

RECORD

July 23, 2005

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Dr Erika Puni, director of personal ministries, Sabbath school and stewardship for the South Pacific Division, signals the start of the SPD report to the General Conference session.

Re-elections signal good times for SPD

ST LOUIS, MISSOURI, USA

Pastor Laurie Evans was re-elected as president of the South Pacific Division (SPD) by delegates at the General Conference (GC) session in St Louis, Missouri, on July 3. This was followed the next day by the re-election of other SPD officers, Dr Barry Oliver as SPD general secretary and Rodney Brady as chief financial officer.

Pastor Evans was first elected in 1998 and says he enjoys his job. "I enjoy the opportunity of interacting with our people and our committed work force and those involved at the heart of what our church is all about," he says. "It's an honour to serve the church, and a responsibility that I don't take lightly."

But he admits there are also frustra-

tions. Foremost among these, he says, is the unrealistic expectation church members often have of the office of the president and his ability to answer all questions and solve all problems.

Pastor Evans sees great benefits in the re-election of the SPD administrative team and the continuity that will allow. "There has been a lot of change during the past five years and we now need to build on that change to consolidate the mission of the church and take it forward," he reflects.

Mr Brady, who was first appointed to his position at the GC session in 2000, echoes these sentiments. "At the moment we are midstream on a few things such as organisational restructuring," he says. "So it's a

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Millions of young people are committed to the church and its mission . . .

On hold

RECENTLY I WAS ON HOLD FOR something beyond 20 minutes to a major corporation or government department—I can't remember which. Every minute or so, a cheery pre-recorded message interrupted the "hold music" to assure me that my call was important and would be answered just as soon as possible. Sitting out such a period of enforced semi-attention, I had plenty of time to reflect on the experience and it occurred to me that the reason they had to keep reminding me that my call was important to them was because they were treating my call as particularly unimportant. And I had opportunity to wonder whether sometimes when we are most vocal we might in fact be unwittingly admitting our greatest deficiencies.

And thus I was interested in the refrain urging the greater involvement of young people, heard repeatedly through the General Conference session in St Louis, USA. Estimates suggest that up to 70 per cent of church members are young. This exciting statistic has been largely ignored in the selection of GC delegates, which has included less than 2 per cent young people. Of the 2000 delegates, just 33 are aged less than 30. Ironically, this is a decline from the 45 under-30s in Toronto in 2000, a session that I am told also highlighted the need for greater involvement of younger people.

With three under-30s in our small delegation, the South Pacific Division scores relatively well, but only when compared with the disappointing numbers of young people

from other parts of the world.

Some suggest the near-absence of young people is somewhat serendipitous, avoiding the potential for disenchantment. A gathering such as this has significant highlights and inspiration, but it has also seen many moments of tedium, confusion and frustration. Rather than the opportunity for young people to learn "how the system works," this is perhaps more an example of how it doesn't.

Some might argue this is simply part of the natural interaction amid a dynamic spiritual movement. But at times it seems the session processes and governance are groaning under the weight of a church that has experienced dramatic growth and draws delegates from a myriad of nationalities, languages and cultures. As a world-wide church, we have to do this better.

But, then again, perhaps it is the continued marginalisation of younger and other voices—in favour of more "institutionalised" delegates—that renders such gatherings less inclined to question and change themselves and the manner in which they conduct the business of the church.

Millions of young people are committed to the church and its mission around the world. They have perhaps been represented best in St Louis by those making up the communication teams by which you have seen, heard and read almost all the news emanating from the General Conference session. Wandering through the hallways and press areas that have been the temporary home of communica-

tors from different parts of the world, one finds a proportion of young people much closer to the 70 per cent figure. They are a creative, enthusiastic, friendly, hardworking, professional and committed group of people. Their work is an encouraging example of what the church can achieve through a dynamic conjunction of up-to-the-minute technology, youthful energy and a world-changing mission.

Many of the reports from divisions and mission initiatives of the church around the world also highlighted the significant roles young people are filling. And this might provide a partial answer to these concerns: while young people are not sitting in meetings, they are out there doing it. So long as the work of the church's business meetings and leadership does not hinder these efforts, young people might be able to simply do what they need to do as members of the kingdom of God, whether ignored or empowered by church leadership. After all, we experience church—and be the church—most significantly in a local church of which we choose to be a part, not at the General Conference.

But the question of young people's involvement in church decision-making remains. Whatever we say, while we continue to place young people and others "on hold," there are valuable inputs and important voices we are not engaging. And that, too, is something that must happen most significantly at your local church.

Nathan Brown



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know
experience
and share
our hope in Jesus Christ!

Re-elections signal good times for SPD

(Continued from page 1)

positive thing that the team has been maintained.

“I am pleased to be re-elected,” says Mr Brady. “It is affirming that the church continues to have that confidence in me.

“We are really focusing our energy and resources on the mission of the church. That’s what we have been working on the past five years, not just to be busy but effective. Continued development in the island fields will be a major priority in the next five years.”

As he leads the SPD into the next five years, Pastor Evans has a clear vision for the church. “I’d like us to be a church that has a vibrant relation to Christ,” he says, “that reaches out to the community and that articulates and demonstrates our distinctive message and values in a meaningful and caring way.”

The re-elections were followed by a report to the session about the work of the church in the South Pacific Division, which highlighted the successes of the past five years.

In a fast-moving video news presentation, GC delegates learned of the success of satellite evangelism, including the 2001



SPD president Pastor Laurie Evans (centre) introduces South Pacific Division officers Dr Barry Oliver and his wife, Julie (left), and Rodney Brady and his wife, Kathryn (right), to the GC session.

Mark Finley series in Papua New Guinea resulting in 2300 baptisms; the contemporary “Rez 10” youth series in 2002; and the “Heart of hope” series in 2004, which was linked to small-group and community evangelism.

Highlights of the report included the work of the literature ministry, with literature evangelists selling health books and Uncle Arthur’s *Bedtime Stories*, and the delivery of *Signs of the Times* magazines to remote outposts via various Adventist Aviation ministries.

Within the church, Adventist schools have been encouraging youth to be involved in short-term community service projects. Increasing numbers of students

and volunteers are taking advantage of Adventist Volunteer Service opportunities, with more than 1000 volunteers involved each year.

In 2004, the “Year of evangelism,” the South Pacific Division saw 14,000 people join the church. Examples of how this was achieved included a community children’s club being run in a local school on Saturday morning and Bible seminars with youth, such as those at Prescott Adventist College in Adelaide, South Australia, where half of the 100 young people who came to more traditional “prophecy” evangelism meetings were not members of the Adventist Church

The report noted that schools, colleges, universities, the Media Centre, Sanitarium and Sydney Adventist Hospital are all taking an active part in drawing new members to the church.

Pastor Evans challenged the delegates with the responsibility of spreading the gospel to everyone. He shared how some of the SPD’s more daring members went the “second mile,” such as searching for and living with an undiscovered tribe in Papua New Guinea, or selling property to buy a yacht for Pacific islands mission service.

As a region, Pastor Evans says that the work is not yet finished, but adds, “We are a [region] with finishing on our minds.” The report concluded with a challenge by Pastor Evans to believers in the South Pacific region to continue to share the gospel.—**Nathan Brown/ANN/Adele Nash**



SPD delegates in traditional clothes gathered on stage for the presentation of the SPD report.

Signs readers have their say

WARBURTON, VICTORIA

There were no chances to win a new car, new home or even a free subscription to *Signs*. Just the opportunity to be part of *Signs of the Times* future and also help ADRA's tsunami appeal on the side.

Some 283 people—that's \$A283 more for tsunami victims—completed the reader survey contained in the April 2005 issue of *Signs*. While most respondents appeared to be mainstream Seventh-day Adventists or committed Christians, at least a quarter indicated little or no connection to the church, picking up their *Signs* from an airport or train station rack, or receiving a donated copy in the mail.

"*Signs* will use the information to improve both the magazine content and targeting of its readership," says Lee Dunstan, senior assistant editor of *Signs*. "For the past few years, we've been guessing about our readership, although the survey did confirm much of what we'd intuitively assumed about our readership.

"While feedback is generally positive, what did surprise us was the proportion of readers who said it had impacted their lives. More than we anticipated. For example, to the question that asked if *Signs* had influ-

enced their "beliefs," 68 per cent said it had. And for "spiritual awareness," it was even higher (79 per cent). When you looked at non-subscribers—they would mostly be non-church attending and non-Adventists, one would assume—the figure was still almost one-half. And many of this group have accepted Discovery Centre correspondence courses and free books, such as *Steps to Christ*."

Over the past year, *Signs* has made surveys of three different demographics. "The one thing they all held in common," says Mr Dunstan, "is that they were happy with the product. In this year's August *Signs* campaign, we'll be asking subscribers what they think."

Most churches, it appears, give space for the annual *Signs* campaign, which is a tradition of the church in the South Pacific, something Mr Dunstan says is gratifying. "Most churches give at least four promotions in some format over the month. They see *Signs* as a tool of local evangelism, with its PR aspects—the "window" into the church, that is—as secondary. They also see it as being for people outside the church, and less for internal consumption and nurture."

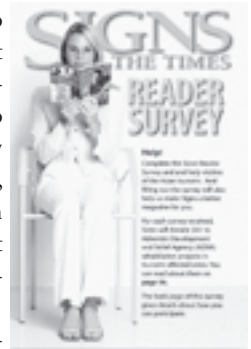
The *Signs* reader "multiplier" is also relatively high, with three-quarters of magazines read by at least two people, and some up to 15. Only 4 per cent of people ever con-

sign their *Signs* to the bin, with most (81 per cent) passing them on to someone they think will benefit, or recycling them in a laundromat or rack somewhere."

Half of its primary readers are retirees and aged 35 or older. Mr Dunstan says that editorially *Signs* is constructed to appeal to a younger generation (12 per cent of readers), with its social issues, relationship/family and health articles relevant to them.

Mr Dunstan says that this year has seen the launch of the *Go Signs, Go Gospel!* plan to place at least one *Signs* in the letterbox of every household in Australia and New Zealand. He says that while he encourages people to support this huge project with donations and sponsorships, he hopes people will not substitute this outreach for their ongoing subscriptions and sponsorships.

A report on *Signs* ministry will appear in its ministry newsletter *SignsTalk*, inserted in next week's RECORD. *SignsTalk* also contains a *Signs* order form for new subscribers.—**Scott Wegener**



◆ A church with a tiny membership has taken the initiative of publishing the introduction to each week's Sabbath school Bible study guide in their local weekly newspaper—inviting the community to join them in Bible study on Sabbath mornings. Meeting each week at 10 am to study the whole lesson until noon, the program and dates will be published 14 times over the quarter. This innovative evangelistic campaign comes from a church in the small rural town of Taihape, NNZ, which over the years has lost members to the city for employment and education opportunities. It has only

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four members left. "We need Adventists all over to pray for us that we can bring Jesus to Taihape," says Garth Jensen, church elder.—**Scott Wegener**

◆ Recently in Cooranbong, NSW, a "Prayer and love saves" (PALS) seminar was conducted to encourage parents of adult children who have wandered from God. Run by trained counsellors Adele Rowden-Johnson and Margaret Wills, the PALS program provided a safe, supportive group for parents to interact with others of mutual concern, many of whom were burdened with feelings of guilt. Parents developed new skills including how to rebuild relationships with their adult children, family intercessory prayer and ways to release themselves from personal blame.—**Northpoint**



◆ Twins Jack and Connor Robertson (pictured) are taking part in a walkathon to ensure that the Adventist Narromine Christian School, NSW, which they plan to attend in 2006, is still there. "Small enrolment numbers threatened the existence of the school," says principal Evelyn Quick, "but commitments to the school by the parents and the desire for a distinctive Adventist education for their children has meant growth in student

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ JULY 30—SIGNS RALLY DAY ◆ AUGUST 27—ABUSE PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY

Adventist singles leaders meet

SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES

Josh Hunt, a Baptist minister and international speaker, ran a series of presentations on leadership and growing groups in Sydney, NSW, on the weekend of May 20 to 22. This was a part of the “Homes of hope” program, which encourages people to reach out to others in their community to minister to them.

Adventist Singles Network leaders from Australia and New Zealand attended the event and were challenged with the goal of doubling a group every two years or less.

“A church has to choose between being a place that can attract seekers or being a place that can help people become spiritually mature. The more spiritually mature you are, the more you will want to reach out to people who are far from God,” said Pastor Hunt.

Pastor Bryan Craig, director of family ministries for the South Pacific Division, says, “With singles representing nearly half of the church membership, it is definitely an untapped resource that has the opportunity to be labourers for Christ to reach out to the epidemic of loneliness in our local communities using small-group methods of old-fashioned and neglected hospitality.”—*Adele Nash*

numbers. “Teaching as a husband-and-wife team, **David and Evelyn Quick** have transferred from working in Western Australia and years in state education. “We’re following what we believe is God’s will for us and this school,” says Mrs Quick.—*Nikki Heckendorf*

◆ A newly organised church designed for young people is attracting teenagers to the Toegyewon Seventh-day Adventist church in Seoul, Korea. “There is not enough suitable culture or programs for the youth or teens in church,” says **Joshua Dong Hee Shin**, youth director for the North-

ern Asia-Pacific Division. “The young people are not very satisfied with the current church culture.” In the new church, teenagers are given **more freedom and more responsibility**, operating their own worship service and programs. More than 100 attended the inaugural service on May 28.—*Song Sung Sub*

◆ On May 31, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) led a parade in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in **celebration of World No Tobacco Day**. Nearly 1000 people participated in the demonstration, carrying signs and banners that

First female vice-president elected at GC

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, USA

In a historic vote, delegates to the 58th General Conference session elected veteran educator Dr Ella Simmons as a general vice-president of the church. This is the first time a woman has been elected to this position, and is an attempt by the world church to make the leadership more inclusive.

Until recently, Dr Simmons was provost and vice-president for Academic Administration at La Sierra University in Riverside, California. As part of the 10-member leadership team—the General Conference president Pastor Jan Paulsen and nine vice-presidents—it is expected Dr Simmons will bring skills in education and administration to the position.

“The church as an organisation cannot be efficient until it allows all people to contribute in ways God called them to contribute. I think the church is taking a step in the right direction,” says Dr Simmons.

Dr Simmons expects that her new position will incorporate her extensive background in education, and she says that she feels comfortable and happy in accepting the role of paving the way and being a

role model for women around the world, and acknowledged that her first assignment had been to meet with women at the session.

She added that she is not a pastor but believes that she is a *minister*, saying, “I have always been a minister. I think pastoring is a unique work and while I have been prepared to nurture, to teach, I am not prepared to pastor.

“Pray that I will always hear God’s voice and no others,” says Dr Simmons. “Pray that I will always reflect and do the will of God.”

Delegates responded positively to the election of Dr Simmons. Zeljko Porobija of Croatia stated, “I think it is a very, very good thing. As a matter of principle, we should see more women in office.”

Owen Gayle, a delegate from the Inter-American Division, agreed, saying, “It’s wonderful to give females a part in church leadership.”

Pastor Anton Van Wyk, from the South Pacific Division, said, “It’s a breakthrough for our church in its standing with world organisations, and it will lead us from strength to strength.”—*Victor Hulbert/ Braden Blyde/Taashi Rowe/ANN*



promoted No Tobacco Day and ADRA’s stop-smoking campaign, the Tobacco or Health program. “The parade was aimed at raising awareness of the harmfulness of tobacco and the role that health professionals have in being examples of a smoke-free healthy lifestyle,” says **Ann Stickle**, associate director for ADRA-Cambodia. According to the World Health Organisation, tobacco is responsible for some five million deaths a year worldwide.—*Nadia McGill*

◆ Seven-year-old **Hannah Hoffman** recently chose to play Ellen White in a “wax museum” presen-

tation at the Midland Academy of Advanced and Creative Studies, Michigan, USA. Each child, portraying an important person in the history of Michigan, was instructed to stay still until someone touched them on the shoulder. Then they would **come to life and repeat the speech** they had memorised. Hannah handed out 33 *Steps to Christ* to parents in 30 minutes.—*Diane Thurber*

Gersbach family honoured at GC session

ST LOUIS, MISSOURI, USA

The July 2 Sabbath afternoon Global Mission program at the General Conference featured the family of Lance Gersbach, the Australian missionary murdered in the Solomon Islands in 2003. A video sequence showing Atoifi Hospital, the Gersbach family and the funeral of Mr Gersbach introduced Jean Gersbach and her daughters, Anita and Louise, to session participants.



Jean Gersbach and her daughters, Anita and Louise, the family of murdered missionary Lance Gersbach, are interviewed by Dr Michael Ryan at the GC session.

Mrs Gersbach and her daughters were then interviewed by the three hosts of the mission program. Mrs Gersbach said her experience had changed her attitude to mission. "Losing Lance has been a very traumatic experience," she said. "But now mission is less about what I can do for God and more about what God asks of me."

Anita Gersbach spoke of the loss of her father but answered with assurance that her faith in God has been strengthened. "God is more real to me," she said.

Mrs Gersbach admitted the difficult time she has been through during the past two years. "Coping is a one-day-at-time experience," she said. "But I have found that God's grace is sufficient."

To the General Conference assembly, the interview was a reminder of the risks involved in mission work in many parts of the world. Dr Michael Ryan, a vice-president of the General Conference who works with Global Mission, reminded session participants, "Mission costs—and sometimes it costs terribly."—**Nathan Brown**

Bible and Spirit of Prophecy affirmed in GC resolutions

ST LOUIS, MISSOURI, USA

Delegates to the General Conference session voted through two resolutions on the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, which affirm the centrality of the two in Adventist belief and teachings.

According to the first resolution, voted on July 1, "The Scriptures constitute our supreme rule of faith and practice and the standard by which all teaching and experience is to be tested."

On July 3 delegates then approved a related resolution acknowledging the place of the writings of Ellen G White as something that has "richly blessed" the church and that continues to have an important role in nurturing the life of the members.

"Since the Bible itself predicted the gift of prophecy at the end of time, Adventists feel we are on solid biblical ground in accepting the ministry of Ellen G White as a manifestation of the prophetic gift," says Dr Gerhard Pfandl, associate director of the church's Biblical Research Institute.—**ANN**

◆ Of the nearly 2000 delegates, representing some 14 million members, at the 2005 General Conference session, St Louis, USA, there were reportedly only **33 delegates under the age of 30 years**—less than 2 per cent. Estimates suggest that more than 70 per cent of Adventist world membership is under 30. Of the 73 delegates appointed by the South Pacific Division, three are young people. Pastor **Jan Paulsen**, re-elected president of the world church, challenged young people in his opening address to session: "I want you to come in and to partner with the rest of us. I want to make room for

you, for you have energies and ideas that no-one can quite match. If you don't find the church interesting, you can **make it interesting**. Just don't walk away. That would be the worst possible thing you can do."—**Wendi Rogers/ Taashi Rowe**

◆ Among the **1700 booths** at the General Conference session, which include the South Pacific Division, Adventist Media Centre, Signs Publishing Company and Avondale College, is that of the Australia and New Zealand **Signs of the Times** magazine. "Our large world map poster has prompted a lot of com-



ment," says Pastor **Desmond Hills** (pictured), volunteer **Signs** Ministry coordinator. "People are amazed with the quality of the magazine's content and graphics, and the cover personalities we feature. We have gained **new outlets in several countries** from being here." Dur-

ing his time promoting **Signs**, Pastor Hills has expanded its distribution to more than **50 countries**. **Signs** currently has a presence on every continent, and is the model for other similar mission magazines, which employ both its content and style.—**Lee Dunstan**

HAVE YOU SUBSCRIBED TO *SIGNS* @ WWW.SIGNSOFTHEMES.ORG.AU ?

Adventists to challenge world to end poverty

ST LOUIS, MISSOURI, USA

It takes more than words to make a difference in the lives of the 840 million people who go to bed hungry each night. It takes action, it takes protest. And that is apparently what the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is doing with a new poverty-fighting initiative.

With their recent “Protesting global poverty” themed exhibit at the General Conference (GC) session, ADRA enabled exhibit visitors to partner with ADRA in protesting poverty by allowing visitors to the exhibit to help allocate \$US400,000 of general project funding to a variety of projects included in ADRA’s 20th anniversary issue of *The Really Useful Gift Catalogue*.

Sample catalogue projects include training women in small business skills in Papua New Guinea and the payment of school fees for a child in a developing country.

The presentation was prompted by the tsunami that devastated large parts of South Asia and Africa last year, and included a series of placards that told people about the millions who suffer from hunger and die from hunger-related diseases, as well as the 2.8 billion people who live on less than a dollar per day.

ADRA operates around the world without regard to political and religious affiliation, and that helps when it is required to open doors into closed societies. The new poverty-fighting initiative, therefore, focuses on persuasion as much as protest. “We are protesting to anyone who will listen,” says Tereza Byrne, ADRA–International’s marketing and development chief.

ADRA also taped six live programs of its weekly radio broadcast, *ADRA’s World Radio*, at the GC session, featuring interviews with its staff from countries such as Mongolia, Russia and Thailand.—*ANN/ADRA International*

An addiction to acquisition

BY KELLIE HANCOCK

THE PROMO BLURB FOR A MAGAZINE celebrating its second anniversary in Australia reads like this: “Women just love to shop. It’s fun. And *Shop Til You Drop* is the magazine based entirely on the rush of shopping. It’s about acquisition and instant gratification. *Shop Til You Drop* is designed to make shopping easier and more accessible. With an editorial focus on shopping smarts—what’s new? what’s now? what’s me?—we cover the entire fashion, beauty and lifestyle market.

“We mix high-end fashion with chain-store must-haves; luxury beauty buys with pharmacy products. On sale monthly, *Shop Til You Drop* is simply 100% fashion, beauty and lifestyle entertainment—mini cash, maxi flash! If it’s the best, if it’s the hottest, if it’s on its way, it’s in *Shop Til You Drop*.”

According to Pat Ingram, women’s lifestyle group publisher for ACP, “It started as a one-off, to see what reaction the market would have. The reader response was fantastic, so we knew it had legs and made it a quarterly. By the third quarterly issue, we decided to make it more frequent.” (It’s now 10 issues.)

It’s no surprise to read that acquisitions is big business. But these days, it’s not just on Wall Street. It’s also on *your* street. And it’s not just magazines that are selling you the “buy me” message.

How many pieces of junk mail do you receive in your letterbox each week? All promote things you never knew you needed until you spotted them in the catalogue. How many ads do you hear on the radio while driving to work, reminding you of the latest CDs, games and movies just waiting to be added to your collection?

And for those who are so busy working (to earn money to buy more things) that they have no time to get to the shops, there is ample opportunity for feeding the acquisition addiction online. Shopping portals

like eBay, Wishlist and Amazon satisfy the need to shop 24/7.

While today’s media constantly bombard us with the message to buy more, it would seem excessive consumerism is a human trait acknowledged throughout history. In the Middle Ages, Humbert of Roman wrote: “Thus the legend runs of a man who, entering an abbey, found many devils in the cloister, but in the marketplace found but one, alone on a high pillar. This filled him with wonder. But it was told him that in the cloister all is arranged to help souls to God, so many devils are required there to induce monks to be led astray; but in the marketplace, since each man is a devil to himself, only one other demon suffices.”

Unfortunately, instead of the word *Christian* representing people who choose to live simply and serve others, these days Christians are seen as just one of many marketing sectors. I wonder what Humbert of Roman would say if he were here today and saw the boom in Christian merchandising?

Perhaps he would label the plan devised by those devils in the cloister as ingenious. Take the messages from the marketplace, transpose them into the bricks and mortar that help support the religious structures and—*taa daa!* you have a whole subspecies of consumer bowing to the same idols of consumption as the rest of the world.

A clever bit of marketing really—selling the belief that helping souls to God is a marketable exercise. We, then, also have a quantifiable way of ascertaining what our market share is.

Of course, we’re not into mergers you know, just acquisitions. **R**

Kellie Hancock writes from Wantirna, a suburb of Melbourne, Victoria.

ADRA Appeal and Lend a Hand®

BY CANDICE JAQUES

ADRA APPEAL COLLECTORS DEMONSTRATE the volunteering spirit that ADRA is promoting to the Australian public via their Lend a Hand® advertising campaign.

“Our appeal collectors are all volunteers, generously giving up their time to help others,” says Gary Christian, director of the ADRA Appeal. “They are an excellent example of ADRA’s volunteer spirit and by their very actions are living the Lend a Hand® campaign.”

“Lend a Hand® is not just about advertising ADRA. It is also about challenging the Australian public to rekindle the spirit of generosity and voluntarism that has been a characteristic of previous generations. Doorknock volunteers exemplify that spirit when they give of their time to raise funds for ADRA,” says Mr Christian.

The Lend a Hand® campaign will be launched to coincide with the commencement of this year’s annual ADRA Appeal. “We hope that the campaign will increase people’s awareness of ADRA, making it easier to collect at the doors,” says Mr Christian.

“We also hope collectors will have an opportunity to share more about ADRA and the spirit of volunteering. We expect the advertising campaign may prompt some people to want to know more of ADRA’s ethos of service. Our wish is that our collectors will take a little time to answer such questions, speaking about the Christian ethics of practical grace and service, and the rewards that come from giving of themselves. And collectors can speak from a position of integrity because in col-

lecting for ADRA they embody the very thing they are promoting,” says Mr Christian.

Appeal brochure

This year the ADRA Appeal brochure is structured to supplement the Lend a Hand® initiative. Featuring Australian cricketer Brett Lee, who volunteers his time helping at-risk young people in ADRA’s New Day Foundation Programme, the brochure challenges readers to explore the outer bounds of personal generosity and experience the satisfaction that comes from helping others more needy than themselves.

The brochure also:

- Maintains the front cover of last year, which was the best accepted cover yet
- Profiles ADRA’s national program by listing a representative program from each state, allowing collectors to provide a more local example of ADRA projects
- Provides a good summary of ADRA’s international program
- Explains that all donations given to the ADRA Appeal go directly to support projects, with no administration or marketing costs deducted from the appeal (which makes the ADRA Appeal quite unique)
- Has a thank you section regarding the Asian Tsunami Appeal, explaining where ADRA is spending the \$US28 million received internationally (however, donations made to the annual ADRA Appeal will not be used for tsunami response)



The \$100 Challenge

This year ADRA is putting a real emphasis on the \$100 Challenge, where we ask our church members to consider ways in which they could raise \$100 for the ADRA Appeal. Most will achieve \$100 in just a few hours on the Appeal doorknock, but we also know that some people are just not able to go out on the appeal, and will be looking for other ways they can raise funds.

Here are some other exciting ideas: concerts/garage sales/slave auctions/fancy cake auctions/local church flea markets/community “morning teas” where profits go to the appeal/work-based collections for the appeal/fee levied on local businesses using the church car park/fun runs or bike-athons/lamington drives/bucket collections at sporting events (with appropriate equipment and permission, of course)/money-boxes for collecting small-denomination coins/car washes/distribute Yellow Pages/chop wood to sell.

So let people’s creativity go wild! If every church member raised \$100, the appeal would total \$6,000,000 instead of the \$1,200,000 we currently raise. Think of all the people ADRA could help! And remember, there’s nothing much easier than going on the doorknock.



Lend a Hand®

The Lend a Hand® advertising campaign is seeking to challenge the current decline in long-term volunteer commitment, which is making charitable work for the disadvantaged more costly and difficult.

“The campaign is in response to concern expressed by many Australian charities that there is a trend toward short-term volunteering opportunities more akin to the *Backyard Blitz* phenomenon,” explains Gary Christian, ADRA’s national program director. “Although short-term volunteering is important and has a place in our community, there is a great need for longer-term commitments from volunteers. State Emergency Services express difficulty in attracting long-term volunteers and Red Cross auxiliaries, which used to be a mighty fundraising force within Australia, have almost died out. Even ADRA is struggling to find enough committed volunteers for its 26 op-shops and four supported women’s refuges.”

The Lend a Hand® campaign, which will appear on television, radio and in local newspapers in different areas around Australia, will feature empty gloves as a motif. The gloves represent the many and

varied roles volunteers fulfil in our community—as gardeners, cleaners, cooks, mechanics, nurses, childminders, entertainers, activities coordinators etc. The main point of the campaign is that aid agencies need hands to fill the gloves. Charities need people to get involved and lend a hand.

Lend a Hand® will also help to raise the profile of ADRA. A recent Newspoll survey revealed that only 10 per cent of Australians had heard of ADRA or the Adventist Development and Relief Agency. “This result is not really surprising,” explains David Jack, chief executive officer of ADRA. “ADRA is well known within the church, but much of the wider Australian population know little about who we are and what we do. We hope that through this campaign ADRA will become better known.”

Lend a Hand® will be trialled in different media around Australia for the first year. Look out for Lend a Hand® in your area. **R**

Candice Jaques is marketing and public relations coordinator for ADRA-Australia.



Lend a Hand® media campaign

WHERE, WHAT, WHEN?

- Sydney Metro, Radio (2DAY FM, 2MMM FM), from July 31 for 2 weeks
- Regional NNSW, TV, from July 24 for 4 weeks
- Melbourne Metro, Radio (FOX FM, 3MMM FM), from Sept 18 for 2 weeks
- Regional Victoria, TV, from Sept 4 for 4 weeks
- Brisbane Metro, local newspapers, from July 31 for 5 weeks
- Regional Qld, TV, from July 24 for 4 weeks
- Regional WA, TV, from July 24 for 4 weeks
- Tasmania, TV, from Oct 2 for 4 weeks
- Adelaide Metro,* Radio (SAFM, 5MMM), from Oct 2 for 2 weeks, local newspapers, from Sept 18 for 5 weeks, TV, from Sept 18 for 4 weeks

**Adelaide is the cheapest capital city in which to invest in all forms of media. Trialling in all three media (TV, radio and local newspapers) in this city will allow opportunity for comparisons on the effectiveness of each media outlet.*

Lend a
Hand
.org.au

Another perspective on the good Samaritan

BY OWEN ADAMSON

TEACHER, WHAT MUST I DO TO inherit eternal life?"¹ Aware of his interrogator's intent, Jesus tactfully answered the lawyer's question with another: "What does the law say?"

Having a very good understanding of the law, the lawyer's response is correct: "Put God first, and then my neighbour." Perhaps feeling a little guilty, the lawyer then endeavours to take the pressure off himself, asking further, "But *who* is my neighbour?"

Jesus has no doubt about his motive, so He challenges His interrogator further, then tells him a story. Jesus knew that the parable would activate the lawyer's imagination, enabling him to understand the reality more concretely. The imagination relies on symbols and metaphors to guide it to a deeper level of understanding. It is through the imagination that we shape our moral lives.² The parable was not interpreted, as that would only moralise it. The parable was in fact interpreting the lawyer. The parable didn't *have* a message; it *was* the message.

There's no doubt the parable had answered the lawyer's second question (Who is my neighbour?). For the Christian, our "neighbour" has no bounds in terms of geography, nationality or colour. The apostle James makes it clear that good works go hand in hand with our Christian faith.³

But what about the lawyer's initial question? Does the parable also account for this? If we step outside our square of understanding and consider the players within the parable, and decide which player we want to be, we can then find a deeper level of understanding.

It is well known that the Jews and Samaritans underwent an intense rivalry following the death of King Solomon. In fact, they became enemies. If we allow ourselves to take on the role of the Samaritan, we can then understand the complexity of who our neighbour is. But

what happens if we allow ourselves be the unfortunate man in the ditch?

The parable begins with "A certain man . . ." But who is this man? He can, in fact, be anyone; he could be me. I am the *certain man* who is attacked, stripped and beaten, and left on the side of the road half-dead.

After laying there for some time, I see a priest coming. It's the priest who had acted out my sin offering in accordance with the sanctuary services in days past. He is the priest I looked up to and respected, but did he stop? No, he crosses to the other side of the road so that he needn't walk close by, with the obligation to do something about me. He avoids me in my time of need. I feel alone and dejected.

Soon, a Levite came walking down the road. Here is a man whom I have also trusted and respected, but he, too, fails to stop, crossing to the other side of the road, passing me by. *There is no hope. No-one will help me.* I am in so much pain, and the anguish of my loneliness is too much to bear.

As I regain some consciousness and wipe the coagulating blood from my eyes, I can see in the distance another figure approaching. It appears hopeful, but as the figure comes closer, I realise he isn't someone who will help. He's a Samaritan. There is now no hope at all. I am not sure how long I can hold out. I am finished. It is all over. He draws near and I expect the worst. He keeps coming, closer and closer. My fears are heightened as he slows and bends down.

My wounds are so bad that I cannot get up. I cannot escape. I lay there in anticipation. Nothing is happening. Then I feel a cloth wipe away the blood and dirt from my face. I feel tenderness. I can't resist him, as I am powerless to rescue myself. All I can do is submit to his graciousness. He pours oil and wine onto a cloth and cleanses my wounds. He then takes bandages to dress my wounds. He takes clothes from his

baggage and provides a clean robe for me. He then helps me to my feet, and seats me on his donkey. I am weak, but I have succumbed to the kindness of this Samaritan, my enemy. He takes me to the next town and books into an inn, where he takes care of me throughout the night. In the morning he pays the innkeeper, asking him to care for me, and that whatever costs are incurred while he is away he will refund them on his return.

So, viewed from this perspective, what has happened to the parable? It has invaded me personally. When we consider the parable in this light, it brings about a paradigm shift in our thinking.

The parable of the good Samaritan is also a parable of grace. In light of the initial question (What must I do to be saved?), it isn't a parable we can emulate. To fully understand God's grace one needs to understand what it means to be the victim. As such, we are powerless to save ourselves. In respect to salvation, there is nothing we can do to inherit eternal life. It is God's gift that comes through the hands of Jesus Christ.⁴ "For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life."⁵

So, what must I do to inherit eternal life? Find my place in the ditch and wait.⁶ **R**

References

1. Luke 10:25, NIV.
2. S M TeSelle, *Speaking in Parables: A Study in Metaphor and Theology*, SCM Press, 1975, page 56.
3. James 2:14-16
4. Romans 6:23.
5. Romans 5:10, NIV.
6. G M Smiga, "There's More to the Story," US Catholic, January 1997, Vol 62, No 1, page 30.

Owen Adamson writes from Queensland, where he works as a counsellor in a correctional centre.

Ugly toes and other unfortunate acts of nature

BY SALI BUTLER

IF WE TAKE HER TO THE DOCTOR, THEY can surgically shorten her toes, and then she might wear shoes two sizes smaller!”

Laughter shot across the sofa as the statement was made.

Mena and Pat, my older sisters, were discussing my extraordinary long toes yet again. We sat there on the couch together that hot summer day, watching TV movies in black and white. They laughed as though I wasn't there.

I curled up my long toes and eased my feet off the coffee table. It wasn't funny to me, but that didn't matter. The jokes of the day had begun and all I could do was suffer through it. From that day on, I thought of my toes as ugly. and no-one ever tried to convince me otherwise.

Perhaps that's where my fetish with socks began. Winter, summer, spring or autumn, I wouldn't be caught dead without socks. I covered my sheer stockings with

socks when I took off my shoes in public and I used the excuse of being cold to conceal my toes no matter the occasion.

I even wore socks with sandals. How strange I must have looked 30 years later strolling along the beach in hiking boots while friends and passers-by wore thongs, Rockports and bare feet! The humiliation of looking hot was much less than the shame of exposing my “ugly toes.”

Traumas suffered in childhood can remain in the psyche forever. It doesn't have to be anything big. It just has to make a self-conscious impression on its young victim.

At the age of 12, my toes became my wardrobe consultant. At the age of 42, I still took their consultation whenever I went shopping. Open-toe shoes were out of the question, no matter how pretty. Sales that promised another 20 per cent off at the register couldn't get me to distrust their judgment. It didn't matter if the colour matched

a new outfit perfectly, if the toes were exposed, I left those perfect-colour open-toe shoes on the shelf. Bright colours looked big and awkward anyway, my consultants said. Black or dark brown looked smaller. Besides, my toe consultants outnumbered me 10 to one.

Surprisingly, at the age of 50, in the quiet setting of my devotional life, I came across these words: “You made my whole being; you formed me in my mother's body. I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way. What you have done is wonderful. I know this very well” (Psalm 139:13, 14, NCV).

Wow, toes and everything, wonderfully formed by God. No way. Of course, when He created me, I probably had beautiful feet. I can imagine, when I was born, my parents smiled down at me, checking out every inch of my tiny body. I'm sure someone made the comment, “Look at those pretty little feet and those long toes—how beautiful!”

At that moment, there was no reason to suspect that by the age of 11 years, those toes would demand an adult-size shoe. My sisters laughed to their hearts' content, seizing every opportunity to mock what seemed to them some kind of major deformity in their sister.

Embarrassed, I began to curl up my toes and force my long feet into shorter shoes, even if my knuckles protruded. The corns and bunions were a small price to pay. I preferred the discomfort of a smaller shoe to the possibility of more ridicule from anyone who would notice that my feet were always two sizes longer than my peers.

Almost everyone has indulged some perceived traumatic experience that has caused

7 ways to boost your self-confidence

1. Type “Psalm 139:13, 14” in large letters, then post it on the walls of your bathroom and bedroom. Memorise it as a mantra to combat negative self-talk.
2. Purchase a throwaway camera and have a friend or family member take pictures of you in funny poses.
3. Write a letter to God thanking Him for who you are, listing your special and unique qualities. Yes! You are special and unique.
4. Make a list of your favourite people, places and things. Make a plan to spend time with them, going to the places you listed and enjoying them both.
5. Practise giving gracious compliments to others—not flattery—to brighten their day. Then your day will be brighter, too.
6. Give yourself credit for the good that you bring into this world.
7. Give glory to God every day for the little things that you take for granted. He loves you just the way you are.

them hidden shame or pain. For me, the feet; for others, curly hair, chubby thighs, flat chests, bifocals at five, big ears or crooked teeth. Hopefully, we move beyond acts of nature to discover that our worth isn't based upon what we look like but who we are on the inside.

In today's "extreme makeover" culture, I could probably pay to have some surgical procedure beautify my feet. Let's face it; people are pumping botox into their foreheads, collagen into their cheeks, lips, and silicon into other places just to have someone tell them they're beautiful. Perhaps you'd like fewer wrinkles, thinner thighs or a flatter stomach. The so-called reality TV shows offer amazing results if you turn your life over to them and let the whole world watch your transformation. Husbands and wives are sending in their demo DVDs begging networks to do something to make their spouses look like the person of their dreams.

Yet, ultimately, God is the only one who can bring about true transformation. However, He's been X-rayed right out of the equation. How can I believe that I'm "fearfully and wonderfully made" while longing for a different body, skin colour or blue eyes?

Getting rid of excess weight, changing our eating habits and getting more rest are healthy choices. The Bible encourages us to "offer [our] bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is [our] spiritual act of worship" (Romans 12:1, NIV). If God's health plan is followed, the body takes care of itself, looks good, feels good and has longevity. And if we allow the indwelling of His Spirit, the beauty we possess would come from the inside out, for which there is no match.

I remember the old expression, "Beauty is only skin deep." So the same must apply for ugly. A scripture brings it to bear: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" (Isaiah 52:7, NKJV).

I once read an article about a woman who became a recluse because someone had unflatteringly told her she was too ugly to be in a high-school production of *Romeo and Juliet*. I can imagine her pain, because my ugly toes thrust me into years of self-consciousness and low self-esteem.

On the outside, we all smile, pretend, and put our best foot forward. But, let's face it: everyone has a pinch of self-consciousness about something. Shouldn't our imperfections make us more compassionate toward one another, more willing to overlook the trivial displeasures and search for the inner beauty in others?

Recently, while visiting my middle sister, she looked down at my feet and commented, "Those are pretty sandals, Sali. Where'd you get them?" The flashback lasted only five seconds. *Mmm. She didn't mention my ugly toes.*


Forty years on, my sister's focus was no longer on my unflattering toes, but the white Indian sandals I wore. My nails were polished and pedicured. And I wore my pretty sandals with grace and dignity, because now I'm made "in an amazing and wonderful way." **R**

Sali Butler writes from the Pacific Union Conference, California, USA.

just for children

Record Roo's

kids corner



Hi Kids,
Is anyone faultless?
God wants us to be patient with the faults of others. Don't forget that they have to be patient with our faults! Have a read in Genesis 42-45 and find out how Joseph treated his brothers...

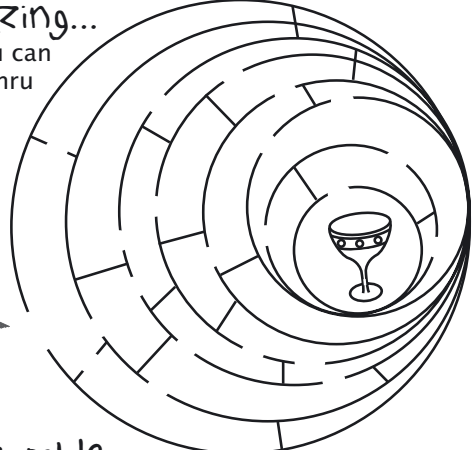
RR

Fill in the Blanks

"___ each other like ___ and ___."
Romans 12:10 ICB

A-maZing...

See if you can make it thru the maze to help Joseph find the silver cup...
START HERE →



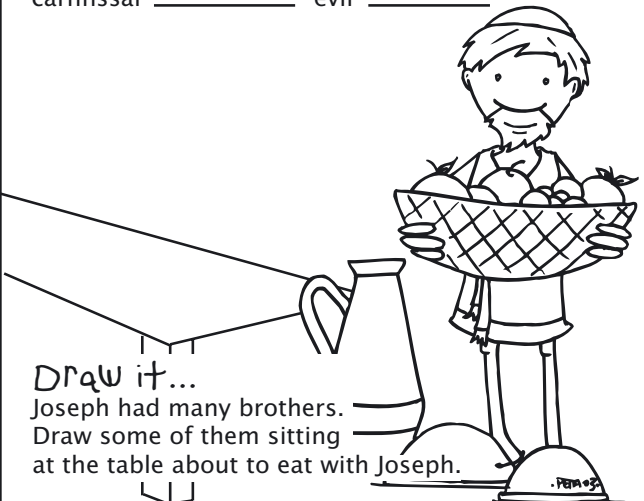
Unscramble...

Unscramble the letters to make the names of some of Joseph's brothers.

njaimneb _____	beruen _____
imeson _____	hadju _____
carhssai _____	evli _____

Draw it...

Joseph had many brothers. Draw some of them sitting at the table about to eat with Joseph.



Peta Taylor, Shelli Taylor

Cost of giving

WAYNE HAWKEN, NSW

It has been interesting to read the quizzical musings over the past few weeks (tithes up, offerings down, mission offerings drop and so on), essentially questioning the commitment of members to the church's mission. I wonder just how much thought went into those comments, as to me the problem is somewhat obvious and unrelated.

This week Sabbath school had two offerings, during the worship service there were four separate causes to choose to give to (excluding the additional appeal to help and contribute to an external organisation) and ADRA's request for monetary support in the RECORD. And then there was the "awareness" weeks requesting the purchase of a red nose, daffodil or similar.

Combine this with the decreasing role of cash today, what do you really expect? If both my wife and I contributed \$5 each to everything requested this week, it would have cost us \$90! I don't know about everyone else, but that's quite an amount of money for us, an amount we would have difficulty sustaining every week, no matter how much we would like to give it.

Congratulations!

BRIAN TIMMS, NSW

I congratulate Adele Nash for presenting a timely and balanced editorial on "Believing green" (July 2).

I would, however, go further than her "caring for the earth as stewards" and say

we must change our ways. Two decades ago, conservation and pollution abatement were largely preserves of corporate bodies; now the situation is much worse and everyone's actions are significant. As examples, we can use water wisely, recycle our waste and use less energy, besides having a greater love and care for the bush and its creatures.

As Adventist Christians we must show to the world that dominion over the earth means caring for it, not exploiting it as our misguided forebears did.

We need to lay to rest the concept that it doesn't matter how we treat the earth, as it is doomed (which it is), for we are to

Oh dear, what a tragedy—Berto has gone! Is it "just a coincidence"?

"occupy" till He comes.

And being co-travellers with ultra-greenies will, hopefully, see some believe in the God of creation instead of their created environmental god.

To each their own

JOHN PINK, NSW

Just a comment on G D Giles's letter of July 2 in which this good person quoted from an 1879 *Signs of the Times* and also a *Review and Herald* of 1979 in which the statement was made: "For 40 days He ate and drank nothing."

I don't know who wrote the above quotes, but my information sources are the Bible and *The Desire of Ages*, in which it is stated that Jesus ate nothing for 40 days and afterwards was hungry—not hungry and thirsty.

Jesus did have a human body, and even if He could have survived without water, He would have been unable to eat.

But why argue about it? "Let everyone be convinced in their own mind."

No more Berto?

KARIM VALEN, EMAIL

I write as a concerned reader of the RECORD. I was saddened to hear of Berto's demise (June 25) and that this was due to him being replaced.

While I understand that there may be policies, even in a church-run institution, I

had considered your magazine above reproach. But upon seeing Berto's replacement and the quality of their work, I cannot help but wonder whose decision it was to go with the inferior quality.

Please bring back Berto!

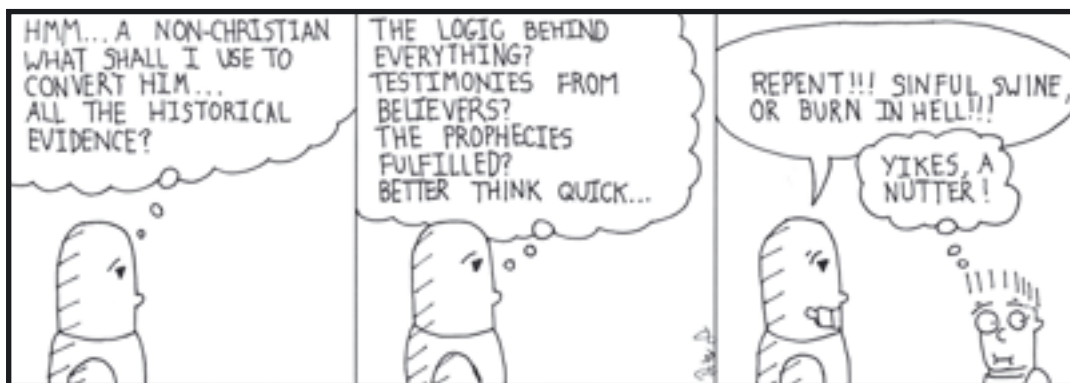
MONICA NASH, NSW

Where's Berto? Oh dear, what a tragedy—Berto has gone! Is it "just a coincidence" or have we now become politically correct?

I have been a fan of Berto's for years and shall miss his valuable contribution to RECORD. It takes someone with considerable talent and insight to be able to take an honest look at some of the "forms" and "sacred cows" of Adventist traditions and behaviour.

Salutations, Berto, for endeavouring to keep us honest.

petros



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

Hurt—Price. Hans Hurt, son of Herman and Rochelle Hurt (Washington, USA), and Rochelle Price, daughter of Pastor Warren and Lynette Price (Murwillumbah, NSW), were married on 17.6.05 at Bradleys Head, Sydney.

Garth Bainbridge

Tihi—Saunders. Ben Tihi, eldest son of Edi and Mirjana Tihi (Brisbane, Qld), and Claire Saunders, second daughter of Len Saunders (Coffs Harbour, NSW) and Susan Draper (Toowoomba, Qld), were married on 3.7.05 in the Salisbury Adventist church, Brisbane.

Miroslav Stilinovic

Whillas—Parker. Nathan Luke Whillas, son of Ian (Tumby Bay, SA) and Bev Whillas (Royal Park), and Jodie Nichole Elizabeth Parker, daughter of Kevin and Thelma Parker (Streaky Bay), were married on 26.4.05 at Mundy's Mooring Reserve, Port Lincoln.

Peter Leith

Obituaries

Haskins, George Alexander (Alec), born 3.9.1921 at Gisborne, NZ; died 22.5.05 at Gisborne. In 1943 he married Evelyn Lawrence, who predeceased him in 1990. He is survived by his second wife, Agnes (nee Barclay); his sisters, Esther Topp (Gisborne); his sons, Laurie (Sydney, NSW), Malcolm (Gisborne, NZ); and his seven grandchildren. After attending Longburn College, he served as a hospital orderly in Italy for one year. He was a respected orchardist. Alec was a loyal supporter of his home church in Gisborne and supported the mission work in Fiji. His usual comment was "every day is a bonus."

Frank Boniface

Papprill, Harold Lawrence, born 4.11.1914 at Parkes, NSW; died 20.6.05 at Rockingham, WA. On 2.1.50 he married Laurel. He was predeceased by his daughter-in-law, Mandy. He is survived by his wife (Safety Bay); his son, John (Carmel); his daughter and son-in-law, Nerolie and Stuart Pottinger (Serpentine); and his grandchildren, Benjamin, Kristina, Alex and Sally. Harold was a quiet and reserved man, but he had a passion for gardening, the Ornithological Society and lawn bowls.

Steven Goods

Ken Carpenter, Steve Hebbard

Pascoe, Ernest Charles, born 24.5.1904 at Waimakaka, Southland, NZ; died 25.6.05 at Napier. Ernie married Phyllis Walker of Hawkes Bay, who predeceased him in 1963. They had two adopted children, Barry and Lynn. Ernie was blessed with excellent health and at 101 years his mind was still sharp. He will be missed by all his dear friends and now rests in expectation of the great resurrection.

Frank Boniface

Puckridge, Clement Terrance, born 15.8.1911 at Port Lincoln, SA; died 7.3.05 in Port Lincoln Hospital. He was survived by his wife, Nancy, who died 10 days later.

Positions vacant

▲ **Mechanical & Electrical Engineer—Sanitarium Development & Innovation (Cooranbong, NSW)** is seeking a self-motivated Mechanical Engineer and an Electrical Engineer (one of each) with a professional attitude toward their work to assist with engineering projects. Applicants must have relevant tertiary qualifications at degree level or higher in Electrical/Mechanical Engineering; demonstrated design ability in their relevant discipline; good communication skills; minimum of five years relevant industrial experience; and a membership of Institute of Engineers Australia. **Applications in writing** (including résumé) should be forwarded to Group Human Resources, Sanitarium Health Food Company, Locked Bag 7, Central Coast Mail Centre NSW 2252; fax (02) 4348 7610; or email <HumanResources@sanitarium.com.au>, no later than August 19, 2005.

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

He is survived by his nieces and nephew, Ellie, Betty, Judith and Ian. Clem was a keen Bible student, skilled handyman, and treasurer of Port Lincoln church for many years.

Jim Zyderveld

Puckridge, Nancy, born in 1922; died 17.3.05 at Matthew Flinders Nursing Home, Adelaide, SA. She was predeceased by her husband, Clem, 10 days earlier. She is survived by her children, Fay, Margaret and Richard, and their families. Nancy was a member of the Port Lincoln SDA church; she was always giving and known for her generosity.

Jim Zyderveld

Reid, Sefton Gerald, born 18.4.1931 at Longford, Tas; died 22.6.05 at Ulverstone. On 17.4.51 he married Jessica Cameron. He is survived by his wife; his children, Gennette (USA), Anne (Perth, Tas), Peter (Hobart), Glenda (Penguin) and Julie (Melbourne, Vic); his seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Sefton was a sensitive and generous Christian, who demonstrated his beliefs in practical and caring ways. Close family members gathered at the Ulverstone Lawn Cemetery on 27.6.05 to lay their loved one to rest.

Kevin Amos

Stanley, Edna May, born 25.12.1923 in Perth, WA; died 26.6.05 in the Charles Harrison Nursing Home, Cooranbong, NSW, after a long and painful illness. She is survived by her husband, Pastor Ray Stanley; her sons and daughters-in-law, Pastor Chester Stanley and Robyn, Pastor Wayne Stanley and Martina (all of Melbourne, Vic); her daughter and son-in-law, Raelene and Stuart Ware (England); her daughter, Michelle (England); her five grandchildren; and two step-grandsons. For more than 50 years May faithfully supported her husband in his evangelistic work in many places throughout Australia, the South Pacific, England, Denmark, Norway and Finland. She was a creative, talented, loving and gracious woman who loved her Lord and greatly endeared herself to all who knew her. The sorrow of her family is eased by Jesus' promise, "Because I live, you shall live also."

Allan Lindsay, Rex Cobbin

Witzmann, Grace Sunshine, born 7.4.2005 in Adelaide, SA; died 7.4.2005 in Adelaide. Eternally loved daughter of Dirk and Tracey; and beloved sister of Trinity (Mawson Lakes). Grace was anticipated with deep love, and her family says, "In our hearts you will always live."

Jim Zyderveld



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Giant book sale. 4000+ books. New stock. "Never been before? Come, and you'll be a regular." Theology (eg *History of the Reformation*, M D'Aubigne, 1869, quoted in GC), 7 x 23 x 29 cm, E G White, novels, biographies. Sets of *Uncle Arthur's Best Stories*, lifestyle, music, plants etc. Non-alcoholic wines, fire blankets and first-aid kits make great Christmas presents and imperative for home and car. **Make a calendar note now.** Nunawading church, Central Road, Nunawading, Sunday, July 31, 11 am–3 pm (proceeds to church building fund).

Incredible India! An incredible journey! Experience the thrilling sights, sounds and cuisines of India! Book now for our October tour. Web: www.pgindia.net; email: info@pgindia.net; post: Personal Guide Services—India, PO Box 42066, Casuarina NT 0811; phone (08) 945 2845; mobile 0427 510 841.

Notice of NZPUC Session. Notice is hereby given that the first regular Session of the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be convened from September 23 to 25, 2005, in Auckland, New Zealand, at the Papatoetoe Seventh-day Adventist Church, 16 Puhinui Road, Papatoetoe. The business of the constituency meeting will be in accordance with the constitution and will include reports, election of leadership and proposed changes to the constitution and by-laws. Registration of delegates for the Session will be between 3 pm and 5.30 pm on Friday, September 23, 2005.

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8th Annual Sacred Concerts—Sabbath, July 23, 2005. 3.00 pm Parramatta church, Hammers Road. **New starting time 7.30 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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Bickley centenary celebration—October 22, 2005. Bickley church invites past members to our celebration, commencing at 9.30 am for Sabbath school, 11.00 am divine service, light lunch, and afternoon program with review of memorabilia, heritage and history to honour pioneers and notable workers who have sat in our pews. Further information: Neil Maxwell (08) 9454 6881; or Yvonne Johnson (08) 0201 6508.

24/7 Satellite TV Evangelism. 78 cm European fold-out dish, similar performance to 85 cm dish, but more rigid and easier to install. Suits permanent or portable use. Professionally installed from \$A400. DIY kits: 1 for \$A260, 5+ \$A240 ea (1 week delivery. Add freight to prices). Includes dish, approved pre-tuned receiver, 20m coax, roof/wall mount, instructions. Contact Don Sforcina on 0417 855 795; <gonaturalhealth@iprimus.com.au>.

House for sale—Morisset, NSW. Large two-storey, five-bedroom home with self-contained flat, carport, double-garage, insulated music room, semi-inground pool, spa bath, covered outdoor entertaining area, large deck. Well-presented garden on 830 sq metres; walk to rail, 10-minute drive to Avondale College. \$A399,000 ono. Phone 0411 209 616.

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Finally

Two men trod the way of life; the first, with downcast eye; the second with an eager face uplifted to the sky. He who gazed upon the ground said, "Life is dull and grey," but he who looked into the stars went singing on his way.

