

# RECORD



*Brett Lee with the so-called Hunter Heroes during a visit to Delhuntie Park in Victoria.*

## Cricketer goes in to bat for at-risk youth

*Trafalgar East, Victoria*

**A**ustralian cricketer Brett Lee has helped motivate a group of at-risk young adults, thanks to the support of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

Mr Lee visited the Gippsland, Victoria-based Delhuntie Park, operated by Seventh-day Adventists Elwyn and Helen Scale, on July 28 to speak to the group.

"You can have all these people try to knock you down, but if you focus on the finish line, then all the people start to move away and you can start to reach that finish line," Mr Lee said. "You can do whatever you want."

Included in the group were eight young adults from the Hunter Valley, NSW, who had just completed a wilderness adventure program thanks to the support of ADRA and the Muswellbrook Rugby Union Club.

The club approached ADRA after one of its former members committed suicide. "We donated a bat Brett and his brother used on the home-improvement television program *Changing rooms* for the club to sell at an auction," says Gary Christian, the national program manager for ADRA-Australia. "The club raised almost \$A6000 for us, so I promised to do something for at-risk youth in the Hunter."

*(Continued on page 6)*

## *In this issue*

*Stewardship summit on Gold Coast*

*Youth: Global telecast and new web site*

*Australia: Inaugural worship day*



## *Signs heads to Olympics in Greece*

# Worship for sale

It's been hailed as a breakthrough for Christianity in Australia. For one week last month—and for the first time in the history of Australian music's ARIA charts—a Christian album occupied number one across the country. On the back of their annual Sydney conference, Hillsong's latest collection of worship tunes—*For All You've Done*—landed in the top spot, leapfrogging more regular chart favourites.

It's not a bad way to make a hit (if that's what you're after): get together about 21,000 already committed fans, put on a good show and then sell them your highly anticipated new release. Of the almost 10,000 CDs sold in that one chart-topping week, few were sold in music shops and the album disappeared from the charts almost as soon as it arrived. It was a big splash in a relatively small subculture that, by sheer weight of dollars, attracted media attention around the country for a few days.

It's the most recent and local example of a bigger trend: worship has become big business. Many Christian musicians and recording artists are recognising this booming niche market and they are filling Christian—and mainstream—music stores with their brand of worship songs. It's easy to be a little cynical.

Yet one must recognise that some of this music can bring and has brought benefits to many people. Inspiring music can be used to encourage us—and others—in our Christian faith and experience. And we can enjoy worship—that's what this music is for and it's not necessarily a bad thing.

But, to some extent, the worship music phenomenon has sidetracked creativity in worship into the assumption that worship equals music, with the underlying suggestion that non-musicians are non-participants.<sup>1</sup> And while there is much to

admire in devotion, creativity and experience in worship, the marketing of worship raises questions about the commercial motivation and how it influences these productions. It's not about a particular music style that we may or may not like. It's about an attitude to Christianity that buys formulaic worship and a style of church that measures success in commercial terms.

***It's not about a particular music style that we may or may not like.***

In his book *Faith, God and Rock n' Roll*, Joseph Mark sees the burgeoning worship genre as a reactionary strategy to maintain a distinct Christian music industry and cites examples of Christian artists pressured to make worship albums by their record companies. He suggests the Christian music industry should take the drastic step of only making worship music on a "not-for-profit" basis. He argues that ideally the creation of new worship music should happen in local churches.

The editor of *Relevant* magazine, Jon Baker, echoes these concerns: "The mass mediation of worship music in the popular subculture of Christianity has not only trivialised worship, but compromised its authenticity."<sup>2</sup> It seems that while "worship" as a label seems increasingly popular, that popularity is impacting on the reality behind the label.

Worship isn't about consumer Christianity. In whatever form it may be offered for sale, we cannot buy worship. Worship must have authenticity—and that's something that cannot be manufactured.

Significantly, this realisation is occurring to some within the industry. Adrienne Gray of Integrity Music works with some of the most successful compilations of worship

music and resources, including the WOW Worship series. In a recent comment piece, she admits—in something of a shock, even to herself—that she "is sick of modern worship." She reflects, "Where do the songs that grab the undivided attention of the worshipper and thrust it toward the Father come from? Not from regurgitated expressions, or stringing together analogies about trees, hills and skies. They come

from time spent alone with God with no other agenda than to connect and align our hearts with His."<sup>3</sup>

Worship is about God and our connection with Him. We must be adaptive and creative in how we worship, always seeking better ways to worship in the authentic collective voice of our respective congregations. And Paul gives us a cue: "Let the words of Christ, in all their richness, live in your hearts and make you wise. Use his words to teach and counsel each other. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts" (Colossians 3:16, NLT).

That cannot be prepackaged.

1. Compare Dan Kimball's *Emerging Worship—a recent book on creative worship, with hardly a mention of music.*
2. Jon Baker, "Pop Worship," <[www.relevantmagazine.com/article.php?sid=3524](http://www.relevantmagazine.com/article.php?sid=3524)>.
3. Adrienne Gray, "Where has all the worship gone?" 850 *Words of Relevant*, email update.



Nathan Brown



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

- *AUC looks at conference restructure* • *Children's choir performs to aid Ugandan children*
- *Bangladesh flooding affects 27 million* • *Adventists heard at UN commission* • *and more*

—Compiled by Scott Wegener—

● **Dr Barry Oliver** (pictured), general secretary of the South Pacific Division,



has expressed his thanks to church members for their comments and responses in relation to the

Adventist church's proposed **new fundamental belief** (see "A new fundamental belief?" RECORD, July 17). "We had a pleasing number of responses," he reports. These form a part of a wide consultative process as part of the development of the proposed addition—titled "Growing in Christ"—to the church's Statement of Fundamental Beliefs. All responses will be collected and forwarded to Dr **Angel Rodriguez**, head of the Biblical Research Institute. "Dr Rodriguez will prepare a report for the Annual Council of the General Conference executive committee in October this year," Dr Oliver explains. "Any recommendations from that meeting will go to next year's General Conference session and be voted upon there."

● The **Australian Union Conference executive committee** has approved the establishment of a subcommittee to **evaluate the current structure** of conferences. The committee will be reviewing questions like: Does a membership of 50,000 need nine conferences? Is a realignment of borders needed? Should there be a reassignment of funds for smaller conferences? The Adventist school system and aged-care facilities will also be examined to see if a more effective management system could be implemented. To assist the evaluation, Pastor

## ADRA teaches disaster response

**E**ighteen participants from Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and the Cook Islands attended a recent



workshop on disaster preparedness and response organised by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and the Trans-Pacific Union (TPU) office.

Also attending were five representatives from ADRA donor offices—ADRA–Australia, ADRA–Canada, ADRA–New Zealand and ADRA–International (from the USA), who provided the funding to make this workshop a reality.

Held near Suva at the Lagoon Resort, the workshop was facilitated by Robert Patton, a private consultant from New Zealand. His specialty is how to prepare for disasters and respond to them. Mr Patton was also assisted by Liz Prior, who works with emergency response planning with the New Zealand Health Department.

"It was a very positive week with participants being taken through the process of how to develop a national disaster response plan for their countries," says David Cram, ADRA director for the TPU. "They have returned to their island homes with a framework from which they can complete their country disaster-response plans."—*Pacific Waves*

**Malcolm Allen** will be researching conference structures in North America.—*FYI*

● **Nunawading Adventist Primary School**, Vic, recently hosted the **Watoto Children's Choir** (pictured), who performed their "**Concert of hope**." Based in Kampala, Uganda, the Watoto Children's Choir acts as ambassadors for Watoto Child Care—who cater for **the needs of thousands of orphaned Ugandan children**. More than



SA1300 was raised toward providing support and expansion of the children's villages in Uganda.—*Mike Dye*

● A recent evangelistic seminar held in **Lae**, PNG, had 4000–5000 people attending each night, of which more than 1000 people gave their life to Christ. For the final three to four nights of the meetings Pastor **Keith Grolimund**, the visiting speaker, didn't have a translator for the pidgin-speaking audience members. Pastor **John Hamura**, president of the Morobe Mission, reports that on those nights they experienced the **Pentecost experience**, as both the English and non-English speakers in the congregation understood the message. "I confirmed with a lady in the congregation," he says. "She was quite sure that Pastor Grolimund was speaking pidgin." Pastor Hamura told her that Pastor Grolimund only ever spoke in English during the meetings.



● The fragrant smells of Indian food wafted into the foyer as members of the Elizabeth church, SA, emerged from church recently. This was the day the children's division invited the church family to have an **Indian meal** with them to draw attention to the Southern Asia Division, the focus of this quarter's world Sabbath school mission projects. Many children and adults dressed in costume for the occasion (pictured).

● Two-thirds of Bangladesh is under **flood-water** and more than 20 per cent of its 138 million inhabitants have been affected after monsoon rains came early this year.

**Bangladesh Adventist Seminary and College**, with 750 students, has been

affected with compromised drinking water supplies. A number of church members have taken refuge in the second floor of



some of the two-storey school and chapel buildings, waiting for the water level to recede so they can go back to their respective homes and lands, if they remain. Among Adventist members, none have been reported dead, missing or drowned so far, but with two months of heavy rains to come, potentially devastating flooding looms ahead.—ANN

● The **United Nations** (UN) Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights heard testimony on August 2 from the Seventh-day Adventist Church on **religious freedom violations**. The Adventist Church cited the “beating and harassment of members of minority religions, forcible conversions, the burning of places of worship, stigmatism and discrimination in society and employment.” **Jonathan Gallagher**, representative of the Adventist Church to the UN, says, “We believe it is essential to raise such terrible violations of religious freedom at the highest possible levels.”

● After 38 “Long” years as **president of Asian Aid, Norman Long** (pictured, right) has decided to step aside to make way for younger blood. At the annual general meeting, held at Cooranbong on July 18, Mr Long said, “I didn’t come looking for the job, but it’s been a real honour and pleasure to be part of God’s business and to experience His blessings.” Pastor **Bob Manners** (left), a former church administrator in India, thanked Mr Long for his volunteer leadership and noted that Asian Aid has sponsored hundreds of ministers, teachers, nurses and lay leaders in Southern Asia and 7000 children are currently being supported. **Carl Ginger** is the new president of Asian Aid, **Sharon Heise** the new vice-president and **Stephen Kinkead** was re-elected treasurer.



## Days and offerings

**September 11**—Annual Sacrifice Offering (Global Mission)

## Off the record

● **Sam Shipley**, a Year 7 student at **Esperance Christian Primary School** (ECPS), WA, recently won third prize in the nationwide **Write 4 Fun Poetry Competition** for his poem, “A horse’s life is best” (below), and received front-page coverage in his **local newspaper**. Almost all of the ECPS students from Years 4 to 7 entered the competition, gaining a certificate of excellence commending the students for their outstanding work.

Some 12 students were asked for permission to have their poems published in a book. Sam says, “I was thinking of Esperance and its wild beaches, and I

had recently seen some wild horses, so I thought I’d write about that.”

### “A horse’s life is best”

by Sam Shipley

On the pristine beaches,  
by the sands touching the waves,  
Sounds the whinnying of horses,  
echoing in the caves.  
Cantering over coral,  
in the silver moonlight rays,  
Nuzzling under the stars,  
gently in the bays.  
Leaping past some dolphins,  
by the rising tide,  
Is the mare and the stallion,  
having a late night ride.  
As dawn approaches,  
they finally come to rest.  
By the shells and the seaweed,  
a horse’s life is best.

## Hamilton breaks baptism drought

The Hamilton church, Vic, recently celebrated its first baptism in more than 20 years. Gunjan Arora, who comes from a Sikh and Hindu background, is the first in her family to take her stand for Jesus.

She came to Hamilton from Adelaide almost 12 months ago as a final-year physiotherapy student at the local hospital. Encouraged by her friends, she began regularly attending church, the first time she was able to do so on a regular basis. When she began work as a newly qualified physiotherapist this year, she began Bible studies with Pastor Paul Kotanko and senior elder Russell Wareham.

On July 31, “the small church was bursting at the seams for the baptism,” says

Peter Tung, a church elder. Many attended from Adelaide, SA, Dubbo, NSW, and other parts of Victoria, with fellow workers from the Hamilton Base Hos-

pital. Ms Arora gave her testimony to God’s leading, recounting how her family’s initial opposition gradually changed to acceptance and, finally, joy in her new-found faith. (Pictured, left to right, are Pastor Kotanko, Ms Arora and Mr Wareham.)

After the baptism, as Pastor Kotanko made a call for others to take their stand, Ms Arora saw her sister, Ravinder, respond immediately. Celebrations continued after the service with a huge fellowship lunch.—*Peter Tung*



● A recent Australian report on the **Sow 1 Billion** “Try Jesus” cards has shown **1409 requests** have been made to view the *Who is Jesus?* video and 1643 applications for the “Try Jesus” course have been received.—*Discovery News*

● A **new generator** has been installed at the **Aore Adventist Academy**, Vanuatu, which has put a stop to frequent power disruptions to the school program. The generator was donated by **Louis de Sair** (pictured, right, with a clock given as a thank you for his generosity), and electricians **Felix and Brandt Ebeyer** helped upgrade the electrical system at Aore. “The students and staff feel indebted to these men for their liberal support,” says Jill Macgillivray, a volunteer at Aore. Pastor **Dean Giles** (left) has been the coordinator for these Vanuatu projects.



# Stewardship summit focuses on lordship and mission

Gold Coast, Queensland

Stewardship is “the loving submission of all areas of life to the lordship of Jesus Christ in response to God’s saving grace,” according to a recommendation adopted by the South Pacific Division (SPD) Stewardship Summit, held August 8-11 on the Gold Coast, Qld. Seventy-four invitees, including church administrators, departmental leaders, treasurers, church pastors and members, confronted the reality and challenge of stewardship as part of the Christian experience and the life and mission of the church.

“Biblical stewardship is misunderstood by many of our church members as simply tithes and offerings,” says Dr Erika Puni, director of stewardship for the SPD. “But we need to see the spiritual side of stewardship, in the context of mission and worship.

“We did not intend to answer all the questions about stewardship,” he explains. “This has been a forum to raise awareness of stewardship issues and begin the process of working through these as a church.”

Dr Ben Maxson, director of stewardship for the General Conference, told summit attendees they must face the fact that “stewardship as we are now doing it is not working and has no future unless we make significant changes.

“The whole thing is about exploring how we can help people implement the reality of Jesus Christ as lord of their life,” Dr Maxson explains, “where we live our whole lives as acts of worship, giving glory and honour to God, letting Him be in control of our lives.”

While the summit repeatedly recognised that stewardship is more than financial, this aspect of stewardship was a significant focus. “Within stewardship, I see financial discipleship as an integral part to be addressed, but it’s addressed as how we make Jesus lord of the money He has given us,” says Dr Maxson. “Then within that we look at tithes and offerings as an outgrowth of that experience with God. The driving

force always has to be the relationship with God.”

Dr Maxson gives a big-picture perspective to the challenges of stewardship. “Around the world, about 30 per cent of our members are faithful with tithe,” he reports. “But if we look at every serious discipleship indicator—levels of participation in ministry, levels of attendance, devotional life, giving and witnessing—all those are on a steady decline. That tells us that training members to walk with God is also in decline.

And this also contributes to a financial crisis. “I don’t know of a single division or conference that is not in cut-back mode. Tithe and offerings have not kept up with the cost of wages, and as a result we have less discretionary funds for mission and we tend to function on the survival level.”

Dr Angel Rodriguez, director of the church’s Biblical Research Institute, presented theological perspectives on stewardship and tithing at the summit. “As I listen to the discussion, there is no doubt there is a very good grasp of the fundamental issues. The comments addressing the issues indicate there is also good thinking and planning,” he comments. “There is a level of maturity that is excellent. It is good for the church in this division.”

Dr Rodriguez also highlighted the role of church leadership as stewards of the church and its resources. “We’re looking at how we as a church can be more efficient at fulfilling the stewardship command, and the responsibility [church leaders] have to the church.”

Church members at the summit were enthusiastic about the challenges and opportunities raised at the summit. “I’ve learned things I have not heard before in 14 years as a church treasurer,” reflects Lina White from Ayr, northern Queensland. “It’s enthused me to go back and share the things I have learned.”



Nathan Brown

**Church members from across Australia and New Zealand confronted the challenges and privilege of stewardship at the recent South Pacific Division Stewardship Summit.**

Chris O’Dell from Christchurch, NZ, echoes this experience. “I’ve learned a lot about how the church administration works,” he says. “Treasurers have a real burden with handling the Lord’s funds, but it seems the church has fallen short in educating people about tithe and how it works.

“The summit has reinforced the stewardship commitments we have made.” He adds, “I hope this will be passed on to church members.”

“The transparency and communication between administration and members is very important,” comments Trish Moffitt, a church member from Orange, NSW. “But most important is for church members—all of us—to really get a handle on who we are, who God is and what that means for how we handle our money and other resources. What we’re given is a blessing from God.”

Summit attendees endorsed a series of nine major recommendations, reflecting the deliberations and outcomes of the summit, to be followed up by the Stewardship Department and church leadership.

Dallas O’Connor, pastor of the Mount Gambier church, SA, sees the challenge to himself and the church as a whole “to disciple people and uphold Jesus as lord of our lives as an everyday choice.

“But I believe that is achievable,” he adds, “because that is what we’re about.”—

**Nathan Brown**

# Cricketer goes in to bat for at-risk youth



Candice Jaques

**The local media covered Mr Lee's visit to Delhuntie Park.**

(Continued from page 1)

The young adults spent their 10 days at Delhuntie hiking, caving, camping in an igloo, abseiling and four-wheel driving.

"The young adults who visit Delhuntie are usually over-entertained and under-challenged, so we stretch them physically and emotionally," says Mr Scale. "They often say they don't want to go further but don't realise they've come so far. They end

up proving to themselves just how strong they are and just how much strength they can attain with the support of others."

One of the young adults, Ben Campbell from Newcastle, says Mr Lee's visit impressed him. "He talked to us like we didn't have problems. He never looked down on us. It made me feel about 200 feet tall!"

Mr Lee and his brother, Shane, have supported ADRA since launching the organisation's New Day Foundation Program in June 2000. They decided to support the program after one of their friends from high school committed suicide. "We're not experts in dealing with at-risk youth, but we do have something to say about believing in yourself," says Mr Lee. "Our message is that nothing is worth

taking your life. It's a selfish thing to do."

The New Day Foundation Program targets three groups of at-risk young adults: those in crisis, those who have attempted or contemplated suicide and those with a drug addiction. It uses adventure therapy to challenge the negative perceptions these young adults have about themselves. ADRA sponsors at-risk young adults to attend programs at Delhuntie as part of the program.

Mr Christian supports Delhuntie because he says it is "never too early to begin modifying the behaviour of at-risk young adults. You keep them off drugs, which keeps them out of hospital, which keeps them in a job, which keeps them out of poverty."

Australia has some of the world's highest rates of at-risk youth behaviour—the United Nations says illicit drug use is more prevalent than in any other developed country, while the World Health Organisation says youth suicide is more prevalent than in two-thirds of other developed countries.—**Brenton Stacey/Candice Jaques**

## Signs expands from World Wide Web to world Olympics

Warburton, Victoria

Since venturing into cyberspace (RECORD, July 31), *Signs of the Times* has expanded its audience potential. Not only is the magazine's positive message reaching Internet users worldwide, it is now being read by people attending the Olympic Games in Greece.

Thousands of Christians from more than 20 countries have been witnessing at the Olympic Games (August 13-29), reports Charisma News Service.

"In the spirit of the international goodwill the Olympics generates, Signs Publishing Company sent a box of the August issue of *Signs* to be distributed in Athens," says assistant editor Lee Dunstan.

The magazines are being distributed by the Greek Mission, whose president, Pastor Apostolos Maglis, was formerly a pastor for

the Victorian Conference in Melbourne.

"Our Aussie and Kiwi Olympians feature on the cover," adds Mr Dunstan, "and topics of international interest, such as the Middle East and talking to kids about sex are presented with an Adventist perspective."

Online editor Scott Wegener says he's enthusiastic about the magazine being distributed in Greece. "Since the launch of <[www.signsofthetimes.org.au](http://www.signsofthetimes.org.au)>, *Signs* has truly broken through international borders."

He reports that in the first 14 days of online presence more than 1000 individual readers connected to *Signs* online. While some online subscriptions have been renewals, the majority have been new single or bulk subscriptions. "A popular request is to join our email list for news of



Scott Wegener

**Cheryl Anderson dispatches Signs of the Times to Greece.**

web updates, new magazine issues and special offers for *Signs* readers," he adds.

Positive and constructive feedback has come in from online readers in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the United States.—**Kellie Hancock**

# First Adventist national day of worship

Melbourne, Victoria

More than 200 Seventh-day Adventist churches throughout Australia are expected to share in the first Australian National Day of Worship on September 4. An initiative of the Australian Union Conference (AUC), this is designed as an “open day” where friends, contacts and former members can be invited to share in a national worship satellite service.

“The Adventist Church in Australia is unique as a denomination in having a network of satellite connected churches,” says Pastor Rob Steed, director of the Personal Ministries and Sabbath School Department of the AUC



**International guest speaker Pastor Rob Steed will present the inaugural National Day of Worship for Adventist churches in Australia.**

and this project. “This has given us the opportunity in recent years to present world-renowned Christian speakers like Joni Eareckson-Tada and Philip Yancey to our churches and their guests,” he adds.

It is planned that the National Day of Worship will become an annual event that church members can feel confident inviting their non-churchgoing friends and other Christians to attend with them. “It is like a grand visitor day,” says AUC president Pastor Chester Stanley. “We would encourage all churches with satellites to take advantage of this special event.”

The National Day of Worship will be produced and conducted next weekend from Avondale College church. “We are excited to have Pastor Rob Steed—one of Adventism’s most inspiring



**Adventists in Australia are encouraged to invite unchurched friends to attend the first National Day of Worship next Sabbath. Invitations cards should be available from your church today.**

preachers—with us,” says Pastor Lyell Heise, director of the Institute of Worship Enrichment, and producer of the event. “He has a special ability to communicate with both young and old.” Pastor Litchfield comes from Tennessee, USA, where he is chaplain at Collegedale Academy. He will be speaking on the topic, “Church: Who needs it?”—AUC

For more information including technical details log onto: <[www.aucsda.com/visitorsday](http://www.aucsda.com/visitorsday)>.

## Young Adventists to interact via global telecast and web site

Silver Spring, Maryland, USA

Better communication between Adventist young people and church administration is the goal of two initiatives from the office of the General Conference president, Pastor Jan Paulsen.

On September 13, he will meet with students on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, for what is being described as an “open, no-holds-barred discussion of issues of concern to Adventist young people.”

The one-hour conversation, called “Let’s talk—again,” is a follow-up to last

year’s “Let’s talk” telecast that included teenage members of the church (Newsfront, September 20, 2003). It will be broadcast live by the Hope Channel to the Americas, and will be rebroadcast later in Europe, the South Pacific and Africa.

During the satellite event, Pastor Paulsen will also launch the “Let’s talk” web site, designed to continue the dialogue between his office and Adventist young people. The web site is being



**The president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Pastor Jan Paulsen, wants to chat with young Adventists during a satellite program and via a web site to be launched on September 13.**

described as an exciting way for young people of the Adventist Church to make their voices heard by their church leaders.

“I recognise that many of our young people feel distanced from the church—they feel as if they don’t have a voice, they don’t feel that they have been heard, they don’t feel that they have been understood,” says Pastor Paulsen.

“But I want them to know that the church cannot be defined and cannot survive without them.” He adds, “We want them to be heard—what they feel, and what they would like to say to their

church. And I want them to know that it is our intention to take their comments seriously.”—Jennifer Stymski/GC

The “Let’s talk” web site will be officially launched on September 13 at <[www.letstalk.adventist.org](http://www.letstalk.adventist.org)>. The “Let’s talk—again” program will be broadcast live to the Americas. Rebroadcast times for Europe, the South Pacific and Africa, along with information on downlinking the program for your campus or church, can be found at <[www.hopetv.org](http://www.hopetv.org)> from mid-August.

# Ten timely tips

by Benjamin C Maxson

Time always seems to surprise us. “Time flies!” one person says. Another exclaims, “Where has this year gone?”

We all have the same amount of time, and yet we each manage it differently. How we do so is a reflection of our relationship with God. Time is limited. It can neither shrink nor expand. And yet it is fluid. The tick of the clock does not change, but how we deal with time does. Some days we control our use of time, and other days we feel like time is controlling us.

Time is important in our spiritual life. The apostle John wrote of a time when there should be time no longer (Revelation 10:6). Jesus declared that His time had come (Matthew 26:18; Mark 1:15). Daniel speaks of a false power that would seek to change time (Daniel 7:25). And on a couple of occasions, God actually changed time—when the sun stood still (Joshua 10:12-14) and when the shadow of the sundial moved back 10 degrees (2 Kings 20:8-11).

How we use or manage our time is really a reflection of our values and priorities. In this manner, the way we deal with time is very similar to the way we deal with money. Each demonstrates what is important to us. This is one of the reasons God gave us the Sabbath and tithing—to serve as personal thermometers of spiritual growth. So let’s look at ways in which we can bring God into our management of time.

## The Lord of time

The first tip is to recognise that as Creator, God is Lord of time. He must be at the centre of our thinking about time. As in every other area of life, our challenge is to learn to put God first. In other words, the way we manage time tells us what place God has in our hearts. This is one of the reasons He gave us the Sabbath—as a way to help us bring Him into this critical area of life. We worship Him on Sabbath as we recognise Him as Creator (Exodus 20:8-11), Redeemer (Deuteronomy 5:12-15) and

Sanctifier (Exodus 31:13). Worshipping Him on the Sabbath reminds us each week that He is Lord, not only of the Sabbath, but of each day for the Christian.

Putting God first in time begins with the Sabbath. It continues by taking time with God each day. Regardless of our pre-



ferences, we can begin each day with God. However, one’s focused devotional time may vary from person to person. Let me suggest that if you are a morning person, take time in the morning for your devotional experience. If you are a night person, you might prefer to have your most meaningful time with God in the evening. Either way, try giving Him a part of your most productive time. I find that my growth with God is directly proportionate to the quality of time I give Him for listening to Him and His Word.

A second tip in dealing with time is to have a clear sense of mission and to integrate that mission into our schedule. A God-given mission brings clarity and focus to our lives. Then we arrange our schedule around that mission. Otherwise, events

will seize control of our time. We each have different gifts and functions. Yet ultimately, the mission of every Christian is to glorify God. So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). Part of this mission is to help others know the God we know.

Balance is another tip that guides us in our use of time. A compulsive focus on one area of life will control our use of time. God wants us to live in a balanced way that helps us grow in our relationship with Him and those around us. Proper balance results from a growing integration of God’s lordship in every area of life. Can we trust God to guide us in the daily details of life?

## Personal growth and strategies

A personal growth plan is a fourth tip to help us in managing our time. God has created us with an almost limitless capacity to grow. If we spend just one hour a day growing in some way, we have over 300 hours a year for growth. The potential is enormous.

A fifth tip is to make a time log for one week about once a year. Record all activities on a 15-minute basis. Total the time you spend in differing categories for each day, and then for the week. Next analyse your use of time. Measure it against your priorities and values. Then determine any changes you want to make.

Tip number six is to have a strategy for using the small corners of time throughout the day. You can carry a book with you and take advantage of those extra two to five minutes to read a page or two. Or you can carry a notepad, index cards, or an electronic organiser and use those few minutes to make notes or develop a concept. You can also use fragments of time for special intercessory prayer. Work your way through the members of your family, your friends or your prayer list, lifting each one to God in prayer.

The seventh tip is to plan your activities



for each day. I find two effective ways of doing this planning. One is to do it the evening before, and the other is to do it first thing in the morning. Either way works well. Establishing goals to be accomplished during the day may be a helpful part of that planning.


Number eight is the tip to “chunk” your time. Organise your activities into time blocks of about 20–40 minutes. This organisation can be based on groups of similar activities, or segments of activities that require a larger block of time.

### Take a break

Taking a break every 25–40 minutes is the ninth tip. This can be a break from what you are doing, or a break created by changing activities. You can accomplish this with a physical or mental change of pace. Most people find this type of rhythm helps keep the mind focused and fresh. It also helps maintain a higher energy level and prevents boredom.

The tenth tip is to take God with you into every activity. Practise His presence by opening your mind to the reality that He is always with you (Matthew 28:20). You can do this by consciously asking Him to go with you throughout the various activities of your day. Another helpful tool is to think about having Jesus visibly beside you in each activity. Imagine what it would be like if you could see Jesus walking or sitting beside you in every part of your day.

### A precious resource

Time is precious. That which is wasted can never be regained. We can only move forward, but we can do so intentionally. We can ask God to help us take control of our time by surrendering each moment to Him and by asking Him to transform all we do through His presence. Thus time becomes a lifestyle of worship as we offer ourselves completely to God (Romans 12:1, 2). 

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

*Benjamin C. Maxson is director of stewardship for the General Conference, based in Silver Spring, Maryland, United States. Article reprinted with permission from Dynamic Steward, Vol 5, No 1.*

# Life to the full

by Tony Robinson

Their images flash before our eyes on the evening news as we relax on our favourite chair, waiting for dinner to be served and sipping our lemon, lime and bitters. Their voices pass through our heads from our car radios as we drive to and from work. Words describing their plight blur before our eyes in the newspapers and magazines we browse in the waiting room of our therapist, orthodontist or massage appointment.

But who are they? Their stories seem outside the reality of our experience. Are they real? The women on the streets of Manila, Kabul and Baghdad? The children of war-ravaged Kuwait, Sierra Leone and Sudan? The young people blown to oblivion on the streets of Jerusalem, Ramallah or Basra?

Can we know them? Do we—or should we—care? Is it as though they are not alive? It seems to be so in the world where I live.

And what about the gitzzy images of those freaks of nature we call stars? The ones who, with their Barbie or Ken doll figures, strut their stuff on the screens of our televisions and movie theatres? Or maybe even those guitar-strumming, drum-bashing, voice-grinding modern-day prophets—or reprobates—whose messages confront us as music?

What of them? Aren’t their stories outside the reality of our experience as well? Even though their names, and deeds, may roll off our tongues like close friends or family, we really don’t know them or what it’s really like in their world, despite the impressions given by *Women’s Weekly*, *New Idea* and *Woman’s Day*.

But then, does it really matter that I don’t know what life is like for other people? They are not my neighbours are they? Aren’t they merely surreal images that float past my eyes and ears?


Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life” (John 10:10\*). What is the life He’s speaking of? While we equate life to

the simple formula—maximise pleasure and minimise pain—Jesus’ life was one of suffering and joy, pain and pleasure. Is this really what “life to the full” is in the context of John 10:10?

Pleasure *and* pain? Joy *and* suffering? It doesn’t sound like the kind of life envisaged when I picture living life to the full. Besides, isn’t there a promise somewhere offering blessings for diligence in paying tithes and offerings, and doing the right thing? Isn’t God obliged to reward me for my faithfulness with a long and prosperous life without pain or suffering?

But then there is the story of Job. Problem is I’ve been led to believe I am able to filter out those parts of my experience that are likely to cause me pain. I am able to turn to other, more pleasurable, realities at the mere touch of a button or turn of a key. I am able to detach myself from the reality of another’s existence because of the power of the technology my developed society affords me. Does that mean I am living “life to the full”?

Elsewhere Jesus made the alarming statement, “Depart from me, you who are cursed. . . . You did not look after me” (Matthew 25:41, 43). To be alive means feeling pleasure and pain, sharing in the extremities of joy and suffering. Jesus understands our predicament so well because He lived as a human. Our destiny will be with the goats of Jesus’ parable if we think we can cut ourselves off from those around us by closing and locking our doors, living as though we are in control of what it means to be alive.

To be fully alive means to live in relationship with our world, not detached from it. 

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

*Tony Robinson is a secondary school teacher at Gilson College, Victoria.*

# Craving grace

by Susan Johnstone

I found a quote in a Christian magazine years ago and tucked it away in my files. It goes like this: “Some people have said, ‘But I don’t feel that God is near.’ Let me ask you a question: ‘Does a fish feel wet?’ We are immersed in God.”

Contemplating it now, the sentiments appal me. How shocking that just because we sit in a godly environment we can be satisfied with “goodness by association,” while desperately lacking a deep relationship with God.

But I had an experience that reminded me of this quote. I was holidaying in Mackay, northern Queensland, during the tropical summer. The air was thick with humidity and sweat lay as a liquid sheet on my skin. The swimming pool at the caravan park beckoned me. But as I slid into the water, I was surprised to feel nothing. The water around me felt no different from my out-of-water experience. It was fluid and moved languidly about me, but I felt there was no change from the humid air. I was immersed in water, yet I didn’t feel wet.

An interesting experience, but not rewarding. I had wanted a change, a contrast. Going from one warm, sweaty state to another did not provide the relief I craved.

Sometimes we can feel like that fish, immersed but not feeling wet. God’s grace is a blanket of love and acceptance that envelops us. Yet our church atmosphere of goodness and morality prevents us from realising our need for God. Aren’t we already satisfied with our lives without craving external blessings from God?

When Halley’s comet orbited close to earth in the late 1980s, we had to leave the bright city skylines in order to see the comet. Standing on the roadside in a rural area, the sky was dark and Halley’s comet was visible. In the city, the artificial lights had blinded us from the real brightness of the heavenly body.



The “goodness” of our church can sometimes be like these artificial lights. Our respectable lifestyle, our good works and our friendly circle of friends all blind us to the darkness that we really are in. Jesus is the Light of the world, but often our self-made lights prevent us from seeing the only true light.

We should seek a life-changing experience with God each day. God help us, when we look around us and decide we are satisfied with our life. When we feel that we are pretty darn good and all our comforting little status symbols warm our hearts and make us content, when we look at our manicured lawns, our well-kept houses, our health-food laden fridges, our modest wardrobes, our community involvement, when we hear the eloquent prayers we say at the front of church, our modulated voices as we sing perfectly in pitch . . . and think, “Hey—I’m a pretty good Christian.”

When we watch current affairs shows and the TV news, we might be shocked at the state of the world, but we might also feel strangely comforted with our own corner of suburbia. When we feel that smugness inside, we might hear that whisper, “I thank You that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like that paedophile on the news. I exercise six times a week, don’t eat meat, and give a faithful tithe” (Luke 18:11, 12, paraphrase). Little do we realise that the state of the world is due to

people just like us—full of pride and confident that our way is the right way.

God help us to see our innate sinfulness! Isaiah understood human nature when he said, “All our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away” (Isaiah 64:6, NIV). How I wish I could see my sin even clearer, because I know this will draw me closer to God. Those who sin greatly and are forgiven greatly will love greatly (see Luke 7:47).

We can be lost in our goodness. God loves the sinners: the disreputable, the tax collectors, the prodigal sons and daughters, the adulterous men and women, the disfigured and ostracised. Why? Because they see their need; they crave grace from God. They know they can’t earn God’s favour—society reminds them of that every day. But, thank God, “where sin increased, grace increased all the more” (Romans 5:20, NIV). They have nothing left to bargain with, but fall at Jesus’ feet and plead for mercy.

Musicians Phillips, Craig and Dean put it this way: “Your tender mercy’s like a river with no end/ It overwhelms me, covers my sin/ Each time I come into your presence/ I stand in wonder once again/ Your grace still amazes me/ Your love is still a mystery/ Each day I fall on my knees/ Your grace still amazes me” (“Your grace still amazes me”).

What an intense reaction. Realising the enormity of God’s grace and forgiveness, it brings us to our knees. We dare not wallow in the shallow pool of religious complacency. We must see that what God has to offer is greater than anything our heart could ever comprehend. We have to crave this grace and dive into God’s endless ocean of love. Only there will we ever be truly satisfied. **R**

Susan Johnstone writes from Stanthorpe, Queensland.

# Idolatry in aisle seven

by Grenville Kent

In the dairy aisle of our local supermarket, I was concentrating on finding just the right yoghurt for my pregnant wife.

"Baal, hear us!" I spun around to see hands raised heavenward in frantic mock-idolatry. Zoe, my two-year-old daughter and shopping pal, must have gotten bored for a minute.

"Hear us, O Baaaaaaaaa!" she ululated, pulling a face like the Canaanite storm god. Shoppers were giving us strange looks.

"We read her the Elijah story," I explained, but their faces stayed blank: they were probably wondering if Elijah was in the next Harry Potter movie.

"So did Baal hear those prayers?" I asked.

"No, Dad."

"Why not?"

"Coz his ears are made of wood."

Well, exactly.<sup>1</sup>

## An idol conversation

A month later in a Vietnamese restaurant, Zoe's voice rang with gong-like clarity across the room. "Look, Daddy, an idol."

I nearly choked on my tofu. She was pointing to a golden Buddha, built like he ate there regularly, smiling beneficently down from a shelf.

"Ah", I said quietly, hoping not to offend other diners.

"Why do they have an idol, Daddy?" she boomed.

"They think it will look after them and make them happy."

"But will it, Dad?"

"What do you think, Honey?"

"I think no."

"Why?"

"Because God looks after them."

"True," I said. "God sends sunshine on people who know Him and people who don't."<sup>2</sup>

Everyone knows what an idol is. Even a child can spot them, if they've learned the Ten Commandments. Especially the

second commandment.

An idol is supposed to give you worth, hope, happiness and love. It's an "image or representation of a god or divinity used as an object of worship; a false god," says the Oxford dictionary. Or a "person who, or thing which, is the object of extreme or excessive devotion."

## Hard questions

When Zoe turned three it got more complicated. Waiting in a Catholic church for the bride to arrive, she looked up at the life-size crucifix. "Look, Dad, it's Jesus dying."

"Yes. Why did He die?"

"So we could live."

"Why would He want us to live?"

"Because He loves us!"

"Is he still dead?"

"No, He's up in heaven. And soon He's



"Who's that, Dad?"

"That's a statue of Mary, Jesus' mother."

"The lady who rode on the donkey with

**The Second Commandment:**  
**Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image...**  
**Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them:**  
**for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity**  
**of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth**  
**generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto**  
**thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.**  
**Exodus 20:4-6**

taking us there to play dress-ups with Him, and games in His great big sandpit."

The people around us were smiling, some with shiny eyes. Then she pointed to a double-life-size statue of a blue-clad woman high up the wall.

baby Jesus in her tummy?"

"Yes."

"Is her back still sore?"

"No."

"Is she up in heaven?"

Gulp. "You'll meet her in heaven."



“But where is she now, today?”

“Sleeping, actually. Jesus will wake her up and take her to heaven when He comes back.”

Just when I thought we’d passed the dangerous questions, she asked, “Is that an idol?”

I could have explained that probably no-one here actually thought these pieces of fibreglass would look after them, but viewed them as aids to worship. But worship of whom? A human? And, having seen people in Poland and Rome and the Philippines bowing to icons and leaving them food and kissing their toes off, I suspect an idol easily becomes an object of superstitious worship itself.

“Yes, it’s an idol,” I said, then headed toward positive territory. “Who loves to hear us pray?”

She looked at me patiently as though I should have asked a higher-order question. “Jesus, of course.”

### Keep asking

Most of the time, it’s quite comfortable pointing out other people’s idols. But help,

what if one day Zoe sees me looking lustfully at a Jaguar convertible, having already committed driving with it in my heart.

She might say, “Daddy, was part of you worshipping that shiny silver object? Would you be prepared to strain your health, neglect your children, bend the truth or ultimately give less to the needy to serve that idol? Would it satisfy you? Would it say you’re a more worthwhile person, or just one more greedy, idolatrous<sup>5</sup> poser in a needy world?”

Ouch! Criticise other people’s idols, not mine! It could be embarrassing in banks. “Dad, why is everyone showing more quiet reverence here than in most churches? Is something being worshipped in this neo-

Gothic temple to greed? But why? These coins show the image of the Queen, but we bear the image of God.”

What about when we’re window-shopping? “Dad, Mum, do you really feel that having that brand-name on your hip would make you somebody? Have you forgotten that your identity derives from the great I AM who designed you uniquely

and free for all eternity? If your sense of self is shaky and you need to boast, boast about the brand-name that really changes your status—the cross, where Jesus placed infinite value on you.”<sup>4</sup>

Or if I’m standing in the checkout queue browsing *Who Weekly*. “So another self-centred screen idol has been asked his opinions about life, as if he’d know much more than his rehab counsellor told him. Oh look, she’s an expert on love after her fifth ‘committed’ relationship in three years. Why bow down your God-given individuality to copy them?”<sup>5</sup>

Whatever the cost, I hope she’s always an iconoclast,<sup>6</sup> because my idols need smashing. They’re ugly things compared to the beauty of Jesus, the “image of the invisible God.”<sup>7</sup>

“We may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols” (1 John 5:20, 21). ❀

\* Bible quotations are from the King James Version.

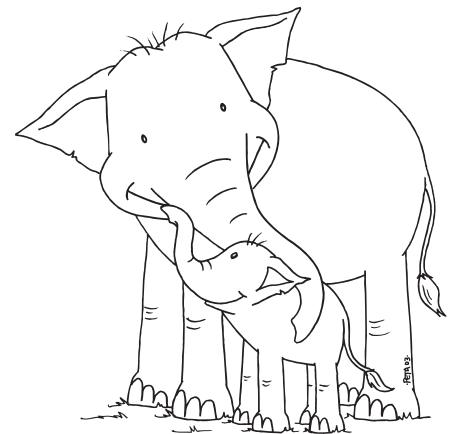
1. Psalm 115:6.
2. Matthew 5:45.
3. Ephesians 5:5.
4. Galatians 6:14.
5. Psalm 115:8.
6. Romans 2:22.
7. Colossians 1:15.

Grenville Kent is a pastor at the Kellyville church, NSW, and lecturer in Biblical Studies (Old Testament) at Wesley Institute in Sydney. His wife, Carla, and he have two children, Zoe, now five, and Marcus, two.

## Just for children

**“For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds....”**

**Matthew 7:8**



Peta Taylor

## More than semantics

Jan Chapman, WA

The editorial of July 31 quoted someone saying, “God has done everything He’s going to do except to come and take us home—the rest is up to us!” But God *hasn’t* done everything He’s going to do and the rest *isn’t* up to us. Rather, the Bible says Jesus received His power from the Father—“The Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works” (John 14:10)—and that we get our power from Him—“Without me ye can do nothing” (John 15:5). At the end of almost every chapter of *The Desire of Ages* we’re reminded of this, for example, chapter 38: “Through continual communion . . . that He might impart life to the world. [Jesus’] experience is to be ours” (page 363). Is the loss of 10,000 *Signs* subscriptions each year an indication that this connection has to be re-established?

## Faith’s source

Cyril R Were, NSW

I question the statement that “understanding comes from faith” (Letters, June 19), which contradicts Scripture. Paul says, “How are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? . . . So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:14-17, NRSV).

Obviously people will not have faith in something or someone they know nothing

about. When they have an understanding of the person and their message, there’s the possibility that they’ll have faith in them.

## Mixed-up Message

Michael Sichel, NSW

A semantic solution (August 7) was an indictment of another gospel—one presented by many Protestant churches. It was more than “semantic” for Luther, Calvin, the Wesleys and a host of martyrs.

## Perfection is the logical conclusion to depending on imparted righteousness for salvation.

All the revivals blessed by God were based on the correct presentation of the gospel of freedom. This gospel, clearly presented in Galations 3, is misrepresented in *The Message*. The KJV (and similarly the NIV and TEV, later on), translated less than 70 years post-Luther, reads: “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness” (verse 6), yet *The Message*, translated last week, as it were, says Abraham “believed God, and that act of belief was turned into a life that was right with God.”

So, in *The Message*, Abraham, over time and with the help of God’s Spirit, no longer needed a Saviour; Abraham’s own life “was right with God.” Perfection is the logical conclusion to depending on imparted righteousness for salvation. Very damaging, and an insult to the gift offered the unrighteous at such high cost.

## Jobs well done

Ray Boyce, NSW

The Wallsend, NSW, church has been building houses (“We’re a team,” Feature, June 19) for several years and is close to completing number nine. We do this to pay for a hall and Sabbath school rooms. The membership puts in many hours in all areas of construction, and when something can’t be done by them, we call in nonmembers. This is then a witness in itself.

Over the years the projects have helped bring church members and their families, tradesmen and friends together as a team. It reminds me of why the church was built: to build up lives for Christ and to show the way of salvation, and to look forward to the day of Jesus’ coming, when we all can say, “It is finished.”

## Wider application

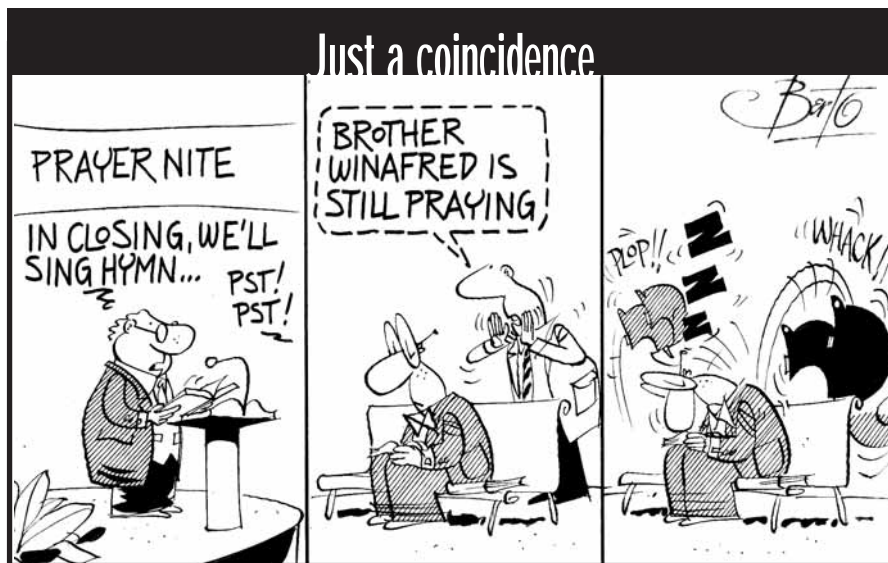
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Abuse in the form of power games occurs not only in the local church but also at administrative levels, taking the form of those mentioned by Parker (“But Christians don’t abuse?” Feature, July 17), including mind games, threats, criticism and insults. Others are the ignoring of a person’s spiritual gifts, using the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy writings to control people, driving people into guilt, and simply ignoring them.

But what is being done with the perpetrators of these abuses? Who is supporting these victims?

Unfortunately many of these victims, myself among them, are too injured or of such sensitive or gentle personality that their only defence is to leave the church. To tell the victim that the problem is theirs or that it will go away isn’t good enough.

**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.



## Weddings

**Allen—Dixon.** Mark Andrew Allen, son of Glenda (Gatton, Qld) and the late Clifford Allen, and Kaylene Rachael Dixon, daughter of Hazel (Toowoomba) and the late David Dixon, were married on 18.7.04 at Laurel Bank Park, Toowoomba.

*John Rabbas*

**Bryan—Reay.** Rowan Laurie James Bryan and Sharmaine Lesley Reay were married on 1.8.04 in the Burnie Adventist church, Tas.

*Kevin Amos*

**Hunt—Durbin.** Ivan Maurice Sloane Hunt and Rhonda Lorraine Durbin were married on 25.7.04 in the Wollongong Adventist church, NSW.

*Kery Hortop*

**Page—Jones.** David Alfred Page and Rowena Carmel Jones were married on 18.7.04 in Wyee Adventist church, NSW.

*Max Mulligan*

**Race—Howard.** Stephen Gordon Race, son of Peter and Lynette Race (Goulburn, NSW), and Claire Flora Uli Howard, daughter of Gordon and Floris Howard (Cooranbong), were married on 27.7.04 in Wahroonga Adventist church.

*Garth Bainbridge*

**Raymer—Rosendahl.** Mark Andrew Raymer, son of Pastor Peter and Jenny Raymer (Brisbane, Qld), and Larissa Jane Rosendahl, daughter of Alan and Deidre Rosendahl (Port Macquarie, NSW), were married on 25.7.04 in Port Macquarie Adventist church.

*Peter Raymer*

## Obituaries

**Elton,** Edgar, born 3.4.1920 in Latvia; died peacefully 11.7.04 at Tenterfield, NSW. He is survived by his wife, Joan (Tenterfield); his son and daughter-in-law, Roy and Berenice (Alexandria); his stepdaughter and her husband, Aldya and Tony Glasbergen and family (Qld); and his stepson, Garry Buckley and family (Qld). Edgar migrated to Australia in 1951. He loved the Lord and was an ardent scholar of the Bible and skilled violinist. He will be missed by all who knew him.

*Graeme Kent*

**Freeman,** Edna Maude (Judy—nee Moore), born in 1916 at Collinsvale, Tas; died 23.1.04 in Judge Book Hostel, Eltham, Vic. In



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1938 she married Les. She is survived by her husband; her sons, Les Jr, Kevin, Peter and David; her 10 grandchildren; her 17 great-grandchildren; and her two great-great-grandchildren. Edna was a devoted and much loved member of the Greensborough Adventist church, but had not regularly attended for some time on account of poor health. She is lovingly remembered for having excelled at brightening people's lives, being a tremendous listener, giving non-judgmental advice, and being a blueprint on how to raise a family with love.

*Submitted by Dawn Deed (niece)*

**Roberts,** Dorothy Elva (nee Meyers), born 7.12.1924 at Subiaco, WA; died 29.6.04 at Southport, Qld. On 12.10.43 she married Ted Allen, who predeceased her in 1949. On 18.6.52 she married Locky Roberts, who predeceased her in 1978. She is survived by her children, Shirley Tinworth (Preston, Vic), Keith Allen (Ringwood North), Lynette Hindley (Mill Valley, California, USA), Pastor Ron Allen (Runaway Bay, Qld), Bernice Krieg (Chirnside Park, Vic) and Trevor Roberts (Narromine, NSW); her brother, Hilton Meyers (Cooranbong); her sisters, Ruth Galavan (Sacramento, California, USA) and Margaret Darko (Dora Creek, NSW); her 17 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Dorothy was a courageous and resilient woman. Her faith in God, love of music, reading and roses are reminders of her life to family and friends alike. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

*Peter Stojanovic, Morrie Krieg*

**Smith,** Patricia Merle (nee Whalen), born 10.3.1934 at Macksville, NSW; died 7.7.04

## Positions vacant

▲ **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>.

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at Chester Hill, Sydney. On 4.8.56 she married Rodney, who predeceased her in 1996. She is survived by her children and their spouses: Rodney and Charmaine (Lethbridge Park), Andrew and Cathy (Baulkham Hills), and Christopher (Old Guildford); her siblings, Laurel Beamen (Atherton, Qld), Faye and Pastor Les Parkinson (Hornsby, NSW), John and Heather Whalen (Maitland), Tom and Joanne Whalen (Bowraville), Peggy and John Klopic (Newcastle), Max and Evelyn Whalen (Bonnyrigg Heights), Vonnie Roberts (Bilgola Plateau), Una Woolley (Asquith), and Richard and Mary Whalen (Randwick). Merle was a faithful and loving wife and mother; also a caring nurse for 30 years. She loved the Lord and was a faithful Adventist church member.

*Bruce Grosse, Les Parkinson*

**Steen,** Thomas James, born 21.4.1919 at Geelong, Vic; died 5.7.04 in Cowra Hospital, NSW. On 13.4.43 he married Pauline. He is survived by his wife (Cowra); and his children and their spouses, Pam Brady (Orange), Frank and Leona (Cowra), Geoff and Laura (Sydney), and Jenny and Don Morehouse (Old Bar). Tom served in the 2nd 15th Infantry Battalion, 6th Division AIF and saw fierce action in Italy, France, Germany and then the Middle East, where he was severely wounded. He detested war and violence and was a special, wonderful and gentle man. He had faith in God.

*Errol Webster*

**Watson,** Raymond Richmond, born 25.2.1946 at Mullumbimby, NSW; died 2.7.04 at Elizabeth, SA. On 14.9.69 he married Jan Andrews. Ten years later he was diagnosed with a severe form of mul-

tiple sclerosis, which after 25 years was the cause of his death. He is survived by his wife; his son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Karen; his children, Becy, Steven and Jayson; his mother, Ira Watson; his brothers, Barry and Jim; his sister, Gwenda, their spouses and families; and his five grandchildren. Ray's smile and cheerfulness and uncomplaining attitude were an inspiration to all who knew him.

*Bryce Andrews, Lee Bowditch-Walsh*

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**Tour Bible lands** for three weeks from April 19, 2005. Travel in comfort and safety and see the pyramids, Cairo Museum, Luxor, Sinai, Petra, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Galilee. Optional one-week dig in Israel with David Down. Vegetarian food and Sabbaths free. Phone for brochure (02) 4950 5603; Diggings, PO Box 127, Toronto NSW 2283; <editor@diggings.com.au>.



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- Help your kids to make friends. ● How to put on weight.

[www.signsofthetimes.org.au](http://www.signsofthetimes.org.au)



**40 years**  
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**Register online now @  
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or

**Call 03 9728 2211  
for more information about  
this celebration**

**Friday 15th &  
Saturday 16th  
October 2004**

**"Your Child is Our Priority"**

**Reunion celebration—September 10–12, 2004—Numawading Adventist Primary and Nunawading Adventist College.** All past and present staff and students are invited to this weekend celebration of the past 40 years. **Friday, Sept 10: 7 pm**—registration, worship and light supper. **Sabbath, Sept 11: 10 am**—celebration service; **12.30 pm**—bring a picnic lunch to share; **2 pm**—walk down memory lane; **6.30 pm**—gala evening. **Sunday, Sept 12: 10.30 am–3.00 pm**—Sunday fun day. Register online at <reunion@nac.vic.edu.au>; or phone (03) 9878 9927 (primary); (03) 9877 3555 (secondary).

**A child-care centre director** is required for a 69-place child-care centre, Bundaberg, Qld. The successful applicant will hold a degree in early childhood development and have experience in the child-care industry. Put your leadership skills to work in sunny Queensland and enjoy a competitive salary. Please forward application and CV to Doug Burns, Acorn Childcare Centre, 102 Woondooma Street, Bundaberg 4670. Inquiries phone (07) 4153 0314.

**Ministry with a difference! Interested? Read on . . .** The Glen Innes church (northern tablelands, NSW) desperately needs missionary-minded young adults and young families (retired pastors welcome as well). In the Glen Innes district there is a great need for professional and tradespeople such as nurses, doctors, plumbers, electricians and builders. Others use their living skills as a

means to present Christ to the community in which they live—you can too! Help in setting up home-schooling is available. If you are interested, please contact: June Wunsch, phone (02) 6732 6499, Norm Hutchison (02) 6734 2337, Bruce Baker (02) 6732 5882 AH (head elder), Pastor Ken Love (02) 6721 0633.

**Web site design.** We specialise in designing web sites that you can maintain yourself. Visit <www.webstudio.com.au> or call Webstudio 1800 008 606 (Australia) or 0800 249 735 (NZ).

**A1 Rent-a-Car Christchurch (NZ).** "Thrifty" cars, vans from SNZ49/day. "Budget" cars from SNZ39/day all inclusive (5/10 day minimum). Free pick-up. Phone 0011 64 3 349 8022; fax 0011 64 3 349 8218. Check our web calculator <http://www.a1rentacar.co.nz>.

**1770 Getaway Holiday Retreat—stay in paradise** and visit Great Barrier Reef and historical town of 1770. <www.1770getaway.com> or phone (07) 4974 9323.

## Finally

Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open. Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.



### DR RICHARD DAVIDSON

Chair of Old Testament Department  
Andrews University

Friday 24th Sept	7:30pm	Waitara Church
Sabbath 25th Sept	8:30am	Waitara Church
	11am	Wahroonga Church
	3pm	Wahroonga Church
Monday 27th Sept	7:30pm	Hoxton Park Church
Tuesday 28th Sept	7:30pm	Woollahra Church

### ALL WELCOME

Dr Jo Ann Davidson &  
Dr Richard Davidson

**ATS International Speakers for  
North NSW Camp Meeting  
Stuarts Point, NSW  
1 – 9 October 2004**

ATS is an independent ministry and is fully supportive of the  
Adventist Church.