

# RECORD



The South Pacific Division youth congress was opened on December 30 by the Fijian prime minister, with an introduction to the culture of Fiji and the South Pacific.

## SPD youth congress pledges "sorovaki"

Suva, Fiji

The first South Pacific Division (SPD) youth congress to be held outside Australia and New Zealand attracted 1800 young people from more than 15 countries to Suva, Fiji, from December 30 to January 4. The congress celebrated the diversity of cultures from across the South Pacific, introduced many young people to small-group ministry and included a focus on service to others.

A traditional Fijian welcoming ceremony, Saturday night's cultural concert featuring more than 500 performers from 11 countries and the interaction between different cultures throughout the congress program were highlights of the cultural exchange that took place at the congress. Dr Erika Puni, SPD director of stewardship, Sabbath school and personal ministries, hosted the cultural night and led a teaching session on Christianity and culture. "We need to understand, appreciate and perpetuate what is best in each of our cultures," says Dr Puni. "It's not the differences we celebrate. Instead, we are celebrating our oneness in terms of creation and at the same time seeing the beauty of that creation."

According to Pastor Gilbert Cangy, SPD director of youth ministries, one of the purposes of such a congress is to give young people a bigger view of the church. "A youth congress helps to create a sense of belonging to a large movement," he says. *(Continued on page 3)*

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Prophecy seminar available online

Children learn about Communion



## SPD's new web site

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- *EHSM mini health congress*
- *Sanitarium dragon-boat team three-time winners*
- *SAC French students visit New Caledonia*

● The Greater Sydney Conference has launched **Prophecy Seminar Online** at <[www.prophecyseminaronline.com](http://www.prophecyseminaronline.com)>. Users can register as a student and go through **32 lessons** at their own pace. A simple quiz is included at the end of each lesson to help students remember the key points of the lesson. The site is equipped with **study tools**, including online Bible-verse references, a Bible-search



facility and an experienced instructor is available to answer questions about course topics via email. The service is **hoped to be helpful** in reaching those with limited mobility or in regional areas, are frequent travellers or are not initially comfortable studying in a group or within a church environment.—*Intrasyd*

● The Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission (EHSM) recently held a **mini health congress** hosted by the Adventist Health Department of EHSM with the theme "Health is wealth." Some **1600 people** attended the congress as delegates. All districts of the EHSM were represented,

## ADRA's Angels' money-tin mission

In just three hours on New Year's Eve, ADRA's Angels raised \$NZ950.

Three Invercargill, NZ, women (pictured, L-R: Maxine Hill, Lorraine Little and Leslea Matsis) went on a pub crawl, not to celebrate, but to collect funds for the Asian tsunami disaster.

Maxine Hill had planned to travel to Thailand with her Thai homestay student Kik Luangrungrat, who was returning home after living with Mrs Hill and her family for four years while studying.

Kik is from northern Thailand, but the pair planned to travel to Phuket before Mrs Hill changed her mind just weeks earlier.

Mrs Hill says she came up with the idea of doing a donation-seeking pub crawl in Invercargill during New Year's Eve celebrations for victims of the earthquake-triggered tsunami.

"I was writing the cheque and I thought, *Is this all my life is worth?* I felt quite ashamed," she says.

The following day they petitioned members of the local church to dig deep into their hearts and pockets, and raised a further \$NZ1721.75. The total of \$NZ3379.70 collected will become \$NZ6759.40 with the NZ Government's dollar-for-dollar policy.—*Cherie Howie*



with the highest representation of 200 coming from Yonki. The 14 presenters spoke throughout the week-long congress



on **four important health types**: mental, social, physical and spiritual.—*Gad Koito*

● What do you get if you combine a **dragon boat**, water plus a team of Sanitarium workers? **Weet-Bix Warriors**, a team recipe so good it has now produced its third consecutive dragon-boat race win. Organised by the West Lake Macquarie Support Group, the fundraising event, on Lake Macquarie, NSW, **raised \$A6000** to help keep the Westpac rescue helicopter up and going. Out of the



spread of competitors the Wyee Rural Fire Service tried to mar mighty Weet-Bix Warriors serial wins, but the Sanitarium team's **20 paddlers, drummer and helmsman's** good start helped them claim a narrow victory.—

*Lake Macquarie News/Scott Wegener*

● The Year 10 **French students of Sydney Adventist College** flew to **New Caledonia** for an excursion of a lifetime. Staying in Noumea, the capital, students **practised their French** through many different situations and experiences, including shopping, ordering French food and worshipping.—*Intrasyd*



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**know**  
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our hope in Jesus Christ!

# SPD youth congress pledges “sorovaki”

(Continued from page 1)

“Ultimately, our goal is to inspire and challenge Adventist young adults to form a dynamic, living relationship with Jesus.

“Our specific objective was for young people to declare *sorovaki*—total allegiance—to God that would translate into a life of service beyond the congress, and we were delighted to see people respond to specific calls to full-time pastoral ministry, small-group ministry, volunteer service, teaching and medical ministry and involvement in their local churches.”

As well as influencing significant life decisions, this commitment also had a practical focus during congress. Congress participants were divided into small groups, which met each morning to discuss issues, build relationships and consider the challenge of service to others.

For Pastor Cangy, these groups—or *sorovaki* clans—were a highlight of the congress. “This was the realisation of a dream that had the potential of being disastrous,” he says. “This event has been another milestone in injecting small-group ministry into the DNA of this generation of Adventist young people.”

Continuing the community focus of congress, each afternoon more than 400 young people participated in a service project in central Suva, picking up rubbish as part of a project with the Suva City Council.

“A lot of people coming to Fiji, particularly from Australia and New

Zealand, were almost more interested in what service opportunities we could give them rather than the congress itself,” Pastor Cangy reports. “We have seen a change in the attitudes of our young people with a greater focus on service. That was confirmed by the fact that the weather did not deter people from participation in the project to clean up Suva. That opportunity was important to our program.”

The congress also had a wider impact on the Fijian community, attracting local media attention and visitors. Congress organisers opened the meetings to an estimated 500 people from the community each evening.

For Pastor Tom Osborne, president of the 23,000-member Fiji Mission, the Fiji youth congress was also the realisation of a dream. He first suggested Fiji host a SPD youth congress more than eight years ago. “Our church members are proud that Fiji could be of service in helping stage such a major event.”

Pastor Osborne says the Fiji church wanted to “share an island experience with our brothers and sisters from Australia and New Zealand. It also gives the young people of Fiji the opportunity to attend a congress without coming up with the large airfares, which is a major obstacle,” he explains.

Pastor Osborne also sees ongoing benefits for the Adventist Church in Fiji. “This event helps establish the Fijian church as a church that is interested in young people,” he says. “It will create an awareness among government ministries that the church is a holistic church; not only does it have a worship component, but it also has a ministry component that is interested in the day-to-day issues in Fiji. This is a church that does not only preach—but walks the talk.”

Division youth leadership also expressed their appreciation to the congress hosts. “We could not have done it without the local people,” says Pastor Andrew Kingston, who is returning to local church ministry



Nightly instalments of a serial drama brought to life the Bible story of Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel and God at the SPD youth congress.

and was honoured at the congress for his contribution as associate SPD youth director. “They have the commitment and the local networks—their contribution has been huge.”

According to congress speaker Dr Emil Peeler, the youth congress experience was a blessing to him. “It has been good,” he says. “It has been phenomenal meeting the young people and youth leaders in this region.

“Seeing the varied cultures of young people praising God, sharing their different ideas of what their culture and faith mean has been inspiring,” he adds. “The blood that binds us is thicker than the water that divides us.”

Dr Peeler sees the congress as a positive contribution to the church in the South Pacific. “I think this is a wonderful base for the future of this church, coming together and celebrating what we have in common.”

—Nathan Brown



Youth congress participants joined in a campaign to collect rubbish in central Suva.



The 14 Kiribati representatives—some of whom are pictured performing a “welcome dance”—travelled by boat for seven days from Kiribati to Fiji via Tuvalu to attend congress. “The journey here was difficult,” said Pastor Kabwata Toakai, the Kiribatian youth leader. “But being here was worth it. It has been good. This is the largest group Kiribati has ever had at a youth congress.”

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# SPD launches new web site—stage 1



Wahroonga, New South Wales

The South Pacific Division (SPD) has launched stage one of its new web site. Targeted toward the general community, <adventist.org.au> introduces them to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific.

“Our aim has been to create a web site that has the potential to change misconceptions about Seventh-day Adventists,” says Jeanelle Isaacs, electronic media assistant to the SPD Communication Department. “As such, the web site provides an overview of our beliefs and services using language free of jargon and a contemporary design.”

The site has been redesigned to focus largely on the services the church provides to the community. The new web site has an easy-to-use interface, a new navigational system and a contemporary design.

“We hope to provide church members with an accessible resource so they can share who they are, and what the church does, with their non-Adventist friends,” says Bruna Tawake, SPD director of communication and public relations.

The launch has been actively promoted to various community groups such as health professionals, other Christians and educational institutions.

“The feedback we received when we first launched the web site helped us shape the web site to what it is now,” says Ms Tawake. “This is a work in progress. Visit <adventist.org.au> and let us know what you think.”

Stages two and three, which will provide specific information for church members and church employees respectively, will be launched later in the year.—**Melody Tan**

## Children learn about and take part in Communion

Palmerston North, North New Zealand

One Friday night at Palmerston North, NNZ, children between the ages of five and 12 years took part in a children’s agape feast and Communion service, designed to teach them the meaning of Communion.

As the children entered the room they took off their shoes and the letter “S” was painted on in black face paint—representing sin that would later be washed away. A welcome, prayer and songs were followed by the Lego Communion program (Flashpoint, August 14, 2004). “The children were engrossed,” says Tina Larsen, a Palmerston North church member.

“After a personal story from Pastor Lindsey Wells, Pastor Anton Van Wyk explained why we wash feet and talked about Bible times,” she reports. “The Sabbath school teachers and pastors then proceeded to wash the children’s feet, followed by the children washing each other’s feet.”

Pastors Wells and Van Wyk talked about the symbolic meaning of the bread and wine, which the children then partook of, and the evening closed with a musical item, prayer and supper.

Some 22 children from Palmerston’s three church services attended. “One of the children was reported to have said the experience was ‘the best night ever,’” says Ms Larsen.

Another event similar to this is planned for the 12- to 16-year-olds early this year.—**Scott Wegener**



A scene from the Lego Communion service that kept the kids glued with interest.



Taking part in the symbolic bread-and-wine ceremony.



Washing the “S,” representing sin, off their feet in a foot-washing service.

## Worship truth

E Everett, NSW

I read with interest the article “The heart of worship” by Neone Okesene (December 4). “Jesus bypassed the *what*, the *when*, the *how* and the *why* of worship to focus on defining the true worshipper,” says Okesene.

I know our relationship to God is all-important to worship, but I also believe how we worship is important. Recognising God’s greatness and holiness, our worship

**I know our relationship to God is all-important to worship, but I also believe how we worship is important.**

should be reverent. Maybe the writer just expected that would be automatic.

I realise that different cultures have different forms of worship, but it is possible to be joyful and reverent at the same time.

## Music and the church

Errol Webster, NSW

I applaud the General Conference for developing guidelines for music (Newsfront, December 4). I agree that “music is not morally and spiritually neutral.”

But it is unfortunate that the word *secular* is used to describe all non-religious music. *Secular* means “worldly,” which the *Encyclopedia of Biblical and Christian Ethics* describes as “a view of life . . . totally of this age, without any vision of eternity.” It says, “The modern West is the first society that knowingly and deliberately organises itself without any meaningful or major reference to a dependence upon the living God” (pages 368-9).

To talk of secular music used for the glory of God is a contradiction—like “Christian atheism”—characteristic of neo-orthodoxy, existentialism and post-modernism. The term “sacred” is used narrowly for religious activity. If everything (work, play, religion) is done for God’s glory (1 Corinthians 10:31), then all of life is an act of worship and sacred. For the Christian, nothing should be secular. To say that “sacred music should not evoke secular associations or invite con-

formity to worldly behavioural patterns of thinking or acting” and yet “secular music . . . can be morally uplifting” and could be legitimate for Christians, is contradictory.

Some non-religious music can be very spiritual, because it speaks to the human condition and expresses the deep longing and cry of the human heart for a transcendent reality (God). Conversely, some religious music can be quite secular, being shallow, subjective and self-focused.

I believe there should be a rethinking of the use of these two terms.

and Lucifer’s evil. We are to be “wise as serpents” when it comes to the devil’s schemes. Even a little research reveals that followers of Lucifer, in the many false religions and systems he has set up, are working hard for the return of the false Christ, aware of how little time is left. It’s only wisdom to be aware of these organisations, so that we don’t inadvertently help their cause.

## A penny for your thoughts

J E Forbes, Vic

Some 20 years ago the church published a paperback called *Unleashed*, which imagined that crises would occur that led the governments to join together in a return to God, appeasing Him by keeping Sunday and, at the same time, due to economic and global crises, demanded people work a six-day week to help humanity. Those who refused to work on the Sabbath were seen to be opposing the good of humanity in its crises.

In response to the recent Asian tsunami, some Adventists have thought such a call to work on the Sabbath legitimate. I feel God’s Word doesn’t change, and we cannot break His commandments, even if it looks good to do so. In the light of Scripture, what do others think?

**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.

Don Madden, NSW

I wish to respond to “Worship music tools” (Letter, January 22), which states that “music is neutral.” I’m sure those who are responsible for movie soundtracks would chuckle at that claim.

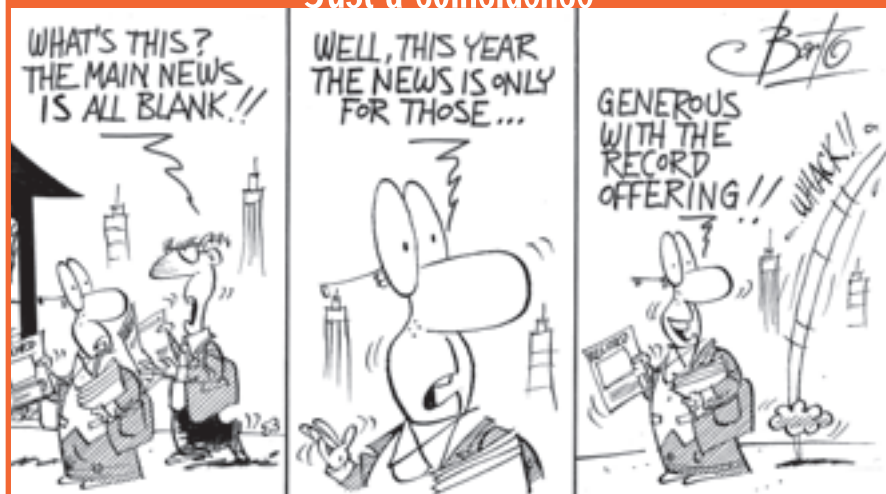
Music isn’t neutral; in fact it’s far from neutral, evoking predictable emotional responses that are consistent across culture, age and gender.

## Facts of the matter

Annette Jones, NSW

In response to the editorial “Anti-paranoia” (January 15), I say conspiracies do exist. The history of earth is the living “great controversy” between God’s good,

## Just a coincidence



## Weddings

**Berthelot—Bourdeau.** Nathan Berthelot, son of Bernard and Janet Berthelot (Adelaide, SA), and Marie-Helene Bourdeau, daughter of Guy Bourdeau (Lacombe, Canada) and Suzanne-Claire Allaire (Ferintosh, Canada), were married on 3.1.05 in the Prospect SDA church, Adelaide, SA. *George Hirst*

**Dever—Fittler.** Dustin Dever, son of Jeff and Shirley Dever (The Basin, Vic), and Amanda Fittler, daughter of Jim and Denise Fittler (Armidale, NSW), were married on 8.1.05 in the Presbyterian Ladies College Chapel, Armidale. *Morrie Krieg*

**Howie—Stefanova.** Brenton John Howie, son of Bruce and Colleen Howie (Sydney, NSW), and Jirina (Angina) Stefanova, daughter of Christina (Pavlikeni, Bulgaria) and the late Stefan Stefanova, were married on 9.1.05 at the Kingscliff Adventist Community church, NSW. *Ian Howie*

**Jaques—Truscott.** Trent Dennett Jaques, son of Dennett and Alison Jaques (Brisbane, Qld), and Naomi Elizabeth Truscott, daughter of Sherrie Smith (Brisbane) and Anthony Truscott (Brisbane), were married on 7.12.04 at The Club House, St Lucia Golf Links, Brisbane. *Jorge Munoz*

**Kieltyka—Bostock.** Douglas James Kieltyka, son of Czeslaw and Janet Kieltyka (Bega, NSW), and Sherryn Nadine Bostock, daughter of Ian and Marilyn Bostock (Wagga Wagga), were married on 9.1.05 in the Wagga Wagga Adventist church, Wagga Wagga. *Lawrence Landers*

**Starling—Rickards.** Jason Paul Starling, son of James and Beverley Starling (Pekin, Illinois, USA), and Kylie Jean Rickards, daughter of Breese and Rosalie Rickards (Cooranbong, NSW), were married on 30.9.04 in the gardens of Kantara House, Avoca. *David Blanch*

## Obituaries

**Ball,** Robert, born 13.9.1933 at Wagga Wagga, NSW; died 4.1.05 at Wagga Wagga. On 27.11.65 he married Joyce Barratt. He is survived by his wife (Wagga Wagga); his daughters, Rosalie Dadon (Sydney) and Christine (Melbourne, Vic). Bob was a warm, friendly, generous person; loved by all who knew him. *Lawrence Landers*

**Fisher,** Hazel Olive, born 31.7.1910 at South Morang, Vic; died 5.1.05 at Healesville. She is survived by her sisters, Ruby Gomersall (Nunawading), Merle Drake (Yarrawonga) and Loris Fisher (Warburton). *Edwin Totenhofer, Eric Kingdon*

**Gerahy,** Beryl May, born 29.12.1925 at North Rocks, NSW; died 12.1.05 in Hawkesbury Hospital, Windsor, after a

long illness. She was predeceased by her husband, John, on 10.6.04. She is survived by her daughter, Kerry Markham (Narooma, NSW); her son, Wayne (Wilberforce); her sister, Netta Akers; her brothers, Stanley and Ron Golby; and her six grandchildren; and one great-grandson. Beryl will be remembered for her service to the youth and her untiring support for the church, especially in raising funds for the building of the present church complex. She was resilient in her faith until the end and assured her visitors at hospital, "It's only a sleep till Jesus comes." *Rein Muhilberg*

**Godena,** Sylvia Gwendolyn (nee Tomlin), born 27.1.1904 at Kalimna, Vic; died 24.12.04 in hospital in Melbourne. In 1937 she married Oliver, who predeceased her. She was also predeceased by her son, Neil; and her stillborn daughter, Valerie. She is survived by her daughter, Marjery Trew (Vic); her son, Leigh Godena (Helensvale, Qld); and her grandchildren. She was baptised by Pastor Llewellyn Jones. *Harold Walrip*

**Hines,** Frederick Harold, born 31.7.1924 at West Wylong, NSW; died 15.1.05 in Latrobe Regional Hospital, Vic. In 1957 he married Helen Harvey. He is survived by his wife (Traralgon); his daughter, Rosemary Waldrip (Gladysdale); his son, Ted (Mirboo North); his sister, Evelyn Cunningham (Galston, NSW); his brothers, Bert (Kangaroo Valley) and Ray (Batemans Bay); his sister, Bernice Hines (Toowoomba, Qld); and his five grandchildren. Fred was a generous, big-hearted Christian and a good student of the Bible. He is sadly missed by his family, Traralgon church family and friends. *Bill Doble, Hank Pitzner*

**Hulls,** Maxwell Frederick, born 27.2.1934 at Bendigo, Vic; died peacefully in his sleep 17.1.05 in Gosford Hospital, NSW, after a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Fran; his children and their spouses, Max and Lynn (Perth, WA), Craig and Sonja, Annette and Mark (all of Cooranbong, NSW); and his seven grandchildren. Max was affectionately known in his family as Poppy Max. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather and a tireless worker for the Lord. Among his several professions he worked as a carpenter and did wonderful work in the refurbishing of the Dora Creek church. He was a godly man who relished the opportunity to be of help to others. He will be very sadly missed by his wife and other family members, also his church family. *Max Hatton, Joe Webb, Mark Venz*

**Livingstone,** Thelma Isabel, born 4.3.1925 in Sydney, NSW; died 9.1.05 in Charles Harrison Memorial Hospital, Cooranbong. She is survived by her husband, Vic; her children and their spouses, David and Grace (Port Macquarie), Ashley and Sharon (Albury), Cheryl Farel and Morris (Perth, WA); and her eight grandchildren. Thelma loved the Lord and was a quiet, patient, very kind person. She will be sadly missed. *Max Hatton*

**Portbury,** Arthur, born 14.8.1912 at Port Melbourne, Vic; died 11.12.04 in Knox Hospital, Wantirna. In 1934 he married Jessie Rowe, who predeceased him in 1995. He was also predeceased by his son, Edward, in 1940. He is survived by his children, Nancy Huffadine (Mittagong, NSW), Joyce Henley (Vermont, Vic) and Geoffrey (Jerilderie, NSW). Arthur was a printer at the Signs Publishing Company for 28 years. He is remembered for doing things with excellence. *Joy Kingdon, Eric Kingdon*

**Saunders,** Pastor Francis (Frank) William, born 10.9.1942 at Mitchell, Qld; died 10.12.04 at Cowra, NSW. In 1969 he married Beryl Richards. He is survived by his wife; his daughter, Traci; his daughter and son-in-law, Kelli and Brian; his siblings and their families. In 1974, while working at a brewery in Adelaide, SA, an evangelist, Geoff Youlden, came to Adelaide. Both he and Beryl were baptised by Pastor Youlden on 16.9.78 at the Queenstown SDA church. He stepped out in faith and started his own taxi truck courier service, which proved very successful. Later, he felt the call to ministry. He graduated from BA theology at Avondale and was posted to Redfern, where he raised up a little Aboriginal church, himself being Aboriginal. "I trust in God" was his motto. *Tom Turner*

**Scofield,** Selwyn Calderwood, born 31.7.1916 in Auckland, NZ; died 19.11.2004 at the Victoria Point Adventist Retirement Village, Brisbane, Qld. In 1953 he married Alison, and in 1956 they were both baptised in the Gisborne church. He is survived by his wife; his daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Peter Wallace (Brisbane); his son and daughter-in-law, Roderick and Liz (Greytown, NZ); and his five grandchildren. From 1940 to 1945 he served with the NZ Armed Forces in Fiji, the Middle East and Italy. He will be remembered as a gentle and kind man who loved serving his Lord, and a loving husband, father and grandfather. *Jorge Munoz*

**Simms,** Sybil May (nee Madden), born 22.8.1925 at Tinga, NSW; died 3.12.04 at Charles Harrison Nursing Home, Cooranbong. On 22.8.46 she married Gerald, on her 21st birthday. She is survived by her husband; her children, Barry and David; and her four grandchildren. Sybil was an active member of the Avondale Memorial church for many years. Her selfless love was seen in the fact that she had cancer for two years but never revealed this to Gerald, for he was too sick with cancer himself. She died expecting the soon return of her Saviour and the resurrection where she would be united with Gerald again. *Wayne French, Jim Beamish*

**Simms,** Gerald Britton, born 24.4.1925 at Wollongong, NSW; died peacefully 10.12.04 at Charles Harrison Nursing Home, Cooranbong. On 22.8.46 he married Sybil Madden. He is survived by his children, Barry and David; and his four grandchildren. During the war he served in the Air Force in Papua New Guinea. He loved his wife and when she died he lost his reason for living and passed away a

week later. He also who stood tall, served faithfully, loved God, his family and also his church family. He was much loved by all and will be greatly missed. *Wayne French, Jim Beamish*

**Smith,** Phyllis Pearl (nee Bedding), born 16.6.1906 at Wombwell, England; died 4.1.05 at Ourimbah, NSW. She was affectionately known as Me Ma to family and friends, and lived on the Central Coast, NSW, most of her life, and was a member of the Ourimbah SDA church. She is survived by her children, Gloria, Elizabeth and Harry; her 15 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren. Sadly missed by family and friends. She rests in the Lord awaiting His imminent return. *Gordon Lee*

**Wheeler,** Ethel Ruth (Mim), born 29.12.1927 at Leadville, NSW; died 26.12.04 at Dubbo. On 28.1.56 she married Max, who predeceased her in 1998. She is survived by her daughters, Susan Trudgett and Joanne Rusling; her sisters, Grace Ferguson (Dubbo) and Betty Clarke (Sydney); her five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Mim was an elegant woman. She cared deeply about people and was kind, gracious, generous and accepting of all. She will be greatly missed. *Lawrence Landers*

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Finally

A zealous preacher with a sense of humour posted this on his office door: "If you have troubles, come in and tell me about them. If not, by all means come in and tell me how you avoid them."

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