

# RECORD



Pastor Terry Lambert (at left), associate youth ministry specialist from the Western Australian Conference, and Pastor Tony Knight, youth director for the Australian Union Conference, demonstrate an Underground small-group building activity during Reload.

## Small-group movement growing "in Spirit's time"

Wahroonga, NSW

The latest Underground program, "Reload . . . the vision revisited," has confirmed the Christ-centred small-group movement is growing but not as first planned.

"Reload again challenged young adults to step up their commitment to their God and their church and to sharing their faith with their friends," says Pastor Gilbert Cangy, the youth director for the South Pacific Division. "It also gave us an opportunity to share some of the stories of lives that have been changed by Christ through the Underground."

Reload, uplinked to satellite from the Fox Valley Community church in Sydney on August 15, celebrated the second anniversary of the launch of the Underground and the first anniversary of REZ10.

Andrew Robartson, who featured in The Laundry during REZ10, and Julene Duerksen, who spoke during the launch, reprised their hosting roles. Leighton Heise and ep—the group formerly known as Endless Praise—fronted a new praise and worship band.

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*Wanted:  
Sanitarium  
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# "I hope Jesus was shot"

Ten-year-old Johnny came home from Sunday school and his mother asked him what he'd learned.

"Well," he said, "our teacher told us about God sending Moses behind enemy lines to rescue the Israelites. When they came to the Red Sea, Moses ordered the engineers to build a pontoon bridge. The Israelites crossed over, looked back and saw the Egyptian tanks coming.

"Quick as a flash, Moses grabbed his Palm Pilot with wireless modem and e-mailed headquarters to send a missile to blow up the bridge and save the Israelites."

"Johnny!" exclaimed his startled mother, "is that really what your teacher told you?"

"Well, not exactly," he said, looking at the floor. "But if I told it her way, you'd never believe it."

Johnny grasped the challenge we face today—how to make the good news about Jesus understood and believed. But the problem goes further—how do we get people to even listen.

A few years ago I visited Central Coast Community Church, now located in Wyong, NSW, which began as a church-planting project partly funded by Global Mission. I attended the children's Sabbath school—a loud, vibrant place with many children from non-Christian homes.

The little girl beside me was restless and full of energy and suddenly threw her hand up into the air and asked, "How did Jesus die?"

"We'll be talking about that later," replied the teacher.

With a big grin on her face the little girl said, "I hope He was shot."

In the busy noise of the room, the teacher missed her comment. But it hit me hard. I looked at the girl bouncing around in her chair. She had no idea about the life

and death of Jesus. She'd probably only heard His name as an expletive. But now what she was learning in Sabbath school got all mixed up in her little head with the Hollywood action videos she no doubt watched at home.

We used to think of boys and girls in countries such as Burma, India and China as those who had never heard of Jesus. But now a whole generation of young Australians, New Zealanders, Americans and Europeans have no knowledge of Jesus. Many have never heard of the Bible, let alone owned one.

Since it began in 1990, Global Mission has had remarkable success in many areas of the world where the Adventist Church didn't exist or was weak. In 1990 there were relatively few Adventists in the 10/40 Window,\* for example. Today, church growth has exploded in that region, thanks largely to Global Mission pioneers.

But growth in the West remains slow or nonexistent. The problem isn't so much that God is being attacked (which He is), but that He's being ignored. It's not so much a question of belief as it's a question of relevance. When you have clothes, food, a TV in the corner and good times with your friends, the need for Jesus doesn't seem so urgent. In the West most of us are pretty happy "and have need of nothing" (see Revelation 3:17).

Global Mission has made a renewed commitment to focusing on starting new congregations in this challenging area. And

it's establishing a new study centre (there are already such centres for each of the major world religions) to serve as a forum for exploring practical ways for Adventists to more effectively share with people of no religion.

This secular/postmodern study centre is supported by the South Pacific and North American divisions, as well as the two European divisions. It will be based in Florida, United States, and headed by Pastor James Coffin, former editor of RECORD. It isn't the answer, but it is another answer—at a time when we need fresh ideas and a network of support for those involved in reaching the unreached in the West.

It can be discouraging working on stony ground. Especially when we hear stories of mass baptisms and miracles and wondrous things in other parts of the world. But numbers are God's business, not ours. Let's ask for His strength to live out His love, and leave the numbers to Him.

I still can't shake that little girl from my mind. She's what Global Mission and your mission and my mission is all about—children and their parents hearing the most important story in the world. Not only about how Jesus died, but why He did.

For them.

*\* An area stretching from West Africa through the Middle East and into Asia. It is here that the majority of the world's population, the world's poorest people and the fewest Christians live.*



Gary Krause  
Communication director  
Global Mission

**Annual Sacrifice Offering  
(for Global Mission)  
today**



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**know  
experience  
and share**  
our hope in Jesus Christ!

- Signs publications win religious press awards • Bushfire response officially recognised
- Vic Conference incorporates • Aussie helps UK youth make Contact with Jesus • and more

—Compiled by Kellie Hancock—

● *Signs of the Times* won “**Best Feature**” at the annual Australasian Religious Press Association (ARPA) awards in Canberra, ACT, on August 16. The winning article—“Attack on the World Trade Center One Year On” (August 2002)—was an extensive feature written by **Hans Kunnen** in collaboration with *Signs* senior assistant editor **Lee Dunstan** and included an extended sidebar by former Islamic Studies Center head **Boerge Schantz** of Denmark. The church’s youth magazine, *The Edge*, was awarded a “**Highly Commended**” for a creative piece by RECORD editor **Bruce Manners** and designer **Shane Johnson** called “Super Bruce: Reluctant hero,” as an Article or Feature That Shows Most Originality.

● The **government** in the Australian Capital Territory has **thanked two Seventh-day Adventists** for their **response to the bushfires in Canberra** in January this year. **Chris Olafson**, development manager for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency–Australia, and **Julie Nagle**, area coordinator for ADRAcare in the ACT and south-eastern New South Wales, have received certificates of recognition from ACT Chief Minister **John Stanhope**. The certificates read, “In appreciation of your selfless response to the Canberra bushfires of January 2003 and to the continuing recovery effort. Your commitment to your fellow Canberrans is an inspiration to all of us. On behalf of the ACT government and community, I thank you.”

## Thirty-six choose devil-proof fence



**A** recent evangelistic series in Kuranda, northern Qld, conducted by Pastor Mark Wilson, has seen 36 people (pictured) decide to prepare for baptism.

Two minibuses brought people from the districts of Mareeba and Kowrowra to the old Djabagai theatre in Kuranda. The 10-session series entitled “Focus on Prophecy” was conducted from July 25 to August 2. Attendance numbers grew from 60 on the first night to more than 100 on the last night of the program.

Pastor Wilson used the story of the three young girls, Molly, Daisy and Gracie—part of the stolen generation, who walked the rabbit-proof fence in Western Australia to return home—to illustrate his evangelistic message. “God has a devil-proof fence of truth, and if we follow that line of truth, it will lead us home to heaven,” said Pastor Wilson during the crusade. People were called to relationship with Jesus and to walk with Him along His “devil-proof fence” of truth, home to heaven and happiness.

The mission concluded with a vegetarian feast at Kuranda church, and the baptism of Val Duffin and Anika Betts in the Baron River.—*Brent Jones*

● At the **Victorian Conference Session**, held at Warburton, Vic, August 22-24, delegates voted the incumbents back into office and called Pastor Wayne Stanley, presently serving as Ministerial Association secretary in the Western Australian Conference, as secretary. The conference officers include: Pastor **Denis Hankinson**, president; **Bill Truscott**, treasurer; **Wayne Stanley**, secretary. The **motion to incorporate was also carried**, in line with other conferences.

● Victorians living outside the state can now “read all about it!” **online**, as their conference’s newsletter, *IntraVic*, is now on

the church’s web site at <[www.adventist.org.au/victoria](http://www.adventist.org.au/victoria)>. “Adding *IntraVic* as a downloadable PDF file to the Victorian section of the South Pacific Division web site is a cost-effective way of sharing Victorian news,” says conference treasurer Bill Truscott.

● As a consultant to the South Pacific Division Youth Department, author of the *Underground Leaders Manual* and founder of STORM Co ministries, **Jerry Unser’s** experience of sharing faith in innovative and relevant ways has **sparked interest worldwide**. He recently travelled to the UK to challenge young adults at Blue, a cafe church in Watford, England, to make “**Contact**” with



Jesus—either for the first time or to renew it. The series was also broadcast live online at their web site <[www.be-blue.com](http://www.be-blue.com)>. “Stanborough Park is a beautiful, traditional Adventist church and it was a **good thing to see them working side by side** with the contemporary youth program at Blue,” says Mr Unser (pictured).

● Brisbane Adventist College’s weekly newsletter *BAC Chat* is now being **produced in Korean**. Pastor **Brian Je** translates each issue to help Korean parents and guardians of BAC students adjust to life in their new country.—*Focus*

● HIV/AIDS education was an important part of the **first Pan-African Pathfinder Camporee**. More than 6300 participated in the camporee in Nairobi Jamhuri Park, Nairobi, Kenya, from August 14 to 23. The theme chosen was “Hearts touching hearts,” with a hope emphasis. Medical professionals were invited to **educate on HIV/AIDS** and offered free testing for HIV/AIDS. Campers were urged to use **“conduct, not condoms”** as a preventive against the disease.—ANN

● The recent **SARS epidemic** may have had only a minimal effect on Taiwan, but **Adventist hospitals in the US** were able to **supply the church in Taiwan** with 14,000 isolation suits as well as thermometers and other items **during the crisis**. This has

## Adventist health impacts WA youth

The Adventist Health Association (AHA) in WA recently conducted the computerised Health Age Assessment in three state secondary schools.

A total of 744 students chose to take the assessment. Of those,



180 signed up for the *Health* correspondence course, three for the *Try Jesus* course, 171 ordered a free subscription to the *Sanitarium Good Food News* and there was one request for a *Search* video viewing.

There were opportunities to talk with a number of students who had alcohol-related problems.

The AHA has been invited to return to the largest high school later in the year, and conduct the Stress Profile Assessment for the teaching staff.

A new website has been launched at <<http://www.adventisthealth.net>> to provide health information for rural people.—*Beryl Carpenter*

revived the community-service program of the church, says Pastor **Robert Folkenberg, Jr**, president of the Taiwan Mission. The Taipei mayor, Ma Ying-jeou, has now invited the church to assist with a shelter for homeless people.—ANN

● The **first European conference of Seventh-day Adventist college and university librarians and archivists** took place in Friedensau, Germany, in early August. Twelve archivists and librarians met at Adventist Theological University. Among the goals of the group are more opportunities to **exchange resources online**, as well as more regular conferences on information sharing.—ANN

● For the second time in three years, **Jerusalem's Temple Mount is open to visits by non-Muslims**. The Wakf, the Muslim religious body that controls the mount, closed the site's gates to non-Muslims in 2000. The **renewed access** is the result of negotiations between Wakf and Israeli officials. Jerusalem Mayor **Uri Lupoliansky**, an ultra-Orthodox Jew, fears a Muslim backlash. **Ruediger Scholz**, pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension, voiced similar concerns: “We need to see the political implications, and whether they outweigh opening the site. If the situation worsens, then it wasn't worth it.”—*Crosswalk.com*

● More than 60 **teenage Eritrean students caught with Bibles** at a compulsory military training camp have been **arrested and tortured**. Military commanders at the Sawa Military Training Camp ordered a search of students' personal effects. On August 19 and 20, they confiscated Bibles from 35 Protestant students. This brings to 213 known evangelical Christians jailed for their faith in Eritrea since February.—*Crosswalk.com*

## Days and offerings

**October 11**—Spirit of Prophecy Day  
—ADRAcare Appeal  
Expense Offering

## Off the record

● **Avondale High School students**



recently met Australian swimming legend **Susie O'Neil** (pictured), who spoke at their assembly, telling of the highs and lows of being a top athlete. She encouraged the students to set goals and to be proud of their personal achievements.

● A long-time identity in the Cooranbong, NSW, and Avondale College area, Pastor **Ronald Rice**, was awarded the **Australian Service Medal** for his charitable work. Ill health kept him from the presentations in June, but the Federal Member for Charlton, **Kelly Hoare**, made a special presentation at the Charles Harrison Memorial Home (Cooranbong) on August 8. Pastor Rice and his wife, Alice (deceased), were founders of the Cooranbong Community Centre, which helps needy people in a variety of ways.

● Well-known **Adventist violinist Jaime Jorge** will be **visiting Australia** during September and October—including the South Queensland and North New South Wales Conference camps. His full itinerary can be found at <[www.jaimejorge.com](http://www.jaimejorge.com)>.

● While spending a year studying French for a year at the Saleve Adventist University, in France, **Travis Watters** of Toronto, NSW, gained the **top result** in university entrance exams. He now has the **opportunity to study at any French university**. The college is encouraging him to take up the offer in the hope that he may return to teach English.





# Search is on for missing pieces of Sanitarium's historical jigsaw puzzle

Central Coast, NSW

**M**ilan Hubbl once wrote: "The first step in liquidating a people is to erase its memory, destroy its books, its culture, its history. . . . Before long the nation will forget what it is, and what it was."

What is true of nations is also true of institutions. Destroy its history and before long everyone forgets what it is and what it represents.

"Sanitarium's history is a vital part of its culture and we take preserving our history very seriously," says David Woolley, corporate general manager for Sanitarium Health Food Company. "In recent times we have established a heritage centre on the Coorabong site. All the company's historical records, packaging, photographs, memorabilia are now stored in a specially air conditioned storage facility.

A team of volunteers come in each week and help catalogue the thousands of items stored in the heritage centre. Under the leadership of Warren Simmons, Barbara Were and Alan Fisher they are gradually recording all the important items of Sanitarium history.

Ray Masters and Derek Rigby are currently working on restoring the very first piece of equipment that was purchased by Sanitarium Health Food Company. The



*Sanitarium has established a heritage centre on its Coorabong site to preserve the institution's history. These cars pictured outside the Sanitarium factory at Longburn, New Zealand, evoke the memories of a bygone era that church members are asked to help piece back together with any Sanitarium memorabilia they might have from Australia or New Zealand.*

plan is to restore it to full working order.

"History is made up of many items," says Mr Woolley. "All these pieces together form a jigsaw puzzle of history. We have some missing pieces and we're hoping church members may be able to help us find them. It could be a photograph, an article, a Marmite jar, a Weet-Bix packet, a plate or spoon from a retail cafe or a Kwic Bru tin.

Sanitarium is interested in hearing from anyone who might have in their possession

some Sanitarium memorabilia they could put in their heritage centre at Coorabong.

Mr Woolley says, "We are anxious to preserve the company's history and have no pieces missing in the jigsaw puzzle."

*If you know where some items might be, or have anything in your possession that you would be happy to contribute to the heritage centre, please contact David Woolley at Locked Bag 7, Central Coast Mail Centre NSW 2252; or phone (02) 4348 7773. Sanitarium will arrange for any items to be transported to Coorabong.*

## Stewardship congress in PNG proves popular

Lae, PNG

**M**ore than 1300 Seventh-day Adventists attended a stewardship congress in Papua New Guinea, from July 20 to 27.

The delegates, including Justice Mark Sevua, a stewardship leader for the Adventist Church in Murray Barracks, Port Moresby, represented 80 per cent of the Adventist churches in the country.

The congress could be a first for the church in the South Pacific Division, says Dr Erika Puni, the stewardship director. "I couldn't think of a better country to host

the congress given that Papua New Guinea has the highest number of members of any of the church's unions in the South Pacific, given the growth of the church in the country and given the country's financial struggles."

Dr Puni joined Pastor Ben Maxson, the stewardship director for the General Conference, and others as a speaker at the congress.

The church will uplink the congress to satellite from October 18 to 24.—**Joseph Talipuan with Brenton Stacey**



*Justice Mark Sevua, pictured with his wife, is a stewardship leader for the Adventist Church in Murray Barracks, Port Moresby. He and 1300 other Adventists attended a stewardship congress in Papua New Guinea in July.*

# Faith and science discussed

*Glacier View, Colorado, USA*

Issues of religion and reason took centre stage at a recent conference that brought together Seventh-day Adventist theologians and science lecturers. This was the second in a series of three meetings that will culminate in a 2004 international conference.

The August 13-20 "Faith and Science Conference" was held at the Glacier View Ranch in Colorado. The conference allowed some of the church's best scientists and theologians to talk about contradictory evidence regarding the many facets surrounding Creation. Its goals were not to change the church's beliefs or draw up criteria to define orthodoxy, say church leaders.

It did, however, attempt to outline a process where serious and caring dialogue could take place so scholars could explore conflicting views of difficult issues raised by scientific data that

suggests there could be more than one interpretation. Among these are questions such as the age of the earth and whether the Noachic flood was truly "universal."

Personnel from the church's Geoscience Research Institute, based in Loma Linda, California—assisted by a planning committee of church leaders, scientists and theologians—coordinated the event, which primarily involved academics from North America. The event was preceded by an international conference last year in Utah, while another global session will take place in Colorado in 2004.

The 120 participants came from almost all Adventist colleges and universities in North America, as well as other universities.

Papers on preselected topics were presented to attendees. The topics ranged from the role of Christian education to inspiration and revelation through Scripture, as well as issues raised by geology, biology, physics and palaeontology.

Special focus was given to Creation, the age of the earth and the flood in Genesis. The role of Scripture and the writings of Ellen White in resolving the mysteries of the natural world was a key issue also under discussion.

Dr Lowell Cooper, a vice-president of the General Conference, said he felt the openness and cordiality demonstrated by attendees was due in part to the groundwork put in place at last year's conference.

One of the greatest contributions of the conference was "the genuine commitment [of the participants] to the church and basic trust in each other's integrity," said Linda Loma University religion professor Dr Ivan Blazen.

Dr Angel Manuel Rod-

riguez, director of the church's Biblical Research Institute, added, "I was impressed by the excellent spirit of cordiality that characterised the discussion, even during moments of significant disagreements, and by the commitment of the participants to our Lord and His church."

And Dr Larry Lichtenwalter, senior pastor of Village Adventist church in Berrien Springs, Michigan, said he was impressed with "the incredible ability of the biblical record to keep yanking us back to itself."

Similar conferences are being held this year in other parts of the world in preparation for next year's international conference.—*Larry R Evans/ANN staff*



*Some 120 attendees convened for discussions on faith and science in the US, and similar conferences are being held this year in other world church regions in anticipation of next year's international conference.*

## MEMBERS ARE THE KEY

Evangelism initiated by church members is more appropriate in the long term than evangelism initiated by ministers. This is according to Pastor Jerry Matthews, the president of the North New Zealand Conference.

"Ellen White said our church members, not our ministers, would finish the work," he says. "Church members, through their relationships with their non-Christian colleagues and friends, are on the cutting edge of ministry 365 days a year."

He uses the example of the Adventist church in Hastings, North New Zealand. "The 35 Adventists regularly attending there are—in conjunction with their minister—following up 50 members of the community who have shown an interest in our faith.

"The potential of evangelism initiated by



church members is huge. Having half-a-dozen members from the one church talking about their faith with their non-Christian friends is like having half-a-dozen ministers at that church. And if those friends decide to come to church, well, they already have a friend there."

Almost 150 Adventists (some are pictured) have attended training organised by the church in North New Zealand this year. "They've all given a week of their time," says Pastor Matthews. "A week of their time!"—*Brenton Stacey*

2004 is the Year of



# EVANGELISM

# Adventist employer practises what it preaches and offers health incentives

*Simi Valley, California, United States*

**W**ould you walk 1600 kilometres (1000 miles) for one day of paid vacation?

That's exactly what has been a lifestyle choice for more than 70 per cent of the employees of the Adventist Media Center (AMC) in suburban Los Angeles who are improving their health in a program that encourages walking during the workday and after hours.

So far, workers have racked up more than 30,000 kilometres.

The program began when AMC managers looked for ways to keep health-care costs under control. They formed their new wellness plan around principles stated in a number of reports from the US Government and other health-focused organisations.

The fast results impressed Bob Stotz, wellness coordinator for AMC. "We're so pleased to have more than 70 per cent of the media centre participating," he says.

This voluntary program is not limited to walking; other forms of exercise can easily be converted into miles. In addition, participants receive other incentives. Those who exercise during two daily break times receive an extra five minutes to finish their walks. Plus, every time an employee reaches 1000 miles, they receive one day of paid vacation. Tangible rewards like water bottles, pens, mini-flashlights, T-shirts, CD cases and stopwatches are also given at various exercise levels.

Mail-room employee Alberto Zavala feels that this program has made a huge difference in his life. "I used to get the flu every year, but now that I've started walking, I feel so good all the time," he says. "Walking keeps me healthy, and I'd recommend it to anyone."

Elsworth Hetke, human resources director, continues to closely monitor the centre's health-care usage. "The media centre has recently seen a significant drop in health-care utilisation," he says.

Ten employees log at least 85 miles each month, and many more are close behind. Since November, at least three people have lost more than 18 kilograms and almost all participants have experienced improvements in overall health.

Employees are invited to attend lunch-time "brown bag" seminars covering various health topics. Every wellness program participant is invited to receive free blood pressure, body composition and grip strength testing in the human resources department. These confidential tests offer an opportunity to encourage, teach and support important health changes.

Mr Stotz defines the purpose of this wellness program as establishing and maintaining a workplace that promotes environmental and social support for a healthful lifestyle. He says, "This not only improves employee health, but also reduces medical costs. It's a way to put into practice what we preach!"—**Michele Stotz/ANN**

## Small-group movement growing "in Spirit's time"

*(Continued from page 1)*

Four of the church's youth directors shared stories from their regions. Leaders and members of Underground small groups, notably from the Solomon Islands and from Tonga, also shared their stories via video.

Pastor Cangy and Pastor Murray Hunter, the speaker for REZ10, each presented a short but pointed message. Pastor Cangy also launched the fourth Underground workbook—*Faith at Work* follows on from *One Heart at a Time, No Turning Back* and *Power Unlimited*.

But Pastor Cangy admitted during the program that not all had gone to plan. "We thought the Underground would in six months leap into life. It hasn't. We're realising how easy it is to run a program compared with changing the culture of the

church and the lifestyle of our young adults. I call it destiny. The Underground is



**Miller Apusae (at left) shares stories from the Solomon Islands with Reload hosts Julene Duerksen (centre) and Andrew Robertson.**

taking on its own life. The Spirit is moving in His own time."

"The Underground is not just a program," says Irving Vagha, the youth director for the Eastern Solomon Islands

Mission. Mr Vagha featured on Reload in a report about the growth of the Underground in his region—300 young adults have been baptised since stepping up to the Underground, and each of the Adventist churches in the capital, Honiara, is home to an Underground group. "Programs finish and we eventually forget about them. The Underground is part of us."

"A growing adventure," is how Pastor Cangy describes the Underground. "The Underground is the major focus of senior youth ministry in the South Pacific. It's the safety net for all the big decisions young adults make at our memory events such as youth congresses, youth camps and youth rallies.—**Brenton Stacey with Nathan Brown**

Visit <http://youth.adventist.org.au> for more information about the Underground.

# Where two cultures meet

by Kellie Hancock

**P**astor Patrice Allet, president of the New Caledonia Mission (NCM), says he has always liked challenges. He enjoys finding the right strategies to reach the two very different groups of people in his territory.

"We have a French, secular, materialistic group living in Noumea that requires a secular approach," says Pastor Allet. "This has always been my passion—to find ways of reaching this group of people. It's a challenge to break the barriers, access them and share God with them."

On the other side of New Caledonia, the traditional religions of the Melanesian culture rule. The challenge here, according to Pastor Allet, is to encourage people to make a personal decision, as the culture has a tendency to decide for everybody.

Over the past year there has been a focus on training leadership.

"We wanted to get our pastors up to speed on the challenges of a changing world. Even the Melanesian areas are undergoing some evolution," he says. To assist them in their ministry and focus, the entire pastoral team from NCM attended the Dr Russell Burrill training program sponsored by the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference in New Zealand last year.

"Recently we conducted a spiritual retreat for the church elders and their families," reports Pastor Allet. The aim was to encourage them in their work, facilitate greater involvement, and empower their family members as "team players."

In an effort to increase ministerial staff, a new pre-seminary trial has been introduced within NCM. Arta Waheo was hired as a volunteer to work half-time in the office with the Youth Department and half-time at the Koumac church in the north of the island.

Pastor Allet says that Koumac church was a "dying church" with half-a-dozen elderly women attending. Things became

so busy there that Mr Waheo ended up working for the Koumac church full time.

"He's a very resourceful guy, who put his heart into the work," says Pastor Allet. "We've seen attendance grow from six to 30 people within five months."

Early in June a baptism of four men was conducted, which is significant for a church comprised mainly of women. According to Pastor Allet the church in Koumac now has a more balanced membership, which will attract more



people there in the future. An ecumenical choir has also been started there and this has helped the church link with people in the community.

Pastor Felix Wadrobot, general secretary for NCM, covers the Personal Ministries and Youth Ministries departments and is also the pastor for two churches. One of these, Bethany church, has been the fastest growing church in NCM.

"It is now getting too crowded," says

Pastor Allet, "so there are plans to plant a new church in that community."

"An exciting thing for New Caledonia during 2002 and 2003 has been a growth rate of some 7 per cent," he adds.

The Adventist Church in New Caledonia also receives positive media coverage. Recent events that have been reported in secular media sources include a prayer lunch, a Women's Ministries seminar, a contemporary worship program and a Vacation Bible School (VBS).

## Looking toward the future

There are three key focus areas in NCM at present:

- Satellite evangelism: three churches are being set up with equipment to make the most of these programs.

- Literature evangelism (LE): the NCM is the newest territory for an LE team. "The French culture is a reading culture," says Pastor Allet. "We're planning to tap into that market and hope that this ministry will give us an extra edge as a way of linking into the lives of people through books."

- Family life ministry: the church in New Caledonia aims to put the family back into the proper biblical perspective.

Pastor Allet says the members in New Caledonia are a faithful group of people in many areas, including tithing payments and being resourceful in making the most of the limited resources available to them.

New Caledonia is a small territory with a big challenge of two different cultures and mind-sets to reach.

"That's what I like about the place," says Pastor Allet. "It keeps me on my toes and on my knees." 

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*Kellie Hancock is the assistant editor of RECORD. This is another in a series of interviews with presidents in the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference.*



# Only a fisho knows

by Brad Watson

**T**his is awesome, I thought to myself as I cast out and watched the whole pilchard splash into the warm waters off Indian Head. The sun was setting behind a row of sand dunes, and the sky was filled with pastel colours. The 1300 kilometres of travel and the days of camping on wind-swept beaches suddenly seemed worthwhile.

I slowly wound in my bait, but it caught some hidden rock and snagged. The line pulled tight. Crack! It broke. I wound it in as quickly as possible, tied on a new gang of hooks and baited them.

A good-sized tailor was caught to my right. Now, conscious of fish caught on both sides, I hurriedly threw my line out. It snagged again. Suddenly the sunset didn't seem quite so soothing.

Further along the rocks three very wet fishermen were out-fishing everyone. In a matter of minutes they'd all hooked and landed good quality fish by casting into deeper water from rocks more exposed to the swell.

A wave drenched them from head to toe as I watched, and one of the men bled freely from a gash in his lower leg. Still, they were doing quite nicely and there seemed to be room for just one more, slightly shameless person beside them.

"Mind if I fish here?" I asked.

"Spot's taken," came the reply.

"What about over there?" I pointed at a relatively dry rock overlooking slightly shallower water.

"That's all right. . . ." He was interrupted by a solid hook-up and his rod curved suddenly downwards. No further encouragement was needed and I quickly assumed my new position and cast out.

"This is pitiful," I said aloud as I was snagged again. "What does a bloke have to do to catch a fish around here?"

Two snags and more internal grumbling later, I tied on my last set of hooks and



waited patiently for a better position. Finally a burly fisho with an obscenely full bag moved off and wished me luck.

This was my last chance!

As soon as the bait landed I was on. The rod buckled and curved and a good-sized tailor fought hard before flapping onto the rocks and into my empty fish net. Later, as the sun dipped below the horizon, and the water turned into a sea of pink and mauve, I hooked and landed a huge tailor—to the astonishment and envy of everyone watching.

The walk back to the car in fading light was a pleasure as I anticipated showing off my catch to the others.

Now back at camp, with the Fraser Island surf roaring outside our tent, I'm thinking about Jesus and wondering why He called a group of fishos to be fishers-of-people. He could have selected scholars or those of status, prominent in the business world and doctors of religion. At His fingertips were the beautiful, the rich and the famous. Surely the cause could have

been helped with the choice selection of a few sporting stars or popular entertainers.

Not so!

Jesus enlisted those more accustomed to mended nets and smelly boats than scholarly arguments or fine scrolls. He hand-picked disciples familiar with tide and wind, treacherous seas and dirty hands. They must have known the disappointment of lost gear and the elation of a big catch. Surely they knew what it was like to travel afar and return empty handed.


And they knew some things that all disciples must come to know at the heart of their being. Perhaps they had already begun to learn the basics that their Master would teach and preach by example.

You may get wet, get cut and lose gear. That's to be expected. As is getting dirty. Don't let snags discourage you. Persevere and be willing to try somewhere new. Know your fish and go to them—they're unlikely to come to you. Use fresh bait.

Importantly, you don't have to be a fish to catch one; you can be yourself in Him. Finally, get hooked daily on Jesus. Remember how good it felt to be caught in His grace.

Jesus calls all of us to be fishers-of-people. Not some Sunday specialist sporting a Kmart combo and packet of prawns. Not to feed a few pickers in the nearest patch of water or dangle a dollop of stale bait.

Jesus wants fishers so enthusiastic that they would drive a thousand kilometres and brave a troubled sea to risk the things they own, to spread the love He's shown. He wants a crew eager to catch their limit and go home with a grin from ear to ear.

When all is said and done, surely only a fisher-of-people knows the feeling! 

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*Brad Watson is the marketing/PR officer for Asian Aid. He writes from Wyee Point, NSW.*

# Spiritual dynamics at the end of time

by Graeme Loftus

The symbols in the book of Revelation often seem obscure to new readers, but there is a simple rule to follow in seeking to understand them. They are almost universally drawn from somewhere in the Old Testament or the life and ministry of Jesus.

Those studying the book need to ask themselves, “How did these symbols apply to God’s people in their original setting, and in what way is the prophet applying them to God’s people in the future?”

A study of Revelation chapters 8 and 9 confronts us with the symbolism of angels blowing trumpets. In the Old Testament, trumpets were a warning of imminent judgment. Our minds are drawn to the story of Joshua’s army marching around Jericho, blowing trumpets before them just prior to its fall (Joshua 6).

God instructed Israel to blow trumpets whenever they went into battle (Numbers 10:9). In the face of imminent judgment by the Babylonian armies, Joel called the people of God to “blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill” (Joel 2:1).\*

The most significant use of trumpets in the Old Testament, however, was the annual Feast of Trumpets held just before the Day of Atonement. The Day of Atonement portrayed God’s judgment on sin in a comprehensive sense, beginning with its judgment in the death of Christ (John 12:31) and concluding with its final disposition at the end of time (Revelation 20:11-15).

The Feast of Trumpets was a call to God’s people to prepare for that solemn time and that is almost certainly the main focus of Revelation 8 and 9. The last three trumpets are the most serious and they are heralded by an eagle flying in midair calling out in a loud voice: “Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhab-

itants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!” (Revelation 8:13). We should not ignore the time in the life of Jesus when he uttered similar woes over the Pharisees just prior to their judgment (Matthew 23).

The fifth and sixth trumpets portray a release of demonic forces right at the end of time (Revelation 9:1-11).

Using our principle of interpretation, the star that had fallen from the sky to the earth is obviously Satan (Isaiah 14:12; Luke 10:18; Revelation 12:7-9). The “Abyss” to which he is given a key is the place where demons are confined (Luke 8:31; Revelation 20:1-3). These demons are pictured here in the symbolism of locusts (Joel 2) and this is endorsed by the later statement that they had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is *Abaddon*, and in Greek, *Apollyon*, which means Destroyer.

Chapter 9 finishes: “The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshipping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts” (verses 20, 21). These verses serve to confirm a great manifestation of demonic activity at the end of time, and just prior to the end.

Revelation 9:4 enables us to place these events just before the return of Jesus. We are told that the demons were allowed to touch only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

## Only two camps possible

In the context of the progressive

structure of the book of Revelation, this is an allusion to the polarisation of people at the end of time into two camps—those having the mark of the beast on their foreheads (Revelation 13:16) and those having the seal of God on their foreheads (Revelation 14:1). Just as shepherds in the Old Testament would put differing marks of ownership on their livestock, these marks indicate to whom people have yielded ownership of their inner beings.

It is significant that in the New Testament the seal of God is described as the Holy Spirit as He authenticates a person’s surrender to Jesus and the gospel (see Ephesians 1:13, 14, and 2 Corinthians 1:22). It becomes increasingly obvious that what is being described in the trumpets is a struggle between two types of spirituality at the end of time—those filled with demonic spirits and those filled with the Holy Spirit.

What follows is a description of how God, under the power of the Holy Spirit, counteracts this fierce outbreak of demonism at the end of time. Revelation 10:1-11 and chapter 14 portray the final powerful proclamation of the gospel under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

The angel portrayed in chapter 10 has a rainbow above his head—a sign of God’s covenant with His people, indicating the subject of his preaching (Genesis 9:12, 13; Revelation 4:3). This is further confirmed by the term “the mystery of God,” which is applied in the New Testament to the gospel (see Ephesians 6:19; Romans 16:25, 26; 1 Timothy 3:16). This doesn’t mean that it is mysterious or hard to understand, but that it was kept hidden in people’s full understanding until it was revealed at the time of Jesus.

The angel stands on the sea and the land,

pointing to the universal scope of his proclamation. The expression “seven thunders” is an omen alluding to the coming judgment, and is taken from the similar experience in Christ’s life just before God’s judgment on sin in Jesus at the cross (John 12:28-30).

It becomes apparent that this final proclamation of the gospel is not actually done by an angel, but by Christians empowered by the Holy Spirit. They go through a similar experience to Ezekiel, who was asked to do a comparable job with Israel of old and found it sweet in his mouth but bitter in his stomach (Ezekiel 2:1-3:15).

They are further compared to Joshua and Zerubbabel, the two witnesses in Zechariah chapters 3 and 4 who were called to a similar task in the rebuilding of the Temple after Israel’s captivity in Babylon. The two olive trees and two lampstands underscore that the proclamation is done, “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty” (Zechariah 4:6).

The significant thing is that these Spirit-filled people will have power at that time to do similar signs and wonders to that of Elijah when he shut up the skies (1 Kings 17:1ff; James 5:17, 18) and Moses when he turned the waters into blood (Exodus 7:19).

**All are spirit filled**

Thus at the end of time, immediately prior to the return of our Lord, everyone will be spirit filled in one way or another, and both groups will be performing signs and miracles. The final verses in Revelation 11 give us the only way to determine which of these genuinely come from God and which are demonic in their origin.

Revelation 11:15-19 describe in vivid language the second coming of Jesus. At that time of judgment on those filled with demonic spirits we’re given a picture of the ark of the covenant containing the Ten Commandments—the standard of the

ones who keep the commandments of God and remain faithful to Jesus (Revelation 14:6, 7, 12). Obedience to the commandments of God becomes the outward indicator of a true inner experience with the Holy Spirit.

It is no coincidence that today we witness an unprecedented rise in demonic spiritual activity. The number of movies and television shows with these themes has exploded. Popular music groups dedicated to these themes proliferate. Covens and ritualistic sexual abuse are becoming quite blatant.

We should not wonder, therefore, that God calls Christians everywhere, Seventh-day Adventists in particular, to develop a more authentic spirituality and a closer relationship with the Holy Spirit as He makes Jesus more intimate to us. The propositional statements of our faith, which have for so long given us a sound doctrinal platform, no longer satisfy the needs of our heart when taken on their own. It is only fellowship with Jesus, made real to us by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, that fills that longing.

Nor should we remain ignorant or frightened of the gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit to empower us to proclaim the gospel in this time of history. For years the rational understanding of these gifts has lain dormant in the heart of our 27 fundamental beliefs. It is time now to ask the Holy Spirit to release them in all their fullness and not to pull back in fear. **R**

*\*All biblical quotations are from the New International Version.*

*Graeme Loftus is pastor of the Charlestown, NSW, church.*



judgment and a revelation of the heart of God.

Those who are truly filled with the Holy Spirit at the end of time will allow Him to write God’s law in their hearts and on their minds (Hebrews 10:15, 16). These are the

# The triumph of death

by Nathan Brown

In the prologue of Don DeLillo's epic novel *Underworld*, he describes in vibrant detail the scene at the baseball game between the then New York Giants and the Brooklyn Dodgers on October 3, 1951. Of particular interest are a number of small groups of people in various sections of the crowd. One of these groups includes then head of the FBI, J Edgar Hoover.

The game is won at the bottom of the ninth innings by what he calls "the shot heard around the world"—a pennant-winning home run by Bobby Thomson of the Giants. The crowd is jubilant.

Amid the detritus of the enthusiastic crowd, a page from a magazine floats down to Hoover. It is a reproduction of a painting—*The Triumph of Death* by 16th century artist Pieter Bruegel. Hoover is transfixed by the lurid details of armies of skeletons representing Death marching upon the living, killing and plundering with vivid and gruesome violence.

Hoover looks up and across the frenzied celebrating masses: "There is something apparitional in the moment and it chills and excites him."<sup>1</sup> What Hoover recognises in that moment is the triumph of Death played out before him—the spectre of death haunting our world and our individual lives.

It seems strange that death—as the antithesis of life—should be seemingly so much a part of our lives, even in the midst of apparent celebrations. Yet the death of loved ones, of those around us and, ultimately, the reality of our own deaths are common features of all our lives.

On a global level, it is estimated an average of 154,940 people die every day.<sup>2</sup> We're often bombarded with selected aspects of this figure to highlight a cause—for example, 40,000 children die each day from malnutrition and preventable childhood diseases or 6500 people die each day from AIDS—and these preventable figures


are markers of great tragedy but sometimes overlooked are the thousands of "ordinary" deaths. Every day tens of thousands of ordinary people simply come to the end of their lives and death is again triumphant. Even on our best days when not personally confronted by death, "death is like the rumble of distant thunder at a picnic."<sup>3</sup>

And so it is on the personal level. It is an almost unnameable terror that grips us in our most lucid and honest moments. We live, we love, we laugh, we dream, we hope and we believe in "the dark valley of death." The only uncertainty is when we will be one of those ordinary people who die.

Yet in this dark valley, almost overshadowed by our frailty and our fears, we are assured of Someone who walks with us and we are encouraged: "Even when I walk through the dark valley of death, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me."<sup>4</sup>

As overwhelming as the darkness of death might appear, there is One who has conquered death, a Voice that can summon us from death, a love that does not leave us even in death. "I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't.

... Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."<sup>5</sup>

The stark reality is, "Everyone dies. The important thing is to die well."<sup>6</sup> Perhaps the secret to dying well is, paradoxically, to be found in life—living in the love that promises to reach us still, even when our living is done. At times we look across our lives and our world and see the seemingly endless and exultant triumph of death. But when we recognise the love of God spilling even beyond the limits of our lives, we are witnesses to a yet more powerful and infinite reality. 

1. Don DeLillo, *Parko at the Wall: The Shot Heard Around the World*, Scribner, page 81.

2. World Health Organisation, *The World Health Report*, 2002.

3. W H Auden.

4. Psalm 23:4, NLT

5. Romans 8:38, 39, NLT.

6. From the movie, *Braveheart*.

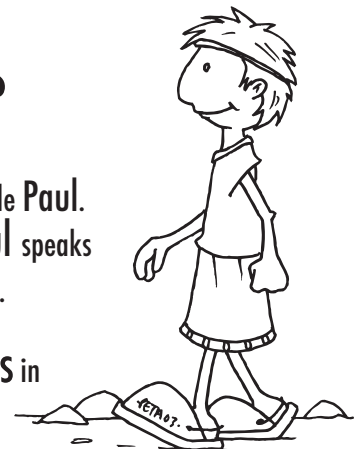
Nathan Brown writes from Townsville, Qld, where he is working on a PhD in literature.

Just for children

**Do you know...  
Epaphras?**

**Epaphras** was a friend of the Apostle Paul. He was a Christian minister whom Paul speaks highly of in his letter to the Colossians.

Read what Paul says about Epaphras in Colossians 1:6-8, 4:12, 13



Peta Taylor



## Selling our McSouls to Maccas

Glenda Menkens, Qld

While the continued expansion of Sanitarium's market opportunities is something to be applauded ("Sanitarium develops Vege Burger for McDonald's," August 9), there must come a point where there is business we as a church may not want. And perhaps Sanitarium's new arrangement with the McDonald's fast-food chain in Australia is it. It is arguable than no other single organisation has done more than McDonald's to destroy good eating habits around the world.

Added to this, McDonald's has led the way in the "casualisation" of employment, the demise of small businesses and local culture, the advertising exploitation of children, and the inordinate environmental impacts of the fast-food industry, as well as providing much of the rubbish in the park near you. Now that rubbish is emblazoned with Sanitarium's logo—and Sanitarium appears to be condoning the McDonaldisation of our communities. If Sanitarium weren't such a great company, I would be boycotting them too.

*Sanitarium provides McDonald's a vege burger patty and by doing so gives the broader community the opportunity to make a healthier choice when eating out. If McDonald's influenced the eating choices of people in the past (albeit not favourably) then they also have the ability to influence community perception and choice again.*

*We believe we can achieve much through*

*positive encouragement and influence. On this occasion we're working with McDonald's and hope to broaden community acceptance and perception of vegetarian and healthier eating choices. We believe we can achieve this by meeting the majority of the people where they are at. Let's be encouraging not critical, embracing not exclusive.—Julie Praestiiin, Corporate Communications Manager*

### Remuneration how?

Milton McFarlane, email

I was disappointed to read "Where's the money?" (Letters, August 16). Don't folk realise the church doesn't have the money

work for an employer as good as Sanitarium. Most employees in the grocery industry aren't "appreciated" and the attitude is, "If you don't like it, go away."

I've always been of the opinion that the sacrifices we make in working for God are better rewarded than any salary from non-Christian employers, and I've worked for both. Trust God and rewards will follow.

### From head to heart

Joseph Maticic, Albania

After re-reading Greg Moore's "What are your life values?" (August 2) I was struck with the importance of what he was

**If Sanitarium weren't such a great company, I would be boycotting them too.**

to pay big wages? I joined the church work to win souls for the kingdom, not to become wealthy. I was enriched in experiences and in helping people less fortunate. But now, in retirement, I own my home and everything in it, and don't owe a cent to anyone. God has richly blessed us.

Kevin Rappell, Tas

Money doesn't necessarily "buy" the best employees. Rather, the greatest and happiest employees are those working for their love of the company. Daily I meet representatives paid as much or more than me, but who would give it up to be paid less to

saying—that a *belief* is not always a *value*. It's a distinction we need to understand. Seventh-day Adventist Christians have great beliefs—the gospel, the Sabbath and the Second Coming—but often they fail to translate into values that affect how we live.

Take, for instance, the belief that God cares for us and is in control: When we experience hardship, our faith wavers and we turn to *our* means to rectify the situation. Or we say we *believe* Jesus loves everybody and showed it by dying on the cross, yet we will act toward others in an un-Christlike way. The beliefs are good, but are they values in our lives? Every person has values. The question is: Do our values consistently match with our beliefs?

### Online thanks

Maurice Clark, USA

Thank you for making RECORD available online (<www.record.net.au>). As someone living in the US for two years, I'd missed my regular Sabbath-afternoon read—until I discovered this facility. It's wonderful to be back in touch with Oz.

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



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**Back to Wairoonga.** Wairoonga Seventh-day Adventist church 100th anniversary. Friday evening, September 26 and Sabbath, September 27, 2003. Past members, pastors and friends are invited to celebrate a centenary of worship at Wairoonga, featuring guest speaker Pastor John Carter. For further information, please phone (02) 9487 1374; contact Lloyd Grolimund on <lrolimund@kooee.com.au> or visit <www.WairoongaSDA.com.au>.

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**Rotorua SDA Primary School (NNZ)** are celebrating their 50th reunion on September 18 and 20, 2003. All past students, staff and friends are invited. Contact the Principal at Rotorua +64 7 348 4689.

**Finally**

Optimism is a cheerful frame of mind that enables a tea kettle to sing though in hot water up to its neck.

convention  
2003

come up to the mountain

"We will look into the mountains of God where the Spirit of God alights and comes down through the fastnesses to walk in the cool of the evening with men and to be with their God."

Robert DeLouth

**Adventist  
Alpine Village  
Jindabyne NSW**

**December 30  
to January 4**

For application phone  
Jan Bolst 02 9847 3306

