RECCORD



Pictured left to right are Kevin Foong, an Australian-born Singaporean who was baptised in September, Pastor Isaac Foo, Sarah Suvarnasara, from a Buddhist Thai family background who was also baptised in September, and Mrs Ellen Foo.

One hundred enter Gateway

Melbourne, Victoria

Eighteen months since the launch of Gateway Adventist Centre (GAC) in the heart of Melbourne, 100 people are attending the weekly worship service. More than 40 of these people are non-Adventist and there have been three baptismal services in eight months. To cater for their numerical growth GAC has moved to a location at Melbourne University that seats 175.

GAC is focused on reaching tertiary students and young professionals and based on the Antioch model of the church.

"We continue to commit the 'cycle of evangelism," says Johnny Wong, church elder. He refers to a recent evangelistic campaign that saw some 100 people attend eight meetings. "Fifty per cent of attendees were non-Adventist and included Taoist, Hindu and Buddhists." He adds, "During the meetings, 15 people accepted the Sabbath message, four requested baptismal studies and many accepted Christ."

Care Groups based on geographical locations around Melbourne are an integral part of GAC these groups originally gave momentum for the church and now provide discipleship and friendship in a small-group environment. More than 65 people are attending the six Care Groups each week.

Mr Wong reports that some 25 seekers are having one-on-one Bible studies. "Most of these Bible studies are conducted by the young people," he says.—*Kellie Hancock*

In this issue

Editorial: Buy Nothing Day/s

Balloons spread the message for miles

Students' spiritual convictions strong



Children's church: Kiwi style

Buy Nothing Day/s

Traditionally, the day after Thanksgiving in the United States is the busiest shopping day of the year. The pre-Christmas sales kick into high gear and lure the holiday crowds into malls across the country, an important component of the six-week holiday season that accounts for approximately one-third of annual consumer spending.

So here's a novel idea—even for those of us on the other side of the world-make this date a day-off from shopping this year. Friday, November 26, is Buy Nothing Day. Organised by anti-consumerism group Adbusters (www.adbusters.org), the idea is that for one day we simply don't buy anything as a protest against the allpervasive frenzy of consumption that much of contemporary life has become. And perhaps it could even be marked as the first day of a Buy Nothing Christmas (www.buy nothingchristmas.org).

Whatever our governments and economists might tell us, consumerism is one of the greatest risks to our lifestyle, our world and our souls. In many Western countries—those ostensibly most affluent—personal debt has exploded to almost critical levels. We are using our natural resources at an increasingly unsustainable rate. And our search for "meaning by accumulation" is inherently frustrated.

These are important, culture-forming issues. Accordingly, Buy Nothing Day and other non-consumerist expressions have a legitimate place in the thinking and practice of all responsible and concerned citizens—and particularly Christians (see Matthew 6:19-34).

In his book *The Good Life*, David Matzko McCarthy comes up with a similar suggestion but one that may have more of

a ring of the familiar about it. He writes: "Imagine how much better our relation to the earth would be if Christians everywhere were to join Jews in setting aside a day for God's peace: no construction or demolition, no driving or shopping, and no waste billowing out of the smokestack at the plant. The economy would lose a day but we and all the creatures of the earth would gain one."

It seems that for some of us Buy Nothing Day happens every week. It's called Sabbath. For 24



is neither

s neither a

necessity nor an entertainment option. On a weekly basis, Sabbath de-legitimises the spiral of consumerism. We are set free from the routine of buying and selling, earning and spending.

This is an aspect of Sabbath highlighted in the "second version" of the commandments. Whereas Exodus 20:11 reminded the people of God's creation of the world, Deuteronomy 5:15 urged them to "remember that you were once slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out with amazing power and mighty deeds" (NLT). The message is, "Don't be a slave—remember the Sabbath."

In contrast with the disparities and injustices of our consumer-based economies, Joan Chittister argues that not only was Sabbath a memorial of past deliverance, it is a regular moment of real freedom: "The first purpose was to free the poor as well as the rich for at least one day a week.... Nobody had to take an order from anybody on the Sabbath" (from an essay, "Shaping Holy Lives").

But we are not just slaves in a physical or hierarchical sense. Through the pressures of busyness and perpetual striving for more, we become slaves to the urgency of the moment. Sabbath provides an answer on this level as well—"to give people time to evaluate their work as God evaluated creation to see if their work, too, is really

> life-giving" (Chittister). It is in this way that Sabbath is most restful, providing time to reflect on our lives and how the different aspects of our lives impact on who we are

becoming, rather than what we are acquiring or "achieving."

Consumerism is self-centered; Sabbath is focused on God and others. Consumerism is never satisfied; Sabbath is profound contentment. Consumerism is slavery; Sabbath is freedom. Consumerism is unsustainable; Sabbath is eternal. Yet consumerism is rampant; Sabbath is allbut-forgotten—and Chittister's conclusion sounds startling: "If anything has brought the modern world to

the brink of destruction, it must surely be the loss of Sabbath."

Buy Nothing Day is a good thing; Sabbath each week is better.



Nathan Brown



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| F L A S H P O I N T |

 Doug Batchelor visits PAU • Victorian pastors' wives meet for spiritual focus
 Hamilton church fasts 10 days for revival • NASDAS meets formally • and more —Compiled by Scott Wegener—

• Students and staff at **Pacific Adventist University** were paid a visit from Pastor **Doug Batchelor** (pictured, right), presenter of *Amazing facts* and *Bible answers* video series, in October. Pastor Batchelor and his family came to start the two-week evangelistic meet-



ings in Port Moresby, PNG. More than **3000 people** met each night.—*Laurel Rikis*

• **Pastoral wives** from around the Victorian Conference came together for a day of **friendship and spiritual focus.** Based around the Bible text Esther 4:14, Carole Ferch-Johnson spoke about some portrayals of women in Scripture and challenged the

women to examine their spiritual relationship with Christ. After lunch and an afternoon walk, they placed **children's names** written on post-it-notes on a table. A white cloth was held over them sym-



bolically and six ladies, representing spiritual mentors, prayed for the children. After worship, they enjoyed dinner together and returned home refreshed and blessed.—*Bev Hankinson*

• While on a private trip to **Japan**, Pastor **Laurie Evans**, the president of the South

Balloons spread Mile End word

Mile End Community Church's desire is to use every single opportunity they can to get in touch with people and families, make friends with them, invite them to our church, and introduce them to Jesus Christ. The



Kellyville fair was a recent example. The fair is a one-day event where community groups, schools and other service providers get together to provide a day of enjoyment to families in the community.

At their second year's appearance at the fair, the team from Mile End Community church provided free Kidz Kraft, where every 30 minutes a new batch of children came to our tables to make a key ring, sparkly notebook or gift card. Each parent/guardian then received advertising material about our church and different programs such as our future holiday activities, Creative Activities, Kidz Church, playgroups, Saturday morning worship and more. Clowns were at the front of their stall, attracting passersby, connecting with them and handing out orange balloons with the Mile End logo on them.



At the main playground a concert was held, with hundreds of the orange Mile End balloons scattered throughout the large crowd.—*Brad Melville*

Pacific Division, took the opportunity to inspect an **English Language School.** Pastor Evans was impressed with the potential of the schools to model the mission of the church in a country where it is very difficult to do direct evangelism.— John Fraser

• Recently Pastor **Danny Milenkov** challenged his Hamilton, NZ, church members to begin a **10-day prayer fast.** The "fast" was from all media influences, such as TV, radio and magazines, that would distract them from God, and used as time devoted to prayer and reconnecting with God. The "fast" was followed two weeks later by "Trust and pray," an experiential program designed to help people learn how to pray and reconnect with God. Pastor **Anthony Kent's**

following mission, "Journey into eternity," was considered a success due to the prayer fast/revival a month earlier. "It has been the most successful mission the church has run in the past four to seven years," says Pastor Milenkov. "More than 150 non-Adventists attended the first night and the second day we had people sitting on the floor because there was no room for more chairs. We now have 20 continuing with prophecy seminars and baptisms planned for the coming months."-Ann Johansen

• The book In Six Days: Why Fifty Scientists Choose to Believe in Creation by Dr John Ashton, also author of recently launched Uncorked! The Hidden Hazards of Alcohol (RECORD, October 9), reached ninth spot in the sales rankings of science books

sold at Amazon.com during October.

• The Northern Australian Seventh-day Adventist Students (NASDAS) recently held its first annual formal dinner. The event, held at Seagulls Resort in Townsville, Qld, where NASDAS is based, had 24 people attending, including members of the national Adventist Students Association who made the trip from Newcastle, NSW.—Lowanna Hartwig



Children's church: Kiwi style

Palmerston North church, NNZ, held their first children's church on October 2, with more than 50 children and their



Children singing at Palmerston North.

families taking part in songs, prayer, Scripture reading in different languages and drama.

Julene Duerksen-Kapao, a teacher at Longburn Adventist College, and her visiting father, Pastor Dick Duerksen, director of mission development at Florida Hospital, USA, challenged the children to stand up and stand out in their school and community.

"The response was so positive," says Mrs Duerksen-Kapao, "that the church plans to trial a children's communion and agape feast Lego style" (Flashpoint, August 14).-Kellie Hancock

Adventist students' spiritual conviction strong

Abemama, Kiribati

he spiritual conviction of students at Kauma Adventist High School on Abemama in Kiribati is strong, says a Seventhday Adventist church leader.

Dr Paul Petersen presented a Week of Prayer at the school in early October. He describes his time there as "emotional." "The students and I shared а connection, but I may never see them again."

Dr Petersen is the field secretary for the South Pacific Division. He had not visited Kiribati prior to this trip.

"Kauma is a well-ordered school in a beautiful location," he says. "And, because it is on Abemama, it and the students are protected from the influence of Western culture."-**Brenton Stacey**

Artist says, "Don't miss the boat"

Silver Spring, Maryland, USA

dventist artist Elfred Lee's newest Apainting, Don't miss the boat, presents Noah's ark in a way that those who view it may "wonder at reality."

Mr Lee was commissioned by the New York-based Bibleland Studios to create the

painting, which, after three years of research and work, was unveiled at the General Conference office on October 7. According to

John Adolfi, president of Bibleland Studios, the goal for **Bibleland Studios is** to "establish the

credibility of biblical concepts, reaching people through various modern methods of media."

"One of the catchphrases for Bibleland Studios is 'reaching the heart through the imagination,' and 'the wonder of reality,"

he says.

Mr Lee says he's been waiting 35 years to do this painting. As preparation, Mr Lee, who has been involved with the search for Noah's ark since the 1960s at Mount Ararat, researched the topic extensively and had input from scientists at Loma

Pointing to the

in

painting, Mr Lee

said, "Jesus also

built a way to

salvation. He built

for us and is

giving the invi-

behind

the

shadow of the

cross

Noah



Elfred Lee with his painting, Don't miss the boat.

tation. Don't miss the boat."

Mr Lee says, "Only eight of the remnant, only eight people accepted the message of God. And Noah is saying to us [in the painting], just like Christ is, 'please come into the ark.""-Wendi Rogers/ANN

Next "Adventist News" has evangelistic focus

These girls are students at the Adventist Church's high school in Kiribati where a church leader says spiritual convictions are high.

> The Year of Evangelism features heavily in the final edition of "Adventist News" for 2004.

"We've travelled across the South Pacific to shoot footage for this story," says Brenton Stacey of the South



aul Pete

Bronwyn Mison

Pacific Division's Communication Department. "There's baptisms in New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Solomons, a prophecy seminar in WA, Bible studies in SA, and a children's church in Sydney." He adds, "You've read about the Year of Evangelism, now you can see the results of this initiative."

"Adventist News" covers church news from a mission perspective. Watch for it on satellite on November 26.

Contact the Communication Department to receive the program on DVD or videotape on phone +61 2 9847 3290or email <communication@ adventist.org.au>.

presents the news.

⊥ November 20. 2004

Greed, fear . . . or what? Gary Krause, USA

Thank you, Nathan Brown, for your prophetic message ("A victory for greed and fear," Editorial, October 30), which goes beyond partisan politics. It's a helpful reminder of the themes of justice and compassion that run through the Old Testament prophets and into the words and life of Jesus. I pray that Richard Flanagan's indictment of Australians who have "become obsessed with materialism at the expense of almost everything else" doesn't become true of me or my church.

Roger Nixon, NSW

"A victory for greed and fear" was timely and thought provoking. Thank you for sharing Francis Schaeffer's statement, "Conservatism means standing in the flow of the status quo." Jesus' powerful message and practise of compassion for the disadvantaged sharply contradicts selfinterest and avarice. Thank you for reminding us that "we are God's ambassadors of revolution in a world of injustice, greed and fear."

Lance Fish, Vic

"A victory for greed and fear" was off the track altogether. Promising money to church schools will not get me to vote for anyone. Did we vote on greed and fear? No! But regardless, I thought our church didn't take sides in politics.

John Ralston, SA

Because an editor's opinion, to a degree, represents the publication in his charge, greater care should have been taken in expressing it in the editorial of October 30 ("A victory for greed and fear"). The topic was too late—the election was past, the choices had been made; it was impractical—there was no individual or party with perfect Christian values to vote for; it was potentially divisive—political considthen introduce them to the real solution— Jesus Christ and His plans for a secure and peaceful future.

The fact that the response so far to the "Sow 1 Billion" campaign in Australia (Newsfront, October 30) has been disappointing should be a concern for every member. Does it mean church members, like the average voter, are more concerned with personal welfare than the needs of society?

Does it mean church members are more concerned with personal welfare than the needs of society?

erations so easily generate strong emotions and antagonism. Above all, it failed to follow the example of Jesus. He also lived in a selfish, greedy and unjust society, but instead of advising people how to correct these ills, He just kept to His mission of pointing people to God's kingdom and how to have a place in it. Shouldn't He be the Christian's example in life?

Elwyn Raethel, NSW

Congratulations on your editorial "A victory for greed and fear." During the recent [Australian] election, the real issues in Australia and the world were bypassed or glossed over. What an opportunity Seventh-day Adventists have to point out that politicians and world leaders don't have answers to the world's needs. It is easy to strike up a conversation with anyone about the problems facing them,



D M Ceff, Vic

Thank you for "How would Isaiah vote?" (Features, October 30), but perhaps Isaiah would not vote. Consider Ellen White's statement: "We cannot with safety vote for political parties; for we do not know whom we are voting for" (*Gospel Workers*, page 391).

Berto not short of material

The writer of a "A poor joke" (Letters, October 30) wonders whether Berto has run out of ideas for his weekly cartoon. Not likely! Conservative organisations are a rich source of material. Even the Bible writers exploited this. Note the use of irony and hyperbole in the story of Jonah. Or reread the first chapter of Esther, where the writer is obviously mocking Xerxes and the patriarchs of the realm for their insecurity about their relations with women.

Berto wouldn't be the first to look at a baptismal font and see a spa. Whether you find this funny depends on your sense of humour. Should the writer of Jonah have made the prophet of God look so foolish? Jonah lacked what many Christians lack: a sense of perspective and, perhaps, a sense of humour. Berto reminds us of our human folly—exactly what Jonah needed reminding of in melancholy moments.

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.

Anniversary

Medland, Barrie and June (nee Rudge) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their two daughters, Susan and Carolyn and families, and other family members and friends, at a wonderful evening held in the Adventist Retirement Village, Victoria Point, Qld. Barrie and June were married by Pastor L C Naden on 28.9.54 in the old Wahroonga church, NSW. Since retirement in 1992, they have been involved in volunteer projects in the West Indies, Tonga and Hong Kong. In 1994 and 1995 Barrie managed the construction of the new Berkeley Vale head office for Sanitarium.

Weddings

Bishop—Wright. Bruce Bishop, son of Brian (Brisbane, Qld) and the late Mary Bishop, and Celona Wright, daughter of Brian and Jennifer Wright (Brisbane), were married on 23.10.04 at Shangri La Gardens, Wynnum, Brisbane. Bob Possingham

Hall—Brittain. David Joseph Hall, son of Gladys Hall (Penrith, NSW), and Catherine Elizabeth Brittain, daughter of Neville and Elizabeth Brittain (Wallacia), were married on 3.10.04 in Penrith Adventist church. Roger Vince

Obituaries

Docksey, Gladys, born 9.3.1908 at Blayney, NSW; died 9.10.04 in Kings Langley Nursing Home, Sydney. She was predeceased by her husband, Monty, in 1994. She is survived by her children, Roger and Glenda. Gladys loved the Lord and often expressed great commitment to Him through a selfless life. She now awaits the great resurrection day to realise her fondest hopes and dreams.

Bill Sleight, Wal Taylor

Judd, Melva Mildred (nee Were), born 16.2.1925 in Christchurch, NZ; died 8.10.04 in Mater Hospital, Waratah, NSW. On 26.6.50 she married David. She is survived by her husband; her daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Dr Greg Hicks, and their children, Tristen and Kirrilee; her daughter-in-law, Yvonne (Jo) Judd; her brother, Ivan Were, and his family; and her grandsons, Jarryd, Jamison and Jerome. Melva was a sweet and gentle, much loved Christian woman, who will be sadly missed by family and friends as we await the call of the Life-giver.

Rex Cobbin, Claude Judd

Low, Elalini (nee Mafi), born 27.5.1934 in Tonga; died 9.9.04 in Sydney, NSW. In 1966 she married Sam, and they came to Australia in 1988. She is survived by her husband; her children, George, Sini Low, Lili Low and Willy (all of Sydney).

Lemoni Manu, Sitiveni Teaupa

Neirinckx, Eduard (Eddie) Willem, born 25.1.1918 in Sumatra, Dutch East Indies; died 21.10.04 at Montville, Qld. On 2.1.48 he married Benny Bernardin. He was predeceased by his son, Edu, in 1980. He is survived by his wife (Montville); his sons, Arne (Asquith) and Geuko (St Clair). Eddie loved his Lord, he loved his family, and he loved his church. In fact, Eddie loved everyone, both in and out of the church.

Neil Tyler, Mark Pearce

Tute, John Esmond, born 21.3.1911 at Castlemaine, Vic; died 9.10.04 in Lakeside Nursing Home, Blackburn. In 1942 he married Mildred Sherwin, who predeceased him in 1982. He is survived by his children, Glenys Bozmil (Windsor), Helen Tute (Albert Park), Allwyn Cepuritis (Noble Park), Heather Burton (Glen Vale) and Graeme (North Croydon). He was baptised on 3.12.55 by Pastor J B Conley. Esmond was a keen musician and a cornet player in Advent Brass Melbourne for many years. Ian Royce

Advertisements

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▲ Recruitment Promotions Officer—South Pacific Division (Wahroonga, NSW) is seeking a Recruitment Promotions Officer. For further information please visit the employment section on the SPD website on <www.adventist.org.au>.

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Giant book sale. Last year three people said: "Never been before, but this is awesome. I'll be a regular." 4000 books at bargain prices. Music, theology, E G White, Bibles, Christian novels, biographies, gardening, lifestyle. SDA Bible Commentary and set of Testimonies. Non-alcoholic wines. Fire blankets and first-aid kits make perfect Christmas presents. Nunawading church, Central Road, Nunawading, Sunday, November 28, 11 am–3 pm. Make a diary note. Proceeds church building fund. **Bundaberg church** would like to inform all past ministers, members and visitors planning to attend the dedication of the church on November 27 that this event has been postponed. The Bundaberg Regional day will still take place on this date and all are invited to attend.

How secure is your future? Are you sure you have adequate finance or insurance? Phone M & A and Associates, consultants for your finance and insurance requirements, on phone/fax (07) 4634 3995; 0419 789 940; or email <milo512002@yahoo.com.au>.

Missionary fellowship lunch. Past and present missionaries are invited to the annual missionary fellowship lunch at Avondale College on graduation Sabbath, December 4. Please bring a savoury and sweet. Education hall, commencing at 1.30 pm. (02) 4980 2237.

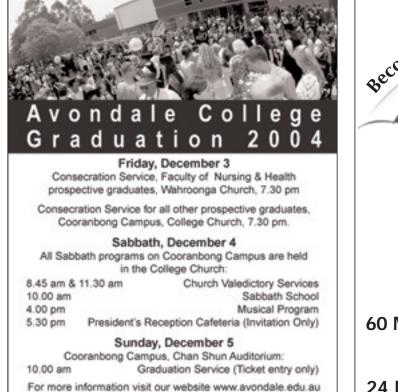
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Finally

The trouble with the world is not that people know too little, but that they know so many things that ain't so.— *Mark Twain* NOTICEBOARD



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