

RECORD



The new Australian Union Conference office has a fresh and contemporary interior design, featuring lime green, burgundy and grey walls with extensive use of glass etched with elements of the church logo.

New home for Australian Union Conference

Ringwood, Victoria

If, as they say in real estate, it really is all about location, then the new home for the Australian Union Conference (AUC) could be considered a hot property.

Located on Maroondah Highway in Ringwood, Victoria, the office is close to public transport with the railway station and bus interchange within walking distance. When the Eastern Freeway extension is completed there will be quick and easy access to the city and airport. Nearby motels are available to accommodate visiting committee members, Eastland shopping centre is around the corner, and a strip of restaurants across the lane share the views over Ringwood Lake.

"Everybody is thrilled to be in our new premises," says AUC president Pastor Chester Stanley. Prior to moving, AUC staff shared office space with the Victorian Conference office (VCO) in Nunawading. "We'll miss the camaraderie we had with the Victorian Conference staff. However, we were very crowded there, so we're delighted to have more space."

The first day of occupancy was August 30 and AUC staff were totally hands-on with the move. Rather than get a corporate removal company to do the work, they hired the conference truck and moved themselves over a few days.

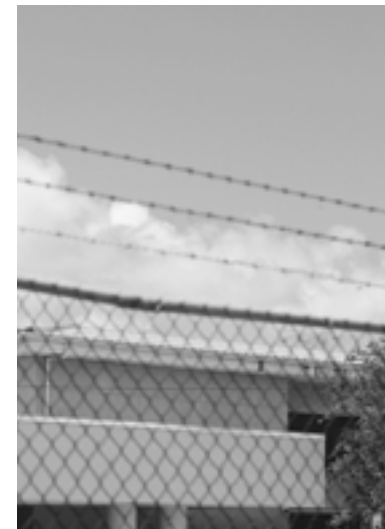
(Continued on page 5)

In this issue

*Team effort key to
Sow 1 Billion success*

*Church grows to
13.6 million*

*Youth congress to boost
Fiji economy*



*How
would
Isaiah vote?*

A victory for greed and fear

It is interesting to note how quickly the hype dies away after election day, perhaps demonstrating the real level of interest in politics in the wider community. The elected celebrate quietly—at least when compared to the victory parades afforded premiership-winning football teams or returning Olympians—and the defeated conduct their post-mortems as discreetly as possible, not wanting to draw additional media attention to their apparent failure. And everything seems to go back to normal, especially with the incumbent government re-elected.

But the moment should not be allowed to fade without some kind of reflection upon what the recent election process in Australia tells us about ourselves and the society in which we live. Sadly, the conclusions are not encouraging. And the vocal Christian “influence” was even more disappointing.

Above all else, the October 9 election marked a victory for greed and fear. Unfortunately—and before I’m accused of political bias—it is likely this conclusion would have held true for a victory by either of the major parties; it’s just that these sure-fire vote-getters fit more naturally with the conservative side of politics.

There have been many comments regarding the self-interested, self-centred nature of the campaigning. It seemed we were expected to line up the two major parties with our pocket calculators and work through the ledger of tax cuts, rebates, interest rates and other assorted fiscal incentives, with our vote going to the party who could promise us the highest dollar score. As writer Richard Flanagan commented in the days prior to the election, the campaign seemed to become—for both major parties—an exercise in “trying to appease an Australian who has

become obsessed with materialism at the expense of almost everything else.”

Tragically, in the midst of such blatant greed, the self-styled Christian voices in the election process had little to offer. When Christians who chose to be involved in the election process should have been questioning this self-centredness and pointing to issues such as acting justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with our God (Micah 6:8), they were preoccupied

with their own self-centred moralising.

For example, a Christian Values Check List circulated by the Australian Christian Lobby—who organised 41 Meet Your Candidate Forums across the country during the campaign period—included 26 values against which candidates were to be measured. Issues ranged from parliamentary prayers, adoption by homosexual couples, abortion, and the need for more censorship. While many of these issues have their place, how a credible Christian critique of election policies could overlook big-picture issues—such as the war in Iraq, justice for Australia’s indigenous peoples and other minorities, poverty in Australia and overseas, the treatment of refugees, unfair trade, foreign aid, Third World debt, HIV/AIDS in Africa, the environment and honesty in government—defies belief.

The kingdom of God has a compelling moral component, but in terms of how we relate to others—how we express our faith in public affairs—the focus is placed most firmly on helping the less fortunate and the oppressed. As Proverbs puts it, “Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but

those who help the poor honour him” (14:31, NLT). One of our primary obligations as Christian voters is to be a voice for the voiceless and, sadly, the recent election campaign was an opportunity missed.

While terrorism—and other fears politicians conjure up to persuade voters—shadowed the election, this allegiance to the status quo and a narrow moralistic focus are fear’s greatest victories. As Francis Schaeffer

We are God’s ambassadors of revolution in a world of injustice, greed and fear.

commented (not necessarily using “conservative” in the narrow, political sense): “One of the greatest injustices we do to our young people is to ask them to be conservative. Christianity is not conservative, but revolutionary. To be conservative today is to miss the whole point, for conservatism means standing in the flow of the status quo.”

As current citizens of the kingdom of God, our national and political loyalties are only ever secondary, but because of that higher allegiance we seek the true values of God’s kingdom here on earth (Matthew 6:10). We are part of something bigger in our world than a political party or election process; we are God’s ambassadors of revolution in a world of injustice, greed and fear (see 2 Corinthians 5:20). That goes against the status quo.



Nathan Brown



OFFICIAL PAPER
South Pacific Division
Seventh-day Adventist
Church
ACN 000 003 930
www.adventist.org.au
Vol 109 No 42
Cover: Kellie Hancock

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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, SA43.80 SNZ73.00.
Other prices on application. Printed weekly.

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

- Seven denominations talk in PNG • Discovery Centre to provide online seminars
- Mobile phones in church blocked • A Bible for every home in Cuba • and more

—Compiled by Scott Wegener—

● Representatives from the **seven denominations** participating in the **Papua New Guinea Church Partnership Program (PNGCPP)** met for three days in Port Moresby during September. This is the first time all seven denominations have met together since the approval of the



PNGCPP by the PNG Government. The Adventist Church was represented by **Michelle Abel**, ADRA-PNG country director, and **Gad Koito**, PNG Union Mission health director. The meeting was for identifying opportunities for **networking between denominations** and to share information regarding the projects that will be funded by PNGCPP. A working group was established to examine the best ways for the PNG and Australian partners to work together. The next meeting with all seven denominations will be in early 2005.—ADRA PNG Tok Save

● A recently formed band of **West Australian Adventist motorcyclists**, who ride together regularly, have a vision to form a social, community-minded and ministerial group. Several of the group have made country trips to Bindoon, fellowshiping with the church members and enjoying social adventure, as well as Rockingham church,



and plans to make more country trips in the future. **Midweek and weekend social events** also form part of the agenda, varying from short rides through the city to countryside rides. Group objectives are to bring together a group of like-minded people enthusiastic about meeting new friends and sharing a great Christian experience. For more info contact Will on 0427 421 233.—NewsWest

Dinosaurs and fossils affirm faith

Tim Hignett, head of science at Longburn Adventist College (LAC), NZ, travelled to Arizona recently to join 23 other Adventists to see geological features that challenge the uniformitarian paradigm and better support biblical history.



Delegates from America, Norway, Ghana, Thailand, Taiwan and Bermuda also took the trip from Arizona, through Utah and into Wyoming along with five members of Geoscience Research Institute, a church-sponsored team of scientists who work at the cutting edge of creation research. Along the way they saw and learned about Meteor Crater, the Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, Arches National Park, Canyonlands, Fossil Butte, and visited a variety of museums.



Mr Hignett says the trip was an amazing experience. "Not just for the incredible geology, but also the wonderful fellowship we all enjoyed.

"There are very good reasons for believing what the Bible says about Creation and the Flood," says Mr Hignett. "Our faith, while it does not need to be proved by science, can be confidently defended by intelligent scientific observation and reasoning. The best examples of that we witnessed were the fossil fish in the Green River formation in Wyoming and the mass dinosaur fossil bed in Utah (pictured)."

Mr Hignett is keen to present in the classroom a balanced view of the issues involved in respect of the age of the Earth and evolution. "Young Christians must leave LAC with a vibrant faith that they can defend confidently out there in the world," says Mr Hignett.

● The **Adventist Media Centre**, NSW, is contracting with a web-based e-learning software company to offer its online Discovery courses. This new-generation e-learning software offers a sophisticated student-management system that will also be used to track regular correspondence-course students. This Toolbox software has student chat rooms built in and can allow student interaction, as well as **web seminars**, where an instructor can take a group of students through a prophecy, Revelation or other seminar web course. Pastors and church members will be able to serve as instructors for online courses and even conduct seminars from their home computer. Pastor David Price will develop and coordinate this evangelistic web ministry and will train local church instructors to use it.—Discovery News

● The **COSMOS walkathon**, now an annual event, saw 35 Avondale College students brave the heat to make the trek from **Newcastle to Avondale**. Walkers assembled at 6.30 am to start their **8 hour, 50 km walk** back to the college. Some \$A2000 was raised for C O S M O S (Cosmos Offers Student Missionary Outreach Service) supported projects from the walkathon, making a total of \$6400 raised for ADRA so far this year through COSMOS.—Connections



● In **Mexico**, where one in four citizens now has a mobile phone, a priest was getting tired of **phones ringing during mass**, weddings and other services. A member of the priest's church had contact with Israel Intelligence and knew they had

Satellite evangelism out of Rwanda

It Is Written (IIW) television recently beamed the series *New Life—Hope for Today, Tomorrow, and Forever*, presented by speaker/director Mark Finley, live to every country in Africa from Rwanda's capital, Kigali.

On the first day of the presentations, 3000 Pathfinders (pictured), women's ministry members, church members and pastors marched eight kilometres through Kigali, singing and inviting people to the evening's meeting. The unique method of advertising appeared to have worked, as the venue completely filled for the opening night, and the following day 35,000 people attended the Sabbath worship service.



"I want to thank IIW and the Seventh-day Adventist Church for sponsoring this satellite series," said the Prime Minister of Rwanda, His Excellency Bernard Makuza, before the night's message from Pastor Finley. "It will bring peace and reconciliation to our nation. I am calling on all Rwandans to attend the meetings and respond to the messages you hear."

Local pastors translated the series into 15 different languages, as it was beamed live via satellite by the Hope Channel to an estimated two million people in Africa.

At the end of the series, Amon Rugelyange, president of the Rwanda Union Mission, announced that 10,022 Rwandans had been baptised. It is estimated that between 45,000 and 50,000 people throughout Africa have become new Adventists as a result of the *New Life* program. To view photos and video clips, visit <www.itiswritten.com>. —*Adventist Review*

developed a **mobile phone blocker**. The priest made a purchase of several of the blockers and installed them around his church. He would turn them on just before a service started, and turn them off as soon as it was over. Soon other priests began to ask for the blockers, and now several churches across Mexico use the devices.—*ACC*

● Thousands of children are making commitments to Christ through **Book of Hope's "Marathon" program** that aims to put a copy of the Scriptures in each home of Cuba. "The response has just been tremendous," said Book of Hope's **Rob Hoskins**. "It's been more than anything we could expect. For instance in one city we distributed [Bibles to] 6000 children and youth," he said. "On the follow-up visit 2000 of them **made commitments** to Christ—more than 30 per cent."—*Mission Network News*

● "**The Call Australia**" was held in the Sydney Showground, Olympic Park, October 2, in a **12-hour gathering of prayer and fasting**. Attended by more than 5500 people of all ages from across Australia, the day was aimed at changing the nation, starting with the hearts of young people. "The Call" commenced in Washington, DC, September 2, 2000, when approximately 400,000 from all ages and denominations gathered to pray for their nation. Since then, The Call gatherings have been held in New England, the Philippines, New York, England, Korea, Los Angeles and Germany, drawing people together to pray for their nation, the emerging generation and reconciliation in the homes between young people and parents. In Australia's turn, musical items provided by **Hillsong United**, CCC (Christian City Church) Youth Band, Hope Generation and others were not publicised in advance, so people would come to pray and not just for the entertainment.<www.thecallaustralia.com>.—*ACC*

Days and offerings

November 6—Missions Extension Offering

November 7—ABC Day

Off the record

● Prep and kindy students from **Mountain View Adventist College**, NSW, visited the residents at **Kings Langley Retirement Village** recently to bring some cheer to them. "Some of my students have never seen or met people with so many years to their name," says prep teacher **Kylie French**. "You could see the amazement on their faces as they walked into the room." The children performed songs, led a song service



then met individually with the residents. While some students were shy,

one student in particular who has been somewhat of a "behavioural challenge" this year found his element. "It was amazing. He was relaxed and kind, and **thrived on meeting and greeting the elderly**. It was so good to see," says his teacher. "I think that these kinds of activities are an integral part of education," says Ms French. "It helps even the youngest of students to think of themselves as part of a broader community, and realise the needs around them."—*Emma Douglas*

● Recently the Chapman family from Moora, WA, took the opportunity of visiting **India** with the **Asian Aid** organisation. Dr **Bernard Chapman** had the job of assessing the general health of as many Asian Aid children as possible during the time available. His family, **Julia** and daughters **Brenna** (13), **Heather** (11) and **Virginia** (9) helped with tasks such as weighing and measuring the children, eye and ear tests, running errands and interacting with the children at the various schools and orphanages visited.—*Asian Aid*



New home for Australian Union Conference

(Continued from page 1)

Comments from staff suggest the new office will promote efficiency and raise staff morale. Administrative secretary Toni Bolst says, "We're enjoying having our own 'home' and the additional space it provides. It's a very pleasant work environment." She adds, "Everyone coped well under cramped conditions while the refurbishment took place, but it's great to be able to spread out and set ourselves up efficiently."

Bronwyn Rowe, personal assistant to Dr John Hammond, AUC's Education System director, agrees and says staff are happy with the move. "The office is well equipped, spacious and comfortable without being extravagant. Kingsley Wood [AUC's chief financial officer] is to be congratulated for his work on this project." She adds, "We do miss our fellow workers from the VCO."

With the departure of AUC staff, the opportunity to reallocate office space at the VCO has seen the Youth Department move back into the main office. Pastor Wayne Stanley, general secretary for the Victorian Conference, explains. "Vicyouth has been operating out of a hall on the Nunawading campground. The old situation did not always facilitate a close relationship between the main office and the Youth Department." He says this new situation is better in many ways. "We are enjoying the

youthfulness that they bring to the office and they are enjoying being included with all the other conference staff."

The new AUC office has three floors and a basement car park. The ground floor houses the purpose-built Resource Centre. With a display room, offices and storage area maximised by compactor file, this new centre is better equipped to handle product orders than the temporary facilities used in the past (For more on the Resource Centre, see below.)

The first floor houses central accounting services, a 60-seat conference room, staff-room with kitchen, video-conferencing room and visitors office with Internet access. The top floor houses AUC reception, departmental offices, a board room, small committee room, kitchenette and workroom for photocopiers, printers and supply storage.

The new office has attracted many visitors. "We've been personally conducting tours," says Pastor Stanley. "The external building looks very representative for the church," he says. "It's probably one of the most prominent Adventist offices as far as location goes." —**Kellie Hancock**

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AUC staff are excited about their new workplace in Ringwood, Victoria.



A prominent highway position.



The new office is across the road from Ringwood Lake.

Photos on this page by Kellie Hancock

What is the AUC Resource Centre?



David Pearce, manager of the Resource Centre, shows some of the outreach and seminar literature available.

The main purpose of the centre is to provide church members, heads of departments and pastors with outreach materials. Some of the 150 resources available include literature, CD-ROMs, posters and DVDs, and cover seminar materials, small-group outreach and Bible-study guides. They also supply Pathfinder materials to Youth Departments and Adventist Book Centres (ABCs).

According to manager David Pearce, the Year of Evangelism has prompted record sales. "Up till September this year we've sold around \$A340,000 of resources. This is the most we've ever sold in a year and the year isn't finished yet!" He reports that between 1995 and 2000 an average of 200 baptisms per year resulted in part from the use of Resource Centre materials.

For more information contact the Resource Centre on phone: (03) 9871 7592; fax: (03) 9870 8808; or email <resources@adventist.org.au>. New Zealand readers can access materials through their local ABC. —**Kellie Hancock**

Church studies strengths and weaknesses in retaining members

Silver Spring, Maryland, USA

The Seventh-day Adventist Church “has a very large agenda to engage” in dealing with things that keep—and repel—members, as well as those that nurture Christian growth, a new survey, presented to the church’s Annual Council, reveals.

“The church faces large challenges in retaining its youth, speaking to the secular mind, dealing with population growth and encouraging members to remain faithful by maintaining a rich devotional life,” reported Dr Roger Dudley, director of the Adventist Theological Seminary’s Institute of Church Ministry in Berrien Springs, Michigan. The 81-question survey was sent to 408 leaders of church regional and local units, executives in education and health care, and others.

The survey was conducted by the institute at the request of the General Conference’s Strategic Planning Commission, which has long sought “data to use in helping the Adventist Church move into the future in a manner that will maximise its mission to the world,” as Dr

Dudley explained.

The departure of young members and the influence of postmodern, secular and affluent societies was seen as threats to membership growth by a majority of world church leaders. Also among weaknesses was the perception that only 50 per cent of members are actively involved in Bible study and prayer.

The fact that Seventh-day Adventists have a biblical basis for their doctrines, offer a message of hope, and are a multi-cultural church were cited as the top three strengths of the church. Cited as offering the greatest opportunities for church growth, were: openness to the church’s message, more technology by which that message can be communicated, and a recognition that people in situations of “personal transition” in their lives are more open to the gospel.

The major threats to the church were an increasing growth in secularism, and two societal factors: faster population growth—more people to be reached—and increasing poverty worldwide, which could cause problems for church finances.—**John Banks/Mark Kellner/ANN**

Church grows to 13.6 million

Silver Spring, Maryland, USA

More than one million people joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the year ending June 30, 2004, bringing the total world church membership to 13,663,497. These figures were included in the secretary’s report of Pastor Matthew Bediako given to the annual meetings of the General Conference executive committee.

On average, 2,756 new Adventists are baptised daily, with 13 congregations formed in the same 24 hour period. There is one Adventist for every 468 people in the world today, down from one for every 490 people a year ago. If current trends continue, there will be one Adventist for every 100 people on Earth by the year 2034, according to Bert Haloviak, director of archives and statistics for the General Conference.

“The Lord has been good to His church, and has blessed growth initiatives,” said Pastor Bediako

Six of the church’s 13 divisions—Inter-America, South America, East-Central Africa, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean, Southern Asia Pacific and North America—have memberships of more than 1 million each. The church regions with the largest membership are: Inter-America, with 2.5 million; South America, with 2.345 million; and East-Central Africa with, 2.068 million.

At the same time, the church is revising its membership counts through audits of regional church records and due to departures from the church. Pastor Bediako said the church has an average global retention rate of “about 70 per cent.”

“Although we would like to see the retention rate go higher, we need to make sure our figures are accurate,” commented Pastor Bediako. He appealed to the church’s divisions to complete membership audits “as soon as possible.”

He added, “the conservation of the harvest is as important as the reaping of the harvest.”—**Mark Kellner/ANN**

Government accredits Adventist pastors as healthy lifestyle promoters

Manila, the Philippines

The Philippines is set to activate church resources to improve lifestyle of its citizens, according to Jonathan Catolico, director of communication for the Southern Asia-Pacific Division.

A three-day, government-sponsored seminar has led to the accreditation of 28 Seventh-day Adventist pastors and church workers as trainers for healthy lifestyle programs in the Philippines. The government’s Department of Health sponsored and led the seminar.

Dr Judith Tawatao, technical program coordinator for this central region, led the team of presenters during this three-day accreditation and training seminar. “The Adventist Church is the only active religious group that promotes healthy lifestyle that the Department of Health is privileged to partner with,” she says.

Bernie Maniego, director of health for the Negros Oriental-Siquijor Mission, says, “We are happy to receive this accreditation because we are granted [permission] by the government to conduct education training and seminars on smoking cessation, drug and alcohol prevention, nutrition, and strengthening family life.”—**ANN**

Team effort key to Sow 1 Billion success

Wahroonga, New South Wales

Response in Australia and New Zealand to a worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church initiative to distribute one billion Bible-study invitations has been disappointing to date.



Adventists need to distribute more Try Jesus cards if the church is to meet its goal of receiving 9000 responses to the Sow 1 Billion project this year.

The Sow 1 Billion initiative has the potential to reach two-thirds of the world's population—even a 0.5 per cent response rate will mean five million people have

asked for Bible studies.

The South Pacific Division (SPD) is offering members of the community who respond to the invitation a viewing of the video, *Who is Jesus?*, and an invitation to complete the new Bible correspondence course, *Try Jesus*.

However, the Adventist Discovery Centre has received, as of September 30, only 1800 requests for the video and only 2000 for the course.

Dr Erika Puni, the SPD director of personal ministries, describes the response as “disappointing.” However, he says it may not be reflective of Sow 1 Billion. “It’s difficult to enthuse church members when we have so many projects on the go.”

The church is using a *Try Jesus* card as its Bible-study invitation. The card, which the church began using in 1998, has a response rate of at least three per 1000, reports Discovery Centre director Pastor John Gate.

“My concern is the 3.5 million cards we printed have not all been letterboxed,” says Pastor Gate. “I’m disappointed with the response, too, but I’m more disappointed we don’t know the reason for the low rate.”

Members of the community have

returned only 3000 cards, which means the church may not reach its goal of receiving 9000 by year end.

“I wouldn’t be surprised if we have cards stacked on shelves,” says Dr Puni. He encourages conferences to motivate local churches and local churches to motivate their members. “It will take a team effort to successfully complete this project.”

Adventist Discovery’s priority this year has been to promote the *Try Jesus* course. However, it plans to launch a new relationships course, with its letterbox card, in early 2005. So, Pastor Gate would prefer to see all the cards distributed this year. “We need to make more of an effort, but that doesn’t mean we need to make it difficult,” he says. “You can letterbox cards on your morning walk.”

Dr Puni encourages church members to see distributing the cards as “an opportunity to be part of God’s mission. There is power in one person who is willing to let God use them and in one card that falls into the hand of a person who is seeking.”

Contact your local church minister or personal ministries leader if you are interested in letterboxing the *Try Jesus* cards.—**Brenton Stacey**

Youth congress to boost Fiji economy by \$FJ7 million

Suva, Fiji

A South Pacific-wide congress for Seventh-day Adventist young adults will bring more than \$FJ7 million to the Fijian economy, says one of the organisers.

Pastor Fred Toailoa makes the estimate in an interview with journalist Mary Johns that appeared in the *Fiji Times* on September 6.

The congress will bring about 4000 young adults from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific islands to Suva over the year end (December 30 to January 4). It is the first time the church has held the event outside Australia and New Zealand.

“We’re excited about bringing it here,” says Pastor Toailoa, the new director of youth ministries for the Trans-Pacific Union Mission, in the interview. “[Hosting the congress] will mean something for Fijians.”

Pastor Toailoa also speaks about the service activities—which will include building a playground and cleaning up public spaces—the young adults will complete before and during the congress.

However, the focus of the interview is the need for young adults to grow more spiritually. Pastor Toailoa says the church organises congresses “to rekindle faith and . . . [to encourage young adults] to go back to their communities and serve. . . .”

“Being a Samoan who grew up in California, I see a strong influence of the Western culture coming to the islands. . . . Our communities are more of a family unit and [we] enjoy church and religious activities. Some of that has now been diminished to a level where our young people are involved in a lot of activities that may not be part of our culture.”

More than 1000 young adults from countries other than Fiji have applied to attend the congress. About half are Australians. More than 150 are coming from Papua New Guinea. Even 70 from the small country of Kiribati are attending.

Organisers have extended the congress application deadline to November 30.—**Brenton Stacey**

Visit <www.spdyouth.com> for more information about the congress.

Personal development

by Carl Ginger

The words *development* and *stewardship* mean many different things to different people. Often stewardship sounds like a divine fundraising plan and development sounds like hard work.

Fortunately, there has been tremendous growth in recent years in understanding the concepts of personal development and opportunities for growth. We face a bright, rewarding and fulfilling future with new understandings and paradigms. I would like to submit a fresh definition of a steward, more in line with our current lifestyle and understanding as “one who accepts Christ’s lordship, walking in partnership with God and acting as God’s agent to manage His gifts and affairs on earth.”

To answer the inevitable question on the definition of lordship, I submit that lordship is the recognition of an intimate relationship with God through the indwelling Christ integrated into daily life. It is the result of accepting Christ as Saviour, Owner, and Present within us through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. This would mean true God-centred living.

Delegated lordship

Looking at the big picture we can see God as a perfect role model, being the faithful steward of the entire universe, sending rain on the just and the unjust (Matthew 4:45). He even sent His Son Jesus to save this rebellious earth, to ensure true stewardship of the entire universe. This commitment to stewardship could only be accomplished through the expression of his infinite love and grace.

As Christians who believe in the Bible as God’s Word, we find the concept of stewardship woven throughout His word—from Creation in Genesis to the new earth in Revelation.

When God created Adam, He delegated the responsibility of stewardship over all earthly resources to him, including naming

the animals and tending to the natural environment (Genesis 2:15, 19, 20). Because Adam was created and we are a result of procreation, we can’t be the creator. All of us are therefore stewards of God’s creation, both tangible and intangible.

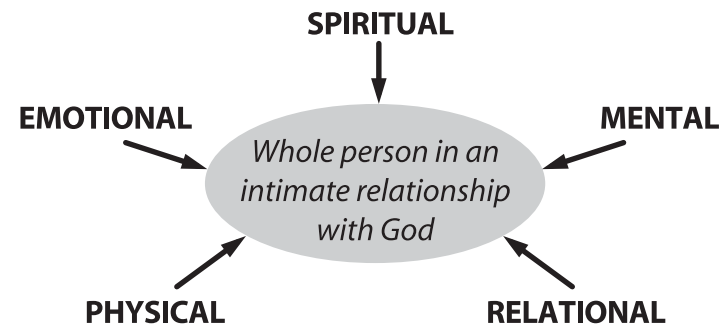
It is fundamental to recognise that God created humans in His image and that they were given stewardship over all other created things on earth. Humankind was indeed created master of all created things and because of their free will, they are also master of their eternal destiny. It is unfortunate that many people have to some extent relinquished this birthright and allowed created things and other gods to have stewardship over them and their destiny.

Multi-strand stewardship

The more intimate a relationship we have with God, the clearer will be our vision and mission for our future and our accompanying responsibilities. This intimacy comes only through maturity, not in years but in understanding, openness and surrender to Him.

Developing intimacy is a process that leads us along a maturity continuum. This continuum starts when we are born and continues forever.

This is a multi-strand continuum and includes spiritual, mental, emotional, physical and relational aspects. We are familiar with the physical because it happens almost without our input and



tends to peak in early adulthood. The other strands are developed throughout life as they are internal and have no limits.

Stewardship relationship

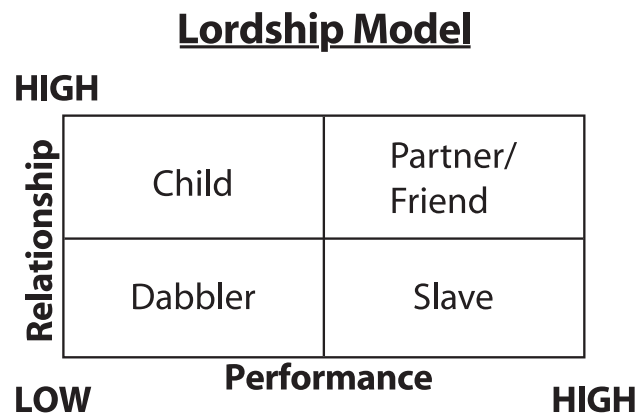
Possibly the greatest challenge for Christians is to continue to grow, every day in every way, in the likeness of Jesus. This can happen only through faith and works. This refers to faith in the Holy Spirit leading our life and doing what the Spirit leads us to do. God wants to turn our time, energy and talents into wealth of different kinds, including joy, peace and more material results, such as money.

But while we often acknowledge God’s gifts, we sometimes do not feel comfortable acknowledging money as one of God’s gifts. Ellen White says, “Money has great value, because it can do great good. In the hands of God’s children it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, and clothing for the naked. It is a defence for the oppressed, and a means of help for the sick. But money is of no more value than sand, only as it is put to use in providing for the necessities of life, in blessing others, and advancing the cause of Christ” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 351).

Moses reflected these thoughts when he told the Israelites, “But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the

ability to produce wealth” (Deuteronomy 8:18, NIV).

So how do we develop this strong and vibrant relationship? I find the lordship model* useful when considering the interconnectedness of relationship and performance. There are four broad categories to this model: slave, dabbler, child and partner/friend.



The dabbler plays with religion, experiences little lasting impact or change and experiences low relationship and low performance.

The slave is determined to obey and do what is right, but lives without joy and freedom, is difficult to live with and has high performance but a low relationship.

The child on the other hand has a high relationship but poor performance. He or she is responsive and impulsive, emotional and sometimes unstable, is not very productive but has room to grow.

Being primarily performance- or relationship-focused has its own challenges because performance focuses on self, leads to comparisons, tends to be judgmental and compels us to do better. On the other hand focusing on relationship emphasises feelings, is passive in performance and focuses on self. Being a partner/friend enables us to be high in performance and relationship while giving us room to grow.

In growing to partnership/friendship, the slave needs a death and rebirth experience and a child needs to take responsibility and change their focus to make the transformation.

Being a partner/friend is the best place for us to be and gives us the best

opportunity to recognise our gifts and responsibilities. Developing this strong relationship would enable us to live joyfully with peace in our heart and be stewards of all God’s abundant gifts.

The importance of giving

There are only two kinds of stewards: faithful and unfaithful. When Jesus told His disciples to store up treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:20), He assumed His listeners would be faithful stewards of the material and spiritual riches He was about to bestow.

When sin entered the world it fundamentally changed us from being God-centred and other-person-centred to being self-centred. The default mode in a sinful world is selfishness.

Giving is the antidote for selfishness and the catalyst for building other-person-centredness and God-centredness in our lives. God gave His Son as a gift that we may have eternal life, and be restored to the peace, harmony and freedom that existed before humankind’s imprisonment by sin.

Being stewards and giving of our abundant gifts is a direct reflection of our intimate relationship with our Creator and freedom from selfishness. May God richly bless you as you recognise His many gifts and as you exercise your freedom and birthright in reflecting His giving and gracious character. ☪

**As developed by Dr Ben Maxson, director of stewardship for the General Conference.*

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

Carl Ginger works as a senior executive with the New South Wales government, is chairman of the Asian Aid Board and an active member of the Parramatta church.

Words

by Elizabeth Price

Sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me” is an old saying that has come unstuck. It is just not true and if you have ever been the target of harsh words, you know it. They really do hurt and they hurt badly. We have all felt at times that we were bleeding to death silently because of callous words.

A recent discovery is that when we experience feelings of rejection, there is a specific response in the brain. The brain measures hurtful emotional impact is a similar way to physical pain.

No wonder Jesus warned that you will have to give an account for every thoughtless word you speak on the day of judgment. He said we are either condemned or acquitted by our words (Matthew 12:36, 37). Jesus understands that our words profoundly effect everyone around us.

The new insight into our reaction to hard words is a revelation: rather than think before we speak we should love before we speak and, like Jesus, we should always speak in love.

We know from experience—and now scientifically—that what the wise man said about kind words is equally true. He said, “Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones” (Proverbs 16:24, NIV). Words can actually give health.

Even when Jesus spoke words that some of His hearers rejected, he could still say, “The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life” (John 6:63).

But the last word on words is simply this: “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14). ☪

Elizabeth Price writes from Bethanga, Victoria.

How would Isaiah vote?

by Jeff Crocombe

This week I will vote for the fourth time this year. I have already voted in the Queensland state election, the Brisbane City Council election, and the Australian Federal election—and this week I have my say in the 2004 University of Queensland Student Union elections. Through these various campaigns, I have watched TV ads, listened to candidate interviews, read newspaper analyses, sorted through letter-boxes full of flyers and “personally” addressed mail, and accepted handfuls of handouts. As I have endeavoured to make sense of the issues and the promises for these various elections, I have been struck by their common theme: “Vote for me, you’ll be richer/safer/happier/healthier.”

Almost without exception, each candidate—irrespective of party or election, has promised I would be personally better off under their policies. In essence, I have been asked to vote with my own personal interest as the sole deciding factor: *We’ll cut HECS fees for university students like yourself; We’ll give everyone a pay rise; We’ll give those earning under \$52,000 a tax cut; We’ll give you a Subway on campus!* Never-ending promises focused solely on me.

But as a Christian, I am called to put aside my own self-interest and consider the effects of such policies and promises on others. While the systems of government found in the Hebrew Scriptures bear no resemblance to the Australian political system in the 21st century, I am reminded of the words of Isaiah when he challenged the Israelites to “stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow” (Isaiah 1:16b-17*).

In a similar vein, the *Courier-Mail* published a brief letter on October 7: “Our family would be better off financially under John Howard, but there are things more important than money—clean air, clean

water, trees and animals and a healthy earth.”

Like Isaiah, the author of this letter recognises there are more important considerations than personal wealth when casting a vote. When it comes down to it, neither my wife nor I need a tax cut nor higher wages—and neither do most Australians. (And I can certainly live without a Subway on campus!) Like the majority of Australians—we have what has been termed “superabundance.”¹ As an Australian Christian who does not lack food, shelter, water, warmth, clothing, health care or education, what should decide my vote? Again, I can look to Isaiah for further challenges: “This is what the Lord says: ‘Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed’” (Isaiah 56:1).

One of Isaiah’s key messages concerns social justice—that every human being has the right to an adequate standard of living—not only sufficient food, water, warmth, shelter and clothing; but also to education, health care, personal security, a fair justice system and freedom of belief.

Progress check

So how well is Australia doing at promoting social justice? Some insight is gained by examining Australia’s overseas aid budget. Last budget, the Australian government allotted 0.25 per cent of its Gross National Income to overseas aid—some \$A2.13 billion. This sounds a like lot of money; however, it can be put into perspective by noting that government spending on defence will top \$A16 billion in 2004-05. On a more personal level, a recent report by the Australia Institute noted that in 2003, Australians spent \$A2.2 billion on their pets, including \$A1.2 billion on pet food alone!²

Also included in the \$2.13 billion figure however, is \$A255 million of Australian aid

money that goes directly to Government Departments—\$A135 million is allocated to go to the Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs. Of this, \$A87 million is directed to implement what has become known as the “Pacific solution”—detention centres in Nauru and Papua New Guinea—while an additional \$A48 million is used to “look after” asylum seekers in Australia. As AID/WATCH’s Tim O’Connor has stated, “Regardless of your position on the refugee issue it is difficult to surmise how this money is assisting the impoverished in our region—as this Government suggests our aid program is for.”³ Thus, Australia’s overseas aid budget is in fact under \$A2 billion, and despite Australia’s strong economy, is close to its lowest levels ever. It is also among the lowest of any developed country.

Of course, social justice is about more than just money and aid budgets. Australia’s current policy toward refugees and asylum seekers is also worth examining. Currently Australia has an intake of around 13,000 refugees, which on a per capita basis, ranks 39th in the world.⁴ This is hardly a figure to be proud of—in fact, Australia ranks behind many developing countries.

Nor does Australia’s treatment of asylum seekers promote social justice. Australia is one of only a handful of nations with a policy of mandatory detention of asylum seekers. In fact, Australia is the only country “to automatically incarcerate asylum seekers irrespective of their individual circumstances.”⁵ Processing a claim for asylum can take years and during this time claimants—including children—are held in generally isolated detention centres. Some asylum seekers have been held for more than four years. Often families have been separated and as a direct result of their detention, many claimants suffer serious mental-health problems including depression, anxiety, self-harm

and suicide.

I think I know what Isaiah would say if confronted by this situation: “Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless. What will you do on the day of reckoning, when disaster comes from afar? To whom will you run for help? Where will you leave your riches?” (Isaiah 10:1-3).

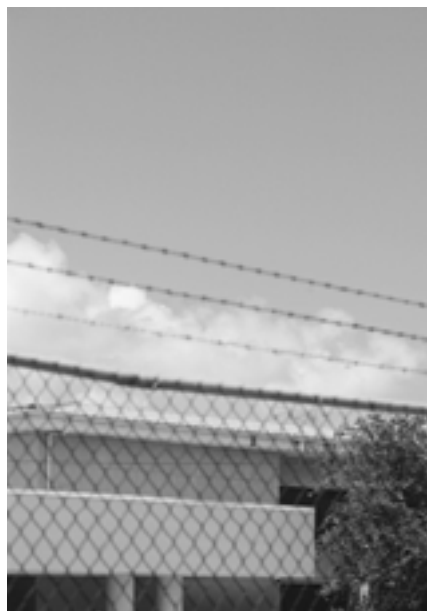
And what about indigenous Australians? The Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates the life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander newborn males to be 56.3 years and 62.8 years for females. For indigenous males, the current life expectancy rate is lower than Myanmar (57 years), Papua New Guinea (57 years) and Cambodia (57.4 years).⁶ Another example of the disparities present in Australian society is infant mortality rates. Approximately 2.5 times as many Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander infants die before their first birthday as non-indigenous children. The infant mortality rate for indigenous children in the Northern Territory is four times the national rate.⁷ Such figures are a national shame.

Time to reassess

An election campaign provides time for many things. A time for promises, a time for debate, a time for the exercise of democracy, a time to have your say. But an election should provide more than this—it should provide a time to question the fundamentals of our lives—the moral, spiritual and ethical bases of our societies.

In Harper Lee’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Atticus Finch tells his children, “You cannot begin to fully understand a man until you jump into his skin and walk around for a few days.” This is a difficult—perhaps impossible—task, yet as Christians, we are called to consider that what is best for us personally, may not be best for those who are poor or refugees or unemployed or less educated or sick or oppressed. So next time you vote, why not ask yourself, *How would Isaiah vote?*

For Australians, there probably won’t be another Federal election for three years. Perhaps then, an equally relevant question is, *How should I live in the meantime?* One



answer is provided by Patricia Pak Poy: “If we are to talk of justice and a just world, we ourselves must be just and must contribute to making our part of the world more just.”⁸

Some suggestions:

- Take a look at last year’s tax return. How much money did you donate to “charity”? Resolve to at least double it this financial year.
- Take time to volunteer this year: collect for ADRA and the Red Cross; donate blood; teach English to refugees one evening a week; go on a STORM Co trip; pick up rubbish on Clean-up Australia Day—or pick up rubbish on one of the other 364 days; plant a tree.
- Tell your friends and family that instead of buying them all Christmas presents this year (more stuff they don’t really need), you are donating the money to ADRA.
- Become an active letter-writer for Amnesty International—when you write in response to an Amnesty International appeal, you join tens of thousands of other people in a worldwide campaign. For the cost a stamp, you can have an international impact.
- Sponsor a child through Asian Aid or World Vision.
- Reflect on how many friends you have from a culture other than your own. Go out of your way to broaden your circle of friends in the next year.
- Educate yourself on social justice issues. As United Nations General Secretary Kofi Annan said in reference to racism: “Ignorance and prejudice are the

handmaidens of propaganda. Our mission, therefore, is to confront ignorance with knowledge, bigotry with tolerance, and isolation with the outstretched hand of generosity.”⁹

- Write a letter to your local member of parliament. Pick an issue you care about. Keep writing letters until you get a response you are satisfied with.
- Next time you read the Bible, try reading it through the eyes of a refugee in an Australian detention centre; the eyes of an orphaned child in Darfur, Sudan, or those of an indigenous Australian mother living in an isolated outback settlement without adequate medical care.

The prophet Isaiah emphasises a truth too often forgotten or ignored by us living in the 21st century. Ritual—attending church, praying, daily lesson study, paying tithe—without a commitment to social justice is simply a lie: “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard” (Isaiah 58:6-8). ☛

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

1. Peter Singer and Tom Gregg, *How Ethical Is Australia? An Examination of Australia’s Record As a Global Citizen*, 2004, page 19.
2. www.cathtelecom.com/ozspirit/2004/89b.html
3. www.aidwatch.org.au/index.php?current=29&display=aw00376&display_item=1 AID/WATCH is a not-for-profit activist organisation monitoring and campaigning on Australian overseas aid and trade policies and programs.
4. Singer and Gregg, *op cit*, page 73.
5. *ibid.*
6. www.hreoc.gov.au/social_justice/statistics/#Health
7. *ibid.*
8. Anna-Louise van Gelder (ed), *What Can Australia Do to Create a More Just World? 2000*, page 56.
9. www.un.org/WCAR/e-kit/fact2.htm

Jeff Crocombe is a postgraduate student at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland.

Dodgy salespeople and me

by Kent Kingston

Advice for the unemployed: if you see an ad in the paper for commission-based marketing jobs or pyramid selling schemes, *run!*

But when you're looking for work, you sometimes act out of desperation. Here I was, armed with an honours degree, full of ideas and enthusiasm, conscientiously networking and attending interviews freshly scrubbed—but no result.

I saw an ad in the paper that seemed to promise a regular income but was fairly hazy on the detail. I called the phone number (first mistake) and spoke to a man who immediately made an appointment for me to meet him at a hotel on the fifth floor (weird) without giving me any more idea of what the job was. *Hmmm...*

I kept the appointment (like I said, I was desperate) and was mentally prepared to attend a job interview. Instead, I ended up in a roomful of network marketers having a motivational meeting. They whooped, they cheered, they chanted. Boy, was I mad! But for some reason, I stayed.

One by one the salespeople went to the front and gave their testimonial about how their product (which shall remain nameless) had changed their life, cured them from every conceivable disease and made them rich, rich, rich! They were enthusiastic, they were well dressed, they were successful—and they were creepy.

But I had my revenge. I learned something. One of the speakers outlined the three rules for success in selling the product. I remembered the three rules because they seemed immediately relevant for Christians wanting to share the gospel:

1. Use the product yourself. The proverbial bald man selling hair restorer is not very convincing. It's the same with a Christian. Who's going to listen to you about spiritual things if they discover you're not really into Jesus yourself?

2. Wear the badge. These salespeople have badges and bumper stickers alerting

the public to the fact that they have something to sell. The concept translates to Christianity as well. How will people know you can tell them about God if they can't see anything different about you?

A badge is an option, I suppose, but a life demonstrating God's power is more effective. The way we speak, dress, eat, drink, treat others, study, work, spend our money and enjoy ourselves speaks volumes about who we are. Wouldn't it be nice to have someone approach us and ask, "What is it about you that's different? I want to know more."

3. Have your pitch ready. What are you going to say if someone does want to know more? Of course a word-for-word memorised spiel is unlikely to impress. You need to consider who is asking: do they have an interest in meditation, the occult, health, history, music? What's their concentration span? Are they a reader, a "screenager" or into long deep-and-meaningful conversations?

You should have a range of responses ready for different kinds of people, but should probably concentrate on the type of people you regularly meet—your friends, fellow students or workmates (or the guy

behind you in the dole queue). The Bible

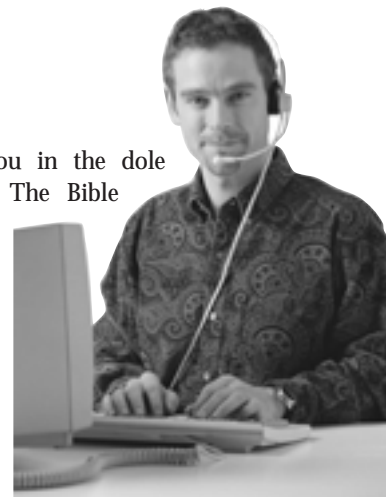
gives much the same advice: "Always be prepared to give an answer to

everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15, NIV).

In the area of gentleness and respect, many salespeople fail. No-one wants to be deceived, cornered, harangued or ripped off. And the same goes for us. We represent Jesus poorly if we are domineering, argumentative, judgmental or preachy. Still, if we are using His "product" in the first place, we will be more loving people and this will be less likely to happen.

So get out there and win customers for the kingdom! *It's the deal of a lifetime! Go, go, go!* ☪

Kent Kingston writes from Cairns, Queensland.



Just for children



"... If we love one another, God abides in us, and his love has been perfected in us."

1 John 4:12

Peta Taylor

A personal responsibility

Trevor Kerr, Vic

"Flu shots," by Drs Handysides and Landless (RECORD/Review, October 9) should have been prefaced with an explanation of the differences between vaccination schedules in Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

Under the Australian health-care system, a "recommendation" is tantamount to "free." Health-care providers are expected to reach out to all in a group that is "recommended." Under the US system, the concept of "free" is not applied universally, but it has expanded the recommendation for influenza vaccination to include pregnant women and young children; hence the article.

But vaccines aren't always available. As a microbiologist, I know basic personal hygiene can go a long way toward protecting a person against flu (and all other microbes) circulating in the community. People can do more for themselves by modifying hand hygiene. Traditional hand washing (water, soap and towel) is often unavailable. A new approach is to use water-free products, based on one of the alcohols, in either a liquid or gel form. Purse-sized packs of alcohol gel are available in pharmacies.

A second aspect is the length of one's fingernails. Virulent bacteria of many types collect and multiply under and around fingernails. Surgeons and nurses keep their nails short for good reason. The same applies to people handling food.

A poor joke

Cyrus S Adams, WA

I object to a joke being made of our church's greatest need, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Just a coincidence, October 2). This is a serious and sacred matter, and we as a church are in such a need of it. To make light of it and subject to mirth is a disgrace and should end.

The RECORD editor should take responsibility for preventing such serious and sacred subjects being made a mockery.

Perhaps Berto has simply run out of material for a good joke and should be dispensed with.

One body

Desiree McNicol, NSW

For every true work of God there is a counterfeit ("Questions of unity," Letters, October 2). The ecumenical movement would seem to be—it is man-propelled. It seems to be abandoning biblical truth and its agenda seems to be something other than unity based on God's love.

But if there's a counterfeit, there's also a true original. I've been witness to a movement of God that's not based on institutional decisions. As God has been moving His people into a closer relationship with Him, He is creating a

But I propose that if there's a counterfeit, then there's also a true original.

Life on The Edge

Margaret A Major, NSW

This morning I picked up *The Edge* with the "ADRA—Making a World of Difference" colour cover. I'm an oldie (50-60 age group), but I found it enthralling, well laid out with good use of colour, captivating headings and interesting topics. All I can say is, I wish I was a young person; there are so many exciting ways to serve the Lord. One can help people in desperate need and enjoy life at the same time. Our young people will be soon turning the world upside down for Jesus in fresh, exciting, imaginative ways that only young people (with the Holy Spirit's prompting) are capable of dreaming up.

bond between His people, shattering denominational barriers. His people have been fellowshipping and praying with each other as the Spirit leads. The interchange has been bearing good fruit, with many fellowships now observing the Sabbath.

I must also humbly admit that I've learned much from other "parts" of His body, and that He truly gifts its different parts, according to Ephesians 4, for the "edifying of the body of Christ."

Child discrimination

Eddie Erika, NZ

As a child, I would watch my mother during Communion. When I thought she wasn't looking, I would drain the dregs of her glass. Not wanting to fuss, she would wait until we got home!

When a pastor asked me to conduct my first Communion, I said, "Only if you will allow me to do it my way." He agreed. I invited the children to surround the table, as I told the story. When asked if they would like to participate, they all said yes.

When our elders met to discuss the Communion, they told similar stories. Our children asked us, "Why have you kept us in the dark so long?"

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.



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Weddings

Eacott—Bowles. Damien Eacott, son of Kym and Colleen Eacott (Manjimup, WA), and Charlene Bowles, daughter of Raymond and Marlene Bowles (Perth), were married on 5.9.04 at Araluen Botanic Park, Roleystone, Perth.

Brad Flynn, Andrew Skeggs

Gersbach—Hill. Blaire Gersbach, son of Noel and Frances Gersbach (Manjimup, WA), and Lorinda Hill, daughter of Arthur and Joy Hill (Perth), were married on 5.10.04 at Faversham House, Mundaring, Perth.

Andrew Skeggs

James—Dean. Graham James, son of Holy Weddlock, and Margaret Dean, daughter of Shirley MacMillan, were married on 26.9.04 at the Eight Mile Plains church, Qld.

Lance O'Neill

Pyle—Curnow. Steven Pyle, son of Colin and Dianne Pyle (Albany, WA), and Leanne Curnow, daughter of Len and Kerry Curnow (Perth), were married on 3.10.04 in St John's Lutheran church, Northbridge, Perth.

Andrew Skeggs

Rowe—Kenyon. Matthew Ross Lathem Rowe, son of Bruce Rowe (Leumeah, NSW) and Dimity Bartlett (Hervey Bay, Qld), and Tanya Leah Kenyon, daughter of Jim and Estelle Kenyon (Tiaro), were married on 3.10.04 in the Tiaro Uniting church, Tiaro.

Mike Brownhill

Slade—Clements. Linton Trevor Slade, son of Trevor Slade (Esperance, WA) and Margaret Polmear (Cobar, NSW), and Rhianon Sarah Clements, daughter of David and Raine Clements, were married on 3.10.04 in the Kalgoorlie Adventist church.

Larry Laredo

Wellard—Araujo. John Wellard and Irene De Araujo were married on 28.8.04 in the Fremantle Adventist church, Perth, WA.

Andrew Skeggs

Obituaries

Clark, Jessie Lydia, born 9.1.1920 at Derby, Tas; died 20.9.04 in Hobart. In 1947 she married Claude, who predeceased her in 1991. She was also predeceased by her stepson, Kevin, in 2002. She is survived by her children, Max, Dianne Hankin, Lloyd, and Jennifer Draper. Jessie was a faithful teacher for a lifetime, who loved to teach and preach the words of Jesus.

Graeme Brown

Crimp, Peter John, born 21.10.1928 at Kent, England; died 30.8.04 at Goondiwindi, Qld. He is survived by his daughters, Tanya, Cherrie, Sonya and Melinda. Peter was a committed and sincere SDA Christian, who gladly served the Lord and his church. He will be remembered as a gentle and kind man and a loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

David Stojcic, Peter Karariua

Greive/Harris, Mary Ethel (nee Thomas), born 10.7.1910 at Elsternwick, Vic; died 7.9.04 in Charles Harrison Memorial Home, Cooranbong, NSW. In 1931 she married Sydney Greive, who predeceased her in 1966. In 1979 she married Ted Harris, who predeceased her in 1999. She is survived by her sons, Dr Trevor Greive (Piggabeen) and Bevan Greive (Iluka); her five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Mary gave many years of faithful service at the Warburton Sanitarium and Hospital. Later, as a volunteer, she served in our Hong Kong Hospital, when her son, Trevor, was a surgeon there. She loved her Lord and her family, and will be sadly missed.

Aubury Shirley, Claude Judd

Hill, Muriel Maude, born 17.7.1908 at Charters Towers, Qld; died in her sleep 5.10.04 at Vincent Villa Nursing Home, Townsville. She is survived by her sisters, Phyllis Marshall and Shirley Cottier. Muriel was a woman of God and a member of Charters Towers church. She will be sadly missed.

Roger Ward

Howard, James Albert, born 15.11.1913 at Dunolly, Vic; died 26.9.04 in Coronella Nursing Home, Nunawading. On 19.10.55 he married Thalia Jackson. He is survived by his wife (Nunawading); and his children, Desmond (Melbourne), Janene Lazzaro (Sydney, NSW) and Ormond (Melbourne, Vic). Jim was a quiet and dignified Christian who loved his God and loved serving Him.

Dean Giles, Robyn Stanley

Morgan, Adelia, born 21.11.1912 at Mount Morgan, Qld; died 19.9.04 in Redlands Hospital. Delia was known for her pleasant, cheerful nature and her strong faith in God. She was predeceased by her husband, Arthur; also recently by her son, Arthur. She is survived by her daughter, Jeanette; her son-in-law, Ted Kelly; her daughter-in-law, Merle Morgan; her seven grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. She rests in the certain hope she had in the great resurrection day.

Neil Peatey, Keith Miller

Paski, Tadeusz, born 14.6.1934 at Belchatow, Poland; died 19.6.04 in Ashford Community Hospital, Adelaide, SA. He is survived by his wife, Anna; his son and daughter-in-law, Andrew and Paulina; his daughter, Ivonne, with fiancé, Chad; his mother-in-law, Leokadia; his brother, Bolek, with family. Tadeusz was a Polish gentleman who is missed by family and friends.

Dariusz Kuberek

Radovanovic, Miodrag (Jack), born 8.1.1917 at Payazitou, Serbia, Yugoslavia; died 29.9.04 at Bendigo, Vic. He was predeceased by his wife while he was a prisoner of war in Germany for five years. He was also predeceased by his son, Radisha. He is survived by his second wife, Margo; and their sons, Hans (Hamburg, Germany) and Kevin (Bendigo, Vic). Jack was ever supportive in ministry to others.

Dean Giles, Laurie Hogarth

Sell, Douglas Francis Charles, born 31.3.1904 at Bombay, India; died 18.8.04



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in Auckland Private Hospital, NZ. On 10.5.30 he married Gwen Wood; and later he married Laurie Holt and Alice Pye; all of whom predeceased him. He is survived by his sons, Russell and Winston, and their families (Auckland); and his brother, Gordon (Owiraka, Auckland); his four grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. Douglas's family and friends miss his cheerfulness and stories of India. He was a busy layman, who sang in the mission choirs, was doorman, went with film strips and tape recorder giving studies. He died in the blessed hope.

Craig Young

Stokes, Patricia Mary, born 11.5.1924 at Warrnambool, Vic; died 18.9.04 at Elsternwick. Pat trained at "The San," graduating in 1946 and dedicating her life to nursing in both England and Victoria.

Ian Royce, Barry Cheswick

Advertisements

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Positions vacant

▲ **Director of Women's Residences—Avondale College (Cooranbong, NSW)** is seeking to appoint a full-time Director of Women's Residences commencing January 2005. The successful applicant will have an appropriate degree, strong people and communication skills, good rapport with young people, will live in the Director's house on campus, and will preferably have experience in counselling. **For further information** contact <www.avondale.edu.au>; or Craig Vogel (02) 4980 2146; email <craig.vogel@avondale.edu.au>. **Applications in writing** (including CV and the names of three referees) should be forwarded to Sonya Muhl, HR, Avondale College, PO Box 19, Cooranbong NSW 2265; email <sonya.muhl@avondale.edu.au>; (02) 4980 2284; or fax (02) 4980 2269, no later than November 3, 2004.

▲ **Director of Nursing—Avondale Retirement Village (Cooranbong, NSW)** is seeking a full-time Director of Nursing. The facility includes 184 independent living units; 72-bed nursing home; and 35- and 40-bed hostels. The successful applicant will be a committed, baptised and practising Seventh-day Adventist; NSW registered (List A); RN8 or higher (preferably with postgraduate qualifications in either management or aged care); and have a minimum of three years senior aged care experience in a nursing home. **Applications in writing** should be forwarded to John Kingston, PO Box 105, Cooranbong NSW 2265; email <ceo@aacnsw.com.au>, no later than November 20, 2004.

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

Ballarat Seventh-day Adventist Church Primary School commenced in 1974 and, if circumstances had permitted, 2004 would have been its 30th anniversary year. To recognise this "anniversary," Ballarat church is setting aside Sabbath, December 18, to give opportunity for past students, parents and staff to get together to reminisce. The day's program will be: 9.30 am, Community hymn singing. 9.45 am, Bible study hour. 11.15 am, Worship service. Combined luncheon followed by reminiscences of school days. Free time. 7.30 pm, Christmas program. For inquiries, acceptances/inabilities, greetings or messages, please contact Merrilyn Hastings, phone (03) 53 346 472; or email <ballareunion@optusnet.com.au>.

Adventist Singles Network (Sydney, NSW). November 6: Day Convention, Penrith SDA church, Cam Street. Sabbath school 9.30 am, divine service 11.00 am. Lunch provided. Afternoon program *Relationships*. Close Sabbath. Dinner at unique Thai restaurant. Very reasonable cost. **Sunday 7/11:** Whitewater rafting. **November 20:** 3-course Irish dinner at Avondale College cafeteria lounge. SA15 pp, RSVP by 5/11; phone Jenny (02) 4944 3217. **December 30-31/05:** Collaroy Beach Retreat Convention. Come alive in '05! Don't miss this. SA260 full payment by 1/12—SA275 thereafter. Includes bus trip/Harbour Bridge walk. Applications phone (02) 9874 9500.

Holiday cabin to let—fully self-contained, on a mountain bush retreat block 40 km from Tamworth. Ideal for a couple who wish to attend country and western events, or just for a holiday anytime. SA100 per night. Bring your own food. No alcohol. Phone Colleen (02) 6760 5480.

Say congratulations with flowers! Avondale College graduation is Sunday, December 5. We have available lovely fresh flowers and would be happy to assist you. Contact Cooranbong Florist, phone (02) 4977 2547.

Christian television available now 24/7. Satellite kits only SA325 (+freight) and your purchase price includes a donation to Adventist Media to expand satellite broadcasting. Three Angels Broadcasting Network and four other Christian channels available now, free to air—no further charges. **Phone Rural Electronics on (02) 6361 3636; email <ruralele@bigpond.net.au>.**

Web site design. We specialise in designing web sites that you can easily maintain yourself. Phone Webstudio 1800 008 606 in Australia; 0800 249 735 in New Zealand, or visit www.webstudio.com.au.

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>.**

Invitation to a celebration—Pathfinder Golden Jubilee. You are invited to a celebration of Pathfinders at the annual Pathfinder Rally and award ceremony at Lilydale Adventist Academy, on November 13, from 10 am to 4 pm (BYO lunch). To ensure your club or former clubs feature in the program, please contact Rebecca at Vic youth on (03) 9259 2157.

Finally

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Avondale has additional Commonwealth-funded places available in 2005, with applications preferred by November 30 2004.



For information on teaching and other courses
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