

RECORD



Leighton Heise (fourth from right) and other worship leaders and band from Australia worship with 1300 young people from 70 countries at the world youth conference in Thailand.

World youth impact Thailand

Bangkok, Thailand

And you thought you came here for a nice vacation, to visit a new country, to hang out with your friends," said Pastor José Rojas with a chuckle, addressing the more than 1300 delegates on the opening night of the World Conference on Youth and Community Service: Impact 10/40, held in Bangkok, Thailand, December 30 to January 3. Pastor Rojas, director of Volunteer Ministries for the North American Division, was the principal speaker for the event.

The conference was the first international youth conference organised by the Adventist Church and attracted young people from more than 70 countries.

Before arriving at the conference, most participants were involved in one of about 30 service projects across Thailand. According to Pastor Gilbert Cangy, director of Youth Ministries for the South Pacific Division, this was an integral part of planning this event.

"What sparked the imagination of all the leaders was the notion that the conference would be located in a part of the world where there is hardly any Christian presence and that the whole exercise would be driven by service and evangelism," he recalls. "Thailand was seen as a place that would provide a great opportunity to make a difference for God."

Pastor Cangy reports that young people from around the world—including 170 young people from the South Pacific Division—were involved in a variety of service activities.

(Continued on page 5)

In this issue

Lives changed in PNG meetings

Adventist mother forgives murderer

Ellen White for today



Statistics that count

An Ellen White reality check

This week's RECORD begins a series of four articles entitled "Ellen White for today." These articles coincide with a summit at Avondale College, which ran this past week, about the church's understanding and application of Ellen White's writings.

This is a series of interviews or, more correctly, conversations with Dr Arthur Patrick. A respected church historian within and outside the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Dr Patrick has served in a variety of capacities within the church, including: pastor-evangelist; chaplain; theology lecturer and, importantly, the director of the Ellen G White/Seventh-day Adventist Research Centre.

As you will discover, he has confidence in the God-given inspiration and leading in the ministry of Ellen White.

We asked him to speak with RECORD because Ellen White's ministry is coming under sustained attack, particularly on the Internet. Yet many of these attacks are based on information that has been researched and known within the Adventist Church for some time. Unfortunately, the more recent research into the life and writings of Ellen White and the discussion surrounding her ministry has tended to be available only in a limited way. That has made it difficult for church members to respond to the sometimes malicious attacks being made.

Often these attacks are based on correct information, but draw conclusions that give little consideration for both the historical context and a mature understanding of prophetic ministry.

The conversations with Dr Patrick are an attempt to look at the findings that have come to light in the past 30 years, and the challenges they raise for what could be

called the traditional understanding of Ellen White's special role within the Adventist Church. The evidence is clear: we have to understand Ellen White differently from the way we have in the past.

For instance, it is now well documented that she, at times, used historical sources that included factual errors in *The Great Controversy*. She was not guided to correct those facts. But that admission must be followed by asking about her purpose. She did not intend to write history, but to "unfold the scenes of the great controversy between truth and error" (*The Great Controversy*, page xii). Having in mind the overall picture she had of this controversy, she then used the best Protestant sources available to her, including their now-known factual errors.

For those who have not kept abreast of research into the writings of Ellen White, that last paragraph may prove difficult. Errors of fact in inspired writings? Can that be? While we, as a church, take the position that inspired writings are not inerrant (that is, without error),* there has always been the suspicion that God would somehow protect His writers from even the simplest mistakes.

This has tended, perhaps, to be the unspoken understanding of Ellen White's writings. We now need to face the reality that this is not so.

With Ellen White two extremes are to be avoided. The first takes such a high view of her inspiration that it is unrealistic, unworkable and unbiblical. The temptation here is to view her like a pope or to proclaim her Saint Ellen. The second takes a low view of her ministry and suggests she was unethical, underhanded and unworthy of consideration. The temptation is to say her writings have no more value than a

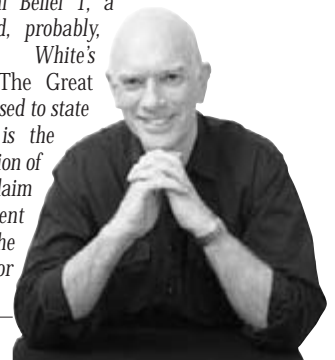
thousand others.

The conversations beginning in today's RECORD are an attempt to look at some of these issues in a way that remains true to Ellen White's own intention for her writings. No attempt has been made to answer every question being asked, but the principles involved should be helpful. Also helpful for those who want more information is the Ellen G White/Seventh-day Adventist Research Centre at Avondale College. You will find contact details with each of the four conversations. Their help is free.

Before publishing these conversations, they were submitted to a broad range of people at various levels within the church. The counsel we received has proved very helpful, as was the desire that this information should be published. However, we understand that this topic will prove difficult for some, and a few may even see it as another attack on Ellen White's ministry.

Even so, it is a topic that must be addressed openly and sensitively. This is something we have attempted to do. What encourages me is that in attempting to present Ellen White for today, we seem to be moving closer toward the role and purpose she envisaged for herself.

**In Fundamental Belief 1, a phrase borrowed, probably, from Ellen White's introduction to The Great Controversy is used to state that the Bible is the "infallible revelation of His will." This claim is quite different from saying the Bible is infallible or inerrant.*



Bruce Manners



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

Vol 109 No 4
Cover: Gilbert Cangy

Editor Bruce Manners
Editor-elect Nathan Brown
Senior assistant editor Lee Dunstan
Assistant editor Kellie Hancock
Copyeditor Graeme Brown
Editorial secretary Meryl McDonald-Gough
Layout Peta Taylor
SPD news correspondent Brenton Stacey
Senior consulting editor Barry Oliver
Web site www.record.net.au

Mail: Signs Publishing Company
3485 Warburton Highway
Warburton, Vic 3799, Australia
Phone: (03) 5966 9111 **Fax:** (03) 5966 9019
Email Letters: editor@signspublishing.com.au
Email Newsfront: record@signspublishing.com.au
Email Noticeboard: editorsec@signspublishing.com.au
Subscriptions: South Pacific Division mailed within
Australia and to New Zealand, SA43.80 NZ\$73.00.
Other prices on application. Printed weekly.

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

- Videos impact isolated communities • New youth choir in SA • More broom in Broome
- Stanmore church celebrates • First Adventist in Cook Islands to receive MBE • and more

—Compiled by Kellie Hancock—

● The **K175,000** the South Pacific Division will give to help rebuild the **New Britain New Ireland Mission office** (announced in RECORD, December 13, 2003) will cover only the cost of **purchasing the land**. The new office will be located in Kokopo.

● The *Search* videos are having an impact in **isolated parts of Australia** with one couple in far **northern WA** becoming interested in Bible correspondence courses after watching the *Search*. A woman in an isolated part of the **Northern Australian Conference** has gone on to complete the *Focus on Prophecy* correspondence course. "I've really been blessed by the videos you've sent," she writes. "They have opened my eyes and have helped me **understand God's Word** a lot better."

● A **new youth choir** has been formed in South Australia. The 50-member group is led by **Nesa Tuaoi**. It was established to



"encourage **m o r e i n v o l v e m e n t** and fellowship among the **y o u n g** people at a

conference level," says South Australian Conference president Pastor **Garry Hodgkin**.—Link

● **Ulverstone's (Tas) ADRAcare Bargain Centre** opened as planned on Thursday, November 6—just. **Marg Kent** reports that

New life for old mission boat



After seven months of work, retired engineer Cyril Vavozo has rebuilt and repaired the last of the church's 45-foot (14-metre) mission boats built after World War II.

The *Varivato* is pictured undergoing sea trials off the Solomon Islands.

Mr Vavozo replaced several ribs and other timber work. The hull has been recoppered and a rebuilt Gardner engine installed.

"This is a great credit to him," says Geoff Harrington, a supporter from Dundas, NSW. "It made a big impression on the government marine surveyors who recently checked out the work."

Mr Vavozo thanks church members in Australia who sent parts and funds for upgrading the boat.

"The future of this veteran mission vessel is in the hands of the Lord," says Mr Harrington. "Let's keep praying for the work in the islands of the seas."—Bruce Manners

there was so much to do before the opening that it seemed impossible that it could happen. But they were ready on time and, "We had a fantastic day, **so much encouragement** and well wishes from the public, and our takings for day one were beyond all expectation (not far off \$A900). The Lord is blessing us day by day."—Tasda News

● The **Broome, WA**, church and Adventist Development and Relief Agency have



joined with local community sponsors in providing a **vehicle for driver training** (pictured). A team of volunteers will use the car to assist **disadvantaged youth** in gaining driving experience in order to attain the "logbook" phase of their

licensing.—Newswest

● The **Stanmore church** in Sydney, NSW, hosted a double celebration on November 8, recognising Stanmore's **105th anniversary** and 150 years of Sabbath school. Built in 1898, Stanmore is **one of Sydney's oldest Adventist churches**.

The day of celebration climaxed with a sacred concert, featuring



musical talent from across Sydney. In closing, church minister Pastor **Shane Roberts** thanked God for the blessings experienced at Stanmore church.

● **Kiribati and Rabi** community members in Fiji joined with **Fulton College** for a baptism of six people from their islands. Pictured



with the candidates is college principal Pastor **Murray Chapman** (at left) and Pastor **Talatala Naibo**, minister of the Mount Olive church, Suva, where the group now has their membership.

● *La Voix de l'Esperance*—the **Voice of Hope radio broadcaster** in French Polynesia—celebrated its third birthday on December 18, 2003. A public survey reveals that up to **70 per cent of Tahitians** tune in to the broadcasts, which include spiritual, music, news and health programming in both French and Tahitian.

● **Poverty alleviation projects** for the Shipibo communities of Ucayali, Peru, one for women in Nepal, and a project to reduce the incidence of tuberculosis in the Karaganda and East Kazakhstan Provinces of the Republic of Kazakhstan were recently **granted funding** by the European Commission to the United Kingdom unit of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). The European Commission pledged a total of \$US2,925,252 for

the projects. ADRA-UK will expand its work force this year in order to manage the new projects.—ANN

● **Lightning killed one Seventh-day Adventist Church member** in Lusaka's Chaisa Township, Zambia, and injured several others on December 27, according to Pastor **Pardon Mwansa**, president of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. **Black Smith Phiri** was struck dead by lightning while other church members were admitted to a university hospital in Lusaka with burns. Worshippers were meeting at the Eklezia Assemblies of God church building after their building collapsed days earlier.—ANN

● A network of **conservative Episcopal dioceses and congregations** in the United States is **hoping to realign itself** with the worldwide **Anglican communion** without separating from the Episcopal Church. The Episcopal Church USA's ordination of an openly homosexual bishop has led to the formation of the Network of Anglican Communion Dioceses and Parishes. Pittsburgh bishop **Bob Duncan**, the Network's moderator, says the Network will adopt a theological statement that is "thoroughly biblical and thoroughly recognisable by our Christian brothers and sisters."—*Crosswalk.com*

● An **Egyptian Christian** was **killed** during recent clashes with the Egyptian Army at a Christian centre for orphans and mentally and physically handicapped children outside Cairo. This is the ninth time that the Patmos Christian Center has been attacked by the army during the past six-and-a-half years. The current dispute apparently centres on the wall on the compound, which does not conform to a building code passed in January 2003, but Christians argue that the trouble **stems from anti-Christian sentiments**.—*Crosswalk.com*

Days and offerings

February 21—United in the Warmth of Fellowship Emphasis Day

Off the record

● The **first Aboriginal elders** to receive a **diploma in Indigenous Ministries** from Mamarapha College, WA, graduated in December with four other students. **June Grogan** (pictured left) and **Val Green** are elders of the Kuranda community in northern Queensland and active members of the Kuranda church.—*Judy Enoch*



● In what could be a first for **Fulton College**, Fiji, **Kirata Kaitarawa** (pictured) has attended for the past 15 years. He commenced from Year 1 in the Fulton College Primary School, finishing in Year 8. He completed his three senior years at Fulton College and then his three-year Diploma in Primary Education, graduating in 2002. Last year he completed his **Bachelor of Primary Education**. He plans to serve on the teaching staff at the **Funafuti SDA Primary School**, Tuvalu, during 2004.—*June Hamilton*



● Port Macquarie church member **Ora Johnson** (pictured) has held the position of **church organist since 1944** when she was 18 years old. The church had a pedal-pump organ until about 1960. "That was hard work," she recalls, "until a church member installed a vacuum cleaner under the church floor-boards directly beneath the organ. I didn't have to pump the pedals then, but **every time the congregation wanted to sing, we had to turn on the vacuum cleaner!**"—*Bob Donaldson*



Adventist policeman awarded MBE

Teava Iro is the first Adventist in the Cook Islands to be awarded an MBE. Mr Iro (pictured left, with his wife, Norma, and Pastor Uma Katu, president of the Cook Islands Mission) was officially presented with the medal for 39 years of outstanding service in the police force.

During his time in the force Mr Iro served under 11 police chiefs and he says one of the highlights of his career was being bodyguard to Sir Thomas Davis (then Prime Minister) as he visited Papua New Guinea in 1986.

Mr Iro says that his best personal highlight, however,

was being baptised on October 11 that same year. His wife, Norma, had been a witness to her faith (being the daughter of an Adventist minister, Pastor Joseph Vati) for all their years of marriage, and after Bible studies followed through with his commitment.

After becoming an Adventist, Mr Iro went to the Commissioner of Police and shared his convictions and of his desire to have Sabbaths free. The Commissioner had trained under him and said he could hardly refuse.

Mr Iro's challenge is that we all live out our convictions for Jesus and be faithful in our witness for Him.—*Kendell Cobbin*



Kendell Cobbin

World youth impact Thailand

(Continued from page 1)

“Young people contributed to building houses, churches, sporting facilities; they worked in refugee camps, orphanages and conservation projects,” Pastor Cangy explains. “But most importantly they built meaningful relationships with very different people and had the privilege of being Jesus to them.

“The transition from the service project phase to the conference was marked by a party thrown by the Governor of Bangkok for all those who had been involved,” reports Pastor Cangy. “All the dignitaries, the military, the government ministers gathered in the gardens of the city hall with 500 Adventist young people for a time of formal speeches of thanksgiving.

“The young people were then treated to a free visit to the palace, followed by a river cruise for lunch. Congress started the next

day. The atmosphere was set. Generally it takes a couple of days to establish the atmosphere as young people check each other out, but the atmosphere in Bangkok was electric from the beginning.”

Many lives were changed, says Pastor Cangy. “The young people who were a part of this event will definitely have a greater appreciation of the church’s presence in the world, a deeper passion for God and a desire to take on service as a way of life.”

“‘Many hands, one mission’ was the theme of the event,” adds Liliana Henao, reporter for Adventist News Network. “And the many hands present in Bangkok are ready to do it all again in 2008. At the conclusion of the congress youth leaders from around the world voted to hold this event every five years in a country within the so-called ‘10/40 window.’”—**Nathan Brown with John Banks/ANN**



Gilbert Cangy

Dr Baraka Muganda (right), director of Youth Ministries for the General Conference, meets the Governor of Bangkok at the celebration of the service projects as a part of the World Conference on Youth and Community Service.

Adventist screenwriter reaches out in Australia

Adventist screenwriter Christoph Silber sees his mission as reaching out to millions of people through his art—writing for movies. With the Australian release of the German film *Goodbye Lenin!* Mr Silber’s art can now impact new audiences.

Mr Silber is active in his Berlin church in Germany and says he draws strength from it. But he says being a Christian in the film industry is not difficult.

“For me it works well because I know that I’m always a Christian. I can’t take off my Christian coat and put on my film-writer coat,” he comments. “So I just go with God as much as I can. Sometimes I fail, of course, but my ideal in life is to follow God and to walk with him in everything I do.”

Joining the *Goodbye Lenin!* project near the end of pre-production, Mr Silber tried to strengthen one of the film’s most important messages.

“It’s basically the story of a broken family,” he reports, “and this boy finds out he needs peace. He wants to make peace in his own life and also he has to make peace for his family, which was split pretty early because of history.”

Goodbye Lenin! has been well received by critics, met with box-office success across Europe and won six top prizes at the European film awards in December 2003.

Goodbye Lenin! has been showing in selected art-house cinemas since

December 26 but is due to be released more broadly in Australia on February 5.—**Nathan Brown with Julio C Muñoz/ANN**



An Adventist screenwriter tried to strengthen the message of peace and family in the movie *Goodbye Lenin!*

Second chance for tertiary student placement

Private tertiary institutions such as Avondale College in Cooranbong, NSW, offer a ray of hope to the thousands of students who missed out on university places in January.

“Young people should not worry that it’s all over if they haven’t secured the university place they were hoping for,” says Glenn Roberts, marketing director for Avondale. “There are plenty of study programs available outside mainstream universities that will give them an excellent start to their careers.”

Avondale College offers a range of tertiary degree courses and diploma courses that provide a viable alternative to students unable to find a place in mainstream universities.—**Heather Potter**



Glenn Roberts.

For more information phone 1800 804 324 (Australia) or +61 2 4980 2277 (international) or email <enquiries@avondale.edu.au>.

Engineer designed to build God's kingdom

Auckland, NNZ

An engineer who accepted the call of God to ministry while on his knees in a paddock was ordained in the North Harbour church, Auckland, NNZ, on November 29.



Pastor Russell and Christia Willcocks.

Pastor Russell Willcocks grew up in Stanthorpe, Qld, and began a civil engineering degree while working for a construction and engineering company in Warwick.

After four years he attended university full time for two years and completed his engineering degree, with honours.

He then worked and was active in the Coffs Harbour, NSW, church. On a Sabbath afternoon, alone in a paddock, he accepted his calling.

"It was unmistakable," he says. "I accepted it on an agreement with God that He would show me when it was time to leave my engineering career to study at Avondale.

"On the Monday my employer called me

and the other graduate engineer in to tell us there was not enough work and asked us both to accept part-time work until it picked up again. That was a week before Avondale [College] started for the year.

"I was accepted into Avondale on Wednesday, handed in my resignation on Thursday and started learning [New Testament] Greek the following Monday. And the other engineer had a full-time job."

On graduating from the two-year Graduate Diploma in Theology course in 1998, he worked as an associate minister at Papatoetoe church in Auckland for two years before assuming his current position as pastor of the North Harbour church.

"That coincided with my marriage to my lovely wife Christia [nee Chryssafis]. We remain passionate for the kingdom of God. We love our church and feel privileged to serve here."

They have a seven-month-old son, Colin.

The presidents of the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference, Pastor Allan Walshe, and the North New Zealand Conference, Pastor Jerry Matthews, officiated at the service.—**Bruce Manners**

Adventist mother forgives murderer

Koror, Palau

The state funeral of three Seventh-day Adventists murdered in their home just before Christmas (Flashpoint, January 31), united two mothers in grief and in prayer in Palau on December 28.

Pastor Ruimar DePaiva, his wife, Margareth, and their 11-year-old son, Larrison, were killed by 43-year-old Justin Hiroso, who was under the influence of crystal methamphetamine.

At the Palau funeral, Ruimar DePaiva's mother, Ruth, surprised the 400-plus worshippers by offering forgiveness and asking the mother of the accused killer to join her in prayer.

"Here we are, two mothers," she said later. "I'm sure the mother of Justin has prayed so many times for her son, and I'm sure her heart hurts terribly. I just want to let her know we'll be praying for her and Justin."

According to the Republic of Palau president, Tommy Remengesau, who attended the funeral, her ability to forgive allowed the entire nation to begin a healing process. He said the crimes were "heinous" and had never occurred in the country before.—**ANN**

Young Citizen of the Year's art exhibited in statewide tour

Charlestown, NSW

Inspired by experiences with Aboriginal communities in northern NSW, Jonathan Otto could not use words to describe his feelings—they were too limiting.

The realisation of those feelings is now part of the ArtExpress Tour, a statewide exhibition of visual arts projects from Year 12 students.

"I was stoked when they told me that my work had been chosen," says Mr Otto, a member of the Charlestown church, NSW. "It's been a dream of mine since I began making art at school."

Mr Otto's artwork, entitled "Karl-Maliyaa (Friend)," depicts a smiling Aboriginal child giving a thumbs-up gesture. He used a number of mediums, dividing the artwork



Jonathan Otto is pictured with a piece from his Year 10 portfolio.

into eight equal panels forming the shape of a child. The piece symbolises optimism amid detachment.

Mr Otto has twice visited Walgett with a STORM Co team of youths from Adventist churches in Newcastle. A STORM Co team has visited Walgett every six months since July 1999.

"It's a divine form of giving," says Mr Otto. "STORM Co is all about self-sacrifice for others. It taught me how to connect with all sorts of people in the community."

Mr Otto received the Lake Macquarie City Council Young Citizen of the Year Award on January 17 after being nominated by his Warner's Bay High School principal.

Mr Otto did not see his artwork on display when it opened—he left for Tanzania, Africa, joining 11 other World Vision ambassadors for a study tour. He is taking his SLR and video cameras along with a hope that he will be inspired to create more artworks of a similar nature.—

Adam Sparke

"Karl-Maliyaa (Friend)" is on display in the windows of David Jones, Elizabeth Street, Sydney, NSW.

Lives changed in PNG meetings

Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea

A man who had grown and sold marijuana for 10 years in the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea has surrendered to the police after attending an evangelistic crusade.

Thomas Terepo, aged 24, surrendered after uprooting all his plants, promising that he would not turn to drugs again. His reward was freedom from prosecution.

He was among 25,000 people who attended the campaign, according to the *Highlands Post*. On November 1 last year, 580 were baptised.

Pastor Garry Kent from the Greater Sydney Conference was the main presenter, assisted by Melbourne businessman John Jeremic, who acted as crusade manager. Pastor Kent's father, Pastor Ray Kent, assisted him in running training workshops in personal and public evangelism.

"The spiritual effects of these meetings really took the attention of the crowd," says Pastor Benjamin Hap, president of the Western Highlands Mission (WHM), "despite heavy rainfall over a couple of nights. God's life-giving Word rained



Pictured during the Amazing Discoveries evangelistic campaign are (left to right): Pastor Ray and Jean Kent, Pastor Garry Kent, and John and Shirley Jeremic.

heavily into their hearts."

Mr Terepo was one of those who "surrendered fully to Jesus as the result of the two-week evangelistic crusade," reports Pastor Joel Markao, communication director for WHM. "This has been one of the highlights and has brought a lot of impact and blessing to the church and people of Papua New Guinea."

Mr Jeremic also instructed Adventist businesspeople and challenged them to be role models in helping to accomplish

mission projects. They acknowledged themselves as part of the Advent movement and made commitments totalling K130,000 toward the proposed WHM office complex.

He and Pastor Garry Kent were also involved in several church dedications and provided financial assistance for incomplete churches.

"The long-term impact is one that will strengthen the church in this mission," says Pastor Hap. "The Adventist Church is well known in Mount Hagen city and abroad. Our biggest problem is church space. After the first Sabbath of the crusade, city churches were full to capacity as new interests flocked in."

Pastor Markao says he is thankful for Mr Jeremic's financial support for the campaign.

"I'm proud to be a part of a sharing, loving and moving church," he says. "God's church depends on willing, generous and committed men and women as agents to finish the work before Jesus comes. It's a joy to see hundreds of people giving their lives to Jesus every night."—Bruce Manners

Goldie Down: Her last story

Mount Colah, NSW

The death of Goldie Down on December 19, 2003, ended a writing career that included 23 books and hundreds of articles in Adventist magazines. Her writing had made her known and appreciated by thousands of Adventists around the world.

Born in 1918 at Ashfield, NSW, she struggled with bronchiectasis (a lung complaint) from childhood. The coughing this brought on every day often exhausted her, but did not prevent her from having an active life.

In 1946 she married Pastor David Down, and they worked as a ministry team in New Zealand, India and Australia. Her writing career developed in India after they moved there in 1953. She wrote about

people she met and gave most of the royalties from her books to the needy people she wrote about.

She assisted her husband with his evangelistic meetings by giving health lectures, cooking demonstrations and operating the projector. She home-schooled their six children to the end of secondary school.

For seven months in 1958 the family travelled by road from India through the Bible lands to England. On the journey she wrote *21,000 Miles of Adventure*, written on-site with a typewriter on her knees.

Back in Australia in 1973, she enlisted as a volunteer at the Sydney Adventist Hospital, where she worked for 20 years. She taught creative writing at night school and wrote *No Secret Formula*, a book on writing that was used as a textbook in



Dr Moyes, Goldie Down and Premier Carr.

Australian government schools.

One of her most recent works was the autobiography of Dr Gordon Moyes, the superintendent of Sydney's Wesley Mission, which was launched by the premier of New South Wales, Bob Carr.

Her life was well lived and her confidence remained in her Saviour. A personal miracle in her life was her survival some 30 years more than doctors predicted. An obituary notice appeared in last week's RECORD.—Bruce Manners

Statistics that count

by Mark Ryan

Most people think of statistics as boring, mold information—the emphasis being on boring and old. And, on the face of it, most people are right. Statistics, in the bright light of day, can be boring.

But, if you dig just a little deeper, look a little harder and think a little longer, you'll see that statistics can even be fun.

For instance, I've just downloaded from our church's official web site data for 2002, the latest available (see "The Adventist Church, 2002" box).

So, what's so interesting about this information? Well, start with a few comparisons and move on from there. Notice:

- There are more Sabbath schools than churches and companies put together—4793 more to be exact. My conclusion? People are running branch Sabbath schools outside the normal church program. We can only presume these are conducted by church members, because there aren't enough ministers to go around.

- There are about 4,000,000 more Sabbath school members than church members. This has to be unbaptised church children and youth and extra non-church members. Sabbath schools are bringing non-church members to Jesus.



This is exciting!

- There are more companies than churches. I'd suggest that companies are forming quicker and in greater numbers than we can turn them into organised churches. What a wonderful problem to have. Growth beyond our means!

- On average, our ministers care for 5.5 churches or companies and 637 church members. That's an amazingly high ratio per minister. Our church growth comes not only from our ministry but from elsewhere, including the influence of the Holy Spirit. The probability is that church members are doing more than we give them credit for.

- Now our schools, and what an awesome picture this paints. We have more than 1,000,000 students enrolled in our schools worldwide. That's the population of Auckland, New Zealand! Imagine the whole of Auckland being taught Christian principles and values through our school system. And, if you're a church school teacher, more power to you for taking part in this amazing ministry.

- We have an average of almost 190 students per school. Most Adventist schools in Australia and New Zealand are below that average, so there must be some schools with huge numbers of students.

There are many more conclusions we could draw from all this data, but I think you get the picture. Statistics are fun when we can look behind the numbers and catch a glimpse of what they're telling us—in this case, what our global church family looks like.

My conclusion is that the Adventist Church is a vibrant, growing, relevant organisation. I see it driven by a focused mission and the will to serve its community. It's growing in some areas at such a pace that the organisational structure can't keep up.

And our church has needs we ought to be more aware of. They include the need for more ministers, the need for more schools in some areas and the need to recognise the church members' role in church growth. These are symptoms of a vibrant, growing organisation striving to meet its mission to the world.

The question remains, where do you (and I) fit in and what are you (and I) doing to improve the growth of our church? The ball, as they say, is in our court! 🏀

Mark Ryan is an elder in the Royal Oak church, Auckland, NNZ.

The Adventist Church, 2002

World membership	12,894,005
Field ministers and evangelists	20,231
Churches	53,502
Companies	58,775
Sabbath school membership	16,811,519
Sabbath schools	117,020
Number of schools (all levels)	5,605
Enrolments (all schools)	1,056,349
Sabbath school mission offerings	\$US44,554,258
Ingathering (ADRA Appeal)	\$US8,705,294

Source: <www.adventist.org>.

Ellen White for today—1

by Bruce Manners with Arthur Patrick

Ellen White was born on a wintry day in Maine (USA) during 1827 and died in sunny California during 1915. She visited Europe for two years, Australia and New Zealand for nine, and spent more than 50 years travelling and preaching in the United States. Well over 100 books authored by her or compiled from her writings are currently available from Adventist Book Centres.

Ellen White played a crucial role in the early development of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Without her Spirit-filled leadership the church may not have survived its early years.

Through her writings she still has a powerful influence. The church officially recognises that she had the biblical gift of prophecy. This in itself raises questions about her writings. For instance: Where do they fit in relation to the Bible? What authority do they have? How do we interpret them in the light of their historical and cultural context?

Ellen White is currently under vigorous attack. A wide variety of web sites and some video productions claim such things as: Ellen White was a plagiarist and a liar who knowingly misled people; she did not follow her own counsel; and she changed her position on vital teachings or contradicted herself.

Some of these charges go back to the 19th century, but other attacks are based on information that has come to light in the past 30 years. In this series of conversations Dr Arthur Patrick talks about recent findings and how they relate to Ellen White's ministry and her role in the church today.

Dr Patrick is a historian and researcher who has focused particularly on the work of Ellen White. He has been a lecturer at Andrews University (Michigan), Avondale College and La Sierra University (California), and director of the Ellen G White/Seventh-day Adventist Research Centre at Avondale College. Now retired, he is often a

guest lecturer at Adventist events in the United States and Australia, speaking about the life, thought and role of Ellen White. In the past 30 years he has written two theses and several dozen articles and research papers about Ellen White.

What is the greatest need for the church today in relating to Ellen White?

The current concern is not so much to *defend* her as to *understand* her in view of all the known evidence. Obviously we're not able to present all that material in this discussion, but hopefully we can encourage a better understanding.

As you have researched and listened to the findings of other researchers, how has your appreciation of Ellen White changed?

I've become more aware of the big picture. One illustration may help to explain that a bit. I used to read Ellen White's classic volume *The Desire of Ages* to answer a host of questions like: Which Mary is the one in this story? At what point in the ministry of Jesus did this event occur? Now I read *The Desire of Ages* much more for its spiritual significance. Ellen White expresses its theme on page 22: "To know God is to love Him." The book is 835 pages about falling in love with God as He is revealed in the ministry of Jesus.

It seems that until about the 1970s, most research within the church on Ellen White was what could be called triumphalistic, apologetic or defensive. Can you give an overview of what happened then?

The Western world was changing rapidly, and those changes impacted

Adventists and their mission. At last we had people who could "hear" prophets, Jesus and the apostles speaking in their own languages. That is, they knew Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

Teachers at all levels were asked questions quite different from those that had been standard for a century. Fresh issues were brought to pastors by members. Members brought fresh issues to their pastors. So questions that had not been asked before stimulated the spirit of enquiry.



Dr Arthur Patrick.

Did new sources help to provide answers to these questions?

Indeed. With intense interest I soaked up Pastor Arthur White's lectures on Prophetic Guidance in 1957-58. But in his writings of the 1970s, he dealt with new questions and offered much new information. How could this be?

The church was making new sources available and he was drawing from these. This process flowered when the General Conference archive was organised in 1972 and Ellen G White/Seventh-day Adventist Research Centres were started in 1973. Ours, for the South Pacific Division, was opened in 1976.

Can you give us an overview of these resources?

We had a file of all the questions and answers the White Estate had handled at the church's headquarters in Washington, DC. We had thousands of document files full of precious information. We had tens of thousands of pages of Millerite and early Adventist documents in hard copies or microform. We had more than 50,000 pages of Ellen White letters and

manuscripts in addition to her 5000 periodical articles and many books. It was (and is) a wealth of data.

So what happened?

We came to understand the context in which Ellen White wrote her counsels, how they were received at the time, how she used the writings of other authors, the role of her literary assistants and so on.

Was there a high point in this process?

The International Prophetic Guidance Workshop held in Washington during 1982 was a mountain-top experience. Documents totalling more than 900 pages placed significant new information on the Adventist corporate desk. Since then we have been sorting through this information, interpreting the data and engaging in ongoing research that has added important detail.

Is this discovery process continuing?

As recently as September 2002 a major lecture in the United States demonstrated the ongoing discovery of important information about sources. During the past year or so I've had many conversations with Dr Fred Hoyt, one of the most persistent and meticulous researchers in our church. He has filing cabinets full of important materials, some of which extend the recognised understandings.

Our own Melbourne-based Dr Don McMahon and his collaborator in the United States are giving us fresh insights with reference to Ellen White's health writings. Dr George Knight continues to interpret the data in a stream of wholesome books. Ours is an exciting time for Ellen White research.

What does this really mean?

We now have a much more mature and sustainable understanding of Ellen White's life and ministry. We can shape our church life above conflict over these matters, and witness to the world with greater accuracy and in a more winsome way.

Has it made a difference?

Yes, both within and beyond the church. One of the most stimulating experiences I've had was speaking about Ellen White to a large room full of professional historians and graduate students. Australian histor-

ians are not noted for religious inclinations, but they seemed deeply interested.

I've found even greater interest about Ellen White among Evangelical Christians. And now a whole generation of young Adventists are coming to the study of Ellen White's life and writings with new attitudes—free of the conflicted context the church experienced in the 1980s.

The discovery of the transcripts of the 1919 Bible Conference startled many Adventists in the late 1970s. What insights did we gain from them?

We learned the questions that seemed so new and threatening in the 1970s and beyond were quite well known and were illumined by the experience and understanding of Ellen White's contemporaries. But the church had largely forgotten both the questions and the answers during the long years we sheltered in the fundamentalist camp where inerrancy [without any error even in incidental details] was expected of inspired writings.

Can you briefly explain some of the issues raised at the 1919 conference?

The verbatim reports are available and repay careful reading. They help us to see Ellen White's life and writings through the eyes of people who worked closely with her. One important issue is how we should understand her writings in relation to mundane detail—like chronology and history. Another is the way in which her writings speak to the heart more than the head.

The transcripts from the 1919 conference show the fear that anything less than an inerrant view of Ellen White's writings would bring protests, so concepts of her inspiration as understood by those who spoke at the conference were withheld from church members. Is this a warning?

Definitely. The 1919 records were packaged and stored for more than 50 years. Their existence and content was forgotten. One by one those who had close associations with Ellen White died. Key people, like Pastor Arthur White, who became secretary of the White Estate in 1937, didn't even know the conference had convened.

Resources

George Knight's four volumes:

- Ellen White's World*
- Meeting Ellen White*
- Reading Ellen White*
- Walking with Ellen White*

For the historical context:

Richard Schwarz and Floyd Greenleaf, *Light Bearers: A History of the Seventh-day Adventist Church*

All books available from Adventist Book Centres


The EGW/SDA Research Centre

at Avondale College has a variety of resources and is available to respond to questions.

c/- PO Box 19
 Cooranbong NSW 2265
 (02) 4980 2139
 <egwrc@avondale.edu.au>

Long years ago Ellen White declared the church had nothing to fear for the future, "except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history." We had forgotten so much that we had much to fear.

So the message to us now is . . . ?

The Lord in His grace and mercy is giving us a fresh opportunity to understand His guidance and to apply it more effectively. Ellen White's ministry leads us to the Bible as that of John the Baptist led to Jesus. She is God's messenger to Adventism; that is, hers is a voice inspired by the Holy Spirit with the gift of prophecy. Adventists are a new Israel on a journey to the Promised Land: for that journey Ellen White is a pioneer explorer, blazing a trail that is of enormous help in our ongoing pilgrimage. 

This is the first of a four-part series. Next week the conversation looks further at the 1919 Bible Conference transcripts and the issue of Ellen White's copying.

Bruce Manners is the editor of RECORD. Dr Arthur Patrick is a retired historian and researcher who has focused particularly on the life and thought of Ellen White.

Youth join Year of Evangelism

by Nathan Brown

Young people can play a significant role in the Year of Evangelism in the South Pacific Division, according to Pastor Gilbert Cangy, director of Youth Ministries for the division.

The journey so far

“Over the past two years, we have been intentional in taking specific steps to create an environment for discipleship,” he comments, referring particularly to the



Pastor Gilbert Cangy.

Underground. “But this development did not take place in a vacuum. We had been observing a real sense of spiritual renewal and service among our young people.

There are growing numbers of young people who give up their school holidays and are involved in service projects, which take them away from home to remote needy communities.

“There is also a new sense of freedom to openly verbalise their commitment to Christianity and their love for the Lord,” he adds. “The same freedom is observed in their worship of God. It is truly inspiring to see young people sing and pray their hearts out to the Lord.”

Building upon the foundation

According to Pastor Cangy, these attitudes and the group structure already in place with the Underground are a significant foundation upon which to build in this Year of Evangelism.

“The Underground is essentially a small-group movement that provides the context

in which nurture, evangelism and service is located,” he explains, “And 2004 will have a specific evangelistic focus. We are in the process of developing another resource that will assist groups in their evangelistic efforts. The study aspect will be a series of presentations and discussions based on the major themes of Daniel and Revelation.

“We will remain consistent in our approach: a partnership between personal and public evangelism. On the personal level, we will challenge all members of small groups to pray for three friends and to invite them to their small groups to experience Christian community and to share in these prophetic studies.

“On the public level,” continues Pastor Cangy, “the last youth rallies of 2004 in each region across the South Pacific will function as an evangelistic reaping event built around a major prophetic theme. All who attend will be challenged to accept Jesus, reap the joys of salvation and face the future with confidence as they place their lives under the control of the One who holds in His hands the destiny the universe.”

The small-group structure also provides an ideal community in which to nurture new believers. “As new believers cross the line, they continue in the small group,” he adds.

A broader scope

In 2004, the resource books will have a new look. “They will still be written for use in small groups and will still be based on the five foundations,” Pastor Cangy explains. “However, they will be presented in a way that will include all small groups.

“We recognise a lot of young people are out there who are totally sold out to ministry, but do not identify themselves as Underground groups,” he admits. “As far as we’re concerned, it’s the ministry that is significant. The name Underground is just a label that has captured the imagination of



a large number of young people, but left others indifferent.


“We are not prepared to sacrifice ministry for the sake of a name. We want to adopt an approach that will be inclusive of all small groups, while not disenfranchising the Underground groups.”

This year’s challenge

“Young people are the hope of the church,” enthuses Pastor Cangy. He quotes Ellen White’s well-known statement: “With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!” (*Education*, page 271).

“We are living in a rapidly changing world,” he continues. “And while we must not compromise our message, our methodology needs to be adjusted to meet the culture where it is at. Young people live and breathe contemporary culture and they are the agents God is calling to the front line.

“God needs young people and their church needs them,” urges Cangy. “The church has been opening doors and creating opportunities for them in a way that is unprecedented.

“Young people, get involved with the Year of Evangelism.” 

Nathan Brown is editor-elect of RECORD.

Prayer focus

Sow 1 Billion

Praise and thanksgiving

Use this as a guide for your prayer time at church, small group or personal devotions.

Prayer

God, we praise you for who You are and for Your goodness and mercy. We thank You for leading us in the past and we trust You now and for the future. You want to be our God and we want to be Your people—available and committed. We thank You that we can have access to You at any time and we come to You now, realising our need of Your grace.

We cannot go into this huge Sow 1 Billion project without first recommitting ourselves to Your purposes. So we submit to You as our leader, guide, friend and Saviour.

Scripture

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16, NIV).

Quote

“Our six-billion-people world will Humbly fall at Jesus’ feet
Only when the church’s cooperation
With God is truly complete,
Against the church shall prevail
Not one of the gates of earth or hell
Since the Spirit of Jesus in us is
More than able to do all things well.”
—Annual Council, GC, October 2003



Hello, neighbour

by Phillip Lomman

Windy weather. our neighbour’s yard was cleared of loose objects. They took up residence in our paddock. Light-weight items in our yard moved next door. Playing musical yards, perhaps?

But the wind was not music to our ears. We’d experienced fear and storm damage before. As the storm eased we were relieved that the only casualty was loss of power.

We dug out our little battery-powered radio and heard that the damage was extensive, chiefly due to large uprooted trees tearing down powerlines. The rasping voice on our tiny radio predicted days without power for some.

There’s not much to do when the power goes off.

As I stood looking out the window, a bright light in the east caught my attention. *How crazy to be flying a plane in such weather*, I thought.

When I stumbled through the darkness back to the window some time later the red glow of the light was still there.

Astronomy is not my strong point, otherwise I might have realised that I was looking at Mars. The same raspy voice that warned of the delayed reconnection to

power told me of Earth’s nearest neighbour. It said Mars was coming close—in astronomical terms, about 55 million kilometres. That’s about waving distance for planets, only some 186 light seconds away.

Hurling through our solar system, Mars only happens by this close every few thousand years. The next visit is another 2287 years away. I guess that’s why she caught the imagination of so many people. Planet gazers gathered at vantage points each evening to seek another glimpse of the red planet.

I got to thinking about close neighbours. With the pace of life demanding our time and energy, do we give much thought to our neighbours? Do we hurtle around our cities and towns with only rare close encounters with those who live so close?

Our neighbours could use our love and friendship. Don’t just wave from afar. Go on over and say hello. They are probably really nice people.

You don’t have to wait for an emergency, or until you have to retrieve something from their yard. ☺

Phillip Lomman writes from Silverdale, NSW.

Just for children

Do you know... Gehazi?

Gehazi was Elisha's servant. He was struck with leprosy because of his own greed and dishonesty.

Read **Gehazi's** story in
2 Kings chapter 5



Peta Taylor

Matters of allegiance

John Waters, Vic

If we take literally what Barry Oliver seems to be saying (“A matter of allegiance,” November 15) we would have to condemn the Reformers who declined to allow church authority to dictate to their consciences, and we would also repudiate our own pioneers for the same reason. We should never forget that out of intelligent dissent great movements—including our own—have been born. Intelligent dissent will not create controversy for its own sake, but neither will it bow dumbly to authority. If we teach our people to be thinkers, not mere reflectors of the thoughts of others (*Education*, page 17), we will always have challenges, but rightly handled they will help us grow and improve our understanding of truth.

Mara Jacob, NZ

Some of the views expressed in “A matter of allegiance” have their roots in events of the 1888 Minneapolis conference when men in high places failed to search the Scriptures for guidance. Waggoner and Jones were ostracised, the light of the gospel spurned and admonition of the prophet ignored. According to documentation, Ellen White’s main concerns were that many of the delegates manifested the wrong spirit and did not pay heed to God’s Word. Even though they finally understood the theology of righteousness by faith, they failed to personalise it, choosing rather to follow

their own inclinations. This state of affairs has existed to the present day to the point where the the Holy Spirit has been all but quenched. The words of Jesus describe this condition: “wretched, . . . poor, blind and naked.” Thus He admonished the Laodiceans to be baptised by fire so the dross may be purged from their characters.

We must expend the time in the study of His Word, prayer and meditation. A cursory glance at the Scriptures will not suffice.

Define the role

Ted Arthur, NSW

“Ministering to the minister” (November 8) listed the unrealistic expectations of pastors that lead to burnout, including being preacher, teacher, administrator,

treasurer, cheerleader, spark provider, fundraiser and, last of all, trying to be all things to all people. But who has asked them to do all this? This list of duties include those usually done by the membership. And you will not find such a broad role outlined in either the Bible or Spirit of Prophecy.

Spirit of Prophecy counsels ministers to not engage in what the article suggests is their responsibility. “Sometimes ministers do too much; they seek to embrace the whole world in their arms. It absorbs and dwarfs them; yet they continue to grasp it all. They seem to think that they alone are

to work in the cause of God, while the members of the church stand idle. This is not God’s order at all” (*Evangelism*, page 113). Rather, their role is as trainer and equipper to “devote . . . time to educating. . . . Let him teach the people how to give to others the knowledge they have received. . . . It is not the Lord’s purpose that ministers should be left to do the greatest part of the work of sowing the seeds of truth” (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol 7, pages 20, 21). To avoid burnout, ministers must work in the role God has outlined for them.

Edit gently

Danny Bell, WA

I think I speak for a lot of Adventists: RECORD can be frustrating at times. Why do you screen so heavily the divergent views of

We should never forget that out of intelligent dissent great movements have been born.

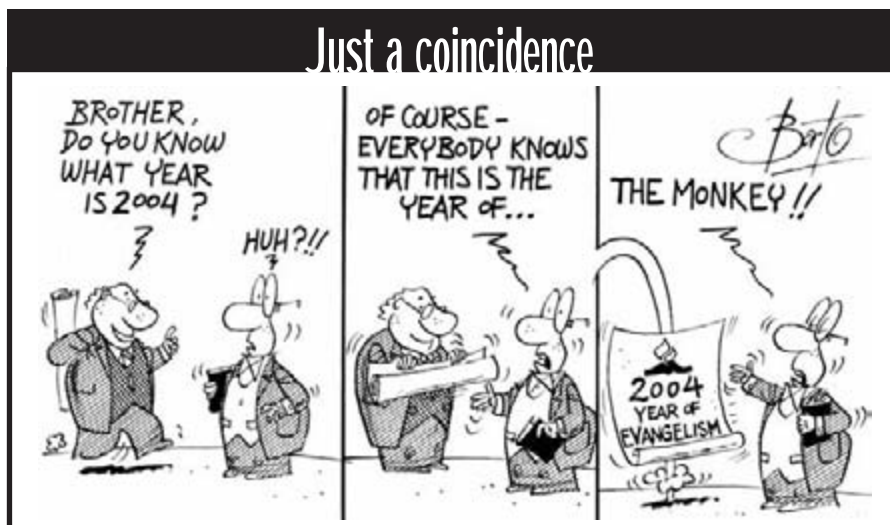
writers? When a letter or article does get through, it has been so heavily edited the original intent of the writer is lost. Many writers to RECORD will tell you of the shock they receive when viewing the final result in print—how their article was made so tame they seemed to be saying nothing.

You take away the character of a person’s viewpoint by “clipping off” the strong points. If RECORD is to truly represent views of the Adventist people, then heavily editing their peculiar thoughts on issues is not a free environment of expression. There are some weird and wonderful angles out there in the church, but muzzling these makes the RECORD look like a propaganda paper for the Adventist elite.

Allowing some honest criticism of the establishment or the way we do things is not disloyalty but shows editorial maturity.

In editing, we endeavour to maintain the major points and meaning of a letter or article. However, we do reserve the right to edit for clarity and length, when necessary.

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.





Pastor Frank Tassone

“The Antichrist Throughout the Ages”

Wahroonga SDA Church
Sabbath, February 28, 2004
at 4 pm

All Welcome

Dr Jiri Moskala
(President ATS International)

Guest Speaker—SNSW Camp, Goulburn

Tapes of Dr Erwin Gane available from ATS
PO Box 876, Pennant Hills NSW 1715

ATS is not an official church organisation, but is supportive of the church.

Adventist Support Line

Freecall phone numbers

Australia	1800 220 468
New Zealand	0800 442 458
Norfolk Island	1800 1410

Transfers

● **Vernon Bidmead**, from systems accountant, treasury, South Pacific Division (SPD), to bursar, Pacific Adventist University (PAC), PNG. ● **David Bryce**, from Papua New Guinea Union Mission, to minister, South Queensland Conference, Australian Union Conference (AUC). ● **Richard Ferret**, from student chaplain, Avondale School of Nursing, to senior pastor, Mackay region, Northern Australian Conference, AUC. ● **Fonua Fukofuka**, from private employment, Tonga, to School of Business and Management, PAC. ● **Piula Fukofuka**, from lecturer, Fulton College, Trans-Pacific Union Mission, to lecturer, School of Arts and Humanities, PAC. ● **Rebecca Gaure**, from teacher, Carr Memorial School, PAC, to teacher, Koiani Park “C” School, Pacific Adventist University. ● **Iyell Heise**, from senior pastor, Avondale College church, North New South Wales Conference, AUC, to lecturer, Faculty of Theology and director of the proposed Institute of Worship Enrichment, Avondale College. ● **Craig Jeffries**, from private employment to systems

accountant, South Pacific Division treasury. ● **James Kent**, from treasurer, Trans-Pacific Union Mission, to lecturer, Faculty of Business, Avondale College. ● **Peter Kilgour**, from principal, Longburn Adventist College, North New Zealand Conference, New Zealand Pacific Union Conference, to director of education systems, Greater Sydney Conference, AUC. ● **Matthew Mulligan**, from private employment, to IT manager, Trans-Pacific Union Mission, Suva, Fiji. ● **Jocelyn McMahon**, from Theatre Department, Sydney Adventist Hospital, to secretary/receptionist, Risk Management Service. ● **Shane Roberts**, from minister, Greater Sydney Conference, AUC, and chaplain, Sydney Adventist Hospital, to assistant director of men’s residence, Avondale College. ● **Bryce Wegener**, from Book Department support officer, Signs Publishing Company, to chef, Alstonville Hostel, North New South Wales Conference, AUC.

Appreciation

● **Colliver**, Hazle and family wish to thank her friends, along with Pastors Sparrowhawk and Mead, for their support and kindness during Arthur’s recent illness. She thanks everyone for their cards, phone calls and floral tributes on Arthur’s passing, and expresses her appreciation for the presence of many friends and relatives at the funeral. It was a real comfort to have such support on this sad occasion.

Positions vacant

▲ **Chief Financial Officer—Signs Publishing Company (Warburton, Vic).** The position of Chief Financial Officer has become vacant due to internal changes within Signs Publishing Company management team. This important role requires a person with excellent accounting, management skills and an inquiring mind. **For further information** contact Mrs Lesley Wood today at Signs Publishing Company (03) 5966 9111; or by email to <Lesley.wood@signspublishing.com.au>.

▲ **Marketing and Public Relations Assistant—ADRA Australia.** The position involves assisting to implement a strategy to raise awareness of the agency in Australia and to increase ADRA’s capacity to respond effectively to humanitarian needs both in Australia and internationally. A marketing or communication degree would be advantageous, however other qualifications such as teaching will be considered. The successful applicant will have a strong commitment to the mission of ADRA; proven organisation and management ability; strong creative-writing skills; public speaking and presentation skills; well-developed information technology skills and knowledge; and be team oriented. **For further information** see the “Employment” section of the SPD web site <www.adventist.org.au>. Applications close February 18, 2004.

▲ **Early Childhood Teacher—Seventh-day Adventist Schools (NNSW) Ltd**—is seeking a full-time or part-time (by negotiation) Early Childhood teacher for Bucketts Way Preschool, Taree. The preschool is a long day-care centre and caters for children 6 weeks to 5 years old. The successful applicant will be a practising Seventh-day Adventist who is committed to supporting the vision and mission of Adventist education; and hold appropriate Early Childhood qualifications. **For further information** contact Peter Michalski, Education Director, phone (02) 4951 8088; fax (02) 4950 1102; mobile 0414 555 372; email <pmichalski@adventist.org.au>. Applications close February 27, 2004.

Weddings

● **Breese—Dorman.** Dennis Richard Breese II, son of Dennis Breese (Colorado, USA) and Sharon Harder (California), and Linda Michelle Dorman, daughter of Eric Lyle Dorman (Coffs Harbour, NSW) and Lesley McGrath (Perth, WA), were married on 31.12.03 at Cooranbong Park, NSW. *Craig Vanas*

● **Cavallaro—O’Malley.** Anthony William Cavallaro, son of Ray (Melby) Cavallaro (Connells Point, NSW), and Ellen O’Malley, daughter of John and Sue O’Malley (Geelong, Vic), were married on 14.12.03 in the Hoxton Park Adventist church, NSW. *John O’Malley*

● **Cregan—Sisson.** Robert Cregan, son of the late Bill and Beryl Cregan (formerly of Lismore, NSW), and Ruth Sisson, daughter of Calvin and Beryl Stafford (Cooranbong), were married on 4.1.04 at Coffs Harbour. *Bob Possingham*

● **Darko—McClenahan.** Randall Darko, son of Clifton and Joy Darko (Coona-barabran, NSW), and Sonia McClenahan, daughter of Gary McClenahan (Murwillumbah) and Lyn (Ipswich), were married on 4.1.04 in the Bray Park Adventist church. *Adrian Raethel*

● **Douglas—Stanley.** Andrew Paul Douglas, son of Pastor Robert and Neroli Douglas (Normanhurst, NSW), and Emma Jane Stanley, daughter of Pastor Chester and Robyn Stanley (Lilydale, Vic), were married on 8.1.04 at St Andrew’s church, Wahroonga, NSW. *Robert Douglas, Chester Stanley*

● **Harder—Watson.** Karl William Harder, son of Roger and Edna Harder (Cooranbong, NSW), and Juanita Marie Watson,

daughter of James and Ethel Watson (SA), were married on 4.2.03 in the Prospect Adventist church. *Mark McNeill*

● **Kleinig—Mann.** Benjamin Kleinig, son of Greg and Trudi Kleinig (Esperance, WA), and Simone Mann, daughter of Kevin and Diedre Mann (Port Lincoln, SA), were married on 11.1.04 at Flinders Park, Port Lincoln. *Roger Millist*

Obituaries

● **Carvill,** George Alexander Charles, born 9.12.1914 at Golden Square, Bendigo, Vic; died 10.12.03 in Coronella Nursing Home, Nunawading. On 2.4.42 he married Doris Coombe. He is survived by his wife (Coronella hostel); his children and their spouses, Bruce and Pauline (Launching Place) Max and Dorothy (Yarra Junction) and Norma and Lee Jones (Mildura); his nine grandchildren; and five great-children. George was a faithful Adventist who served his Lord well. *Trevor Rowe, Les Coombe*

● **Hammond,** Olive Paton Duff (nee Howie), born 19.3.1914 at Dundee, Scotland; died peacefully on 13.12.03 in Esther Somerville Nursing Home, Normanhurst, NSW. She was predeceased by her husband, Dr Brian Hammond. She is survived by her sons, Dr Brian, Dr John and Gordon; her brother, Colin; and her 10 grandchildren. She served as a missionary wife in Penang, Malaysia, for many years before settling in Mildura (Vic), and finally in Sydney (NSW). Her witness was nothing short of legendary, having personally introduced Christ to countless people. A true Christian and extraordinary mother; her sons rise up and call her blessed. *Bruce Price, Ian Howie*

Become Our Partner Helping Avondale



GREAT RATES **PERSONAL SERVICE**

ACF Investments LTD

23 YEARS OF SERVICE
\$33 MILLION IN DEPOSITS

Contact Chris or Fay
Ph (02) 9989 8355 Fax (02) 9989 8340 acfi@avondale.org.au
PO Box 502, Wahroonga NSW 2076



Looking out for you!

Considering employment options?
Consider church employment.
Submit your resume or details to be a part of our employment database.
You may be just the one we're looking for!

 Email: pwrankmore@adventist.org.au
Phone: (02) 9847 3209
Web: www.adventist.org.au
Mail: P Wrarkmore Locked Bag 2014
Wahroonga NSW 2076

south pacific division - sanitarium - sydney adventist hospital

O'Donnell, Evan Craig, born 23.10.1967 at Christchurch, SNZ; died 4.12.03 at Barrytown, Greymouth. He is survived by his parents, Fred and Jan; and his brother, Nigel. Evan will be remembered as a cheerful and helpful fellow, who had a passion and love for dairying. He also loved being involved in Pathfinders. The St Albans church was filled with family and friends who supported the O'Donnell family in their unexpected loss.

Robert Granger

Sandy, Shirley Jean, born 28.10.1922 in Adelaide, SA; died 16.1.04 in Coronella Retirement Village, Nunawading, Vic. On 9.2.42 she married Stan. She was predeceased by her grandson, Nigel Sword. She is survived by her husband (Warwick, Qld); her children and their spouses, Colleen and Errol Peterson (Vermont South, Vic), and Garrick and Jillian (Warwick, Qld); her six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Tony Campbell, Trevor Rowe

Schulz, Percy Arthur Frederick, born 27.11.1908 at Nundah, Qld; died 8.1.04 in Allamanda Hospital, Gold Coast, Qld, after a brief illness. He is survived by his children, Marie Rose (Tenterfield, NSW) and Kevin (Gold Coast, Qld); his grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. His family will feel the void until Jesus comes. His church and community will miss his kind and creative spirit.

Peter Stojanovic

Advertisements

Note: Neither the editor, Signs Publishing Company, nor the Seventh-day Adventist Church is responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised. Publication does not indicate endorsement of a product or service. Advertisements approved by the editor will be inserted at the following rates: first 30 words or less, \$A44; each additional word, \$A2.20. For your advertisement to appear, payment must be enclosed. Classified advertisements in RECORD are available to Seventh-day Adventist members, churches and institutions only. See masthead (page 2) for contact details.

Go Veg—providing Sydney with delicious frozen vegetarian foods to eat at your leisure. 21 Berry Street, Clyde (near Granville). Many products—gluten savouries, curries, lasagnes etc. Hours: Wed–Fri 10 am–4 pm; Sun 10 am–1 pm. Phone Brigitte Perik on (02) 9897 0000 or 0418 400 398; or email <bperik@iinet.net.au> for more details.

Wanted—writers or authors who can get into “kids minds.” Skeleton of text is in existence, BUT we are looking for a person who can really turn the text around to grab children's attention. In other words, we are looking for another Paul Jennings, but based on SDA philosophies. If you have the ability and talent, please phone the General Manager at Signs Publishing Company on (03) 5966 9111 to discuss the challenges.

Signs needs you! Each month *Signs of the Times* tells a story of faith. Have you experienced pain? Where was God when you needed Him? You don't have to write the story, just tell us about it (and include a photo). *Signs* will do the rest.

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

Funeral directors—K & E Swanborough. Compassionate and professional care at an affordable cost from those who understand. Obligation-free advice on all your funeral requirements, including pre-planning. Phone (07) 3800 9655 24 hours.

India! Don't dream it, do it! An exciting cultural experience! Next tour April/May 2004—northern India Himalayan sector. Further tours Oct/Nov/Dec 2004. Book now! Phone (08) 8945 2845; 0427 510 841; <www.pgsindia.net>; email <info@pgsindia.net>.

Allround Travel, Qld—specialists in individual and group travel, domestic or international. Fax or email your requirements for a competitive quote. Contact Anita or Debbie on (07) 5530 3555; email <all-trav@bigpond.net.au>; fax (07) 5530 3846.

The Bible Lands and other countries on CD-ROM discs

8000+ pictures on 9 discs
(good resolution)

(set of 9 for SA135 or SA20/disc, incl p&p)

Egypt; Iraq–Jordan–Lebanon–Iran; Israel; Turkey and its seven churches; US–Canada; Croatia–Slovenia; tulips of Holland; the wonderful world of nature; WA wildflowers and more.

Ideal for churches, evangelism, schools and home use. Use for presentations, backgrounds to texts and hymns.

Lesley Graphics
12 Viewpoint Drive
Chirnside Park Vic 3116
Phone (03) 9727 3634
Email <davidcurrie35@aol7.com.au>

Holiday letting—Kingscliff, Tweed Heads, beautiful beaches, great weather. A lovely big private flat. The cheapest on the coast and everything supplied. Jim Cherry, 13 Orient Street, Kingscliff NSW. Phone (02) 6674 2302.

Finally

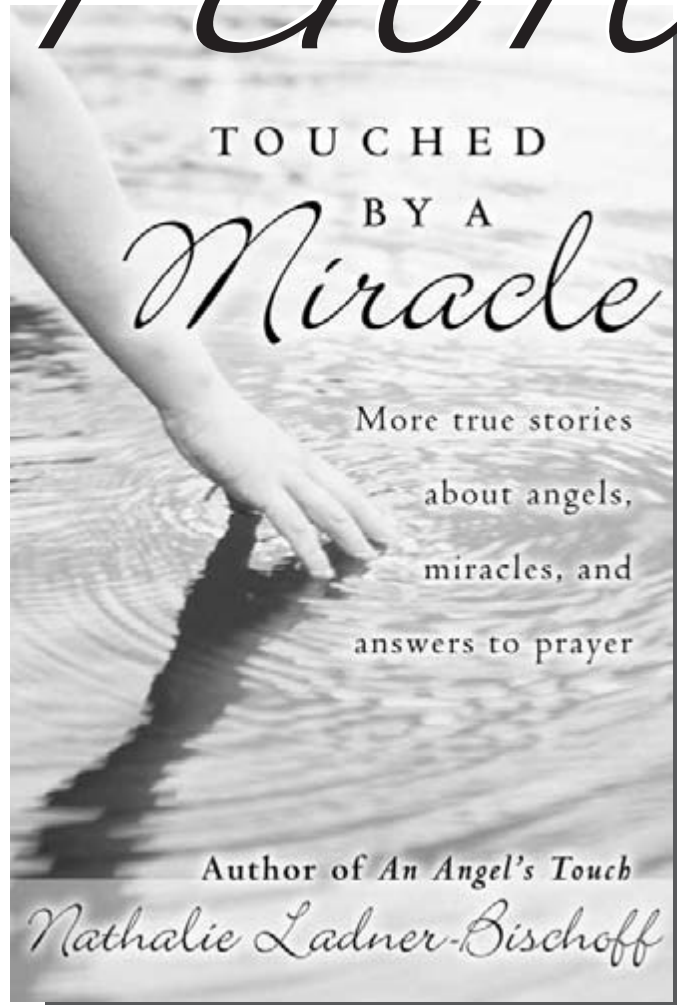
The mind is like television:
When it goes blank it's a good idea to turn off the sound.

February
BOOK OF THE MONTH

Touched by a MIRACLE

by Nathalie Ladner-Bischoff

Author and compiler Nathalie Ladner-Bischoff brings to light another collection of true miracle stories to show us once again how near heaven is to earth. Like her first book, *An Angel's Touch*, these stories of divine interventions, angel encounters and prevailing prayer show what can happen when God touches human beings and the ordinary becomes extraordinary. They also open our eyes to the truth that there's more to life than what we can see, touch and feel.



*More true stories about
angels, miracles and
answers to prayer.*

Regular RRP
\$A27.95 \$NZ30.95

February Special
\$A21.95 \$NZ23.95

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