

# RECORD

April 16, 2005

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Blossoming



*Avondale College has started this year with its highest ever number of enrolments and a Week of Prayer that saw students and staff sharing many opportunities for prayer and reflection.*



## Rescued after 24 days adrift

## Record enrolment at Avondale College

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

**E**nrolment at Avondale has passed 1000 for the first time in the history of the college. The number of students studying at Avondale this semester is 1040, an increase of 136 over last year and 106 over the previous highest enrolment.

"The record is gratifying because enrolment at other higher education providers in Australia has declined by 10,000 over the past four years while increasing by 25 per cent at Avondale," says Avondale College president Dr John Cox.

Traditionally, increases in enrolment at Avondale have corresponded with significant developments. "We recorded a jump

in student numbers when we first received government accreditation for our degrees in the 1970s," says Dr Cox. "The introduction of FEE-HELP this year, coupled with the quality of our program and the quality of our marketing, is the main reason for the increase this year."

Director of marketing services Glenn Roberts describes the record enrolment as "pleasing" rather than surprising. "We marketed more intensely in 2004 than in any other year since 2000, the year I started," he says. "We knew we couldn't announce information about FEE-HELP, the new visual communication double

*(Continued on page 6)*



Please work in the lives of those who mourn.

# A prayer for Catholic friends

**O**UR FATHER IN HEAVEN, Reveal who you are. Set the world right; do what's best—as above, so below” (Matthew 6:9, 10, *The Message*.)

It is a time in which many in our world mourn. They have lost a spiritual leader, a source of inspiration and guidance. In this world, mourning is part of our humanity and is appropriate at the death of a respected leader.

But Jesus said those who mourn—especially with a spiritual focus—will be comforted (see Matthew 5:4). Please be a comfort to those who mourn at this time. And use us, where possible, to be agents of Your comfort to our friends and in our communities.

We are all reminded of our mortality—even popes die—“The same destiny ultimately awaits everyone, whether they are righteous or wicked, good or bad, ceremonially clean or unclean, religious or irreligious” (Ecclesiastes 9:2\*). May the many reminders of this reality in our world, help us focus our minds on the larger realities beyond this world and the preacher's concluding call to “fear God and obey his commands” (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

Please work in the lives of those who mourn. Help them—and help us—to find Your Son as the spiritual centre of faith, the head of the church (see Colossians 1:18) and the Source of hope, even in the midst of grief.

We know that millions and millions of people who are mourning the death of the Pope earnestly seek You and, although

they believe and do religious things differently, they are our fellow pilgrims on the quest to know You. Help us to have sufficient humility to learn from each other, sufficient courage to teach each other and sufficient grace to do these well.

With the death of their leader, the Catholic Church now faces the challenge of selecting a new leader and an ensuing period of transition. We know how we get nervous about change in our church and we sympathise with the uncertainty that can come with a significant change in leadership. May Your Spirit work to comfort and guide in this process.

But help us all to remember that change is not necessarily an evil. Help us, in our various circumstances, to work with the opportunities that change might bring.

May we all be reminded of—and reassured by—Your sovereignty at this time. We have seen in history that the position of leader of the world's largest religious organisation can have significant impact around the world and beyond the religious organisation itself. We are reminded that it is You who “created all the nations throughout the whole earth [and] decided beforehand which should rise and fall” (Acts 17:26).

We know You are working in the world and, on behalf of our Catholic friends, we ask that You work in and through their church for the good of their church and the good of the world. We do not pray this in a condescending way but because we acknowledge we all need Your help, guidance and mercy to be a church that best

plays its part in Your kingdom in this world.

God, You have blessed us much as a church, in our own religious organisation. Thank You for how You have blessed, guided and led us. But often we have defined our faith in contrast with or even in opposition to that of other religious groups and other churches. Please help us to be Your people in more positive ways.

If we might be recipients of Your special favour in any way, help us to have the attitude of Moses: “Please forgive their sin—and if not, then blot [us] out of the record you are keeping” (Exodus 32:32). We seek the greatest glory of Your kingdom. *If* it has to be an “us” or “them” scenario, there are more of “them” than there are of “us” and we know You want to save as many people as possible, that You do not want anyone to perish (see 2 Peter 3:9).

This prayer of Moses is a sobering prayer but we acknowledge that our relationship with You is built solely on Your grace and mercy. Please extend that mercy to all who seek You at this time. And may Your kingdom continue to grow in this world (see Matthew 13:31, 32).

“You're in charge! You can do anything you want! You're ablaze in beauty!” (Matthew 6:13, *The Message*).

Amen.

*\*Unless otherwise indicated, all Bible quotations are from the New Living Translation.*

Nathan Brown



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**know**  
*experience*  
and **share**  
our hope in Jesus Christ!

# New technologies adopted at Sydney Adventist Hospital

WAHROONGA, NSW

Sydney Adventist Hospital's (SAH) innovative nurse call system was recognised recently with a national award from the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS).

The system—now installed in the majority of SAH's wards—primarily allows patients to page their nurse via the handset. This paging function is an escalated system whereby, if the nurse is unable to attend the call, the team leader is automatically paged.

The paging system has resulted in better communication and a quieter environment for both patients and staff.

As well as the nurse call feature, other functions, such as adjusting the airconditioning and lighting in patients' rooms and restricting phone calls and visitors, can be easily entered in the system. It can even remember the patient's preferred temperature setting for any future admissions.

The system, which replaced the hospital's ageing Zettler call system, was designed, developed and installed in-house over a number of years after a study, commissioned by SAH administration, con-

cluded there was no commercially available system that met SAH's requirements.

Trevor Stonham, from SAH's engineering department, was the principal developer of the concept and with the fast-tracking of the project to link in with the ward refurbishments, John Sanburg from Information Services was asked to assist Mr Stonham in managing the project.

The ACHS Quality Improvement Awards is a program designed to recognise activities, programs, projects or strategies that demonstrate outstanding quality achievements in health care.

On March 21, SAH also undertook the first green-light laser procedure to treat an enlarged prostate in New South Wales. The procedure has been performed successfully on thousands of men in the United States and Europe.

The green-light photoselective vaporisation of the prostate, known as green-light laser, is a minimally invasive treatment for enlarged prostate that significantly reduces

the risk of bleeding, impotence and other side effects associated with conventional prostate surgery.

Sydney Adventist Hospital urologist Dr Henry Woo, who performed the procedure, said the green-light laser is an exciting step forward. "We are delighted to have the green-light laser available at Sydney Adventist Hospital," he says.

"The green-light laser technology has the potential to vastly change the way we are currently treating prostate disease. Importantly, the green-light laser will provide patients with the choice of a minimally invasive procedure that has the potential to rapidly restore their quality of life with a lower risk of side effects."

—*Susannah Rands/Pacemaker*



*The Sydney Adventist Hospital.*



Pastor Clive Butcher says, "It is important to build community relations and understanding, and essential to use these public occasions, such as Easter, to identify our church as being a Christian church."—*Reg Brown*

◆ The Burleigh Gardens church, on Queensland's Gold Coast, was visited by the 20-voice **Burleigh Heads Uniting Church Choir** on March 20. The choir presented the Easter cantata "No greater love" composed by **John Peterson**. Many people from the community attended the presentation on the death and resurrection of Jesus. Burleigh Gardens minister

◆ On March 22 the **Cairns Adventist School**, Qld, presented an Easter concert in their local church to show family, friends and community members what Easter is all about. The concert had children reading scripture and some 100 family members and friends joining in to help them sing. After the closing item of an inspirational



recording of "Watch the Lamb" with the words shown on the screen, children walked around the church giving out bookmarks they had made and copies of *The Passion of Love*.—*Shirley Westcott and Jessica Scaglione*

◆ The **Nunawading Samoan church**, Vic, held an early morning prayer meeting to commemorate the **International Women's Day of**

**Prayer** on March 12. After a discussion on the importance of reaching out within their own families before reaching out to others, was an **hour of group prayers**, a sharing time and then breakfast. Clad in their traditional Samoan outfits—*puletasis*—the women then provided special music and singing for the worship service.—*Dawn Alefaio*



# Five ordained in South Queensland Conference

BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND

Five ordinations were performed within a few weeks in the South Queensland Conference. On January 22, Frank Williams, Adrian Ebens and Gabriel Ontanu were ordained at the Brisbane Adventist College Student Centre.

Ernie Wojnar was ordained a week later at Gin Gin, and on February 5, Mapusaga Farairno was ordained at Pine Rivers.

The men represent a variety of countries through their backgrounds: the United States, Holland, Romania, Poland and Samoa.

## Pastor Frank Williams

Pastor Williams was born in Mississippi, USA. After coming to Australia, he found employment as a bus driver and electrician. In 1992, he was baptised at Charlestown in New South Wales. He and his wife, Karen, started their ministry at Dalby and Chinchilla in 1993, and then at Gympie and Cooroy in 1995.

He became an associate pastor of



Pastor Williams and his wife, Karen.

Springwood church in 2000, and studied at Oakley Seminary in Brisbane last year. Currently he is pastoring the Mount Gravatt and Fijian churches in Brisbane.

Pastor Williams says of his call to ministry: "I was a senior elder, in the middle of everything at church, but I always had a feeling that I wanted to go to the mission field. I couldn't pull that off, but I realised that there was a mission field in my own backyard. I enjoy doing Bible studies with people, baptising them, visiting people in their homes and retirement villages. Everything that comes with ministry, actually!"

## Pastor Adrian Ebens

Pastor Ebens comes from a Dutch back-

ground, and is married to Lorelle. They have two boys, Michael (eight) and Daniel (six). Adrian was baptised at Park Ridge church (Qld) in August 1987, and was previously employed by the Wesley Mission following his studies at Avondale College.

Pastor and Mrs Ebens began their church ministry career in the Greater Sydney Conference, pastoring at Waitara (1997) and Penrith (2000).

Recently Pastor Ebens was asked to pastor the Edens Landing and Logan Reserve churches in Brisbane, a request he accepted happily. Pastor Ebens says, "I felt a very strong call to ministry; nothing else was satisfying compared to sharing Christ with others through pastoral



Pastor Ebens and his wife, Lorelle, and children, Michael and Daniel.



◆ More than 70 people attended the opening of the **Recon Community House** in Springvale South, Vic, recently. Running programs and a **drop-in service** for "at risk" groups and individuals, such as the drug dependent, homeless, and jobless, the house is a new aspect to the work of the Recon street van that has already been operating in the area for more than two years. Sponsored by ADRA-Australia and the Mitcham

ADRA Op Shop, the Recon Community House has run programs for **Sudanese refugees** that include cooking nutritious meals on a budget, **résumé writing** and soccer matches. Because of the relationships formed from the Recon Community House, the establishment of a Sudanese church was made possible.

—*Intraviv*

More @ [www.vicyouth.com](http://www.vicyouth.com)

◆ The first fundraising event for their Pathfinders and Adventurers was held by **Wetherill Park Spanish church**, NSW, on March 6, joining with the church's book sale on

the same day. Thanks to healthy appetites, they raised **\$A525** in just six hours from donations and



their food stall. The finale of the day was the **demolition of a piñata** (pictured). Profits from the event went toward the purchase of children's field uniforms. —*Lilian Martinez*

◆ The annual **Lake Keepit Women's Retreat** was held near

Tamworth, western NSW, March 11-13. Guest speaker **Bev Christian** from Cooranbong took the women on a "Walk through God's garden" where they were encouraged to "blossom in Christ." Barbara Watson, from the Coonabarabran church, **wrote a poem** to sum up the theme of the weekend and the wonderful promises they were given (see Features, page 12). —*Barb Sadler*



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ministry. I love preaching about Jesus and watching the Word change people's lives and free them from the burden of sin."



Pastor Ontanu and his wife, Lavinia, and daughter, Cara.

### Pastor Gabriel Ontanu

Pastor Ontanu and his wife, Lavinia, are of Romanian decent. They have a daughter, Cara (eight). Pastor Ontanu was baptised in Romania in September 1986. He started to study for ministry while in Romania. However, he and his wife moved to Australia, where he worked for Sanitarium at Cooranbong for four years, and studied theology at Avondale College. Both Pastor and Mrs Ontanu love music and are musicians in their own right.

Pastor Ontanu began his ministry at Rockhampton and Yeppoon (1998-2001), then as an associate pastor at Springwood church (2002-03), and since 2004 he has ministered at the Inala and Wynnum

churches.

He believes that ministry allows him and his wife to care for people in a very real way.

### Pastor Ernie Wojnar

Pastor Wojnar was born to Polish parents. He married Irene, and they have two children, Irene and Chris. Pastor Wojnar was baptised in 1957 and was previously employed at the office of the Canberra College of Advanced Education. Ernie and Irene began their ministry at Gayndah (1992).

This was followed by time spent at Beaudesert and Tamborine (1995), Emerald (1997), and Gin Gin and Rosedale Childers (2000). God has blessed this dedicated couple with a fruitful ministry.

"From my teenage years I always had a desire to be a minister and serve the Lord. Concerned by the lack of finance I thought it was impossible for me to do this. The



Pastor Ernie Wojnar and his wife, Irene.

urge to serve kept returning. And after becoming a literature evangelist I received a call to be a minister and knew I must say yes," says Pastor Wojnar.



Pastor Farairno and his wife, Sisifo.

### Pastor Mapusaga Farairno

Pastor Farairno was born in Western Samoa. He was baptised at Salstostai village in 1959. For several years he worked as an aluminium fabricator, planted local food and enjoyed fishing trips. He is married to Sisifo.

They have four children, Melcoma (36), Sailua (35), Sone (34) and Faraimo (31). In Samoa, he raised up a small group of believers with the help of Pastor Tesese.

He later formed a church in Wellington, New Zealand, began work in Brisbane at Carbrook (1994), and ministered at Logan and Inala churches (1996) and Scarborough and Deception Bay (2003).—*Scott Wegener/Adele Nash/Focus*

◆ Pastor Wolfgang Jenke, his wife Lyn Joy and elder Noah Savuro from Mount Isa church, Qld, travelled to Inopacan, a Philippine town of 20,000 on the island of Lyte, to conduct an evangelistic series. The town had Adventist churches in its surrounding towns,



but not in Inopacan itself. The six locals assigned to work the area for two months before the program's start managed to launch 100 Bible studies. The 12-night

series, "Assurance in today's chaotic world," led to 68 baptisms, 33 coming from the prison of 117 inmates. Instead of the one church they hoped to begin, they have started two—one in the town and one in the prison.

◆ The dangers of travelling between islands for mission work was shown when a sailboat carrying items for missionaries Jill and Alastair Macgillivray capsized and filled with water during a rain squall off Aore, Vanuatu. It took three hours for the crew to be noticed and rescued from the submerged but still floating boat.

◆ At the conclusion of the filming of *Survivor: Palau*, a former student of Palau Mission Academy, Micronesia, who had been working with the *Survivor* production crew, inquired about some tables the crew didn't need that were suitable for a Koror church renovation project. Happy to donate them, delivery day brought truck load after truck load of newly built, solid wooden tables and shelving units that were unloaded next to Koror church—more than 30 large tables and shelving units. Months earlier the Koror church voted to turn the basement area of the church into a youth room and

the youth had been praying and slowly trying to raise money in order to buy supplies to build a stage. The donation from the *Survivor* production crew made the dream of an all-purpose youth room become reality, complete with a stage on one end and a cafe-style eating area on the other.—*Ken Norton*



# Record enrolment at Avondale College

(Continued from page 1)

major and the new early childhood education degree until late in the year, so we did more across more areas and had more contact with prospective students.”

However, the appeal of the college may have as much to do with affordability as with the so-called “Avondale experience.” A decline in enrolment in 2001 coincided with an increase in student fees, while the increase in enrolment this year coincides with the introduction of FEE-HELP and the offer of more HECS places.

“Students can choose from a range of higher education providers, and pragmatic considerations do come into play,” says academic registrar Paul de Ville. He believes Avondale is the “place of preference” for students submitting applications. “Applications in December were down compared with the same period the previous year, but a higher percentage of those applicants turned up at college on registration day to enrol. That says something.”

Dr Cox says the two factors cannot be considered in isolation. “The promotion we

receive by word of mouth is priceless, but it is of little value if students cannot afford to study here.”

The record number of Avondale students studying at an undergraduate level—629 in total, with an increase in the number of first-year students—makes higher enrolments over the next few years likely. “The undergraduate students are the core of our business,” says Mr de Ville, “and the record number presents us with challenges, including that of retention.”

Enrolment on the college’s Lake Macquarie campus—918 this year—has grown by almost 300 over the past five years, but enrolment on the Sydney campus—where student numbers have increased by only 11 over the same period to 117 this year—remains steady.

“I’m delighted with the enrolment and would like to thank all of those who have worked so hard to contribute to it,” says Dr Cox. “It’s most gratifying that so many students are taking advantage of the possibilities Avondale offers, both for growth in spiritual experience and for career opportunities.” —*Brenton Stacey*

## People the key, says Adventist MP

COORANBONG, NSW

Passion for people is not only the key to a successful career, but also to being part of God’s plan, says Adventist MP Desley Scott. Mrs Scott made the comments during her speech at Avondale College’s opening convocation on March 2.

Mrs Scott is a former Avondale College student, and has been a Member of Parliament in Queensland representing the electorate of Woodridge for the past four years, which she considers to be her “pastoral role.”

Mrs Scott spoke of the importance of life’s defining moments. “Good things happen when people take responsibility for their community,” she says. She also challenged staff members and students at Avondale to find their place with God and to be the instrument He uses to bring such moments into the lives of others.

Mrs Scott closed by quoting from the script surrounding a mosaic at a women’s health centre in her electorate. “Life is no brief candle for me, but a kind of splendid torch that I have got hold of for a moment. And I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on.” —*Brenton Stacey*

◆ The Internet Evangelism Coalition has initiated a worldwide focus day on April 24, called **Internet Evangelism Day**—a “web evangelism awareness day” with no fundraising element. The purpose is to communicate the **outreach potential of the web** among the worldwide church and encourage churches to create effective web sites, which can reach out into the community rather than just be an online noticeboard for members. A 2001 study by the Pew Internet and American Life Project showed that roughly 25 per cent of adult Internet users had gone online to get

religious and spiritual material. Businessman-turned-preacher Bill Keller’s web site, <[www.LivePrayer.com](http://www.LivePrayer.com)>, finished its 64th month online at the end of 2004 with **100,000 reported decisions for Christ**, a daily devotional subscriber list of roughly two million and more than **40,000 prayer requests sent in every day**. A volunteer team of more than 700 retired pastors responds personally to each request. According to Ellison Research, almost 90 per cent of churches that typically have 200 or more people attending church have a web site. That compares with 60 per cent of mid-

size churches and 28 per cent of small churches. Interestingly, the older the church’s pastor is, the less likely it is that church will have a web site.—*Kelly O’Neil/Jody Brown/Charisma News Service*  
More @ [www.InternetEvangelismDay.com](http://www.InternetEvangelismDay.com)

◆ **Frank Wright**, president of National Religious Broadcasters (NRB), has revealed that **Christian radio** in the United States has shown “**tremendous growth**” within the past five years. Speaking recently at a press conference at the start of the 62nd annual NRB Convention and Exposition,

Anaheim, California, USA, Dr Wright said that the actual number of Christian radio stations has **increased by 12 per cent to 2014** during this period, while country music stations had a 9 per cent decrease. Of the 13,838 US-based radio stations, 15 per cent are religiously formatted.—*Dan Wooding*

◆ More than 100 churches across the USA are offering **lessons in English as a second language**. Hoping to attract new members, the lessons are used as an evangelistic outreach tool to reach immigrants.—*Amy Green*

## School principal rescued at sea

TARAWA, KIRIBATI

**T**ekemau Ribabaiti, principal of Kauma Adventist High School in the Kiribati Mission, has survived being lost at sea for 24 days after his dinghy broke down while he was travelling on the open sea between islands.

The aluminium dinghy he had been travelling in nearly sank on February 16, and he was finally picked up March 12 by a foreign fishing vessel, the *Volt Venture*.

Prior to this, he had managed to communicate his locations as he drifted with the help of the electronic locator beacon in the dinghy.

Following his rescue by the *Volt Venture*, he was transferred to a Kiribati government-owned vessel and reunited with his family and members of the Kauma Adventist High School community the next day.

Pastor Bruce Roberts, president of the Trans-Pacific Union Mission, maintained regular contact with those involved in the search, and never lost hope that Mr Ribabaiti would survive.

"I am so happy that Tekemau is alive," says Pastor Roberts. "This man is a real hero; someone should write his story. How many have shown the skill and tenacity of this man, the human spirit, his trust in God? Praise the Lord for a man like Tekemau." —*Joe Talemaitoga*

See page 10 for Mr Ribabaiti's story.



Tekemau Ribabaiti and his wife, Stella, reunited after he had been missing at sea for 24 days.

## Baton fumbling

BY KELLIE HANCOCK

**B**EFORE THE OPENING OF THE 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Victoria, the Queen's Baton will travel more than 180,000 kilometres around the world. The Australian-designed baton includes two microphones, two video cameras, a satellite tracking system, a transmitter, a radio frequency identifier, 200 flashing lights and an on-board computer.

For the first time, Her Majesty's message is not tucked into the baton on a piece of paper. New technology has been used to record her message—which will be transmitted to athletes during the opening ceremony—on a memory chip.

\* \* \* \* \*

Leonard Sweet, professor of evangelism at Drew University Theological School, USA, suggests that technology has changed so rapidly that only those born after 1962 should be called "natives." He refers to those born prior to 1962 as "immigrants" who come from a world that doesn't exist anymore: typewriters, carbon paper and Tipp-Ex are ancient relics left in the wake of PCs, laptops, CD-ROMs and spellcheckers.

Currently, much of the Adventist Church is being led by those born prior to 1962. Granted, efforts have been made in various sectors to pass the baton on to those who are part of the "native" generation. But generally there has been much fumbling of the baton. And we all know what that does to the team in the relay race—it slows them down.

What happens when a runner gets too used to being the baton holder? When they reach the natural handover point, they do not want to let go. They'll run past their bewildered teammate, because they want to do another lap with the baton. All this does is get the whole team disqualified.

Tom Sine in *Mustard Seed Versus McWorld* warns, "We are living in a world changing at blinding speed and yet in our homes, churches and Christian colleges we unconsciously prepare our young to live and serve God in the world their parents

grew up in. As a consequence of leaders failing to lead with foresight, churches and Christian organisations have, in recent years, been repeatedly hammered by change and missed a lot of opportunities to bring the gospel of Christ to a changing world. Instead of driving into the future with our eyes fixed firmly on our rear-view mirrors, we need a new generation of leaders who learn to lead with foresight."

Our methods and ideologies are being challenged by enormous societal changes that even the "experts" fail to fully grasp. It's hard enough finding an agreed defini-

## The next generation is eager to run with the message.

tion of postmodernism, let alone working out how, or if, the church should adapt its methods to stay relevant and reach secular society. But one thing is certain: a message is only relayed when it is transferred from one point to another.

The next generation is eager to run with the message. And, despite what current runners may think, it's the same message, just delivered in a different way. Whether it's written on a piece of paper or recorded on a memory chip, the Queen's message is still the Queen's message.

\* \* \* \* \*

Commonwealth games reporter Peter Kerr observed, "It seems the only thing the Melbourne 2006 Queen's Baton can't do is jog itself around the world."

Likewise, the King's message needs runners to transfer it from point to point, person to person. It is only by passing the baton on that the finish line will be crossed. **R**

Kellie Hancock writes from Ringwood, Victoria.



# Longburn: The response speaks for itself

BY BRIAN MERCER

LONGBURN ADVENTIST COLLEGE (LAC) has established itself as one of the premier colleges in the Manawatu District of New Zealand. This has been achieved by continued excellent academic results, including one of the highest university entrance rates in the region. The good news does not end there—the school’s enrolments are at an all-time high, with a significant waiting list.

One may ask, “How is this achieved?” I believe that this is through an overt Seventh-day Adventist Christian program. While LAC is integrated into the state school system, its charter demands that its Adventist Christian ethos remains the centre of its value system. This is what parents want for their children. More than 95 per cent of all students at LAC come from

practising Christian homes where these values are enshrined.

This excellent reputation is also central to the boarding students at the school, who often attend because such a value-rich curriculum is not available in their local high schools. In their comments, students clearly state that an Adventist Christian boarding environment is vital in deciding to follow Christ. This is why parents from all over New Zealand, the Cook Islands, Tahiti and beyond choose LAC for their children.

Just recently, Pastor Terry Johnson conducted the Week of Prayer, titled “Keep Him real.” At the end of the week, 80 students wrote that they wanted to be more involved with their church, 24 made a first-time commitment to Jesus and 25

asked to be baptised.

Does Adventist Christian education make a difference at LAC? In light of responses such as this, the question answers itself.

Your offering given in the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC) next week will assist in refurbishing the school boarding houses to ensure our children in the NZPUC have access to quality Adventist education. Make a difference by praying for LAC, sending your children or grandchildren to attend, and giving your offerings in support of this soul-enriching work. **R**

*Brian Mercer is principal of Longburn Adventist College, New Zealand.*

Union Institutions Offering—April 23

Australian Union Conference: Lilydale Adventist Academy

New Zealand Pacific Union Conference: Longburn Adventist College





# Lilydale looks to the future

BY DARYL MURDOCH

**Y**OU KNOW THE ACADEMY REALLY becomes part of your being," muses Rachel Reid, a boarding student from Tasmania. "I really cannot think of anywhere I would rather go to school. Yes, I do miss my parents, but the Academy is also my home. I believe it is worth the effort."

Matthew Titimanu, whose parents are lecturers at Pacific Adventist University, agrees. "Last year my parents gave me the choice of where I could go to school. After one year at the Academy it was simple. The Academy has something special about it. There is a buzz about the school that I haven't felt before. It's just mad!" (Note: Apparently this means really good or great.)

So what makes Lilydale Adventist Academy (LAA) so special? Is it the buildings, the grounds or the academic program? The answer became clear last October when more than 550 alumni and former staff, with their partners and families, returned to LAA to celebrate the school's special influence in their lives at the

40th anniversary.

The event provided an incredible opportunity and atmosphere for those who are part of LAA's history to return to their academic yesteryear. And it was interesting to note the special bond between boarders who had shared the LAA experience.

LAA continues to offer a quality house-parent program for boarding students. Despite the decline in interest in boarding due to the rural downturn and the growth of Christian schools in country centres, the boarding program is operating close to capacity with students attending from all states on the eastern seaboard. A growing overseas market is also adding a valuable dimension to the boarding program.

And there is an exciting future unfolding for LAA. Plans are well advanced for an Early Learning Centre on the grounds. With God's blessing the goal is to offer Preschool to Year 12 education in conjunction with Edinburgh Adventist Primary on the campus. This will involve the renovation and redevelopment of many

of the current facilities on campus.

During 2005 a new library/resource facility will be built in the centre of the LAA campus. This year's Australian Union Conference Institutions Offering will support the development of this key facility in the ever-evolving academic program. LAA wishes to thank in advance its alumni and the broader church community for their generous tax-deductible donations and offerings for this exciting project. May God continue to bless and lead LAA over the next 40 years.

Rachel and Matthew and those who attended the 40th anniversary celebration agree about one thing: it's the people you meet here and the experiences you share that makes LAA a special place. LAA looks forward to continuing to provide excellent life opportunities for young people like Rachel and Matthew. **R**

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*Daryl Murdoch is principal of Lilydale Adventist Academy, Victoria.*

# 24 days lost at sea

BY TEKEMAU RIBABAITI  
WITH KEVIN BROWN

IN THE CUSTOM OF THE ISLANDS OF Kiribati, it is necessary when one is asked for help that help should be given. This is the reason I found myself taking three villagers from the island of Abemama to the nearby island of Aranuka.

A family member had died and these people wished to attend the funeral service. The Kauma Seventh-day Adventist School, of which I am principal, owned a small aluminum boat (4.2 metres) with all the necessary safety equipment—except a radio—for the two-hour trip across the open ocean. I was the only one experienced enough to make the trip, so we went.

## The long trip home

After an uneventful trip to Aranuka, I dropped my passengers off and turned my boat around for the lonely trip back to Abemama. As time passed, I noticed some birds circling above the water—an indication that fish were feeding near the surface of the water and perhaps could be easily caught with a fishing line and a lure. I changed my course in the direction of the birds and tried my luck.

A short time later I realised I had a serious problem. Water began to fill the bottom of my boat. I quickly removed the bung at the rear of the boat to try to drain the water while I continued to move forward. As I accelerated the engine I realised more water was coming into the boat than could exit through the bungle. Within a few short minutes, the boat was sinking. I knew I had to act fast or all would be lost. The rear of the boat was by now submerged.

I quickly released my auxiliary outboard motor and dropped it into the sea. Next I began to undo the mountings on my main engine to drop it also. Drastic circumstances called for drastic measures. A previous experience in similar circumstances made me realise that if the boat could float I could probably survive several weeks at

sea. In 2002, I spent more than four weeks in my boat with two passengers before being found 300 nautical miles from my home island.

Before the engine could be removed, the boat suddenly flipped over backwards. The combined weight of the water, me and the engine at the rear of the boat proved too much. The heavy things in the boat that weren't tied in sank to the bottom of the ocean along with the main engine I had undone from its mounting. I climbed onto the underside of the boat and clung there for about 30 minutes, gathering my thoughts: *What was I to do in this desperate situation?*

## Taking stock

First, I had to try to turn the boat right-side up. I couldn't last long clinging to the underside of my boat. I watched the current and the wind direction and turned the boat sideways to the wind and with a prayer for God's strength and with all the determination and strength I could muster I pulled the boat right-side up.

I quickly gathered all the items that had floated out from under the boat and tied them to the hull. I climbed into the boat, which was completely full of water but able to float because of its floatation tanks. I spent the next 13 hours sitting in waist deep water. It was a dark night out on the ocean—all that was visible were the stars.

After a sleepless night, I evaluated my situation in the light of day. I had no food and only 10 litres of water. I knew I could catch fish without much difficulty. If desperate, I could catch sharks for much-needed fluid—a technique used during my previous "adventure" at sea.

I had my EPIRB, an emergency transmitter. Its signals could be received by monitoring stations at various centres around the Pacific. It was already activated. I had fishing gear, a GPS, a compass, life jackets, two buckets, a large container

of water and two small water bottles. My flares were either lost or ruined, my fuel tank was gone and my new camera was ruined by the salt water.

Bailing the water out of the boat was my first priority. It took only 10 minutes to empty the boat of most of the water, but it filled again within half an hour. For the next week I slept for half-hour spells before bailing the boat out again—10 minutes bailing and 30 minutes sleeping.

## Talking with God

I prayed to God to show me the leak. He told me—in my mind—to go to the front of the boat and He would show me. As I moved to the front of the boat, the back of the boat rose a few centimeters and I was able to see the small gushing of water coming from a split in the centre of the boat. I quickly bailed out the remaining water and tore up some cloth and with great difficulty did my best to plug the split. It worked with only limited success. Now I could have one hour's rest between each emptying of the boat! This continued for the duration of my experience.

Amid the constant bailing, my main water bottle was polluted with salt water. I was forced to empty its contents and rely on two small bottles of water. For more than a week, I had only three or four mouthfuls of water per day.

I prayed for rain, so when the rain came I was prepared. I had cut a sugarbag so it became one large sheet of cloth, then used it to catch the water and funnel it into a bucket. But this was the easy part. I now needed to transfer the water from the bucket into the large container, which had a very small spout. The only way of transferring the water was to take a mouthful at a time from the bucket and then spit it into the 10-litre bottle. Once complete, I had water for the remainder of my ordeal.

During the entire time at sea I had only four meals. The first fish I ate made me so

thirsty I decided to eat only the bare minimum. I prayed to God and said I would drink water until it ran out then eat fish.

During the second week at sea a ferocious storm came. I found out later it was one of the worst storms in living memory in this region. I estimate the storm pushed me around 200 nautical miles east of my original position west of the island of Abemama.

During the storm it was imperative I keep the bow of the boat into the wind. I fashioned a sea anchor using an old propeller still in the boat and also some of the boat's ribs that had cracked during the ordeal at sea. I had to stay awake the duration of the storm to keep the boat facing the wind. I did this by transferring my weight as necessary to steer the boat into the wind. To allow the boat to turn sideways to the wind would almost certainly mean capsizing. During the remainder of my experience (around one week) the winds slowly returned me to within 20-30 kilometres east of Abemama. This is where I was eventually picked up.

During one night in the intense darkness an unusual collision with something in the water caused me to lose my balance and hit my head on the side of the boat. I couldn't explain what had happened, so I cried out to Satan that if he was trying to kill me he had no chance; Jesus was much stronger than he, and I was a child of God.

## A Sabbath gift

On Sabbath evening I spoke to God and asked Him to shorten my time drifting in the sea. I thought I would be there a long time. God said that the longer I stayed in the sea the more blessings I would receive. I said to God that I had had enough.

At around 7 on Sabbath morning I was reading through my Bible. It had been wet but I had carefully dried its pages. It was my fourth Sabbath at sea and I asked God for a Sabbath gift. I was ready to give up. *Please cut short the drifting at sea*, I prayed. At 9 am as I waited upon God, I caught a glimpse of something to the north. It was a white ship moving across the horizon. I thanked God—and I stood up and began to wave my life preserver.

The ship soon changed course and was

now heading directly toward me.

When the ship arrived it lowered a speedboat, which came to my side. One man asked, "Do you speak Kiribati?"

"I am a man of Kiribati. Yes, of course I speak Kiribati," I replied.

He was the man who had spotted me drifting in my boat upon the sea. He was the only Kiribati person on the ship.

I was able to climb the ladder easily onto the ship, which led the captain of the ship to guess I was about 40 years old and



had spent two days at sea. He was awestruck when I told him I was 60 and had spent 24 days drifting in the sea.

He asked me how I could be so fit and strong after such an ordeal. I told him I did not smoke or drink alcohol—and that water and prayer had been my strength.

The captain was impressed with my story and asked me to pray for his ship and his crew. Even though he had a beautiful ship he was frightened of the sea and knew he was engaged in dangerous work.

It turned out I was picked up only 40 kilometres east of Abemama, the island I had departed from on February 16. It was now March 12.

The crew asked many questions. They were mostly Pacific islanders with a Portuguese captain. I was showered with gifts, clothes, food and cash.

It turned out the captain was initially quite reluctant to come to my rescue. He

felt he was busy and that I too was all right and should not be interrupted. He was persuaded by the Kiribati crew member to come to save me.

## Coming home

I stayed on this enormous fishing boat for a number of hours before being transferred to a locally owned cargo ship, off the coast of Abemama. Three hours later—approximately 10.30 on Saturday night—we anchored off my home island where we stayed overnight before coming ashore on Sunday morning to be greeted at the seaport by some of the students and staff from my school. To my surprise the new president of the Kiribati Mission was also there to greet me. I was embarrassed because I should have been welcoming him to Kauma Adventist School, but he was welcoming me home instead!

My boat was loaded on the school truck and taken back to the school. I shared my story with many students, staff and community members before having a restful day off. That night the school presented a praise and thanksgiving program to express their gratitude to God for allowing me to come home safely. The next day the mission president declared a holiday for the school and on Monday night a feast was held in my honour. It was a memorable day at the school with singing, storytelling and much feasting and rejoicing.

The school is now without a boat or engine that can be used for inter-island travel. My "tinny" is not likely to ever return to the open sea, although it may be able to have some repairs made that will allow it to be used on the lagoon situated in front of our school.

My gratitude goes to all those throughout the South Pacific who prayed for my deliverance from the sea. I have been told of people praying for my rescue throughout the Pacific islands, Australia and other areas. Thanks be to God for His mercy and kindness. **R**

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*Tekemau Ribabaita is principal of the Kauma Adventist High School, Kiribati, and Kevin Brown is president of the Kiribati Mission.*

# Blossoming

BY BARBARA WATSON

I entered in at the garden  
 At the very dawn of the day  
 He was already there before me  
 And said, "I'll show you the way."  
 Through the winding pathways we wandered,  
 On plantings and growings we pondered,  
 I, asking myriads of questions and queries  
 Voicing all my concerns and my theories,  
 While He smiled and just listened, and still led the way.

We came to a place where I could see  
 A great deal of work had been done.  
 I questioned how I could be useful,  
 What I could do for the Son.  
 I feel I don't bloom as these flowers,  
 Most of my life is made up of showers,  
 My blooming is not so beautiful or so rare.  
 "Dear Lord, please help me become a blossom so fair."  
 And He smiled as He listened, then He bade me sit down.

There before me He showed a great table  
 Of bulbs, cuttings, tubers and seeds,  
 And then He showed me another  
 With spikes of green in tubs and even some weeds.  
 There were tightly closed buds and half-open roses;  
 There were flowers in full bloom in various poses,  
 Shrubs of green, others all covered in white,  
 Red, blue, pink and yellow, such a glorious sight.  
 He stretched out an arm and encompassed me tight.

His voice was like the music  
 Of a harp with many a string  
 As He talked to me so softly  
 About the many wonders that spring  
 From His garden of people, and that includes all of His own.  
 Some are just shrivelled bulbs or seeds, wrinkled and brown,  
 Still with potential within, that needs time to be grown;  
 Some have just begun to unfold into His ideal for you and me;  
 Others are blooming brightly for everyone to see.

He guides and protects  
 And sometimes even prunes with a knife.  
 He is the Gardener, the Light, the Water of Life.  
 He helps us grow in His grace so we may blossom and bloom,  
 Shedding aromas around us, sharing His fragrant perfume  
 Of love and forgiveness, of care and compassion.  
 May joy, fun and laughter help us to fashion  
 A perfect blossom of exquisite worth  
 For our Dear Lord and Saviour, here on this earth. **R**



## Record Roo's Kids corner

Hi kids,  
 Remember the story  
 of the garden of Eden?  
 Just to jog your memory  
 you can read the story  
 in Genesis 1 and 2.  
 Then have a go at  
 the puzzles  
 RR

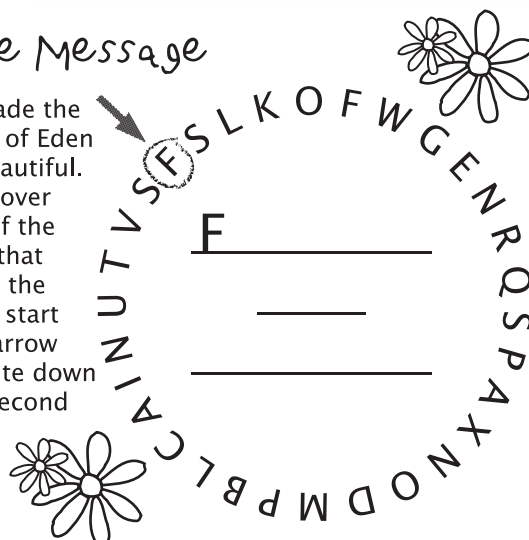
### Find-a-Word

RIB  
 EVE  
 EAT  
 EVIL  
 GOD  
 TREE  
 RIVER  
 BIRDS  
 GOOD  
 ADAM  
 SPOKE  
 FORMED  
 GARDEN  
 ANIMALS  
 KNOWLEDGE



### Circle Message

God made the garden of Eden very beautiful.  
 To discover some of the things that were in the garden start at the arrow and write down every second letter.



### Fill in the Blanks

The Lord God planted a \_\_\_\_\_ eastward in \_\_\_\_\_,  
 and there He put the \_\_\_\_\_ whom He had \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Genesis 2:8 NKJV

# Men, commit!

WARWICK PASCOE, NZ

Thank you, Pastor Woods, for having the courage to share your views on abortion (Viewpoint, March 5). There is a place for men to speak on this issue.

Too many men think they're doing the right thing in leaving it to the woman to decide what to do with an unintended pregnancy. However, women see this as evidence of a lack of commitment to the relationship, leaving them feeling abandoned, vulnerable and under pressure to "do the right thing." I believe what most women want to hear from their spouse or partner at a time like this is that they want to keep the baby and are committed, no matter how inconvenient it may be.

Come on, men, let's clean up our act and help make abortion rare in our society.

# A teacher's view

TRACEY CRAIG, VIC

Name Supplied (Letters, March 19) may be someone I once taught! Although I agree economic and emotional hardships create challenges for students, I take issue with the harsh generalisation as to how such students are dealt with in Adventist schools. You suggest that those students will always be made to "feel of little worth." In this I feel both convicted and insulted.

Not yet having attained perfection, I know there are times when I'm less than

*just a coincidence*

sympathetic to students affected in their concentration and performance, but I promise there is never discrimination between advantaged and disadvantaged. And that "exacerbated mental-health issues" are the direct result of a "seemingly uncaring attitude" on behalf of teachers is unsubstantiated.

Educators can't win: Not only are we expected to cure society's ills, we are now the cause of them! Much is expected of educators in the 21st century. Sadly, it's usually

## Educators can't win: Not only are we expected to cure society's ills, we are now the cause of them!

people who've never stood in our shoes who are our greatest critics.

The discussion regarding our role toward the disadvantaged is relevant and important. However, I know of many Adventist educators who *assist* disadvantaged students and their families in ways neither recognised nor generally known. It's worth noting that we may find our job less stressful knowing we too are accepted.

# Additional reading

JOHN ROTHERY, NZ

To most Christians—and especially Seventh-day Adventists—an article about the resurrection has to be of interest. Many

have lost friends or relatives or, in my case, a nine-year-old daughter whom we long to live with again. It was with this background I read "The why of resurrection" (Feature, March 26).

The author recommends many good texts, but omitted an interesting one that parallels Christ's death and resurrection to His second coming and the final resurrection: "After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. . . . His appearing is as

sure as the dawn" (Hosea 6:2, 3, NRSV).

Both early Christian and pre-Christian Jewish writings reveal this fact, with the Sabbath encompassed by the two events, but Hosea is the only biblical writer to record this three-day future event.

# Dorcas needed

GEOFF HANSEN, NSW

I've had the privilege of seeing some of the work being done by Margaret and Reg Davis (Feature, March 26) as well that of church members in Papua New Guinea. What a tragedy that people who are battling with overwhelming need must resort to their own resources and support of friends at home who are willing to collect clothing and other essentials for shipping to PNG.

With the loss of Dorcas societies, we've lost our entering wedge where, in supplying basic needs, the gospel can be preached. To send clothing to Pacific islands is more expensive than buying locally, but we still don't send money to buy it. Thus there is no help available—except through individuals such as Margaret Davis. The church desperately needs Dorcas resurrected.

**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

**Blair—Muirhead.** Duncan Blair, son of Allan and Rosemary Blair (Wahroonga, NSW), and Claire Muirhead, daughter of Jim and Colleen Muirhead (Dubbo, NSW), were married on 27.3.05 at Poets Corner, Mudgee.

*Morrie Krieg*

**Chen—Gibbs.** Jackson Chen, son of Wen-Bing Chen and Mei-Jen Lin (Miranda, Sydney, NSW), and Danielle Gibbs, daughter of Douglas and Ruth Gibbs (Heathcote), were married on 13.3.05 at Chinese Gardens, Darling Harbour, Sydney.

*David Reilly, Russell Gibbs*

**Dawson—Courtney.** Bradley Dawson, son of Todd and Joy Dawson (Charters Towers, Qld), and Kriselle Courtney, daughter of Dan and Julie Courtney (Mackay), were married on 27.3.05 at Botanical Gardens, Mackay.

*Bob Possingham*

**Landers—Spence.** Peter Landers, son of Terrence and Barbara Landers (Newcastle, NSW), and Jodie Spence, daughter of Ronald and Ellen Spence (Hilltop), were married on 6.3.05 at Wollongong Beach.

*Tui Rosevear*

**Seluone—Dunlop.** Seluone Seluone, son of Muliaga and Ana Seluone (Auckland, NZ), and Joanne Dunlop, daughter of Graeme and Carol Dunlop (Tauranga), were married on 9.1.05 at Tauranga Adventist church.

*Eddie Tupai*

**Simpson—McLean.** David Simpson, son of Bruce and Jane Simpson (Auckland, NZ), and Dawn McLean, daughter of Lance and Jan McLean (Auckland), were married on 16.12.04 at Lameko, Pakiri.

*Eddie Tupai*

**Valentine—Hutchins.** Tony Valentine, son of Dick and Enid Valentine (Whakatane, NZ), and Ngareta Hutchins, daughter of David and Helen Hutchins (Palmerston North), were married on 13.3.05 at the Redwoods, Rotorua.

*Eddie Tupai*

**Ward—Singer.** Brenden Graham Ward, son of Graham and Christine Ward (Cooanbong, NSW), and Charissa Rose Singer, daughter of Errol and Michelle Singer (Hastings, NZ), were married on 28.3.05 at the Morisset Hospital Chapel, Morisset, NSW.

*Errol Singer, Ian Howie*

## Obituaries

**Baron,** Pastor John, born 22.1.1954 at Wisla, Poland; died 13.3.05 in Adelaide, SA, after a long and courageous struggle with a terminal illness. He is survived by his children, Evie and Margaret (Endeavour Hills, Vic); his mother, Maria (Melbourne); his sisters and brothers-in-law, Renata and Ted Jadcuk (Burwood), and Ruth and Bob Ciuk (Adelaide, SA). John loved the gospel of Christ and was an excellent musician. He was a very caring and supportive father and a man of integrity, discipline, commitment and sophistication. We will greatly miss him—until the resurrection.

*John Denne, Pawel Ustupski*

**Hacko,** Michalina (nee Skrzyszewska), born 28.9.1909 at Lwow, Poland; died 19.3.05 at the Yarra View Retirement Village Hostel. She is survived by her husband, Marian (Hallam Nursing Home); her daughter, Jadwiga Neveceral (Noble Park). Michalina's communication was restricted by the barrier of language, but she lived in anticipation of the day when language will no longer be a barrier.

*Eric Kingdon, Joy Kingdon*

**Judd,** Arthur William (Bill), born 29.3.1928 at Wonthaggi, NSW; died 24.3.05 in Melbourne, Vic. On 18.6.52 he married Paula Hart. He is survived by his wife; his children, Paul (Brisbane, Qld), Robin (Perth, WA), Kerri (Melbourne, Vic) and Susan (Sydney, NSW); their spouses; his sister, Beryl Wray; his brothers, Pastors Claude and David, and Charlie; and his seven grandchildren. He died with faith in the blessed hope.

*Claude Judd, David Judd*

**Markey,** Stephen Ian, born 1.11.1952 at Busselton, WA; died 2.1.05 at Nollamara. He was predeceased by his mother, Joan Lyle. He is survived by his father and stepmother, Ron and Joy (Perth); his brother, Joe (Busselton); and his sister, Edna Lockington (Brisbane, Qld). Steven was not expected to live beyond six months. When he was 11 years old his mother died and he was supported by family and church members.

*Max Smith*

**Vickery,** Lionel Charles, born 12.9.1919 at Portland, Vic; died 9.3.05 in Belmont Hospital, Newcastle, NSW, after battling a serious illness for several years. He is survived by his wife, Valda (nee Carter); his children, David, Christine, Graham and Cheryl; his 13 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. He was baptised after World War II and has been a faithful witness for his Lord ever since. He will always be remembered for his kind, friendly nature and good humour. We look forward to the grand reunion day ever so soon.

*Tui Rosevear  
Jan Jankiewicz, Eric Livingston*

## Position vacant

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**Mongolian outreach.** The South Australian Conference last year conducted a health and gospel outreach in Erdenet City, Mongolia. We're going again in July to work with the community, offer school programs, and to present another health and gospel series. If you have any interest to be part of the team, contact Pastor Jim Zyderveld asap on (08) 8396 0284; 0416 291 804; or <jimz@picknowl.com.au>.

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**50th anniversary Brighton church, SA—July 23, 2005.** All past and present members, pastors and friends are invited to share this time of reflection and celebration. Any memorabilia, including photos, will be gladly displayed. Inquiries and/or RSVP to Bronnie Simon (08) 8254 3646; email <rjsbjs@senet.com.au>.

**Dalby (Qld) church 40th anniversary—June 18, 2005.** Former pastors, members and friends are invited to share this celebration. Sabbath school, church service, lunch, afternoon meeting. **RSVP June 10** for catering. (07) 4662 5401; email <charose1@iprimus.com.au>.

**Centenary celebrations—**Osborne Park Seventh-day Adventist church, WA. We invite all previous members, pastors and friends to join us and help celebrate this special occasion on May 7, 2005, 2–4 pm, at the church, corner Cape and Edward Streets, Osborne Park, WA. Contacts: Pastor Cyrus Adams, phone (08) 9342 3908; email <adamswctu@smartchat.com.au>; or Laurel Wareham, phone (08) 9342 3207; email <warehamburns@yahoo.com.au>.

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## Finally

There are four things you can do with the hurts that come into your life. Nurse them, curse them, rehearse them, or reverse them.—*Patrick Shaughnessy*

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