

RECORD



A 19-hour reality experience of living as a refugee allowed 56 children to broaden their world view.

Reality bites NSW juniors

Stuarts Point, New South Wales

Fifty-six children stepped out of their comfort zone and into the life of a refugee for 19 hours as part of a Locked Up for Life reality experience. The simulation program was organised by Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia and was held during the North New South Wales Conference camp-meeting at Stuarts Point, NSW, October 1–10.

On arrival at their “settlement” the 10- 12-year-old children had to make shelters using only cardboard and branches. After a nurse conducted health checks, one child had his head shaved because of lice—this was preplanned, but a warning to others about hygiene!—and others were given (fake) injections. At 12.30 am, “terrorists” attacked the cardboard village, waking everyone for a weapons check. Their attack weakened shelters so that some children found themselves homeless again. On rising, children found that breakfast rations were half a wholemeal bun.

Throughout the experience, the children played awareness games, such as transporting clean water in leaking cups and watching videos on refugees. Locked Up for Life ended with a celebration lunch, which the hungry and tired children appeared thankful for.

Gary Christian, ADRA–Australia’s national program director and facilitator of the event, says, “The kids were extremely well behaved and very resilient in the face of little sleep. We hope that by re-enacting the plight of others, they’ve learned more about the world and some ways that they can help others.” —**Candice Jaques**

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The story of a tale

If you want to read a good story, go to www.adventist4truth.com/Stories. There are hundreds of them. The name says it: "Adventists for truth," but what truth, and what for? Here's the tale of a story.

My own story, as opposed to *the* story, began when a pastor presented an incredible story of salvation on the high seas in our Signs morning worship. The pastor presented the story, which he'd clipped from *Christian Woman* magazine (August 1983), as illustrative of God's incredible leading in the lives of humankind.

According to the feature, the cutter *Mermaid* left Sydney in October 1829, bound for Raffles Bay, in the tropical far north. Upon entering Torres Strait, she ran aground and was wrecked. The entire crew were fortuitously rescued by a passing vessel, the *Swiftsure*. But it also fell on a reef and, likewise, sank. Picked up by the *Governor Ready*, the misadventure continued, and she also foundered, followed to the bottom by their rescuer, the *Comet*. The passing *Jupiter* picked up the combined crews of the four boats, but, as you might expect by now, it sank as well. But all were rescued by the *City of Leeds*. All of this without a single fatality.

On board the *City of Leeds* was one Sarah Richley, dying. It turns out that Sarah was the mother of Peter Richley, a crew member of the *Mermaid*, who, upon meeting her son so fortuitously, miraculously recovered!

Hard to believe? Too good to be true? That's what I thought. So I took a copy of the pastor's story, then consulted an old booklet I happened to have on my shelf called *Australia the Amazing: Believe Bill Murray*. On page 84, there it was. Almost word for word, Bill recounted the incredible sequence of sinkings, although Peter and his mum weren't mentioned.

Was Bill Beatty the story's source? It wasn't really in contradiction, although the *City of Leeds* was missing and it ended differently. But I wasn't convinced, so ignoring suggestions to "Let it go and do some work!" I kept hunting. The story had mentioned an Australian government maritime department, which I tried to contact, only to discover that it didn't exist. My misgivings were confirmed.

Ah, Google . . . And there I came upon www.adventist4truth.com/Stories/amazing_answer-mother.html. Under the title of "Amazing Answer To A Mother's Prayers," I found the amazing adventure of Mother and Son Richley, embellished with tears and replete with supporting scriptures.

But Google also came up with Australia's official web site of boat wrecks, which is connected with the Maritime Museum. The register revealed a quite different sequence of disasters: while the ships did exist and were wrecked, the sinkings occurred in reverse sequence in part, and at times and places too distant to render the story truthful. So I emailed the site's librarian, recounting the story. She did some research and quickly came back, roundly denouncing the story, suggesting it was less than improbable, giving indisputable evidence for her belief.

So even though well intentioned and from what you'd expect to be reputable sources, the story was merely a myth with a moral, just doing the rounds.

The story, as myths do in their various reincarnations, came with detail, giving it a ring of truth, and also moral emphasis. For Adventists 4 Truth, it's, "Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?" (Psalm 56:8, KJV), and, "The only son of his mother, and she was a widow. . . . And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion

on her" (Luke 7:12, 13).

But at membres.lycos.fr/apophtegme/jma03cuc.html, the web site of one Jean Moisset, a devotee of "parallel universes" and something called "synchronicity," it's something else.

"Synchronicity" lies at the core of Moisset's world of "immaterial spheres" where "we enter into the . . . the mystical, spiritual . . . and occultist traditions." And his proof: "Five shipwrecks and destiny." Synchronicity, it turns out, is about coincidence. So his web site is an anthology of many such tales.

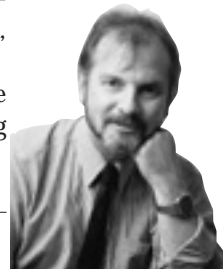
"Never let the facts get in the way of a good story" is not a good maxim for a Christian. Instead, we should "prove all things," as the Bible admonishes (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Everyone loves a good story. They're an effective way of communicating difficult and abstract points. But a story, even a good one, of itself proves nothing, even if cloaked in holy garb. And even if true, as Monsieur Moisset's world view demonstrates, a story is capable of multiple and even diametrically opposed interpretations, which can dissipate its effectiveness.

While the innocent use of such a story as a worship thought is a worthy object, the ease with which such stories spread provides another moral. As Karl Kruszelnicki suggests in *Great Mythceptions*, people are likely to believe anything said with authority, which is a salutary insight in a world of sin, spin and lies.

It seems it can be hard work discovering truth these days.

Lee Dunstan



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

- Prisoners on death row baptised
- Portland spends Sabbaths fishing for the little ones
- ADRA delivers medicine in Iraq
- No insurance payout for car-bombed church
- and more

—Compiled by Scott Wegener—

● Some 55 **prison inmates**, including two women, were **baptised at Bomana Prison**, PNG, on October 30. For three of them who are on death row this was a message of hope of coming back to life in the Lord at His second coming. A number of distinguished



guests were among the witnesses of this rare occasion of baptism on the prison's premises, including Central District Police Commissioner **Thomas Wagambi**, who acknowledged the Prison Ministry efforts and visitations each Saturday as directing the lost souls back to Christ.—*Ragoso Tagaloa/Onassis Dame*

● The Year 6 and 7 class at **Darling Downs Christian School**, Qld, has been enlisted by the Toowoomba City Council for the federally funded project to **monitor chemical data** in the Gowrie Creek. The students have become adept at handling the equipment involved and gained understanding of



the nature of turbidity, sulphates, salinity and other potential pollutants, together with an appreciation of their effects on streams. "This is a valuable opportunity for students to learn science in a hands-on manner while working with professional scientists," says school principal Steve Cowley.

BACyard blitz for the community

Students at Brisbane Adventist College (BAC) were given the opportunity to not just "talk the talk" about their faith, but to put their words into action by helping others on a weekly basis. The decision to become involved in such a venture also involved the students forgoing their preferred sporting options for a school term, and so the BAC Community Service Team came into being.



The first weeks of operation saw the team involved in letterboxing the immediate neighbourhood, offering free cleaning and gardening services to those in need. Tree planting for the local council and visits to the Children's Ward at Royal Brisbane Hospital followed.

Meanwhile responses to the letterboxing enabled the group to work on mini "backyard blitzes" as a number of elderly residents requested help with overgrown gardens and lawns.

While the students have assisted a variety of people, they have formed a growing understanding and friendship with people they would otherwise never have met. "You leave with a feeling that you've really helped someone in need," says student Vivian Hui. Another student, Jonathon Rimoni, says, "You make a difference in people's lives and share God's love. It's a satisfaction beyond explaining in words"—*Rob Peters*

● The Adelaide team of **literature evangelists** recently travelled to Roxby Downs to visit residents over one week. The first day revealed that this mining town is full of shiftworkers who **didn't appreciate being woken up** with a knock on the door. The team decided to move to Port Augusta. Despite the flies being out in force, making invites into homes even more appreciated, they soldiered on. Some 55 demonstrations later the team took 29 orders, gave 118 pieces of free literature and signed 17 people up for correspondence courses.—*Links*

● On Saturdays, **Portland church**, Vic, goes **fishing at the Angling Club**; not to catch the big ones, but the small ones. **Kids Rule**, as it is known, targets unchurched children in a whole new concept to the

traditional Sabbath school. The children are doing the evangelising and as a result **many new children are ready to attend**.—*Eric Swift*

● Little did **Greg Timmins** know that being brought up on a **New Zealand sheep station** was symbolic of his future career as a shepherd of another kind. Pastor Timmins started attending **Longburn Adventist College**, NZ, in 1987 and, after dedicating his life to the Lord there, spent four years at Weimar College in Northern California, USA, completing the ministerial degree. After becoming a literature evangelist in Salt Lake City, and later an associate pastor for Grand Rapids Central church, he completed the Master of Divinity at Andrews University. Pastor Timmins was **ordained** to the gospel ministry earlier this year in Michigan, USA.

● During the last weekend of their school holidays teachers from **Carlisle Christian College (CCC)**, Qld, attended a professional development seminar on creating and maintaining a **safe school**. Following the seminar CCC coordinated a



visit to the school by the **Crime Prevention Unit** of the Mackay City Police, who ran a program that covered all forms of **bullying** for all school year levels.

● An estimated 770,000 people in the Western Ninewa province of **Iraq** will benefit from **eight tonnes of essential medicines** delivered October 24 by the **Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)-Turkey**. Three major hospitals and 37 primary health clinics in the cities of Telafer, Sinjar, Al-Ba'aj and surrounding areas received the supplies. The number of outpatients served by the three hospitals receiving the medicines

exceeds 37,500 people and 3425 inpatients. The recipient primary health clinics care for some 92,600 outpatients. The shipment is part of a larger project in which ADRA shipped more than 45 tonnes of medicines and other supplies to the country. "These drugs were very much needed and arrived at the right time," wrote Dr **Fawzi Mohammad**, director of the Telafer Hospital.—ANN

Off the record

● A marriage before God is an important thing to **Laurence and Judy Beadle** of Collinsvale church, Tas. Married by a celebrant on October 25, 1979, they have since returned to the Lord. Having rededicated their lives to God it was their desire to **recommit their marriage**



publicly before family, friends and the Father in their home church. As a special **silver anniversary** they renewed their commitment to each other before the Lord. They rewrote their wedding vows to include Jesus as the centre of their relationship and presented new rings to each other. The service was attended by many family and friends, and was followed by a luncheon with a special wedding cake!—David Edgren

Nations unite at local playgroup

If you were to visit the Papatoetoe church playgroup on a Wednesday morning, you may wonder if you've walked in on the United Nations for tiny tots. During this community playgroup, up to 90 children aged 0-5 play happily together.

More than a dozen nations are represented each week, including India, Chile, Kenya, Fiji, South Africa, and the Cook Islands.

The playgroup focuses strongly on a sense of community. Parents have the opportunity to mingle and talk to other parents, sharing the joys and triumphs, as well as the difficulties and inevitable frustration (sometimes) of bringing up children, while their children play in a safe environment.



The Papatoetoe church playgroup has been providing this service to the community for several decades facilitated in a way where people from the local church can build friendships with unchurched mums and dads, grandparents and caregivers. Over the years a steady stream of people have given their lives to Christ as a direct result of friendships built initially at playgroup.—Jacinda Turnbull-Harman

● Six weeks after a **car bomb** exploded beside the **Baghdad** Seventh-day Adventist church, causing \$US150,000 of structural damage (Newsfront, October 2), church officials in Iraq have said there is little hope of claiming **insurance payments** for the repairs. **Homer Trecartin**, secretary-treasurer for the Middle East Union Mission, says a fund has been created to receive donations for the repair of the Baghdad church. To help, email <HTrecartin@aol.com>.—Alex Elmadjian/ANR

● The president of a creation apologetics group says the **dwarf skeleton** of a supposedly primitive man recently found on an island in Indonesia may **confound evolutionists**, but it is easy for creationists to explain. Answers in Genesis founder Dr **Ken Ham** says, "Eight people got off Noah's ark, they increased in number, you have the Tower of Babel and you split up the human gene pool. When this happens the result is different combinations of genes moving in different directions. You can get certain features in a particular group that might be unique to that group." Dr Ham says evolutionists are even **arguing among themselves** about whether the remains found are really those of a human and that their dating of the skeleton at 18,000 to 38,000 years conflicts with the stone tools found with it, dated at 800,000 years. "Evolutionists simply do not know what to do with this conflicting information," says Dr Ham. "But these die-hard Darwinists will fit all their contradictory conclusions into their faulty evolutionary framework anyway."—*Agape Press*

Winston Yettie

● The **Bundaberg church**, Qld, members have **purchased St Andrew's church** (pictured) to call their home. Built in 1932, and originally a Presbyterian church, it was most recently a Uniting church. Recently heritage listed, the church is surrounded by stained-glass windows and has one of the first pipe organs in Queensland. It has a functioning **belltower** with 11 large bells, the largest of which weighs 559 kg, which are now **played for the opening and closing Sabbath** as well as a call to worship each Sabbath morning. The church was opened



as a Seventh-day Adventist church on the August 21, a day attended by the Mayor, local Federal and State Members of Parliament, South Queensland secretary Pastor **Malcolm Potts**, former and current church pastors and members and visitors.—Dianne Hilton

Days and offerings

December 18—Pacific Islands

Advancement Offering

Church in NNZ votes to sell campground

Auckland, New Zealand

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North New Zealand will sell Haskell Park.

The Papakura campground is falling down, but it is a second home to many Adventists—they have been meeting for camp there since 1950.

“We didn’t take the decision lightly,” says North New Zealand Conference (NNZC) president Pastor Jerry Matthews. The consultation process began in March this year. “We discussed the future of camping ministry at each of our regional meetings and across our churches in Auckland.”

The vote to sell came during the NNZC’s 87th business meeting at Auckland Adventist High School, October 30, 31. Discussion between the 488 delegates lasted four-and-a-half hours.

The church will build a multipurpose centre at Tui Ridge Park near Rotorua as what Pastor Matthews calls an “investment for all church members” from the sale. The campground has received almost 30,000 bookings over the past three years. “It’s our biggest front to the public,” says Pastor Matthews.

He gives as an example the Girl Guides, who have booked Tui Ridge for their jamborees through to 2012. Some 4000 camped on the site earlier this year, with the organisation investing \$NZ20,000 for development.—**Brenton Stacey**



Cliff Mancer travelled to camp-meeting at Haskell Park one year in a Vauxhall Velux with his mother, Lola, wife, Ellen, three children and two nephews.

Memories of camp at Haskell Park

If you’ve ever attended camp-meeting at Haskell Park, you will have a story to tell about your experience.

This is Cliff Mancer’s: “My wife and I, our three children, my mother and our two nephews squeezed into our Vauxhall Velux and travelled from New Plymouth to Auckland one year. That’s a long journey today. It took forever then.

“There’s something about camp—the smell, the book sales, catching up with friends. The camp superintendent used to wake us by calling, ‘Good morning, campers,’ over the loudspeakers at 6.00 am. Then you’d hear the organist loudly playing hymns.

“I rediscover a love for God at Big Camp.”

Betty King is a new Adventist. She attended her first camp-meeting this year. “The speaker [Dr Jon Paulien from Andrews University, USA] was marvelous. So many Adventist teachings have become clear to me.”

Veronica Liggett remembers camp in 1953, but not necessarily because she was there. “We were to travel to Auckland on the train—we had our tickets and had packed our bags. But a problem developed with our cows and plans changed. That train crashed and 151 people died. Big Camp is a reminder God has even me in His hands.”

Mrs Joyce Ussher of Palmerston North says, “I remember arriving at camp early to help with camp set-up. A bell was used to call the workers to meals, and a Tui [a native NZ bird] had mastered the sound so well that confusion resulted from the workers not being able to tell the difference. He became discouraged when the speakers were erected for camp.”—**Christine Miles**



Haskell Park’s “big tent” in 2004.

In other news from the NNZC session:

- Delegates returned Pastor Matthews as president
- Adventist Media’s finance manager Russell Jones returns home to serve in the new position of secretary-treasurer
- Tithe increased by \$NZ300,000 to \$NZ6 million between 2001 and 2003
- Membership increased from 9461 to 9681
- More than 630 people—including 60 Adventist school students—joined the church through baptism or profession of faith, but more than 1000 moved out of the region
- Enrolment at Adventist schools increased by 9.4 per cent over the triennium
- The government granted the high school a maximum roll increase from 270 to 340

Super members need to show more interest in socially responsible investing

Wahroonga, New South Wales

Interest in socially responsible investment (SRI) appears to be waning among members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's superannuation fund.

ACAST received only 464 of the 12,429 surveys about SRI it sent to its members in September this year. The response rate is low but almost double that of the fund's first survey in April 2002.

"I think our members are concerned about socially responsible investment but are leaving it to others to voice that concern," says ACAST's fund administration manager Paul Rubessa.

Some 63 per cent of those who responded to the survey said they would choose a SRI rather than one of ACAST's existing investment options, even if the SRI cost more and involved greater risk. However, this is down on the 85 per cent who answered yes to this question on the 2002 survey.

Respondents who said they would

choose a SRI ranked human rights, the environment, the manufacture of tobacco, the adult and sex industry, the manufacture of weapons, the manufacture of alcohol and the manufacture or operation of gambling products as the top issues they wanted ACAST to consider when investing their money. Animal rights, labour practices and genetic modification and cloning were less important.

The ranking results were similar to the 2002 survey.

Mr Rubessa says it is difficult investing in completely socially responsible companies. "Take Coles Myer, for example. It sells good food, and it provides good employment, but it sells alcohol and tobacco products."

ACAST's corporate trustee will decide at its meeting in March next year whether or not to offer a SRI option. Mr Rubessa says interest in SRI among ACAST members will increase regardless of the decision.

"The market is growing."

The results of an October 2004 survey by the Ethical Investment Association show SRI in Australia has doubled since 2001. The market—now at \$A21.5 billion in assets—grew at more than twice the rate of the retail and wholesale investment market between June 2003 and June 2004.

SRI considers the social, environmental and economic value of an investment. Investors use a screening process to choose investments that meet their criteria. Some may use a negative screen to

avoid investing in certain companies, a positive screen to identify companies in which they want to invest or a best of sector.

The screening process adds to the cost of SRI. It also affects the risk by reducing the number of possible investment options.—**Brenton Stacey**



Paul Rubessa.

Ordained into a new trade

Traralgon, Victoria

Seeing how the Lord changes people and watching them grow in the Lord is really rewarding," says Pastor Tim O'Keefe who was ordained to the gospel ministry at the Traralgon Seventh-day Adventist church on October 9. He adds, "Apart from the Lord, my wife is the strength of my ministry. I really appreciate her input and consider ourselves partners in ministry."

Tim O'Keefe was born at Barraba, NSW, in 1952 and married Marilyn in 1973. They were baptised together in 1979 and have two sons, George and Adam.

Pastor O'Keefe worked as a motor mechanic and auto-electrician for many years. As a result of his efforts in lay evangelism a number of people were



Pictured at the ordination are: (L-R front) Pastor Tim O'Keefe, Mrs Marilyn O'Keefe, Mrs Bev Hankinson; (L-R rear) Pastor Phil Brown, Pastor Wayne Stanley, Pastor Graeme Christian and Pastor John Denne.

baptised. His local church pastor and fellow members challenged him to go into ministry and he became convinced that God wanted him to be in full-time pastoral ministry.

Pastor O'Keefe graduated from Avondale

College in 1999 with a BA in theology, and he came to the Victorian Conference where he has ministered to the congregations at Shepparton, Numurkah, Euroa and more recently Traralgon, Moe and Warragul.

"We value Tim's commitment to Christ and his loyalty to the church," says Pastor John Denne, Ministerial Association secretary for the Victorian Conference. "We greatly admire Tim and Marilyn for their teamwork in ministry. They genuinely love the people they serve"

Victorian Conference president Dr Denis Hankinson says, "Tim and Marilyn have a great ability to connect with the average Aussie and tell them of the love of Jesus. They will continue to be a blessing to whichever community they serve."—**Scott Wegener/Intraviv**

Students help win mercy for classmates

Sydney, New South Wales

Students at a Seventh-day Adventist School may have helped win compassion for two of their classmates living with their mother in a detention centre (Newsfront, November 13).

Sally Koroitamana, 11, and her brother, Jope, 10, are Australian citizens and have been attending Macarthur Adventist School in Macquarie Fields, Sydney, since January 2002. They have not returned since the holidays in October, instead joining their mother and three other siblings at the Villawood Immigration Detention Centre.

Sereana Naikelekele has been living at the centre for two-and-a-half years. She received a deportation order on October 29. However, Mrs

Naikelekele's lawyer applied successfully, November 3, to the Federal Court for an injunction. The injunction applies only to Sally, Jope, their sister, Merani, six, and brothers, Lomani, four, and Glen, three.

Merani and Lomani were born in Australia but are not legal citizens because of their age. Glen is a citizen because his father is a permanent resident.

Students at Macarthur sent about 100 letters to the Federal Government's immigration minister, Amanda Vanstone, asking her to grant clemency to Sally and Jope.

Principal Jill Pearce says the students were excited to hear news of the injunction "but then realised it meant Sereana would be separated from Sally and Jope. So, they decided to begin writing more letters."

"Parents are the most special person [sic] a child has," wrote one Year 3 student. "The government needs to help familys [sic] to stay together so they can support each other."

"I can't imagine how hard it must be to say goodbye to your mother and not know if your [sic] ever going to see her again," wrote a student in Year 5.

Year 1 students drew pictures of the family standing underneath a plane. One of the pictures shows Sally and Jope with sad faces. "We love Mum," says Sally. "Can you stay?" asks Jope.

Mrs Pearce wrote to "ask humbly you reconsider the decision to send Sereana back to Fiji. Allow her and her children to

be a family."

The students have also written to Sally and Jope.

"I . . . could not hold my tears back as I read . . . the letters," writes Mrs Naikelekele. "The way the children expressed themselves shows how much they care for each other and miss one another's companionship."

The letters touched Sally, too. "I miss you

guys alot [sic], and I mean alot [sic]," she wrote in her reply to the students. "Thanks for being such great friends."

Two of the students have visited Sally and Jope at Villawood since writing the letters. "One of Jope's classmates went with his mother this past Sabbath [November 6]," says Mrs Pearce, who also visited. "You should have seen the look on Jope's face. He was delighted, and a bit shy—this was the first classmate he'd seen in about seven weeks."

Mrs Pearce says the letter writing is helping the students put their faith into practice. "They're confident God is working on behalf of Sally and Jope, and that He is answering their prayers."

Mrs Naikelekele's lawyer has now lodged an appeal on humanitarian grounds to the immigration minister.

The New South Wales Department of Community Services will care for the children if the government deports Mrs Naikelekele, although it is likely she will

take Glen with her to Fiji.

Three families—including the family of a teacher at Macarthur—have volunteered to care for Sally, Jope, Merani and Lomani during school weeks.

Ngareta Rossell of the inter-faith Coalition for the Protection of Asylum Seekers is serving as an advocate for Mrs Naikelekele. She encourages church members to write to the minister. "This appeal is our last chance."—**Brenton Stacey**

Iraq: 100,000 civilian deaths, reports Adventist

A Seventh-day Adventist was part of a team who conducted a study on civilian deaths in the Iraq war that has been lauded as a "remarkable piece of work by a courageous team of scientists."

Their findings were published online in the longest-running medical journal in the world, *The Lancet*, on October 29.

Gilbert Burnham, a member of the Sligo church, Takoma Park, Maryland, USA, and his colleagues indicate that the majority of civilian deaths resulted from aircraft and artillery strikes and that most of the victims were women and children.

Since publication in *The Lancet*, their work has been cited by nearly 400 newspapers worldwide and many of the world's television networks. The results have forced British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Foreign Secretary Jack Straw to issue statements on civilian deaths, and brought comments from Jimmy Carter.

Online at <www.adventistpeace.org> (where a summary of their findings is available), Dr Burnham appealed to members of the Adventist Peace Fellowship to "remember in prayer the innocents caught up in this increasingly violent situation which continues to deteriorate."—**Peace Messenger**



Letters from Macarthur Adventist School students, including Grace Hosea and Tom Castle (pictured with principal Jill Pearce), may have helped win compassion for two classmates in detention.

Our greatest resource

by Julie Weslake

Everything we have belongs to God, and we are accountable to Him to manage our resources wisely (Malachi 3:10). Children are the greatest resource God has entrusted to us—they are a heritage from Him (Psalm 127:3-5). During His time on earth, Jesus raised the importance of children. He used them as an example of greatness because of their humility and innocence. In Matthew 18, He tells us not to “look down on one of these little ones” (verse 10) and that God is “not willing that any of these little ones should be lost” (verse 14).*

Our children’s stewards

Research by George Barna reports that the ideas driving people’s behaviour are generally acquired and adopted before a person reaches the age of 13, and the religious beliefs a person develops by the age of 13 are generally the set of beliefs they will maintain until they die. He writes, “I was shocked to find out how few instances of changes in belief occur during the teen and adult years and further that people’s major spiritual choices are generally made when they are young.”¹

We have a huge responsibility to connect children to a lifelong loving relationship to Jesus and His church. We fail as parents, teachers and ministers if we fail our children. The Bible makes it clear we are to lead them into a saving relationship with Him. Jesus warned in Matthew 18:6 that “if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.”

Our hearts ache at the thought of someone intentionally causing an innocent child to sin. However, many of us unintentionally do this by ignoring their spiritual needs. This happens when we get too busy caring for our own needs, don’t understand how the faith of a child is

developed or don’t appreciate that children are important or capable of spiritual decisions. Unfortunately we often ignore their needs because we have no depth of spirituality in our own lives. Parents identified in research by Barna were so far from God, they did not realise their children were missing out on strong spiritual foundations. They didn’t realise they

needed to do more than just take their children to church each week.²

Parental responsibility

Parents, rearrange your priorities and reclaim your responsibility for the spiritual leadership of your children. Do not hide behind institutional responsibility and leave this up to the church or school.

1. Make your home a place where your children feel loved, accepted and safe. Treat your children with respect and show them they are important. Help them develop their own self-control by giving them the security of clear boundaries. Help them develop responsibility by applying consequences, lovingly, fairly and consistently. Children need to feel strongly connected to you. Spend time with them, talk with and listen to them, have fun, laugh, build memories and establish traditions with them. If children are to have courage they need to be encouraged. Colossians 3:21 warns, “Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.”

2. Ensure you are developing the character of your children. Teach your children how to live, work and play as a Christian—reflecting His character to others. Proverbs 22:6 says, “Train a child in



the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” Character is the result of the day-by-day establishment of good habits. It does not come by chance. It comes by “persevering, untiring effort, by improving every entrusted talent and capability to the glory of God.”³

3. Children need to be taught about God and led to a personal faith in Him and a commitment to Him. This needs to start as soon as they are born. Don’t wait until they come to you and ask about God. Have Jesus as the centre of your home. Deuteronomy 6:5-7 says, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” These verses suggest four ways this should be accomplished:

Rising up—Spending time as a family each morning to worship God in praise and prayer. Encourage your children with the knowledge that God is with them as they start the day.

Lying down—End each day with a routine of Bible stories, music and prayer. Thank God for the day. Talk about

successes, challenges, and end each day with an environment of thanksgiving and forgiveness.

Sitting at home—Set aside a time each week for a family night. Show your children you are serious about loving them and that your family is important.

Walking along the road—Spontaneous opportunities come up each day to teach about God. Teach your children about God when you are shopping or playing. Pray for others when you see them in need.

4. Be the committed Christian you want you children to be. Actions speak louder than our words and how we react to the events and challenges of our normal daily lives is a powerful influence on our children. This means that as parents we need to have a quality personal relationship with God, with our children seeing us enjoying Bible study, worship and prayer. Our daily actions and decisions need to show our surrender to His leading.

As Dr Bill Johnsson suggests, “If we are trustworthy, they’ll learn to trust and find it easier to trust God, whom they cannot see. If we’re generous, they’ll find it easier to accept the incredible gift of salvation. If we affirm them, they’ll find it easier to grasp that God regards them as infinitely precious. If we forgive them easily, they may be able to accept God’s infinite forgiveness.”⁴

5. Give your children a purpose for living, a sense of mission, a calling. Let them know they are children of God. He loves them and He created them for His glory—to grow, to worship, to build community, to serve, to lead others to Christ.

6. Attend a church that provides for your children’s discipleship and worship needs. This church will be doing everything possible to lead your children to Jesus and build a strong faith. Find a place where your children’s gifts and talents are being developed and where your children are surrounded by a community of people who truly care and value them. Make sure your children have many Christian role models and heroes—grandparents, school teachers, neighbours and Christian friends.

7. Pray, pray and pray for your children. As Jesus prayed for the disciples we also need to plead to God that He will “protect them from the evil one” (John 17:15). God



is waiting for you to entrust your children to Him. He hears your prayers and in sympathy is ready to help you. You can be confident that your children are precious to Him. Establish prayer support for your children by asking your friends, your children’s teachers, your relations to include them in their prayers. Find a special prayer mentor for each of your children.

Our ministry and evangelistic efforts need to include children. Deuteronomy 31:12, 13 says, “Assemble the people—men, women and children, and the aliens living in your towns—so that they listen and learn to fear the Lord your God and follow carefully all the words of this law. Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the Lord your God.”

Today there is a danger the spiritual needs of children are not being met anywhere—home, school or church. When that happens, children are being guided by the alternative values and lifestyles presented by the media and their peers. Our children can be spiritual champions, but it requires commitment and effort. This work of parents is made easier when the church and school are prepared to work in partnership. This requires the allocation of finance, good policies, good practice and dedicated personnel.

Accountability

God is holding us accountable. One day, He will ask us as parents and church members, “Where are your children?” Unfortunately, too many have shown no interest. Some have not only ruined their own souls but also misled their children.

Praise God that there will be a group to whom He will say, “Well done! Your hours of committed and faithful effort for children have produced results.” What a great day that will be!

Will there be children in heaven because of you? Will your own children be in heaven?

It is worth every sacrifice. **R**

1. George Barna, *Making Your Children’s Ministry the Best Hour of Every Kid’s Week*, page 11.
2. George Barna, *Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions*, pages 77-8.
3. E G White, *Child Guidance*, page 164.
4. William Johnsson, *Glimpses of Grace*, page 68.

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

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

Julie Weslake is director of children’s ministries for the South Pacific Division, Wahroonga, New South Wales.

God's great dilemma

by Ian Grice

The King's cries penetrated every corner of the palace. Court servants hurried about, arranging soothing music at the anxious bidding of attending court officials. People gathered in knots around corridors, whispering and looking with concern toward the King's quarters where the loud noise of grief originated. The prophet Isaiah had just departed from the King's presence, scroll underarm, looking like the bearer of bad news that he was. Adding to the confusion was the increasing wail coming from the women's quarters, as news was passed on to them from the corridors. Isaiah had just delivered a death sentence to King Hezekiah.

Royal advisers were trying to deal with the news. What advice would they give to Hezekiah? What statement would they give to the town crier, to present as an official news bulletin from the palace? With word rapidly spreading around palace corridors, the officials would have to act quickly before rumours hit the streets, and unrest filled city and countryside as various versions of the news was spread.

Meanwhile at the centre of the universe, the Trinity were in conference, caring for routine matters of the created worlds. Earth's situation had been number one item on the agenda for some time now, and Satan's manipulation of people and processes was the problem.

It had been tough going since God decided to let Satan demonstrate his alternative governance principles before the universe. He claimed these principles were superior to the way God had traditionally operated. The uncompromising issue was God's refusal to rule in a way that denied power of choice to created beings. As God's governing principle was love, He was prepared to rule only in an environment where created beings were motivated to follow Him by love. The all-knowing God knew Satan's experiment would end in disaster, but He had to move tactfully to

ensure that service of fear did not replace the service of love in heavenly administration.

God had a deep love for Hezekiah, and decided to reveal the King was about to die through the prophet Isaiah. Hezekiah had managed a miraculous turnaround in the spiritual condition of the kingdom of Judah, and it was because of this revival God chose to demonstrate His ultimate control over Satan's mischief-making plans. He put to flight the armies of Sennacherib, King of Assyria. God knew that Hezekiah yearned to do the right thing, but He foresaw Hezekiah's future actions would contribute to the ruin of Judah if his life were to be continued. In love God would not intervene in the King's current sickness, and the King would, as a result, be preserved from future foolish destructive action to the nation and to himself.

Hezekiah did not see it that way. In his mind he had a check list of things accomplished for God that he felt were Heaven-directed. He had removed the signs of idolatry from the kingdom, he kept the commandments as written in the holy scrolls, and—best of all—he had looked to God for instructions before committing to administrative action. The defeat of the most powerful ruler of nations at that time was accomplished by putting weighty decisions under the discretion and control of God. The King felt God owed him for his diligence in spiritual things. Hezekiah was looking backward; God sees the end from the beginning!



But God did have a dilemma. The great controversy was still in process. Before God could draw down the curtain on Satan's alternate governance experiment two things must occur. First, fallen and unfallen worlds had to understand the ruin eventuating from the satanic alternative to its fullest extent. Second, Satan and the fallen angels would have to concede their alternative plan did not work, and confess they had been in error. In Hezekiah's day the interested parties were a long way from realising those objectives.

How could unfallen beings scattered around the universe be expected to understand if Hezekiah, who had gone all out to engineer a spiritual revival in Judah, were allowed to die before consolidating the revival and ensuring an appropriate spiritual succession plan for the kingdom? The unfallen universe was struggling to come to terms with all the issues of the rebellion, even though they had determined to accept God at His word and remain loyal to Him. If the loyal citizens of unfallen worlds were struggling to comprehend these things, how could

Studying *Record*

by Arthur Patrick

human beings with their fallen nature comprehend the wisdom of God's judgment in the case of Hezekiah? God decided to give those interested observers an opportunity to see for themselves.

As he exited the palace gate Isaiah was given another message from the Lord. He was to return and tell Hezekiah God had heard his cries and was giving him another 15 years to rule over his kingdom. Hezekiah responded with the beautiful prayer of thanks recorded in Isaiah 38:10-20.

We are not always permitted insight into the reasoning God employs in his dealings with humankind, but the Bible sometimes gives us a glimpse behind the scenes, allowing us to see that wisdom at work. The story of Hezekiah is just one of these recorded occasions.

Yet we continue to reach out for answers to vexing questions that arise from our earthly experience. Why did God not intervene when ancient prophets were put to death? Why did He stand by when saints were burned at the stake during those dark years of the Middle Ages? Why does He allow spiritual people in our time to be cut down suddenly in the prime of their lives with a dread disease? We struggle to understand the logic at work in these occurrences as God restrains His power and declines to intervene. To humans it sometimes appears Satan is a winner in the contest.

But behind the scene an all-knowing God watches the interplay of events, intervening at times in a miraculous way, and withholding His power at other times under circumstances we cannot comprehend. But He gives us a graphic account of the end of the great controversy between Christ and Satan, at which time all will be changed, and all secrets revealed (Revelation 21:1-4).

In that waiting interval, He reminds us "that in all things God works for the good of those who love him" (Romans 8:28, NIV). That is an invitation to put our faith in Him in the meantime. **R**

For the story of Hezekiah, refer to 2 Kings 18 to 20; 2 Chronicles 30 and Isaiah 38.

Ian Grice writes from Little Mountain, Queensland.

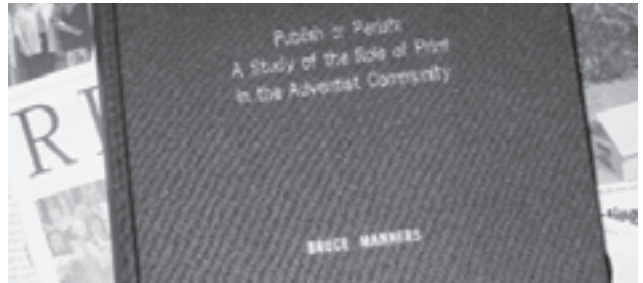
RECORD, official paper of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific Division, was born as the *Union Conference Record* in January 1898. One of its forerunners was the *Bible Echo and Signs of the Times* dating from 1885 in Melbourne, a magazine continuing the Advent emphasis that spawned such Millerite papers as the original *Signs of the Times* in Boston (United States) during 1840.

Earlier this month, a detailed study—the most comprehensive ever undertaken of RECORD and its siblings—was approved as a doctoral thesis by Monash University. Titled "Publish or Perish: A Study of the Role of Print in the Adventist Community," the study runs to 372 pages.

Author Bruce Manners, editor of RECORD from 1991 to 2004, was a skilled wordsmith before he began six years of "own-time" study for this project. To his background as a pastor and editor he added the study of Adventist history and sociology. Most RECORD readers may warm less to his chapters on theory and method than to sections like "The Adventist Church and Print Media."

Ours is "a print-driven church" Manners contends from his study of Millerite, North American and Australasian Adventists. He gives particular attention to the role of Adventist print in times of crisis and change. Central to the study, however, is the way print links people together, especially those who inhabit a spiritual community.

But Adventists are a people of great diversity; herein is the most challenging aspect of the research. How can a single magazine speak to the young and the old, as well as all the members in between, characterised as they are by diverse



personality traits, ethnic origins, educational backgrounds and place where they live (country/city)?

Here the author is at his listening best, especially when people challenge him with comments in surveys and focus groups.

Not all Adventists are comfortable with change, even though our church often demonstrates a healthy response to altering circumstances. The Adventist editor is expected to be "a keeper of tradition," but he is also pressed to offer a voice for members in all their diversity; to promote core values and beliefs so that community is nurtured; and to be forward-looking in a world where new information appears daily.

To read the thesis is to be impressed with its value for the church we love. It will also help us to better appreciate the struggle of those dedicated people whose toil culminates in the RECORD we receive each Sabbath; to value the way our leaders have planned for this communication tool during the past 106 years. Its author deeply values the community of faith to which he belongs and believes RECORD has great potential as a tool to nurture that community.

RECORD isn't perfect, just a wonderful means of drawing us together in understanding and commitment to Jesus, to each other and the mission God has given us. **R**

Arthur Patrick is acting registrar of Avondale College, Cooranbong, New South Wales.

Alcohol uncorked

After carefully reading *Uncorked!* I am convinced I need to take action and alert everyone I can about the dangers and hazards of alcohol. This book has stirred me to realise I have probably neglected my duty of care. I have not even been aware of many of the issues involved. I have not spoken up to inform those people whom I have been responsible for about all the disastrous affects alcohol can cause on individuals, homes and society at large.

So my mission is clear—to share the up-to-date information and scientifically proven dangers of alcohol. Authors John Ashton and Ron Laura have spent 10 years monitoring the social and health impacts of alcohol. *Uncorked!* is based on extensive health and social research studies and clinical and community observation. Besides the impressive yet tragic statistics throughout the book, many stories of personal lives broken or hurt because of alcohol are included. The story of the young girl raped, bruised and battered found on a Sydney rubbish heap beside a stinking toilet, revolted, saddened and angered me. These stories are powerful reminders that the misuse and abuse of alcohol is appalling and costs Australia SA7 billion per year.

The 10 chapters are riveting reading and are supported by impressive current references. *Uncorked!* reveals evidence to show that alcohol is a poison, that alcohol even damages the reproductive system of young adults, it causes brain damage to the foetus, that alcohol causes women and men to be degraded, that alcohol causes most domestic violence, murders, broken bodies and homes. It shows that alcohol and families do not mix.


If we are to be God's messengers and call ourselves Christians, we have a responsibility to be informed and speak up for those who hurt and for those who don't know or care. We are supposed to be



people who are unselfish, demonstrating the attributes of Jesus. *Uncorked!* gives the history of the mechanistic world view that has so permeated our culture. The authors remind us that we need “to become stewards of nature's resources and a caring partner in her life-giving systems. . . . It is only through exercising duty of care as a fundamental principle of society rather than self-interest that sustainable health

and prosperity can be achieved, and the need for alcohol and drugs replaced by the joy of human relationships and love” (page 115).

Ashton and Laura suggest that society can no longer keep the needless pain and suffering of alcohol abuse hidden. Therefore they have suggested strategies society and governments should adopt to make people aware and obligated to respect humanity. Not enough has been said to promote the sense of informed choice that people can make. God has made us with brains that set us apart from the animals, yet we allow them to be damaged until many of us act like animals. It is time to recognise we have a duty of care to our children from the foetus to adulthood and beyond. *Uncorked!* gives us the information and the guidelines to act.

Every school, church and home needs a copy of *Uncorked!* now. This is urgent. 

Uncorked! The Hidden Hazards of Alcohol, by John F Ashton and Ronald S Laura, Signs Publishing Company, 2004, paperback, 136 pages. Available from Adventist Book Centres, price SA24.95; SNZ30.95; K72. Reviewed by Joy Butler.

Just for children



"...Unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain."

Psalm 127:1

A prophetic transposition

Colin Job, Vic

“How would Isaiah vote?” (Feature, October 30) quotes Isaiah 58:6-8 in setting the oppressed free and loose the chains of injustice, and suggests he would vote for social justice. But all the article espouses are left-wing causes, like refugees, Aboriginal reconciliation, the impotent United Nations and Amnesty International. But are there no right wing causes?

With the current state of world politics, perhaps Isaiah would vote informal in Australia, or not bother at all, if voting weren't compulsory. Further, to do good deeds to help the oppressed is not a job for the local charity. Isaiah says your light will break forth like the dawn if you help the hungry. This is a personal decision and lifestyle, not giving money to a charity or writing a letter to Amnesty International or voting one way or another.

Jesus said to go and personally help the weak, poor and distressed (see Matthew 25:31-46). He says to call the maimed, halt and blind (Luke 14:21). It is not a matter of voting for a political party, but going out and doing something constructive. This is what Isaiah means. Jesus spent more time helping and healing than He did preaching, and He never wrote anything.

Stephen Kinkead, NSW

We don't know how—or even if—Isaiah would have voted. But based on my

experience in the welfare industry for 17 years, I suggest, that given Isaiah had (1) more than a superficial understanding of the issues; (2) an understanding that welfare must not create long-term dependency; (3) an understanding that sustainable welfare/charity requires the donor to have sustainable prosperity in addition to the desire; and (4) a choice such as was faced by Australian voters, Isaiah would have voted like most average Australians.

am proud of the students of our school, who have cried out for “the oppressed” and sought justice for others.

Chris Blake, USA

In the still-fresh air I heard the call for justice, mercy and humility from the mouth of RECORD. Would that we could hear the same call from our elected officials in this country, where greed and fear likewise reign.

I suggest . . . Isaiah would have voted like most average Australians.

Reading and doing

Jill Pearce, NSW

I was thrilled to read the editorial highlighting our need, as Christians, to meet social injustice head on and be an example to those around us (“A victory for greed and fear,” October 30).

Students at my school, staff and I have faxed more than 100 letters to the Minister for Immigration seeking her intervention in freeing a Fijian mother and her children presently in detention (“School's caring makes news,” Newsfront, November 13). As a school, we've been praying, asking God's intervention for this family. We praise God, as He has done just that for the children, who are not being sent to Fiji.

We know God is more powerful than any person, institution or government and can use His people to make a difference. I

Failing schools?

Name supplied

It's true that failing schools will not exist as long as we have school leaders and teachers who truly value children and young people (“Failing schools?” Viewpoint, October 16), but how can we ensure this happens?

My teenager came home from an Adventist school, saying, “Our teacher told my class it was the worst to go through the school!” So what happened to the students' self-esteem and feelings of worth? Is this the secure, nurturing environment our schools have to offer?

We need to pray that teachers become wholesome role models for our children and inspire them to learn under their trustworthy leadership.

Go back to the original

Daphne Groom, Qld

Please don't feel bad or embarrassed when it comes to Mother's Day (Letter, October 16). Celebrating Mother's Day in its original form, the point was to wear a flower in honour of your mother, not because you were one. One wore a pink flower if your mother was living and a white one if deceased. This practice applied to both men and women.

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.

Just a coincidence



Volunteers

Youth Pastor—Toowoomba Central church, Qld. Emphasis on youth programs, youth SS leader, Pathfinder counsellor and chaplain, assist in church office work. Term: 10-12 months, commencing asap. Contact Clifton Maberly 0410 663 450; <toowoombacentral@inet.net.au>.

Maths/Chemistry/Physics Teacher—Eden Valley Academy, Thailand. Prefer degree in Maths or Science. Must have teaching experience and be native English speaker. \$4,000 bhat/month. Term: 12-24 months.

Youth minister—Bainbridge SDA church, Northern Ireland. No prior experience needed. High school diploma required. 20 pounds sterling/mth.

Teacher's Aide—Hong Kong Adventist College—18-35 years old. Meals and local travel provided. Experience not required, but must have desire to mingle with young people. Stipend \$800 Hong Kong dollars per month.

Email: <volunteers@adventist.org.au>
For more positions, check the web on <www.adventistvolunteers.org>

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Appreciation

Judd, David and family sincerely thank everyone for their prayers, cards, flowers and expressions of love and encouragement at the passing of their beloved Melva.

Weddings

Bowlin—Hanna. Kyle Sterling Bowlin, son of Thomas and Clare Bowlin (Kansas City, USA), and Jasmine Rebecca Hanna, daughter of Trevor and Julie Hanna (Currumbin Valley, Qld), were married on 1.8.04 in a delightful setting at Fingal Head Beach, NSW. *Adrian Raethel*

Donnelly—Mitchell. Aaron Troy Donnelly, son of Barry and Carol Donnelly (Billinudgel, NSW), and Kate Marie Mitchell, daughter of Trevor Mitchell (Brunswick) and Carole Pyke (Oxenford, Qld), were married on 23.10.04 at the Kingscliff Adventist Community church. *Adrian Raethel*

Holt—Cooper. Darren Peter Holt, son of Malcolm Holt (Adelaide, SA) and Julie Greaves (West Yorkshire, England), and Alisha Leonie Cooper, daughter of Gary Cooper (Kilaben Bay NSW) and Carolyn Hertel (Buttuba), were married on 17.10.04 in the Toronto Adventist church. *Adrian Raethel*

James—Dean. Graham James, son of Terry and Audrey James (Coopers Plains,

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Qld), and Margaret Dean, daughter of Alan Hamilton (Gold Coast) and Shirley MacMillan (NZ), were married on 26.9.04 at the Eight Mile Plains church, Qld.

Lance O'Neill

McElevey—Hicks. Jacob McElevey, son of Michael and Robyn McElevey (Coorabong, NSW), and Janice Hicks, daughter of Ron (Coorabong) and the late Beverley Hicks, were married on 17.10.04 at St Patrick's church, Cessnock.

Mark McNeill

Ross—Robinson. Reginald Glenn Ross, son of Nancy (Gympie, Qld) and the late Reginald Ross, and Rosemary Robinson, daughter of Pastor Lloyd and Alison Robinson (Elanora), were married on 3.10.04 at Burringbar, NSW.

Ernie Krause

Advertisements

Note: Neither the editor, Signs Publishing Company, nor the Seventh-day Adventist Church is responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised. Publication does not indicate endorsement of a product or service. Advertisements approved by the editor will be inserted at the following rates: first 30 words or less, SA44; each additional word, SA2.20. For your advertisement to appear, payment must be enclosed. Classified advertisements in RECORD are available to Seventh-day Adventist members, churches and institutions only. See masthead (page 2) for contact details.

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Positions vacant

▲ **Student Adviser/Recruiter—Avondale College (Coorabong, NSW)** is seeking a Student Adviser/Recruiter for a three-year renewable term. Responsibilities include: assisting in marketing activities within Australia, especially in Adventist and other Christian schools and churches. Essential qualities include: the ability to relate well to young people, a passion for Avondale and Christian education, driver's licence, and experience in marketing or sales. **For further information** contact <www.avondale.edu.au> or Sonya Muhl (02) 4980 2284; email <sonyamuhl@avondale.edu.au>. **Applications in writing** should be forwarded to Sonya Muhl, Human Resources, PO Box 19, Coorabong, NSW 2265, no later than Wednesday, December 8, 2004.

▲ **Principal/Teachers—Bundaberg Adventist Primary School (Qld)** is seeking expressions of interest for the positions of Principal, Teacher and Lower Grades Teacher. The successful applicants will be committed, baptised and practising Seventh-day Adventists. Ideally suited to a husband-and-wife team. This is a growing, well-resourced two-teacher school that enjoys strong support from local churches. Bundaberg is a beautiful city with an agreeable climate, and has some of the best beaches in Queensland nearby. **For further information** contact Elwyn Chery, associate director, on 0414 829 038; or email <echery@adventist.org.au>.

▲ **Sales Representatives—Sanitarium Health Food Company (Sydney, NSW)** is seeking two highly motivated people to join their NSW sales team. One is a full-time position; the other a maternity leave position up to 12 months duration, commencing February 7, 2005. The successful applicants will require: sound negotiation and interpersonal skills; a high level of self-motivation and dedication; the ability to work quickly, with attention to detail; computer literacy; and a current driver's licence. **Applications in writing** should be forwarded to Group Human Resources, Sanitarium, Locked Bag 7, Central Coast Mail Centre, NSW 2252; fax (02) 4348 7610; or email <humanresources@sanitarium.com.au>.

▲ **Marketing Communications Manager—Sydney Adventist College (Sydney, NSW)** is seeking a Marketing Communications Manager, preferably with three+ years experience in a marketing or related role and be degree qualified, with a business degree (marketing major) or BA (communications). The successful applicant will also possess well developed communication and project management skills, high level analytical and strategic skills, drive and enthusiasm, and a strong spiritual commitment. **For further information** contact Barry Wright (02) 9764 3200; <wrightb@sac.nsw.edu.au>. **Applications in writing** should be forwarded to 159 Albert Road, Strathfield, NSW 2135.

▲ **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>.

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>.

Bowen (Qld)—best of busy and beach—deceased estate, quiet, 7.5 fertile acres, fruit trees, 2 dams, 2 bores, col-droom, 3-bay shed, 2 unique homes. A-framed "swiss chalet," handcrafted staircases, window hoods, boxes and shutters. SA425,000. (07) 4785 2456; email <itt_tait@hotmail.com>.

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Wallsend (NSW) Pathfinder Club celebrates 50 years on December 11. They would appreciate donations of memorabilia, photos etc. Loans will be looked after. Contact Tony Williams (02) 4971 1399. Morning investiture, lunch, afternoon program 3 pm. All welcome.

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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.

For sale—quantity of E G White books and Bible Commentary. Excellent condition. SA400. Phone (02) 6582 6673.

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A working holiday at Avondale.

Avondale College is seeking tradesmen (carpenters, painters, etc) who are willing to volunteer for a working holiday at the college this summer from January 9-21. Free accommodation and meals. For more information contact Allen Steele, assistant to the president at (02) 4980 2294; or allen.steele@avondale.edu.au.

Giant book sale. Why should you come? See last week's big advertisement. 4000 bargain books, plus, plus. Nunawading church, Central Road, Nunawading, tomorrow, November 28, 11 am-3 pm. Proceeds church building fund.

Adventist Singles Network

Collaroy Beach Retreat Convention

"Come alive in 2005"

Dec 30—Jan 3

Don't miss this!

\$260 paid in full by Dec 1
\$275 thereafter

Includes bus trip/Harbour Bridge walk

Applications
phone (02) 9874 9500

Medical Missionary Course

Accredited, Austudy approved. Includes Bible ministry, natural health and Diploma of Community Education. To obtain details contact: Administrator, Medical Missionary Training Institute, 1 Fryers Road, Herveys Range, North Qld 4817; phone (07) 4778 0000; fax (07) 4778 0077; or email <mmti@tpg.com.au>.

BA communication at Avondale.

Choose from these specialised tracks: public relations, writing, broadcast media. Australian students qualify for FEE-Help. More information? Email <enquiries@avondale.edu.au>.

Allround Travel, Qld—specialists in individual and group travel, domestic or international. Fax or email your requirements for a competitive quote. Contact Anita or Debbie on (07) 5530 3555; email <alltrav@bigpond.net.au>; fax (07) 5530 3846.

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>.**

Rawson's Retreat. Private camping/caravan park on the shores of Lake Hume, 40 mins from Albury, NSW. Smoke-, drug- and alcohol-free. Peaceful, natural bush setting, on-site vans also available. (02) 6020 2010.

Wanted—house to sit or rent for six (6) months, eastern side of Melbourne, from 23/12/04. Couple. (679) 332 1711; <ralsop@adventist.org.fj>.

Finally

All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men should do nothing.