

RECORD



Solomon Islands Governor-General Sir Nathaniel Waena (second from left) opened an evangelistic series presented by Pastors Laurie Evans (left) and Anthony Kent (far right) of the South Pacific Division. Pastor Martin Losi (second from right), president of the Eastern Solomon Islands Mission, also attended.

Church leaders take up evangelism challenge

Wahroonga, New South Wales

Leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific have met their own challenge to participate in at least one evangelistic program this year. The leaders issued the challenge to church members during the South Pacific Division's (SPD) launch of the worldwide church's Year of Evangelism in November last year.

President Pastor Laurie Evans joined Ministerial Association secretary Pastor Anthony Kent to present a three-week evangelistic series in the Solomon Islands capital, Honiara, in July. The Governor-General of the Solomons, Sir Nathaniel Waena, opened and closed the series.

Pastors Evans estimates more than 4000 people attended each of the meetings, held in the city's marketplace. More than 1500 responded to Pastor Kent's call for baptism. Pastor Evans describes preaching to the mass of people and having them respond "to the convicting power of the Holy Spirit" as an "exhilarating" experience. "I now understand how addictive evangelism is!"

Pastor Barry Oliver, SPD general secretary, returned in July to Kavieng, PNG, where he once served as president of the church's New Britain New Ireland Mission. His evangelistic series, held on the town's oval, also drew more than 4000 people to each of the meetings.

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PNG PM assists Adventist student



A first for women in ministry

The art of grace—1

It's relatively easy to invent a new word. All one has to do is start using it. Getting the word published helps. And, if enough other people take it on, we have a new word. So, here goes . . .

Controphy—probably derived by the conjunction of *conversation* and *dystrophy*—is the name given (by me, as a very amateur sociologist) to the tendency of conversations to degenerate in quality and subject matter; sometimes by huge leaps from the sublime to the ridiculous, sometimes by gradual and almost imperceptible steps down from the point of departure.

Now, it is possible that it could be just that I am usually involved in the conversations I have greatest opportunity to observe. Certainly, we all know people whose introduction to a conversation precipitates a rapid controphic effect, and it may be that I am one of those people unwittingly armed with a barrage of conversation killers. However, when I have had opportunity to discuss this theory with others, the impression seems to be that it is a more widespread conversational phenomenon—but we soon move to talking about something else.

Controphy can be observed in all forms of social interaction. However, nowhere is it more marked than in the discussion of matters of Christianity and religion. The potential difference between the height and breadth of the mind of God and the mundane pettiness of religious trappings provide a vast scope in which the controphy inherent in discussions can run rampant. The degeneration is exaggerated by the enormity of the starting point.

Consider the standard controphic pattern. Occasionally, a discussion—whether in a Sabbath school class or other shared Bible-study group or less formally—

can approach a topic dealing with a portion of the grand enormity of God. Yet within a few minutes the group will be debating—usually with increased vigour—the appropriateness or otherwise of swimming on Sabbath afternoon or some similar “standard.” Controphy has done its work. It is a pattern repeated many times. It almost seems that the degree of controphy is proportional to the magnitude of the

What do we have that can be given in any kind of legitimate exchange for the boundless love of the God of the universe?

subject initially under discussion.

It is hardly surprising, then, that discussion of the grace of God is so prone to this degenerative condition. As the grandest of all themes of study and discussion, it is worthy of much more careful attention. However, when grace is preached, discussed or even mentioned, all too often there is someone who wants to point out “the other side of grace” and the conversation descends into an articulation of appropriate behaviours.

Yet there is no “other side” to grace. If you are looking for something from the party to whom the grace has been given, it ceases to be grace, becoming a mere exchange of behaviour and reward. In all honesty, when we stand at the cross, what do we have that can be given in any kind of legitimate exchange for the boundless love of the God of the universe? If we do need something in exchange, we are just as hopelessly lost as when we began. As soon as there is any mention of something in addition to the simple but unfathomable grace of God, the discussion has entered into an alarming and dangerous controphy.

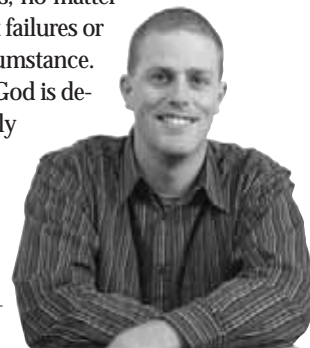
It is so much simpler to talk about Christian behaviour and standards—or the weather or sports results, for that matter; it

is a real temptation. It is probably why—as Philip Yancey points out—Paul opens all his letters with an acknowledgement of God's grace. Continually bringing his readers back to that grace, he also closes by returning to God's grace and commending it to the recipients of his letters. It may also be that Paul knew by personal experience the power and overwhelming importance of grace: “By the grace of God I am what I

am” (1 Corinthians 15:10, NIV). It may be that, if we could gain a better appreciation of God's grace, our spiritual conversations may not be so controphic.

Controphy can be frustrating, but it can also be a relief from topics of conversation with which we might feel uncomfortable. God forbid that His amazing grace should be such a topic. Yet, however we approach it and however our conversations might degenerate, the grace itself remains unchanged. That is the very nature of grace.

In the grand conversation that is God's communication with humanity—generally and individually—there is no controphy. Instead, there is the unshakable assurance that God's grace remains and is always available to us, no matter what our past failures or present circumstance. The grace of God is dependent only upon the unfailing goodness of God Himself.



Nathan Brown



OFFICIAL PAPER
South Pacific Division
Seventh-day Adventist
Church
ACN 000 003 930
www.adventist.org.au

Vol 109 No 36
Cover: Joe Talemaitoga

Editor Nathan Brown
Senior assistant editor Lee Dunstan
Assistant editor Kellie Hancock
Editorial assistant Scott Wegener
Copyeditor Graeme Brown
Editorial secretary Meryl McDonald-Gough
Layout Nathan Chee
SPD news correspondent Brenton Stacey
Senior consulting editor Barry Oliver
www.record.net.au

Mail: Signs Publishing Company
3485 Warburton Highway
Warburton, Vic 3799, Australia
Phone: (03) 5966 9111 **Fax:** (03) 5966 9019
Email Letters: editor@signspublishing.com.au
Email Newsfront: record@signspublishing.com.au
Email Noticeboard: editorsec@signspublishing.com.au
Subscriptions: South Pacific Division mailed within
Australia and to New Zealand, \$A43.80 SNZ73.00.
Other prices on application. Printed weekly.

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

- **Tasmanian Conference latest to incorporate** • **Pathfinders leapfrog into record books**
- **ADRA–Afghanistan damaged in bomb blast** • **Church women bare all for calendar** • **and more**

—Compiled by Scott Wegener—

● The **Australian Union Conference school system** now has its own **education handbook**. Developed by Dr **Arnold Reye**, a recently retired Adventist educator, this book consists of 160 pages and is a compilation of policies, directives and procedures relating to the establishment, maintenance, administration and operation of Adventist schools in Australia.—FYI

Whitehorse Leader

● **Tasmania** is the latest conference in Australia to **incorporate**. The 50 delegates attending a special session of the conference, held at the Adventist church in Launceston on August 22, all **voted to change** the conference's constitution. The change gives the conference the power to create companies, to manage its operations and schools, and protects the conference and its leaders by limiting liability.—*Brenton Stacey*

● The **best season** in 13 years was experienced by more than 50 youth who attended the Victorian **Conference snow camp** this year, with some of the snow on Mount Buller being more than **two metres deep**. The young people not only enjoyed skiing, snow-boarding and snow-tubing, but were also spiritually fed with Victorian Conference president Pastor **Denis Hankinson** presenting



God's Word to them. **Camp Howqua** accommodated and fed the snow enthusiasts.—*Phil Bishop*

● An initiation that thrives under the

Retirement village's Olympic dash



Coronella Retirement Village, Vic, recently appeared in the local newspaper when residents took part in a mini-Olympic games run by their occupational therapy department. Events included volleyball, hockey, gymnastics, a toilet-paper throw, a wheelchair marathon and egg-and-spoon races (pictured). Comment was made that if ever an egg-and-spoon race were to feature in a future Olympics, then Coronella is certain to have some competitors.

Nursing and administrative staff also joined in the activities in the spirit of the occasion. Coronella's CEO, Ruth Welling, says, "Wreaths, wattle bouquets and gold-wrapped chocolate medals were awarded to the winners and proved almost as popular as the real thing!"

Federal Liberal MP Phil Barresi also attended, presenting a cheque for \$A324,683.33—a one-off Government payment to upgrade the present buildings.

chaplaincy program of the **Darling Downs Christian School**, Qld, is "Synergy 451." One Friday night a month the school shed, which doubles as the weekly chapel, is converted into a **contemporary praise and worship venue** for a program targeted at secondary students, youth, un-churched school families and others. Attendance regularly exceeds 100, but more than 200 attended the final night of a recent Week of Spiritual Emphasis with guest speaker and performer **Peter Dixon** (pictured).



A call on this night for students to commit their lives to Christ had some 40 students, 25 per cent of the school's enrolment, request to begin Bible studies.—*Barry Hill*

● Christian children's music group **Rocfish** have **topped** the quarterly Indie Top 20 Australian Christian music chart from The Rock Across Australia. After recently com-

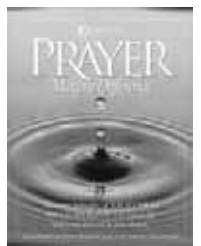
pleting their 8000-kilometre tour (Newsfront, July 31), this group of energetic young adults, who also featured on the August 27 *Adventist News* broadcast, holds number one spot with their **"Prodigal tale"** album, position six with "Rip roaring tale" and 15th place with "Whale of a tale."



● Some **85 Pathfinders** and their leaders from the South Pacific attended the **International North American Pathfinder Camporee** in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, USA, in August. The Pathfinders came from 10 Australian,

New Zealand, Tahitian and Tongan-based clubs, taking part with more than 30,000 other Pathfinders and their leaders who attended the Egyptian themed camporee. **Two world records** were attempted at the camporee. Some 1067 junior Pathfinders set a new **leapfrogging record**, but the efforts of more than 7000 individuals fell short of the 10,241 needed to set a new record for the most people **brushing their teeth** simultaneously. Looking at the bright side, more than 200,000 pearly whites were made to sparkle in two minutes.—*Brenton Stacey*

● The colourful **Prayer Makes a Difference** magazine (pictured), by **Mark Finley**, is being **distributed to South Pacific Division** administrators, departmental directors and pastors. If you would like a copy to help your ministry, please email <eye@adventist.org.au> or call (02) 9847 3307.



● An **explosion** that destroyed a building in downtown Kabul, **Afghanistan**, on August 29 **damaged the Adventist Development and Relief Agency** (ADRA) office and injured an ADRA staff member. "The windows and doors of two ADRA buildings have been damaged by the blast," says **Peter Jaggi**, country director for ADRA-Afghanistan. "Debris from the car bomb is in our yard, and our office and apartment are full of glass splinters." Only one staff member sustained minor injuries.—ADRA News Release/AR

AMWR

Walkathon raises \$A15,000

Avondale School students have been raising money for Adventist Development and Relief Agency's "New Day Foundation" (ANDF). This foundation, supported by cricketer Brett Lee, has been set up to help prevent youth suicide through the use of adventure therapy.

Recently 800 Avondale School students and 50 teachers walked 10 kilometres, raising more than \$A15,000 to enable six young people from the Hunter Valley to attend the ANDF program at Delhuntie Park, Vic (RECORD, August 28).

Brett Lee sent a letter to the event stating how the prevention of youth suicide was close to his heart and required creative ways to build self-esteem. He also sent an autographed pair of shoes worn in the 2003 World Cup as a prize for the walkathon.

The ANDF's mobile adventure program, Pinnacle of Terror, visited Avondale School. One student who had been having problems at school took the leap of faith and claimed, "This is the first time I have felt proud of myself. What a feeling."

Emma Maidment (pictured) was brave enough to take the Everest Challenge, requiring her to stand on a small, shoe-sized platform 10 metres above the ground. With arms outstretched

she had to dive toward the ground shouting, "I'm king of the world!"



● In the midst of troubled **Sudan**, **Adventist World Radio** has begun broadcasting in four languages of the area: Bari, Moru, Juba Arabic and colloquial



English. Because of the difficulties in the country the production of programs is taking place just over the border in Uganda.

Lacking a good studio, the producers have had to be innovative. One creative method is the **use of a Land Rover** parked under a tree (pictured) as a quiet recording studio where they use a laptop computer and microphone to record programs. When the laptop battery runs low, they start the motor of the Land Rover to recharge it.—*Inspirations*

● More than **3000 women** from countries in West and Central Africa gathered in Grand Bassam, Ivory Coast, **West Africa**, from August 8 to 15 for a first-ever international **congress of Seventh-day Adventist women** from the region.—ANN

● A **calendar featuring nude photographs** of a group of **church women** in Horsley, Gloucestershire, UK, is to be launched to mark the 10th anniversary of the **genocide in Rwanda** where thousands of women survivors were brutally raped and many are now dying of AIDS as a result. The calendar, "**Exposed 2005**,"



will raise money for SURF (Survivors Fund, an organisation that helps the Rwandan survivors). The 13 women who posed for it, aged between 30 and 50, wanted to "use their bodies in an empowered way to show strength and vulnerability in support of the vulnerable women in Rwanda." The images were photographed so as not to be provocative or sexualised.—*Ramon Williams Media*

Days and offerings

October 16—Spirit of Prophecy Day

October 23—Children's Day

Off the record

● **Glen Innes church**, NNZ, celebrated its **40th anniversary** recently with more than 300 people attending the celebration. The North New Zealand Conference president, Pastor **Jerry Mathews**, delivered the Sabbath worship message, followed by a lunch and an afternoon of memories shared together. Current minister Pastor **Kayle De Waal** suggested the afternoon's



reminiscing would be similar to the gathering and reminiscing of the redeemed in heaven. Building committee member Peter Greenfield stated how after an initial 10 years of fundraising to build a full church (they had been worshipping in a hall for many years), and with the cost of building climbing, they had **less than 10 per cent** of the estimated cost. After advice to **step out in faith** to start building, with sacrificial giving of the members, the church building became a reality in 1985.—*Jeffery Pau/Christina Willcocks*

● The **Wanganui church**, NNZ, continues to witness to passing traffic (Flashpoint, April 24) with a **new sign** (pictured) created by **Graham Greenfield**.

1 CROSS
3 NAILS
4 GIVEN

● **Wrongpoint: Names a-muddle**

Newsfront, August 21, should have reported **Robert Dorante** as the Mamarapha Bible College student running a prophecy seminar in Port Augusta, SA.

Flashpoint, August 28, should have reported **Lloyd Grolimund** as the PNG visiting speaker, not his father, Keith.

Church, state criticism addressed

Wahroonga, New South Wales

A Seventh-day Adventist Church leader says other denominations should be congratulated for refusing to sponsor political parties or candidates in the upcoming Australian Federal election.

Pastor Ray Coombe is the director of public affairs and religious liberty for the South Pacific Division (SPD). His comment comes in response to criticism from the director of the Christian Democratic Party in New South Wales, Phil Lamb.

According to Mr Lamb, most church leaders privately support a bid by the Reverend Fred Nile for a seat in the Senate, "but in a recent request for a public statement of support, most politely declined," he says in a media release. "Our church leaders lack the courage to speak up."

Reverend Nile is currently a member of the Legislative Council in New South Wales. He is campaigning against giving homosexuals equal rights in marriage.

"The issue is not about separating Christianity from public life, or about discouraging people with moral values from having their influence in government, but of keeping the church separate from party politics," says Pastor Coombe.

Mr Lamb quotes a McNair Ingenuity poll that shows more than 60 per cent of people who intend to vote for the Christian Democratic Party attended church each week. "What are our leaders teaching about the democratic process and the Christian?" asks Mr Lamb, who adds that the church's silence contributes to the "learned disinterest of Christians to elect other Christians to represent their values in Parliament."

Pastor Coombe says, "It appears the Christian Democratic Party is trying to draw the church into party politics by urging its leaders to publicly support its candidate."

Pastor Coombe says church members need to be aware of current social issues and elect representatives who will preserve the values and morals of society. "But it's certainly not a biblical teaching that the



Pastor Ray Coombe.

church should become involved in party politicking." He believes the push for a closer relationship between church and state comes from the growing power of the conservative Christian Coalition in the United States of America.

"I'm glad our church leaders have generally maintained separation," says Pastor Coombe. "This doesn't mean MPs can't uphold Christian values. Reverend Nile is only one of the candidates who holds to these values, and the other political parties allow for conscience votes

on major social issues."

The SPD released a statement on church-state relations in 2001. The statement, which you can read at <www.adventist.org.au>, encourages Adventists to serve as civil leaders, but warns them not to use influence to advance their faith or inhibit the faith of others. It also encourages its members to take civic responsibilities seriously, to vote and to share the responsibility of building community.—**Brenton Stacey**

The SPD Communication Department has produced an easy-to-read summary of the statement. The summary, called an Adventist Perspective, costs \$A0.05. Order a set of 21 Adventist Perspectives for only \$A1.10. Phone +61 2 9847 3290 or email <communication@adventist.org.au>.

Christians launch election web site

Box Hill, Victoria

The Australian Evangelical Alliance (AEA) has launched a web site to help Christians think biblically about political and social issues before voting in the Australian Federal election.

The web site at <www.evangelicalalliance.org.au>, features articles about social issues, comparisons of the values of political parties, discussions about policies released by the parties, prayers, reflections on Christian responsibilities, song suggestions and statements from Christian politicians.

The AEA says its aim is to encourage Christians to relate faith more directly to social values and to create a greater level of connection between corporate worship and social issues.

"The challenge is not to come to a common political position, but to develop a greater ability to think and act out of convictions derived from our understanding of God," says AEA's



A new web site has been designed to help Christians think biblically about political and social issues.

national director Tom Slater. "We believe God created the world, cares intensely about it, revealed basic laws that make for a just and cohesive society, and actually became a citizen of it in the person of Jesus."

AEA, an affiliate of the World Evangelical Alliance, an international fellowship of more than 150 million Christians in 110 countries, has been operating in Australia since 1959.—**ANN South Pacific**

PNG PM supports Adventist student

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

A Seventh-day Adventist has received A\$7000 from the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea to help complete his studies overseas.

Vincent Kumura, 23, the president of the Papua New Guinea Adventist Tertiary Students Association (PNGATSA), will study business and law at Oakwood College in Alabama, USA, after the Adventist tertiary institution awarded him a scholarship.



Vincent Kumera.

College president Dr Delbert Baker presented Mr Kumura with the scholarship during the student association's 10th biennial convention in Port Moresby, July 20–27. Dr Baker spoke at the convention.

Mr Kumura told *The National* newspaper he wrote to Sir Michael Somare's office and to local businesses to help cover the cost of travelling to and boarding at Oakwood. "I prayed, and I had faith in God. The fact the Prime Minister responded shows he has concern for ordinary Papua New Guineans. I am honoured."

Mr Kumura is currently a third-year law student at the University of Papua New Guinea. —**Brenton Stacey**

Celebrating diversity

The French–Italian Swiss Conference recently invited their 2000 members to a spiritual assembly in the Olympic town of Lausanne. The climax on Sabbath was a parade of nations (pictured) representing the church members' ethnic roots. "We have exactly 65 nations represented among the church members of our conference. Celebrating diversity, we want to demonstrate unity in Christ," says president Pastor Denis Rosat. —**ANN**



First for women in ministry

Tamworth, New South Wales

Sally Hall is the first woman in Pastoral ministry in the Adventist Church in Australia to receive her commissioned minister credential in a public ceremony.

The service of affirmation was held recently in Tamworth, NSW, during a regional gathering. "I never thought I'd hear a representative of my church acknowledge my call to ministry, so it was a real thrill," she says candidly.

Officiating at the commissioning service were Pastors Graeme Christian, ministerial secretary for the Australian Union Conference, John Lang, North New South Wales Conference (NNSWC) president, and John Skrzypaszek, NNSWC ministerial secretary.

Miss Hall felt God's call to pastoral ministry when she was a 15-year-old and tending sheep on her parents' property near Bundarra, NSW. On graduating from theology at Avondale College, she spent a two-year internship at the Port Macquarie, Wauchope and Camden Haven churches in NSW, followed by one year with the Coffs Harbour, Dorrigo and Bayldon churches,



Northpoint

Pastors John Lang, John Skrzypaszek and Graeme Christian with Sally Hall.

and three years as associate minister at Avondale Memorial church, NSW.

Currently Miss Hall is the minister for the Gunnedah church and Manila–Barraba company, and the youth minister at Tamworth church, NSW.

"I love working in country churches," she says. "Everyone here is 100 per cent involved and committed." She shrugs off the 10–12 hours of driving she does each week to cover the distance required to minister to each of her communities. "I use the time to listen to music, or the Bible, on tape."

When asked what the highlight of ministry is for her, she says, "I can honestly say the thing I enjoy the most is working with God." —**Kellie Hancock**

Leader's research links faith and service

Research by a Seventh-day Adventist Church leader has established a link between faith and service.

Dr Mel Lemke's thesis for his Doctor of Ministry concluded that faith promotes service and service promotes faith.

"My research strongly validates the church's STORM Co [Service To Others Really Matters] program," says Dr

Lemke, the director of Adventist Volunteer Service for the South Pacific Division. "It also shows service promotes growth in all the key 'tasks,' such as identity formation and developing a sense of autonomy that

typify adolescent development."

Dr Lemke graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, USA, on June 12. He says parenthood influenced the topic of his thesis. "I want to pass my faith on to my children, so I wanted to know all I could about how faith grows and how to best facilitate the growth of mature faith."



Dr Mel Lemke with his family at his graduation.

Dr Lemke brings to seven the number of administrators and departmental directors of the South Pacific Division who have doctorates. —**Brenton Stacey**

Evangelists win people over in Papua New Guinea

Lae, Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea

The number of Seventh-day Adventists in Papua New Guinea may increase dramatically this year thanks to members of the church's Institute of Public Evangelism (IPE).

Australian- and New Zealand-based ministers accepted invitations to speak as part of the South Pacific Division's response to the worldwide church's Year of Evangelism.

Pastor Lloyd Grolimund spoke without a translator during his series in Lae, but pidgin-speaking members of the audience understood his message (Flashpoint, August 28). Members of Pastor Grolimund's church in Wahroonga, NSW, will replace a local offering with a sacrifice offering to provide 6000 Bibles.

Pastors Sam Braga and Murray Thackham also report a Pentecost experience. More than 400 people, including inmates of the local jail, requested baptism during Pastor Braga's series in Kainantu. Pastor Thackham received 500 decisions in Wewak. Members of Pastor Braga's churches in

Katoomba and Warrimoo, NSW, with help from the Spanish church in Marrickvale, NSW, are supplying 660 Bibles. Members of Pastor Thackham's church in Dapto, NSW, are supplying 1000.

Members of the Adventist church in Port Macquarie are helping support 15 church members who will follow up the 465 decisions for baptism Pastor Justin Lawman received in Mount Hagen. Ten thousand people attended the series despite organisers not providing transport.

Pastor James Toogood from Christchurch, NZ, appealed to ministers of other denominations in Goroka to lead themselves and their congregations to Adventism. Six responded. Some 450 people asked for baptism.

Sixty people asked for baptism after attending Townsville, Queensland-based minister Pastor Cranville Tooley's series in Kundiawa.

Pastors Etonia Temo and Gary Webster have accepted invitations to speak in Port Moresby in September.

IPE members also present evangelistic series in their local areas.—**Brenton Stacey**

Church leaders take up evangelism challenge

(Continued from page 1)

The power of the public-address system meant even those in the local Correctional Services Centre, located about a kilometre away, could hear Pastor Oliver speak. Thirty of the people in the centre joined 1200 others in making a decision for baptism at the end of the series.

Pastor Oliver speaks of making what he calls an "unusual call." "I almost discouraged them because I didn't want insincere commitments."

Pastor Oliver says he and Pastor Evans issued the challenge to church members "because proclamation is the pinnacle of our mission and because sharing our faith refreshes our faith."

"It's so easy to get caught up with administration we forget structure is and must always be the servant of mission," says Pastor Evans.—**Brenton Stacey**



Pastor Barry Oliver speaks during his evangelistic series in Kavieng, PNG.

Church leaders respond to Ellen White claims

Wahroonga, New South Wales

Seventh-day Adventist leaders have responded to claims the visions of one of the church's founders, Ellen White, were the result of temporal lobe epilepsy.

"The claim is well over 100 years old," says Dr Lester Devine, the director of the Ellen G White Seventh-day Adventist Research Centre. "And the incident [Ellen White, nine at the time, lay in a stupor for three weeks after a classmate hit her in the face with a stone] is even older. It's difficult to analyse a person's medical condition more than 150 years after the event."

Dr Devine's comments come in response to a story on ABC TV's *Compass* program on August 29. The story posed the question, "Is the human brain hard-wired for God?" and examined neurological evidence for the so-called "religious impulse."

Dr Merlin Burt, branch director of the Ellen G White Estate at Andrews University, USA, and Dr Daniel Giang, associate professor of neurology at Loma Linda University Medical Center, USA, appeared in the story giving the church's view.

"The description of Ellen White's state in vision does not fit with the description of the medical condition" says Dr Percy Harrold, associate director of Adventist Health Ministries for the South Pacific Division. "Seizures never enhance a person's mental abilities. A successful person with epilepsy is successful in spite of the disease, not because of it."—**Brenton Stacey**

The research centre has copies of the article, "Visions or seizures: Was Ellen White the victim of epilepsy?" by Dr Donald Peterson, a professor of neurology at Loma Linda University. Contact the centre by email <egwrc@avondale.edu.au> or phone +61 2 4980 2139 to obtain the article.



Dr Lester Devine.

Youth congress takes shape

by Nathan Brown

When Fiji welcomes young people from across the South Pacific Division (SPD) to the SPD Youth Congress on December 30, it will be the first time an island nation will have hosted a division-wide youth event.

According to the SPD director of Youth Ministries, Pastor Gilbert Cangy, a sense of excitement already surrounds the event. "The islanders are proud that they have been given a chance to host such a huge event," reports Pastor Cangy. "And young people in Australia and New Zealand are excited as it will allow them to experience youth congress in a different culture. Australia has already asked for an increase in the number of participants allocated to them.

The congress will be held at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji, from December 30 to January 4. With 4000 young people participating in this international event, it is expected to have a major impact in Fiji.

"The congress will give a huge boost to the church in Fiji," says Pastor Cangy. "During the six days, congress will be the biggest thing happening in the country. According to our figures, an injection of about SA5 million into the local economy is expected. The church will be in the public eye and it will open many doors for greater interaction with other sectors of public life."

Pastor Cangy is also anticipating a spiritual lift. "The congress will revitalise youth ministry, and the local leaders will have their hands full to keep the momentum going," he comments. "We are foreseeing a renewal of spirituality and service in the church in Fiji."

But this focus is not to be limited to just the Fijian young people and leaders. Learning from the success of the world youth congress, held in Thailand earlier this year, service will again be a particular emphasis. "Service projects will be one of the main activities of congress," Pastor




Cangy reports. "Every afternoon, on a rotation basis, 1000 young people will be getting their hands dirty on the streets of Suva. Four major clean-up and beautification projects have been set up in conjunction with the Suva City Council to be implemented during congress.

"Prior to the commencement of congress, a number of youth groups from Australia and New Zealand will be involved in other community and church-based service projects. In fact, some young people are more excited about the pre-congress projects than the congress itself. That is a significant shift in thinking."

For congress organisers, there is a serious side to these events. "We are looking at congress as more than a memory event," Pastor Cangy reflects. "We are working on the philosophy that it is a springboard for ministry. Congress 2004/05 will see the launch of the Youth Department's 2005 Year of Evangelism. The theme of congress is "Sarovaki," meaning "Total allegiance" in the local language. The drama and keynote speaker will draw themes from the book of Daniel. Congress will serve to reinforce the

direction we have taken as a Youth Department as far as evangelism and small-group ministry."

Yet youth congresses will always be filled with much fun and friendship. "Fiji is known as a premier tourist destination in the South Pacific, and the local team is committed to ensure that congress lives up to that reputation," says Pastor Cangy.

According to Pastor Cangy, space is still available for congress bookings and what promises to be an unforgettable experience. "We hope to capture the imagination of our youth with the notion that we are part of a huge, diverse and wonderful family," he reflects. "It is tremendously invigorating and motivating for young people to feel that—while they are part of a small or large local congregation—they are also part of a huge army for God. Congress offers just a glimpse of that. It is an experience of a lifetime." 

For more information or bookings, contact your local conference Youth Department or visit < youth.adventist.org.au > and click on "SPD Youth Congress" link.

Nathan Brown is editor of RECORD.

A lonely journey

by Karen Collum

Like many other difficult subjects, infertility is not often discussed. We don't know what to say or how to help, so we do the best we can with clichés and well-worn phrases. There are no easy answers. But reflecting on my journey, I hope you find something to help you respond to those experiencing infertility and help them know they are not alone.

You want to help, but you don't quite know how. I need your support and I want to talk to you, but I thought it might help if you understood how some common phrases and attitudes make me feel.

Please don't tell me to relax. I have relaxed and it still didn't work. Relaxing is not going to undo the scarring from my endometriosis; relaxing isn't going to magically make the sperm and egg interact. When you say this, you may not realise it but you are actually blaming me for my own infertility! I know that keeping my stress levels low is important, but simply telling me to relax is not going to address the complex physical, emotional and spiritual condition I am in.

Please don't tell me every "miracle" story you know. I know there are couples who have defied the odds; I know miracles happen. But I may not get a miracle. I too know of the couples who stopped "trying" and miraculously conceived. I know of the couple who were told they could never be parents and went on to have three children. Again, I know miracles happen, but I don't have a "One Miracle Please" voucher I can redeem. I need to have hope, but more importantly, I need to have realistic hope.

Please don't criticise my choice of treatment. Assisted reproductive technologies are complex, and I have spent hours agonising over my decisions. I know there are ethical, spiritual and moral considerations, and my husband and I have tried to be educated and informed in our decision-making. It's not up to you to judge our choice—it's between us and God. Trust

that we are continually searching for the right thing to do.

Please don't tell me it's God's will. Wanting a child is not wrong: it's God who created me with the desire to be a mother. I am confronted daily with my infertility. I know God has a plan for my life, but I don't need platitudes and clichés that are designed to wrap up a messy situation and tie a neat bow around it. There may indeed be a "Plan B" I haven't found yet. But isn't God's will for my life between me and God? God sent His Son to die for me. If I cling to that, His plan for my life will become evident over time.

Please don't offer your children to me for a weekend. I know children are not always cute. I know there will be temper tantrums, late nights, dirty nappies and lots of worry. But I want my children; yours just aren't the same. Pointing out the pitfalls of parenthood and pregnancy doesn't make me feel any better. Morning sickness would be welcome in my house right now. I know you need to unload sometimes about the difficulties of having children, but I'm probably not the right person to offer sympathy.

Please don't tell me I'm young and have plenty of time. Although I'm only 29, I have been waiting for four years. Why is waiting at 39 supposedly so much harder than 29? I made a choice to be a young mother, and that choice has been taken away. Please don't minimise the situation because I'm young.

Please don't feel like you have to make me feel better. If you don't know what to say, say "I don't know what to say." I know you can't fix my situation, and acknowledging that you don't have the answers can actually make me feel better.


Understand that I am grieving. Although I may not have physically lost a child (and I don't claim to even begin to understand the pain of that situation), I have lost a dream. Ever since I can

remember, I have imagined what my life would be like. I imagined a little blonde girl or boy who had my smile, my husband's olive skin and their own little personality. I had an image of my family. Losing a dream as big as this one is difficult. Expect me to mourn the loss.

Do keep in touch. Although I may not always feel like talking about it, let me know you're thinking about me. Send me a card once in a while, type an email, send an SMS. A simple "I'm thinking about you" reminds me I'm not alone. And if you don't know what else you can do, pray for me. And don't just pray that I will have a baby; pray that I will be comforted during this time. Pray that God's will will be revealed in my life. Pray that I will be given wisdom and strength to make the difficult decisions. Pray that I will be drawn into my heavenly Father's loving arms and that I will be renewed.

One of the most precious things that I have ever been given is a card from a dear friend. She wrote, "When you are too tired to even pray, don't worry, because I am praying on your behalf."

Infertility is a lonely journey. It is truly heart wrenching. I have never experienced such pain. At times, the longing is unbearable. I have discovered I am stronger than I thought, yet weaker than I ever imagined. I have learned to embrace happiness as well as pain. I am building an alternative future, but I'm not prepared to give up my dream just yet. I am living in a land of uncertainty.

And I am always waiting. Waiting for a doctor's appointment. Waiting for a blood test. Waiting for a cycle. Waiting for a pregnancy. And while I wait it helps to know I'm not alone. 

Karen Collum writes from Brisbane, Queensland, where she works as an administrative assistant.

Why kids leave

by Gary Hopkins and Julie Weslake

Why do so many of our young people leave the church?" Have you ever asked yourself that question? Maybe equally important questions to ask are: Why don't we seem to notice this trend? Do we really care? What can be done about this crisis?

Why haven't we heard or read that churches, unions, conferences and divisions have made this their number one priority? There is an enormous emphasis today on evangelism, but we need to make this a two-pronged priority—evangelism both outside and inside the church. How are we going to keep the young people we have?

These are tough questions.

Sizing up the challenge

When asked, church leaders in some areas of the world often say that about half of their kids are leaving. Others suggest the numbers are as high as 90 per cent. Estimates at how many newly baptised members are leaving are often reported in even higher numbers.

As an organisation we should be shocked and stunned at such news. It should motivate us to call an emergency meeting of our entire church to discuss it and to start immediate plans to correct it. This should happen soon! At the moment we are not being good stewards of the children and new members of the church. We are failing. We should be stunned.

What are we doing wrong and what can be done to correct both of these issues? How do we keep our kids from leaving and how do we retain our new members? It needs to be simple to understand, it shouldn't cost anything, and it should be a strategy that should be effective in all cultures of the world.

More than information

We think the message of the church, which we believe to be the true and



accurate message, is all people need. We think the message is transforming. If that were true, then our people wouldn't leave the church.

Researchers tell us that kids generally understand the message by the age of 12 or 14 years and that they leave the church at about age 17 or 18. If this is true, then they are leaving the church with a good understanding of the message. They are leaving despite understanding the gospel.

If you think that information is all people need, then try this exercise next Sabbath in church. Stand up in front of your congregation and ask how many people in the church have a daily exercise

program. Probably about 10 per cent will raise their hands. Then ask how many of them understand that regular exercise would make them healthier. Probably all of them will raise their hands. What you will learn from this is that the message of exercise hasn't transformed their exercise behaviours.

Or ask how many of them consider themselves to be more than their ideal body weight. Probably many of them will raise their hands. Then ask them how many of them understand that if they would eat less and healthier foods, they would drift toward an ideal body mass. You will find that everyone knows that.

So, why haven't these messages or understandings transformed our exercise or eating behaviours? It's simple. Information is not transformation. Obviously we need something more than information—or in the case of the church, we need something more than message.

Re-describing the church

Often our church is described in concepts such as Sabbath, church, the true message, remnant and potluck. Jesus is described as interested in people, non-judgmental, kind, helpful, healer, engaged, forgiving. Descriptions of our church also need to include these qualities.

The Bible tells us that the most important commandments are love to God and love to people (Matthew 22:37-39). Jesus says that this new commandment He gives to us is to "love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12, NIV).

In 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, Jesus gets right in your face and talks to you in the most direct of terms, probably much like He did to the Pharisees or the moneychangers in the temple. He says that if you speak in tongues and don't love, you are only making noise. He continues saying that if you give all your money to the poor and



don't love, it simply doesn't matter. He says that if you have the gift of prophecy and don't love, it means nothing; and that if you have the faith to move mountains and don't love, it just doesn't make any difference. Isn't He saying that if you preach the true and accurate message and don't love, then it will be ineffective? We think so.

We need to do what Jesus would do. We need to reflect His character—be kind, merciful, helpful, engaged lovingly in the lives of others, forgiving, a resource to those in times of need and an advocate for the needy. We need to connect with the lives of all, especially our kids in and outside of the church and in the lives of the new converts from our evangelistic efforts.

Connecting with Him

To be like Jesus we need to come into a meaningful relationship with Him. We need to open up the communication channels. Talk to Him and do it often. Talk to Him while driving down the road, talk to Him while in the lift, talk to Him while working on construction sites or in the office. Talk—and talk often.

The second step is to learn about Him. Take your Bible and read God's words of life. Read three pages of *The Desire of Ages* every day and you will read the whole book in one year. Read and then, throughout the day, reflect on what you have read. Communicate with Him.

When you do these two things, you will become more like Him.

If we all do it we will all become more like Him. If that were to happen, then finding people to go to the primary

division during Sabbath school wouldn't be the hardest chore of those on the nominating committees each year. The toughest job would be to hold the adult Sabbath school together.

If we were more like Him we wouldn't greet people with a bored "happy Sabbath"; we would have an ear-to-ear smile and genuinely engage people as they came into our church—and we would do the same while at work or out shopping. We would be lights in our community not because we act like Christians, but because we would be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

When you get to church you will, in reflecting His character, create a church that people will not only leave less frequently—but a place people will flood to. But if we continue to be a church of message only, we will continue to lose our kids and the new converts. If we come into a relationship with Him and accurately reflect His character, expect miracles to happen. The community will no longer define Adventists as nonsmokers, non-drinkers, non-dancers and vegetarians. They will describe us as the nicest people in town.

Connecting with each other

What you can expect to happen is not only to not lose our kids, but to gain our kids' friends. Not only will we not lose our new members we gain as a result of evangelism, we will also gain their friends. Why would anyone ever leave a genuinely friendly and helpful church?

Research reports that when we surround

people with warm and supportive relationships, people are less likely to use drugs, more likely to take better care of their health, live longer, have less depression and have fewer hospitalisations. When they are hospitalised they get out of the hospital sooner, they survive breast cancer longer, they survive heart attacks more often, live longer when infected with the AIDS virus, and drop out of college less often.

Reflecting the character of Christ is health giving. Reflecting the character of Christ keeps people in the church. We have the correct message—but we also need to be kind, friendly and loving. We need to create opportunities at church to enable people to build relationships. These relationships need to be intergenerational. We all carry the responsibility for keeping our children and new converts. **R**

Gary Hopkins is Assistant Professor of Health Promotion and Education, School of Public Health at Loma Linda University. He is also the Associate Professor of Behavioral Sciences at Andrews University and co-editor of We Can Keep Them in the Church: How to Love Our Children So They Won't Leave.

Julie Weslake is director of Children's Ministries for the South Pacific Division, based in Wairoa, New South Wales.

Gary Hopkins visiting Australia

Gary Hopkins—together with Dr Kiti Freierin, Associate Professor of Psychology and Pediatrics at Loma Linda University—will be visiting the Western Australian, Tasmanian and Victorian conferences from September 15 to October 2. They will be lecturing on resilience and "building positive kids" in both church and public seminars.

Western Australia—September 15-23
Tasmania—September 24-28
Victoria—September 29–October 2

Contact your local conference office for further information.

Does God varnish floors?

by Christine Miles

Today, I spent three hours on my knees. Certainly, I was praying, but my more immediate focus was removing the remains of masking tape from the varnished timber floors of the school gymnasium.

The gymnasium is two years old. Nobody wears shoes in the gymnasium, and food is not permitted. Several copies of the rule list are positioned strategically throughout the hall. But there's nothing on the list about tape on the floor.

It wasn't me who liberally applied masking tape to one-third of the hall in preparation for the games segment of our Vacation Bible School. I had already made that mistake in an upstairs room, the floor of which was covered with vinyl. But I was the keyholder and felt ultimately responsible for anything that happened on site.

Being ignorant of the effects of masking tape on varnished timber, it wasn't until we ripped the offending material from the floor, leaving great strips of sticky adhesive and equally large patches of stripped timber that I realised what a mess we were in.

So, as I cleaned the floor, I prayed. Every so often I sang a song of praise—the hall acoustics were brilliant and there was nobody to listen—but primarily I prayed: *Dear God: We're doing this program as an outreach. Look at all the children learning about You. Remember the hours of prayer and preparation that have gone into this program. We're not-for-profit, God. What is the principal going to say?*

As I rubbed at a stubborn patch, an unruly thought tumbled into my mind: *Does God varnish floors? Wouldn't that be wonderful, to come back in the morning and the ugly strips of bare floor would be in keeping with the remainder of the floor?*



But then I thought back to earlier in the day. I had watched from the upstairs room as the children moved through the activities. Looking down at the playground, I saw my small child stumble and fall. Down only a moment, he was helped to his feet while I had to restrain myself from running down to provide comfort.

I wanted my child to know that I did see, that I did care, that I could make everything better.

I really wanted to go. I could have gone. I chose not to go. I had to be confident in the abilities of the caregiver.

It was a thought-provoking experience. *How is it for God, to watch His children fall down, not once but over and over?* He is longing to show us that He does see, that He does care, that our smallest suffering breaks His heart.

But knowing that sometimes we need to deal with problems ourselves, He'll hold our hand, but He won't do the dirty work for us.

I am reminded of this as I rub the last marks off the floor. My hands smell of eucalyptus oil. My wrists and elbows are aching. The stripped lines are clean, clearly visible, and awaiting judgment.

I harbour a small hope that God might do the miraculous and varnish the floor. After all, nothing is impossible with God.

But regardless of the state of the floor, I am armed with a greater knowledge: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear" (Psalm 46:1, 2, NIV).

God will help me. I will not be afraid. 

Christine Miles writes from Auckland, New Zealand.

Just for children



"The generous soul will be made rich...."

Proverbs 11:25

PETA 01

Peta Taylor

Support for sibling schools

Trevor Robinson, PNG

I find great hope in the initiative of establishing a program for schools in Australia and New Zealand to develop relationships with schools in the Pacific (“Adventist schools to become siblings,” Newsfront, August 21). The aims of sharing resources, developing long-term relationships, developing understanding of other cultures and even exchanging students, are worthwhile and timely. The mission schools will certainly benefit from this involvement. But the association will be of great blessing to Australian and New Zealand students as well. The education department has found an innovative way to get people in Australia and New Zealand reconnected in a more personal way with the mission field. I will pray that this program is a success and that similar programs may be developed to link other groups in our church as well, to churches in the Pacific. After all, mission is about participation and involvement.

Including children

Phil Ward, Old

The involvement of junior in the Communion service at Castle Hill church (Flashpoint, August 14) is commendable. Yet most Adventist churches don’t allow children to participate in the Communion service. When Jesus washed His disciples’ feet, He said He was leaving us an

example (John 13:14, 15). He didn’t say this example was only for adults.

At the Last Supper He told us, “Do this in remembrance of me” (Luke 22:19). He didn’t say, “Do this in remembrance of me—except if you’re a child.”

Similarly, Jesus said, “Teach all nations, baptising them” (Matthew 28:19). But we act as if He said, “Teach all nations, baptising the *adults*.”

Maybe our unbiblical action of leaving kids out of the church’s ceremonies is part of the reason many young people later leave the church out of their lives.

And then there’s the commercialising of the “Spirit of Prophecy.” A letter from James White to Ellen White records his delight at the way the sales of their books were filling the family coffers—and continue to do so to this day

I would suggest getting rid of your own “log” first, remembering that Jesus has called us to unity in His body and that “by this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” Now, how about “[rejoicing] with those [other sisters and brothers in Christ] who rejoice”?

After all, mission is about participation and involvement.

Worship success

June Court, NSW

What a nasty piece of sour grapes was the editorial, “Worship for sale” (August 28). The tone of the piece was set by calling the album a “collection of worship tunes,” which immediately makes them sound devoid of any words of worship or worthwhile worship music. And as for taking the moral high ground on commercialisation, here we have arrant hypocrisy.

Seventh-day Adventism has always been in the forefront of commercialising its message. How about the commercialising of the health message via the Sanitarium? And let’s not forget the five-star hospitals that have always been financially geared to the upper end of town.

Annette Jones, NSW

When worship albums succeed in Christian culture and make a splash into secular culture, praise God—Jesus’ name is being lifted up publicly.

Principles of analysis and clear thinking help keep one “grounded,” instead of being caught up in the hype and sensationalism of marketing. Biblical principles of worship keep me on course when it comes to worship ideals, both concrete and abstract, philosophical and factual. If we really want to know about worship, we have to keep coming back to the Bible. Much of what is criticised in worship today is in fact biblically based.

The risk of contemporary consumerism infecting our choices needs to be countered with our own personal spiritual maturity, integrity and honesty with God. You can’t stop Christendom from making poor choices, because they are too lazy to make good ones. And this danger is across the board of our whole lives.

When it comes to the “machine” behind the artists/songwriters/worship leaders using God’s children for their own ends (greedy money-making), judge the machine if you want, but don’t judge faithful, gifted worship leaders passionately expressing their relationship with God. We can’t see their hearts but God can, so leave the judging to Him.

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.



Wedding

Robertson—Peterson. Adam Grant Robertson and Jessica Rae Peterson were married on 18.7.04 at Dan Gleeson Memorial Gardens, Townsville, Qld.

Roger Ward

Obituaries

Botting. Ernest Robert, born 21.7.1913 at Winton, Southland, NZ; died 16.7.04 at Invercargill. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Dr Gordon and Margaret Botting (Roseville, California, USA); his grandson, Timothy, and his wife, Dusty; and his granddaughter, Angela. Ern was confident in his Lord and certainty of the resurrection.

Ray Codling

Conley. Wallace Ross, born 28.1.1925 at Bombay, India; died 20.7.04 at Coronella Retirement Village, Nunawading, Vic. He was the son of the late Pastor J B Conley. He is survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Sheila and Don Dever; his nephews and spouses, Jeffrey and Shirley, and Barry and Debbie; Jeffrey and Shirley's children, Carlie Deppeler, Dustin and Kimberley; and Barry and Debbie's children, Joshua and Nathan. Wallace graduated from Avondale in 1945; taught in church and government schools and was very involved in church work. Sadly missed.

Ken Mead

Davis. Iris (nee Mitchell), born 17.7.1910 at Cessnock, NSW; died 24.7.04 in Cessnock Hospital. On 29.7.27 she married Harold, who predeceased her in 1999. She is survived by her children, Veronica (Bonnie) McDonald, Betty Evans and Darrell Davis (all of Cessnock). Iris lived for her family and her Lord. Her simple pleasures included playing tennis and singing around the piano.

Max Mulligan

Denman. Dorothea Ada (nee Hall), born 18.11.1914 at Corowa, NSW; died 15.7.04 in Dandenong Hospital, Vic. In 1935 she married Max. She is survived by her husband; her children, Dorothea Noble (Melbourne) and Maxwell (Sherbrooke); her six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Dorothea was devoted to her family and to her faith.

Dean Giles, Peter Hughes

Friend. Gloria Alvie (nee Polley), born 6.12.1928 in Brisbane, Qld; died 20.7.04 at Gympie. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Neville and Glenda; their children and spouses, Alicia and Barry Strong, Joshua and Melinda, and Zachery. Gloria was a loving and caring Christian, and while her health allowed, was active in her church and community. She is sadly missed.

Ervin Ferris

Heinicke. Lance Dean, born 10.2.1926 at Loxton, SA; died 24.7.04 at Currumbundi, Qld. On 21.3.53 he married Shirley Castle, who predeceased him on 14.2.65. On 27.9.65 he married Roma Formenti. He is survived by his wife (Currumbundi); his children, Anne Wareham (Burpengary),

Dennis (Mount Gambier, SA), Judy Heinicke (Ipswich, Qld), Sandy Castle (Loxton), Derylee Bottrell (Kurwongbah, Qld), Pat Hill (Kalgoorlie, WA), Brenton (Mount Gambier, SA), Bev Groavac (Albury, NSW) and Karen Steele (Capalaba, Qld); and his brother, Merv (Barmera, SA). Dean was a fantastic role model to his children and grandchildren whom he loved very much. He loved his Lord, his family and his garden.

Eric Hursey
Scott Wareham, Neil Tyler

Koop. Ivy Lorraine (nee Curnuck), born 11.9.1944 at Blinman, SA; died 24.7.04 in St Andrew's Hospital, Adelaide. On 16.1.2000 she married Trevor. She is survived by her children and spouses, Gayle Rebbeck (Mango Hill, Qld), Garry and Sue (Berri, SA) and Craig and Jane (Adelaide); her stepchildren and spouses, Beverley and Andrew Bulhanan (Adelaide), Andrew and Lisa (Glossop) and Robert and Jaley (Moorook); and her seven grandchildren. Lorraine was a fun-loving person who brought a cheer to everyone's life. Through her time of suffering she showed tremendous courage right to the end and was a tremendous inspiration. She touched so many people and will be sadly missed by all.

Bob Possingham
Robert Porter, Warren May

Maxfield. Deborah Anne, born 23.11.1957 in Perth, WA; died peacefully 14.7.04 in Perth. She is survived by her children, Rachel and Ryan; her father, John; her brothers, Richard and Stuart; and her sister, Lana. She had a vibrant and unique personality and will be missed greatly by her family and many friends.

Steven Goods

Meyers. George Edward, born 3.8.1949 at Dayton, Ohio, USA; died 23.7.04 in Brisbane, Qld. In 1988 he married Sunny, whom he saw as a direct gift from heaven. He is survived by his wife (Brisbane); his daughter, Chrystal Williams; and his sons, Matthew (Nashville, Tennessee, USA) and Andy (Port Moresby, PNG). George will always be remembered for his love of challenge, whether on water, land, mountain or vast stretches of the air. He was a storyteller and a marvellous singer, whose theatre-trained voice touched many for the Master. His biggest concern was a lack by many of a meaningful relationship with his Friend, Jesus Christ.

Miroslav Stilinovic
Frank Williams, Andre van Rensburg

Outram. Shane Leon, born 18.12.1969 in Perth, WA; died 13.7.04 in Thailand, as the result of a road accident. A funeral service was conducted at Bickley church, then Fremantle Cemetery, WA. Shane's parents, Neville and Marlene, and younger sisters, Charmaine and Kylie (all of Perth) will miss him greatly and are comforted by the blessed hope.

Brett Townsend

Risbey. David, born 27.6.1964 at South Perth, WA; died 18.7.04 in Ellison House, Perth. He was predeceased by his father, Cecil; also his brother, Colin. He is survived by his mother and stepfather, Beryl and Frank Mauger (Wilson); his brothers, Lance and Adrian (both of Perth); and his sister, Sheree (Latrobe Valley, Vic). David was born Down syndrome

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▲ **Investigation Coordinator—Australian Union Conference (Ringwood Vic).** **For further information** go to Employment section on the SPD web site <www.adventist.org.au>.

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▲ **Teachers—the South Queensland Conference** wish to invite expressions of interest from suitably qualified Teachers (church, independent or state) for the following vacancies, effective 2005: **Gold Coast Adventist School:** Middle Primary; **Darling Downs Christian School:** Physics/Chemistry, HPE/Bible, SOSE/English; **Nortpine Christian College:** Head of Primary, Music, English/Bible, Infant Teacher, Upper Primary Teacher; **Noosa Christian College:** Maths/Science. **For further information** contact Dr Grant Watson, Chief Executive Officer, South Queensland Adventist Schools, 19 Eagle Terrace, Brisbane Qld 4000; phone (07) 3218 7777; fax (07) 3236 1305; or email <gwatson@adventist.org.au>.

with other complications. He had a simple faith and trust in God and was greatly loved by all the family.

Cyrus Adams

Ritchie. David Mervyn, born 4.11.1911 at Warrnambool, Vic; died peacefully 23.7.04 at Coronella Retirement Village, Nunawading, after a lifelong battle with illness. In 1961 he married Marion, who predeceased him in 1991. For a man who, at birth, was not expected to live, Mervyn's 93 years of service to God and man demonstrate what God's Spirit can do.

Paul Kotanko

Rowling. Cheryl Lynette (nee Wilkes), born 24.2.1957 at Port Macquarie, NSW; died 14.7.04 in John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle. On 8.6.85 she married Jeff. She was predeceased by her daughter, Jessica, in 1989. She is survived by her husband (Wauchope). Cheryl battled poor health for most of her life, but always remained positive and never stopped smiling. Her unselfish love towards others revealed her deep commitment to Jesus Christ.

Justin Lawman

Scharley. Anna Maria, born 22.1.1908 in Germany; died 22.6.04 at Coronella Retirement Village, Nunawading, Vic. She is survived by her sons, Manfred, Harold and Walter. Anna was very well loved and tireless in her hospitality and caring for those in need. She died with the assurance of her waking again to see the face of Jesus.

Ed Totenhofer, Robyn Stanley

Smith. Lawrence Percival Desmond, born 17.6.1930 at Sandgate, Qld; died 22.7.04 at Redcliffe, after a prolonged illness. On 20.6.56 he married Merle. He is survived by his wife (Mount Mee); his daughter,


Narelle (Brisbane); his son and daughter-in-law, Daniel and Toni (Sydney, NSW); and his brothers and sister. Lawrie was a quiet achiever; and for many years a successful dairy farmer at his own farm at Mount Mee. He was respected and loved by all who knew him. He loved his Lord and his church and gave unreservedly to it.

John Rabbas, Reg Howell
Lex Hart, Michael Worker

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Warm yourself with delicious pies, savoury rolls or schnitzels this winter, many varieties makes mealtime easy. Many other products available. Phone for fundraising possibilities. **Go Veg, 21 Berry Street, Clyde NSW;** (02) 9897 0000; 10 am–4.00 pm Wednesday to Friday, Sunday by appointment.

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>.

Choose country living. Very neat 4-bedroom home, 2 bathrooms, large shed. 9 minutes from Tamworth. Large Christian school. Great SDA church. Beautiful views across valley on 2.5 acres. Only \$A329,000. Phone Frank (02) 6760 8499 or Peter (02) 6766 5885.

Finally

There is no surprise more magical than the surprise of being loved. It is the finger of God on our shoulder.—
Charles Morgan

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 trades people, 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 phone:

June Wunsch	(02) 6732 6499
Norm Hutchison	(02) 6734 2337
Bruce Baker	(02) 6732 5882 AH (head elder)
Pastor Ken Love	(02) 6721 0633