

RECORD

August 20, 2005

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launched

PNG school
principals meet

"If my people . . ."



Nurses who work at the Atoifi Adventist Hospital in the Solomon Islands are reaching out to patients with the "Helping a friend to meet my friend Jesus" program.



"Let's talk" coming to Australia

Hospital connecting with people

MALAITA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Atoifi Adventist Hospital has recently been connecting with others in a variety of ways, with new programs and new equipment making it possible for them to communicate more with those at the hospital and the world outside the Solomon Islands.

In connecting with the people who come to the hospital for treatment, the chaplain's office designed a program called "Helping a friend to meet my friend Jesus," which has provided the nursing staff and students with an opportunity to share picture posters of Jesus with patients and their families.

The posters also have the message, "Jesus is coming soon. Are you prepared to meet Him?" on them, along with Bible texts.

The statements are in the local language, Kwaio.

"It's reported that the patients and visiting friends are really appreciating it," says Johnie Tango, hospital chaplain. "Students believe it is a good way of sharing Jesus with the patients and visitors. We are not only here to serve people, but also to lead them to be saved."

This program led to a seminar that ran from July 31 to August 14, where students brought along interested patients to find out more about Jeuss.

The hospital and the surrounding area has also recently been connected to the outside world via phone, fax, Internet and

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Neither of the Christian voices . . . had mentioned Jesus.

Finding God

THE OPPORTUNITY TO CATCH UP with friends for the shared adventure was perhaps more important, but the event itself seemed worth the Saturday evening journey into the city. A documentary called *Chasing God* was screening for just four sessions at an inner-city art-house theatre, and having an interest in various perceptions of God we booked tickets and made the pilgrimage.

I guess it was unreasonable for me to expect a comprehensive survey of the many different beliefs about God from across the world in a single cinema session, much less a credible answer to the many questions raised. But as we shuffled out of the theatre after just an hour, I was less than satisfied—and not just because I had handed over my \$A13.50 with expectations of more.

After a brief survey of the range of world religions—Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and more—plus perspectives from an atheist, a scientist and an anthropologist, the documentary attempted to bring some kind of synthesis with the assumption that because we are all interested in peace in the world, we must all be seeking the same God/god/goddess/supreme soul/life force (forgive my simplification of their simplification).

I struggled with their conclusions but I was concerned that I did not have an immediate answer. It bugged me for the rest of the evening—until I realised the portion of the story the documentary had missed. Neither of the Christian voices—

and certainly none of the others—had mentioned Jesus.

Perhaps the documentary's resident atheist—Australian, Phillip Adams—came closest to this answer when he suggested that he might believe if God would appear in our world and explain to us how we have got life so wrong. The story that sets Christianity apart is the story of God stepping into the reality of our world and showing us God and His goodness: "So the Word became human and lived here on earth among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father" (John 1:14*).

The historical fact of Jesus (see 1 John 1:1) cannot be ignored in an authentic quest for God. Jesus moves all our God-talk beyond philosophising and speculation. Jesus is the question that would have jarred the flow of the documentary—a question Jesus Himself asked. To His disciples, Jesus asked, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" (Matthew 16:13). Of course, there are a variety of responses to this question. But Jesus did not leave it there. His follow-up was the clincher: "Who do you say I am?" (Matthew 16:15).

On that occasion, Peter was the most forthright in proclaiming Jesus "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). And so it seems appropriate that it was Peter to whom the next step in this line of questioning was addressed after Peter's denial and Jesus' resurrection, when Jesus repeatedly asked

Peter, "Do you love me?" (John 21:15-17).

The claims and sacrifice of Jesus resist and subvert the sludgy, generic spirituality that seems so inoffensively popular. But while He upsets the conclusions of those who merely wish to ignore Him, He must also challenge our spirituality. It is too easy for us to diminish Jesus and His central role in our relation to God.

Jesus is not the happy ending that might get tacked on as an optional extra to our already pleasant and comfortable lives. He is not an answer to be kept in an easily accessible location for the inevitable times of disappointment, loneliness and doubt. Jesus is not a remedy to be applied twice daily to the people different from us, to solve their "problems." He is not just another cliché among the "nice" ideas available at your local gift store.

Ultimately, the quest for God finds its end in the person, life, teachings, death and resurrection of a poor Palestinian preacher in the first century: "Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross" (Philippians 2:6-8). That must be a continuing challenge to our understanding of God and spirituality.

**Bible quotations are from the New Living Translation.*

Nathan Brown



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

School holidays see successful launch of Bible school starter kits

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

An increasing number of churches are investing time and money into running holiday Bible school programs for children as they become easier to organise, thanks to the help of starter kits.

"The kit was an excellent resource that explained very clearly what we had to do to organise a program. Using a kit is so much easier than having to plan one from scratch," says Areli Cockburn from Wetherill Park Spanish Seventh-day Adventist church, who used the Lava Lava Island kit to organise a holiday Bible school program of the same name for children in



Some of the 60 children who participated in the program at the Wetherill Park church.

the community.

"The program was very successful," says Mrs Cockburn. "The parents of the participants have indicated that they will bring their children back if we organised another holiday Bible school program next year."

Fifteen of the 60 children who participated in the Lava Lava Island program were not Seventh-day Adventists.

Papatoetoe Seventh-day Adventist church in New Zealand, which also ran the program, attracted 150 children. At the Brighton Seventh-day Adventist church in Adelaide, 13 children asked for Bibles after attending the program.

"People are making commitments to Jesus as a result of these holiday Bible school programs. They are great evangelism tools," says Julie Weslake, director of children's ministries for the South Pacific Division.

"We are attracting children who are not Christians and making connections with the wider community through them. Even STORM Co teams are starting to use the kits to run their Kids Club programs."

Running a holiday Bible school program will require a huge commitment on the part of the church, according to Mrs



Children doing craft work at the holiday Bible school program run by the Wetherill Park church.

Weslake. "The program will only be effective if the whole church gets involved and make sure they continue with follow-up programs."

The starter kits are produced by the Review and Herald Publishing Association and distributed through Adventist Book Centres. New kits are produced every year and include materials needed to run a one- or two-week holiday program.

"These kits provide churches with an inexpensive and easy-to-use resource that we know can lead children to Christ and provide them with lots of fun. Churches are free to adapt the materials from the kits to suit their needs," says Mrs Weslake. "I really encourage churches who have not organised a holiday Bible school program to try using the kits."—Melody Tan

◆ Adventist Development and Relief Agency's economic development team conducted a **small business management training** program recently at Situm, Lae, PNG. A total of five men and 45 women participated in the program that was intended to show small business groups how to start and manage a business, keep records of transactions and **be good stewards** with their resources.—*Tok Save*

◆ The **Brisbane Adventist College** bus department recently opened a "**driver reviver**" facility where drivers can eat and drink



following their morning bus runs. The facility was officially opened and named in honour of **Sonny Faolua**, who passed away last year after serving faithfully as a driver for 14 years.—*Focus*

◆ Once a month **North Harbour church**, NZ, runs **Improv Church**, an outreach program designed to introduce people in their late teens and early 20s to Jesus. With no rehearsals, no props and no



scripts, it's a drama improvise from a few details from the audience, moments before each scene begins. A message from the Bible and a **hot drink** follows the Improv.—*North NewZ*

◆ For several years, the **Avondale College** church sponsored an annual series of presentations on the subject of Adventist Studies led by overseas presenters **Dr Fritz Guy** (2002), **Dr William Johnsson**

(2003) and **Dr Alden Thompson** (2004). This year, from August 18 to 20, Avondale College has joined the College church to widen the impact of this concept with a biblical focus: "The gospel of grace and glory" with **Dr Kendra Haloviak**, the assistant professor of New Testament in the School of Religion at La Sierra University, California, USA.



Principals meet in PNG to discuss future

LAKE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Principals from most of the Seventh-day Adventist-run schools throughout Papua New Guinea (PNG) gathered for the first-ever principals conference in Lae, which ran from July 31 to August 6.

The 45 principals from the church's colleges, high schools and primary schools gathered to discuss the changes that will occur once they join the PNG unified school system and their teachers are paid by the government.

The church has already engaged in dialogue with the government education department and hope teachers will be on the government payroll at the beginning of 2006.

"We are also trying to modify our system from the old one to a new one that is appropriate and suitable for the 21st century that we are now in," says Steve Piez, education director for the Papua New Guinea Union Mission. "One of the main aims of the new system is to maintain the church's unique education identity, though we are joining the unified education system."

Mr Piez said the conference also served as a forum to discuss how to integrate faith and learning in the new system. Facilitators for the conference came from



Principals from across Papua New Guinea attended the first conference for principals of Adventist schools.

the South Pacific Division. Both facilitators, Dr David McClintock and Ken Weslake, have served in PNG previously in the church's education system and are familiar with the challenges that most of the principals face.

The three-day conference covered a wide range of issues, and all the participants received a handout containing guidelines for Adventist principals.

Although some principals from more remote schools were unable to attend, those who could attend used the conference as a time for open discussion, where they aired the challenges they face and were able to learn from others' experiences.

"We plan to have this conference as an annual event and hold it at a convenient time for all our principals to attend," said Mr Piez.—*Martina Darius*

ADRA helps Tweed region following flooding

CHINDERAH, NEW SOUTH WALES

Practising for a mock disaster, to help the Tweed Disaster Recovery Committee to be prepared, had to be put on hold when a real natural disaster occurred. Following torrential rains that began on June 29, many towns in the area were flooded, and the Disaster Recovery Committee, on which Pastor Adrian Raethel is an Adventist Development and Relief (ADRA) representative, swung into action.

Pastor Raethel, the minister of the Kingscliff Adventist Community church, organised church members and others to help provide emergency accommodation for residents in the area following the floods, with other relief and aid groups from various churches helping to provide food, care and comfort for those affected.

Although there were some challenging moments for the members of the committee and the volunteers who assisted them, the response to the flooding was well coordinated and prepared.

The area was declared a natural disaster zone by former New South Wales Premier Bob Carr.—*Tweed Daily News/Adele Nash*



◆ German LOTE students from Lilydale Adventist Academy and Edinburgh Adventist Primary School, Vic, each Monday visit a Tabulam, a German nursing home, to converse with the residents in German. "The purpose is twofold," says the German teacher, Frau Dye. "The students have the joy of doing something for others and they also benefit from an

immediate purpose for learning a language." While the younger students performed songs, secondary students focus more on conversation. Some play games, such as "Mensch, ärgere dich nicht"—a German version of Ludo.—*David Jones*

◆ Papatoetoe, NZ, church's STORM Co team has taken advantage of the Vacation Bible School (VBS) program. They used it as the basis of their kids program on their trip to rural Taumarunui. Contact your local ABC for information on the latest available VBS series. The STORM Co team from Northpine



Christian College, Qld, ended up in the police lockup on their trip to the outback town of Surat—even after cleaning the police station and vehicle. Fortunately it was a short stay, and by choice.

◆ Musician Peter Dixon recently returned to Karalundi, WA, to play

music for students at the Aboriginal Education Centre. He recorded the students as they sang and played their music instruments for a DVD, including several songs featuring the Martu language. In 2004 Mr Dixon recorded a DVD and CD package of the children to celebrate Karalundi's 50th anniversary. For more information, call Karalundi on (08) 9981 2000.—*Sharon Grey*

◆ In the past months, three members have become nonagenarians at Taree church, NSW. Turning 90 years of age were Lillian Evelyn Gibson (nee Tester), "One should

Sanitarium's "Food for life" program visits Cook Islands

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

The Sanitarium Health Food Company sent a team to the Cook Islands in May as a part of their relief program, "Operation Food for life." This program aims to provide healthy food for people and teach them better eating habits. With the help of more than 400 volunteers from different Cook Island community groups and Christian denominations, the team of Sanitarium volunteers helped provide free breakfasts at preschools and schools, as well as to prison inmates, hospital patients and house-bound individuals. The Deputy Prime Minister and all the members of parliament, along with members of the religious council of the main island of Rarotonga were also served breakfast during the program.

Community events were also held as a part of the program, including a "Walk for health" walkathon and free health checks on three islands. This year's program received good local media coverage and gained attention from the Cook Islands government, and the Sanitarium staff who participated enjoyed the experience.—
SanCo News



make the best of one's situation, for there is always someone worse off"; **Clive Adams** (left), "The Lord has blessed me and brought me through this far"; and **Owen Clifton Hammond** (centre), "The Lord has been good to me!"—
Dawn Jerrard

◆ A member of the **Eight Mile Plains** Pathfinder Club, Qld, received a nomination to be the Suncorp **Young Queenslander of**

Hospital connecting with people

(Continued from page 1)

email, all of which were connected by Solomon Telekom as a part of the Solomon Islands government's initiative to connect more of the country to telecommunication services.

"This is one of a few mini-projects that Telekom are working on installing around remote areas in the country, and we are so fortunate that ours is the first one," says **Lenisiloti Tukai**, assistant business manager at the hospital.

This project was started last year, but it was delayed for unknown reasons. However, it recommenced earlier this year and the project to connect the hospital was completed in June.



Staff and students at Atoifi Adventist Hospital are excited about being connected to the Internet.

"We are very happy for these facilities," says Mr Tukai. "At the moment, the whole community is so excited and appreciate the work that has been done."

The connection to the Internet was made possible by the negotiation between **Matthew Mulligan**, the IT manager for the **Atoifi Adventist Hospital**, and **Solomon Telekom**.

Nursing students are finding the access to the Internet useful in their search for information and news that help them with their assignments and presentations.

"This is a great source of information, and our students are so fortunate to have this facility," says Mr Tukai. "We believe this new technology will improve communications and the quality education at the school of nursing."

Recently, the hospital received a large donation of an ambulance, hospital equipment, clothes and bedding from people in New Zealand (**RECORD**, July 30). The containers with the equipment and other items arrived mid-July, and the hospital staff are grateful for them.

"We would like to give a special thanks to **David Nunn** and the people of New Zealand for this heartfelt donation," says Mr Tukai.—**Adele Nash**

the Year from being Australia's highest fundraiser out of more than 60,000 children in the **2004 MS Readathon**. Already topping the fundraiser list in Queensland from 2001 to 2003, Year 8 student **Trent Lawson** raised \$A8,706.85 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society in 2004 by reading **40 books in six weeks**—making the total he has raised so far \$A24,000. Trent wrote to and doorknocked some 200 businesses as well as asked family and friends to sponsor him. Multi-award winning children's author **Paul Jennings** visited his school, John Paul College, to officially congratulate him.—**David Lawson**

◆ The **MOSAIC** church plant in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, advertises each week in several **local newspapers** seeking for people with special **requests for prayer** or spiritual support. Team member **Dragana Krnetic** says, "We gather every morning to pray for the needs of the people of the city. I cannot tell you **how powerful** and wonderful it is!"—**Peter Roennfeldt**

◆ A **new web site** has been designed to specifically link the worldwide community of **Adventist nurses**. Produced with a grant from the Association of Seventh-

day Adventist Nurses, the site gives information on nursing practice, patient and staff education, Christian job opportunities, career tips, Adventist nursing history, **stories, humour, mission opportunities**, forum and more.

More @ www.adventistnursingconnection.org



Church embarks on “Journey of hope”

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, USA

Hope is not an intellectual exercise for me, or an academic topic; it is the essence of life for me,” Seventh-day Adventist theologian Dr Angel Manuel Rodriguez told Adventist News Network, describing the new theme for the 2005 to 2010 quinquennium, “Journey of hope.”

The theme, which also will be reflected in the 2006 Annual Council and Week of Prayer readings, is one of five for the new five-year period. “Words of Hope” will be the theme for 2007; “Signs of Hope” for 2008; “Mission of Hope” in 2009; and, finally, “People of Hope” for 2010. Each is related to a Bible passage and each focuses on the Christian’s lifelong journey toward an eternal future.

He said the themes are “very traditional, in a sense, but it also describes Adventism. For nearly 150 years, since the time when early church pioneer Uriah Smith signed correspondence with the complimentary close, ‘Yours in the blessed hope,’ Seventh-day Adventists have been known as those who anticipate the soon return of Jesus Christ—the ‘blessed hope’ referred to in

Titus 2:13.” Dr Rodriguez said the purpose of these annual themes was to keep and constantly nurture the hope of the church for members.

“Fear raises the question of hope, and I think hope is going to become more and more reasonable to people inside and outside the church,” he said. “Hope has become relevant in ways we didn’t anticipate in a secular society.”

Dr Michael Ryan, a general vice-president for the General Conference and chairman of the committee that developed these themes, said the effort is designed to reflect that Adventism’s message is “centred” on hope.

He said, “The objective is to keep before our people—and certainly among new [church] members—that Jesus’ coming is the great hope of our future, and is made sure by the victory of Christ on the cross.” He added, “People who are not Adventists need to begin to believe it.”

The themes will be expressed in Week of Prayer readings published annually in *Adventist Review*, the church’s official paper, as well as in materials provided to world church regions, which, Rodriguez said, would be encouraged to adopt these themes.—*Mark Kellner/ANN*

Lake Region conference probed over irregularities

BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN, USA

The Lake Region Conference in the USA is under investigation for the alleged misuse of funds and other unspecified illegal activities, a revelation that shocked delegates of the conference who were called to a special session meeting at Andrews University in late July.

The special session, initially called to elect a new regional church president, came after an audit revealed irregularities in the Lake Region’s operations. Major leadership and employment changes were voted through in the session as well.

Six individuals have been revealed to have connections with this activity. Some have been placed on a leave of absence following the discovery, while others have been relieved of their positions. An internal investigation continues into alleged financial issues in the Lake Region Conference.

“Please pray for your church, for the Lake Region Conference, and for all who are involved,” said Pastors George C Bryant, acting Lake Region president, and Walter L Wright, president of the Lake Union Conference, in a statement.—*ANN*

◆ Since January 2000, 1.5 million people have been equipped using the EvangeCube—a modern instrument to market the story of



salvation that overcomes illiteracy and simplifies the message of redemption. EvangeCube is a cube made of eight interlocking blocks that flip and fold into the story of Christ. Over the next seven years, EvangeCube plans on deploying materials and training to 100

members of 1000 churches in 100 countries. They will be challenged to share the gospel twice a week over the next year. The result is mobilising 100,000 churches to equip 10,000,000 Christians to evangelise to one billion people.—*Charisma News Service*

More @ www.evangelcube.org

◆ And Jesus said: “Don’t get your knickers in a twist!”—well, according to the newly released Kiwi Bible, He did. Chris Grantham, director of Interserve New Zealand, has rewritten 3 per cent of the

original Bible in Kiwi. The Aussie Bible, released by Kel Richards two years earlier, sold more than 100,000 copies in its first year.

More @ www.kiwibible.co.nz



◆ Three Christian women are on trial in Indonesia for allegedly converting Muslim children to Christianity. If convicted, they could each face a prison sentence of up to five years and a fine the equivalent of \$US103,600. The trial has been marred by Muslim protestors calling for the conviction, even the execution, of the women. The women were denied bail and remain in prison as their court case proceeds. The women set up a “Happy Sunday” program, with Christian songs, games and Bible study for the children.—*Charisma News Service & Assist News Service*

Next *News* live from SPD session

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The next *Adventist News* will be a special edition produced live from the South Pacific Division's five-yearly business meeting, or session. "You'll get to see the church at work," says producer Brenton Stacey. "We won't be covering the news per se; the church's web site and the RECORD will do that, although we won't be ignoring it either. Expect to see footage from the strategic focus reports, a face-to-face interview with our church leaders, and to spend a day in the life of a delegate."

Adventist News is a 30-minute television news-style program covering church news from a mission perspective. Session delegate Linzi Aitken and Mr Stacey will host the program from the Carlton Crest Hotel

in Melbourne, providing a seamless link between what are usually self-contained stories. "The format will be a little different this time, but it will give you a better feel for the atmosphere at session," says Mr Stacey.

The

Hope Channel will broadcast the special edition of *Adventist News* less than a week after the session ends, on September 9 at 7.30 pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time). A DVD of the program will be available from the same date. *Adventist News* subscribers will receive the program with *Mission Spotlight* on either DVD or videotape soon after.—RECORD staff



The face of *Adventist News*, Bronwyn Mison. The next edition of the program will be produced live from the SPD session in Melbourne.

More @ <adventist.org.au/spdsession>. Call +61 2 9847 3290 or email communication@adventist.org.au to order the special edition of *Adventist News*.

"Let's talk" coming to Australia in September

SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES

To Seventh-day Adventist young people worldwide who wonder if the church is really listening to them, General Conference (GC) president Pastor Jan Paulsen, says, "Yes."

Pastor Paulsen will continue a series of conversations with young people from around the world for the past two years on September 5 in Sydney, Australia.

The program, called "Let's talk . . . South Pacific," will air live, unscripted and unedited exchanges where Adventist young people are expected to speak with Paulsen about issues that matter to them.

There will be two episodes to be filmed at Adventist Media. One includes students from Avondale College, and the second program will feature a question-and-answer time with an assortment of young people from across the South Pacific.

Both programs will be distributed on DVD and also aired on the Hope Channel. "I may not have all the answers, but at least we can talk," Pastor Paulsen says of the broadcasts.

The broadcasts were started to encourage and set an example for other leaders in the church to listen to young people and get involved in the Adventist Church.

"This program creates a forum for young people to establish dialogue with church leaders and to raising topics they are passionate about. I would urge anyone with an interest in shaping the future of their church to get involved," says Behren Schulz, producer of "Let's talk" in this region.



Cosmin Vlahopol, from Romania, asks Pastor Paulsen a question during the taping of "Let's talk" at the GC session.



Pastor Jan Paulsen answering questions in the recent "Let's talk" time that was held at the General Conference Session in St Louis, Missouri, USA.

Mr Schulz also produced the most recent broadcast of "Let's talk" held at the GC session in St Louis, Missouri, where Pastor Paulsen spoke with young delegates at the meetings on July 7.

"You who are between 15 and 30—a student or young professional: I want you to come in and to partner with the rest of us," says Pastor Paulsen. "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."

Pastor Paulsen has held these broadcasts in the United States and Germany, and will visit with young people in South America and Africa during next year. Along with the broadcasts, Pastor Paulsen's office has set up a "Let's talk" web site.

Young people can email their questions directly to the Office of the President and receive answers from church leaders.

"We need to do better at talking with our young people. They need to feel that we are sincere about wanting to hear them. We have not done terribly well in giving young people a sense of ownership and involvement in the church," says Pastor Paulsen.—RECORD staff/ANN

More @ www.letstalk.adventist.org

Adventist Media is keen to hear from young people interested in having a voice on "Let's talk." Expressions of interest can be addressed to Behren Schulz, email: <letstalk@ampm.org.au> or phone: +61 2 9847 2222.

Religious liberty in an age of fear

BY KENT KINGSTON

I STARTED WRITING IN RANT MODE: How can our church remain silent in the face of the blatant disregard for religious liberty and human rights we see all around us? For example, the case of Chinese diplomat Chen Yonling, who recently applied to Australia for political asylum, citing his government's sustained persecution of the meditation movement, Falun Gong. Or how about claims about US intelligence personnel whose "interrogation" techniques at Guantanamo Bay include deliberately insulting the religious sensibilities of Muslim detainees?

What have we heard from church administrators on these issues? Nothing.

Surely "religious liberty" is more than Adventist jargon for official church support of members having "Sabbath difficulties" with their employer or educational institution. Shouldn't our advocacy for religious liberty extend beyond this to the life-and-death situations faced by believers of other faiths around the world?

Well actually, it does.

Pastor Ray Coombe, the South Pacific Division's director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL), kindly returned my email about these issues and pointed to public statements by the church opposing both the Iraq war and terrorism, letter-writing campaigns about religious rights in Turkmenistan and the Adventist leadership of inter-faith organisations such as the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA). Hmm . . . Funny how inconvenient information can hobble a high horse.

The preferred method for achieving religious liberty is "quiet diplomacy," says Dr Jonathan Gallagher, who regularly represents the world church at the UN Commission on Human Rights.* This has apparently been quite successful, with good relations preserved between the church and potentially antagonistic governments.

At this stage, I was prepared to negotiate my tone down from rant to superior disdain, still dissatisfied with the church's unwillingness to make public statements

about more current or controversial issues. Suggested column title, subtly barbed: "Shhh . . . Quiet diplomacy at work."

But in regards to Falun Gong, Pastor Coombe noted, "The church has defended their cause [via the UN and IRLA] in a muted way, simply because our members within China itself are afraid of being identified with the Falun Gong by the Chinese government, which would result in the shutting down of our activities there."

I was suddenly reminded that it is easy to wax idealistic on these issues from the comfort of Australia. Is it really for me to recommend that the Adventist Church openly oppose the Chinese Government's religious policies when I am not the one reaping the consequences in terms of persecution? I guess not. These decisions must be left to believers who are themselves at risk.

"Individually we can speak out on their behalf, but as a corporate church, we have to be careful," says Pastor Coombe. That is good news for foot soldiers like us who can speak as individuals.

So I will. And you should too. Phone talkback radio when there's a discussion with a religious liberty or human rights angle. Write pointed, informed letters to the editor of your newspaper. Challenge the political unwillingness to mention human rights where trade is at risk. Question the ubiquitous doctrine of "national interest" when the planet's poor are clearly disadvantaged by it. Join Amnesty International. Participate in letter-writing campaigns. Sign petitions. Check out web sites and magazines detailing the persecution that Christians face in other parts of the world.

So enough hand-wringing about the activities of our top brass on religious liberty issues. Don't wait for "the church" to make a public statement on an issue of concern. We are the church. You are the church. **R**

*<http://un.adventist.org/news/2005/apr05.html>

Kent Kingston writes from Kuranda, Queensland.

Adventists in Japan remember atomic bomb

BY VICTOR HULBERT

SIXTY YEARS AFTER THE ATOMIC bombing of Hiroshima, two members of the Hiroshima Adventist church have recalled their experience as survivors.

Mrs Kino, now in her late 80s, lived about four kilometres from the epicentre of the blast and missed the main effects of the detonation. Trained in first aid, she spent her time helping those whose bodies were scorched by the heat of the blast.

Today she lives in a retirement home specially for bomb survivors where she retells her traumatic tale to school-aged children. Yet she does not tell it in a sense of bitterness. She speaks of hope and how she and her community were protected. She also speaks of the help that she and her family were able to give to others.

"I knew God's promise in the Bible that 'although many fall, I will save,'" Mrs Kino says. "Indeed, I think, I can feel the promise of that fulfilled for myself. I think many things happen in the world, but I think the most important thing is, just forget about fighting. If we become close to each other, hand-in-hand and believe in peace, I think that will bring a bright future."

Mrs Sako was 17 years old at the time. She was only 1.5 kilometres from the epicentre. She says it was a miracle she survived. The military first aid posts refused to treat her, telling her father that they had to help those who had some chance of living. She suffered for weeks with breathing difficulties, severe burns on the exposed parts of her body, maggot-infested wounds and radiation sickness.

"Since then," she says, "I really dislike war. I hate war. I really don't want my children to experience what I experienced. I really try to do my best to prevent the thing that happened [happening again]." **R**

Victor Hulbert writes for Adventist News Network.

“If My people . . .”

BY JAN PAULSEN

This is a condensation of the sermon given by Dr Jan Paulsen on the final day of the 58th Session of the General Conference in St Louis, Missouri, USA.

MY TEXT IS 2 CHRONICLES 7:11-16, and the setting is the dedication of Solomon’s Temple.

David, the man after God’s own heart, the patriarch of the royalty of Israel, had wanted to build the temple for the worship of God as an act of dedication and an expression of his love for the God of Israel. But God said “No, not you. Because you are a man of war and much blood has been shed.” And David understood.

God is present among His people also when He says: “This is not the role for you; not now. I have someone else in mind.” It is not a sign of rejection by God. It is just that God has other plans. God loved David, and He honoured David for the fact that it was in his heart to build the temple, but when God told him that Solomon, his son, was the one who would do it, David did all in his power to rally the people of Israel to support this plan. This teaches me that the cause is always bigger than the individual.

Before David died he offered one of the most moving prayers recorded in the Bible. (We find it in 1 Chronicles 29:14-19.) In it he says to God: “I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity” (verse 17*). His humility and devotion is so eloquently expressed when he says to God, no doubt thinking of the temple he had wanted to build, “Who am I to think that there is anything I could bring to you. Everything I have is already yours” (verse 14, paraphrase).

Some of you have said the same to the Lord about your worship and service, and I honour you for it. As an act of worship and devotion you have given much and generously, and you have gone back to find more to give, for that is what love compels you to do.

And so, under King Solomon, a Temple of unmatched beauty was built to God. The Temple was finished and the moment for

its dedication had come. As the people gathered, Solomon offered a special prayer to God to mark the opening of the dedication event itself. The prayer (in 2 Chronicles 6) is remarkable for the things Solomon said to God—among them the following (as his words played with my thoughts):

You who are too big for the whole universe to contain, will You really come and dwell in this house (verse 18)? Will You be that close to us? We are flawed. What about Your reputation?

When Your people pray in this house, will You hear and forgive (verse 21)? We pray and ask for forgiveness, and then, alas, we go back to our old ways—is it true that You forgive not just seven times, but 70 times seven? When a man wrongs his neighbour, will You side with the innocent one (verse 23) and defend him, for it is so difficult for the one who is innocent to defend himself? When the people are defeated by an enemy, deservedly because they have sinned against You, and they are taken away to a foreign land, and they confess their sins, repent, turn toward this house and pray, will You forgive them and bring them back to the land of their fathers (verse 25)? God, when my wrong decisions backfire on me and maybe my family, and I deserve what is coming, but they do not, can I come to You and know that You will open Your arms and take me in?

When a foreigner who does not belong to Israel comes to pray in this house, will You hear his prayer also so that all people may know You (verse 32)? Lord, You love the stranger whom I may think does not belong in this house. Please help me to remember that.

As Solomon looks to the future, he knows the frailty of his people, and in this prayer he wants to cover all his bases with God, even to the point of acknowledging the equal right of “strangers” to be heard by God. It is important to understand that God is not owned by anyone. God is a God



for all people, and his saving love goes out to all. And His houses of worship are houses of prayer for all people. Mission is about opening doors—and keeping them open.

Then God spoke

The night following the dedication service, God appeared to Solomon in response to his prayer earlier in the day. And it’s what He said to Solomon that I invite you to think about next:

The first thing that strikes us is the sovereignty of God. God shows that He is the One who sets the parameters and lays down the rules. But also that He is the one who lovingly reaches out to claim His people and give them assurance of how they can walk into the future with Him.

The image of a father and his wayward child only hints at the strength of God’s involvement with Israel then, and also with His people today.

“If my people, who are called by my name . . .”

There is a people whom God calls His own. This is the God who loves every human being, and, yet, He says: “There is a people who are Mine in a special way.” Israel of old—the seed of Abraham—were that people for whom God had wonderful plans. They had a special place in His purposes. God looks upon this people—not as a people who might one day qualify to be listed as “my people,” but who are “my people” now! What does He see as He looks at us? He sees flaws and lukewarmness. And yet, “enfeebled and defective” though the church is, it is the “one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard” (*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 12).

Why? Because they are “my people,” says the Lord. And therein lies a wealth of love

and commitment. Let us not be reckless or callous in our treatment of the church. God is watching, and He cares. Israel of old failed God primarily because of unbelief. This is the message, sadly, that's expressed with almost every generation. Their unbelief was seen mainly through their apostasy—choosing other gods and other values; and, therefore, with the passing of time, God, the spurned lover, turned elsewhere.

Also in this we see God's sovereignty displayed. Neither God nor the people's status can be taken for granted. He says: "Don't ever question my right to do what I must do." The clay cannot talk back to the potter; the thing cannot talk back to the craftsman who made it. "If my people will not," God says, "I will go elsewhere." And He did, thus opening the door for the Gentiles to come in. That door remains wide open today, giving meaning to our global mission mandate.

A new community

God's true followers were always a "remnant." Not biologically of Abraham, but grafted, as it were, into the heritage of Abraham and the promises that God made to him. This would be a community built on faith in Christ. And to this people of God He makes this commitment: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9-11).

I believe that the community of faith to which you and I belong, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is special to God today. We are not exclusive, but we are unique in the witness we have to bring. So when I read the ancient words of God to Solomon, I hear God saying to you and me: "If my people" will be and act, showers of blessings

will come. Note the word *if*. It contains both sovereignty and judgment, but it is spoken by a loving God who is driven by a passion to save.

God's spiritual people today know how they are to live their lives in faith and obedience to God. Ignorance is not the problem of God's people; disobedience sometimes is. By the life we live, as a community and as individuals, we either affirm or deny our status as God's chosen people. I hope, I pray, and I believe that God will not need to turn elsewhere for a people to finish His mission.

Notice the following four emphases in the prayer:

"If my people . . . will humble themselves." Humility is not naturally cultivated in today's world. Instead, there's pride—and with it a certain arrogance that says, "I can do it; and I am ever so good at it." When you serve God and deal with people every day, arrogance must give way to humility. The attitude and sentiment God is looking for in His servants is well illustrated in Solomon's description of himself, after he had been made king. He said to God: "I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. . . . Give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and distinguish between right and wrong" (1 Kings 3:7-9). Such an attitude reveals reverence before God, and dependence on Him.

Humility carries with it a softness that cancels arrogance and an abrasive "I-know-it-all." Humility has no need to boast. It acknowledges frailty and shortcomings. It has an open mind, for it is willing to learn and receive. Humility is a quality that every leader who serves in God's cause needs and must seek. Said Jesus: "Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart" (Matthew 11: 29).

"If my people . . . will seek my face."

Prayer and humility go together. Wrote the Lord's servant: "Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power" (Ellen White, *Prayer*, page 12). "Our prayers should be full of tenderness and love" (ibid, page 26); "Those who have a humble, trusting, contrite heart, God accepts, and hears their prayers" (ibid, page 33). "When temptations and trials rush in upon us, let us go to God and agonise with Him in prayer. He will not turn us away empty, but will give us grace and strength to overcome, and to break the power of the enemy" (*Early Writings*, page 46).

God is in effect saying to Solomon and to His people—as He is saying to you and me today—"When difficult times come, as they surely will, remember to talk to Me. When enemies from without or within assail you—and the ones from within are often the most difficult to deal with—do not think that you can take care of this yourself; come, talk to Me! Let us reason together. Partner with Me," says our Lord. For, He says through His servant, "It is not the capabilities you now possess or ever will have that will give you success. It is that which the Lord can do for you" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 146).

The presence of the Lord, in response to prayer, does not mean the challenges are fully resolved in one go. Some changes take time, even with the Lord and the Spirit fully present. So, don't dismay if matters facing you are not fully resolved quickly.

"And turn from their wicked ways." This is reformation. It signals change. The message from God to us as human beings is simply this: Society has gone wrong; humanity has gone terribly wrong; you have gone wrong. Just look at the world in which you live. Look at the indiscriminate violence we bring to innocent people, whether working in the twin towers in



New York City or travelling on a commuter train in the city of Madrid. Remember Rwanda? Or Bosnia? Or Yugoslavia? Just look at the violence and the immorality that a misguided entertainment industry brings into our homes. We let it in seemingly without reservations and have forgotten that it does not belong in my home and it has no rightful claim to a place before our children.

Then look at the greed of perverted leaders of industry whose plenty hungers for more. Look at nations and multinational corporations who manipulate and exploit the poor, making them even poorer. And look at how we treat each other—at the walls we erect between one another; the doors we shut instead of walking through to become an integrated family.

This world is not a good place; and we don't really want to spend a lot more time here. The whole creation, including my own heart and soul, longs and cries, with moans and groans, for the day of liberation, for the day when He who said "Behold, I make all things new" will fulfil that promise.

But while we are here we have to make choices and decisions every day. You cannot run away from them. I want the Adventist family to be known as a compassionate people.

"I will hear . . . I will forgive . . . and I will heal." Here we come to the wonderful heart of the gospel: God says to the people of old and to us: "You cannot walk into the future alone. Stay with me; talk to me; learn of me; make choices instructed by me; and when you do, 'I will hear . . . I will forgive . . . and I will heal'" (verse 14).

By this the circle is complete. We are His people, individually and collectively. We're called by His name, and have begun our journey with Him. But we've drifted and, for one reason or another, lost our way in the wilderness. Then, remembering the voice of Him who said "If with all your heart you truly seek Me, you shall ever surely find Me," we've found Him again and have discovered that He had already found us. We came again close to Him, and we stayed to talk with Him; and we heard the sweetest of all words: "I will forgive . . . I will heal."

Go away from this session with that assurance ringing in your ears, for God is with His people. What I hear God saying to us is: "My eyes and my heart will always be with My people." He sees it all—He is blind to nothing; and He knows it all; but what He sees and knows is filtered through a heart filled with commitment and love for a people and for individuals who still have much growing to do.

Is this word from God not enough?

We go into the future with His assurances ringing in our ears. We are a people of hope and we carry a message of hope. We echo the words of Jeremiah: "You are among us, O Lord, and we bear your name; do not forsake us!" (Jeremiah 14:9).

Oh, yes, that is quite enough! And we will walk boldly through the door into God's future with our hearts full of assurances, for we always remember His words: "I will hear . . . I will forgive . . . and I will heal."

Praise be to God for His everlasting faithfulness to His people! **R**

**Unless otherwise indicated, all Bible quotations are from the New International Version.*

Jan Paulsen is president of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Reprinted, with permission, from Adventist Review.

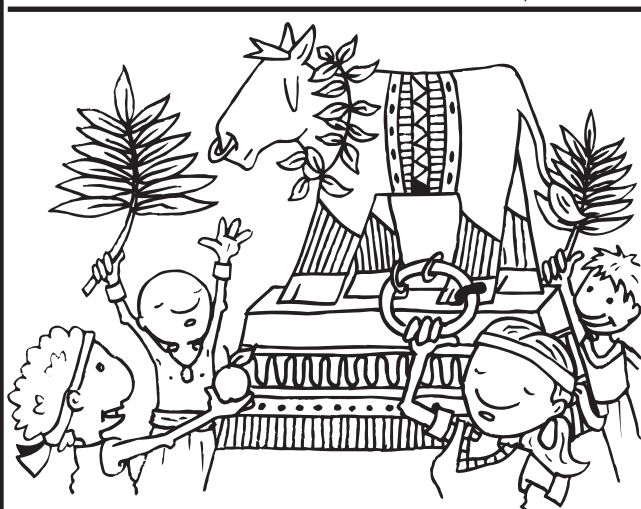


Fill in the Blanks

"The thing you should want most is God's _____ and doing what God wants. Then all these other things you need will be _____ to you."
Matthew 6:33 ICB

Spot the difference...

See if you can spot 10 differences in these two pictures of the golden calf. Then try colouring them.



Train up a child

JOHN HAMMOND, VIC

Adventist educators are passionate about our distinctive truths. While Gail Webster (Letters, July 16) got it right when she “read with surprise the appeal to Adventist schools for a stronger Adventist focus,” the comments by Peter Beamish and Malcolm Coulson (“Appeal for Adventist school Adventist focus,” News, June 11) were directed in a positive and professional sense as a challenge to a group of Adventist teachers who have devoted their lives to bringing the good news of salvation to young people.

As national director of Adventist Schools Australia, I invite church members to contact any of our principals and arrange to spend a day in an Adventist school, learning this for themselves. The focus of who we are and what we believe is a core function of Adventist education. We are proud to be daily proclaiming the gospel and the doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

To TV or not TV?

ALEX STIRLING, NZ

The inference of the editorial “Reality or TV?” (July 16) is that satellite television [Hope Channel and 3ABN] is overemphasised. This is far from the truth. For retired people and those in more remote areas, it keeps us in touch, such as during the recent General Conference session.

Every week someone in our church remarks upon something significant they’ve heard on it. Monitoring the six

channels, I also hear feedback from others receiving it.

So instead of denigrating this Bible information presented by the best evangelists in the world, we should be encouraging people to install it. Watching TV doesn’t necessarily stop you from studying the Bible for yourself or worshipping God with others in church. Rather, it enhances this knowledge of God.

HENK ELSHOF, NSW

When I suggested to RECORD the possibility of including weekly Hope Channel and 3ABN programming, I was thanked for the suggestion. Then I read the editorial “Reality or TV?” which does nothing to

I will continue to ask God’s blessings on satellite TV outreach.

promote them. These TV channels are spreading the gospel worldwide, winning souls for the kingdom. I will continue to ask God’s blessings on satellite TV outreach.

DOREEN ALLAN, QLD

Hope Channel and 3ABN are precious to my life, and I choose not to watch secular TV. I read my Bible daily and find that being able to watch experienced ministers preaching the Word is a wonderful help. I firmly believe satellite TV is God’s instrument for spreading truth to millions.

Many godly miracles are happening through this medium, and when people are brought to truth through His servants on TV, it is then up to them to continue to read and study the Word. Conversion is the work of the Holy Spirit, and whether the impetus is live or remote is immaterial.

Praise the Lord for Christian satellite television and the devoted Christians giving their time in love for the benefit of viewers.

Include the young

JO GOWANS, VIC

I resonated with “On hold” (Editorial, July 23) because I have had the same question on my mind. How many young representatives had I seen in photos of the General Conference delegates, or the South Pacific Division executive? With the younger generations, we need to remember that they place importance on being heard, on making changes to inspire their peers

and in being significant in their faith. Local churches will reap the benefits, if this is where they get their outlet, but how much more could we do if we would allow them on our boards and committees and embrace their ideas. I pray we don’t forget our generation and become so out of touch as an institution that we are irrelevant and inward thinking.

G R STARK, QLD

Congratulation on the incisive editorial “On hold” (July 23), confronting the problem of the lack of young people in church leadership and in particular at the recent General Conference session. I believe the reason for the lack of youth is that the older church hierarchy are determined to maintain control and resist new concepts that might disturb the status quo.

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.

Anniversaries

The Summit Adventist church, Qld, celebrated two special wedding anniversaries on 2.7.05. **Frank** and **Maria Bohm** celebrated their 60th anniversary, while



Rosa and **Laci Fejes** celebrated 65 years together. Friends and family gathered to celebrate the anniversaries with a special lunch at the Summit church.



Johanson, Eric and Lorna were married 60 years ago on 3.6.45 in the Warburton church by the late Pastor E J Johanson, Sr, father of Eric. A family celebration was held on Sabbath, June 4, at the home of one of their three daughters, Nettie Vetter, along with their other two daughters, Donna Saville and Christine Oaklands. Also present were five of their seven grandchildren; Donna's husband, Barry; and Nettie's husband, Peter. Messages of



love were received from family and friends, along with congratulations from government dignitaries, as well as one from HRH Queen Elizabeth II. Eric and Lorna have served the Lord for many years in various capacities. They have now retired at Kings Langley.

Weddings

Blain—Hobson. David Ronald Blain and Louise Ann Hobson were married on 10.7.05 in the Dargaville Adventist church, Dargaville, NZ.

Ken Curtis

Boutros—Hamilton. Kheir Boutros, son of Adly and Ahsian Boutros (Tatalieh, Egypt), and Lorelle Hamilton, daughter of Brian and June Hamilton (Fulton College, Fiji), were married on 27.6.05 at the Shangri La Resort, Sigatoka, Fiji.

Murray Chapman, Narayan Gounder

Brown—Booyens. Matthew Brown, son of Ross and Pauline Brown (Maitland,

NSW), and Bernice Booyens, daughter of Graham and Duella Booyens (Cooranbong), were married on 24.7.05 in the Morisset Hospital chapel.

Garth Bainbridge

Deppeler—McGrath. Bryce Martin Deppeler, son of Rowan and Faye Deppeler (Montrose, Vic), and Maryanne Darlene McGrath, daughter of Neil and Raewynne McGrath (Penguin, Tas), were married on 31.7.05 in the Lilydale Adventist church, Lilydale, Vic.

Wayne Boehm

Watters—Brown. Bryce Watters, son of Warren and Margaret Watters (East Maitland, NSW), and Letitia Brown, daughter of Peter and Sue Brown (Blackhill), were married on 24.4.05 at Total Chapel, Paterson, in the NSW Hunter Valley.

Damien Rice

Obituaries

Appleton, Donald Eric, born 28.8.1913 in Hobart, Tas; died 5.7.05 in Esther Somerville Nursing Home, Sydney, NSW. On 23.7.42 he married Gertrude Brown. He is survived by his wife (Elizabeth Lodge, Normanhurst). He had no children of his own, but is survived by his nephews and nieces and their spouses, Ruth and Bill Butler (Qld), Barry and Sue Branster (Cherrybrook, NSW), Darryl and Jan Betteridge (Brookvale) and Warwick and Susie Brown (Walsh Bay).

Robert Craig

Brown, Vic Christian Charles, born 4.1.1925 at Woodbine, via Gatton, Qld; died 3.5.05 in Brisbane. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; his children and their spouses, Ross and Sharon, Mark and Kim, Julie and Cameron; and his three grandchildren (all of Brisbane). Vic had a quiet and gentle faith in Jesus and loved his wife and family dearly. We look forward to being reunited with him on the resurrection morn.

Michael Worker

Butler, Dolly Ivy Maude, born 20.2.1925 near Grafton, NSW; died 3.6.05 in Brisbane, Qld. She is survived by her husband, Mervyn (Bundaberg); her six children; her 10 grandchildren; her 22 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. Dolly has lived a life of faith while moving from northern Qld to southern Victoria through her years. She will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Michael Worker

Cozens, Emily May (nee Fish), born 17.5.1915 at Warrnambool, Vic; died 18.6.05 at Yarra View Retirement Village Hostel, Warburton. In 1940 she married Stowell. She is survived by her husband (Warburton); her daughters, Wilma Lee (Mission College, Thailand), Marlene Moss (Upwey, Vic), Alvie Brown (Warburton) and Lorraine Ford (Yankalilla, SA). Emily was known for her patience and her strength of character as she faced life's challenges.

Eric Kingdon, Joy Kingdon

Craig, John, born 13.8.1919 at Larne, Northern Ireland; died 16.7.05 in Pioneer

Positions vacant

▲ **Administration and Teaching Positions—Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland)** Expressions of interest are invited for the following employment opportunities in our system of dynamic and growing Adventist schools in South Queensland. **Principal—Brisbane Adventist College:** An experienced administrator is being sought to lead this established P-12 school of 650 students, commencing 2006.

Primary and Secondary Teaching Positions: Seeking teachers for the 2006 school year for schools situated at the Gold Coast, Noosa, Brisbane and Toowoomba.

Written expressions of interest (including CV) should be forwarded to Tony Kent, Director of Education, Seventh-day Adventist Schools Ltd, 19 Eagle Tee, Brisbane 4000.

▲ **Bursar/Financial Officer (Melbourne, Vic).** Applications are invited for the role of Bursar at Heritage College, commencing January 2006. Located in the south-eastern suburbs of Melbourne, Heritage College is a rapidly expanding school that will be a prep-Year 9 in 2006, going through to Year 12 in 2009. Accounting and bookkeeping experience is necessary, as are positive people skills. If you desire to be a key player in a dynamic school, forward your CV to The Principal, Heritage College, PO Box 293, Berwick Vic 3806. **Applications close September 2, 2005.**

▲ **OHS Coordinator—Greater Sydney Conference (Epping, NSW)** is seeking a full-time Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Coordinator to work proportionately for each of the church entities. The successful applicant will have commitment to the ethos and mission of the SDA Church; working knowledge of NSW OHS legislation; understanding of systems management; communication and report writing skills; detail to procedures and policies; and experience in workers compensation, claims and return to work. **Applications in writing** (with CVs) should be forwarded to Pastor Bob Manners, General Secretary, 4 Cambridge Street, Epping NSW 2121; phone (02) 9868 6522; or email <bob-manners@adventist.org.au>, no later than August 25, 2005.

▲ **Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood—Avondale College (Cooranbong, NSW)** seeks to appoint a Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood Education. The appointee will be required to undertake teaching, research and consultancy in early childhood education. The appointment is for a three-year renewable term commencing February 2006. Further information can be obtained from Dr Jean Carter, <jean.carter@avondale.edu.au>. **Written applications** should include current CV, applicant's contact details, names of three referees and be sent to Ms Sonya Muhl, Avondale College, PO Box 19, Cooranbong, NSW, 2265, by August 30, 2005.

▲ **IT Manager—Stanborough School of Watford (England)** is seeking an IT Manager to commence on September 15, 2005. The school is located on 40 acres of beautiful parkland and only 30 minutes from London. The successful applicant will have IT qualifications in both software and hardware and experience in working in the IT industry; be practical, well organised, reliable and able to maintain confidentiality; adaptable and capable of using initiative; and excellent interpersonal skills to work with students, parents and management. **Applications in writing** (including CV) should be forwarded to <srivers@stanboroughpark.herts.sch.uk>; Stephen Rivers, Headteacher of Stanborough School, Watford, England. Applications close September 1, 2005.

▲ **Caretaker, Yarrahapinni Adventist Youth and Ecology Centre—North New South Wales Conference** is seeking a qualified and experienced Caretaker for the Yarrahapinni Adventist Youth and Ecology Centre at Grassy Head, NSW, commencing January 2, 2006. The successful applicant will be a committed Seventh-day Adventist Christian with carpentry trade background, management experience and people skills. **For further information** please visit <nswyouth.com/yarracaretaker>. **Applications in writing** (including résumé and three work-related referees and contact details of your church pastor) should be forwarded to Youth Department, PO Box 7, Wallsend NSW 2287; email <jparker@adventist.org.au>; fax (02) 4950 1102. Applications close September 16, 2005

▲ **Managing Director—Sydney Adventist Hospital Foundation (Wahroonga, NSW)** is seeking a new Managing Director. For more information, contact Natalie Hackett on (02) 9487 9405 or email <natalie.hackett@sah.com.au>. **Applications close August 26, 2005, at 12 noon.**

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

Lodge and Gardens Retirement Village, Bundaberg, Qld. He is survived by his wife, Lillian (Bundaberg); his children and their spouses, Robert and Marilyn (Sydney, NSW), Edward and Lorraine (Mackay, Qld), Carol and David Crawford (Toowoomba), David and Glenda (Bundaberg); his grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. John was a

sugarcane farmer and was baptised in 1950. In the course of his life he held various positions in the Methodist church, including Sunday school superintendent; and later he also served in various positions in the SDA churches at Mackay and Bundaberg, including elder.

*Robert Craig
Alwin Hilton, James Stevenson*

Cross, Noel Geoffrey, born 4.1.1921 in Brisbane, Qld; died 18.7.05 in the Adventist Retirement Village, Victoria Point. On 14.10.44 he married Margaret. He is survived by his wife; and his children, Nola and Pam (all of NZ). Noel served in his local church as Sabbath school superintendent, elder, deacon, missionary leader and lay preacher.
Ross Baines

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); Alice Palmer (Killarney Vale, NSW); his brothers, Dr James Haskins (Maine, USA) and Peter (Christchurch, NZ); 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

Mackee, Angus, born 9.11.1915 at Gympie, Qld; died 27.6.05 in Ingham Hospital. He was predeceased by his son, David. He is survived by his wife, Lillian (Ingham); his children, Alexandra and Allan. Angus was a long-time, faithful member and worker of the Ingham Adventist church. He is greatly missed by his wife and family; also by his church family.
Cranville Tooley

Morton, Leslie Alfred (Les), born 18.3.1914 at Hurstville, Sydney, NSW; died 27.7.05 in Neringah Hospital, Sydney. He is survived by his wife, Flora (Mac); his children and their spouses, Cliff and Jan, Ross, Trevor and Patti (all of Sydney); his eight grandchildren; his five great-grandchildren; his sister, Rene; and brothers, Stan and Allen. Les had been a faithful and active member of the Arcadia and Galston churches after the family moved to that area in 1953. His life was one that was well spent in the service of his family and community and one that was intimately

bound to his faith in Jesus Christ. He was a gentle, caring person who was loved and respected by all who knew him and will be sadly missed by his family and friends.
Barry Wright, Bruce Grosse

O'Donoghue, Anthony Fergus, born 11.11.1931 at Boonah, Qld; died 29.6.05 at Kingaroy. In September 1984 he married Glenda Davidson. He is survived by his wife (Blackbutt); his children, Charmaine Wenck (Ipswich), Mark (Marburg), Annette White (Ipswich); his stepson, Aaron Bond (Qld); and his stepdaughter, Sarah Bond (Ipswich). Tony contended for a long time with illness, always knowing that death would not be the final victor. He died believing the promise of Christ that this life is not all there is; there is everlasting life yet to come.
Sandor Gazsik

Smith, Jessie Mary, born 22.7.1915 at Mornington, Vic; died peacefully on 13.6.05 at the Alawara Retirement Village, Bendigo. She was predeceased by her husband, Albert, on 26.6.96. Jessie and Albert were both baptised in 1953 by Pastor Jack Cole. She will be remembered for the 40 years she served as Maryborough church clerk. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Geoffrey and Valerie (Creswick); her daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and John McLean (Bendigo); her six grandchildren and families; and her nine great-grandchildren. Jessie had a great love for both God and her family. She was a gentle person, always ready with a kind word and smile for everyone. She is greatly missed by family and friends.
David Butcher

Smith, Neil Alfred, born 27.5.1924 in Christchurch, NZ; died 17.7.05 at home in Whangarei. In 1953 he married Nyra Petty. He is survived by his wife; his daughters, Rachel (NSW) and Sharon (both of Melbourne, Vic); his son, Mark (Palmerston North, NZ); his six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Following his conversion and baptism by Pastor Judge in 1946, Neil graduated from Longburn Adventist College in 1948. He

was involved in pastoral work in NZ and Norfolk Island. Later, he trained as a teacher and worked in Palmerston North; also worked there as an SHF rep.
Ken Curtis

Tipping, Mary Anne, born 9.10.1915 at Biggenden, Qld; died 23.7.05 in Gympie General Hospital. On 26.4.41 she married Arnold, and they worked in Gayndah and Dagon before retiring in Gympie. He predeceased her on 9.3.77. She is survived by her children, Cathrine, Lorraine, Lionel and Esmond. Mary was a faithful member of Gympie church.
Alvin Coltheart

Wilson, Ivy Edna Atkins, born 21.5.1921 at Toronto, NSW; died 5.6.05 at Mount Hutton. In October 1940 she married Charles, who predeceased her. She was also predeceased by her son, John. She is survived by her daughters, Beryl and Julene; and their families. Ivy's practical love, hospitality and love of fun created many happy memories.
Murray House

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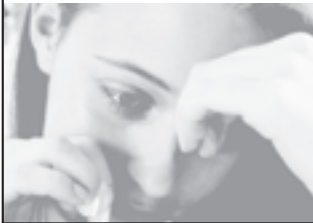
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