

RECORD



Three of Northpoint's first baptised members (pictured L-R), Liz Jolley, Aanete Chiarello and her husband, Anthonee, cut the church's first birthday cake. In a classic case of friendship evangelism, since Mrs Chiarello was baptised, her son, husband, and sister have also been baptised. Her brother is preparing for baptism now.

Motel church grows strong

Tullamarine, Vic

A church group that started meeting in the convention room of a motel last year (Newsfront, July 19, 2003) celebrated its first birthday on May 8.

One year ago, church minister Pastor Loren Pratt set up 12 chairs for the first official meeting of Northpoint church. "I remember looking at the room and thinking, *It will take us years to fill this place,*" he recalls. When South Pacific Division president Pastor Laurie Evans—who was guest speaker for the celebration service—greeted church members from the front, he observed, "In one year you've almost outgrown the premises!"

Now, with an average weekly attendance of 50 people—and more than 90 people joining in their first birthday celebrations—it would seem that Seventh-day Adventists are gaining a strong presence in the north-western suburbs of Melbourne.

Liz Jolley, one of the first to attend Northpoint after she was baptised at the 2003 Geoff Youlden program, says, "When I came here, for the very first meeting of Northpoint, I felt God's blessing," she recalls. "I was baptised last year and I just feel like God is leading us. This is my church."

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Letter from heaven

One of the most enduring voices on radio was Alistair Cooke, with his week-by-week radio “Letter from America.” He died in March this year, aged 95. Beginning in 1946, Cooke unravelled the USA for an audience that grew to millions. (He produced 2869 editions in a 58-year career.)

His “Letters” were sometimes circuitous, but always insightful; a peep into the life and culture of that enthralling country. Not always complimentary, his Letters highlighted the country’s ironies, contradictions and foibles for listeners around the world.

In a similar vein, God’s “Letter from heaven” to us of the last age, is found in Revelation chapters two and three.* Although we most often apply these letters to the seven churches chronologically, this is only partially correct. When written, all seven churches existed simultaneously. So, no doubt, aspects of them all also apply to the seventh—that’s us.

In each instance God says He *knows* about us—what we’re up to, where we’ve been, what’s been occupying our time—for better and for worse.

To the church at Ephesus, He says, “I *know* your works, your toil, your patient endurance. I *know* you cannot tolerate evildoers. . . . I also *know* that you are . . . bearing up for my sake.” He says He also knows the “works” of Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. To Smyrna, He says, “I *know* your affliction and your poverty, even though you are rich.” And to Pergamum, He says, “I *know* where you are living. . . .” Which is interesting: He knows where I live. He knows my address! And, according to Isaiah, He even knows me by name (43:1).

In Psalm 87, He says He knows where we were born and raised, with the implication that His expectations of us vary according to the environment in which we were raised

or live. For those with a lifetime in the church—or “Zion” (verses 5, 6)—with all its attendant benefits, such as access to an education, a positive health message, Spirit of Prophecy counsel, freedom of assembly and the absence of persecution, there are greater obligations. For those born on the other side of the spiritual-cultural tracks—Babylon and Tyre (verse 4)—His expectations are lower.

Most Adventists are familiar with the

who is a great sinner may feel ashamed. He may feel the need of the grace of Christ. A proud person feels no need, for pride closes the heart.”

Citing the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18:9-14) as examples, she says the former “felt no need, and he received nothing,” whereas the latter, who “thought of himself as a wicked man [and he probably was], felt his need of a Saviour and came to God.”

So does my living in Laodicea, with its spiritually subversive culture, give me some excuse for lethargy or lessen my guilt in the judgment?

conditions of their church, both as outlined in Scripture (Revelation 3:14-18)—“lukewarm” (uncommitted), “naked” (unsanctified), “rich” (self-sufficient) and “prospered” (proud)—and in what they observe about them.

So does my living in Laodicea, with its spiritually subversive culture, give me some excuse for lethargy or lessen my guilt in the judgment?

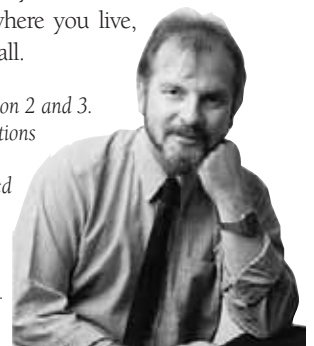
The *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary’s* analysis of the Laodicean personality is one “content with things as they are and proud of the progress he has made. It is almost impossible to convince him of his great need,” it concludes (Vol 7, page 761).

Ellen White says in *Steps to Christ* (pages 30, 31) that the problem with sins such as those Laodiceans experience—pride, arrogance and self-sufficiency—is that they are not evident to the sinner themselves (although they may be patently obvious to those around them). Such sins are delusory and, ultimately, self-destructive. “People dislike a drunk person and say he cannot enter heaven,” she writes. “But often nothing is said against pride, selfishness. . . . A person

In this instance, the two came to the temple—they came to God. For us, living in Laodicea, and in consideration of our spiritual circumstances and inability to comprehend our true need, God comes to us. I expect that’s why He needs to know your address—because He comes to your door and knocks. And we who are not really wanting a Visitor to intrude and complicate our busy lives, have only to open the door. According to the testimony of Revelation 3, at that point (verse 19) all reproof and condemnation ceases and true two-way fellowship begins.

God knows your name and He knows where you live, so expect a call.

*Read Revelation 2 and 3. All Bible quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version.



Lee Dunstan



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

- Four-dimensional ultrasound technology at SAH • Signs subscriptions appreciated in outreach
- PNG men join in prayer conference • Search TV ads shown free in prime time • and more

—Compiled by Scott Wegener—

● Men achieved significant milestones at the recent **PNG prayer conference** alongside their female counterparts (“PNG prayer conference brings thousands to their knees,” Newsfront, March 27). It was the first time so many **men had met together** every day and committed themselves to prayer, with almost one-third of the 100 gathered being ministers. **John Tompson**, a departmental director for the Greater Sydney Conference, helped the men establish strategies that would reach other men who need to know the Lord. They established some key ministry groups targeting parliamentarians, public servants and husbands who were not attending church or had backslidden. One man preached on the final Sabbath at the prison nearby and more than 40 inmates stood in response to his call. “The men said they

were anxious for everyone to know that they aimed to become a powerhouse of prayer for the church along with the women,” says Mr Tompson.—*Joy Butler*

● **Sydney Adventist Hospital** (the San) has installed a state-of-the-art **4-D ultrasound** that allows expectant parents to see real-time 4-D images (as pictured) of their unborn baby. The



machine differs from conventional ultrasound in that parents are able to see expressions and detail on their baby's face as they move around the womb. Dr

ADRAcare megastore opens



The new ADRAcare megastore (pictured) that opened in Sydney's western suburbs has proved to be an instant success. Pastor David Blanch, Greater Sydney Conference president, officially opened the Blacktown store on May 2.

“Sales from the first week have been better than expected,” reports store supervisor Kristen Calculli. “Within three hours of opening we had taken almost \$A2000.”

Western Sydney ADRAcare projects manager David Haupt agrees. “This will help a lot of people in crisis. ADRAcare plans to play a major role in putting their lives back together.”

The megastore uses stock from corporate and private donors who can supply good quality clothing and furniture. For more information contact Kristen Calculli on (02) 9676 5938.



Philippa Ramsay, from San Ultrasound for Women, said the technology was a great advantage for expectant parents and they are using the machine on six to seven patients a day. “The images from the machine are so realistic, with the **unborn baby's face beautifully pictured**. They're really good for bonding,” she says. The images from the machine also enable better diagnosis of surface lesions, for example cleft lips, spina bifida and limb abnormalities.—*Pacemaker*

● In the Year of Evangelism, the **Adventist Aviation Association** (AAA) would like to

thank faithful church members who have supported them over the years with their **prayers and Signs subscriptions**. The AAA is working to spread the “good news” to many more country towns.—*Northpoint*

● The **Adventist Media Centre** had organised to run some *Search* video ads on Perth television, but the **ads did not appear**. Larry Laredo, communication director and evangelism coordinator for the Western Australian Conference, reports, “Staff from the TV station rang to apologise and offered to re-broadcast many of them during prime-time viewing, all **free** of charge.” The airing of these ads resulted in 900 people requesting a viewing of a video on the signs of Christ's return.—*FYI*

● The **Cairns Samoan company** welcomed 10 new members as a result of an evangelistic program presented by Dr **Erika Puni**. An average of 42 non-Adventist people attended each night over two weeks, which concluded with **10 baptisms**.

● A “**home of hope**” in Glen Innes, NSW, meets over a meal and non-denominational Bible study every Sunday, with up to four out of 12 attendees being non-Adventists. An **elderly Aboriginal man**, who worked for a local Adventist farming family for 35 years, has, since the death of the farmer, been attending the group, and now Sabbath school and church.

● Many Adventists were left homeless on April 14 when a **tornado** touched down in the Garzivita and Ntetrokona districts of northern **Bangladesh**. The storm left 51 people dead, 1200 injured and more than **500 houses totally destroyed**. There was no loss of life among Adventists and the three Adventist chapels in the area were all spared. **Dwight Taylor**, acting director for

Macksville mothers cherished

The Macksville church, NSW, held a special Mother's Day Sabbath school and church program on May 8 for all mothers and "spiritual mothers" who attend. Two ladies, Wendy Ingles and Lennie (Granny) Parkins, were presented with "thank you" from the church family for all they have done over the years for the church's children.



Katie Martin (pictured left) presented Wendy Ingles (right) with a special "thank you" from the young people of the Macksville church. Even though Wendy

does not have children of her own, Katie remembered all the birthday gifts and cards Wendy always presented to each child through the years.

Lennie (pictured centre) has not only been "Granny" to her own grandchildren, but to other children in the church. Stacey Sadler, "Granny's" granddaughter (left), presented a gift while Scott Gosling (right), one of the many young people who call her



"Gran," spoke of how special she is to the church with all the work she does for the church and how all the children view her as a special "Gran."

Adventist Development and Relief Agency-Bangladesh (ADRA), along with other ADRA employees, visited affected areas the next day to assess the needs for relief to the community and to church members. The police established their operational centre on the campus of the Adventist church and school in Gazivita in order to control looting in the surrounding areas. Several officials from the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bangladesh visited affected areas and the Mymensingh General Hospital, where 600 people received medical care.—ARN

● An estimated **400 Christians were killed** on April 10 in brutal repression of peaceful and prayerful demonstrations by Montagnard Christians in the Central Highlands of **Vietnam**. Up to 400,000 Vietnamese Christians, from the Degar people, gathered in several Vietnamese cities to demonstrate against the government's refusal to allow them to freely follow the Christian faith. Kok Ksor, president of the Montagnard Foundation, said no attempt was made by the Christians to use violence. "They are not seeking independence," he says, "merely the **right to worship freely**."—ANS

● Research of online religious activities by the 128 million **Internet users** in the United States has recently found:

- 64 per cent have done things online that relate to **religious or spiritual matters**.
- 38 per cent have sent and received email with spiritual content.
- 35 per cent have sent or received online greeting cards related to religious holidays.
- 32 per cent have gone online to read news accounts of religious events and affairs.
- 21 per cent have sought information about how to celebrate religious holidays.
- 17 per cent have looked for information about **where they could attend** religious services.—Pew Internet

Days and offerings

June 5—ADRA Disaster and Famine

Relief Offering

—Women's Ministries Emphasis Day

Off the record

● **Recognise anyone here?** This photo, taken at the **Stanmore (NSW) JMV Investiture Service** on July 5, 1941, was sent in by **Roy Gale**, a member of



the Erina church, NSW. Mr Gale was involved in JMV camps as a counsellor, assistant director and director over a period of 40 years.

● **Brian Boyland** from Aitkenvale church, Qld, has started up his own **Internet chat-room ministry** called "Chat with a youth pastor." Mr Boyland spends about 10 hours each week talking to people from around the world on topics such as suicide, pornography, God and people's Christian walk. "It hit me just how much **young people need to share** some of the things they are struggling with," he says. "Doing it in a chat room, where you can participate anonymously, is an easy way for people to do that." The chat room can be found in the Christian rooms section at <www.paltalk.com>.

● CPA (Certified Practising Accountants) Australia has recently elected **Peter Knight**, a member of the **Kellyville** church, NSW, as the **vice-president** for their NSW Divisional Council. Mr Knight is now also on the CPA NSW Executive. **CPA Australia** is one of the largest member-based organisations in the world with more than 110,000 accountants as members.



Motel church grows strong

(Continued from page 1)

"It's great to work in a conference that has had the vision to back us," says Pastor Pratt. "It shows me that multistaffed churches do pay." Greg Evans started working alongside Pastor Pratt at Northpoint early last year doing a lot of the Bible studies and follow-up. "He's very good at taking seminars," notes Pastor Pratt. "More recently he's been involved with the prophecy seminars."

Gideon Okasene joined Northpoint this year as an intern from Avondale College. "He works well one-on-one with people in their homes," observes Pastor Pratt.

Victorian Conference president Pastor Denis Hankinson, along with his wife, Bev, attended the birthday celebrations. "It's satisfying to see the results of some hard work," he says.

According to Pastor Hankinson, Northpoint represents a lot of effort and energy, and is possibly one of the fastest growing churches in Victoria. "What's happening here is not rocket science—just basic evangelism," he says.

He recalls that Northpoint came out of strategic priorities set by the Victorian Conference executive. "One of them was to plant churches in our dark areas, of which this is one." He adds, "The Living Waters plant at Gilson College and church plants in the Berwick and Ironbark areas are also a result of these priorities."

Pastor Pratt, while ministering to the Northpoint and Greenvale churches, is also the Personal Ministries director for the Victorian Conference.

"The conference is working on a model where the credibility comes from departments that are actually able to do it," says Pastor Hankinson. "Then seminars are run on-site to show that the methodology does work in a practical way. It shows theory in action and is a mentoring area." Interns in the conference come and work with Pastor Pratt one day per week for 12 weeks to experience a model that is working.

"It's really just been the use of *Try Jesus* cards and *Signs* rounds, partnered with a

passion for lost souls that has provided the impetus for this community's growth," says Pastor Hankinson.

After the birthday worship service the chairs were cleared, tables set up and plates piled high with food were brought out to share.

When asked if attending parties like this was the best thing about his job, Pastor Evans said, "It's great to have the opportunity to see what's happening at the grassroots. This is where it's happening. This is what mission is all about.

"This church—and its fast growth—is a miracle," he says. "To think that this group, which started with just one charter member, along with Loren and a couple of others, has grown to the place where about 100 people are celebrating the community's first

birthday, is amazing. Especially when you consider that many of them have come from a secular or non-Adventist background."

Aanete Chiarello was one of the first to be baptised at Northpoint. "I was searching," she says, "and I saw a phone number on TV advertising the *Search* video. Pastors John Chan and Evans delivered the videos to me. I became interested in Jesus and did some Bible studies." Mrs Chiarello then attended a prophecy seminar, started attending church, and was baptised a few months later.

"The thing I enjoy the most about being part of the community at Northpoint is finding Jesus," she says. "Every time I come here, I find a little bit more about Jesus and my heart opens a little more each time."

"Northpoint is one of the quickest growing church plants I've ever had anything to do with," says Pastor Evans. "I think it's a tribute to the vision and passion of Loren and the team that work with him. They are totally committed and focused.

And they've done it the hard way—visiting people and knocking on doors. It's hard, but it's paid off."

While in Melbourne, Pastor Evans spent Friday with Pastor Pratt and his team knocking on doors and visiting with people in their homes. "It's so easy for churches to reach out by remote—put it on TV or in a letterbox," he observes. "While all that has its place, there is no substitute for knocking on a door and talking face to face."



Northpoint is composed of young and old and is a multicultural group. Cultures represented include Italian, Maltese, Croatian, Egyptian, Middle Eastern and Dutch.

Leonie Crick's first contact with the church was through Loren leaving pamphlets and flyers in her letterbox and then talking with her. "I wanted something positive to do with my kids on Saturdays," she says. "I saw Northpoint had some good programs. I came along and found I fit in."

"I'd love to see this experience duplicated a hundredfold," enthuses Pastor Evans. "I'm absolutely convinced that one of the most effective methods for growing the church in Australia and New Zealand is to establish new church plants in unentered areas. It's hard work, but as Loren has proved here, it's also very fruitful."

Pastor Pratt recalls that Northpoint was started from one cell group that met in his home. "Groups that grow people result in a church community that God can grow," he says. "We have a vision for a 600-member church.

"God's been saying to me, 'Loren, you're dreaming too small. Dream my dreams.' I'm learning that more and more."—**Kellie Hancock**

First baptisms in Bulgan

Bulgan, Mongolia

The first of a number of Australian mission teams travelling this year to Mongolia returned recently with a report of lives changed and a community blessed in the small town of Bulgan.

The Bulgan church is now the first church in Mongolia with its own baptismal font. Twelve people were baptised on the final Sabbath of the team's three-week visit, in what is believed to be the first baptism in the town.

Steve Plahn

One of the local missionaries reports that a further 30 interested persons are attending follow-up meetings and continue to worship with the Adventist group—doubling their original attendance.

The multiskilled team of 10 Australians, aged from 18 to 70, was led by Pastor Michael Worker from Caboolture church, Qld.

“Our specific goal was to raise the profile of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bulgan, to build its credibility and to generate good interests for the missionaries to follow up,” says Pastor Worker. “As a secondary goal, we went with the desire to assist the local community through gifts and practical support so that they might create a more sustainable future. I believe these goals have been achieved to a greater level than we thought possible.”

The team were able to donate—through cash and material donations—close to



The first Adventist baptismal font in Mongolia was made out of a cut-down water tank.

\$A13,000 to the local town and church (\$A7500 was raised on one night, see Flashpoint, March 20). The major recipients were the hospital and a school named simply, School No 2. This school catered for the majority of the “ultra-poor” children who were issued with 247 school uniforms.

A number of other schools, kindergartens and prison facilities received food, sports equipment and other items. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency assisted by contributing 400 kg of clothing for the needy.

Apart from the baptismal font, the local church was given bowls, towels and glasses with which they celebrated their very first Communion service. They were also given a keyboard, two guitars and other music, literature and children's Sabbath school resources.

The Governor of the Bulgan Province assisted in the purchase of land and buildings for the development of a future church building. He phoned the fire chief and told him to sell the old fire station “because these were good people.” The fire chief was then prepared to

continue negotiations, and finally settled on a price.

Mongolia Mission president Pastor Dale Tunnell expressed his appreciation to the group. “I want to say a huge thank you for what you and your team have done. However, the purchase of an apartment, church property and evangelistic meetings were not the biggest part of your contribution. You have infused a small church with life. They are excited.” He adds, “The community loves what you have done.”

In response to contributions made to the community of Bulgan, several community leaders also expressed their appreciation and displayed positive hospitality. Within a few days of arriving, the Chief of Police told the group, “Everyone in Bulgan knows that the Australian team is here.”

The Bulgan church consists mainly of young people. Pastor Worker was amazed at their dedication. “They are so on fire for their Lord!” he observes. “It was fantastic to work with young people who have this much commitment and tenacity.”

Each member of the mission team could tell many stories of people helped, lives transformed and the simplest of gifts bringing so much gratitude. “I learned again the joy and blessings that come from helping others,” says Cliff Morgan, one of the team.

The impact the team has made will carry over into positive relations continuing between the local church and the town as a whole. Pastor Worker concludes, “I believe we've only scratched the surface for these people. I'm sure God still has a great harvest yet to be reaped in Bulgan.”

Pastor Graeme Christian, Ministerial Association secretary for the Australian Union Conference, says, “One of the best aspects of the Mission Mongolia projects is that each team that has so far gone to Mongolia have seen the need and opportunity to make a difference for people there.” He adds, “They have enjoyed it enough that they want to go back and continue to help establish the church in Mongolia.”—*Warren and Kristiina Somerville*



Ten Aussies made a difference in the Mongolian village of Bulgan on a recent missions trip as part of the Australian Union Conference's Mission Mongolia initiative.

People, the face of redesigned web site

Silver Spring, Maryland, USA

Two church members from the South Pacific Division feature in the redesigned web site of the General Conference (GC). The new-look web site is intended to focus more on the people of the Adventist Church, rather than administration structure.



Adventist Volunteer Service

The redesigned Adventist world church web site profiles Heidi Randall (pictured right, with Pastor Mel Lemke, Adventist Volunteer Service director for the South Pacific Division). She is currently teaching in Brisbane, Qld.

One of the faces on the home page of <www.adventist.org> is that of Heidi Randall, who spent a year as a volunteer teacher in Japan. The web site tells the story of how she made friends with a local woman who came to Australia to live and is now a baptised Adventist. (For the full story see <www.adventist.org/mission_and_service/faces/heidi_asuka.html.en>.)

Harold Aiaile from Malaita, Solomon Islands, also features on the GC web site. When he moved to the village of Tatare he introduced windows to the community.

Houses there were built low on the ground with no windows because the villagers were afraid of the spirits of their dead ancestors. Mr Aiaile built his house high off the ground and included windows. With his wife, he began to teach the villagers about health and God. As a result, 21 churches are now being built on Malaita.

(The full story is online at <www.adventist.org/mission_and_service/faces/aiaile.html.en>.)

Miss Randall and Mr Aiaile are two of some 15 profiles of Adventists from around the world who feature on the web site. "When visitors come, they see it's about people, not about structure," says John Beckett, webmaster for the GC. "Seventh-day Adventist people are the centrepiece."

The simpler design was chosen not to promote itself, say church leaders, but to be more mission focused. Links at the top of the Web page continue to offer navigation to various church departments and study aids, including the weekly Bible lesson.

"The church has been repositioning itself, connecting itself more to society and to the marketplace," says John Banks, media relations director for the GC.

"We hope this will show our visitors that we are a global church whose members express their faith in many ways," adds Mr Beckett.

Vignettes include the story of a municipal judge who holds Bible studies in her home; a couple who bring a message of hope to one of the planet's smallest places; and a church planter whose vineyard is a cafe in Denmark. These brief stories, and others, offer a more personal view of the Adventist Church, say church leaders.

"I believe this new site delivers a fresh, vibrant and focused view of what's going on in the church," says Mark Kellner, assistant director for Adventist News Network. "It's

easy to sit in your church—wherever that is—and forget you are part of an international movement," he says.

Some 20 million people attend Adventist Church services each week worldwide. "It's my hope that this new web site will help the church feel more connected," adds Mr Kellner.

The church's web site attracted about 30,000 visitors a week in the past. With the change in design and focus, church leaders expect numbers to increase and to attract visitors to stay longer.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has a long history of using technology to spread the gospel message. It began one of the longest-running religious radio broadcasts, *The Voice of Prophecy*, 75 years ago; was one of the first to utilise television in the 1950s; and moved into the digital age with an online presence nearly 20 years ago on CompuServe. The church created and operates one of the largest private satellite communication networks in the world, as well as media centres in many parts of the world that produce television programming for their regions.—Ansel Oliver/ANN/Kellie Hancock



www.adventist.org

Harold Aiaile helped give villagers on Malaita a new window on the world.

Australians to keep law and order at Atoifi

Safety concerns for staff at Atoifi Adventist Hospital will ease when Australian police establish a station on the campus of the Malaita, Solomon Islands-based hospital in July.

Two officers from the Australian Federal Police (AFP) will staff the station, reports Pastor Bruce Roberts, president of the Trans-Pacific Union. "The agreement we are establishing with the AFP will guarantee a police presence on the campus for the next eight years," says Pastor Roberts.

The officers are part of the Australian-led regional intervention force, which includes police officers, soldiers and civilian officials.

The Adventist Church established Atoifi in 1965. The 80-bed hospital serves the eastern half of Malaita and is the only private health-care institution in the Solomons that provides training for nurses.—Brenton Stacey

The God of comfort

by Julie Lawrence

We call it the “Bat phone.” However, its piercing ring doesn’t bring a superhero. Instead, the bat phone’s siren means somebody is critically ill, and will be arriving via helicopter in under five minutes. We all spring into action in anticipation of their arrival—two doctors and three critical-care trained nurses. As we wait on the helipad for the patient to arrive, we all ready ourselves for action—never really sure what we will be confronted with.

As a clinical nurse specialist in Victoria’s busiest trauma centre and trauma intensive care unit, I am faced with people’s mortality every day. Believe me, speed, alcohol and fatigue really *do* kill. But sometimes its just simple bad luck that brings people to us. Lots of blood, badly damaged body parts, heart attack and burn victims—all make their way to my place of work. It can be extremely upsetting at times.

However, the one issue that has caused me more distress than any of the physical injuries and suffering is the fact that so many of these people—whom God has created—have no faith. Families are understandably grief stricken. They cry over and over, “I may never see my loved one again.”

The anguish is tangible, and their pain unmitigated as we work to keep their loved one alive. I remember Jesus’ promise, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28*). But I have asked on so many occasions, “Would you like me to contact someone for you? A priest or minister?” So often the reply is “No, he didn’t believe in God.”

It makes my heart ache that these people have no hope should their loved one die. I am acutely aware of the many promises we have been given. But for a long time, I felt

too uncomfortable about sharing these with nonbelievers. I just want to remind them that “the eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms” (Deuteronomy 33:27).

One day I decided to write some of God’s promises down, and just slip one or two into the waiting room. They are promises that have been a blessing to me my whole life. They are promises that kept me going


it—people not only badly burned, but with massive shrapnel injuries leaving their bodies open and torn.

Not one of those people had a belief in God. Not one was comforted by God’s countless promises of help and presence. In the age of terrorism in which we now live, it seems situations like this are going to be more frequent.

And so I ask myself: Did I wake up this morning and ask God to be with me? Did I ask Him to take my life in His hands to do as He desires? I don’t know when my time will be up, but I need to make sure if that time comes today, my heart is right with my God.

I have decided to live every day to its fullest potential and familiarise and strengthen myself with the messages we have been blessed with from God—the “God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God” (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4).

Witnessing—the sharing of our own individual experience, hope and comfort in God—is among the first and foremost ministries in which the disciplined Christian will want to engage.

By the tragedies I witness around me, I am reminded of the importance of our experience with God and the need to have an experience, live the experience, and share the experience of God’s love and comfort. 

** All Bible quotations are from the New International Version.*

Julie Lawrence is a clinical nurse specialist and writes from Orbost, Victoria.



when my younger brother almost died from a brain haemorrhage. Promises such as “My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever” (Psalm 73:26), that made me sure God’s hand was over him.

The other thing I think of is how precious life really is. One minute we can be living normally; the next we may be on that helicopter after some tragedy.

Following the Bali terrorist bombings, I received five of the worst burnt and injured victims. I have never seen anything like

Life in balance

by Jonathan Duffy

When I was about 17, my father bought me an old Austin A40 motor car. I drove it around for awhile and then I gave it to my brother for him and a mate to use while their cars were off the road to be “hotted up.” I think there may have been an offer of some payment for the car but it was never forthcoming. They used the car for a few weeks while their cars being worked on.

Then some months later I saw my little A40 sitting in an empty lot next to my brother’s mate’s house. It sat there rusting and deserted, not being used the way the gift was intended. I felt a little hurt: I could still have been driving around in that car, but instead it was just sitting rusting, wasting away.

Living more

It’s a principle for living. The mention of the word *stewardship* more often than not evokes the image of money and giving, but stewardship is much more than that. A steward is someone who has been entrusted with something of value on behalf of someone else. As God’s stewards we are accountable to Him for how we use His valuable gifts.

So, if we are convinced of the fact that God is the giver of health and life, how do we respond to His gift? Do we treasure the gift of good health and value it? Do we do everything in our power to maintain it, or do we just take it for granted and let it erode away?

Traditionally when we talk about health we tend to focus on nutrition and exercise, but health is far broader than that. Certainly, modern science has shown the links between exercise and improved cardiovascular health, and has demonstrated that plant foods are the most protective for the body. Being good stewards of health requires us to eat a balanced diet and to exercise regularly. But those things—important as they are—are

not ends in themselves.

Plus sleep

Sleep is an important part of health, yet for many people it is sacrificed in order to try to fit more things into our busy schedules. Our sleep comes in one-hour cycles. The first and largest part of the cycle is for physical recuperation. While this is very important, we tend to have less physical exertion in our day than we did in the past. The second part of the cycle is the dream cycle when we mentally recuperate from the stresses of the day. In the first one-hour cycle the dream cycle is very short. The dream cycle increases with each one-hour cycle of sleep.

In order to gain the maximum mental recuperation from our sleep we should sleep a total of nine hours per day. Unfortunately, many of us do not get adequate amounts of sleep and this often leads to other health complications.

Being overstimulated also has health implications. Even good stresses take their toll on the body. Many of us live a hectic life, chasing one event after another with increasing frequency. The body needs time to rest, to recuperate, to rejuvenate and to spiritually refresh. Periods of hype need to be followed by periods of rest and recovery.


Unfortunately for many of us, the struggle to meet the mortgage and pay the bills keeps us busy at work all day. Evenings are taken up by home duties and children. Stewardship is about seeking balance: a balance between work, rest and play, with time also given to spiritual recuperation.



Finishing well

This is not about a guilt trip. But rather to challenge us to continually question ourselves as to whether we are good stewards of the gift of health that God has given us.

I wish I could go back and reclaim my Austin A40 in the condition it was in before it was left derelict. It’s probably old enough these days to be considered a cool car. I hope that when we come toward the end of our life we won’t look back and say, “I wish I had been a better steward of my health—I wish I had taken the time for health before I was forced to take time for disease.”

Professor Archibald Hart, a “burnout expert” from Fuller University, challenges our thinking when he states, “God is more interested in you finishing well than what you accomplished along the way.” 

“Stewardship—It’s a lifestyle.” This is the second in a series of articles highlighting the importance of stewardship as it impacts on many aspects of our lives.

Jonathan Duffy is director of Adventist Health Ministries for the South Pacific Division, with headquarters in Wahroonga, New South Wales.

Responding to the call

by Candice Jacques

The provisional death toll from a devastating earthquake has risen to 20,000, with at least 30,000 injured . . ." You could be mistaken for thinking these comments are from any nightly news program. However, they come from just one of numerous emails ADRA–Australia and ADRA–New Zealand receive every year requesting relief from disasters around the world, and at home.

In the past year, ADRA–Australia and ADRA–New Zealand collectively pledged financial assistance from Disaster and Famine Relief Offering (DFRO) funds to 13 disasters. This assistance converted into tangible aid such as food, blankets, medicine and volleyballs. In these ways, and more, ADRA responds to disaster—changing lives for the better.

Iran

When an earthquake hit Iran in 2003, the need was enormous. With an estimated 20,000 people dead and thousands more injured, ADRA–Australia immediately responded by contributing \$A13,000 to help provide tents, blankets, heaters and other necessities.

Bangladesh

In response to flooding in northern Bangladesh in mid-2003, ADRA–Australia's assistance not only alleviated immediate problems by providing food parcels and medicine, but also helped provide for long-term needs. Andrew Mondol, ADRA–Bangladesh Program Director, reported, "After distribution of food assistance [the recipients] may survive two to three weeks. They then need seeds for cultivation, rehabilitation types of things, and food for work for



ADRA is providing ongoing drought relief to Australian farmers and their families.

future survival. By assisting with immediate needs, they were able to focus on these longer-term issues."

Solomon Islands

When, in mid-2003, an ex-rebel leader went on a killing spree, almost 300 families fled the south-western area of Solomon's main island. After arriving at a care centre where the only developed infrastructure was a village standpipe (water supply), ADRA–Australia's response to the crisis helped provide mosquito nets, hurricane lamps, bush knives and kerosene. It also funded the purchase of four soccer balls and two volleyballs for children living at the camp.

Samoa

After Cyclone Hetta hit Samoa in January 2004, ADRA Australia responded with aid from DFRO funds. This assistance provided much-needed food, such as rice, flour, sugar and canned fish. ADRA–Samoa reported, "Our people . . . have shown their appreciation, for this is the first time that they have benefited from ADRA Disaster Relief Assistance."

Australia

Fortunately, Australia has not suffered a disaster this past year. However, some

disasters are ongoing and as Australia continues to struggle with drought, ADRA–Australia continues to respond. In September 2003, ADRA–Australia contributed \$A21,000 toward a project that distributed 40 pallets of toiletries and canned food to families in severely drought-affected areas. A recipient exclaimed, "When I get down in spirits I can look at the wonderful generosity of your people and smile. That helps the day feel so much better knowing someone cares."

Although in quiet times, ADRA–Australia is still busy with national disaster-relief issues. By meeting with national forums on drought, training volunteers for emergency response, providing emergency accommodation kits to churches and working with government on disaster-response strategies, ADRA–Australia works at staying ahead of disaster.

New Zealand

In February 2004, as flooding affected Manawatu in the North Island, ADRA–New Zealand worked alongside Civil Defence NZ in providing 15 pallets of food to flood victims.

ADRA–New Zealand has also used DFRO funds to provide support for cyclone sufferers in Fiji, Niue and the Cook Islands; victims of war in Iraq; and those affected by social breakdown in Liberia. In the past year, ADRA–New Zealand contributed approximately \$NZ200,000 to help relieve suffering caused by disasters and bring hope to hurting people. **R**

Candice Jacques is the public relations and marketing assistant for ADRA–Australia, based in Wahroonga, New South Wales.

ADRA Disaster and Famine Relief Offering — June 5

Looking back

by Grenville Kent

Backing the Camry out of the garage, I heard a baby voice screaming, and felt my wheels crunching little bones. I braked too late, ran to the back of the car and there was Marcus, our 16-month-old, crushed and dying.

Then I woke in fright.

I looked around the dark bedroom at my calmly sleeping wife, the red figures of the digital clock glowing: 3.19 Sabbath morning. I slowed my breathing and silently asked God to care for my family, then turned over. If I didn't sleep, my congregation might in my sermon that morning.

I woke up late, quickly prayed, reread the sermon over breakfast, dressed and sprinted to the car, ready to back it out and load the children while Carla prepared the truckload of bottles and baby gear.

Sitting with the car in reverse and the handbrake off felt like a familiar scene, and I remembered my dream. But I had locked Marcus into the dining room 20 seconds before. I checked the mirrors and looked out the back window. Nothing. Still I sat there arguing with myself, my foot on the brake. Maybe my dream was from God, maybe mere parental fear. I looked at my watch—then got out anyway.

There behind the back wheel was my little boy. He was playing with Bear and his red car. Seeing me he shouted excitedly, "Dadda! Car! Car!"

I scooped him up for a hug, though he wasn't the one who needed it.

How on earth did he get there? Through two closed internal doors, out through the locked front door and screen door, then dashed across the porch and ducked in under the opening Roll-a-Door without me seeing him. I didn't know he could do that Houdini routine, let alone in half a minute.

I clipped him into his seat with a rather mechanical thanks to God, seated his sister and backed the car out. When his mother joined us, I told her what had nearly happened. I was emotionally numb—the



classic male coping mechanism. I told my church about it and they gasped, but I still felt nonplussed, like I was telling someone else's story from a book.

I don't see miracles every day. I want a faith that is rational, not the flipped-out, "God sends me messages in my tea-leaves" variety. Don't get me wrong, I believe God can break natural laws. The Bible describes miracles and I've seen a few. I believe God is active, but that most of God's gifts arrive quietly through natural systems the Creator originally set up. So I thank God for my food, even though it doesn't fall from the sky like manna.

With Marcus, though, I couldn't find a natural explanation. My subconscious could have just popped up that dream, I guess, but on that night? What are the chances?

I can only conclude it was a miracle. Call it a minor suburban miracle, but it shows me there is a God who sees the future and loves my son. My mind was convinced and my heart finally caught up in a Kleenex moment of relief and gratitude.

But miracles are slippery things. They raise as many questions as they answer. Why us, in a world where so many

children suffer? We have praying friends who have suffered terribly with a child dying young or, perhaps even worse, growing up to live a destructive and tragic life. How do I tell this story to them? How did God choose when to intervene? And what if God had not chosen to do a miracle that day? Would I still trust?

Miracles don't remove all doubt. You can eat loaves and fishes, see healings and still walk away from the Teacher. You can eat manna, enjoy shade from a cloud that follows you around every day and stay lost in rebellion against prophetic leadership. When people demanded miraculous signs before believing, Jesus refused, saying the only sign they would see would be His teaching and His death (see Matthew 12:38-40; John 6:30-36).

The gospel may be the only sign you ever get. Paul observed that in his day "Jews demand miraculous signs, and Greeks insist on 'wisdom,' but we preach Christ crucified—a scandal to the Jews and nonsense to the Greeks, but to those who are called (both Jews and Greeks) the cross shows Christ as the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:22-24, paraphrase).

The gospel is sign enough. God's greatest intervention in history was His own Son crushed and dying.

I won't let my inability to explain theodicy in the entire universe stop me from enjoying God's clear interventions or from trusting God's kind omniscience. Or from loving the gospel, that saves me and my family at such savage cost to the Father's Son, His other Self. Unthinkable love: "God did not keep back His own Son but allowed Him to die for us all. After that, wouldn't any other gift be mere small change?" (Romans 8:32, paraphrase). **R**

Grenville Kent is a pastor at Kellyville church in Sydney, New South Wales.

The christening

by Kent Kingston



The place

by John Pocock

I'm trying to imagine the place
That you have prepared for me
A place of beauty out there in space
Next to that crystal sea.

I'm trying to imagine those pearly
gates
Welcoming me to come in
I want to leave this earth that I hate
This world of death and sin.

I'm trying to imagine the sea of glass
Of standing before your throne
Of bowing humbly on my knee at last
Tears of joy telling me I'm home.

I'm trying to imagine those fields of
green
The trees so tall and strong
The beauty of the worlds unseen
The joy of praising you in song.

I'm trying to imagine walking with
you
Holding your scar-lined hand
Experiencing that joy I never knew
In this sin-polluted land.

I'm trying to imagine the heavenly
choir
Singing praise to you on the throne
The sound of the trumpet and the lyre
Filling my heavenly home.

I'm trying to imagine the place
That You have prepared for me
My desire is to look into Your face
Come quickly and set me free.

John Pocock writes from Helena Valley, Western Australia.

It was a beautiful church. Warm sandstone like bread rising in the sun. Inside, the stained-glass windows glowed, illuminating various translucent apostles. The building must have been at least 100 years old, styled in the ornate architecture of yesteryear.

The christening proceeded. Music came from the organ and a small vocal ensemble in choir robes. The reverend, also robed, spoke for some minutes.

But the congregation's attention was elsewhere. Early in the service, a bird had snuck in. Clad in riotous plumage—possibly a rosella of some sort—it fluttered from rafter to rafter, scattering shards of red, green and golden light in its wake. Or sometimes it took in the length of the church in a single spectacular swoop.

At various intervals, the bird let out raucous but somewhat musical shrieks, all of them inappropriately timed. It was difficult to ascertain whether these shrill interruptions were attempts at participation or if the bird was oblivious to the human activity below, lost in an ecstatic avian *joie de vivre*. As the echoes of each bird call resounded from the rafters, the reverend would glance upwards in a stifled

mixture of amusement and annoyance. Some parishioners appeared to be concerned that they might receive a christening of quite a different kind.

How is it that several octaves of organ, enlivened by 240 volts and accompanied by an entire congregation, could be drowned out by the joyful song of a single bird? How is it that several hundred tonnes of stone, timber and stained glass, erected to glorify God could be so easily outshone by the unself-conscious flight of a small feathered creature born effortlessly from an egg?

We strive for God's favour, all the while forgetting that every day is a miracle, every heartbeat a gift. We try to manufacture magic by ritual and tradition, relying on human artifice to reach the divine. But miracles await us in every moment of our lives—inexplicable and undeserved. **R**

Kent Kingston writes from Kuranda, northern Queensland.



Just for children

**"But I say to you,
love your enemies...."**

**Matthew
5:44**

Peta Taylor

Integrity of evidence?

Susan Johnstone, Qld

Jan Knopper (April 24) says that since righteousness by faith was preached in our churches there's been a decline in people keeping the Sabbath properly and returning tithe, and more people are wearing jewellery. The implication is that preaching righteousness by faith leads to complacency in respect to Christian works.

But is it possible that rather than leading people away from their commitment to God, this doctrine exposes the futility of hollow, external works? If we are sincerely committed to serving God, hearing that we gain righteousness by faith—not our works—should not diminish our desire to serve God. Instead, it should inspire us to sacrifice more for Him.

I wonder whether the alleged decline in good works was more due to church members realising that their works weren't going to get them into heaven and thus they gave up, because they weren't truly convicted of these issues anyway. God loves a cheerful giver; He's not pleased with pharisaical attitudes.

Milton Hook, NSW

Jan Knopper alleged that "when righteousness by faith was preached" Sabbath-keeping declined, the wearing of jewellery became more common and tithing suffered. But on what basis does he make these

links—hunch, personal opinion, anecdotal evidence or objective research?

Tithing could have been affected by a variety of factors: increasing secularism and materialism; multicultural influences; the diversion of funds to offshoots; shifting demographics prompted by a rapid influx of poorer converts; a decline of fundamentalism and more.

"The only way in which he can attain to righteousness is through faith."

To my knowledge any links between the preaching of righteousness by faith alone, the drop in tithing, an increased wearing of jewellery and decline in Sabbath-keeping habits haven't been objectively tested.

On the contrary, I recently attended a meeting in which the division treasurer presented evidence of a steady rise in per capita tithe over the past seven years. So if the preaching of righteousness by faith caused a downturn in tithing some two decades ago, must I now assume the preaching of righteousness by faith in our churches is now declining?

Donovan H Powell, email

Here's a quote about our obedience to the law that warrants thought: "Righteous is obedience to the law. The law demands righteous, and this the sinner owes to the law; but he is incapable of rendering it. The only way in which he can attain to right-

eousness is through faith. By faith he can bring to God the merits of Christ, and the Lord places the obedience of His Son to the sinner's account.

"Christ's righteousness is accepted in place of man's failure, and God receives, pardons, justifies, the repentant, believing soul, treats him as though he were righteous, and loves him as he loves His

Son. This is how faith is accounted righteousness" (Ellen G White comments, *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol 6, page 1073).

It's a quote I clipped from a lesson quarterly a few years ago. It resides in the front of my Bible. It saved me from total and destructive despair when the doctrine of the day meant there was no hope for me.

One more thing: if God could have corrected the damage done by the disease called sin—by sending the Holy Spirit into our lives so that we could become sinless again—then Jesus would not have needed to die. This thought strikes me as the ultimate antichrist.

A living church

W J Everett, Vic

Brad Watson's excellent article "Possibilities of 'church'" (April 24) started me thinking. While humanity's churches are numerous, teaching many different doctrines, traditions and practices, Christ has but one: "My church" (Matthew 16:18)—singular.

Solomon's temple was built of stones cut and perfected in the quarry, then taken to the temple ready to be put into place. In this earthly "quarry" we "living stones" are likewise being perfected, so that eventually we will be ready to be slotted into the place prepared for us in the heavenly temple (John 14:2). The only church to which I want to belong is the one Christ is building.

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.



Anniversary

Akers, Russell and Netta (nee Golby) celebrated 60 years of marriage on 21.2.04 with their family on the Nepean River. They were married in the old Paramatta church by Pastor Lionel Maxwell,



and have been blessed with three children. In retirement, Russ and Netta live in the beautiful village of Wallacia, NSW, and enjoy the company of their 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Retirements

●**John Allum**, Greater Sydney Conference (40 years). ●**Hedley Anderson**, Signs Publishing Company (SPC) (41 years). ●**Raymond Baird**, North New South Wales Conference (NNSW) (35 years). ●**Graeme Brown**, Tasmanian Conference (37 years). ●**Neville Chester**, Sanitarium Health Food Company (SHF) (40 years). ●**Paul Cresswell**, SHF (49 years). ●**Raymond Eaton**, NNSW (39 years). ●**Helen Ellis**, Signs Publishing Company (24 years). ●**Robert Flynn**, Western Australian Conference (WA) (41 years). ●**Frank Gorry**, Northern Australian Conference (40 years). ●**Keith Grolimund**, South Pacific Division/Expat volunteer (29 years). ●**Alan Holman**, SPC (39 years). ●**Keith Keating**, SHF (24 years). ●**Warren Kent**, SHF (39 years). ●**Wendy Lwin**, Sydney Adventist Hospital (26 years). ●**Charles Mackey**, SHF (38 years). ●**Taisto Mahonen**, ARV, South Queensland Conference (36 years). ●**Ramona Parsons**, SAH (44 years). ●**Ronald Pieterse**, WA (20 years). ●**Janet Rieger**, SPD (32 years). ●**Maurleen Sharpe**, SAH (18 years). ●**Robert Stratford**, SPD (43 years). ●**Neville Tosen**, SQ (35 years). ●**Nina Tudor**, SAH (40 years). ●**Owen Twist**, South New South Wales Conference (42 years).

Weddings

Bath—Manning. Pastor Arthur John Bath and Hazel May Manning were married on 2.5.04 at Victoria Point church, Brisbane, Qld. *Murray Thackham*

Coafield—Coafield. Anthony Coafield (recently changed from Cappe), son of Dr Ian (Lismore, NSW) and Jill Cappe (Murarrie, Qld), and Missy Coafield, daughter of Ron and Pamela Coafield (Jilliby, NSW), were married on 4.4.04 in a beautiful rural setting at the home of the bride's parents, Jilliby, near Wyong. *Wayne French, Nelson Palmer*

Volunteers!

Personal Ministries Coordinator, Haven Adventist church—Nelson, NZ. The person may also work in the pastoral and youth areas. Term: 12 months preferably, but negotiable. Accommodation and living expenses provided.

Assistant Pastor, Royal Oak church, NZ—to be involved in all aspects of church life, with emphasis on teen/youth age group. Previous experience in youth ministry preferred. Term: August 1, 2004–July 1, 2005. Airfare, living allowance and local board provided.

Email: <volunteers@adventist.org.au>. For more positions, check the web on <www.adventistvolunteers.org>

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Currie—Marquet. Stephen Currie, son of Pastor Alex and Beverley Currie (Wahroonga, NSW), and Nicole Marquet, daughter of Lester and Wendy Marquet (Gosford), were married on 21.3.04 in the Uniting Church, Gosford. *Alex Currie*

Obituaries

Calvert, Kathleen, born 18.3.1919 at Varle, Hungary; died 20.4.04 in Queen Beatrix Nursing Home, Albion Park Rail, NSW. On 18.2.42 she married Maurice while living in England. In 1956 they moved from England to the Illawarra district. She is survived by her husband; her children, Alex, Irene, Derek, Kathleen, Peter and David; her 16 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. *Kerry Hortop*

Diamond, Luke, stillborn 23.4.04 at Royal Women's Hospital, Brisbane, Qld. He is survived by his parents, Sean and Sharon (nee Roberts, Brisbane); and his brothers, Joshua and Jarrod. Luke didn't know life on this earth, but will have the chance of growing up in heaven. Till then, he will be sadly missed. Come, Lord Jesus! *Bob Possingham*

Jones—Chapman. Rona Violet, born 27.9.1913; died 29.4.04 at Tauranga, NZ. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Barry and Geraldine Chapman (Tauranga); her four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; her nephew and niece and their spouses, John and Judy Griffin (Gisborne) and Gloria and Fred Raggatt (Auckland). Rona was looking forward to that great reunion with her loved ones on the resurrection day. *Jan Veld*

Kingdom, Barbara Joy, born 12.4.1938 at Musswellbrook, NSW; died 13.4.04 in the Calvary Hospital, Sydney. In 1955 she married and had one son, Phillip. She later married Ken Kingdom. She is survived by her husband; her son, Phillip; and her chil-

Positions vacant

▲ **Boarding House Parents—Carmel Adventist College, WA**, is seeking two active, young person-oriented people to serve as the Boarding House Parents, commencing Term 3. Ideally, these positions would suit a married couple; however, two single (one male, one female) would be suitable. The successful applicants will serve during weekdays only. For further information and a job description contact Gary Blagden on (08) 9398 7222 or 0408 910 508. Applications in writing should be addressed to PO Box 134, Gosnells WA 6990 no later than June 18, 2004.

▲ **Upper Primary Teacher—North West Christian School (Tas)** is seeking a qualified Primary Teacher for a vibrant P–10 school located at Penguin in the beautiful north-west of Tasmania, to commence July 12, 2004. The successful applicant will be a practising Seventh-day Adventist who is committed to supporting the vision and mission of Adventist education. For further information please contact Philip Knight, Director of Education; phone (03) 9259 2151; mobile 0414 259 215; email <pknight@adventist.org.au>.

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minimal illness and died looking forward to that great reunion with her loved ones when the Lord returns.

Jan Veld, Brian Arahill

Pettman, Leslie Arthur, born 22.8.1922 at Coburg, Vic; died 30.4.04 at Chevallum, Qld. On 31.5.50 he married Lorna Roberts. He is survived by his wife (Chevallum); and his children, Steven (Aroona), Thelma McDougall (West Woombay) and Eileen Wilson (Caboolture). Les loved his family and he loved his Lord. He also loved creating things from raw materials. After helping to build Maroochydore church, he carefully crafted many items of furniture that can be seen throughout the church today. *Neil Tyler, Maurice Woods*

Reed, Hugh Stanley Lytton, born 30.7.1921 in Melbourne, Vic; died 25.2.04 at Warragul. In 1959 he married Wynsome. He is survived by his wife; his daughter, Deborah; his son, Peter; his nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Hugh was a keen student of the Bible and an active member of Mont Albert church prior to moving to Warragul. A Christian gentleman has gone to his rest awaiting the call of the Good Shepherd. *Bill Doble*

Scott, Muriel Joan, born 12.6.1918 in Paddington, Sydney, NSW; died 28.4.04 in Sydney. Joan and her parents were pioneer members of the Oatley church, Sydney, and in later years she was a member at Caringbah. Joan met her husband of 57 years, Garnet, at Warburton, Vic, where she was employed by the Sanitarium Health Food Company. She is survived by her husband; her daughter, Sheryl, and her family; her son and daughter-in-law, Alvin and Val; her brother, Doug; and her sister, Dorothy. Of Joan it may well be said, "Faithful unto death." *Cedric Wallace*

Syme, Doreen Lavinia, born 20.10.1919 in Edmonton, London, UK; died peacefully 31.3.04 in Esther Somerville Nursing Home, Normanhurst, NSW. She is survived by her sons and daughters-in-law, David and Elizabeth, and Jeremy and Suzanne; and her grandchildren. Family and friends celebrated her life at Avondale Cemetery Chapel, Cooranbong. We can truly say she fought the good fight, completed the course and kept the faith. *David Syme, Joe Webb*

dren to her second marriage, Annette, Julie, Janice and David. Joy became an Adventist in 1972 and remained a church member for the remainder of her life. The last two years saw Joy struggle with ill-health and lengthy stays in hospital. *Cedric Wallace*

Lewis, Marion Dudley (nee Stevens), born 5.5.1929 at Sherwood, Brisbane, Qld; died peacefully 17.4.04 at Abbey Gardens, Morayfield. She was predeceased by her husband, Bill, in 1992. She is survived by her children, Leigh Watts, Dianne Greive, Lester, Graeme and Lauren Lewis; her siblings, Ross Stevens, Ula Cable, Paul Stevens, Billie Miller and Laurie Hung; and her 15 grandchildren. Family and friends gathered at Eight Mile Plains Adventist church to farewell Marion, who is now released from a long illness. *Peter Miller, Keith Miller*

MacCormack, Ellie, born 20.1.1939 in the Netherlands; died 25.4.04 in Auckland, NZ. She is survived by her husband, John; her son, Brian; and triplet daughters, Anna, Fiona and Lisa (all of Auckland); her sisters and their spouses, Greta and Michael Sichel (Chittaway Bay, NSW), and Jantje and Hendrik Sterken (Nieuwleusen, the Netherlands); her twin sister and brother-in-law, Jenny and George Neale (Morisset, NSW); and her brother and sister-in-law, Pastor Jan and Ann Veld (Tauranga, NZ). Elly patiently endured her ter-



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Adventist Singles Network (Sydney, NSW). May 30 at 5 pm: Lion King. \$A99.50. 0407 581 343. **May 8:** Manly walk, 3.30 pm. Meet cnr The Corso/South Steyne Street (opposite Steyne Hotel). **June 19:** Day convention—Ryde SDA church, Lane Cove Road. **July 17:** Christmas in July—details later. Inquiries (02) 9623 4235.

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Allround Travel Centre. Our program for 2004/2005: ●Reformation/Alpine/UK tour, September 2004. ●GC, St Louis, June 2005. ●Bali, October 2004 (18-40). For further details contact Anita or Debbie on phone (07) 5530 3555; fax (07) 5530 3846; email <alltrav@bigpond.net.au>.

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Names urgently needed: San Nurses Memorial to be dedicated at Sydney Adventist Hospital **Homecoming, June 12-13.** Please send names and date of death of San graduates/trainees who died in active service for the church: mission field, homeland or in training. Dr Tom Ludowici (02) 9487 9410; <toml@sah.org.au>.

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