

# RECORD



*Women from the Adventist Church and from another denomination joined to present a series of lifestyle workshops on Santa Isabel in the Solomons in June.*

## Sunday schools using Sabbath school material

*Buala, Santa Isabel, Solomon Islands*

Members of another Christian denomination on Santa Isabel in the Solomon Islands are using Seventh-day Adventist Church-produced materials in their children's Sunday schools.

Deku Enoch introduced the new GraceLink curriculum at workshops organized by 200 Adventist women from Guadalcanal daily in the town of Buala and in villages along the coast during a visit to the island, June 7-12.

"The members of the denomination loved us coming," says Joy Butler, the director of Women's Ministries for the South Pacific Division. "The priests and bishops were so responsive."

Mrs Butler reports that many of the priests and bishops and 100 of the denomination's female parishioners joined the Adventists present at the workshops, which covered topics such as children's ministry, dressmaking, finance, nutrition, prayer ministry, relationships, time management and women's ministry. They also visited primary schools where they spoke about dental care and gave away toothbrushes.

"I'm impressed with how the women integrated so well," says Mrs Butler. "They became friends. I've never seen so many tears at a farewell before."

Leaders of the church's Eastern Solomon Islands Mission have befriended a leader of the denomination, which has broken down the antagonism preventing Adventists from bringing their message to the island.—**Brenton Stacey**

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sign unity covenant*



## *Growing the church in Greece*

# Spiritual skinny-dippers

A report in the *Herald Sun*, July 26, tells of a new church in Melbourne that started four months ago. To cater for the more than 1200 people already attending each week, they are holding two worship services. The same report noted that Australia's Federal Treasurer Peter Costello recently praised a large Sydney church for the strong community values it promotes.

This year the Seventh-day Adventist Church has two corporate focal points: The Year of Evangelism; and being United in the Warmth of Fellowship. We seem to have the first one down pat. Our corporate evangelistic methods traditionally involve large events, at the conclusion of which attendees are invited to make a commitment. We feel elated that others have accepted the same truth we hold dear, and take great delight in reporting the number of baptisms. But despite what some media, treasurers or onlookers may say, it's not about the numbers. It's about the people.

Postmodern people are relational. The story reported in the *Herald Sun* is testament to the fact they seek spiritual experiences and crave community. To connect effectively with people who have yet to experience Jesus, we must get the relational side of our story sorted out.

What do these people see when they look at us as a community of Christians?

Community is defined as a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society. We may be a group of Christians and some of us may even live near one another, or in the even closer confines of a church compound or campus. We may spend time together in the same building between 9.00 am and 12 noon every Saturday, and we might even meet in each other's homes to share a meal, or to study

the Bible. But do we really live the true essence of community?

"Our churches are filled with people who outwardly look contented and at peace, but inwardly are crying out for someone to love them . . . just as they are—confused, frustrated, frightened, guilty, and often unable to communicate with their own families," wrote Keith Miller in his book *The Taste of New Wine*. "But other people in the church look so happy and contented that one seldom has the courage to admit his own deep needs before such a self-sufficient group as the average church congregation appears to be."

Postmodern people value authenticity. They crave relationships that are built not on illusions, but on the shared experience of openly facing the struggles of life together. If, in their search for an authentic spiritual community, they were to place an advertisement in the classifieds, it might read something like this:

**Wanted: spiritual skinny-dippers. Fellow spiritual journeymen [and women] required. Only those willing to strip off their religious robes need apply. If you can jump in the deep end, help navigate rapids, boulders and waterfalls, are happy to be seen without your make-up on, and don't mind getting your hair wet, apply to <postmodernperson@hotmail.com>.**

In *Eternal Echoes: Exploring Our Hunger to Belong*, John O'Donohue writes: "In this postmodern world, the hunger to belong has rarely been more intense, more urgent.

With many of the ancient, traditional shelters now in ruins, it is as if society has lost the art of fostering community."

The church [collective noun meaning us as a group of Christian individuals] should be the first community people go to when looking for authentic relationships. It should be a place where we, who are all equal sinners in the sight of God, are willing to enter the intimacy of being real with each other. Sadly, church is often the last place people find that.

We need to ask ourselves the hard questions. What is the skinny-dipping potential in our church community? How authentic are our relationships? Do we love each other unconditionally, ignoring the speck in their eyes while we attend to the log in our own (see Luke 6:42)? Do we open our hearts and souls, or just our dining-room table for Sabbath lunch? Do we share our things and our time when others in the church are having a hard time? Do we have fun with them? Do we cry with them?

People will not be attracted to the story of the gospel until they see it being told through our everyday, ordinary lives—our sleeping, eating, going-to-work and walking-around lives (see Romans 12:1).

As the old song says, if we're "one in the Spirit, and one in the Lord," then, "they'll know we are Christians by our love." And that will attract more people to Jesus long-term, than any evangelistic campaign.



Kellie Hancock



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

- **New TPU newsletter to circulate in the Pacific**
- **Wangaratta church steps out in faith**
- **Bible downloadable in Arabic**
- **US megachurch of 30,000 predicts 100,000**
- **and more**

—Compiled by Scott Wegener—

● The **Trans-Pacific Union** (TPU) has started to circulate its own **newsletter titled Pacific Waves** (pictured). The editor of the newsletter, **Joe Talemaitoga**, says, “With this magazine we hope to keep our members in the TPU informed on the comings and goings of our church across the 11 nations that make up our territory.” The president of the TPU, Pastor **Bruce Roberts**, says, “The title was chosen first because the union covers such a broad area of the Pacific

and the term “waves” has been used because it plays on the idea of waves that cross the ocean and the communication waves

that surround us.” The newsletter will be published and distributed every few months.

● A special evening to celebrate and pamper the **women of Melbourne** was held at **Nunawading church**, Vic, on July 3, for some 100 Adventist women. The night was an opportunity for women of all ages to fellowship with one another, enjoy a three-course dinner and musical items. Visiting speaker

**Bronwyn Mison** (pictured), communication and public relations director for the South Pacific Division, spoke openly about her life and of God’s leading hand, and strongly encouraged women to be courageous and empowered, or as one diner summarised, “In spite of life **throwing her some lemons**, she had been great at making lemonade.”—*Rachael Dunne*

## ... and the floods came up



Two days of continuous rain on July 16 and 17 brought greater than one-in-100-year flooding to the Bay of Plenty, NNZ, districts and caused more than 2000 people to be evacuated at short notice.

Along with the 265 mm of rain, the week was also

filled with hundreds of small earthquakes, the largest measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale, which caused one fatality.

The Whakatane and Opotiki churches and the Whakatane church school properties were not damaged, though the school, of two classrooms and 49 students, closed for the first two days of Term 3, as did the other schools in the area. Several Adventist homes were flooded.

In addition to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency’s efforts in the area, Whakatane church arranged its own relief assistance after the floods, which consisted of labour, temporary accommodation and finance for their own members and their community. A local radio station was heard announcing, “Things are happening faster then we can report them.”—*Kyrill Bland*

● **Prescott College**, SA, has been **feeling the pinch** when it comes to fitting all the students attending into the available classrooms and sports areas. With enrolments up this year, the school approached the **Prospect International church** to ask for the use of their hall for weekly sporting activities and chapel services. The church **members agreed unanimously** that this be allowed, which answers the prayers of the college for a solution.

● Not her GP, nor her diabetic educator, nor even her diabetic specialist could come up with the answers to stop **Annette Bradshaw’s** out-of-control **type 2 diabetes**. She could not go to the local supermarket or walk from the car to the shop without being out of breath, until she paid a visit to Seventh-day Adventist supporting ministry’s **Cedarvale Health and Lifestyle Retreat**. She learned about

the NEWSTART program, and after 19 days of treatments and lifestyle education, Annette can now walk five to six kilometers per day. She declares, “God has given me a new lease of life,” and now tells everyone she meets about the great benefits of a vegetarian diet, daily exercise, drinking water and trusting God. Thanks to Annette’s glowing reports, the Cedarvale team were recently **invited to her Anglican church** to present a cooking-nutrition program, which some 50 people attended. They now would like



the Cedarvale team to return and present more programs.

Inquires have also come from other churches asking for similar programs.

● The **Wangaratta church**, Vic, has **stepped out in faith** and started their building-extension program (pictured). In spite of raising just over \$A10,000 of the \$A100,000 goal in their “**Adopt-a-church building fund appeal**” (Flashpoint, April 10), the church has decided to go ahead, trusting all their needs will be met. “This is something the church has waited to do for 40 years. It’s now starting to become a reality,” says Robert Stankovic, the church’s volunteer minister. “July 2004 will be remembered as a month that God asked us to put the rod into the sea—in time the waters will part.”



● Safarig, an **Adventist Global Mission Centre** in the Darfur region of **Sudan**, was **attacked and levelled** to the ground by Janjweed militia. Many houses and an Adventist church were burned. "Everybody fled for their life," says **Daniel**

## Mongolian episodes

South Queensland Conference have had evangelistic teams in Mongolia recently. Here are just some of the stories from their travels:

An evangelistic team, led by Pastor Mike Brownhill, went to Sant, and during their evangelistic series in the town hall,



had to use an old pressed-aluminium cattle-feeding trough for a baptism. With the nearest hot water supply 300 metres away, it took many trips of 25-litre milk cans, on make-shift trolleys, to fill the trough. Four young women were baptised by Pastor Brownhill (pictured), who had to baptise the women from outside the trough as it could fit only one crouching person inside at a time. At the conclusion of the series, three days later, 60 people requested baptism.

Another team, led by Pastor Zeny Vidacak, in Darkhan, Mongolia's second most populous city, had 27 baptismal candidates, as a result of a two-week evangelistic series. One man attending had been suffering from migraines ever since childhood. He had his condition laid before the Lord by Pastor Vidacak and that night the man had a dream where he saw Jesus stretch out and touch him on the forehead and declare his sickness removed. He claimed he was healed for the rest of the event.

Another adventure was had by the South Queensland Conference office team in their visit to Sukhbaatar. Taking a day trip out to the Mongolia-Russia border, and without being warned that photos were not permitted, photos were taken, and the border police escorted the party back to the city, under arrest, where Pastor Malcolm Potts used his diplomatic skills to negotiate their release.

**Marach**, church leader in the region. In spite of so many difficulties, and without a proper place to meet, the believers continue to worship God each Sabbath under the trees.—*Michael Porter/ANR*

● The **International Bible Society (IBS)** has placed more than 20 hours of recorded portions of Scripture in **Arabic on its web site**. IBS officials say people in Muslim countries are downloading the Word of God at record rates. In addition to making portions of the Bible available via the Internet, IBS is also working to distribute more than one million pieces of Christian literature in the Middle East, including Arabic Bibles, New Testaments, children's Scriptures, and audio recordings for those unable to read.—*Allie Martin*

● The **Lakewood church**, Houston, USA, congregation, that started in an abandoned feed store in the 1950s, has grown to an **attendance of 30,000**, and is poised to become even bigger. "I believe one day we're going to have 100,000 a weekend," says church pastor **Joel Osteen**. In December, the Texas church moved into the Compaq Center, a 16,000-seat arena and the former home of the Houston Rockets NBA Basketball Team. Despite having an 8000-seat sanctuary, Lakewood church—named last year by *Forbes* magazine as the **nation's largest megachurch**—couldn't accommodate the estimated 25,000 to 30,000 people who were coming through its doors weekly. Worship services are broadcast worldwide via satellite and also live on the Internet.

● **Robert (Bob) Elden Edwards**, first tenor in the **King's Herald** quartet at the Voice of Prophecy from 1947 to 1971, **died on June 3** while resting at home. Aged 79, he had been recuperating from cancer surgery. Memorial services were held in Glendale and Loma Linda, California, USA.

## Days and offerings

**August 28**—Pathfinder Day  
—Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day

## Off the record

● **Juanita Maurino** (pictured, right) became World Champion in Aerobics at the Federation of **International Gymnastics** meeting held in Perth, and later went on to become the first Australian to **win a gold medal** at the following Federation of International



Gymnastics competition held in Finland. Juanita says, "After 20 years as being at the top level of my sport and being a successful instructor, **my life was empty**. Even when I received the gold medals, I felt no real satisfaction. I am now so filled with joy and contentment since I gave my heart to Jesus. All my desire to continue in competitions and the career has just disappeared." Juanita sent specially prepared invitations to her fellow Prophecy Seminar students to attend her baptism by Pastor **Murray House** (left) at the Hamilton church, Newcastle, NSW, on July 10.

● Octogenarian **Sid Mitchell** (pictured) of **Brighton church**, South Australia, has found an innovative way to "sow" **Try Jesus cards**. Instead of pounding the pavement, he **borrows his wife Doreen's scooter** and just keeps letterboxing until the battery meter tells him it's time to go home. More than 500 cards have been delivered this way over the past few weeks.



● **Wrongpoint:** RECORD July 24 has the name of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries school in central Western Australia misspelt. The correct spelling is "Karatundi."

# ADRA—Australia aims to help Sudan crisis

Wahroonga, New South Wales

ADRA—Australia has allocated some \$US10,000 toward an ADRA—International response to the humanitarian crisis in the Darfur region of western Sudan.

ANN Around 50,000 people from surrounding regions have been displaced from the neighbouring province of Nyala and have been moved to Matarik. Nearly 100 Adventists were among those who spent 17 hours aboard slow-moving trains headed for the distant area.

Paul Yithak, secretary for the Sudan Field, expresses anguish over the crisis, saying that this is a desperate and dire situation. The United Nations says it is the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

The armed militia in Darfur, Sudan, have forced more than one million people from their homes. Entire villages have been burned to the ground, killing thousands and destroying livelihoods. Children have been wounded and are



Adventists such as these from a church in Sudan have been affected by the crisis.

sick, and thousands of women have been brutally raped. Survivors exist in squalor in camps for refugees and displaced people, without adequate food, water and medical aid. They've lost one crop harvest and won't be able to plant for the next.

"They have nothing left and they're in desperate need of help," says Gail Ormsby, marketing and public relations manager for ADRA—Australia "Only recently have international humanitarian agencies and human rights groups been permitted to enter Darfur. However, more

intervention is needed."

She reports that ADRA is in a race against time to help prevent more senseless loss of life. ADRA—International has already airlifted 35 tonnes of relief aid, including blankets, tents, therapeutic food and medicine, to 45,000 people. And 12,000 more are receiving clothing and seeds. Following the distribution of much-needed emergency aid, ADRA has plans to establish long-term rehabilitation programs. "But tremendous resources are needed," adds Mrs Ormsby.—**ANN South Pacific**

For more information on how you can help, phone 1800 242 372 (Australia) or 0800 4999 111 (New Zealand).

Donations may be sent to:  
ADRA—Australia  
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Wahroonga, NSW 2076  
or:  
ADRA—New Zealand  
Reply Paid Private Bag 76900  
Manukau City



## Adventist schools to become siblings

Brisbane, Queensland

SEVENTH-day Adventist schools in Australia and New Zealand can now support schools in the Pacific islands as part of a formal sister-school program.

The South Pacific Division's Education Department launched the program at its annual Principals Conference, held at the Watson Park Convention Centre north of Brisbane from July 4 to 7.

Associate director Ken Weslake says the aim of the program is to share resources, develop long-term relationships, an understanding of other cultures and a culture of service, and to enhance learning outcomes. "The value driving the program—

that of schools supporting each other—is an evolving dynamic of our ethos."

Principals and teachers of schools in Australia and New Zealand will decide with board approval on the size and location of a desired sister school in the Pacific. They will then contact the Education Department, which then contacts sister schools via the church's union and mission education directors.

Schools must commit to a minimum three years involvement with their sister schools. They must also determine a level of involvement from a scale of one to five, with one being exchanging ideas and five being exchanging students.

Mr Weslake says visiting schools in the Pacific helps put school priorities in perspective. "We get upset when computers crash, but students at some of our schools in the Pacific don't even have books and pencils, and yet they still learn to read and write."



Schools in the Pacific islands, such as Kambubu, in PNG, are set to be partnered with Adventist schools from Australia and New Zealand.

Mr Weslake admits the program is not new. "A number of Adventist schools have established sister-school programs before, but only on an ad-hoc basis."

Ten schools have already indicated their interest in the program.—**Brenton Stacey**



Ken Weslake.

# 100 secular executives attend Adventist seminar

Blantyre, Malawi

Meeting business executives at their point of need became the focus of a recent three-day executive seminar sponsored by the Adventist Church in Malawi.

More than 100 people attended the seminar, held at the city's Mount Soche Hotel and organised by the Kabula Hill Adventist church.



Adventists in Malawi aimed to meet felt needs of secular executives in a recent seminar.

"Executives are people who don't easily come to our meetings," says Karl Chokotho, chairman of the evangelism committee of the Malawi Union. "We wanted to minister to people whom we often forget when we do our regular

evangelistic campaigns. We therefore had to do something that would suit them in an environment that they could easily relate in."

In his keynote address, Elias Ngalande, Reserve Bank of Malawi governor, urged participants to network as executives: "I find this seminar unique in that it affords executives an opportunity to network. When we network we will discover ways of tackling economic issues and help to put our economy on course."

The seminar highlighted contemporary issues and how executives can respond. Luxon Zembe, a management consultant from Harare, Zimbabwe, spoke on global trends, business ethics and corporate governance. Zembe, a Seventh-day Adventist who has served as an elder at Highlands Adventist church for many years, spoke on the need for executives to move with the trends of times and manage change "lest change manages you."

Several medical practitioners tackled lifestyle issues affecting most executives. Stress management, diabetes and obesity were discussed. Free medical check-ups were also provided.—George Mwansa/ANN staff

## New UN High Commissioner meets Adventists

Geneva, Switzerland

The recently appointed United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, was presented with an Adventist DVD by UN liaison director for the General Conference, Dr Jonathan Gallagher. Entitled "Doors to freedom," the DVD outlines the work Adventists accomplish in the area of practical contributions to humanity.

This was after she met with and outlined her perspective on her new role to an audience of non-governmental organisations in Geneva on July 28.

Commissioner Arbour, a former Canadian Supreme Court judge, says that as she viewed the human rights landscape, "the fight against terrorism is a dominant theme," and that "some of the measures enacted to fight against terrorism are themselves a serious challenge to human rights."

Dr Gallagher asked Commissioner Arbour her perspective on religious freedom. While acknowledging this was a "broad question," she stated it was important that freedom of religion or belief should not be treated as a secondary right, "one that can be modified or changed depending on the situation."—Viola Hughes/GC

# Church remixed for today's urban teens

Copenhagen, Denmark

Refuting the notion that secularism has totally consumed the youth of Western Europe, a group of young adults are attempting a church-planting outreach to teenagers in north-west Copenhagen.

The name of the church is "Remix," borrowing a term from the music industry to signify the way lives are rearranged when God comes into the hearts of individuals.

Kristian Matthiassen, one of the teenagers in the project group, says, "Remix is a technical word used in popular music. When you remix a song you can change it, but it's still the same song. You might choose to turn up the bass—the same way we want people to turn up God in their lives."

The project benefits from contacts made with local teenagers



Young Adventists are reaching out to secular urban teens through a new church plant.

through the Adventist school and a club, but teenagers from the neighbouring Adventist churches also come and bring their friends. Only one-third of the teenagers attending the seeker services are from Adventist homes.

Linnea Rechter, another teenager from the project group, who takes part in the preaching, says, "It's our goal to communicate the Christian message in a personal and contemporary way." Secular teenagers are open to the messages and respond to the appeals, project group members say.

The greatest challenge is discipleship, so the project runs a program called "Explorer gold," where faith in God is explored through discussion, teaching and reading the Bible.—Lasse Bech/ANR/ANN

# Australian churches sign unity covenant

Adelaide, South Australia

Ten years after the formation of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA), 15 Australian churches signed a covenant of cooperation last month in which they agreed to join in common prayer, deepen their relationships, and to seek a more visible expression of unity.

Church leaders from various denominations and journalists from the secular media have hailed the pact as one of the most significant events in Australian church history. NCCA president Reverend Professor James Haire was quoted in the *Sunday Herald Sun*, August 1, claiming it as a world first. "No-one else, I believe, anywhere in the world, has been able to produce anything quite as comprehensive as this. It's an international benchmark."

Some 200 representatives of the 15 members of the ecumenical body met together for the Fifth National Forum in Adelaide, July 9-13, 2004. National forums have been held every two or three years, but this year's forum marked the end of the first decade and was celebrated with the theme "At the crossroads: Living in a world of change."

Although Seventh-day Adventists are not members of the NCCA, nor party to the commitments made to ecumenism, the Adventist Church in Australia was

represented at the forum by Pastor Ray Coombe, director of Inter-Faith Relations for the South Pacific Division. He attended as an observer.

"The world has changed dramatically during the past 10 years, and the ecumenical movement also senses it is at a critical crossroad," says Pastor Coombe. "Three years ago, they began a covenanting process toward greater unity, and this year's forum was an attempt to evaluate just how far the churches have moved down the road to unity."

The covenanting process was finalised with the official signing of the document on Sunday afternoon, July 11, and celebrated in a public ceremony in St Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide, on Sunday evening.

"Having attended all national forums since its beginning, I've seen a gradual growth in ecumenical commitment," says Pastor Coombe.

Since the last national forum in 2001, several important bilateral dialogues have continued between some of the major churches in Australia. More churches are



Representatives of the 15-member churches of the NCCA declare their commitment to a covenanting process in St Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide, led by NCCA president Professor Dr James Haire.

recognising and celebrating a common baptism and accepting each other's ministry and ordination.

"This year saw a particular focus on the need for deeper commitment to the ecumenical vision in the future and a redefining of the purposes of the national council," reports Pastor Coombe.

"The ease with which member churches are talking together and tackling difficult issues today, compared with the tentative remarks that characterised the First National Forum 10 years ago, is an indication that the ecumenical movement in Australia has already come a long way," concludes Pastor Coombe.—**Kellie Hancock**

## Hope in the Western Highlands of PNG

Porgera, Enga Province, Papua New Guinea

Seventh-day Adventist television programming will soon be available in the goldmining town of Porgera in the Enga Province of Papua New Guinea.

Local Adventist Isaac Manu says any of the townspeople with a television in their homes will receive Hope, the church's official 24-hour, seven-day-a-week channel. "Hope will have more than 2000 viewers in the Porgera Valley at any one time."

Mr Manu says the church planned to launch the Hope Channel during a two-week evangelistic program in July. "We are

having a 240-watt transmitter repaired in Australia, but as soon as we install it, we will include Hope on the local network," says Mr Manu.

Adventist Television Network screened a welcome message to viewers in Porgera on July 28, the day the church launched the channel. "The townspeople were amazed to see Porgera mentioned by name on an international broadcast," says Mr Manu.—

**Brenton Stacey**

Visit <[www.adventist.tv](http://www.adventist.tv)> for more information about Hope Channel.

## Indigenous people reached

Minister for the Aboriginal and Mount Druitt churches in Sydney, NSW, Darren Garlett, has 27 people regularly attending a prophecy seminar. His wife, Kathy, is also running one in their home. Robert Gerante, a Mamarapha Bible College student, has been running a prophecy seminar in Port Augusta, SA, and has recently had 16 people decide to be baptised.—**FYI**

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# Growing the Greek church

by Nathan Brown

With attention firmly focused on Greece in the midst of the Athens Olympic Games, the small Adventist Church community in Greece is planning renewed evangelistic energy as their nation winds down after this national and international event.

"We decided not to have any special program during the Olympics," says Pastor Apostolos Maglis, president of the Greek Mission. "Those whose jobs will be affected by the Olympics will stay in the city and work 8 am to 9 pm every day. The rest will take summer holidays and leave the city to make space for the thousands of the visitors. So it was very difficult for us to organise something. But after the Games, we plan to have special programs for the Greek people."

church in North Fitzroy (Victoria), studied for a time at Avondale College and then pastored the Spotswood and Sunbury (now known as Macedon Ranges) churches in Victoria.

Upon their return to Greece, Pastor Maglis had a clear mission "to see a growing and healthy church in Greece."

"So we started a training program," reports Pastor Maglis. "The goal was to start 10 new groups in five years. And in the next five years, 11 groups were established."

In the five years of this plan, 123 people were baptised and joined the Adventist Church in Greece.

"For a little mission that every year had had only a few baptisms, this number of baptisms is remarkable," says Pastor Maglis.

Today there are almost 500 members and nine churches in Greece, with plans to officially organise another church later this year.

Belying this pleasing growth are the serious challenges that make evangelism in Greece so difficult.

"Although Greece is a free country belonging to the European Union, in religious matters it is different," comments Pastor Maglis. "The Orthodox Church has control in every aspect of the social life of the people. Whatever they do the priest is there. When Greece won the European Cup in soccer recently, a special welcome program was organised for the team. Three hundred thousand people were on the streets. And at the special ceremony, the high priest of the Orthodox Church was first in line to bless them and to claim that it was



a victory of the Orthodox Church.

"If they open a new house, the priest is there. If they have a new baby, the priest is there. If they open a new business, the priest is there. So the Orthodox Church has significant control and even influences government decisions."

According to Pastor Maglis, friendship evangelism and private home studies are the only ways for the Adventist Church to work in such circumstances. "In reality, there is no way of having public evangelistic programs," he says.

Yet the Adventist Church in Greece continues to grow. The mission currently has a pastoral staff of seven, which they plan to increase to 10 in the near future. "All these new pastors are young couples who are active, bold and committed," comments Pastor Maglis.

The Greek Mission hopes to become a self-supporting conference by 2010. "Our plan is to start new churches in five different big cities in Greece where there is no Adventist presence," says Pastor Maglis. "All our goals, plans and strategies are to fulfil our Statement of Mission which is 'To prepare a people for the Lord, and to care for our neighbour.'" 



Pastor Apostolos Maglis.

These plans are part of the ongoing focus on growing the Adventist Church in Greece.

"In 1997 the Trans-European Division called me to lead the work at the Greek Mission," Pastor Maglis recalls. "The Adventist Church in Greece had started

to decline. Every year there were two or three baptisms, but there were more losses from death or apostasy. There were six churches, and some 120 members attending every Sabbath.

"It was a great challenge for me," he says. "I was raised in the church, and I believed that I knew the strengths and the weaknesses of the church in Greece. But I also believe that God send me to Australia to be trained for this role."

Pastor Maglis, together with his wife Georgina and their two sons, travelled to Australia in 1986. They pastored the Greek

Nathan Brown is editor of RECORD.



# Beware the code

by Bruce Manners

It isn't often that you can go to a best-selling novel and read: "Originally," Langdon said, 'Christianity honoured the Jewish Sabbath of Saturday, but Constantine shifted it to coincide with the pagan's veneration day of the sun.' He paused, grinning. 'To this day most churchgoers attend services on Sunday morning with no idea that they are there on account of the pagan sun-god's weekly tribute—Sunday.'"<sup>1</sup>

Yes! Here's popular recognition of something Seventh-day Adventists have been claiming for more than a century. The quote comes from *The Da Vinci Code*, the first book to make number one in the *New York Times's* prestigious bestseller list in its first week. It threatens sales racked up by the Harry Potter books to become the best-selling novel of all time. It also dragged three earlier books by the same author, Dan Brown, into the bestseller list in early 2004.

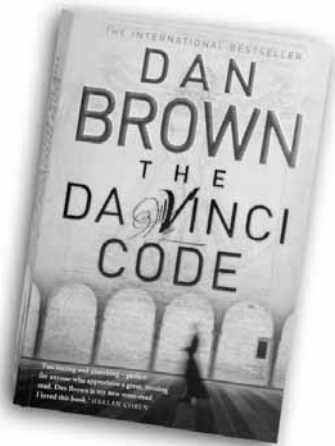
Surely the recognition of the truth of the change of the popular day of Christian worship will have people standing in line outside Adventist churches on Saturday mornings. And more so, if it makes it into the film being made.

No.

The Sabbath statement appears as part of the evidence for a broad conspiracy within Christianity. The argument goes like this: Sunday-keeping by Christians is more evidence that Christianity is a fraud because the day on which most of them worship is not the day of worship of early Christians. Characters in the novel present Sunday worship as one of several "evidences" of a cover-up by those who have authority inside Christianity.

There's no intention to create a proof that Saturday is the day of worship or a day worthy of worship. Rather it's used to downgrade Christianity.

We may talk about the Sabbath truth, but in our postmodern age the concept of truth has little meaning. People tend to



look within themselves to find their truth. As Jim Leffel reckons, "Postmodernists believe that truth is created, not discovered."<sup>2</sup>

The statement about the Sabbath is factually correct according to the historical records. But the current popular thinking, at least within Western society, is that it must be internalised before it can be considered truth. An individual may thus respond, "If the Sabbath works for you, it is a part of your truth, and good for you—just don't expect that I need to make it a part of my truth."

In the context of the statement about the Sabbath another claim is made, which reveals "the fundamental irony of Christianity! The Bible, as we know it today, was collated by the pagan Roman emperor Constantine the Great."

Excuse me? Even those with a limited understanding of Christian history and the collection of the biblical canon (the 66 books of the Bible) will know this to be false. In fact, the Christian reader could become quite angry at some of the

misinformation found in the book and the so-called attempts to cover up the real "truth."

So don't cancel evangelism projects expecting hordes of people to wander into Adventist churches clutching their copy of *The Da Vinci Code*. In whatever research Brown has done, he has drawn on extremely liberal interpretations of theology and Christian history or created his own to drive his storyline. This is not a reliable guide.

Dan Brown is a gifted writer and his use of science and religion make for a fascinating mix (a natural mix, it would seem, with him having one parent an award-winning maths professor and the other a professional sacred musician). This means there will be more quotable material coming in his work.

However, care should be taken in using this material. In his *Angels and Demons*, for instance, are several insightful statements about the role of religion and science. In one place, an impassioned speech by a Catholic priest provides convincing arguments for the role of religion. Unfortunately, the priest proves to be insane—having killed the pope and arranged the death of four cardinals. That's hardly a recommendation.

It's important to remember that while he may do extensive research for his novels, this doesn't make him a good or reliable resource. The bottom line is this: Dan Brown writes fiction. ®

1. Dan Brown, *The Da Vinci Code*, Corgi Books, Random House Australia, Sydney, 2004.

2. Jim Leffel, "Our old challenge: Modernism," in Dennis McCallum (ed), *The Death of Truth*. Bethany House Publishers, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1996.

Bruce Manners, a former editor of *RECORD*, writes from Cooranbong, New South Wales, where he is senior pastor of Avondale College church.

# Appealing ideas



## The ADRA Appeal

The ADRA Appeal has always been a great way to help disadvantaged people in real need. While you may never feel the grip of daily hunger, the intense fear of war or domestic violence or the utter helplessness of being illiterate in a fast-moving world, you can help the millions of people who are experiencing these sad circumstances.

And in 2004, the ADRA Appeal lets you help in your own way. You can participate in the official doorknock or collect contributions in almost any other way. Why not try a fun run, garage sale, newspaper runs, a mini sports competition event, social theme night, car wash, yellow pages delivery or even a Thinga-Thon?

## What's in it for you

The ADRA Appeal provides an opportunity for service to others in which we can help change lives and feel good at the same time. There is also the satisfaction of fulfilling the mission of Jesus—by helping the needy and disadvantaged.

And if you're doing the doorknock, you get a healthy walk in the sunshine and your cheery hello and warm smile might brighten someone's day.

We need to ensure our faith is not only described in words, statements or strategic objectives, but also expressed through our deeds and actions. You can demonstrate to your community what Christian volunteerism, generosity and care is all about. One way or another, it is a rewarding experience for both the giver and the receiver.

## What's in it for others

ADRA needs these funds now more than ever. Your contributions help change lives.

Quite simply, thousands of lives are saved and people are shown hope while given another chance to live a new and improved lifestyle.

The donors you approach get to feel good too. And the community learns about ADRA—one of the Adventist Church's best-kept secrets.

## The ADRA Appeal doorknock

The doorknock appeal is no longer the only way the ADRA Appeal raises its funds, but the challenge to collect the money needed is out there. All we need is more enthusiastic and innovative collectors and then we'll have the funds to do more significant things for those in need. If Australian cricketer Brett Lee is proud to support ADRA, why shouldn't you be?

## The ADRA Appeal challenge

We challenge you to take heart and support us by raising funds for the 2004 ADRA Appeal. Help us provide life-changing assistance to those in need. The funds you collect for ADRA will help change the world, one life at a time. ®



ADRA

*together we can*

If every church member in Australia and New Zealand raised just \$100 each for the ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) Appeal, we would have funds in excess of \$6,000,000! Think of how much help we could offer disadvantaged people.

ADRA—Australia is again putting out the challenge for church members to aim high for this year's ADRA Appeal. Some ADRA Appealers collect more than \$10,000 each year. You may not raise that much, but challenge yourself to see how far you can go.

The Appeal will not diminish our commitments to ADRA's International Program, but after those current commitments are met, we will increase the amounts available for our national ADRAcare programs in Australia and New Zealand.

## What you can do



Some ideas for raising funds for the ADRA Appeal include:

- Contract your church to distribute Yellow Pages in your area;
- Have a lamington, cake or pie drive;
- Do a Thing-a-Thon—walk, swim, run, skip, bake, spell, anything for a sponsorship;
- Run your own garage sale;
- Do woodchopping for firewood;
- Do a car wash;
- Organise a mini sports competition event;
- Sacrifice a chocolate bar or ice-cream each week;
- Organise mufti days at school or work with gold-coin donations;
- Keep an annual piggy bank dedicated to the ADRA Appeal;
- Collect loose change; or
- Go out on the doorknock—it's still the simplest way of raising funds.



## What your fundraising can do



Some of the projects your fundraising will contribute to include:

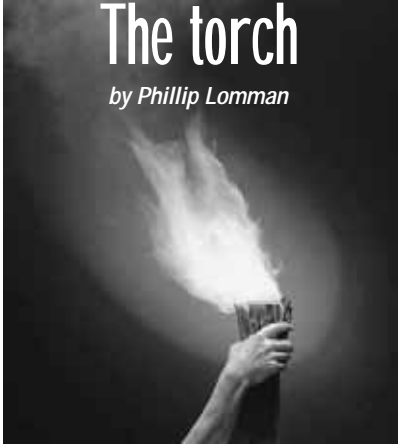
- Helping an orphan from the -3°C streets of Mongolia to a warm schoolroom, food and a bed;
- Helping hospitals like Atoifi deliver lifesaving services;
- Paying for a few nights' accommodation for a woman and her children in an ADRAcare crisis refuge;
- Ensuring that Pacific island children receive quality education;
- Providing counselling and referral for a drug-dependent, homeless young person in Australia;
- Helping empower women in Laos to strengthen the capacity of Laotian women to help themselves;
- Generating food security for isolated Hill Tribes in Thailand;
- Helping poor children in Kenya gain an education to proactively develop their future; and
- Helping provide and conduct HIV/AIDS-awareness programs in Papua New Guinea.



***“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”***  
**—Winston Churchill.**

## The torch

by Phillip Lomman



I remember exactly where I was on Father's Day, 2000—and that's pretty good for someone who's not a father. I remember the day because that was the day I saw *the torch*.


With the Olympic Games coming to town, so was the torch. I was driving home from our Father's Day celebration and there were people lining the road. I had not sent word that I was coming through, so it was unlikely that the crowds were there to wave at me.

But the word was the torch was coming. And then there it was—right in front of me. Almost close enough to singe my bushy eyebrows. It was a big deal: the crowd, the cameras, the escort, the lights, the uniform, the excitement. It was great!

The look of pride and joy on the face of the wheelchair-bound young, the flush of excitement on the face of his young helper—it was unforgettable.

To be a torchbearer for the Olympic torch was just a transient event, but there was passion, determination and emotion in all who witnessed the event.

I have often thought back to the lessons of that day. I'm a torchbearer. I have the Light of the world to uphold for all to see and follow. I have a responsibility to proclaim the fact that the Light is coming—that there will only be one opportunity

And does my face reflect the joy of the torchbearer? Do others see Jesus in me? and do I hold the torch high and without fear or shame proclaim where I stand, even in the darkness of this world? 

Phillip Lomman writes from Werombi, New South Wales.

## "Where's your reward?"

by Judy Fua

You ask for your reward, my son,  
You say you never strayed;  
You tended the flocks, fattened the  
lamb;  
Worked through long days and cold,  
windy nights;  
You trained the vines and crushed the  
precious fruit;  
Your conduct was exemplary.

My son, I watched you  
when he left,  
You didn't think I knew;  
Within your heart, a seed  
was sown that grew into  
a bitter harvest:  
Jealousy, anger, pride,  
contempt.  
That night you left me too.

You left, although you  
never went away.  
It showed in everything  
you did,  
In the hammer striking on the anvil,  
The harsh commands to the servants,  
The aloofness, the sneer, the  
condescending look  
When you watched me grieve—I also  
grieved for you.  
You are not yet a father; how could you  
know?  
The love that grows and swells and

bursts a father's heart.  
A force so strong that when a child  
strays  
The father scarcely breathes till he  
returns.

My land and all I have is yours.  
You did not barter your inheritance.  
Your brother paid a price for his  
recklessness;

Now he seeks only our  
forgiveness.  
Bring out the wine, bring  
out the robe, bring out  
the ring,  
One wanderer has come  
home.

Another wanderer still, out  
there on the hills,  
Hid by the clouded moon,  
By his own choice  
disdaining the  
merriment.

My precious older son, although we  
celebrate,  
My cup is not yet full:  
I wait for your return.



Judy Fua writes from Brisbane, Queensland. This poem was written in reponse to "I never disobeyed" in RECORD, July 17.

## Just for children

"... Happy are the people  
whose God is the Lord!"

Psalm 144:15



Peta Taylor

## Reunite truth and grace

Tim Burcham, NSW

With regard to “Baptismal questions” (Letters, July 31), why do we as Adventists continue to separate doctrine from salvation? And when did accepting the gospel as contained in the three angels’ messages cease to be the gospel?

We can be (and have been) guilty of preaching doctrine without Christ, but I notice now we are starting to do the opposite.

Yes, accepting Christ is first and foremost. Yes, the gospel can get lost through a dry, doctrinal approach to theology. But Christ Himself preached on the judgment, the state of the dead, the prophecies of Daniel, creation, marriage, the Sabbath and more. Do we then say He complicated the gospel?

False doctrine leads to a false concept of God’s character, which is the central theme of the great controversy. Consider a “sincere” Christian who believes God will send people who die without Christ to hell for eternity. Can that Christian truly—deep down in their sub-conscious—love such a God?

I joined the church nine years ago, and have noticed a steady decline in biblical preaching. Please listen to people that have recently come into the church; I’m sure they will tell you that the Adventist message is the most enlightening message in the world. Maybe it’s time to reunite truth and grace and start preaching this message again.

## Defining obedience

E Searle, UK

After reading “Lost context” (Letters, July 3), I have to ask what is “faulty obedience”? What else can they mean but “disobedience”? When Adam ate the apple (with benign intentions), was it imperfect obedience or disobedience? I fear the writer is venturing on dangerous ground. It is true we cannot obey God’s law in our own strength, but by the grace of God and through faith in Jesus we receive the

necessary strength to be overcomers and receive the wedding garment. Jude 24 is a wonderful promise supported by other Bible texts. Ellen White also wrote clearly on this in *Christ’s Object Lessons*, pages 390-1.

Martin Brown, Qld

“Why make excuses?” (Letters, July 10) contains the astonishing statement that “righteousness by faith is simply obedience by faith in God’s grace.”

Not so. In verses such as Romans 3:21-4:8 and Ephesians 2:8-10, obedience is described as a result of the experience of righteousness by faith. In both cases it is said that what we do does not make us righteous. What God has done for us in Jesus gives us righteousness, when we accept His gift by faith.

## Support for Signs

J T Knopper, NSW

With this month’s focus on *Signs of the Times* (July 31), it is with great interest that I have read the July 2004 issue. It contains six articles related to our Adventist prophetic message and is very well done. It is good to see that our prophetic message is still present among us and being sent out in the community around us. We hope this issue will be an encouragement for *Signs* subscribers to

reconfirm their subscription in this month. And if some of you do not have a copy of *Signs* July 2004, be sure you get one and read it.

### Why do we as Adventists continue to separate doctrine from salvation?

## A pioneering spirit?

N Grayson, MNZ

Recent articles by Nathan Brown should give renewed hope for our church as we see the spirit that marked its inception reappearing. Our early youthful pioneers believed in openness and fearless analysis of any belief. Ellen White herself said we should never take the stance that we have all of the truth and that there is no more light to be revealed from the Word of God. Every Adventist should have access to *Counsels to Writers and Editors*—especially pages 33-42. *Present Truth*, our earliest publication, powerfully suggests an ongoing research for truth.

## Remember the Kiwis

Janice Carter, MNZ

Sanitarium frequently advertises in RECORD offering discounts on their canned goods to Australians, and yet we Kiwis are never offered this. Come on, Sanitarium, sharpen your pencils for us as well. We matter too.

**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.



## Volunteers!

**URGENT—Teacher—English Language Centre, Kiev, Ukraine**—to teach English as a second language teacher. Check web site ESD-ELCKV-2004-02.

**URGENT—Teacher—English Language Centre—Almaty, Kazakhstan**—to teach English as a second language teacher. Check web site ESD-ELCA-2004-02.

**Repairman—Aore Adventist Academy**—to repair the ship MV Rani, 8.8 metre ship that needs reconstructing. This boat is used for transport of students and is an industry that makes money for the school. Volunteer required who has boatbuilding skills. This job should take 2-3 months.

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

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## Obituary

**Graham**, Kathleen Marguerite, born 10.7.1918 in the Kaitia area, NZ; died 22.5.04 at Arohanui Hospice, Palmerston North. Kath was a tireless worker for others within her local community of Stonehaven, as well as working for the Home Health Education Service and devotion in collecting for a number of charities, including ADRA. She died in the hope of the resurrection and life eternal. Friends and family gathered at the Palmerston North Adventist church to say farewell.

Lindsay Wells

**Smith**, David Andrew, born 13.10.1913 at Coffs Harbour, NSW; died 10.6.04 at Ballina. He is survived by his sister-in-law, Eileen; and his many nieces and nephews. With no immediate family of his own, he was affectionately known as Uncle Dave.

Ian Johnston, Frank Pearce

## Advertisements

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pany, 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.

**Cooranbong land for sale**—2.5 acres (1 hectare) of gently sloping land, close to Avondale College. Cottage to camp in while building. Quiet, friendly rural street with town water and electricity. Room for a pool and a pony. Delayed settlement. 0410 519 278.

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**Adventist Singles Network (Sydney, NSW).** **August 29:** Tennis/squash day at Avondale College courts. \$6, BYO racquet. Inquiries (02) 4977 1445. **September 18:** Country & western night, Dora Creek Community Hall, \$5. Dress: country and western. **October 23:** Picnic and Harbour Bridge walk. (02) 8883 1678. **November 20:** Irish dinner (three courses) at Avondale College cafeteria. Sydney convention, Collaroy, December/January—details later.

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## Positions vacant

▲ **Programs Coordination Director—ADRA-PNG** is seeking a Programs Coordination Director to work with ADRA-PNG's Project Managers, to oversee the effective implementation of projects and a strategic approach to the design, funding and establishment of new projects. The successful applicant will have a tertiary degree in international or community development; be a highly competent person who is decisive, culturally sensitive, wise, participative, a good listener, with balanced people skills, technically competent, and able to start in October/November, 2004. The position is based in Lae, with some travel required to other provinces. **Applications in writing** should be forwarded to Michelle Abel, ADRA Country Director; email <mabel@adra.org.pg>, no later than Friday, September 3, 2004.

▲ **Director of Women's and Men's Residences—Avondale College (Cooranbong, NSW)** seeks to appoint full-time directors for both women's and men's residences commencing January 2005. The successful applicants will have an appropriate degree, strong people and communication skills, good rapport with young people and preferably experience in counselling. **For further information** contact <www.avondale.edu.au>. **Applications in writing** (including résumé, contact details and names of three referees) should be forwarded to Sonya Muhl, HR, Avondale College, PO Box 19, Cooranbong NSW 2265 or <sonya.muhl@avondale.edu.au>, (02) 4980 2284 or fax (02) 4980 2269 and should reach Avondale by Wednesday, August 25.

▲ **Primary School Teachers—Cairns Adventist Primary School (Cairns, Qld).** Ready for a change? Do you want to make a difference? Are you committed to Adventist education? Why not teach in the Cairns Adventist Primary School in 2005. Great opportunity! Exciting, go-ahead school in a terrific location! **For further information** contact Ruth Jackson; phone (07) 4779 3988; or email <rjackson@adventist.org.au>.

▲ **Student Chaplain—Avondale College (Cooranbong, NSW)** is seeking a Student Chaplain for a three-year term, commencing January 2005, renewable by mutual agreement. The successful applicant will have an appropriate degree, strong people and communication skills, experience in coordinating and developing pastoral/spiritual programs, a good rapport with young adults and pastoral counselling experience. **For further information** contact <www.avondale.edu.au>. **Applications in writing** (including a résumé, contact details and names of three referees) should be forwarded to Sonya Muhl, HR, Avondale College, PO Box 19, Cooranbong NSW 2265 or <sonya.muhl@avondale.edu.au>, (02) 4980 2284 or fax (02) 4980 2269 and should reach Avondale by Wednesday, August 25, 2004.

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

**A volunteer church builder** in the islands of Vanuatu has lost a number of tools in a fire. He urgently needs replacements. If you can assist with new or used tools, please call Eric Malessas on (07) 3371 2640; or email <malessas\_eric@hotmail.com> for more detailed list of priority items.

**Pinnacle of Terror safari to Western Australia** with outdoor adventure ministry for six weeks to isolated and Aboriginal youth, plus Karalundi celebrations (September 5–October 15). Tag-alongs welcome. Delhantie Park (03) 5633 1000.

**Cedarvale Convention—October 24-31, 2004.** 2 hours from Sydney. Guest speakers: Dr Allan Lindsay, on Revelation for Today, Daniel McKibben, a massage specialist, Colorado, USA, and Dr Nerida

McKibben, New Zealand, speaking on effective health evangelism and the latest health information. **Massage course**—October 31–November 4, 2004. Daniel McKibben will be teaching an introductory course for massage as well as therapeutic massage for back pain and trigger-point therapy for the qualified massage therapist. Inquiries phone (02) 4465 1362; or email <cedarvale@fastrac.net.au>.

## Finally

Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you don't have a leg to stand on.

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Chair of Old Testament Department  
Andrews University

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Sabbath 25th Sept	8:30am	Waitara Church
	11am	Wahroonga Church
	3pm	Wahroonga Church
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Tuesday 28th Sept	7:30pm	Woollahra Church

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