

# RECORD

Spring, 2005

September 10, 2005

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Issue No1

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*"Women and the Word" conference participants expressed their experience in church leadership positions artistically in a workshop led by Kellie Hancock.*

## Women challenged to reach potential

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Women in the South Pacific were encouraged to think beyond stereotypes and to reach their potential despite living in a gender-biased culture during the first "Women and the Word" conference, held in Sydney (New South Wales) on the weekend of August 13.

"Throughout history, women have been made to feel inferior and were not always allowed or able to reach their full God-given potential," says Joy Butler, director of women's ministries in the South Pacific Division (SPD). "We wanted to draw the attention to what Christianity and the Bible really said about women and their potential during the conference. We want

women to know they are chosen by God to be proclaimers of truth and should not be afraid to do so."

The conference, held at Sydney Adventist Hospital, was jointly organised by the Women's Ministries Department and Avondale College. It attracted some 100 people—both men and women—from as far as Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands over a two-day period.

Speakers at the conference included Dr Robyn Priestley, Dr Jane Fernandez, Drene Somasundram and Dr Steve Thompson from Avondale College, as well as Pastor Martin Vukmanic, Dr Beverley Davies, Kellie Hancock and Althea Halliday.

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Offerings to help PNG church fly

# Women challenged to reach potential

(Continued from page 1)

This variety of speakers explored topics ranging from connecting with God, understanding Old Testament representations of women, to the condescending attitudes toward women throughout history that have shaped today's opinions.

"The speakers were chosen because they had a passionate belief in Jesus' ability to liberate women," says Mrs Butler. "Women need to be empowered and they need to look at Jesus Christ and how he loosed their tongues to speak and preach."

Workshops were also conducted in the afternoon that further focused on feminism, labels of women in the world, lessons learned from women mentioned in the Bible and their influence on the world today, as well as an opportunity for participants to artistically express their experiences in church leadership positions.

"I have a passion to help people gain a relationship with God through experiential activities," says Kellie Hancock, who travelled from Melbourne to conduct the art

workshop. "It's about making religion real and giving people something positive to take home that will empower them and focus on their strengths."

Beatrice Kemo, who believes her self-esteem had been raised since her appointment as director of women's ministries in the Papua New Guinea Union Mission, says the conference "has helped me learn about the relationships women had with Jesus and draw near to God. I hope to use my experience here to empower other women and help them reach their potential." She is planning to organise a similar conference in Papua New Guinea in the near future.

"Women and the Word" conferences in Australia will be an annual event, and Mrs Butler plans to follow up on this year's conference with a mailing list that will inform interested parties about future women's ministries events.—**Melody Tan**

**To join the mailing list or purchase CDs and cassettes from the "Women and the Word" conference, contact SPD Women's Ministries at +61 2 9847 3307 or email <jbutler@adventist.org.au>.**



Dr Jane Fernandez, from Avondale College, leads a "Women and the Word" workshop.

# Child commitment certificates in demand

LAE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

School principals from Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the Solomon Islands have responded enthusiastically to the concept of affirming decisions for Christ by children in their schools. The school leaders requested more than 13,000 children's certificates and nearly 1000 *A Child's*

*Commitment Ceremony* booklets following presentations at the recent principals conferences in these missions.

"This is a hugely important process," says Steve Piez, director of education for the Papua New Guinea Union Mission, "especially in the light of research indicating that if people do not embrace Jesus Christ as their Saviour before they reach their teen years, the chance of them doing so at all is slim. This ceremony will also affirm teachers in schools who daily engage in evangelism with their students."

Julie Weslake, director of children's ministries in the South Pacific Division agrees. "This is a very encouraging response from the Pacific and PNG schools," she says. "Children who are able to have their commitment to Jesus affirmed by their church will feel valued and supported. They will know that we take their commitment seriously and that we will be beside them in their faith journey."—**Record staff**



More than 13,000 child commitment certificates have been requested by schools in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

Melody Tan



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

# New book charts history of Samoan Adventists

SUVA, FIJI

A new book by a long-serving leader of the church in the Pacific explores the history of Samoan Adventism across the world. *Samoa 100+ Years* is the result of Pastor David Hay's more than 35 years of research and personal experience of the Adventist Church in Samoa. Though retired, Pastor Hay is editor of the *Journal of Pacific Adventist History* and currently acting president of the Trans-Pacific Union Mission.

Pastor Hay says the Pacific islanders' love of storytelling was an important building block of his research. "As I served in the Samoan islands in various capacities for a period of 17 years, I came to appreciate, respect and love the people," says Pastor Hay. "On hearing our members recounting epics from the early days of the Adventist Church, I was interested. I decided to explore further and provide a written record of my findings, which I felt could strengthen the faith of Adventist members in God's leadership of His church today.

"I felt I could honour them in no better way than to record the history of

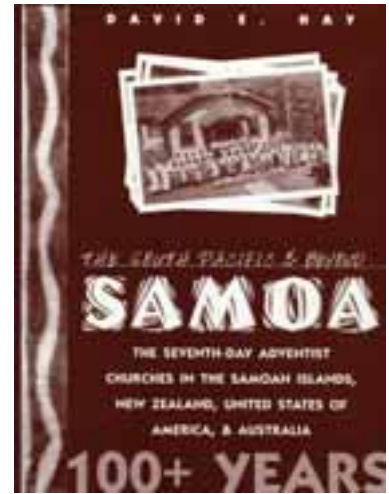
their church."

Pastor Hay's book begins with the difficult early days of mission work in the Samoan islands, including the more than 20 years before the first Samoan Adventist was baptised. But the book then charts the church's growth in the Samoan homeland as well as among Samoan communities in Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

*Samoa 100+ Years* is the third and the most extensive form—at more than 500 pages—in which Pastor Hay's many years of research has been published. "I had obtained a considerable amount of new and interesting information that I felt would enrich the text," he explains. "I had also gained access to many original and some rare photos to illustrate the story."

Pastor Hay sees that Samoan Adventism has adapted uniquely to their culture but he also suggests stories of the church's work in this island nation have a wider application.

"It is important to record the history of the Adventist Church because the story of people and events enables us to better appreciate the way God has used His servants, both national and expatriate, in establishing and developing His kingdom in the islands



Pastor David Hay's new book *Samoa 100+ Years* has grown out of more than 35 years researching and working with Seventh-day Adventists in the Samoan islands.

of the Pacific," says Pastor Hay.

"In specific circumstances we do not always clearly see the hand of God at work," he reflects. "It is only the passing of time, sometimes involving many years, that helps us better understand His wondrous workings in an uncertain and sinful world. Such an understanding indicates that God is indeed with His people, leading and guiding them toward redemption."

—Nathan Brown



◆ In the recent school holidays, students and staff of the **Kauma Adventist High School, Kiribati Mission**, ran two Voice of Youth evangelistic programs. One, run over two weeks on **Aranuka Island** by 21 students, three teachers and the school chaplain, was attended by 200–23 people signed up for further Bible studies. The other program was run at **Tanimainiku village** by a core team of 10 high

school boys, assisted by more than 50 other students and a few teachers. In preparation, the team **fasted and prayed** for three days. As a result, three parents are now regularly attending church with another 10 children attending their branch Sabbath school. Bible studies are also being run by the teachers.—*Ken Weslake*

◆ **Hillview church, NSW**, members enjoyed a light meal while 20 of those who travelled to the **Western Solomons** earlier in the month told of their experiences with **SON+SHIP**—Serving Overseas Nations by Ship. The trip was



organised and led by **Trevor and Helen Oliver**, who own a small trading ship operating from Kukudu. This was the second trip to the area where the group visited villages to present Jesus by **songs, puppets, drama** and giving out clothing. Each afternoon, they spent time at the **Kukudu medical clinic** renovating, painting and tiling. A return trip is being anticipated next year.—*Glynn Litster*

◆ Medical and dental volunteers for **Pacific Yacht Ministries' (PYM)** aboard *Windango*, PYM's 10-metre sloop, visited the island of **Ureparapara, Vanuatu**, for a two-week tour of duty. Another three teams of doctors, nurses and dentists will work on various islands throughout northern Vanuatu before *Windango* returns to Bundaberg prior to the monsoon season in November. "The Vanuatu Mission is very keen that we work in the northern province," says **Nick Brightman**, PYM's CEO. "For the first time we will reach Torres Island, which has previously been closed to the Advent message."



# Mission offerings help church fly in PNG

**GOROKA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

Following a fatal crash in 2002, the Adventist Aviation Service (AAS) in Papua New Guinea (PNG) was scaled back to just one plane. The remaining staff left and new management was put in place this year. Pastor Roger and Carol Millist were asked to return to PNG to take charge of the program, and their son, Linden, a qualified aircraft engineer and pilot, was also invited to join them. Upon arrival, they found the 26-year-old Cessna 206 in need of an extensive overhaul. It is hoped that the plane will be in the air again by the end of September.

Linden Millist took time to share his thoughts on the challenges and needs for aviation in PNG.

## How important is the aviation program for the church in PNG?

The aviation program plays a significant role in the nurture and support of the Adventist Church and the community at large in the remote places of PNG.

When the planes aren't running, the bush people suffer in so many ways—financially, spiritually and physically/medically. I don't know of any other country that relies so heavily on aircraft and the vital role they play in supporting the bush.

## What challenges currently face the flying program?

The needs are huge. Fifteen years ago, AAS had as many as nine pastor/pilots, a full-time engineer and four aircraft. Church membership has more than doubled since then, and now we have an engineer/pilot, one pastor/pilot and a 26-year-old Cessna—in pieces. It's embarrassing, actually! One of our greatest needs is for a new plane.

## And you have begun raising funds for a new aircraft in the local Eastern Highlands Mission (EHM)?

Recently we visited a number of EHM area camps to promote AAS and its needs, specifically our need to buy a new aircraft.

As the camp mission offerings for 2005/06 in the South Pacific Division are

marked for helping AAS acquire a new aircraft, these were some of the first camps to give to this offering. Around 8000 kina has come in already, but this is still badly short of the \$US1.2 million we need.

Each church has been given the aim and challenge of raising 10 kina per member, a fair amount considering that some people earn only 30 kina per week.

But they have all taken on the challenge and are glad to have the opportunity to come prepared to give.

So the people are doing their best to help themselves and support their aviation program, but we will need the help of our fellow members in Australia, New Zealand and the nations of the South Pacific to give generously at their respective camp mission offerings of 2005/06 and the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in Third Quarter 2006.

## Why should the church be flying aircraft in PNG?

We have heard that people just 15 minutes flying time down the valley are now dumping the peanuts and coffee they have picked. There are no roads to cart their produce from their village into Goroka, where the market is. When our planes were flying, we would cart supplies and medicines for their clinic out to them and cart their produce and sick back to Goroka for a fee.

Our not flying means no income for these people this year. This means no education for their kids for the coming year. Our tithe has more than halved in this area. These people have begun to think their church doesn't care about them.

For many in the remotest areas, the AAS aircraft is the Seventh-day Adventist Church. When the planes aren't coming to help and visit their villages, they see it as the church not caring for them.

One of the district pastors has had to



*Linden Millist is rebuilding Adventist Aviation Service's 25-year-old Cessna aircraft, which he hopes to have flying again by the end of September.*

walk for weeks at a time to visit the people. Previously AAS would fly him and other people from the mission into all the areas of this particular district.

Just last week on one of his walkabout trips he became sick while walking through the bush. His condition became critical. We were asked if we could fly him out for treatment.

Sadly, we had to respond, "Sorry, no planes flying. We can't help; maybe in another two months. Very sorry." (This is an all-too-common phrase we have to use.)

On Friday word came again to us, pleading, "Is there any way of flying in and carrying this pastor's body back to his home village so he can be buried?" Once again we had to use that all-too-common phrase.

## So what is AAS about for you?

The mission workers, pastors and volunteers in the remote areas are so dedicated to their work and our mission of spreading the gospel. Even with the planes not flying and supporting them they battle on, regularly at the cost of their lives.

The mission aviation program is not a luxury. It is here to meet people's basic needs and play its role in preparing people in PNG for God's kingdom.

PNG needs a strong, capable, healthy, reliable and safe mission aviation program if our church is to continue to grow and be nurtured in this country.

Please keep AAS in your prayers—and thanks for your support.—**Brad Kemp**

September Book of the Month

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## Weddings

**Leo—Nam.** David Tele'a Leo, son of Tele'a and Mau Leo (Woodridge, Qld), and Sokha Nam, daughter of Teing and Phan Nam (Slacks Creek), were married on 28.7.05 at Edens Landing Adventist church.

*Adrian Ebens*

**Snyder—De Ville.** Joseph Snyder and Katherine De Ville (nee Shaw) exchanged their wedding vows before family and friends on 8.5.05 in the Papanui Adventist church, Christchurch, NZ.

*Robert Granger, O Wataki*

## Obituary

**Watt, Elsa** Otilie, born 2.11.1910 at Bonegilla, Vic; died 3.7.05 at the Lutheran Nursing Home, Albury, NSW. In 1935 she married John (Jack), who predeceased her in 1970. She was also predeceased by her daughter, Nola. She is survived by her children Shirley, John, Glenice, Lynette and David; her 12 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. Elsa was a faithful member of the Albury church for 56 years and during that time her faith never wavered. She was greatly loved and respected by all her family and friends and will be sadly missed as she awaits the return of her Saviour.

*Ron Evans, Laurie Landers*

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**Vanuatu Mission session.** Notice is hereby given that a Session of the Vanuatu Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be convened at the Blue Water Resort on Efate Island, during September 19–21, 2005. The program will convene with registration of delegates at 8.30 am, and seating at 9.00 am. The Business Session agenda will consider the following: Recommended changes to the Vanuatu Mission administrative structure; any necessary amendments to the Constitution; and reports.

*Douw Venter, Secretary*

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**School reunion—**Year 10, 1976, Vic Park and Year 12, 1978, Carmel College. Planned for the long weekend (most states) October 1–2, 2006. Please contact Chris Markey on (02) 6625 2305; or email <[markeychris@hotmail.com](mailto:markeychris@hotmail.com)>.

**Applications are now invited for annual grants from the New Zealand Christian Foundation.** The New Zealand Christian Foundation, a supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, has been established to provide financial assistance to individuals and organisations expressing practical Christianity in areas of education, health, evangelism and humanitarian projects. Applications for 2006 must be made on an official application form and must be received before 5 pm, Friday, September 30, 2005, to: New Zealand Christian Foundation, PO Box 76-142, Manukau City, Auckland, NZ. Photographs and other supporting documentation are welcome. For further information please contact Joanne Davies on <[joanne.davies@clear.net.nz](mailto:joanne.davies@clear.net.nz)>.

**Alstonville 25th anniversary—October 22, 2005.** Alstonville (NSW) church invites past members to our celebration. Sabbath school commences 9.30 am, divine service 11.00 am, potluck lunch, then 2.00 pm down memory lane. Inquiries: Helen Hill (02) 6624 4614.

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**Fly and build.** Concretor, carpenter and electrician needed July/August at Medical Missionary Training Institute. Volunteers offered free health program. Please apply to MMTI as per above advertisement.

**Bickley centenary celebration—October 22, 2005.** Bickley church invites past and present members to our centenary celebration (100 years to the day), 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 such as Palmateers and notable workers who have sat in our pews. We have many ex-Carmel students on the honour list. Further information: Neil Maxwell (08) 9454 6881; or Yvonne Johnson (nee Garvin) (08) 9291 6508; email <[yvonnej@ozzinet.net](mailto:yvonnej@ozzinet.net)>.

## Positions vacant

▲ **Country Director—ADRA—PNG** is seeking to appoint a Country Director to provide visionary and strategic leadership to the work of ADRA in Papua New Guinea. For further information please visit the POSITIONS VACANT section of the SPD web site at <[adventist.org.au/employment](http://adventist.org.au/employment)>. Applications in writing (including your résumé, three work-related referees and the contact details of your church pastor) should be forwarded to: Human Resources, South Pacific Division, Locked Bag 2014, Wairoonga, NSW 2076; email <[hr@adventist.org.au](mailto:hr@adventist.org.au)>. Applications close September 28, 2005.

▲ **Minister (Torres Strait)—The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries of the Australian Union Conference,** in conjunction with the *Northern Australian Conference*, is seeking expressions of interest in a ministerial position in the Torres Strait, commencing January 2006. Seventh-day Adventist ministers and lay members may apply. The successful applicant will be a committed Seventh-day Adventist; interested in working with indigenous peoples and culturally sensitive and respectful. A knowledge of boats and mechanics would be an advantage. Applications in writing (including résumé) should be forwarded to Pastor Eric Davey, ATSIM Director, AUC, PO Box 4368, Ringwood, Vic 3134; phone (03) 9871 7505; 0412 417 414; email <[edavey@adventist.org.au](mailto:edavey@adventist.org.au)>; or Pastor Deane Jackson, President, NAC, PO Box 51, Aitkenvale, Qld 4814; phone (07) 4779 3988; 0427 071 707; email <[djackson@adventist.org.au](mailto:djackson@adventist.org.au)>.

▲ **Pacific Development Program Coordinator—ADRA—Australia Ltd (Wairoonga, NSW)** is seeking to appoint a Pacific Development Program Coordinator. For further information please visit the POSITIONS VACANT section of the SPD web site at <[adventist.org.au/employment](http://adventist.org.au/employment)>. Applications in writing (including your CV, three work-related referees and the contact details of your church pastor), should be forwarded to Human Resources, South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Locked Bag 2014, Wairoonga NSW 2076; email <[hr@adventist.org.au](mailto:hr@adventist.org.au)>; fax (02) 9489 0943. Applications close September 15, 2005.

▲ **Principal, Darwin Adventist Primary School—Northern Australian Conference** is seeking a committed, enthusiastic and qualified Principal to lead and market the school in 2006 and beyond. This is a small, sole-charge school. Why not respond to the challenge of growing a school in a beautiful tropical city. Great facilities! Terrific potential! For further information and application contact Mrs Ruth Jackson; phone (07) 4779 3988; or email <[rjackson@adventist.org.au](mailto:rjackson@adventist.org.au)>. Applications close October 21, 2005.

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**The Lakeside (formerly Brightwaters) church board** are endeavouring to locate the following missing members: Miss Pamela Bell, Mr Neville and Mrs Hilda Billett, Jason Blanchard, Neil Brown, Mr Allen and Mrs Louise Corke, Alex Fisher, Stewart Fulcher, Ivan Hercus, Leisha Johnstone, Barbara Jones, Rosin Korostovetz, David Martin, Anthony Newcombe, Miss L Reynolds, Anthony Richards, Helen Sewell, Mr Lyle and Mrs Jennifer Walters. If anybody is able to assist with locating any of these former members we would appreciate hearing from you. Mrs Elva Nixon, 33 Mather Drive, Bonnells Bay, NSW 2264; phone (02) 4973 2690; or email <[enixon@idll.net.au](mailto:enixon@idll.net.au)>.

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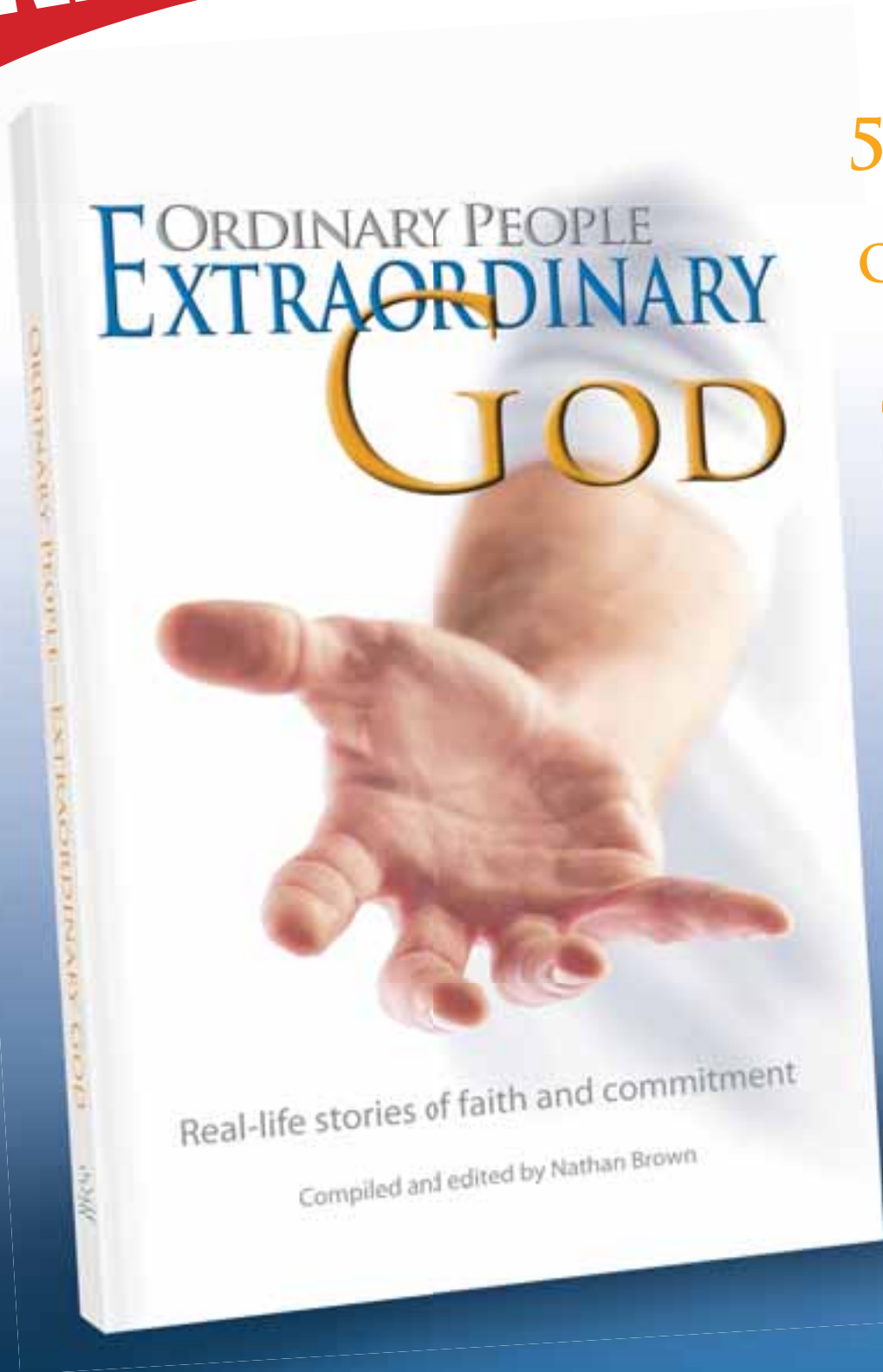
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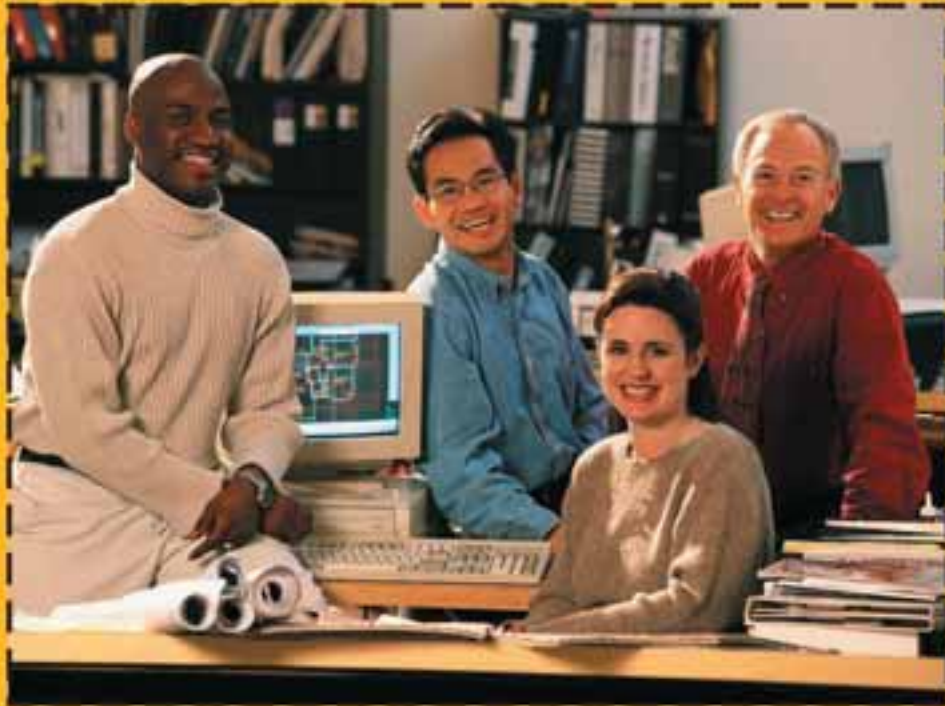
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