

RECORD



Pastor Reg Brown has been collecting for the ADRA Appeal in the same town for the past 18 years.

An appealing retirement

Tahmoor, New South Wales

Aretired minister has travelled 1000 kilometres to participate in this year's Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Appeal.

Pastor Reg Brown, 80, has been making the trip from his home in Burleigh Heads, Qld, to Tahmoor, NSW, for the past three years. "It's important to keep regular contact," he says. "The more you get to know people, the more confidence they have in you and in the work of ADRA."

The Greater Sydney Conference originally assigned Pastor Brown, then a departmental director, to help coordinate the appeal at Tahmoor 18 years ago. He has returned to preach at the local Adventist church and to join members on the appeal each year since.

Pastor Brown visits the businesses in the town. He says he now has more than 200 contacts. "They have a high regard for the way ADRA manages its money." ADRA sends 100 per cent of the donations it receives from the appeal to projects. Those contacts contributed a record \$A3200 this year. "My contacts stay with me through good times and bad times," says Pastor Brown. "Many increase their donations from year to year."

He tells the story of a young accountant he met on his first visit to Tahmoor. The accountant initially gave \$A5 but now gives \$A300, which is the biggest donation Pastor Brown receives. "He tells me his donation is secure."

Pastor Brown makes appointments with selected contacts. He then prays before visiting them. "I value their friendship and their support," he says.—**Brenton Stacey**

In this issue

Future of mission hospital reviewed

Church in Australia continues to grow slowly

Baghdad Adventist church bombed



*Hope
for the
big city*

The art of grace—3

Dorothy Sayers suggests we should see God as an artist who “does not see life as a problem to be solved, but as a medium for creation.” However, if you observe an artist at work or an art critic exploring a gallery, the artist or critic will, from time to time, step back to get a proper look at the work in progress or completed masterpiece. But God is a different kind of artist—He stepped *into* the picture. In Jesus, the Artist became a part of the art so as to be able to complete His work more effectively.

In this way, grace is not just a nice thought or a good idea, it became—and continues to be—a Person and an action. Like everything else in our Christian experience, the focus and action of grace is Jesus. The miracle of His incarnation, His life and ultimately His death for us is the saving grace of God.

Jesus is the pinnacle of God’s dealings with humanity—a history of creating grace. The process whereby He creates is grace. In the great work of art that is life, grace is the tools, the medium and the completed work of art. Grace is God’s true art. It is His greatest creation.

Yet it is still a work-in-progress. In one sense, we are a bad people in a seriously less-than-perfect place. The more theologically correct statement of our condition would be that we are sinners in a fallen world. The only way our situation could be worse is if we were sinners in a fallen world without a saviour. Left to ourselves, we are going to die and our world is going to self-destruct. From this perspective, as C S Lewis puts it, “the death of Christ was necessary precisely because men are not worth dying for.”

Thankfully, though, this is not the end of the story. Grace is the glorious and abundant certainty that gives us hope.

Grace is not the prodigal son’s father reluctantly forgiving his repentant son when he finally gets the sense to come back home and kneels in the dust pleading for forgiveness. Rather, it is the father’s love and forgiveness reaching out to the son while he is still in the far country, before there is even any thought of a return home (see Luke 15). Of course, the son is yet to accept the father’s grace but this by no means diminishes the power of that grace.

most appropriate for its roles in and as a work of art: “Grace finds beauty in everything. . . . Grace makes beauty out of ugly things” (U2).

As the Master Artist, this is God’s work: creating and finding beauty in us, as His people and recipients of His grace. “God saved you by his special favour when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are

God loves you—unconditionally and unquestionably, infinitely and eternally.

In describing his own grudging acceptance of the truth of Christianity, C S Lewis marvels at the humility found in God’s grace, that He would continue to extend grace to a person so unwilling. “The Prodigal Son at least walked home on his own feet. But who can duly adore that Love which will open the high gates to a prodigal who is brought in kicking, struggling, resentful, and darting his eyes in every direction for a chance of escape?” Again, God is seen to work in an unexpected and irrational but altogether glorious and above all gracious manner: Lewis adds, “The hardness of God is kinder than the softness of men, and His compulsion is our liberation.”

In the similar context of Paul’s personal experience of God’s grace, he expresses a similar wonder: “To the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us” (Ephesians 1:6-8, NIV).

This startling quality of grace renders it

God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago” (Ephesians 2:8-10, NLT).

This is the contrasting perspective to our worthlessness and hopelessness: as a carefully crafted artwork of grace, we can be assured that we are of immense personal value to God. And the results of His grace working in us—the good works to which God calls us—adds to His glory, not to ours.

The joyous truth is that no matter who you are, wherever you are, what your past or what your present circumstances might be, God loves you—unconditionally and unquestionably, infinitely and eternally. This is the simple but transcendent grace: God loves you.



Nathan Brown



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

- Record number studying at Avondale College
- ADRAcare links with children's charity
- Evolution banned from Serbian schools
- Jewish graves desecrated
- and more

—Compiled by Scott Wegener—

● Statistics recently released by the **Avondale College academic office** reveal that this semester has the **highest number of students** ever involved in its study programs. A total of 925 people are currently doing some kind of study at the college, compared to first semester last year when the figure was 918, the highest number to that date. Defying the normal trend of a downturn in numbers from first to second semester, Avondale has more students in second semester than the 905 who studied in the first.

● Border Christian College,

Albury, NSW, introduced Pre-Kinder classes last year and will **now be expanding** the college to include Years 11 and 12 classes. Opening in 1950, on a different site, the school currently has some 150 students. School principal Mr **Steve Littlewood** says, "The expansion allows us to offer Adventist education from Pre-Kinder to Year 12. This provides additional opportunities for parents in the region in relation to their children's education."—*Helen Lindsay*

● As an alternative to **schoolies week**, the team behind last year's "Truth attack" (RECORD, March 1, 2003—pictured) is this year running



"Final hour." The free weekend at Delhantie Park, Vic, will be filled with workshops,

seminars, speakers and music, November 19 to 21. For more information visit <www.quietstorm.net.au>.

PAU Media Centre goes global

Recently the general manager of the South Pacific Division's Adventist Media Centre, Pastor Calvyn Townend, made a visit to the Pacific Adventist University (PAU) Media Centre. "Very impressed" with their productions, visions and mission, he proposed to use it as a base for video footage in that part of the Pacific. He also requested that it produce weekly footage to be aired on the new Hope Channel international television programs, "Pacific praise" and "SP connections." Material has now since begun to be aired on the Hope Channel via the Adventist Media Centre in Sydney.

Future visions of the Media Centre are to produce a weekly television program for EMTV or Hope and produce radio programs. They're also investigating the possibilities of broadcasting live church services, on a two- to three-kilometre radius, every Sabbath.—*Steven Vele*



● Youth from many churches around the Newcastle area came to **Wallsend** church, NSW, for "**Big day in**" recently. Filled with musical performances, spiritual messages, food and a big-screen movie, the event **sponsors two children** through Asian Aid. With this year's event raising \$A1400 they can now sponsor a third child.

● **ADRAcare** has signed a memorandum of understanding with children's charity "**Twice blessed**" (Flashpoint May 1), a Sydney-based volunteer-run organisation where families who are able to donate their children's outgrown clothes, toys and books, are matched with children from families in need. The minister of Fox Valley Community church, Pastor **Garthe Bainbridge** (pictured, left, with John Tompson, Greater Sydney director of ADRAcare Services and Janelle Ruthven, coordinator of "Twice blessed"), is excited that his church is sponsoring the project.



● A three-week evangelism program was recently held by Pastor **Granville Tooley** and assistant **Craig Jones**, at **Kundiawa**, Papua New Guinea. Evening meetings were held with workshops, meetings and sightseeing a part of the daily program. Both pastors walked freely through the small town of Kundiawa and were **greeted by more than 5000 locals** of Simbu Province. At the end of the program more than 500 decided to turn to God and 32 candidates were baptised.—*Damien Toki*

● This year **Nunawading Adventist Primary School**

got walking to support the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). As part of the service component of their curriculum, which previously involved raising funds for causes such as the 40-hour famine, this year the school's 164 students walked around Blackburn Lake Reserve as part of an **ADRA walkathon**. Walking for up to two hours raised more than \$A6000 for ADRA.



● The **South Pacific Division office** and the neighbouring Adventist church helped raise awareness of the dangers women face if they drink alcohol while pregnant by **ringing bells** as part of International Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) Awareness Day (Newsfront, September 11). FAS is the leading cause of intellectual impairment in the USA, preventable if women do not drink during pregnancy.—*Brenton Stacey*

● **Significant damage** to Adventist properties have been reported after **Frances**, a slow-moving category 2 hurricane with 169 km/h winds, hit the Bahamas and south-eastern Florida from September 3 to 6, killing at least 12 people. “The effects of Hurricane Frances on Adventist members and property were **more widespread** than the damage caused by Hurricane Charley (Flashpoint,

September 11), but not as severe,” says Florida Conference secretary **Evan Valencia**. Florida disaster response coordinator **David Canther** reported that a relief and distribution centre has been set up in the Fort Pierce church and is serving an average of 1100 meals every day.—*Adventist Review*

From SCUBA to Sabbath school

A follow-up branch Sabbath school has now commenced following a SCUBA kids holiday program run by the Papatoetoe church, NZ, (Newsfront, August 14).



Invitations were sent out two weeks prior to the August 14 launch of the program. Some 10 unchurched children attended the first Sabbath school program.

Operating the Sabbath school from the same venue the holiday program was

held, Point View School in Howick, the program is based on the same songs, activities and themes the children learned at the SCUBA program and also run by the familiar faces of the SCUBA leadership team.

In the relaxed atmosphere provided, the hope is that more parents will come along, sit down with a hot drink and be open to discussing topics of relevance to them, and will be invited to attend the popular “Taking charge of your health” seminars.

“The team leaders and the church family as a whole are very excited at such a good response from the public,” says Jacinda Turnbull-Harman of Papatoetoe church. “They are looking forward to being involved and seeing these young lives being changed.”

● Recently honoured by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) among Australian number ones of the past year, Sydney church-group, **Hillsong**, debuted at **number one on the ARIA charts** with “For All You’ve Done” in early July. Yet **all but three of their album’s 9769 sales came via the music stand set up at the Hillsong conference**. The sales count in the ARIA chart because Hillsong—distributed through Sony—has retail status.—*Rolling Stone*

● **Serbia’s government** has ordered schools to **stop teaching** Charles Darwin’s theory of **evolution** in schools this year, saying it left many questions unanswered and that the “accumulated scientific knowledge on the origin and development of man is full of voids.” Balkan commentators say the decision shows the growing influence of the Serbian Orthodox Church, the leading denomination in the former Yugoslav republic, and its close ties to the conservative prime minister. Belgrade University biology lecturer **Nikola Tucic** called the ruling a “disaster.” “This was a political decision that clearly shows the church is **not minding its own business**, but is deep into politics.”—*ACC*

● Religious leaders joined political leaders in condemning the recent **desecration** of more than **100 Jewish graves** in **Wellington**, NZ. Wellington Progressive Jewish Congregation president **Dave Moskowitz** says the attacks had been a surprise and came out of the blue. Security has been increased at the city’s cemeteries, with static guards and patrols.—*Touchstone*

Days and offerings

October 16—Spirit of Prophecy Day
October 23—Children’s Day

Off the record

● An Adventist university student, **Andrew Rudge** (pictured), recently won the **MacDiarmid Young Scientist of the Year** award in New Zealand. Mr Rudge was recognised for his outstanding research in his PhD in **mechanical engineering** at Canterbury University and for the innovative technology he developed that determines the amount of sedative and pain-killing drugs needed to comfort critically ill hospital patients—potentially improving the management of critically ill patients and **saving millions of dollars** in health-care costs. Andrew and his wife, Marion, are both founding members and elders at Riverlands church, NZ.—*Paul Rankin*



● “Cockroaches swarming, a thick film of dust on everything, plenty of beggars and a hole in the floor as a toilet.” These are the words of **Jillian Garne** (pictured), a Kellyville church, NSW, member studying occupational therapy, who has gone to a rural **Bangalore village, India**, for a two-month working holiday with a group of nine classmates. They plan to spend the winter working in village communities with people who have **mental and physical disabilities** and training health-care workers to continue rehabilitation programs when they leave. A little girl Jillian was working with was classed as a physically and mentally disabled “no-hope” case but, after some tests, was discovered to be sufficiently bright with the physical capability to look after herself, if only she could get food. “The people, after looking past the filth, the sores and greasy hair, are **playful, happy people** who love to hug me when I enter their homes . . . they are beautiful people,” says Jillian.—*Robyn Crabtree*



The most evangelistic school?

Esperance, Western Australia

Situated in a town of 12,000 on the far south-eastern coast of Western Australia, Esperance Christian Primary School has attracted 45 students. But this is an Adventist school with a difference. Gary Blagden, superintendent for Adventist schools in Western Australia, spoke to its principal Anne Tonkin about what makes it unique.

Why do you say Esperance Christian Primary School is the most evangelistic Adventist school in Australia?

Quite simply all of its 45 students are non-Adventists. Just over half these students come from Christian homes of other denominations, while others don't regularly attend church. This situation provides us with a huge potential for evangelism, and we embrace this challenge daily.

So what are you doing that is evangelistic?

Early in the year Pastor David Kelsey, the school chaplain, and I planned a number of evangelistic activities. For the first of these we asked Ron Dalais, a Christian singer from Perth, to give a concert while we provided a three-course vegetarian dinner for parents and community members in the Adventist church hall. Many told us how blessed they were by the event. We are following this up with a prophecy seminar specifically for the parents and extended family of our school, but also as a community outreach.

What are you actually doing in the classrooms though?

On a day-to-day basis we teach Bible using the Adventist Sabbath school lessons appropriate for the children's ages. We can do this because we don't have any Adventist children enrolled at present. In addition to this, Pastor Kelsey takes a combined worship with the whole school once a week and also takes a Bible class each week for students in Years 3-7. He has also run a mini Revelation seminar with the Year 7 group, using the *Revelation Speaks* workbook and PowerPoint presentations.

What else are you doing?

Our school recently took the worship service at the Adventist church. I also asked other churches represented at our school if they would like us to come to their church and take part, and plans have been made for this to happen. Pastor Kelsey ran a prophecy seminar in August, after which we offered *Try Jesus* Bible studies for small-group study. Then, at year end, we will present the annual spiritual concert to the community at the civic centre.

Prayer is central to all we do. We have a prayer roster for each of the students and their families. Each family is notified and offered a Bible promise when they are being prayed for. We have received a lot of positive feedback from families about this.

What is your feeling about the whole process now?

I'm still excited by the potential for evangelism here. We're doing this work with much prayer and thought, and leave it in God's hands as to what comes of it all.



With all 45 of its students coming from non-Adventist homes, this school claims to be the most evangelistic.

Many of our school families are very active in their own churches, while some don't attend church at all. I wish we had stories of lots of people joining the church. But God works in His own time.—*ANN South Pacific*

Send your evangelism stories, ideas and dreams to: Post: Record, Signs Publishing Company, 3485 Warburton Highway, Warburton Vic 3799 Australia. Fax: +61 3 5966 9109 Email: editor@signspublishing.com.au



Baghdad Adventist church bombed

Baghdad, Iraq

A car packed with an estimated 150 kilograms of dynamite was detonated outside the Seventh-day Adventist church in Baghdad late on Friday night, September 10. While there were no services in progress at the time, a guard was present on the church compound and escaped unhurt.



Shattered glass from the bomb blast litters the aisle of the church.

Wahba, pastor of the Baghdad Adventist church, who was on the scene within 15 minutes of the blast, feels that the flying glass would have caused serious injuries to worshippers had the car bomb gone off during regular Sabbath morning services.—*ANN*

"Details are still sketchy, but it appears to have been a deliberate attack on the church since there are no other significant targets on the side that was bombed," says Homer Trecartin, secretary-treasurer for the Middle East Union Mission. As yet, nobody has claimed responsibility.

The car was parked on the side of the building, adjacent to the church vestry and electrical control room, which also served as a storage area. The ensuing fire gutted both these rooms, and most of the windows in the main worship area were blown in. Oweda

Visits to church web site increase

Wahroonga, New South Wales

The web site of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific continues to grow in popularity.

The site received a record number of unique visitors—at 6488—in March. An average of more than 5500 people for the six months to July this year are visiting the site each month.

“Human resources,” the “Locator” and “Record online” continue to rate as the three most popular sections of the site. The “Human resources” category contains links to job vacancies and the employment recruitment database. The “Locator” finds local Adventist churches and schools. RECORD appears on the web site on the Thursday before it appears in local churches.

“We hope to increase the number of visitors when we launch our new site in



Joy Butler prays for a prayer request submitted via the Adventist Church's web site. Mrs Butler holds her hands near the screen to help focus on the request.

November,” says the church’s electronic media assistant, Jeanelle Isaacs. “We plan to improve the speed, design and navigation of the site.”

Almost 30 people have submitted prayer

requests this year, which already equals the number the church received through the site for the whole of last year. The church’s Prayer Ministries team publishes the requests online and emails them to a South Pacific-wide prayer network of 100 church members.

Coordinator Joy Butler says anonymity is one of the benefits of submitting a request online. “We all need intercessory prayer, but some of us are too nervous or shy to ask for it in person.”

Mrs Butler prays personally for the requests, which cover issues such as employment, finance, health and immigration, as she receives them. “It’s important we respect a request for prayer, even though we don’t know anything about the person behind it.”—**Brenton Stacey**

Visit the church’s web site at <www.adventist.org.au>.

Church in Australia continues to grow slowly

Melbourne, Victoria

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia is growing, according to reports received by delegates at the midyear meeting of the Australian Union Conference’s (AUC) executive committee. However, the growth is slow.



The church growth pattern in Australia is moving slowly upward.

Some 1060 people joined the church through baptism or profession of faith in 2003, bringing the total membership to 51,350. The church recorded a net growth of 349 members, a growth rate of only 0.68 per cent.

The money church members are

returning as tithe also grew, by almost \$A2 million in 2003. This 4.5 per cent increase is greater than the rate of inflation. Not surprisingly, the Greater Sydney Conference, with the largest membership of any of the nine conferences in Australia, received the largest tithe of almost \$A10 million. The South New South Wales Conference recorded the highest percentage increase of tithe (4.78).

The Northern Australian Conference did best when considering baptisms and professions of faith as a percentage of membership. However, the conference recorded a net loss of 28 members—the highest for any of the conferences—in transfers to other conferences. The South Queensland Conference is the most popular of the conferences if considering the number of transfers—75—from other conferences.

Some 282 ministers cared for 490 local congregations across Australia in 2003. The number of baptisms per minister is 3.8.

Other notable statistics:

- More than 50 per cent of students in Adventist schools in Australia are non-Adventists;
- The church allocated \$A20,000 for evangelistic initiatives in its schools across Australia in 2003;
- The church’s Professional Standards Committee investigated 25 cases—20 involving the sexual assault of children—in 2003. This is down on the 29 it investigated last year and on the 46 investigated in 2001;
- The church’s Adventist Support responded to 229 telephone calls, up from the 142 it received last year;
- The church in Mongolia grew by 5 per cent after the first three evangelistic series presented by church members from Australia;
- Seventy homes across Australia are committed to “intentional hospitality ministry” through the AUC’s Homes of Hope program; and
- The AUC’s Resource Centre recorded sales of more than \$A200,000.—**Brenton Stacey/FYI**

Future of mission hospital reviewed

Malaita, Solomon Islands

The president of the South Pacific Division has visited the church's Malaita, Solomon Islands-based hospital to discuss with stakeholders its future. Pastor Laurie Evans met with hospital staff and with village chiefs during his visit to Atoifi in July.

The safety of staff following the acquittal of the prime suspect in the murder of former business manager Lance Gersbach is Pastor Evans's major concern. Low staff morale and "unreasonable" workloads are others.

"The staff members are endeavouring to work as normal, but the fact the murderer has never been apprehended is never far from their minds," says Pastor Evans. "Until they know 'who' and 'why,' they'll never feel safe."

While generally empathising with the staff members, Pastor Evans did caution them not to condemn the Kaiwo in general because of the actions of only one or two people.

Pastor Evans reaffirmed the church's commitment to continue its health and medical ministry in the Solomons. However, he spoke openly about reviewing the operations at Atoifi, "One, because Lance's murderer has not been brought to justice—and we're doing everything in our power to see that this happens—and



South Pacific Division president Pastor Laurie Evans at the opening of the new police station at Atoifi. Two officers from the Australian-led regional intervention force and one Solomon Islander staff the station. An agreement the church has signed with the Australian Federal Police will guarantee a police presence on the campus for the next eight years.

two, because we'd like to expand our influence for the benefit of all Solomon Islanders, not just those living near Atoifi."

The chiefs—whom Pastor Evans thanked for allowing the church to operate the hospital on their land for the past 38 years—agreed to meet to examine how they might begin resolving the issue of the non-capture of the murderer. Pastor Evans says the future of the hospital rests largely with them.

"They have the ability to deal with this matter better than anyone. They acknowledge the pain the murder has

caused. And they understand we would like to expand our health and medical ministry. But they made it clear they do not want the hospital to close.

"I emphasised the successful apprehending and conviction of the perpetrator of this crime would do much to allay the fears of the staff and help restore confidence in Atoifi."

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

Church sends support for Pitcairn Island

Wahroonga, New South Wales

The South Pacific Division has sent pastoral support to remote Pitcairn Island during an upcoming trial. Pastor Ray Coombe and his wife, Daphne, departed for the island on September 19.

In 1999, allegations of abuse rocked the tiny island community of just under 50 people. After much attention from the international media, the island is now bracing itself for the trial of seven Pitcairn Islanders.

It will take Pastor and Mrs Coombe five

days to get to the island by boat and plane, but Pastor Coombe says it will be "well worth it."

"The church and community there needs pastoral support during the trial and media attention. We want them to know we care for them," he says.

The Coombes will stay on the island until mid October when Pitcairn's replacement pastor is due to arrive. The island has been without a pastor for the past few months.

Lyle Burgoyne, serving as pastor and medical officer, enjoyed both his roles on

Pitcairn, but had to return earlier this year when the British government cut his medical stipend in order to assign a doctor to Pitcairn.

The island once boasted an all-Adventist population, but the membership has dropped significantly over the past 60 years. Now only eight to 10 of the islanders regularly attend worship services.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific asks church members to keep the people of Pitcairn Island in their prayers.—**Adam Sparke**

Hope for the big city

by Brenton Stacey

They're calling it "Fountain in the City." It's a new Seventh-day Adventist church plant in Sydney. And you can help ensure its long-term success.

The offering you give during the worship service in your local Adventist church on October 9 will support a worldwide church initiative called "Hope for big cities."

The aim of the initiative is to address the need for urban church growth, with the worldwide church's 13 divisions choosing cities in their regions in which to plant churches. All the money collected in the South Pacific Division (SPD) on October 9 will support "Fountain in the City."

Pastor David Blanch, president of the Greater Sydney Conference, says the offering "may be our only chance to reach the postmodern secular city dweller."

There are 66 Adventist churches in greater Sydney, but not one is located in the central business district. "Establishing a presence in the CBD has been a decades-long dream," says Pastor Blanch. "The cost of renting or purchasing real estate has been too prohibitive."

The cost of the church plant is more than \$A300,000 each year over three years. The worldwide church's Global Mission (with contributions totalling almost \$A335,000 over the three years), the conference (\$A150,000 plus \$A160,000 to employ an evangelist and an operations manager), and members of the Adventist church in Woollahra in Sydney's eastern suburbs, the closest Adventist church to Fountain in the City (\$A60,000), will meet almost 80 per cent of the expenses. The Hope for Big Cities Offering will help offset the rest. "We're taking a huge step of faith,"



says Pastor Blanch.

Woollahra minister Pastor Gary Kent says his church's contribution "demonstrates how serious we are about serving our mission field. Sixty thousand is a lot of money, and it will involve a lot of sacrifice, but we want to make a strong statement." Members of the church have already donated \$A20,000.

Adventists from Woollahra and other churches in greater Sydney will begin worshipping and meeting at the AAP Theatre and Conference Centre on George Street on Saturdays and Wednesdays from February 19 next year. Pastor Kent will then begin presenting an evangelistic series with a health and lifestyle focus. The series will target businesspeople. "Our research shows 250,000 of them catch the train into the city each day," says Pastor Kent.

Pastor Kent will also coordinate other programs—such as a Taking charge of your health series—and plans to present free lunchtime health lectures. "This will not just be a church but a community centre."

Pastor Wayne Krause, director of the SPD's new Centre for Church Planting, says today's Adventists are not planting as many churches—especially in cities—as their pioneering forebears.

"Our image of city dwellers makes it difficult to build relationships with them," says Pastor Krause. "We see them as having more of an interest in money, pleasure and a fast lifestyle than in God. The fear is, 'How do we reach people who are so different?'"

"But we need to remember city dwellers have the same basic needs we do. They're searching for meaning in life and for meaningful relationships."

Pastor Krause says strategically planned church plants, loyal to the mission of the Adventist Church, increase church membership. "The apostle Paul grew the early Christian church by planting churches. We would do well to follow his example."

Pastor Blanch says he will use four criteria to judge the success of "Fountain in the City": the ongoing viability of renting the venue; the number of businesspeople attending the church; the commitment of Woollahra church members; and the support of the other Adventist churches in greater Sydney.

The worldwide church has designated two other Sabbath offerings—April 9 and July 9, 2005—for Hope for Big Cities, although not all the money collected in the South Pacific from these offerings will remain in the SPD.

And this is why Pastor Blanch encourages Adventists in the South Pacific to give to the offering on October 9. "It's our one opportunity to establish a presence in the city and bring the three angels' messages to people searching for meaning to life." **R**

Brenton Stacey is news correspondent for the South Pacific Division.

"Hope for big cities" offering - October 9

A change of focus

by Nathan Brown

At the South Pacific Division Stewardship Summit held in early August (see Newsfront, August 28), Pastor Joseph Talipuan, stewardship director for the Papua New Guinea Union, shared his strategy for developing a better understanding of the issues of stewardship.

What is your background in working on stewardship concepts?

After graduating from Pacific Adventist University in 1990, my initial calling was to be stewardship director for the Western Highlands Mission, where I stayed for seven years. Then I was called to be the secretary for the New Britain New Ireland Mission. And in 2000 I was asked to be stewardship director for the union.

So when you stepped into this new role, where did you start?

No-one had ever done a survey to find out the strengths of the church on matters of stewardship or who was paying tithe. We wanted to make sure we were talking to the right people because Papua New Guinea is a mixture of cash economy and rural life, and sometimes when we ran stewardship meetings we were not sure what group we were targeting. So we conducted a survey among urban churches like Lae, Port Moresby and others like that.

You discovered you needed to connect people with Jesus.

Yes, we found that out in the survey. When I was baptising people, out of sheer interest I would ask the question, "Why do you want to be baptised?" Some answers kept repeating, "We want to go to heaven," "We are scared of hell," or "I want to be a good man—I want to live a good life." Those answers might have no direct relationship to the idea of accepting Jesus and being saved and that sort of thing. I was shocked in a way. So I discussed this with the stewardship directors of the local

missions and we tried to readjust our preaching approaches and we planned what we wanted to do over five years.

And then you set about implementing the strategy.

We began simply by going out and preaching, getting to know our people. In 2003 we decided to get all the people in—church pastors and church officers, local church clerks, treasurers and senior elders. We had a stewardship congress.

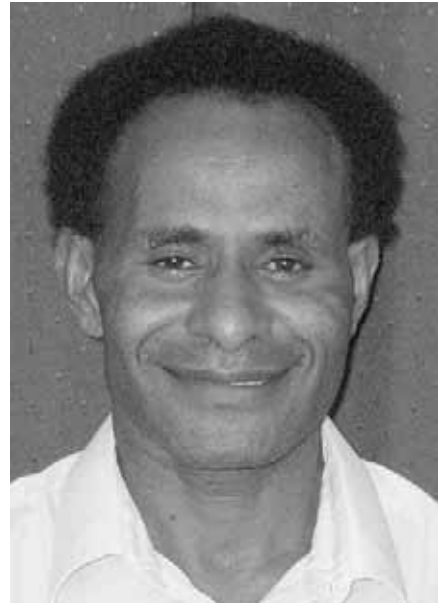
After that I closely monitored the directors, receiving reports on what was happening and what they were doing. The reports that have come in show they are preaching Christ-centred, salvation-oriented messages.

Because this is the Year of Evangelism, I asked the ministerial secretary if we could make these evangelistic meetings focus on this approach, rather than the traditional prophecy and last-day-event focus—to just present Christ. In Papua New Guinea, most people know about keeping Sabbath, so we decided to present keeping Sabbath with putting Christ first.

What has been the reaction?

I have run three evangelistic meetings using this method—moving completely away from the traditional evangelistic method we used in the past.

The interesting thing is when I ran one of the programs there was a whole group of people [from another church]. They attended the meetings and when I left they came and cried at the airport, and I thought, *Why are they crying?* They said, "When we read the Bible, we don't like anything to do with the law and the Sabbath. But now you have shaken us and we realise Sabbath is a symbol of God's love to us and we were rebelling against God's love." And they cried. It was something I had never seen before and it moved me.




Pastor Joseph Talipuan.

Are you beginning to notice a change in the way people look at stewardship?

Absolutely. From the reactions I am receiving, people are seeing stewardship and the whole gospel in the light of salvation. A number of churches are telling me their tithe is increasing. Money has never been mentioned in these meetings. We have not preached on Malachi 3, but we are preaching the basic principles.

On my way here, an elder met me in Port Moresby and said, "Pastor, thank you. We have been trying these ideas and it is working." Previously they had church building plans and it had been difficult to raise funds, but these meetings somehow touched people and motivated them. They now love Jesus more than money. If that continues, we will develop a sustainable financial base.

I think when tithing and giving increase in this way, the increase will be long-lasting. That's my feeling. 

Nathan Brown is editor of RECORD.

Election day

by Don Halliday

It's election time again in Australia. The parties are broadcasting their policies for the next three years, and urging us to vote for them. This time around, the Prime Minister has designated trust as the main issue in this election, and the Leader of the Opposition has agreed. So the government tells Australians they cannot trust the opposition party because in previous years they ran the country into debt with their policies; while the opposition claims that people cannot trust a government that covered up the real story of the "children overboard" and led us into war in Iraq. It seems Australians have to make a choice.

The Bible, too, insists that we take part in an election, that we have to make a choice. On many occasions, the choice is set out in clear terms: "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing," says Moses, "therefore choose life" (Deuteronomy 30:19*); "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve," says Joshua (24:15); and "How long will you falter between two opinions?" asks Elijah. "If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, follow him" (1 Kings 18:21).

Voting in this election is compulsory—and of utmost importance. There are only two candidates: Jesus Christ and Satan. We would do well, then, to examine the credibility, personality and leadership styles of these two candidates.

Credibility test: Satan

Satan lures people with promises. He promised Eve, "You will not surely die. . . . In the day you eat . . . your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:4, 5). But Eve did die. She could no longer partake of the divine nature. Her eyes were indeed opened—to her own nakedness, to sorrow, to anguish over her children, including the first murderer and the first murder victim.

Material wealth is another lure. Lot saw

the economic advantages of living in the fertile Jordan valley and pitched his tent near wicked Sodom. As a result, he lost his home, his wife and most of his family. He became a fugitive and was tricked into an incestuous relationship by his two remaining daughters.

Personal ambition is another big drawcard. Satan put it into the heart of Judas to betray Jesus (John 13:2). Judas hoped Jesus would exert His authority to free Himself and then Judas would occupy a prominent place in the new kingdom. But Judas realised too late that he had betrayed an innocent man, and he went out and hanged himself.

Some are tempted to excuse their crimes on the basis of national security. Caiaphas urged the council to get rid of Jesus to save the whole Jewish nation from extinction (John 11:49, 50). But when the council heard of Jesus' resurrection, they realised they had not got rid of Him. Instead, the Jewish nation came to an end when Jerusalem was destroyed nearly 40 years later.

And Satan works to trick us in other ways too. Many are persuaded they must drink to be sociable. But really such choices are antisocial. Their ability to think clearly is affected, they die at an earlier age and they are more likely to have accidents, fights and broken homes.

In the last 40 years we have seen a sexual revolution where many restrictions have been cast off, where divorce seems easy, and where couples sleep together without any pretence of marriage. And there is a price to pay in broken hearts and broken lives.

Clearly Satan fails the credibility test. He leaves behind him a trail of lies and broken promises.

Credibility test: Jesus

Jesus has a long history of dealing faithfully with people. God promised Abraham national greatness. Abraham and Sarah would have a son. Even though they had to wait many years, the promise was fulfilled when Isaac was born. Abraham was also promised that after an interval of 400 years, his descendants would receive the land of Canaan. That promise was



Ted White

fulfilled in the days of Joshua.

David received a promise that his descendants would always occupy the throne. That promise was fulfilled as long as Israel remained a kingdom.

When Solomon chose wisdom rather than wealth, fame or victory, he was promised even what he had not asked for. Soon people in surrounding countries were coming to hear his wisdom and to see his wonderful temple and other public works.

The promise was made through Jeremiah that the captivity in Babylon would end after 70 years. At the end of that time, Babylon was overthrown just as predicted and many Jews returned to rebuild the temple and restore Jerusalem.

Jesus promised, "Those who honour me I will honour" (1 Samuel 2:30). Daniel honoured God by refusing to consume unwholesome food and wine—and God honoured him by helping him interpret dreams, promoting him to a position of power in both Babylon and Medo-Persia, and delivering him from the lions' den.

Jesus promised that His followers would receive a special gift of the Holy Spirit after His ascension. This promise was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, and everyone was amazed at the apostles' teaching and at the miracles they performed. Today their names are honoured as co-founders of the Christian church while their detractors are forgotten.

Jesus Christ has a proven track record of living up to His promises.

Candidates' personal examples

We like to know what sort of people our election candidates really are. What do we know about the personal characters of Christ and Satan?

Satan was disloyal in heaven. He already had the best place, but he wanted more. "I will be like the Most High," he arrogantly boasted (Isaiah 14:14). He disobeyed all the rules and started a war in heaven (Revelation 12:7). Men who have chosen him as their leader have been known to live in caves as wild men, threatening any who came near (Mark 5:2-5); and he does not want them to improve their lot (verse 7). He brings sickness on people (Luke 13:16). He tries to keep people from

believing and being saved (Luke 8:12). He stirs them up to do the wrong things (1 Chronicles 21:1; Acts 5:3). He is a liar and a murderer (John 8:44). He is enraged with those who keep God's commands (Revelation 12:17) and sometimes has them thrown into prison (Revelation 2:10). Who would choose such a rogue as a candidate for election?

On the other hand, Jesus did not keep His throne in glory, but came to this earth and assumed a lowly position (Philippians 2:5-7). After leaving the home of His childhood and youth and His occupation as a humble carpenter, He was willing to do without a permanent home (Luke 9:58). He was willing to associate with those who were despised by society, such as the hated tax collectors (Matthew and Zaccheus) and a condemned sinner (the woman taken in adultery). He used the language of the people and referred to their everyday occupations, so that "the common people heard him gladly" (Mark 12:37).

He took pity on the crowds and fed them when He thought they might be hungry on the way home. He was such a model citizen that He could challenge even his opponents to point out his errors (John 8:46). He was willing to go through great suffering to save all who were born into this world (Hebrews 5:7-9). Surely a man who is in touch with the common people is the right man to lead us.

Leadership style

At election time we like to know the leadership style of the opposing leaders. So how do Christ and Satan compare?

Satan always challenges those on the opposing side. He disputed whether Job was really a good man (Job 1:9-11). He argued over the body of Moses (Jude 9), and opposed Joshua the High Priest as he stood before the Angel of the Lord (Zechariah 3:1). Having been expelled from heaven, he comes down to earth in great anger, knowing he has only a little time left (Revelation 12:12). In the last days his agents threaten death to those who reject his demands (Revelation 13:15-17).

By contrast Jesus "is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). He was willing

to give His own life to ensure this, like a shepherd giving his life for the sheep. He does not force Himself on us, but stands at the door and knocks, and invites us to open the door ourselves so He can come in as a friend and eat with us (Revelation 3:20). Indeed, He calls His followers His friends and promises to reveal His secrets to them (John 15:14:15). When Peter—one of His closest friends—declared three times that he did not even know Him, He gave him a chance.

Satan entices us to enjoy ourselves now and pay later. He does not reveal the price to be paid, nor our final destruction with him at the time of the final judgment: "Fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone" (Revelation 20:9, 10).

Jesus, on the other hand, makes it clear that in spite of initial hardships we may have a joyful life here and eternal life in the world beyond: "My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you" (John 14:27); "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33); and "I saw . . . those who have the victory . . . standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God" (Revelation 15:2).

Vote now

Don't be misled by the popularity polls. Satan seems to always score best in those. Even Jesus referred to him as "the ruler of this world" (John 14:30). Democracy is not always the way to right: "Wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. . . . Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:13, 14).

Each of us must decide for ourselves, regardless of majority opinion, who is making the most reliable offer. Jesus and Satan are calling for our votes today—and every day.

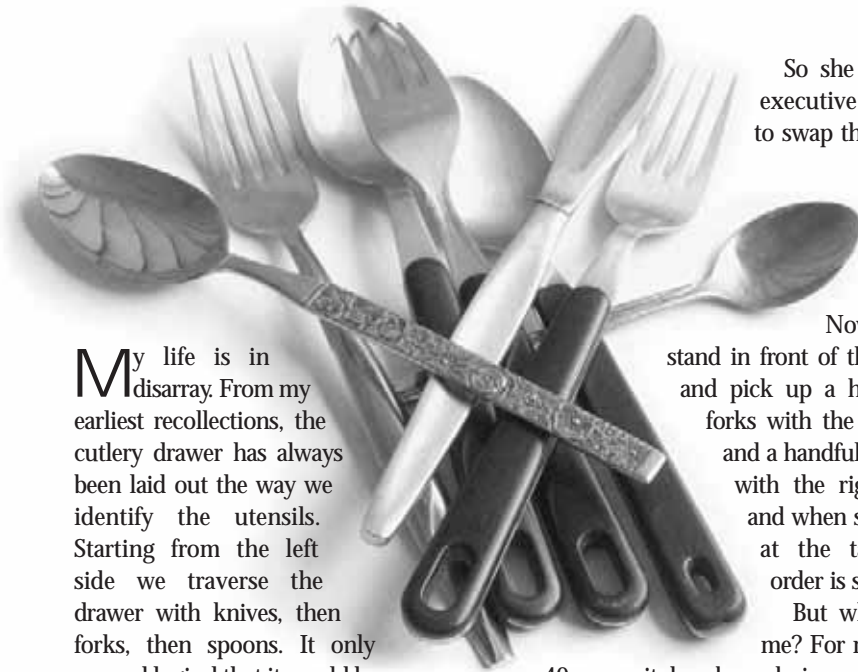
I vote for Jesus. How about you? 

** Bible quotations are from the New King James Version.*

Don Halliday writes from Alstonville, New South Wales.

Everything is changing

by Anthony Whyatt



My life is in disarray. From my earliest recollections, the cutlery drawer has always been laid out the way we identify the utensils. Starting from the left side we traverse the drawer with knives, then forks, then spoons. It only seemed logical that it would happen that way. We say knives, forks and spoons, so why wouldn't that be the way they are placed in the drawer? I assumed every cutlery drawer in the whole world would be laid out the same way.

Prior to getting married, I moved into the unit I would later share with my wife, and I unpacked my few belongings into the cupboards and drawers. I placed the cutlery in their slots: knives, forks and spoons. When my wife joined me she added her utensils to the same slots: knives, forks and spoons.

For the next 23 years we lived in 10 different residences, and although the furniture changed and family members were added, never ever was it contemplated that we should change the order of the cutlery drawer.

But little girls grow into teenagers and the eldest of ours is femininely challenged, having trouble with the concept of left and right. When she arrives at the table with a handful of cutlery, she needs to know which side to place it and if both fists are full it is difficult hold up a hand to see which one makes the letter L for left.

So she made an executive decision to swap the parking spots for the knives and forks.


Now she can stand in front of the drawer and pick up a handful of forks with the left hand and a handful of knives with the right hand, and when she stands at the table, the order is set.

But what about me? For more than 40 years it has been knives, forks and spoons. How am I to cope with forks, knives and spoons? The slots needed to be sorted continually. Knives were with the forks and forks were with the knives. My life was out of sync. Someone had altered my comfort zone and I made her aware that I was not happy. But what's the big deal? Perhaps I should be happy she pulled me out of my 40-year rut and made me

more aware of my surroundings.

The same is true for worship. For years I was stuck in a rut of three hymns, a prayer and an offering, then someone altered my comfort zone and I made them aware that I was not happy. But maybe that was not such a big deal either. Perhaps I should be happy they pulled me out of the rut and made me more aware of my Saviour.

I no longer assume that the cutlery will always be in designated places, but they are still useful utensils, how ever they are presented. I have accepted the changes and I draw from the positives.

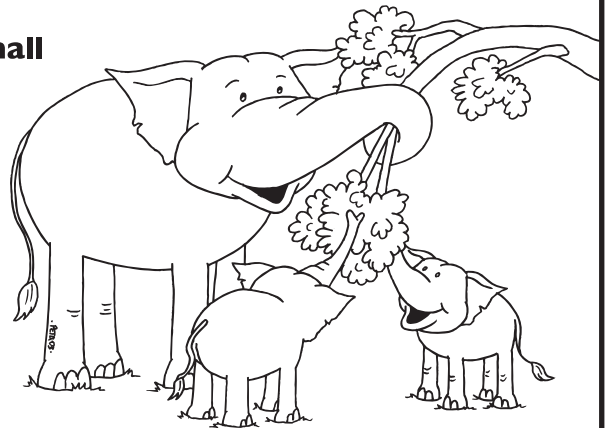
As Ellen White reminds us, "God is worshipped with song and music in the courts above, and as we express our gratitude we are approximating to the worship of the heavenly hosts. 'Whoso offereth praise glorifieth' God. Psalm 50:23. Let us with reverent joy come before our Creator, with 'thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.' Isaiah 51:3" (*Steps to Christ*, page 104). 

Anthony Whyatt is information technology manager for Brisbane Adventist College, Wishart, Queensland.

Just for children

"And my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19



Peta Taylor

Questions of unity

Kristine Stahl, email

“Thinking ecumenically?” (Letters, September 11) expresses a strange idea of Adventist teachings. We have always believed Christ’s faithful are found in other denominations. That’s nothing new. If we didn’t believe that, why would we proclaim the three angels’ messages, one of which is a call to come out of these churches?

And growing ecumenism “sinister”? The movement’s aim is to unite churches under one roof, and we cannot sacrifice Scripture for a feeling of fuzzy love. Unity with anybody is only possible on the basis of truth. “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3).

Bill Gates, NSW

“That they also may be one,” prayed Jesus of His followers (John 17:21). This will not be achieved by embracing a multitude of Christian ideas, as the ecumenical movement would have us do. That movement is taking well-meaning people down a wrong road. How do I know? Because Revelation 18:4 states, “Come out of her, my people.” This is a call that only the remnant church can make, as it seeks to call God’s people out of the ecumenical movement and its falsehoods and come into God’s full and marvellous light.

In the name of love and tolerance, or plurality and diversity, many who see no wrong in the ecumenical movement are in

danger of creating a climate that would destroy the very reason for our church’s existence. There would be no point taking the three angels’ messages to other Christians, because the ecumenical implication is that they are already saved. Exodus 20:6 clearly teaches that we are saved by God’s mercy and grace—but it is only of benefit to those who love God and obey Him.

In love we seek to alert fellow Christians found in the Sunday-keeping churches. As obedience is the highest form of worship, one can quickly see why it is so important to God, yet offensive to Satan.

confound the wise. He uses the meek and teachable people of this world to put to shame those who think they have all the answers. . . . This way, no-one can boast before God about his own wisdom and strength” (1 Corinthians 1:27, 29, *Clear Word*).

I have encouraged and helped many proven workers to attend the Omaura School of Ministry, PNG. But the tragedy is that a year’s fees still costs them years of hard saving. What an incentive it would be if they could be subsidised.

I doff my hat to this noble band of frontline workers. Let us educate them

We cannot sacrifice Scripture for a feeling of fuzzy love.

All have value

Len Barnard, email

With chagrin I read “Lay ministers lack training” (Newsfront, September 11). Having worked for many years with such dedicated workers as these, I have great admiration for their deep devotion. Where would the tremendous growth of the church be without such a willing band of workers? But I also ask what education had Jesus’ disciples or the seventy? The startling growth of the early church was due to the efforts of Spirit-filled lay workers.

It’s true that God used the erudite Paul to strengthen the foundations of the church, but it was he who wrote, “God has chosen the foolish things of the world to

when we can with all the means we can muster. But in the meantime, let us not despise those whom God is so abundantly blessing.

Priority check

Jean Bakker, Vic

When I was an employee of the Signs Publishing Company a few years ago, we were printing 80,000 *Signs* magazines a month. What a tragedy that subscriptions have fallen to only half that number (“Save our *Signs*,” Features, July 31).

Do we really grasp the meaning of stewardship? Do we really long for Jesus to come?

We see images of children with big, brown eyes spilling over with tears and smothered by flies, and beside them their dejected mothers, with no hope of feeding them. We see political upheavals and the bloodshed and horrors that surround them, while thousands of dollars are being poured into the coffers of airlines transporting Adventist tourists to more pleasant places. Is this stewardship?

Many more *Signs* magazines could be distributed with those dollars and the coffers of ADRA would be overflowing. May God help us to get our priorities right!

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.



Appreciation

Butler, Peg and her family would like to sincerely thank everyone for the many kind and loving thoughts expressed to them in flowers, cards and letters at the passing of their beloved husband, father and grandfather, Lance Butler. We deeply appreciated every letter and thank you for your loving concern. Your kindness at this time of sadness will not be forgotten.

Weddings

Kennedy—Cosford. Iain Terence Kennedy, son of David and Dianne Kennedy (Moore, Qld), and Angela Marie Cosford, daughter of Neil Cosford (Malemy) and Nerolie Bampton (Montville), were married on 5.9.04 in Macarthur Park Gardens, Cleveland, Brisbane.

Bob Possingham

Nugent—Obst. Nicholas Craig Nugent and Melissa Anne Obst, daughter of Des and Elaine Obst (Loxton, SA), were married on 4.9.04 in The Gardens, Loxton North.

Robert Porter

Stevens—Langton. Rodney John Stevens, son of Alwyn and Heather Stevens (Ferntree Gully, Vic), and Natasha Julie Elizabeth Langton, daughter of Robert (Box Hill North) and the late Julie Langton, were married on 5.9.04 in the Ferntree Gully Adventist church.

Tony Campbell

Suson—Madex. Joe Suson, son of the late John and Rita Suson (formerly of the Philippines), and Glenda Madex, daughter of Arthur (Morwell, Vic) and the late Margaret (Meg) Fish, were married on 15.8.04 in the Tiraragon Adventist church.

Tim O'Keefe, Bill Doble

Watson—Buckland. Jayson Wesley Paul Watson, son of Jannifer Watson (Adelaide, SA), and Cherin Joy Buckland, daughter of Alan and Janice Buckland (Adelaide), were married on 5.9.04 in College Park Adventist church, Adelaide.

Lee Bowditch-Walsh

Obituaries

Atkin, Robert Joseph, born 9.11.1935 at Auckland, NZ; died 29.8.04 in Sydney Adventist Hospital, Wahroonga, NSW. He is survived by his wife, Elaine (nee Allum); his children, Jenny and Greg; their families; his brother, Wilfred; and his sister, Barbara. He was known as a man of God among the leaders of the motor industry in Australia and abroad. He served his church as a member of the executive committee of the South Pacific Division and a director on the board of Sanitarium Health Food Company. His greatest investment was in the spiritual and professional development of young people. Sadly missed by his family and members of Fox Valley SDA church.

Garth Bainbridge

Barry Oliver, Warwick Stokes

Burt, Lloyd George, born 30.9.1919 at Broken Hill, NSW; died 7.7.04 at Coffs Harbour Health Campus. On 25.2.1953 he married Betty Pethick. He is survived by his wife (Coffs Harbour); and his son, Jeffrey (Sydney). Lloyd was a true Christian gentleman who was loved and respected by those who knew him.

Eric Greenwell

Butler, Lancelot Lewis, born 17.11.1918 in Adelaide, SA; died 10.8.04 in Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney, NSW. In 1946 he married Peg Peacock. He is survived by his wife; his sons and daughters-in-law, Robert and Joy, Donald and Patricia, and Rodney (Barnsey) and Sue (all of Sydney); and his 10 grandchildren. His highly valued service to the church included serving as treasurer of the former Australasian Division, in Wahroonga, from 1968 to 1980, and treasurer of the General Conference, from 1980 to 1985. He planned and implemented the new and current General Conference office headquarters in Washington, DC, USA. He also planned and prepared the way for the Pacific Adventist University in Port Moresby, PNG, and also initiated and oversaw the construction of the Adventist Alpine Village, Jindabyne, NSW. He was much loved and respected, and a true reflection of the Lord he loved and served. He walked daily with his God.

Eric Greenwell, Ken Low

Coyte, Lorna Louisa (nee Lowe), born in Melbourne, Vic; died 24.8.04 at Freeman Nursing Home, Rossmoyne, WA. In 1944 she married Leonard, who predeceased her. She was also predeceased by her son, Philip; and her sister, Joyce Butcher. She is survived by her children and their spouses, Geoffrey and Robyn (Stanthorpe), and Anthony and Julie (Forrestfield, WA); her five grandchildren; and her three great-grandchildren. Lorna was a long-time church employee; devoted many years to teaching children in Sabbath school, JMWs and Pathfinders; and also served as a volunteer with St John's Ambulance Brigade for many years. She maintained a consistent loyalty to her Lord.

Steve Goods

Derbyshire, Johanna, born 1.11.1914 in Vienna, Austria; died 22.8.04 at Mount Druitt, NSW. In 1936 she married Karl Szulczyk. The marriage ended after the war and Johanna migrated to Australia. In 1976 she married Rigby Derbyshire, who predeceased her in 1977. She was also predeceased by her son, Hans, in 2000. She is survived by her daughter, Ruth; her granddaughter, Angelica; her grandson, Vadim; and her daughter-in-law, Irene Szulczyk. Despite ill health, Johanna's strong faith inspired others.

Rein Muhlbeg

Lockwood, Leslie James, born 22.11.1912 at Leicester, England; died peacefully 23.8.04 in Redlands Hospital, Brisbane, Qld. On 30.5.36 he married Nancy Smith, who predeceased him on 26.2.98. He is survived by his sister in Leicester, England. Les served in the British Army in Africa, Italy and other places. Les looked forward with keen anticipation to the return of Jesus and meeting Nancy again.

Selwyn Bartlett, Orm Speck

Positions vacant

▲ **Assistant Editor—Signs Publishing Company (Warburton, Vic)** is seeking a person to join the editorial team that produces *Record, Signs of the Times* and *Edge* magazines, who will work full-time with the editor in producing news and other content for these magazines. The successful applicant will think critically about a wide range of issues; have strong communication and interpersonal skills; demonstrate dedication to the Adventist community and enthusiasm for communicating Christianity to a broad readership. This is a superb opportunity for a talented person to play a critical role in the church community. **Applications in writing** (including résumé giving communication background and interests) should be forwarded on email to <editor@signspublishing.com.au>, no later than October 28, 2004.

▲ **Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood**

▲ **Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Pedagogy—Avondale College (Cooranbong, NSW)** is seeking to appoint two Lecturers/Senior Lecturers in Education, the first in Early Childhood Education and the second in Primary Pedagogy. Appointees will be required to undertake teaching, research and consultancy in their respective areas. The Early Childhood appointment is for a three-year renewable term commencing January 2005. The Primary Pedagogy appointment is for a two-year term commencing January 2005. The successful applicants should hold higher degrees, preferably at doctoral level. **Further information** is available on the Avondale College web site <www.avondale.edu.au> and from the Dean, Dr Peter Beamish <peter.beamish@avondale.edu.au>; phone (02) 4980 2179. **Applications in writing** (including CV, contact details and the names of three referees) should be forwarded to Sonya Muhl, Avondale College, PO Box 19, Cooranbong NSW 2265 no later than October 30, 2004. Avondale College is an equal opportunity employer and reserves the right to make a delayed appointment, not appoint, or to appoint by invitation.

Long, Doreen, born 31.12.1924 in Norristhorpe, Yorkshire, England; died 24.8.04 in Wollongong Hospital, NSW. She was predeceased by her husband, Ken, on 23.10.95. She is survived by her brothers, Stanley and Frank; her sister, Muriel (all in England); her brother, Willie (Perth, WA); her sons, Harry (NZ), David and Kenny (Wollongong, NSW); her seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Doreen was much loved by her family and many friends.

Kerry Hortop

Moulds, Ray Richard, born 4.4.1912 in Sydney, NSW; died 25.8.04 in Westmead Hospital. He was predeceased by his wife. He is survived by his devoted partner and mate, Phylis; his son and daughter-in-law, Malcolm and Janette; his four grandchildren; his brother, Sydney; and his sister, Winnie. Ray, a sincere Christian gentleman, loved his Lord, worked tirelessly for church welfare and mission outreach. He was dearly loved by family and friends.

Ray Kent

Gary Kent, Bob Bolst

Singh, Vidya (Baby), born 19.5.1934 in Suva, Fiji Islands; died 23.8.04 in Fairfield Hospital, Sydney, NSW. On 31.7.54 she married Hari. She is survived by her husband; her children and their spouses, Aroon and Bimla (Sydney), and Neeta and Rajen Singh (Fiji); and her four grandchildren.

Robert Craig

Walsley, Lloyd James, born 5.3.1964 at Dunedoo, NSW; died 14.8.04 in Scott Memorial Hospital, Scone. On 23.3.86 he married Bernadette McNamara. He is survived by his wife; his children, Matthew, Braydon and Jessica (all of Scone); his parents, Harry and Euna (Victoria Point, Qld); his brother, Mark (Scone, NSW); and his sister, Dot Dalton (Lilydale, Vic). Lloyd was a loving and devoted husband and father, and is deeply missed by his family and friends.

Eric Greenwell

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Cedarvale Convention—October 24-31, 2004. 2 hours from Sydney. Guest speakers: Dr Allan Lindsay, on Revelation for Today; Daniel McKibben, a message specialist, Colorado, USA, and Dr Nerida McKibben, New Zealand, speaking on effective health evangelism and the latest health information. **Message course—**October 31–November 4, 2004. Daniel McKibben will be teaching an introductory course for massage as well as therapeutic massage for back pain and trigger-point therapy for the qualified massage therapist. Inquiries phone (02) 4465 1362; or email <cedarvale@fastrac.net.au>.

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www.aucsda.com—Australian Union Conference web site. Do you have a ministry idea to share? Or are you needing assistance? Check out the new Ideas Exchange forum.

Data projectors, screens, sound equipment, TVs, DVD players, VCRs, PA systems. Rural Electronics Orange is run by an Adventist couple committed to helping SDAs to get a better deal for their churches, schools, homes etc. Avondale College, Wahroonga and many NSW churches helped already. DVD players on special for SA119. **For more information phone Trish (02) 6361 3636; email <ruralele@bigpond.net.au>.**

Warwick SDA church celebrates 50th anniversary—October 23, 2004. A special day organised with a fun evening. No special invitations—all past members and friends welcome. RSVP October 15 to Clerk, PO Box 735, Warwick Qld 4370. Copies of photos etc welcome.

Cedarvale Health Retreat. Position vacant for health program director. Includes massage and hydrotherapy for male guests. Inquiries (02) 4465 1362.

Finally

We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colours, but they all have to learn to live in the same box.

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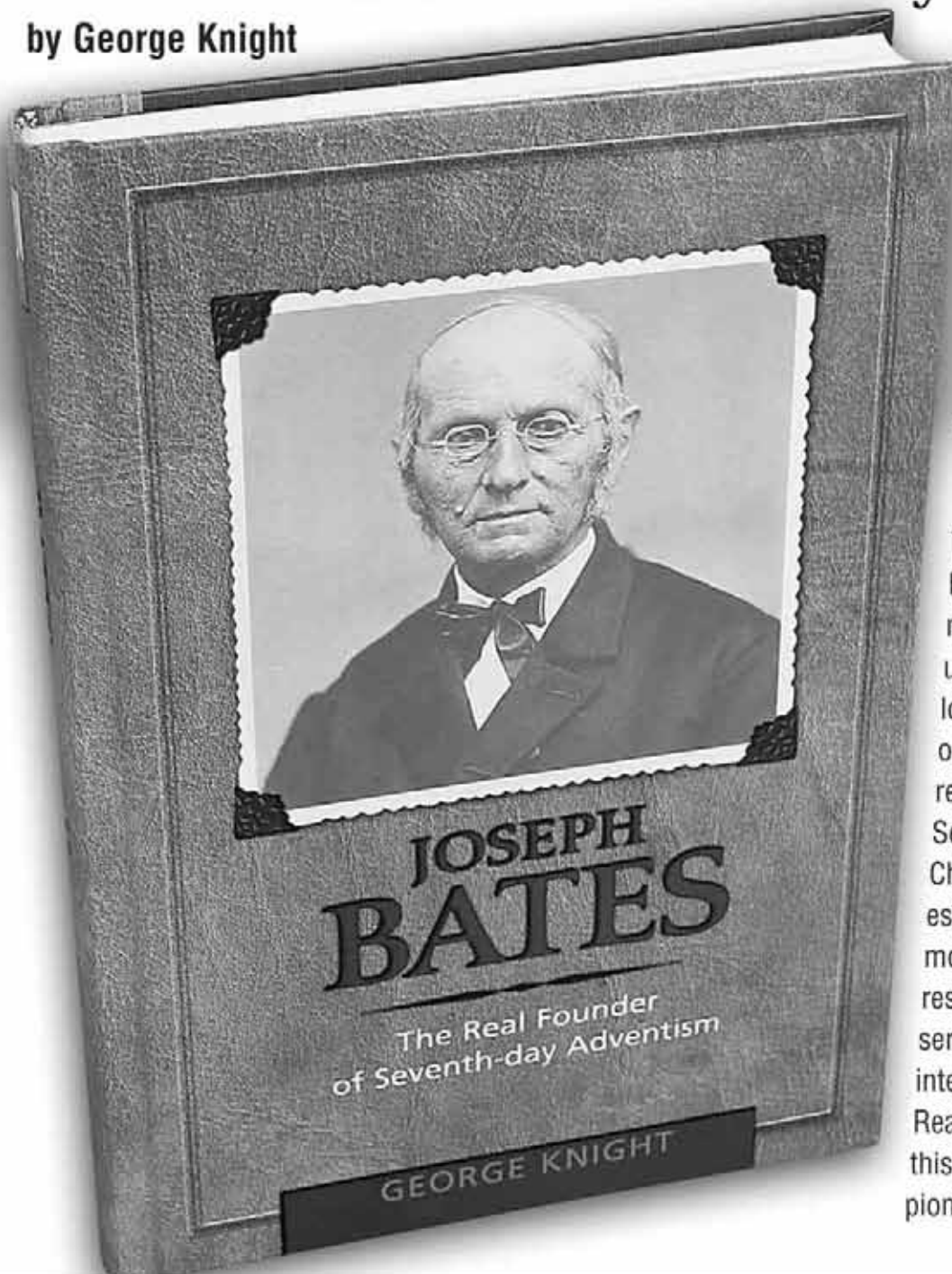
Thank you!

October Book of the Month

Joseph Bates

The Real Founder of Seventh-day Adventism

by George Knight



“Those who knew [Bates] longest and best, esteemed him most highly.” —
James White

This biography by historian George Knight makes use of previously unavailable letters and logbooks to shed new light on the first theologian and real founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Bates gave his estate to the Advent movement and spent the rest of his life in unpaid service. This is only one interesting facet of his life. Read more to find out about this most colourful Adventist pioneer.

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