

RECORD

June 25, 2005

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Attendees of the second annual "Homes of hope" summit held at the Adventist Alpine Village were encouraged by the success that the program has had in the past year.

"Homes of hope" summit success

JINDABYNE, NEW SOUTH WALES

More than 100 people attended the recent "Homes of hope" summit held at the Adventist Alpine Village, Jindabyne, which more than doubled the numbers of attendees at last year's summit.

Over the weekend of May 13 to 15, people shared stories of how the "Homes of hope" program had been helping them to get closer to others in their communities and bringing them into a relationship with Jesus through the ministry of hospitality.

Josh Hunt, from the United States, and author of the book *You Can Double Your Class in Two Years or Less*, was the guest presenter at the summit. He focused on building and investing in relationships

with others, which is seen as being the key to reaching today's society.

Mr Hunt says, "Fellowship is premium in a world where we face an epidemic of loneliness. People are looking for more than a "friendly" church. They want a place where they can grow and develop lasting relationships that will assist them in building a biblical foundation for life."

Mr Hunt encouraged attendees to ensure that they were obedient to the command of God to "offer hospitality to one another without grumbling" (1 Peter 4:9, NIV) and to "get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner" (Romans 12:13, NLT), thereby reflecting God's love to others.

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There are risks inherent in recognising our theology is yet a work-in-progress.

A doctrine of doctrine

IN *AMUSING OURSELVES TO DEATH*, Neil Postman comments upon the nature of religious doctrine by sharing the brief “doctrinal statement” of the Dunkers: “The Dunkers came close . . . to formulating a commandment about religious discourse: Thou shalt not write down thy principles, still less print them, lest thou shalt be entrapped by them for all time.”

Of course, the paradox is that such a formulation is itself a statement of doctrine. Any time we pause to think about what we believe, how we believe, why we believe or what impact our beliefs or belief system have on our personal or corporate life, we have begun to work in the field of doctrine.

And doctrine is important. Doctrine is the means by which we grasp and begin to understand our relationship with God and the possibilities that holds. Doctrine gives direction and focus to our faith, a ground for community, a rationale for mission and a blueprint for faithful living. Even in the early days of the Christian church, the importance of doctrine was emphasised. Paul wrote to Titus that church leaders “must have a strong and steadfast belief in the trustworthy message he [or she] was taught; then he [or she] will be able to encourage others with right teaching and show those who oppose it where they are wrong” (Titus 1:9, NLT).

Good doctrine is not a substitute for good practice. Yet Paul urges Titus to “promote the kind of living that reflects right teaching” (Titus 2:1, NLT). Good doctrine is a foundation for better practice and a

more authentic, coherent and sustainable life of faith. Thus, time and attention given to our formulations and expression of doctrine are worthwhile and important.

But the foundation for this is a doctrine of doctrine—an understanding or belief on the nature of belief. Our doctrine of doctrine will be highlighted at the General Conference session next week. For the first time since the adoption of our statement of belief in its current form 25 years ago, this session will consider a change to that statement. Perhaps some will argue that because the alteration is proposed simply as an addition to the existing statement, we still have a way to go before we can broach substantive change of the existing statement. But nevertheless, assuming the proposed addition is voted in some form, this change will highlight the often overlooked “doctrine of doctrine” encapsulated in the preamble to the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs.

Described by Fritz Guy as “the most important sentences in the whole document,”* the preamble is the key that releases Adventism from being “entrapped for all time” by doctrinal statements. The preamble embodies the important Adventist traditions of “present truth” and “expanding light.” As such, it has profound significance for how we believe.

One of the most obvious aspects of this doctrine of doctrine is that we do not all have to think the same. How could we ever expect amendment or addition if we expect uniformity of thought and belief? This statement also legitimises the position

requiring something less than absolute acceptance of the current formulation of belief for membership in the Adventist Church. Ironically, if one is to expect unquestioning adherence to all 27—or 28—statements of belief, one is simultaneously questioning this foundational doctrine of doctrine.

Of course, so far as doctrine defines a denomination, one wonders at the motivation for choosing a denomination with which one has little in common doctrinally. But where we find we are part of a theological movement with which we have much in common, we are also at liberty—through appropriate mechanisms—to contribute our diverse appreciation of different aspects of the work of God in our world.

The preamble also emphasises that we are a community of faith actively seeking the leading of God. There are risks inherent in recognising our theology is yet a work-in-progress. Some will be uncomfortable with the seeming denial of certainty. But when we appreciate that this admission is built on the expectation of the leading of God, such a statement becomes a joyous celebration of—and prayer for—the continuing work of His Spirit in our community of faith.

That is a doctrine worth writing down—and living out in the life of the church.

*“*Uncovering the Origins of the Statement of Twenty-seven Fundamental Beliefs*,” www.sdanet.org/au/issue/doctrines/au2002conference/guy/guy27origin.htm

Nathan Brown



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

Wahroonga Adventist Primary School celebrates centenary

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Hundreds of people attended a special weekend of celebrations to mark the centenary of the Wahroonga Adventist Primary School from May 20 to 22. Past and present students and teachers joined in the celebrations, which included Friday-night vesperers and a Sabbath program in the Wahroonga church. A program honouring past friends and teachers was also held on the Sabbath afternoon.

State Member of Parliament for Hornsby, Judy Hopwood, was among the guests at the Centenary Fair, which was held on the Sunday and attracted a large crowd. It also featured on a live broadcast



The Wahroonga Adventist Primary School.

by local community radio station 2HHH.

School principal Michelle Streatfield said the centenary weekend was the highlight of the school year. "It was great to hear old stories from ex-students, teachers, parents and principals and to see faces light up from the older generation as they met old friends again," she said. "It was definitely a weekend to remember."

The Wahroonga Adventist Primary School was started in 1905 to meet the educational needs of the children of workers from the hospital that had opened two years earlier.

The first classroom was in a room at the rear of the Sydney Adventist Hospital complex, but by 1907 the school had moved to a small timber cottage a short distance north along Fox Valley Road.

The school underwent a number of changes over the years until the present school was built in 1940 and opened in 1941. The brick buildings included two primary rooms and three secondary classes plus a small office. In 1942 the school's enrolment numbers were boosted as missionary families returned to Australia because of World War II.

Ruby Harker, who attended the school



Singers at the centenary celebrations of the Wahroonga Adventist Primary School.

from 1926 to 1929, says, "I had good friends there. It was an easy life, plenty of room for fun and games. All the bush down the back, that was our playground."

Mrs Harker's son went to the school for a short time and three of her grandchildren were also students—one of the many families who have had links with the school for several generations.

Over the years the school has developed an outstanding reputation in the local community for offering quality Christian education in a caring environment, with 240 students currently enrolled. The school aims to provide a supportive environment for the total development of all its students.—Tracey Bridcutt

◆ The 21 participants of an **HIV/AIDS training workshop** in Maprik, East Sepik Province, PNG, learned about HIV/AIDS, gender, sexuality, counselling and substance abuse. "What difference will you make in the community?" asked Sepik Mission secretary Pastor **Beniah Sema**. The workshop was hosted by Adventist Health Department program manager **James Gahare** through its Church Partnership Program (CPP) funded by AusAID. Mr Gahare conducted the six-day workshop with the help of **Tobias Kwelik**, a Catholic sexual health worker in Maprik, and **Esther Kubol**, a volunteer sex-



ual reproduction trainer. Mr Gahare says there is a great need for networking among the different denominations in the country.—Martina Naulu

◆ While Pastor **Toa Lutu**, minister of the Whakatane and Gisborne churches, NNZ, was the only Adventist to have his home flooded, it provided him with a **unique**

opportunity to minister to the community. With last year's July floods still fresh in many people's memories, on May 18 a "**water-bomb**" dropped 300 mm of rain in 24 hours on the Bay of Plenty area—94.5mm of it falling in just one hour. Three streams, only a few metres wide at the start of the week, expanded to 200 metres wide and gushed through the town. **Houses were pushed off foundations**, cars were buried and caravans were swept out to sea. A family of five was inside their house while it was swept more than 700 metres and another house was left sitting on a railway

line. Pastor Lutu chose to **stay with 300 people** who had been evacuated and minister to them through their trauma.—Kyrril Bland

◆ The local **community was surveyed** by 30 of the **Waitara**, NSW, youth group members to find whether people were interested in family or health seminars or Bible studies. **Charissa Fong**, a 17-year-old who participated in the survey, says, "I thought it would be hard but after actually doing it, I **found it easy. I would definitely go again.**" In one hour the group had gained 20 contacts to follow up.—Intrasyd

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ JULY 9—HOPE FOR BIG CITIES OFFERING ◆ JULY 23—MEDIA EVANGELISM OFFERING

Adventists continue to rebuild lives in India after tsunami

ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

Six months after a devastating tsunami struck the eastern coast of India, hundreds of Seventh-day Adventist families are still recovering from the trauma, aided by donations from church members around the world. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) have channelled millions of dollars in aid to tsunami victims irrespective of affiliation, and the church in India itself has mobilised to assist members in this time of need.

"I want to thank my church and my God for the help I got to repair my house," says Mrs A Anbunathan, who lives in the Tamil Nadu region. "I was able to make a new thatch roof and to purchase cooking utensils and other household items washed away when the waves came."

Mrs Anbunathan lost everything when the tsunami destroyed much of the community where she lives along the east coast of India. She is one of more than 7000 Adventist members representing 1015 families affected by the tsunami.

The church has helped rebuild or repair 143 houses and repaired and restocked

shops owned by three families. Forty fibreglass boats with nets and 50 country boats have been distributed. More than 670 families have received compensation because of the loss of one season's crops. Goats, cows and sewing machines have been given to members to help them support their families.

"I am so thankful to God and my church for providing me with a boat so that I can go fishing again and support my family," says Naidu Sreenu of Gundaipalem.

More than 600 children in Adventist schools in India were also affected by the tsunami, losing not only their ability to pay fees because their parents could no longer earn money, but their books as well. However, their school expenses have been covered and books are being provided by the church's tsunami fund.

At least 40 orphans have been moved into Adventist boarding schools. Initial help for clothing and food was provided from the fund, and they are now being supported through funding from Children's Health Education and Relief International Canada and Asian Aid International.



Many areas were devastated by the tsunami, but are recovering thanks to aid agencies and churches.

Churches at Port Blair, Andaman Islands, Karaikal and Subrayapuram are being rebuilt. Several classrooms in various schools are also being repaired.

"I appealed to our leaders for help for our members," says Pastor M M Samson of Andaman Islands. "Help came and our believers were able to repair their shops and houses and to replace their household articles and clothing. Also, we are able to rebuild our church."

Pastor Ron Watts, president of the Southern Asia Division, says, "We cannot find words to express our gratitude for the great outpouring of love and support that came for our Adventist members. All needs have not been fully met as yet, but we have tried to give some help to all."—*ANN*



◆ "Don't preach to our town," was the warning given to the STORM Co team of 25 Kellyville, NSW, church members visiting the remote rural town of Nyngan, seven hours west of Sydney. In addition to running a Kids Club in town, the STORM Co team worked on a farm filling five trailers with loose hay, herding sheep, rolling hay bales onto utes, dig-

ging burrs out of empty dams and throwing old fences onto trailers. "I saw 500 acres of red dust, 600 head of sheep and cattle, all been run by two women. One, whose husband had just passed away, and her friendly neighbour, the only Adventist in town," says STORM Co participant Michael Were. Along with an article in the local paper written by the Mayor, the Community Service Officer's phone "rang off the hook" by the community with inquiries and positive feedback regarding the team.—*Robyn Crabtree*

◆ In what seems to be a first for

Australia, seven different denominations in Gloucester, NSW, banded together. Joining the Baptist, Uniting, Anglican, Presbyterian, Catholic, and Christian Outreach Centre churches, the small Seventh-day Adventist church was heavily involved in a week full of activities. Events included a Jazz Cafe Church, Kidz Biz, Business Person's Breakfast, Scripture in Schools, Seniors' Lunch, Women's Lunch, Men's Dinner, High School events, Big Nite Out 4 Youth, Street Parade and Family Fun Day, concluding with "high tea" and an informal church service.—*Jennifer Darko*



◆ Gavin Chatelier and family—wife, Trudi, and children, Jessika, Elijah, Jordan, Moses, Jotham, Isaiah and Grace—have been invited to represent the South Pacific Division at the General Conference session. This leads the family into a five-month gospel music world tour in concerts, church services and programs in the USA, UK, Europe and Asia. "We are extremely excited about the opportunity," says Mr Chatelier.

IS YOUR CHURCH DOING SOMETHING EXCITING, INOVATIVE OR INSPIRING? EMAIL US — RECORD@SIGNSPUBLISHING.COM.AU

New theme song for GC session

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, USA

While any song can inspire a whole spectrum of emotions, sacred music has a loftier goal. So does the theme song composed specifically for the upcoming quinquennial General Conference (GC) session in St Louis, Missouri, which begins at the end of this month.

The new song, "Jesus Christ, how we adore You," replaces the long-cherished theme song of the GC, "We have this hope," which expresses hope in Christ's second coming.

While Christ's advent remains intrinsic to the church's beliefs, this new song complements the meeting's theme of "Transformed in Christ."

The song emphasises the "relationship with Christ and the change that takes place essentially through Christ," says Ted N C Wilson, a general vice-president of the church. It also acknowledges Christ's powerful superior nature, and asks God for significant change in our human character.

Reger Smith, public relations director for the world church and the song's lyricist, explains further, saying, "The song portrays Christ's many facets as a provider, mentor, creator and redeemer."—*ANN*

"Homes of hope" summit success

(Continued from page 1)

This was the second "Homes of hope" summit that has been held in Australia, and so far it has been successful, with 65 per cent of the people who attended the summit last year reporting seeing at least one baptism as a result of their ministry. One attendee saw nine baptisms from their contacts, and several of those nine are now involved in the "Homes of hope" ministry.

"I am more impressed than ever that if we can encourage people to love people in common, ordinary, pedestrian ways, their heart will warm up to a message about a God who loves them," says Mr Hunt. "But, if we just tell them about a God who loves them and they don't feel our love, the results are modest at best. If we will be their friend, their heart will warm up to a message about what a friend we can have in Jesus.

"In reflecting on my involvement in the 'Homes of hope' movement, I am concluding that it's all about teamwork. It is a primary strategy of loving Australia until Australia comes to know the love of God."

"Homes of hope" is the name given to hospitality ministry, which focuses on cre-



Small groups were gathered at the meeting to talk over what had happened for them in their ministry, share success stories and brainstorm ideas.

ating a friendly environment into which people from the community can be invited.

The program is a strategy of identifying people who are gifted in hospitality ministry and supporting them so that they can be successful in their ministry. This is a national strategy in Australia. The support includes a budget of \$A1000 per year, which is paid by the Australian Union Conference, local conferences and churches.

This helps to cover some of the costs involved in providing hospitality to others. People interested in the ministry are also given training and a network is set up between them.—*Adele Nash*

More @ www.homesofhope.net

◆ "Miraculously, we have penetrated the airwaves almost without financial investment," says **Donald Zabala**, communication director for Central Philippine Union, reporting on **Hope channel** joining the religious broadcast family in the region. "Hope channel is now accessed by hundreds of thousands of TV viewers in **Central Philippines in 11 cities and towns** as cable channels hooked up to Hope free of charge or for a token amount."—*Jonathan Catolico*

◆ A **scavenger hunt challenge** was given to three teams of the

Marion church in Illinois, USA. The teams went **doorknocking for food**, personal-care articles and other items for the **Marion Ministerial Alliance**—an interdenominational cooperative Christian ministry organised by local pastors to meet emergency needs of Marion residents. The Pathfinder team beat the young adult and adult Sabbath school class teams, col-



lecting items totalling the **highest retail dollar value**. The incentive not to lose had been projectile cream pies.—*Carol Barnhurst*

◆ A **new ingathering record** has been set by the **North England Conference (NEC)**. Their collection of £208,960 beats the previous highest total set in 1990 by £2,036. **Ray Angel** from Worcester, one of the smaller churches in the NEC, collected more than £3,000, while in Birmingham permission was gained to **collect in two large shopping centres**, which contributed significantly to their total.—*BUC News*

◆ A **group of Brazilians** have begun to worship in Ballinasloe church in Ireland due to a **Yellow Pages ad** the church placed a year earlier. As Adventists moving into the area they had the **desire to find an Adventist church** to worship in. After a year of not finding one, they discovered the ad and began to attend.—*Ashley Stanley Kongari*

◆ **Adventist World Radio (AWR)** has a potential audience of **70 per cent of the world's population**. AWR is broadcast in 55 languages from 69 production studios around the world.

Northern Caribbean University students win Microsoft competition

MANDEVILLE, JAMAICA

It's not as improbable as the Jamaican Olympic bobsledding team, but the success of four Northern Caribbean University (NCU) students may well be unique in their own way.

The students, who are enrolled in the computer science program of the Adventist-owned institution, bested three other teams from the Caribbean and Central America to advance to the final round of the 2005 Microsoft Corporation Imagine Cup competition.

To win, they overcame visa difficulties that kept two students behind, as well as their adviser's sudden illness, to go on and triumph in the semifinal event.

The final round will take place in Yokohama, Japan, from July 27 to August 1, and the students will travel there as guests of Microsoft. With teams from nine other regional competitions, the NCU students will aim for the Imagine Cup and its top prize of \$US25,000. A second place prize of \$US15,000 and a \$US10,000 prize for third place will also be awarded.

The NCU group comprises Leon Green, George Long, Keron Tooma and Romaine

Carter. NCU professor Kenrie Hylton, faculty adviser to the student team, said he could not give details of the actual software as the NCU group is still in competition. However, he says, "Our project by its very nature seeks to break down cultural barriers and move people closer across borders."

According to Microsoft academic programs manager Liz Romero, who oversaw the competition, the NCU student project "exemplified" the theme of the event. "It shows an excellent use of our technologies," she says. "It also very well represented the use of technology with a particular purpose of breaking these [cultural] barriers."

According to Microsoft, the Imagine Cup, now in its third year, is an annual global technology competition designed to provide an outlet for students to explore technological and artistic interests outside the classroom. Over the past three years, there has been tremendous growth in the number of students participating in the Imagine Cup and in the number of countries and universities represented. This is the first time Jamaica has entered the competition, professor Hylton says. "We would like our department, our students, our uni-



First-time participants in the Microsoft Imagine Cup competition, the four Northern Caribbean University students are all smiles after their win.

versity and our country to be recognised as a source of top programmers and software designers," he added.

The NCU team was one of only three teams from the region to advance to the semifinals, from a starting roster of 22 teams, and they are the only team from the region to move on to the Yokohama event.

Mrs Romero wouldn't predict how the NCU students would do in the final competition, but was lavish in her praise for their effort, saying, "They have an exciting application. They're obviously a team with a lot of things going for them. They have a great idea and we are certainly doing everything we can to allow them to show [it] and maximise their talents and abilities."

—*Rhoma Tomlinson/ANN/Mark Kellner*

◆ A recent Gallup survey among US congregation members revealed that **church friendliness correlated with both church attendance and volunteerism**. The Gallup poll also found that friendships with other church members is a key **reason many individuals joined** a specific church. And members who have best friends at church tend to be more satisfied and more involved with their churches. **Michael Lindsey**, a research specialist with the Gallup organisation, says relationship building can happen in several practical ways. "One is by having a system where people in the

church can get to know one another. Another way to **foster friendships** in a church is by focusing on those people who are new to the congregation."—*Allie Martin*

◆ The **National Day of Thanksgiving** celebration held on May 14 had more than **600 significant church and community events** taking place across Australia. More than 1000 individual and small events also took place. Four hours of worship were **broadcast across the nation** on the Saturday night by more than 250 radio stations, as churches and groups came

together to worship God.—*Australian Prayer Network*

More @
www.thanksgiving.org.au

◆ "The gospel according to Star Wars," a 12-week study, "is a Bible study that's simply using the original **Star Wars** trilogy as a vehicle," says **Andy Adams**, who teaches the Covenant-First Presbyterian church-made course. "It's not a new way to teach Christianity," says **John Brolley**, director of the legacy program in religious studies at the University of Cincinnati, USA. "It's the modern-day version of something that is **described**

over and over in the Acts as what Paul did. He provided a blueprint for evangelisation," Mr Brolley says. "Paul accessed the concepts and the images from the dominant culture to teach the gospel. If 'Star Wars' was in those days, **Paul would have invoked C-3PO and R2-D2.**" The Covenant-First church has also made connections between secular and sacred issues with the creation of "The gospel according to Shakespeare" and "The gospel according to the Simpsons" Bible-study sessions.—*Cincinnati Enquirer*

More @
www.covfirstchurch.org

“Operation open heart” a success in Fiji

SUVA, FIJI

Arriving on May 15 and departing on May 27, a team of 44 Australian doctors and nurses operated on 36 heart patients in Suva’s Colonial War Memorial Hospital as a part of the “Operation open heart” program.

Organised by a group of Adventists in Australia, the program treated patients of all ages for problems like rheumatic heart disease. A number of patients were also fitted with new pacemakers.

Coordinator of the program, Melanie Windus, says, “This is something that the volunteers love to do. It is a way of giving something back to the people without getting paid but they are satisfied when they see the smile on the patients’ faces.”

Peni Dakua, communication director for the Fiji Mission, says, “Words are not enough to express the gratitude of the patients and their relatives for this demonstration of practical Christianity. Never in this world could they receive such a generous lease of a new life. The smiles on their faces tells you of their in-depth appreciation of a major miracle of life.”

In the 15 years that “Operation open heart” has been run in Fiji, 388 cardiac patients have been treated.

The operations are free and are made possible by doctors and nurses giving up their free time and paying to go to countries, such as Fiji, where the lives of children and adults are threatened by heart problems.—*Adele Nash/Fiji Times*



Members of the “Operation open heart” team in Fiji.

Avondale lecturer speaks at world congress on brain injury

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Avondale College lecturer Dr Malcolm Anderson has presented a paper at the 6th World Congress on Brain Injury, held in Melbourne from May 6 to 8.

Dr Anderson, a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Nursing and Health, led a team of three co-researchers who examined the effects of neurobehavioural impairments on family functioning and psychological well-being of relatives of people with severe traumatic brain injury (TBI).

His multisite study sampled 104 relatives from New South Wales. He found the significant personality change of those suffering TBI places further stress on their relationships.

“Spouses describe it as like living with a stranger,” he says.

This loss and others, such as loss of

income and an active social life, lead to symptoms of distress. However, Dr Anderson’s research shows the families that cope well under these circumstances are the families that support one another, tend not to view disability of brain injury as threatening and believe God provides them with the strength to cope.

“This suggests combining individual coping theory, which has been the subject of a lot of study, with a broader study of family stress theory may strengthen research into how families adapt to brain injury,” says Dr Anderson.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church’s Australasian Research Institute has awarded a grant to Dr Anderson for his study, which he expects to complete by the end of next year. In the meantime, he has been writing a chapter for a book called, *Psychology of Stress*, which will be released later this year.—*Brenton Stacey*

Adventist church destroyed in Solomons

PAGOE, SOLOMON ISLANDS

On May 11, a group of more than 30 people armed with stones, sticks, bars and a gun destroyed a newly built, but not yet completed, Adventist church at Pagoe village on North Choiseul in the Solomon Islands.

The church was built on a private area registered by the land-owning tribe. Two brothers belonging to the tribe were working on the construction of the church.

“When the angry mob arrived on the premises one of the brothers prevented them from destroying the church. However, the arrival of a man with a gun made it possible for them to come in with a chainsaw and cut almost all the bearers, the bottom plates and the window seals which made the studs to fall apart,” says Pastor Luther Taniveke, general secretary of the Western Solomon Islands Mission.

“As a leader of the Adventist Church in the Western Solomon Islands, I would like to express my disappointment in the attitudes of some of the leaders and people of Pagoe village that resulted in the destruction of this incompleted church building. I



The brothers who were working on the church standing in its ruins following the May 11 attack.

find this attitude to be unchristian, and reveals to all of us that the works of darkness are still in the hearts of the people who were destroying the church building.”

Members of the church in Pagoe include the principal of the community high school, the nurse in charge of the local clinic and the malaria technician. Some of the children who attend the local high school are also members of the church, as are many of their parents.

This is the third time in almost 10 years that the church has been damaged or destroyed in Pagoe village.—*Adele Nash*

Advertising ADRA

BY DAVID JACK

COLLABORATE: TO WORK, ONE WITH another, cooperate (*Macquarie Dictionary*).

If ADRA (the Adventist Development and Relief Agency) were listed in the dictionary, hopefully the same definition would appear. ADRA—Australia’s contribution to the world is in the areas of development and relief. How we do that is what makes us different: we collaborate with partners around the world and here in Australia. It’s all about local people helping local people.

Within Australia, ADRA’s primary work is fulfilled by the effort of volunteers. Hundreds of people around the country come together simply to help out where they can, in ways they can, for as long as they can. Some volunteers work full-time in ADRA Op Shops, others work



a few hours a month in a refuge, and others have spent one evening on an ADRA street project. Each contribution is valued and necessary.

And now we want to share this philosophy of service with the wider Australian population, and hopefully motivate them to join in. Commencing this year, ADRA—Australia will embark on a national advertising campaign to share more about who we are and our philosophy of collaboration and partnership.

Back in the 1980s and 1990s, the Seventh-day Adventist Church shared this same idea of service and collaboration through a successful advertising campaign

titled “Do you need a hand?” Many readers will recall the catchy jingle and images of people helping others. ADRA—Australia has embraced this concept as the basis for our new advertising campaign, with the focus on motivating people to serve others and lend a hand. The “Lend a hand” campaign will feature an updated version of the jingle, and other creative options for television, radio and print media. ADRA will trial a few media options around Australia for the first year.

This national campaign will be different from many other aid agency advertisements, which usually focus on the plight of others to solicit donations. ADRA’s campaign will, instead, focus on the lifestyle benefits of service and promote the Aussie spirit of helping your mate. It will be a call to action for people to serve in their communities, and experience the rewards that it brings (personal satisfaction, achievement, belonging, contribution).

We are keen to place ADRA before the public eye and motivate people to work together for the benefit of their communities. Your support and feedback is most welcome, as we journey this road together. We look forward to keeping you informed of our plans as they come to fruition over the next few months. **R**

David Jack is the chief executive officer of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Australia.



ADRA director goes Red Cross calling

BY GARY CHRISTIAN

ADRA'S DIRECTOR FOR THE ADRA Appeal, Gary Christian, just can't help himself. For him, one door-knock per year is simply not stimulating enough. Plagued by an overwhelming addiction to meeting and greeting, an invitation to help the "Red Cross calling" Appeal had no chance of being rejected.

And so, to the doors! Taking exactly the same territory he did for the 2004 ADRA Appeal, an area around his home on the Central Coast of New South Wales, he put in two hours of scintillating persona at the doorsteps on Sabbath afternoon, March 9.

Comparisons between Red Cross Calling and the ADRA Appeal

1. For his two-hour stint back in August 2004, Gary received \$A2 more for the ADRA Appeal than for that same amount of time on the Red Cross Appeal. But with the ADRA Appeal he reports that he spent about 25 minutes talking to the wife of the local Labor political aspirant (it was not long before the last federal election in Australia), whereas on the Red Cross Appeal he only got cornered for 15 minutes with one of the householders.

2. Individual donations to both Appeals were almost identical. One \$A50 donation in each Appeal (from different donors),



some \$A10s and mostly \$A5s. There was no mention by anyone that they would not give to Red Cross because of the Bali crisis, nor did anyone reflect that they would give less because of the tsunami. So it appears the ADRA Appeal can match the Red Cross in terms of donor giving.

3. The Red Cross Appeal was in fact easier, Gary reports, because no one asked who Red Cross was. However, the ADRA Appeal required some explanation, but with mention of local projects such as the Southlakes Women's Refuge supported by ADRA, most happily gave.

4. The Red Cross Appeal was done in the heat of March while the ADRA Appeal was done in the cool of winter. Preference for Gary? Cool!

Conclusions of the ADRA director overseeing the Appeal?

We have got an excellent profiling campaign for ADRA, which will be seen in all forms of media from July, which will make collecting a lot easier. The "Lend a hand" advertising campaign will be national, and

with the focus on the benefits of service and the promotion of the Aussie spirit of helping your mate, we expect that a lot more people will know who ADRA is and what it stands for.

The ADRA Appeal is not that difficult these days. Gone are the days when people raised their eyebrows at the name Adventist. Gone are the days when there was a doorknock every weekend. Now it is really just ADRA, the Sallies and Red Cross. Unquestionably there is money at the doors, and the only difference between a good result on the Appeal and a poor result is the number of collectors who go to get the money.

So this year, remember that the Appeal is no longer difficult. If we can get more people to the door, ADRA will have all the more funds to help people in need. **R**

Gary Christian is national program director for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Australia.

Consider the eucalypts

BY STUART BARONS

PERHAPS MORE THAN ANY OTHER country, Australia is distinguished by its vegetation. Wherever you go in this island continent you can find distinct, unique and remarkable flora. This is especially so of the trees.

Distinction and adaptation

The eucalyptus family abounds. They are unique trees, peculiar to the country and distinct from other species. In this respect they may be taken as typical of the committed Christian who should also be distinct and possess features that are exotic—heavenly characteristics. They should not conform to what everyone else is doing, but be distinct by the renewing of their mind through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The eucalypt has taken full possession of Australia and has adapted itself to every variation of conditions. Certain species thrive in swamps, lagoons and riverbeds. Others subsist better on rocky mountaintops and slopes. Some thrive on barren sandy wastes, in bleak terrain and amid windswept wildernesses. Many are adapted to rich soils and deep alluvial flats.

The only way in which the followers of Jesus Christ will advance the kingdom of God here on earth is to recognise they also have been blessed with the power of variation. If the eucalypt had only had one form, ignoring variety of aspects, soils, altitudes and other conditions, its distribution would be limited. Christians can permeate all cultural and friendship groups as they endeavour to be “all things to all people” (1 Corinthians 9:22, NCV). They endeavour to demonstrate compassion, understanding and joy in a society where many experience fear, hopelessness and loneliness. Their circle of friends provides a ready network



unique to them and brings opportunities for ministry. All Christians have a unique story to tell and that variety can reach all strata of society.

Sizes and shapes

The *Eucalyptus* genus is of all sizes, from the diminutive *Eucalyptus dumosa* of half a metre high to the towering giants of 120 metres. *Eucalyptus amygdalinus* is the tallest tree in the world. We cannot all be towering giants; most of us are somewhere

between the two extremes. The dwarf eucalypt has its place; in fact, the larger species could not grow where the small species thrive. We may be called to work for Christ in an isolated place, among few people, or to stand tall in crowds as giant witnesses. But we are all necessary in advancing the kingdom for Christ. A variety of Christians is necessary to influence people for Jesus.

Every species and variety of eucalypt is of some benefit. The tall ones produce the finest and strongest timbers in the world. The timber is solid, strong and durable, unlike the majority of the Northern Hemisphere timbers that are light and soft.

But of what use are the smaller eucalypts? Eucalyptus oil is extracted from the small-growing species. They cannot form timber, so they store up in their leaves glands full of fragrant, disinfecting and pain-killing essential oil. This oil has been a blessing to millions of people. Christians who have been blessed with one talent can spread the fragrance of life.

With growth, the eucalypt has different appearances; its foliage completely changes. When young, the leaves are broad, horizontal and clasping the stem. They are soft, succulent, watery and flabby. As the young tree grows, the leaves become lengthened, narrower, alternate, with a clear stalk and are suspended in an oblique manner from the branches. They are tough, leathery, firm and durable.

In this wonderful transformation of leaves, we have an illustration of “growing in grace.” The hardness, tenacity and durability of a disciple of Jesus Christ cannot be developed without the pliant and absorbing nature of babyhood. The juvenile foliage pushes up the young tree to a size large enough to enable it to grapple with the

many difficulties plants growing in Australia experience. The foliage and form of the eucalypt gradually develop the characteristics most suited to the difficulties it has to meet.

Learning to breathe

Respiration is as necessary to trees as to people. They breathe through perfect mouths situated, in most trees, on the undersurface of the leaves. There are frequently hundreds of mouths—stomata—to the square centimetre of leaf material. They are underneath the leaves to catch the moisture that ascends from the earth and to be shaded from the sun. But in the eucalypts, the mouths are on both surfaces and the leaf has no top and bottom. It hangs perpendicularly.

In Australia the parching heat that radiates from the earth is great and for months no moisture rises from the earth. Therefore those trees with leaves that neither face the sun nor the earth get on best. To thrive spiritually we must have respiration. Our souls must inhale the breath of heaven. Let us have hundreds of stomata on our souls.

Consider the eucalypts

The eucalypt is the largest of trees and yet its seed is incredibly small. Trees of more than a hundred metres high grow from seed smaller than the head of a pin! Look at the tiny seed and then at the monarchs of the forest—it appears impossible, but it's true. Our actions are small and yet the results of those actions may influence the world—the small things lead to mighty deeds. It is our small acts that make our character and determine whether our impact is negative or positive.

Just as Jesus used illustrations from everyday life to convey spiritual truths, so we can be reminded by the eucalypts that grow in most of our neighbourhoods of the spiritual lessons they offer us.

And for the blasts of life, let us “rest in the shadow of the Almighty” (Psalm 91:1, NIV). He is far mightier than even the largest eucalypt! **R**

The writer acknowledges this idea was adapted from an article first published in 1894.

**Stuart Barons writes from
Dumbalk, Victoria.**

A personal mission

BY GARY KRAUSE

GOD DIDN'T SIT IN HEAVEN, FLICK A switch, and send us hope. He didn't do it by celestial remote control. He personally brought hope to us.

He could have just sent instructions from heaven, but He came among us. We now know Him best through Jesus who wore human skin, breathed air, walked our earth.

At times He ministered to large crowds. But just as often He met a lone Nicodemus at night, spent a day with a woman in a Samaritan village, or touched a blind man's eyes. “He went journeying from town to town and village to village, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God” (Luke 8:1, NEB). After He left, His message spread rapidly through the then-known world, all through personal contact.

Recently in a public hospital in Arua, Uganda, a young mother-to-be awaited her first baby. She'd had a long, hard labour. Lying on her hospital bed, she could only whisper with the contractions, “God will help.” Nearby stood Adventist missionary Kristina Muelhauser—patting her arm, encouraging her. Then they took the mother-to-be away for a caesarean section.

Kristina lives in Arua with her husband, Darrel, and their youngest child, Harmony. Darrel directs ministerial training for the Adventist Church in south Sudan. Kristina home-schools Harmony, and helps as a midwife in the local community.

In the evening, she returned to the hospital to see if the baby was OK. There she was, a big chubby baby girl. Family—all Muslims—surrounded the happy mother.

The next morning Kristina returned to check on the mother, and discovered the baby had died during the night. “The mother lay still in the bed with her eyes closed, shutting out the other 40 women and their babies who were in the same room with her,” says Kristina. “My heart felt like lead.”

Kristina rushed home, and found a soft little white hat with yellow tulips that she had knitted many years before. She tucked the little hat in her bag and rode her bike back to the hospital. The baby's grand-

mother stood sadly at the end of her daughter's bed. She spoke no English.

Kristina told the nurse the hat was for the baby. The nurse was surprised, but explained to the grandmother what Kristina wanted to do. Women in other beds and student nurses quietly watched.

“The African Muslim women here cover their heads, but not their faces,” says Kristina. “I could easily see the tears flow down the black cheeks of the dear grandmother as she uncovered the baby's head. Together, Muslim and Christian, black and white, we put the little hat on, our

“We put the little hat on, our hands and hearts touching.”

hands and hearts touching.

“The mother had not moved or opened her eyes through all of this,” Kristina adds. “She lay still in the bed, silent in her grief and pain. I asked the grandma to bring the baby for the mother to see her one last time. The mother opened her eyes. Tenderly I patted the round little cheek of the baby, and then the mother, as we all wept quietly together.”

Kristina says she and her family are ordinary. She never had any great desire for overseas mission service. She didn't want to leave their family and cozy home in northern Maine, United States. But all that has changed in the joy of service.

Today Christians share their message through the Internet, television, radio, and mass public meetings. All worthy. But they still don't come close to the power of the personal touch of an ordinary person. **R**

Gary Krause is director of the Office of Mission Awareness for the General Conference, based in Silver Spring, Maryland, United States.

Do we have this hope?

BY MARTIN BROWN

LISTENING TO SERMON RECENTLY, WITH THE PREACHER extolling the virtues of the new earth, I asked myself, *Why do I need to be reminded of this?* And yet, I confess that I did need reminding, even though I spend most of my time in bed or in a wheelchair.

And then I thought of Paul's suggestion that being reminded of the promises of God should have a real impact on how we live our lives today: "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good" (Titus 2:11-14*).

Too often, the morass of matters—the rush of life—seems to overwhelm us with the necessary things we have to do every day and we forget that we have this hope. We have the hope of being redeemed from this present world; the hope of no more sickness and suffering, no more weariness; the hope of unlimited joy in the presence of our Lord and Saviour. We should not forget it.

As parents provide for their children, so our heavenly Father is providing for us, today and eternally. If we recognise this, it will change the way we look at life. It just may deliver us from the morass.

There is a story of a young minister preaching on the second coming of Jesus, who was trying to make the point that the coming of Jesus is happening around us today in improved standards of living and modern technological developments that are making our lives easier. As he reached a climax in presenting these thoughts, he turned to an older minister sitting behind him on the platform and said enthusiastically, "Isn't that so, Elder?"

The older man rose and came to the pulpit where he read the story of Jesus' ascension from Acts 1:9-11, including the clear statement "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven" (verse 11).

He made an important point. Our hope lies in the personal return of the Son of God. "Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body" (Philippians 3:20, 21).


We *do* have this hope. **R**

*Bible quotations are from the New International Version.

Martin Brown writes from Toowoomba, Queensland.

Record Roo's

Kids corner



Hi Kids,
Have you ever thought about what it will be like to live forever? All we have to do is keep our heart and mind on God. God told Lot and his family to do something so that they would be able to live. Read about it in Genesis 19...


RR

Fill in the Blanks

And I give them _____ life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone _____ them out of My _____.


John 10:28 NKJV

Colour in... After you have joined the dots



Find-a-Word

- ANGELS
- SODOM
- GATES
- STRANGERS
- DOWNTOWN
- EVIL
- WICKEDNESS
- SUNRISE
- WIFE
- FURNACE
- SALT
- STATUE



Dot to dot... Join the dots to find out where God wants us to spend our eternal life with Him. Each letter starts at one.

Peta Taylor, Shelli Taylor

Editors pay tribute to Berto

BY NATHAN BROWN



AN ADVENTIST “INSTITUTION” comes to an end this week with the final instalment of “Just a coincidence” (below). The cartoon has been a regular feature of RECORD since 1987. Drawn by professional cartoonist Humberto Valenzuela—known more often as Berto—the cartoon has been a “must-flick-to” for many RECORD readers for almost two decades.

In the words of then-editor Pastor James Coffin, the cartoon was intended to “highlight the gap that too often exists between our practice and our profession, and . . . force us to think about a variety of issues that we might otherwise ignore.

“We felt that we, as Adventists, should be

just a coincidence



mature enough to smile at some of our corporate idiosyncrasies,” wrote Pastor Coffin, “and big enough to accept the rebuke when our behavioural inconsistencies are unmasked.”

Former RECORD editor Pastor Bruce Manners worked with Berto over 12 years as senior editor. But he recalls that he had been at RECORD for more than seven years before he met Berto. “We’d talked on the phone and communicated regularly, but never actually met,” he explains.

Pastor Manners says that finally meeting Berto was reassuring in the face of criticism received by RECORD. “Most readers loved his work, but there were some who responded almost as if he were evil itself. When I met him, I found him a gracious, gentle person, absolutely supportive of the Adventist Church. In fact, he was the senior elder of his local church and, at the time, the church pastor was away overseas and he was the acting pastor.

“I’m sorry to see him go,” he adds. “Both he and the cartoon said that here is a church that is not afraid to laugh at itself—and that’s a pretty important statement.”

While a relative newcomer to the editorial team, editorial assistant Scott Wegener

has a longstanding connection with “Just a coincidence.” His first contribution to RECORD was his winning entry in the “Help Berto” competition, published in RECORD, January 31, 1998.

“The Berto cartoon has been possibly one of the most important features of RECORD over the past 18 years,” says Mr Wegener, “a witty, humorous and sometimes shocking way to point out some of the idiosyncrasies of our beloved Adventist Church.

“While at a glance some cartoons seemed offensive or disrespectful, they represented either what does or what could happen in our churches. For those who took a moment to think about a cartoon, identify its truths in relation to their church’s ways, or even their own, and then seek to ‘fix’ the situation, Berto has performed a great service. Berto was more than just a joke.”

Of course, Berto has always had his critics. Humour is a voice that brings reaction, especially from those who feel its gentle chiding. On a weekly basis, Berto has reminded them of Pastor Coffin’s original question: “Is it possible for us to take ourselves so seriously that no-one else will?”

But—by the rest of us—Berto will be missed. He has helped us see church in a new way. Through humour, Berto and his cast of characters have touched our hearts and minds, prompting us to do better in our personal commitment and church life.

Thank you, Berto. **R**



The first “Just a coincidence” appeared in RECORD, January 17, 1987.

Nathan Brown is editor of RECORD.

Position vacant

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For church-related employment opportunities visit the Employment section on the SPD web site <www.adventist.org.au>.

Wedding

Boyle—Cooper. Duane Lorence Boyle, son of Laurie and Vicki Boyle (Bickley, WA), and Holly Anne Cooper, daughter of Kim and Janice Cooper (Merredin), were married on 1.5.05 at St Paul's Anglican Church, Bridgetown.

Mark Ellmoos

Hazel, Audrey and Victor Nielsen, Leonie and Brian Trost, Keith and Betty Pohlman; her eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren (all of Bundaberg). Iris was a loving mother and grandmother, who loved her garden and was very much involved in the life of her church and the CWA. Sadly missed.

Phil Downing

Patryarcha, Mark, born 5.5.1967 at Koszalin, Poland; died 30.3.05 in Melbourne, Vic, as the result of a car accident. He is survived by his wife, Jolanta; his five-year-old son, Daniel; his nine-month-old daughter, Anna; his parents, Edwin and Zofia; and his brothers, Jacek and Leszek. He touched many people during his short life, not just his family and friends, but a large number of people in his professional life. He is sadly missed by all who knew him and they look forward to that blessed day of the Lord's return.

Paweł Cieślak, Sławomir Malarek
Marek Ignasiak, Valerian Mohanu

Taylor, William, born 3.3.1919 at Teralba, NSW; died 26.4.05 at Newcastle. In September 1941 he married Jean Fisher. He is survived by his wife; his sons, Raymond, Charles and Stephen; their wives; his eight grandchildren; and also his great-grandchildren. William's early life was spent in the building industry, constructing and outfitting sawmills. Later, during World War II he joined the RAAF as a fitter and

turner. After war service he rejoined the building industry, and as a foreman, worked on a number of significant projects in Sydney and country NSW. In his later years he suffered ill health. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

Norm Tyack

Advertisements

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Notice is hereby given that a regular session of the South Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists will convene on Tuesday evening, August 30, and continue until Saturday evening, September 3, 2005, in the main Convention Hall of the Carlton Crest Hotel, 65 Queens Road, Melbourne. The first meeting will commence at 7.00 pm on the Tuesday. The business of the session will be as provided for in the Constitution of the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and will include administrative and departmental appointments and constitutional amendments. On Sabbath, September 3, the Sabbath school, church service and a Saturday night program will convene in the Dallas Brooks Centre, 300 Albert Street, East Melbourne.

Housemates wanted for house in Kuraby, Brisbane, Qld, with female. Male or female, student or professional. Close to Pacific, Logan and Gateway motorways. Contact Natalie 0423 776 465 or <n.esau@qut.edu.au>.

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ESL Teachers—Kazakhstan. Interested in teaching English? Two teachers are needed in September for 12 months. Teaching experience is preferred, but not essential.

Retired Pastor—Thailand Mission Hospital Church, Thailand. This is a dual-language church and caters to the hospital staff and the school of nursing, plus the members living over that way. Duties include: participate in church activities and worship services, home visitation, serve as speaker for services, give Bible studies, prepare monthly and quarterly reports, help keep accurate financial records, educate church members and others in healthful living etc.

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Kevin Judge, Ph 02 4980 2296 or alumni@avondale.edu.au;
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San nursing class 1965-68 are planning 40 Year Reunion weekend on October 29, 2005. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of: Norma Ellis, Anita Green (Walker), Judy Greenwood, Jan Orr (Mead) and Lesley Stevens, please ask them to contact Jenny Searle <dsearle@iprimus.com.au>; or Bev Martin (02) 9489 5907.

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8th Annual Sacred Concerts—Sabbath, July 23, 2005. 3.00 pm Parramatta church, Hammers Road. 8.00 pm Knox Grammar School, Pacific Highway, Wahroonga. Featuring Yola Mielczarek, Susan Yates (sopranos), Sandra Entermann (vocal solo/Entermann trio), Ben Slade (flute/vocal), Dallas Wilson (baritone), Graham Fletcher (marimba), Parramatta Choir, Knox Gallery Boys Choir, piano/organ duets, instrumental. Profits to ADRA. Knox tickets—phone (02) 9623 4235.

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George Bernard Shaw

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