, they are correct. No Exodus, no destruction at Jericho, no affluence in the days of Solomon! But there is an answer. Recently David Down visited Lebanon and Syria where he made the video entitled *SOLOMON'S KINGDOM* in which he presents stunning archaeological evidence that supports Bible history. You will need this video, promoted by the Adventist Media Centre, to be able to defend the Bible.



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Left: The triumphal arch in Palmyra. David travelled to Palmyra, in modern Syria to make this video. Palmyra is the Biblical "Tadmor in the Wilderness" originally built by King Solomon (1 Kings 9:18).

17.2.90 she married Ian Barnard. She is survived by her daughter, Roseanne Chan (Brisbane); her son, Phillip (Sydney, NSW); her mother, Isabel Ward (Monto); her brother, James; her sisters, Marie, Patricia, Frances; her brother, and her five grandchildren.
 Warren Jackwitz

Williams, Muriel Rebecca, born 7.6.1916 at Victoria Park, WA; died 28.3.03 at Rossmoyne. She is survived by her children, Bette Gordon (Darwin, ACT), Val Yukich and Des (both of Perth); her 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Muriel's life revolved around her family and they will miss her greatly.
 Lynn Burton

members and friends are invited to attend our services of worship, praise and thanksgiving. The day will commence with Sabbath school at 9.30 am. A fellowship lunch will be provided, followed by an afternoon program commencing at 3.00 pm. Further information from Daisy Ardley (02) 9629 1284; Nerelle Steele (02) 9489 9903; Dulce Ferguson (02) 9680 1250; <dferguson@adventist.org.au>.

Memorial service—Moira Peach. Those wishing to acknowledge "a life well lived" are invited to a memorial service 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm on Friday, June 27, 2003, at Glen Innes church, Apirana Avenue, Auckland, NNZ. Light tea at 6.00 pm. Please RSVP on (09) 521 5062 or (09) 437 7416 by June 24. Email tributes: <wordcraft@infoegen.net.nz>.

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.

1770 Getaway Holiday Retreat—stay in paradise. Check our web-site for specials <www.1770getaway.com> or phone (07) 4974 9323.

Spotswood SDA church 50th anniversary—July 19, 2003. Past members, pastors and friends of Spotswood (Vic) church are invited to return to commemorate the 50th anniversary. For inquiries please email <jtahud@iprimus.com.au> or phone Pastor Lawty on (03) 9742 4475.

Cedarvale Health and Lifestyle Retreat (2 hours south of Sydney, NSW) has vacancies for a massage therapist and an office and/or promotions manager with Quickbooks experience. For inquiries phone (02) 4465 1362.

Manjimup centennial reunion—all members, past members and friends are invited to attend. To be held in the Manjimup Town Hall, **July 12**, commencing at 10.00 am, followed by a finger food potluck lunch, with an afternoon program. Inquiries: David Giblett, phone (08) 9771 2384 AH; email <giblett@wn.com.au> or PO Box 1148, Manjimup WA 6258.

Medved Airconditioning S-E Qld. We supply and install systems and units for homes, offices and commercial use. For an obligation-free quote please phone David or Peter on 0419 743 626 or 0408 066 668 (licensed electrical contractor).

Thinking about coming to Tasmania? Then visit lovely Launceston. Available for hire twin-share unit. \$A35 single/\$A55 double. Launceston SDA church. Phone Shirley (03) 6343 3365 or Helen (03) 6326 9520.

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>.

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

To let—Salamander Bay, NSW. New 2 BR flat, adjoining SDA church (under construction). No pets. For further information phone McNaughtons (02) 4982 7670 or email <allmaur@bigpond.com>

June 27–29, 2003—a fantastic weekend! The San celebrates its 100th birthday with its centenary homecoming. Past and present graduates, staff and friends, are all welcome to come to Wahroonga, NSW. For information of program and accommodation contact Dr Tom Ludowici 0414 489 825; (02) 9487 9410; <toml@sah.org.au>.

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Kellyville (NSW) church will celebrate 110 years of continuous worship on Sabbath, July 5, 2003. All former

Finally

God gave us two ends—one to sit on and one to think with. A person's success or failure depends on the one he uses most.



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