

JULY 19, 2003

RECORD

Broadcasting
on radio and television
for



Years

Souvenir Edition

Connecting at Port Macquarie



What are you doing ...?

David G Gibbons

Director of Marketing and Public Relations

Division President Pastor Laurie Evans stopped to chat with me recently. He asked me, "What are you doing today to finish the work?"

Was that "What are you doing"? or "What are you doing today"?

Both are equally challenging, because the church has developed a culture of perpetuating the Matthew 24 commission given by Jesus rather than completing the task.

Meet Lennie, Lorraine, Jan, Margaret, Norma, Mary, Alan and Audrey. They are all worshipping as Adventist Christians at Port Macquarie because they were touched by the Holy Spirit through video ministry.

Their stories are multiplied around Australia and New Zealand because ordinary people are connecting with the local community using videos.

Adventist Media has produced some of the most striking and useful resources available. BUT they would remain on the shelf, gathering dust, if it were not for the hundreds of people using videos to share the good news.

Most people involved in video ministry say that they let the video do all the talking and just simply befriend the people they meet.

Adventist Media is in the business of "finishing the work," but we cannot do it without you. What are you doing with your spiritual gifts to quicken our Lord's return?

Recently I preached at Port Macquarie, NSW. I particularly wanted to catch up with Glenn Higgins and Brian Hodge. They are video ministry specialists. At least nine people in the congregation are there because of their video ministry connection.

Brian constructed a video display stand and together with Glenn and other church members set up the display at shopping centres, or the market, or at major community events such as the Home and Leisure Show. They also train and provide prayer support for the couriers who deliver videos requested from television commercials (TVCs) and letterbox cards.

Lennie and Lorraine visited the Home and Leisure Show and saw the display. Lorraine was interested. Lennie "didn't want a bar of it." But they watched both the Kenneth Cox and Doug Batchelor series and their lives were changed. Lorraine was baptised and Lennie joined the church on profession of faith.

Jan also connected during the Home and Leisure Show. She went right through *The Search*, Kenneth Cox and Dwight Nelson video series. She is now baptised and is sharing with her family.

Margaret connected through the 1300 number after seeing the TVC. After viewing *The Search*, Kenneth Cox, Dwight Nelson, she too was baptised and is now witnessing about her new-found faith.

Norma's journey was not so smooth. While surfing the Net she found negative information about Seventh-day Adventists and stopped her studies. But the Port



Anne.



Glenn.



Jan.

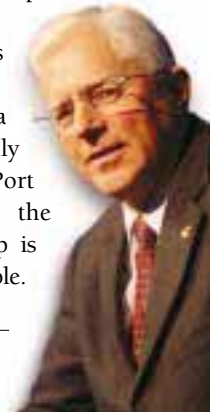
Macquarie video ministry group continued to pray for her. After a couple of months Glenn was impressed to revisit. Norma said, "Only yesterday I prayed and asked God to show me the truth." Soon she gave up a 40-year-long smoking habit, and is now sharing *The Search* with others as she prepares for baptism.

Glenn witnessed to Anne at their workplace and found she was very interested in prophecy. She is currently going through the Kenneth Cox videos and is reading *Revelation Speaks*.

Mary signed up for "free home viewing" of *The Search* when the display was at her local shopping centre. After attending a Revelation Seminar with Audrey, who also connected at the shopping centre, she seemed to lose interest.

But Glenn didn't give up. Now Mary, her husband, Alan, and their children, and Audrey, are having home Bible studies with Pastor Justin Lawman, to which they invite their friends. The children are attending the Adventist school and join their parents in worship at church each Sabbath.

Video ministry is an integral part of evangelism. It is a process that is really working at Port Macquarie where the video ministry group is connecting with people.



Calvyn Townend
AMC General Manager



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

Web site www.record.net.au

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Let's Explore student Cooranbong NSW

For a while I felt as if Satan was trying to stop me from reading the Bible and talking to God. Every day before I go to bed I read a bit of the Bible and spend some time talking to God but lately every time I try to do that I get really sleepy. I decided that I wasn't going to let anything stand between my love for God. I prayed about it and it hardly ever happens anymore. Reading books 9 and 10 really helped me get over my friend's death.

Discover Student Whangarei NZ

I investigated several churches and was pointed to the Seventh-day Adventists by an inactive member who told me about the true Sabbath. On going to church, a Sabbath School teacher encouraged me to begin the Bible study course as a way of learning about the Christian walk. I have found peace with myself through the grace and love of our dear Saviour, Jesus Christ, and am using these lessons to rededicate my life.

but with God leading me to such things as this course, videos, books and words of encouragement I will learn and understand more.

Discover/Digging Up the Past student Toowoomba QLD

I have found the Discover Series to be an amazing in-depth introduction to the life of Christ and how to be a follower of Christ and God. I have never really been a very religious person as neither of my parents or brother are, but after doing the

The Search video viewers and now Discover students Moora WA

My husband and I have finished viewing The Search videos and have decided to set aside Saturday each week as the Sabbath and intend to study one [Discover] guide each week.

Adventist Media receives hundreds of letters every week from its contacts. Here are just a few of them.

Discovery student Moe, Victoria

I am 51 years old and came from a very religious background, mainly from my dad, who was very strict and severe in his faith, to the point both my sister and I turned away from it. I don't blame our Dad because it was how he also was brought up but nevertheless my sister and I became very resentful towards religion.

history courses of David Down, I had proof if you like, that Jesus did exist and what the Bible says did happen.

Taking Charge of Your Life student Phillip Island VIC

"I don't know a great deal about the Adventists, but through Signs and the courses you offer I can see that you are truly a caring and loving church. I don't know of any other church which does such a great thing."

Focus on Prophecy student Hobart, TAS

I used to be a [church] member who let others do all the talking and learning and I was just a listener and was happy with that...but thanks to the Holy Spirit who has moved me and to the Discovery Centre and the team who are a great help in my stepping out and having confidence. To have these booklets to study is a great and wonderful experience.

ADVENTIST MEDIA DIRECTORY

Office: 150 Fox Valley Road Wahroonga
(PO Box 1115, Wahroonga NSW 2076)
Phone: +61 2 9487-1844
Fax: +61 2 9487-1659
Freecall: 1800 808 615 (Australia)

General Manager: Calvin Townend
Finance Manager: Russell Jones
Marketing Director: David G Gibbons
Discovery Director: John Gate
**Operations Manager
and Senior Producer:** Kevin Townend

The mission of Adventist Media is to connect people with the life-changing teachings of Jesus Christ and the hope for a better life.

Editor: David G Gibbons
Artwork and Photos: Michael Heath

Readers are invited to submit letters of correspondence, photographs and news for subsequent editions.



Off the record

CONNECTIONS

Adventist Media produced thirteen 1 hour episodes for The Australian Christian Channel (Australia's Optus network) and Shine TV (New Zealand). Compared by Maxine Puni, this series was produced and aired for under \$10,000 and 25 people per week (on average) have been contacting Adventist Media for more information on the health and spiritual topics presented.

PNG STEWARDSHIP

An Adventist Media film crew will travel to PNG in July to prepare and uplink a series of presentations on stewardship.

SATELLITE NAMES REQUIRED

A database will be developed by the Satellite Committee of people who would like to be coordinators in their state or region. These co-ordinators will assist others locally with technical support for their satellite down linking.

SYDNEY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL CELEBRATES

Producer Andrew Hunt said that the satellite broadcast of the Sydney 'San's' centenary was valued and appreciated by former staff and patients right across the Division. The program of praise and worship give thanks to God for 100 years of healing ministry to the community.

CHASING UTOPIA

Negotiations are well under way with distributors to have this series broadcast on television throughout North America, South America, Europe, Africa and Asia. The sale of the program to various networks will enable post modern, secular people who live in urban communities to dialogue about issues including freedom, celebrity, sexuality, loneliness and death.

Adventist Media wins contract

Adventist Media's production department have been appointed to produce a cutting edge program to meet the needs of postmodern secular people in the British Isles.

To be called LIFEdevelopment.info (LDi) the program will be a two part series originating out of The British Union at Watford North of London in conjunction with the Trans European Division based at St Albans.

The project is being staffed by Pr Kevin Townend, senior producer of the series, Producer Behren Schulz, and Content Producer Sally Salmond (who is now based on location at Watford).

Townend is excited about this initiative. He says that the first part will be a 10 episode series to be hosted by Dwight Nelson (presenter of the Net 98 series). Entitled The Evidence topics will appeal to an unchurched, secular person and will present a contemporary view of love, God, Bible, rest, forgiveness, peace, hope, 'no worries', suffering and justice. This series

will be recorded at the Newbold College church and be uplinked via satellite.



The series will air during March 2004.

Mind the Gap, the second part of the series will focus on eight stories of Jesus, which will be connected to a contemporary true-life story. This series will be recorded at Watford for transmission later in 2004.

Adventist Media will partner with its sister organisation Stimmer-der Hoffnung (Voice of Hope) of Darmstadt, Germany. They will provide the broadcast equipment necessary to record and uplink the series. The Adventist Media production crew will travel to the UK for the taping of this series.

Sabbath School for U

The Sabbath School U* program has been produced outside of America for the first time. Producer Andrew Hunt, who produced 9 months of programs at Adventist Media's Wairoonga studios, said that Australia was selected to host this series for two reasons. "We have a diverse, multicultural group of committed Christian participants available and we enjoy an international reputation for production quality and excellence."

SSU is a 30 min video resource for all Sabbath School class teachers of the adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide and is broadcast to over 17,000 satellite equipped churches globally each week. It is available in the South Pacific.

Each program is in three sections: discussion on the actual Bible based text of the lesson, discussions on real life application of the principals of the lesson, and ideas for teachers on how to effectively teach the lesson. The ideas include practical examples that will make the lesson study a memorable and rewarding experience. North NSW youth pastor, Casey Wolverton hosted the program. Participants were selected from all over Australia to share their many and diverse views. Positive and complimentary comments are already starting to filter in regarding the excellent depth and knowledge of the Australian participants in their ability to explain and breathe life into the lesson.

(* the abbreviated form of University is 'U', whilst here in the South Pacific we are more likely to abbreviate University to 'Uni!')



Discovery Centre offers evangelistic resources to church members

Post-September 11, many Adventists have asked for resources to share with family, friends, neighbours and communities.

COURSES: A new initiative at the Discovery Centre is to offer the courses to churches, so they can be used locally, and followed up locally. Course sets and individual course booklets are available from Adventist Discovery at cost. See the list of Discovery courses currently available in this RECORD.

LETTERBOXING: The most effective advertising for Discovery courses is by letterboxing application cards. Each course has an application card, and these cards are free to churches (churches cover the cost of freight only). While most completed cards are returned to Adventist Media, churches can follow them up locally too. Churches wishing to do this need to:

1. Let the Discovery Centre know that this is their intention.

2. Purchase course supplies and related letterbox cards (note that cards that are not being mailed back by the public to Adventist Media become a local church resource and must be paid for at cost). When cards come in the mail to the Discovery Centre, they are checked to see if they are to be followed up locally. If they

are, the contact details are returned to the local church for follow-up).

VIDEOS: While privacy laws prevent student details from being disclosed without their permission, offers are made to students that relate to the course they are doing. The offer of a free viewing of a video is very popular. Students who accept these offers expect that the video will be delivered by someone from the local church. Hundreds of Discovery students are introduced to the local church representative this way every year.

LOCAL SEMINARS: The Discovery staff invite our students to local church programs. Once the local church has letterboxed its ministry area thoroughly many months before the program, the Discovery team can approach the students who reside in that ministry area and send them a personal letter of invitation. Hundreds of Discovery students have attended local church programs through this service.

All initiatives are supported by the Discovery prayer circle. This small-group prayer ministry remembers students and their needs by name each week. The team prays for church members who are letterboxing or delivering videos and building friendships with the people.



Exercising with eternal results in mind

Experts claim that we should take exercise regularly, not seriously. But who would ever have thought that walking could leave you with benefits not only visible in this life, but also in the next! How? . . .

1. The Adventist Discovery Centre can provide you with letterbox cards advertising correspondence courses* or a video viewing.

2. One person can letterbox about 100 cards in one hour in normal density housing. That's between 143 and 322 calories! You can experience the benefits of regular exercise NOW. So, where do "eternal results" come into it? Eighty-five people who were baptized last year had done a Discovery Centre course.

And we know it works because:

1. We trial all letterbox cards before printing them in bulk. So, you can know that your letterboxing efforts will bring returns above average or better;

2. Letterbox-card applicants are more likely than any other type of applicant to continue on and complete the course;

3. You can find out the results of your hard labour! If you know the postcode(s) you letterboxed, we can do a search to see how many cards have been returned (allow about a month from letterboxing before requesting this search).

A Word of Caution: Please respect signs for "No Junk Mail" or any other restricted mail notices.

*Cards are free if followed up by Adventist Media's Discovery team—postage only is charged to the ordering church.

Single mother finds hope in the mud

God is using letterbox cards—even the ones that get thrown away. A single mother of four from Brisbane, Qld, found that God can reach you, even when you don't feel like looking for Him.

Wounded by others, Sue (not her real name) struggles to reach out for assistance. She says, "It's hard for me to reach out to people—they either hurt you, use you, or mock you."



Sue says that as she was walking along the road recently, she found a card lying on the ground. She picked it up and found that it was a rejected correspondence course card. She sent it in and has been a student ever since.

Sue now claims that God has intervened in her life and brought peace to her home. "I'm trying to trust God to help me. I pray, I do study, I read the Bible. My children see me with Jesus—so they are learning how I am living. I hope and pray that God uses my children. I love Jesus and I want to follow Him."

PR CALVYN TOWNEND

General Manager

It is a pleasure to lead a team of dedicated and creative people. We work together to connect with people through satellite, video, DVD, CD, radio, television, telephone and mail. I sense that what we are doing is advancing God's kingdom through "cutting edge" media ministries.

DAVID G GIBBONS

Director of Marketing

As I travel, I often meet people who have joined God's kingdom as a result of our ministries and productions. This encourages me to keep developing ideas and to find the resources to keep it happening. Jesus is coming soon.

KEVIN TOWNEND

Operations Manager

I get a buzz out of working with creative people and guiding a project from conception to completion. The pre-production for the international Life Development project with all its logistics keeps me busy. And I do it with the support of a great team and the Holy Spirit.

ANDREW HUNT

Producer

I prayed earnestly for years as a young person for God to find something production oriented for my life, so that I could be instrumental in proclaiming the gospel. He sure answered my prayers. I know that each day I am doing something positive to touch people's lives.

PR PETER JACK

Interunion Evangelist

There is a strong commitment at Adventist Media to meeting people's needs and sharing the gospel. I enjoy the stimulating environment and corporate commitment to excellence. If the Lord were to personally provide me with a choice of where I could work for Him, I would choose Adventist Media.

RUSSELL JONES

Finance Manager

I am able to look past the business and finances, and see the impact made in people's lives, which makes working here very exciting and worthwhile.

PR JOHN GATE

Discovery Centre Director

I am paid to pray! Every week we come before the Lord in intercession for our thousands of students and the many personal requests for prayer support. I also enjoy the interaction of planning TV advertising and satellite events with and for conferences, and then rejoicing with them at the exciting responses.

BEHREN SCHULZ

Producer

As part of the production team, I enjoy producing the live programming and satellite events. Recent projects I have worked on are REZ10, and Taking Charge of Your Health. For me youth and community projects are of particular importance as I am working with the youth of the church.

DAVID A GIBBONS

Technical Director

I work in production and enjoy holidays (my work sometimes requires me to travel). I am involved with the satellite programs and I enjoy playing a small part in such a great outreach.

MICHAEL HEATH

Art Designer and Web Developer

I feel privileged to be in a position here at the Adventist Media that best utilises my artistic talents in the area of web development and design to further the work of the Lord into the 21st century!

SUE ROBINSON

Media Ministries

I really enjoy the interaction I have with the churches around Australia and New Zealand and appreciate the opportunity to work with them on various outreach and satellite projects. It's great to be connected with committed people and to share a common goal of revealing God's love to a searching world.

SHARLENE HARVEY

Discovery Instructor

It's great to read the letters from the students and see the changes in their lives as they progress through the courses. The work of the Holy Spirit never fails to astound me.

LORELLEY MALLETIN

Media Response

I enjoy coordinating all the names we receive from TV advertising. Recently, I was recording names from NZ via the Internet. The people were requesting a viewing of a video entitled *Who Is Jesus?* and I was impressed at how many people were so keen to see a video about Jesus. This does my heart good.

JUANITA BRINSMEAD

Office Coordinator

I like working at Adventist Media because it is a great environment to work in: everyone gets along well because we are all friends. And as a bonus, I can work in a place with God, and help others to find Him.

DOREEN HOWSE

Product Distribution Coordinator

People today often live their lives via the television, DVD and video. It is a privilege to help reach people where they are at, and show them Jesus. I hear wonderful stories of people connecting with the community and it makes me realise that Adventist Media does play a very integral part in spreading the gospel. I pray God will continue to bless this ministry.

CANDICE JAQUES

Senior Discovery Instructor

One of the most exciting aspects of working at AMC is to hear of people who have given their hearts to Jesus having never really met a Christian. God is using videos, correspondence courses and other media to reach people who may otherwise never hear the gospel.

TATIANA JURELLO

Discovery Instructor

I'm thrilled to hear about God's providence in the lives of our Discovery students. I know God uses our courses to communicate His message of love to thousands of people. I share the dream to reach all people of our multicultural country, offering them free Bible-study courses in English and in their native languages.

CORALIE SCHOFIELD

Discovery Instructor

I really enjoy seeing the Holy Spirit draw people to a knowledge of Jesus and a deeper relationship with Him. Our God is surely able to do, "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20).

GLADYS RODRIGUEZ-POZO

Accounts

I am very glad to join a team of people whose main objective is to spread the gospel in such interesting and appealing ways. From the accounts department I play an important role in supporting and achieving this worthwhile goal.

ROBERT PERCEY

Production Distribution Assistant

I believe that God has a mission for all of us, and I have been in training to do His work here at Adventist Media. I have been given the greatest opportunity to work with a team that loves the Lord. I see God work here, and it has changed my life too. Jesus tells His disciples the harvest is ready. And now I can be a part of the action as well.



Have you
collected
the series?



Hours of
Family Reunion
sing-along songs

Take this completed coupon along to your local ABC or Adventist Media to receive one free Family Reunion video of your choice when you purchase four (4) other titles. Conditions apply.

Pr/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms
Full Name
Church
Email or Phone

Conditions: All four videos must be purchased from the same outlet at the same time and this coupon, or a photocopy, must be presented at the same time. This offer remains until August 31, 2003, or while stocks last. This offer can be used with any Family Reunion title or multiples of the same title.



Taking Charge of Your Health

The *Taking Charge of Your Health* series is a seven-part lifestyle series currently being produced by Adventist Media.

The series is focused on lifestyle balance and holistic concepts of health and wellbeing, and has been successful in securing interviews with over 30 trusted international health professionals. The series will be presented out of local churches and community centres, and will be facilitated by church members and health professionals, and will be available as an ongoing DVD resource to the community.

With the completion of this series drawing near, it is now time for churches to consider just how useful such a dynamic and socially relevant series could be to them in expanding their networks and building on existing ties within the community.



Producer Behren Schulz encourages all church members to consider their potential in this exciting community outreach project and how they can assist their church in the running of this series.

When it comes to the ultimate success of the series, Schulz points the finger at every church member, "You should consider which family members, friends, colleagues and members of the wider community you will bring along to the series. I would like to encourage you to partner in our vision for this project—to have a significant positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the wider community, and to foster community growth and see hearts won for Christ."

More information is available at www.takingcharge.com.au/health



TV doctor endorses new health series

Well-known Seven Network personality in Australia, Dr John D'Arcy, has agreed to be the face of the *Taking Charge of Your Health* (TCYH) television commercial. Dr D'Arcy has also been interviewed by our crew for the opening program in the series on lifestyle balance, and is a firm believer in the importance of the health issues raised in the series.

Dr D'Arcy is the health and medical reporter for Seven's *Today Tonight*, and also regularly appears on many of Seven's news and current affairs programs. He was a producer/presenter on Seven's *Beyond 2000* series, as well as a story consultant for the award-winning *A Country Practice*. Dr John has spent more than 13 years working as a doctor in Papua New Guinea, and has a strong working relationship with the Sydney Adventist Hospital.

TCYH producer Behren Schulz says, "I am extremely grateful to Dr John for his enthusiasm and support of the *Taking Charge of Your Health* series. This will add a great deal of credibility to the series and its acceptance within the community."



Adventists give record offering for health series

Last July, Adventists dug deep to support the ministries of Adventist Media like never before. Offerings over the previous five years averaged about \$70,000, but in 2002, the offering went over \$92,000. The project promoted was the *Taking Charge of Your*

Health series, which will be made available to churches and church members as a community-service project after September 2, 2003. The Adventist Media thanks the church for their support, and ask for the same support again this year on July 26.

Teenager's joy for Jesus



"I am a 16-year-old Seventh-day Adventist! I am so proud of that!" Annette Butterworth wrote to Adventist Media straight after her baptism in November 2002.

Raised in another denomination, Annette and her younger sister, Debra, started attending church with their father, Peter, who found out about Adventists through watching the *Search* videos.

Annette believes "that being baptised simply gives the Holy Spirit open ground to work on. I know Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour and I just want to share that!"

As part of improving her relationship with Christ, Annette has enrolled in Discovery's Health course. Annette was baptised in Hobart by Pastor Rod Anderson. She is now a proud, happy and active member of the Rosny church in southern Tasmania.





A hit on Optus pay television

Not only did the *Taking Charge of Your Life* seminar make a wonderful impact last year via international satellite, it was also very popular on Optus television.

Neil Elliott, manager of the Christian channel, was most enthusiastic. He said, "This seminar attracted more response in the first week it ran, than for any other program." It was followed by *Living Your Dreams* with a similar response. It was so popular they wanted to do an immediate rerun.

The series has also been run on New Zealand's Shine TV.

Interunion evangelist recognised by Australian government

Pastor Peter Jack, well-known presenter of the *Taking Charge of Your Life* community project, has been recognised by the Australian government for his contribution to Australian society and the community. Jack was awarded the Centenary Medal on June 21 at a public ceremony at Castle Hill.

His medal was presented to him in Castle Hill, NSW, by the Hon Dame Margaret Guilfoyle, DBE, and Alan Cadman, MP, on behalf of Governor General Peter Hollingworth and Prime Minister John Howard.



From left to right: Dame Margaret Guilfoyle, Peter Jack, Allan Cadman.

What is Taking Charge of Your Life?

Taking Charge of Your Life is an eight module seminar that intentionally targets today's postmodern, secular culture.

It is designed to follow the Jesus model of evangelism by meeting people at the point of their felt needs. It has proved to be a practical and powerful response to the emotional, relational and personal development needs of people today.

The Bible is intentionally used to introduce people to a loving God, the gospel, the Ten Commandments, the parables and so on. The seminar usually results in lives being changed and an overwhelming sense of gratitude and joy expressed by participants. It is available as a set of quality videos featuring Pastor Peter Jack, a computerised presentation using PowerPoint together with a comprehensive manual.

It has also been developed as a correspondence course and is popular in England as well as Australia and New Zealand.

What is Living Your Dreams?

Strategically, *Living Your Dreams* has been designed to continue the evangelistic process initiated by *Taking Charge of Your Life*. It digs deeper into the motivational, emotional and personal development needs

of postmodern people.

The Bible becomes a little more prominent with prophecy introduced in a non-threatening context. This six-module seminar has attracted responses such as, "We thought all the answers were in *Taking Charge of Your Life*, but this seminar has blown our minds!" This seminar is an important pathway in the evangelistic process. It is available as a set of quality videos featuring Peter Jack, a computerised presentation using PowerPoint together with a comprehensive manual.

What is Taking Charge of Our Future?

This is the business end of the evangelistic process. It is being developed as a 24-module journey through the Seventh-day Adventist message—including the gospel, the Second Coming, the sanctuary, the 2300 years and the good news of the judgement.

It continues the same format and style of the previous two seminars. It is gospel-centred and responds to the anxiety, security, and belonging needs of post-modern people.

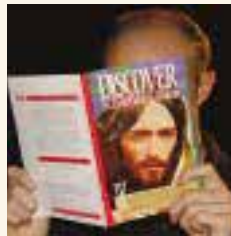
The intention is to lead people to Jesus and the fellowship of His church. It will become available in computerised form, using PowerPoint and will have a comprehensive manual.

Prisoners Taking Charge!

Inmates at a correctional centre in South Queensland recently decided that it was time to make some changes. Jim (not his real name) took the opportunity to help his fellow prisoners by placing advertisements for the Adventist Media's Discovery courses in the jail magazine. He has since become the go-between for the inmates for the *Taking Charge of Your Life*, *Health*, *Discover* and *Digging Up the Past* courses.

The *Taking Charge of Your Life* course is especially relevant in helping many

inmates understand and deal with some difficult relational issues. By handing out the first lessons of these courses, Jim has made it easier for interested inmates to enrol. Many of the prisoners have since shared their appreciation for material that is both helpful and interesting.



The prison has also borrowed the videos for *Taking Charge of Your Life* in the hope that inmates will gain further help. This arrangement is proving so successful that more inmates are signing up every week and even some of the prison officials have started the course.

EDIA OFFERING JULY 26

Looking for evangelistic resources?

NET 2003

Brand New

VOP's Lonnie Melashenko delivers 26 easy-to-understand lectures that will provide real answers for real needs.



CHASING UTOPIA

This DVD series is designed for use with 18-30+ secular, post-modern people who are spiritual, yet have been turned off by organised religion. It deals with subjects such as celebrity, addiction, visage, family, freedom, gender, intimacy, prejudice and loneliness.

THE SEARCH

This series does not preach at the viewer, but simply takes them on an investigative documentary search for the answers to questions on issues like immortality, freedom, heroes, justice, origins, afterlife, evil and hope. 20 tapes.

JESUS THE CHRIST

Movie-length version of the book of Matthew. Concludes with a testimony given by Bruce Marchiano—the actor who played Jesus in the movie.



Take this completed coupon along to your local ABC or Adventist Media to receive one free **Jesus the Christ** video when you purchase any evangelistic set. Conditions apply.

Pr/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms
 Full Name
 Church
 Email or Phone

Conditions: The evangelistic series must be purchased from the same outlet at the same time and this coupon, or a photocopy, must be presented at the same time.

This offer remains until August 31, 2003, or while stocks last.



Walt Disney animator draws for the kingdom

Working at Disney's studios in Sydney for 14 years as an animator and director, Ian Harrowell felt impressed in recent years to start doing something for the kingdom, rather than just simply entertaining kids at the movies.

Harrowell met with Adventist Media's David G Gibbons two years ago, and the dream came alive as he realised that Adventists not only have the capacity, but also the passion, to produce a three-dimensional Bible-based animation series.

The Shrek-styled animation would lean heavily on the development of character and provide positive role modelling for 12-year-old children, and yet still be highly

entertaining. They could be released as a series of 20-minute DVDs. Harrowell is a baptised, active member of his local Baptist church. He believes that Jesus set a high standard when telling stories about His Father and the kingdom. "I am convinced in the power of God-inspired stories, and see the story as the tool of choice when God reaches into our hearts."

An audiovisual presentation, which details the philosophy and some brief animations in progress, is available to those who might be interested in making a donation toward the production of the series. Contact David Gibbons at david@amcdiscovery.com.au

Jesus becoming popular with TV viewers

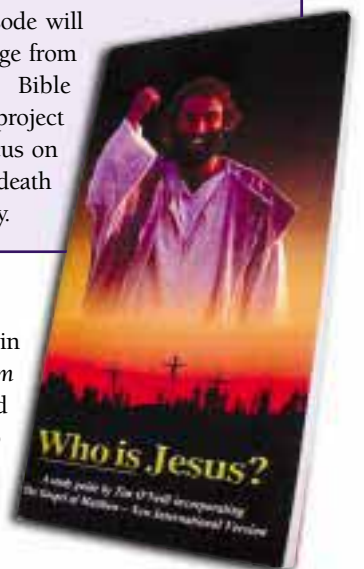
Following a huge demand by the public for a free home viewing of *Who Is Jesus?* other conferences are planning on advertising the video on TV.

"This is amazing!" says Adventist Media's Discovery Director John Gate. "Before September 11 you would get very few responses from viewers when you played a religious advertisement on TV, but today things are different."

Viewers phone the number displayed on the advertisement and a church member delivers the video. Sixty per

cent of viewers go on and watch *The Search* video series. The South Pacific Division is funding the development of an additional six half-hour videos for late 2004. This would increase the number of viewers moving into *The Search* series.

Each episode will utilise footage from the Living Bible "Matthew" project and will focus on Jesus' life, death and ministry.



New products coming

Adventist Media is releasing a number of DVDs later in 2003. Titles will include *Ark Angels* and *Dan's Super Slam Dunk Dinner* for children, Manuel Escorcio, *Island Praise* and a series of half-hour *Family Reunion* concerts for those who enjoy music. Some health and evangelistic DVDs will also be announced in Adventist Media's October catalogue. The newest *Family Reunion* video *Spirit of Freedom* will be available from your local ABC soon.

Leadership strategies in place for times of civil and political unrest

Suva, Fiji

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Trans-Pacific Union (TPU) is developing plans to prepare for times of civil and political unrest.

Presidents of the church's nine local missions—meeting for an Island Disturbances Seminar at the church's Suva, Fiji-based head office, June 13-15—agreed to take a number of steps before, during and after such times. They summarised the steps in four statements:

1. Prepare constantly by looking out for signs of an impending crisis

2. Leaders to be more visible during a crisis and early on releasing media statements on the church's position

3. Leaders to communicate with church employees before, if able, and during a crisis, and advise them on media releases

4. Advise church members, via church workers, on official church positions relative to an impending crisis, and if unable to before then definitely during, followed by a debriefing of all after the crisis has passed.

"Leaders must lead," says Pastor Bruce Roberts, president of the TPU. "They have a responsibility to be students of what's

going on about them."

Pastor Tom Osborne, the president of the church in Fiji, takes Pastor Roberts' challenge to "stand up and be counted" to heart. "We are Christians, but we tend in times of tension to identify more strongly with our cultural rather than our Christian heritage.

"We are wiser now," says Pastor Osborne, referring to the church's reaction to the coup in 2000—some Adventists supported the coup in the absence of any statement about its legality from the church. "I'm confident we will act and behave differently next time."

Pastor Lawrence Tanabose, secretary for the TPU, acted as a mediator between the Malaita Eagle Force and the Isatabu Freedom Movement during the civil unrest on Guadalcanal in the Solomons in 2000. He says the church must not remain silent. "We should be fully involved in bringing understanding between warring parties and negotiating peace."

Stewart Firth, a professor in the School of Social and Economic Development at



Pastor Bruce Roberts, TPU president.

the Suva-based campus of the University of the South Pacific, summarised the political standing of the countries—including Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu—represented at the seminar. A panel discussion followed.

Robert Wolfgramm—an Adventist who is a lecturer in the School of Political and Social Inquiry at Monash University, explained the history of Fijian nationalism and the social undercurrents church leaders should watch for.

Pastor Paul Cavanagh, the TPU's Ministerial Association secretary, gave biblical principles for Christians in times of civil and political unrest, while Pastor Ray Coombe, the public affairs and religious liberty director for the South Pacific Division, spoke about giving clear position statements to church members and to the media.

The presidents voted during the TPU's midyear executive committee following the seminar to adopt the four statements.—**Brenton Stacey**

Next "Adventist News" broadcast on August 1

The next episode of "Adventist News" will be available via satellite on August 1.

The program includes stories about: how Adventists are helping drug users in Cabramatta; the new series of "Sabbath School U;" a church plant that meets in a motel; why singer David Lewis and his wife, Marian, a former model, turned their back



Bronwyn Mison hosts "Adventist News." The next edition of the program will be available on August 1.

Adventist Alpine Village; and an interview with the chief executive officer of Sanitarium Health Food Company.

Local churches are using "Adventist News" creatively. Penrith in the Greater Sydney Conference shows the news segment, one of the features or the interview or message in the adult and in the youth Sabbath school each week.

"We progressively show the program each quarter from beginning to

end," says Arthur Foster, the church's satellite ministries coordinator.

The church also lends a videotape copy of "Adventist News" to its members so they can watch it in their homes. "The members ask for it each week," says Mr Foster.—

Brenton Stacey

Local churches without satellite dishes should phone the South Pacific Division's Communication Department on +61 2 9847 3290 to subscribe to "Adventist News." A single subscription is SA10.95. Yearly subscriptions are SA42.00. All prices include postage and handling within Australia.

The church that meets in a motel

Melbourne, Victoria

Members of a new Seventh-day Adventist church in Tullamarine, Vic, are meeting in a local motel for their weekly worship services. The minister of the church says it is all part of a plan to connect with the community.

The convention room at the Ciloms Airport Lodge on Melrose Drive is Northpoint Adventist church. "We even have our name on the room, on sandwich boards in the car park and on a sign on the front fence," says Pastor Loren Pratt.

The motel has given the church 24-hour, seven-day a week access to the room for three years and is charging only \$A100 per week. Pastor Pratt describes the deal as an answer to prayer.

The congregation meets at 3.30 pm on Saturdays, as opposed to the Adventist Church's traditional 9.30 am meeting time. "Tullamarine is a soccer-mad suburb," says Pastor Pratt. "Everyone plays on Saturday mornings, so we



Pastor Loren Pratt—minister of a new church plant in Melbourne, Vic—says the Northpoint church meets in a motel as part of its plan to connect with the community.

worship on Saturday afternoons." Six of the 21 people regularly attending the church are not Adventists. "Some have taken three months, others six, before they feel comfortable attending," he says.

He and his assistant, Greg Evans, letterbox cards advertising Bible studies. They also deliver videos explaining the signs of Christ's return to those who respond to television advertisements

placed by the Adventist Church in Victoria.

"Earning the friendship of those in the community is crucial," says Pastor Pratt. "Showing up at their door each week to deliver a video and to say 'G'day' builds trust."

Pastor Pratt divides his time between ministering to the church and serving as a departmental director for the church in Victoria and as the minister of another local Adventist church in Greenvale. "I'm focused," he says. "From 1 pm each day I'm visiting the friends I've made in the community. Greg is doing a lot of the hard yakka with me."

Pastor Pratt has applied successfully for more than \$A70,000 in Global Mission funding from the Adventist Church. Global Mission is an initiative to establish new Adventist churches in areas where there are none. "We could not have set up the church without the money," he says. —

Brenton Stacey

Students baptised in new building

Port Moresby, PNG

Students and staff at Pacific Adventist University (PAU) witnessed the first baptism in their new church building on June 7.

All past baptisms at PAU were held in a font under the rain tree beside a lake on campus. Although it was in a good location, it had a few inconveniences. With the new font, the PAU church family can witness the baptism from their seats.

"This baptism is the first of three that are planned for this year because there is a phenomenal interest in baptism," says Pastor Matupit Darius, PAU chaplain. The baptismal class started with 12 students at the beginning of the year. It swelled to 18 at the end of the Week of Prayer in April and now stands at 28 members. About 50 per cent of the members of the class are university students, while the rest are teenagers who live on campus.

According to Pastor Darius, the group is increasing every week because the members enthusiastically share what they learn with their friends. "I share what I learn from the studies with my family," says Joan Paul.

"The lessons were interesting and I learned new things, even



Four students studying to be secondary teachers were baptised by Pastor Matupit Darius, the university chaplain, during the first baptism in the new church building at PAU. Pictured wearing leis are baptismal candidates (L-R) Jimmy Jacob, Ivan Raka, Sheila Sahoto, and Wendy Nori.

though I grew up in the Adventist Church," says Wendy Nori, one of those baptised.

Drought, rain and faith

Laurie Meintjes, NSW

Concerning Brian Timms's "Thoughts on the drought and prayer" (May 3), perhaps, with hindsight, he might have chosen his words with a little more discretion, but, by and large, he has a legitimate point. It is more appropriate for us to pray for wisdom and strength to face inevitable problems than for the problem to go away.

That doesn't negate the prospect that God can change the "inevitable" (and might even do so from time to time), but it suggests that the better course is to seek the strength, grace and wisdom to rise above it.

If Dr Timms had gone on to suggest a parallel between times of drought and the times of trouble soon to come, emphasising the need to prepare now by seeking the grace, wisdom and the spiritual maturity to withstand it, then his point may have been better understood.

Delphine Archer, Qld

We've been "on the land" for some 30 years. A few years ago we invested heavily in our own property only to see Mother Nature rip it to shreds three times in the past four years—through wind, hail and frost, aggravated by the drought. Sure, God could have stopped it, but He chose not to. We now have to be prepared.

We have many questions we could ask God, especially as the money used to rebuild would have been used in His work.

We've prayed for rain, but to no avail, and now our nursery business has been closed due to a lack of water.

We're beginning to see the reasons. We need to remember Job's experience and, also, that God will allow us more than we're able to handle. Through personal hardships we're better able to comfort others when they're similarly afflicted.

If we choose to farm in a land prone to severe drought, then we need to live with the consequences and be prepared. If we're not prepared, we shouldn't blame God nor expect Him to turn on the tap when nature is taking its course—although I believe He could—just because we pray.

Brian Timms owes no-one an apology.

We need to pray for more substantial things than rain, wisdom or health—the faith of Jesus.

G Smith, NSW

After reading Brian Timms's thoughts and the letters in response, particularly from one couple (June 28) provided with rain at "just the right time," I'm reminded of those who, despite good planning and faith in God's ability to intervene, appear to be forgotten by Him. Working as a nurse, I've encountered many people who've not received mercy, who've suffered horribly, then died. When you've locked eyes with someone facing life's ultimate reality, you are changed. It is always troubling.

I've come close to losing my faith, but

that changed after meeting a patient who told me that even though, for him, God seemed to be busy elsewhere, he would have eternal life. Down the track, he knew his suffering would be forgotten. He believed Jesus understood his suffering and would one day make up for it.

Even though the Bible is full of inspiring stories about faith, like Daniel in the lions' den, the most helpful is that of Jesus who knew He was to suffer, but it still became too much for Him. At the point of death He cried, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Despite this, Jesus was still talking to His Father and wasn't forgotten.

God can bring rain or make us smart enough not to need it on cue. He can heal

our ills or send someone clever enough to do it for Him. But if He doesn't, we need to pray for more substantial things than rain, wisdom or health—the faith of Jesus.

Alan Saunders, NSW

The Bible is not as one-eyed as many of its readers. What Dr Timms urges is recognition of the "Joseph principle" instead of total reliance on the "Elijah prayer." If the Elijah prayer for rain in times of drought anticipates divine intervention, then the reverse must also be valid in times of flood.

Yet, despite that validity, I'm unaware of praying for "strong east winds" to drive back the waters and create dry land. Floods, in Australia, are accepted as natural phenomena. Floods have greater potential to devastate families, finances, property and stock than most droughts.

So why is it acceptable to pray for little black clouds, but anomalous to prayer for strong east winds? The Joseph principle suggests the wise will prepare to survive drought and flood. More so when we know that both are predictable weather cycles.

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



Positions vacant

▲ **Workers in the Outback—Western Australian Conference.** Many of the managers and administrators throughout the Outback are seeking good people, often Seventh-day Adventists, who are sensitive and caring in their relationship to the large proportion of Aboriginal folk they will have regular contact with, have honesty, integrity, and are willing to work. If you are even vaguely interested, and would be willing to have your name on a register for potential outback work/service, please send details of yourself and dependent family (with work résumé and reference from your local pastor) to Pastor Gordon Smith, Aboriginal Ministries coordinator for WA, PO Box 134, Gosnells WA 6990; phone (08) 9398 7222; 0429 379 237.

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

Appreciation

Hill. Gavin, Monique and Zackary, Pastor George and Maye Porter, Colin and Bronwyn Chandler, Calvin and Angelique Porter, and Marilyn Porter, would like to convey thanks to all their friends and relatives of the late Michelle Hill, for the hundreds of expressions of love, sympathy and support by card, flowers, emails, phone calls and other tokens of love. Special thanks to the officers and entire staff of the Greater Sydney Conference for overwhelming support. God used you all to comfort us.

Anniversaries

Jasper. Having left Australia for the US in 1951, Ed and Lee Jasper (nee Scary) headed part-way "home" as they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a trip to Hawaii, courtesy of daughters Cherie Lee Goulard and Bonnie Koch. Ed and Lee



were married on 17.4.43 at Casino, while Ed was in the R A A F. They both worked in Adventist hospitals

and health institutions until their retirement in 1985 to Chico, California, USA, where they continue to be active in the church and community.

Toepfer. Bill and Pearl (nee Totenhofer) celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last Easter at the Cafe Renaissance in Cooranbong, NSW, with family, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. On 21.4.43 Pastor J B Conley married them—the second of four generations to be married in the Avondale Village church (now Memorial church), where four generations are now worshipping.

Transfers

● **Sara Giovanetti**, from accounts clerk, Adventist Media Centre, to administrative assistant, ACAST. ● **Andrew Lim**, from business manager, Longburn Adventist College, New Zealand Pacific

Union Conference, to assistant treasurer, Greater Sydney Conference. Australian Union Conference (AUC). ● **Jenny McCormack**, from personal assistant, Sanitarium Health Food Company, Castle Hill, NSW, to linen service, Sydney Adventist Hospital. ● **Ken Miller**, from linen service, Sydney Adventist Hospital, to manager/caretaker, "Advent Park" campground, Western Australian Conference, AUC.

Obituaries

Bagnall, Iris Sylvia, born 22.6.1912 at Lithgow, NSW; died 2.6.03 at Turramurra House, Sydney. In 1932 she married Arthur, who predeceased her in 1948. She was also predeceased by her only child, Marion, in infancy. She is survived by her nieces, June Reid and Noeleen Tinworth, who were always close by in love and care to the last days of her positive and purposeful life. Iris was an intrepid traveller and always remained young at heart. Her loyalty, wit and good humour made it a joy to know her. *Desmond Mowday*

Ferguson, Grant Bernard Thomas, born 21.5.1945 at Carlton, Vic; died 11.6.03 at Wairoonga, NSW. On 15.9.68 he married Gloria Page-Dhu. He is survived by his wife; his sons, Shane (Cooranbong), Steven and Arron (both of Bonnells Bay); his daughter, Leandah (Cooranbong); his mother, Ruby (Diamond Creek, Vic); and his brothers, John (Holbrook, NSW) and Allan (Canberra, ACT). Grant worked for years as a truckie and for the last 10 years he worked for Sanitarium Health Food Company. He was a kind, generous, thoughtful and lovable Christian gentleman. *Les Coombe, Rex Cobbin*

Jackson, Raymond William George, born 19.7.1915 at Burwood, NSW; died 9.6.03 at Cooranbong. On 5.10.53 he married Mary deVille, who predeceased him in 1999. He is survived by his sons, Stewart (Kariang) and Graham (Vancouver Island, Canada); and her four grandchildren. George served 41 years as a Sanitarium Health Food cafe chef in Sydney and Wellington, NZ, and also at the Sydney Adventist Hospital. *Claude Judd, Les Coombe*

Longson, Kenneth Hinson, born 24.8.1917 at Melton Mobra, Leicester-

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shire, England; died 3.6.03 at Turramurra, NSW. He is survived by his wife, Verna (Wairoonga); his children and their spouses, Tony and Linda (Townsville, Qld), Kathy and Garry Hamilton (Darwin, NT); his stepchildren, Barry Branster (Cherrybrook, NSW), Ruth Butler (Brisbane, Qld), Terry Hampson (Miami, USA), Diana Martin (Hornsby, NSW); their families; and his sister, Beryl (Shepparton, Vic). Ken's World War II years included serving as one of the Rats of Tobruk. His last employment was at Sydney Adventist Hospital, where he established the audio-visual department. Ken emulated Jesus' kindness in the way he lived. *Tom Ludowici*

Murphy, Cecilia Dorothy Gertrude, born 5.6.1901 at Bunbury, WA; died 31.5.03 at Sherwin Lodge, Rossmoyne. On 3.10.31 she married Robert, who predeceased her. She is survived by her sons, Robert, Ronald, Francis and John; her 16 grandchildren; her 30 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. *Keith Godfrey*

Newman, John Harvey, born 31.3.1918 at Parkes, NSW; died 4.6.03 at Blacktown. On 22.1.45 he married Merle Grosser. He is survived by his wife; his children, Raymond (Milang, SA), Valerie Melvin (West Pennant Hills, NSW) and Laurel Hope (Gold Coast, Qld); his brothers, Jeff (Mount Barker, SA), Pastor Bert Grosser (Cooranbong, NSW); his sister, Esther Hodgen (WA); his seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. John and Merle served as a dedicated minister/nurse part-

nership for approximately two-score years in Qld, NZ, WA (including Karalundi), Sydney, Solomon Islands, PNG and Pitcairn Island. From all reports, Pastor John deserved a master's degree in practical Christianity. *Bert Grosser*
Ron Craig, Wal Taylor

Pieters, Franciscus Johannes (Frank), born 26.1.1932 in Amsterdam, Holland; died 4.6.03 at Pacific Haven, Howard, Qld. In 1998 he married Judy. He is survived by his wife; his children and spouses, Yvonne and "Possum" (Maryborough), and John and Sue (Mundubbera); and his sister, Henny (Melbourne, Vic). Frank was a friendly man who lived by the adage: "Live and let live" and "If you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything." *Phil Downing*

Simpson, Robert Stanley, born 19.10.1916 at Balwyn, Vic; died 3.6.03 at Box Hill. On 19.2.49 he married Ethel Mathieson, who predeceased him in 1997. He is survived by his son, Graeme (Blackburn) and Ian (Glen Iris). Stan was the "Mr Fix-it" deacon of the Mont Albert church, with a cheery word for everyone. *Ian Royce*

Wishart, Kerrie Marianne, born 1.6.1989 at Dunedin, SNZ; died suddenly 4.6.03 in John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, NSW. She is survived by her parents, Freda and Reyce; her siblings, Colin, Andrew, Jonathan and Sophie. Family and friends are longing for Jesus' quick return to be reunited with Kerrie. *Joe Webb*
Simon Ashfield-Smith, Les Coombe

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Zeumert. Neta Florence (nee Bradley), born 17.7.1908 at Fremantle, WA; died 12.6.03 at Cooranbong, NSW. In 1939 she married William (Bill) and supported him in his work until retirement in 1973. She is survived by her husband; her sister, May Howse; and her brother, Pastor Tom Bradley. During the early years of her marriage, she was involved in the acquisition and restoration of Sunnyside Estate at Cooranbong.
*Rein Muhlberg
 Ron Baird, Tom Bradley*

Advertisements

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Sydney Adventist College is updating its archives room and would appreciate any photos, school magazines (pre 1967), written memories and memorabilia associated with the school since its early beginnings in 1919 at Concord, then later at Burwood and Strathfield. The school

would be happy to copy any valuable early history photos you wish returned. Please contact the teacher-librarian, Neroli Douglas, by phone (02) 9764 4403; email <douglasn@sac.nsw.edu.au> or at the Sydney Adventist College, 159 Albert Road, Strathfield NSW 2135.

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Nerang Adventist church (Qld) 10th anniversary—August 9, 10. Please join us for a full weekend of celebration. For more information phone Sue Aitchison on (07) 5596 1435 or email <the3as@winshop.com.au>.

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Do you have any unused or spare hymnals that you could donate to our Adventist college in Sri Lanka? Lakpahana Adventist Seminary and College need about 500 hymnbooks, as they have a current enrolment of 450 students and 50 staff. To arrange pick-up please phone Ken Killoway on (03) 9801 8986 or Sam Arul on 0419 421 702.

Sydney Adventist Hospital classmates 1961-1964. Were they special years for you? 2004 reunion and celebration plans are well under way. Contact Edna Geeland or Julie Tallis-Young; phone (02) 9653 1675 or <ednag@oze-mail.com.au>. Still searching for: Victor Christensen, Heather Whitford, Lynelda Anderson and Pauline McKay.

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6th annual sacred concert—proceeds to ADRA—Sabbath, August 2, Parramatta church, 3.00 pm; Wahroonga church, 7.30 pm. Featuring: soprano, Yola Mielczarek, baritone, Douglas Gibbs, choirs, male quartet, organ/piano duets, flute, violin, flugelhorn, marimba, panpipe, clarinet, saxophone solos etc. Don't miss this feast of uplifting music!

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