

RECORD



Church considers proposals to facilitate mission

Wahroonga, NSW

Proposals to streamline church structure and release more resources for mission were presented to the South Pacific Division (SPD) executive committee's year-end meetings, held November 16-18.

A committee has been established to review SPD departments and services "to determine the most effective means of assisting the church in the South Pacific Division to fulfil its mission."

"The review of our departments and services follows on from one the worldwide church took recently," says SPD president Pastor Laurie Evans. "The committee's purpose is to ensure we're operating as efficiently as we can and deploying our resources—human and financial—in the most profitable way to further the mission of the church."

The review committee—including representatives of administrators from the SPD, union conferences and one local conference, other church employees and church members—will consult with the departments and services under review and more widely.

Pastor Evans also presented a "Division Session Discussion Proposal" to committee members. "We've released the paper now to capitalise on the growing awareness of session," Pastor Evans explains. "What better time to focus on the time and cost it takes to hold a session?"

Presently, the SPD is the only one of the 13 world divisions that holds regular division sessions and such sessions do not fit with the structure of church governance of the worldwide church. According to the discussion paper, dispensing with sessions would save an

estimated \$A800,000 every five years.

The discussion paper suggests the SPD officers and executive committee be appointed by SPD delegates at General Conference sessions, with departmental leaders elected and reports delivered to the first meeting of the newly appointed executive committee.

The proposal will be discussed further, before being considered at the SPD session to be held in Melbourne, beginning August 30 next year.

"We need to ensure we're operating as efficiently as we can and accept the way we've done things in the past is not necessarily the best for the future," says Pastor Evans.

Restructure pays dividends

And committee members have received evidence such initiatives can make a difference. Funding for mission has increased almost 50 per cent since the restructure of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific. It now totals almost \$A15 million. Treasurer Rod Brady released the figures in his year-end report.

Support for expatriates in the Pacific islands has increased by more than \$A2 million since the church's most recent session in 2000. And the money granted from the church to its Pacific island-based union missions has increased by almost \$A2.5 million.

"The mission areas of our church have experienced extreme financial difficulties over the past five years," says Mr Brady in his report. "One can only contemplate what would have happened if additional resources had not gone to the Pacific."

The SPD voted to change its administrative structure in 2000, reducing the number of its unions from five to four.

See RECORD, November 20, for the full treasurer's report.—**Nathan Brown/
Brenton Stacey**



Reports note challenges from Year of Evangelism success

Wahroonga, NSW

An estimated 14,000 people will be baptised in the South Pacific Division (SPD) as a direct result of Year of Evangelism initiatives in 2004, according to reports presented to the year-end SPD executive committee meeting.

Presenting an overview of Year of Evangelism activities, Pastor Anthony Kent, secretary of the SPD Ministerial Association, noted some challenges arising out of this success.

The first challenge from the Year of Evangelism is the nurture of new members. Pastor Kent said the primary aim is to engage new members with local church congregations. "We are inviting church members who are nurture oriented to take the initiative to connect with new members," he said.

This focus is being taken up by the

Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM), which has designated 2005 as a year of nurture. PNGUM president Pastor Thomas Davai reports there are more than 10,000 to be followed up, with thousands more yet to be identified.

"We plan to hold more than 20 major camp-meetings next year, targeting each of the provinces of Papua New Guinea," says Pastor Davai. "We will invite all the interests from this year's evangelism programs. We will also invite the evangelists who have presented programs this year to return but with a different approach, to grow these people in their Christian life and prepare them for baptism."

While this may represent something of a change in emphasis, church leaders also reminded committee members that evangelism is ongoing, not limited to a designated year. "After a year of special

focus, maintaining momentum can be an issue," commented Pastor Kent.

He highlighted two new projects. In the near future, the Institute of Public Evangelism, of which Pastor Kent is director, will launch a new prophecy seminar, co-authored by Dr Jon Paulien of Andrews University (USA) and Dr Graeme Bradford of Avondale College. And planning has begun for a new evangelistic video series to be produced in 2006.

Pastor Chester Stanley, president of the Australian Union Conference, also sees that the success of intentional evangelism should encourage continued outreach. Noting a 20 per cent increase in baptisms in Australia this year as compared with previous years, Pastor Stanley reflected, using analogy from Jesus' words, "If you go fishing, there are fish out there to be caught." —**Nathan Brown**

President reflects on year-end meetings

Wahroonga, NSW

Church president Pastor Laurie Evans describes the agenda of the South Pacific Division (SPD) executive committee's year-end meetings as "one of the most significant in decades."

Pastor Evans noted the need for "comprehensive communications plans" in relation to agenda items such as the possible sale of the Manly flats and the abolition of the division session. "I hope church members, once they understand the intent of our actions, see the wisdom of these decisions," he comments. "I hope they recognise if we're serious about mission, and if we want to complete the task assigned to

us, these actions are compatible with what we claim to be on about."

One of the devotionals during the meetings featured a DVD of Dr Tony Campolo speaking at the first International Conference on Adventists in the Community. Pastor Evans explains: "Dr Campolo moved us out of our comfort zone to think of what it means to serve as Jesus served. We must take Dr Campolo's challenge seriously. Where do we stand on the big issues such as the environment and poverty? What is our response to these and other such issues?"

The meetings also focused on the SPD's contribution to the worldwide church. "I'm

becoming more aware of the need for Adventists in the South Pacific to commit more fully to the worldwide work of our church," says Pastor Evans. "I think a spirit of independence has developed unconsciously in this region over time, to the detriment of other qualities."

So what does mission mean to Pastor Evans? "Mission to me means witness and outreach. And it means nurture—caring for the welfare and spiritual wellbeing of church employees and members." —**Brenton Stacey**



Pastor Laurie Evans.



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

These meetings occur twice a year to overview the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its activities, providing a forum for nominated members across the South Pacific to contribute to policy and future direction.

● Two Adventist churches in Australia will receive **grants** this year **to help construct** new worship **buildings**. **Caloundra** in Queensland and **Wangaratta** in Victoria (pictured below, before extension work began) will receive **\$A30,000** and **\$A20,000 respectively** from the Church Building Grants Reserve of the South Pacific Division (SPD). The church's executive committee gives the grants to local churches in, alternatively, Australia and New Zealand each year.



● The Seventh-day Adventist Church will encourage its **young adults to present full-scale, doctrinal evangelistic series** over the next two years. The aim of its **Elijah Project** is to involve 100,000 young adults in 10,000 series worldwide.



Pastor **Mark Finley**, director of the church's Centre for Global Evangelism and speaker and director of the Adventist media ministry *It Is Written*, launched the project at the church's Annual Council in October. "The issue is not the number of people we will reach, but the number of youth who are involved," he said. The Australian Union Conference and the New Zealand Pacific Union will adopt the Elijah Project as the focus for youth evangelism in 2005, but will adapt some of the resources.

Communicator remembered

Members of the South Pacific Division's executive committee put aside church business to remember the life of a long-serving communicator.

They recorded as their first action an official message of condolence to the family of Pastor Kevin Townend, the former operations manager at Adventist Media who died on November 12 after a long battle with cancer.

The committee members then adjourned for an hour the next day to attend Pastor Townend's memorial service, held at the Wahroonga church on November 17.

Pastor Townend began his ministry in South Australia in 1972. He served the church in Western Australia and in Tasmania before receiving a call to Adventist Media as principal of the then Bible School and as production superintendent in November 1986.

He is survived by his wife, Julie, and children, Shaun and Carla.—**Brenton Stacey**



● The SPD's executive committee voted to accept the **resignation of Dr Lester Devine** who will step down as director of the Ellen G White Estate next year. He is retiring after 39 years of denominational service.

● Another resignation the committee voted to accept is that of **Warren Jones** (pictured, right) who has retired from his position as general manager of **Signs Publishing Company** because of deteriorating health. Members of the executive committee voted **Glen Reed** (pictured, left) as Mr Jones's replacement. Mr Reed is currently the project manager for Signs.



● A mission emphasis of the year-end meetings was the receipt of **reports** from each of the SPD's institutions focusing on **ethos and mission**—how they uphold and contribute to the mission of the church. These reports were received from Sydney Adventist Hospital, the Adventist Media Centre, Avondale College, Pacific Adventist University and Sanitairum Health Food Company, and will be shared in **RECORD** next year.

● Reports and responses from the **International Faith and Science Conferences** of 2002–04 were received and acknowledge by the SPD's executive committee. The document strongly **affirms the church's "historic,**

biblical position of belief in a literal, recent, six-day Creation" and urges church leaders to develop education for church members regarding issues involved in the doctrine of creation.

● The **South Queensland Conference** has voted to assist the **Papua New Guinea Union Mission** (PNGUM) send an additional delegate to the General Conference session. **Jocabed Geita will attend the session** in St Louis, Missouri, USA, thanks in part to a **\$A3000 donation** from the conference. President Pastor Neil Watts says, "We're a blessed conference in comparison with others. So, when we heard the Papua New Guinea Union Mission did not have enough money to send all its delegates to session, we thought we'd pitch in to help." The PNGUM will meet the remainder of Mrs Geita's travel and accommodation costs.

—**This page compiled by Brenton Stacey and Nathan Brown.**



Church may sell Manly flats

Wahroonga, NSW

The Seventh-day Adventist Church may sell a property in the Sydney beachside suburb of Manly it uses to offer holiday accommodation for employees and members.

The South Pacific Division (SPD) has been considering the possible sale of the property, called Woodburn, for some time. Members of the division executive committee voted to approve the possible sale after receiving a report from the church's property development officer during their year-end meetings.

The report recommended selling the property based on the following factors:

1. Maximising resources for the mission of the church. The report reminds members of the executive committee that as stewards of the church's assets, they have a responsibility to ensure the church is using its assets for maximum benefit. "The ongoing benefits for the church and its mission will be greater than passively



The Woodburn flats in the Sydney suburb of Manly may be sold following a decision of the year-end meeting of the South Pacific Division's executive committee.

holding this property," it states. The income from the property has been just sufficient to cover expenses with a surplus of only \$A2,000 last financial year. It is anticipated that by the careful use of the proceeds, more than \$A600,000 will be available annually to be used to advance the mission of the church.

2. Comparatively few of the church's

360,000 members in the South Pacific can access the eight units available on the property, meaning only a small portion will ever benefit from the accommodation.

3. Over time, zoning changes are limiting the development potential of the property.

While living, Emma Stewart donated Woodburn to the church in 1949. The legally prepared gift of deed states that the purpose of the gift was to "aid and forward the work of the denomination." A copy of the deed of gift and supporting information was supplied to each committee member. The committee

action set a minimum price for which the property can be sold, gives the executive committee the power to approve any sale contract, and states the church must use the money from the sale to "aid and forward the work of the denomination."

The committee is anxious to preserve the proceeds and invest it to provide an ongoing additional income stream. An opportunity is currently available to invest in commercial property that will be rented to Sanitarium at commercial rates.

The executive committee has asked the church to show the additional income resulting from the investment as a separate line item in annual budgets. The committee will have full discretion over the manner in which the church uses the funds. The church will also study the possibility of using some of the funds for the "nurture and support" of its employees.

Discussion following the tabling of the report lasted about two hours.

"I was gratified with the outcome," says committee chair and SPD president Pastor Laurie Evans. "I see the possible sale as an opportunity to turn a gift given clearly to 'aid and forward the work of denomination' into a more significant asset that will help the church achieve this purpose. The decision is a much wiser way to manage this valuable gift."—**ANN South Pacific**

SPD tweaks legal structures

Wahroonga, NSW

The South Pacific Division (SPD) continues to adapt its legal structure to the changing legal environment and to meet new charitable, corporate and tax laws. Following votes by the SPD executive committee, the church will establish three further incorporated entities to care for: (1) the functions of the SPD outside of Australia, including the support of expatriate staff and overseas sustentees; (2) the functions of the services of the SPD, including Risk Management Service and SPD Travel; and (3) the functions of the financial services of the SPD, including the Central Banking System and the role of trustee for employee entitlements and for sustentation reserves.

These entities will begin trading after July 1 next year subject to the SPD's executive committee approving their constitutions. The SPD executive committee will continue as an unincorporated entity with the power to appoint company members.

Members of the committee also voted to restructure the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in the South Pacific. The plan approved by the committee will replace the Papua New Guinea board of management and the church department in the Trans-Pacific Union Mission with two incorporated entities.

A licensing agreement will be entered into between each of the entities and the SPD with respect to the use the name "ADRA." The work of ADRA in the region will be coordinated through a committee, appointed by the division executive.—**Brenton Stacey**

The place of politics and activism

Mary Corby, Qld

I couldn't understand the editorial, "A victory for greed and fear," and feature, "How would Isaiah vote?" of October 30. It seems to me that because the Federal election vote did not go the writers' way, it was all wrong. Every country is only as good as its economy, just as it's also important for the church, which is always asking for money in order to fulfil its social and ministry obligations.

Steve Goods, WA

Thanks for recent editorials that confront my middle-class values. The humble carpenter from Galilee, on my reading of the Gospel accounts, would have some pretty hard things to say to me personally and to my church. It is very true that consumerism is one of the greatest risks to out lifestyle, our world and our souls.

I commend you for having the courage to say some things that I don't always like to hear, but do resonate as "present truth" and that may have more to do with the final judgment when Jesus gathers those on his left and right.

John Cunningham, NSW

I agree with John Ralston (Letters, November 20). The inclusion of editorials and articles of a political nature in RECORD is inappropriate, unwise and divisive.

They are also evidence of a trend in our church toward social activism, which will take us down the same path as other denominations majoring on social justice issues to the detriment of the gospel.

We even have a social justice network actively recruiting among our membership and encouraging participation in political protests and forming alliances with other social activist groups. The inevitable outcome of political activism is to increase the power of government.

A more responsible editorial posture would oppose rather than encourage a political emphasis.

I commend you for having the courage to say some things that I don't always like to hear.

Questioning diversity?

Bruce Sherman, NNZ

Is diversity to be relegated to the scrap heap? Is celebrating diversity promoting racism? John Wallace's letter (November 6) contains thoughts possibly extracted from an article titled "Diversity and Multiculturalism: The New Racism," which is about *ethnic* diversity. While the article and what Wallace are presenting may or may not be true, it is not the church's main concern.

Biblical unity in diversity is an Adventist belief not to be confused with worldly ideas of unity in diversity. It is in Scripture, the Spirit of Prophecy and also *Seventh-day*

Adventists Believe . . . (see chapter 13, especially pages 172, 173, 210, 212).

Unity in diversity is seen in the creature kingdoms (especially pre-Fall), Adam and Eve, and between the Creator and His children. While sin marred much of that unity, the gospel can again bring unity in diversity. In the New Testament Paul reveals that spiritual gifts were given to bring unity in diversity to the body of Christ (see Ephesians 4:3-14; 1 Corinthians 12:1-28).

True Christians can unify, though diverse in race, background and social standing, in Jesus. Racism and class distinction is devilish.

Let us celebrate that the gospel has brought again unity in diversity. But rather than celebrating diversity, let us live the unity in diversity that Jesus prayed for in John 17:20-23.

Stars in my crown?

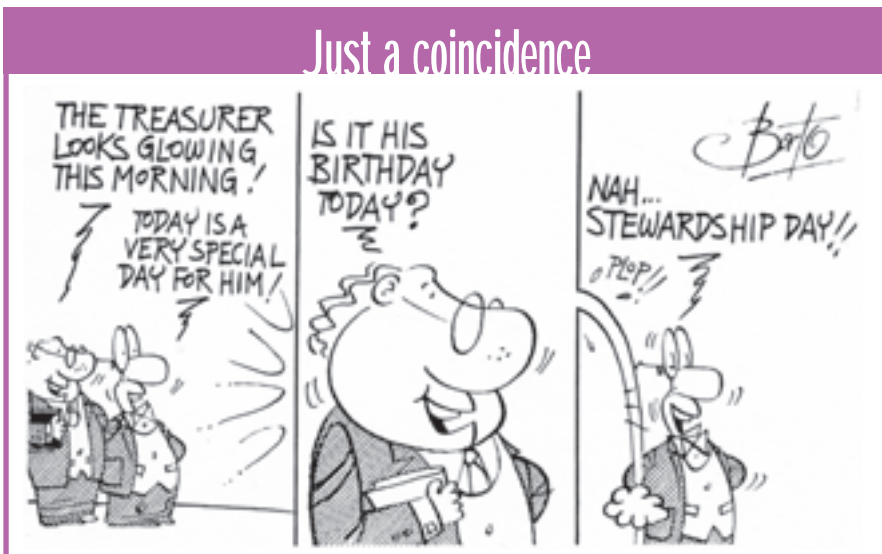
George Schipke, Qld

The article "Stars in my crown?" (Feature, November 6) questioned the basis for and origins of the concept of having "stars" in one's crown in heaven.

Ellen White makes additional reference to this in *Early Writings*, in a record of what she saw in her very first vision.

She says: "We all entered the cloud together, and were seven days ascending, to the sea of glass, when Jesus brought the crowns, and with His own right hand placed them on our heads. He gave us harps of gold and palms of victory. Here on the seas of glass the 144,000 stood in a perfect square. Some of them had very bright crowns, others not so bright. Some crowns appeared heavy with stars, while others had but few. All were perfectly satisfied with their crowns" (*Early Writings*, page 16).

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

Amos—Quinn. Glendyn Amos, son of Colin and Helen Amos (Hamilton, NZ), and Lisa Quinn, daughter of Gordon Quinn and Diane Mitchell (Murwillumbah, NSW), were married on 24.10.04 at South Tweed Heads, NSW. *Clive Butcher*

Butcher—Ferguson. Troy Butcher, son of Peter and Leonie Butcher (Cooranbong, NSW), and Leandah Ferguson, daughter of Gloria (Cooranbong) and the late Grant Ferguson, were married on 12.9.04 at Avondale Memorial church, Cooranbong. *Mark McNeill*

Crabtree—Dennis. Clinton Lewin Crabtree, son of Geoffrey Crabtree (Alice Springs, NT) and Lorraine Hudson (Qld), and Sandie Marie Dennis, daughter of Roderick and Sharon Dennis (Morayfield), were married on 17.10.04 at Walkabout Creek, The Gap. *Barry Crabtree*

Foster—Watson. Michael Garry Foster, son of Robert and Mirene Foster (Purlewaugh, NSW), and Marianne Ellen Watson, daughter of Ian and Barbara Watson (Bugaldie), were married on 19.9.04 in the Baptist church, Hinton. *Alan Saunders*

Makiiti—Wilson. Utai Makiiti (Cook Islands) and Janelle Wilson (Lord Howe Island) were married on 24.10.04 at the Lord Howe Island Adventist church. *Ken Hisco*

Trost—Dudek. Steven John Trost, son of Raymond and Adele Trost (Gatton, Qld), and Patricia (Trish) Dudek, daughter of Hedwig Dudek (Qld), were married on 12.9.04 in the Uniting church, Nerang. *Barry Crabtree*

Walker—Jozi. David Alan Walker, son of Alan (Bairnsdale, Vic) and the late Kathleen Walker, and Christina Jozi, daughter of Bassima (Vancouver, Canada) and the late Jacob Jozi, were married on 19.10.04 at the Emmanuel Pentecostal church, New Westminster, British Columbia. *Jim Gaul*

Obituaries

Bujor, George, born 7.7.1929 in Romania; died 30.9.04 in Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, Vic. In 1957 he married Joan. He was predeceased by his son, Paul. He is survived by his wife (Chadstone); and his children, Michael (Malvern) and Sharon (Lysterfield). George was a gentle and caring man; appreciated for his commitment to the Glenhantly church. He was also a loving husband and father and will be sadly missed. *John Baron*

Hold, Nora, born 28.11.1911 in Birmingham, England; died 11.8.04 at Toowoomba, Qld. She is survived by her children, Joyce, Thelma, Gloria and Mervyn. Nora was known for her pleasant, cheerful nature, hospitality and strong faith in God. She was much loved by all who knew her. She rests in the certain hope she had in the great resurrection day. *David Stojic*

Marr, Frederick William, born 5.5.1927 at Paeroa, NZ; died 11.9.04 at home in Auckland. On 18.7.50 he married Daphne Smith. He is survived by his wife; and his daughters, Susanne Smith (both of Auckland), Rosalie Brens (Palmerston North) and Margaret Parlane (Feilding). Fred was a quiet-natured, humble gentleman who enjoyed helping others; a big man with a big heart. *Kendell Cobbin*

Advertisements

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▲ **Senior Accountant—North New South Wales Conference (Newcastle, NSW)** is seeking a full-time Senior Accountant. The successful applicant will have a degree or other appropriate qualification in business or accounting and be a practising Seventh-day Adventist. **For further information** contact Russell Halliday on <rhalliday@adventist.org.au> or phone (02) 4951 8088. **Applications in writing** (including CV and the names of three references) should be forwarded to the General Secretary, North New South Wales Conference, PO Box 7, Wallsend, NSW 2287, no later than January 10, 2005.

▲ **Bus Operations Manager, Brisbane Adventist College—South Queensland Conference** is seeking a full-time Bus Operations Manager to maintain and operate the bus fleet in consultation with the school principal and conference chief financial officer, effective January 2005. The successful applicant will be a practising member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; possess appropriate mechanical qualifications and driving certification suitable for heavy vehicles; and have experience in the repair and maintenance of buses. **Applications in writing** should be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer, South Queensland Conference, 19 Eagle Terrace, Brisbane, Qld 4000, no later than Thursday, December 23, 2004.

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1905–2005—Wahroonga Adventist School is celebrating 100 years of education and service. We would like to invite any past pupils, teachers or principals to attend the 100 year reunion of Wahroonga Adventist School. **May 20**—Friday evening vespers. **May 21**—Sabbath centenary church service. Sabbath afternoon program and unveiling of the centenary pathway (order your bricks now!). **May 22**—centenary fair. It is important for you to register your details, so contact us now! Wahroonga Adventist School, 189 Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga, NSW 2076; phone (02) 9487 2100; fax (02) 9487 3403; email <info@wahroonga.adventist.edu.au>.

Adventist Singles Network (NSW)—Collaroy Beach Retreat Convention. "Come alive in 2005." December 30 to January 3. Don't miss this! SA260 paid in full by December 1. SA275 thereafter. Includes bus trip/Harbour Bridge walk. Applications phone (02) 9874 9500.

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>.

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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>.

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