

RECORD

October 22, 2005

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Indigenous leader
for ATSIM in WA

Theology students
find footing

Meet William Miller



Delegates to the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference session worshipped with the Papatoetoe church before turning to business on September 24.



Reports from NZPUC session

NZPUC puts worship before business

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

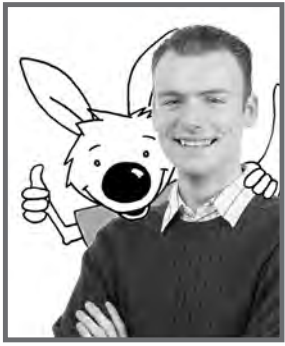
The New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC) session began with the feel of a Friday-night family get-together, with delegates gathering around the keyboard to sing well-loved hymns. It was the beginning of a weekend session—September 23 to 25—that emphasised worship and relationships as the foundation for the work of the church in the region—and saw the election of a new president.

In his opening address, outgoing NZPUC president Pastor Allan Walshe explained the session and union theme, “Connecting people with the Father.”

“It seemed to us as a team at the begin-

ning of this quinquennium that many were focusing on the gifts rather than the Giver,” he told delegates. “So our focus became to connect people with the Giver—the Father. As a church, we are probably better at talking about information than connecting in relationships. So we have focused on developing relational ministry.”

Pastor Walshe challenged delegates as to how much they really trust God and how that impacts on their intimacy with God. “Without connectedness with the Father, you will never have abundance of life Jesus came to give,” he said, quoting writer Dallas Willard. *(Continued on page 6)*



Hey kids! Like cubbyhouses? Imagine what kind of cubbies we could have in heaven!

My cubbyhouse in heaven

CUBBYHOUSES ARE FUN. NOT ONLY playing in them but building them too. Do you have, or have you ever had, a cubbyhouse? I've always wanted a treehouse but only ever had one on the ground. It was squashy inside but I still had a lot of fun building and playing in it. My favourite feature was a tin hanging out near the door you hit with a stick to use as a doorbell. But that was about as fancy as it got.

I think heaven is going to be the best place to build cubbyhouses.

My cubby in heaven will have many different levels. Ladders, stairways, and maybe even elevators to take you up to each level. There will be a big lookout area right at the top to look over all of heaven. And of course what goes up must come down, so I'll also have spiral slides, fireman's poles and flying foxes to get down.

I've always wanted secret passages to hidden rooms in my house, secret trapdoors and tunnels between rooms. So I must have these in my cubby, for sure.

There will be many different rooms, actually. Rooms for just games, playing and running around, rooms for relaxing, a room filled with rubber balls and another filled with trampolines. Music rooms, rooms filled with mazes, meal rooms—a room for every occasion.

This cubby will be big enough to play an awesome game of hide-and-seek, chasey through the levels and a fantastic place for treasure hunts too.

There will have to be swings on my

cubby. Really big swings. Some might go over water so you can jump off and land with a splash in a clear, warm lake. Other swings will be like a row of Tarzan ropes you can swing from one to the next.

I think one of the best features of my cubby will be a big waterfall system inside and outside. There will be waterwheels, rotating parts, spinning parts, swivelling parts, fountains and even musical sections. There will be channels and pipes going everywhere. There will be levers that can be switched to make water flow down all sorts of different courses. We can have races along the channels with little boats.

Hey, maybe I'll have some big channels too that you can sit in little boats and float around the cubby, just like log rides at theme parks. That will be the most fun way to go from one room to another. Yahoo!

Pet animals are something I will have too, living all around and in the cubby. Maybe little bunny rabbits, puppies, a tiger cub and an elephant (well—maybe not an elephant, actually), but parrots and eagles, baby chickens.

This cubbyhouse could be in a tree, it could be on wheels so I can move it from one place to another every few days or years. Maybe it could have a motor so I could drive it.

I'll have to have special hatches on the side of the cubby so that I can join up my cubby with my friends' cubbies, just like the space shuttle joins up with the International Space Station. Then we will have one huge

cubby complex to play in.

Of course when I finish my cubby, I'll invite all my family over to visit, not only the family I have now, but my great-great-great-grandparents too. I'll have lots of friends visiting from school and church. And you know what? I will see if Jesus wants to come over to visit someday.

So you think this sounds like one of the best cubbies ever? It might sound like a pretty good cubby now, but all this would be boring compared to what we could really make in heaven. A lot of what I want in my cubby, and just talked about, may not actually be in my heavenly, super-duper cubbyhouse. But that's only because God has something even better planned for us. Good things we cannot even imagine.

God must really love us to build a place so great for us and invite us to live there, with Him, for free. But even more amazing was God sending down His Son, out of heaven, to die for us so we could go home to live with Him.

Heaven really is a place you don't want to miss out on, even if it were just for the cubbies. But it's also a place you don't want your friends to miss out on.

So remember not only to always stay close to God in your life, but share how good God is with all your friends too. In heaven, there will be enough cubbies for everyone! (See John 14:1-3.)

Today is Children's Day.

Scott Wegener



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

Adventist Support contributes to NCCA abuse prevention conference

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Adventist Support, the helpline established in 2000 to deal with incidents of abuse within the Adventist Church, helped to examine and discuss strategies designed to combat abuse at the recent National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) conference *Safe as Churches? II*.

The conference was held from September 8 to 10 in Canberra and brought together 120 church practitioners, representing 12 denominations, to discuss issues relating to sexual abuse and misconduct within churches. This followed on from a previous conference held in 2003.

Although the Adventist Church is not a member of the NCCA, Adventist Support staff were invited by the NCCA to be involved in the conference in a number of ways. The director of Adventist Support, Pastor David Robertson, spoke about the journey Adventist Support has undergone in the past five years and co-facilitated two workshops that focused on ministering to the survivors of abuse.

The investigation coordinator, Anne

Norman, was also a co-facilitator of two workshops on dealing with historical complaints of abuse or misconduct.

Pastor Robertson was pleased with the conference. "It went very well and was successful, and highlighted that we're all facing the same issues, regardless of denomination," he says. "It helped to understand that there are other people out there who are concerned and caring about this. It's a huge issue that can undermine the fabric of church life."

Denominations working together by providing each other with such things as abuse-prevention strategies and assistance in counselling is very important, Pastor Robertson believes. "There was a good spirit of mutual collaboration and honesty, and we're trying to be more coordinated so we're not all constantly reinventing the wheel when dealing with abuse. We just need to help each other more," he says. "And we need to cry a bit more with the victims."

A number of points were raised during the conference that Adventist Support will look at for the future. These included the way in which the Anglican, Baptist, Uniting and Catholic churches have begun

to use psychosexual assessments of their theology students; outlining reasons for why staff are stood down when allegations of abuse or misconduct are made; avoiding potential or perceived conflicts of interest for the investigation coordinators; and the issue of the abuse of young people.

Professor Patrick Parkinson, head of the University of Sydney's law school and one of the expert presenters at the conference, believes youth are at the greatest risk and are the greatest risk in church in regard to abuse and misconduct.

Over the past 10 years, Australian churches have been adopting professional standards for their workers, including volunteers. Now they are being encouraged to use the framework provided by policies, protocols and training to build an environment where perpetrators find no opportunity to offend.

"This issue is critical for the churches," NCCA general secretary Reverend John Henderson says. "No-one should have to suffer abuse or harassment."—**Adele Nash**

Adventist Support hotlines:

Australia: 1800 220 468

New Zealand: 0800 442 458

Norfolk Island: 1800 1410

◆ "Would you like to improve your lifestyle and achieve a sense of wellbeing? Seventh-day Adventists believe in a healthy and balanced approach to life. It's proven that **Adventists usually live longer** ... Go on, visit adventist.org.au for more information ..." This is part of what listeners of the popular **FM 106.5 radio station** in Sydney will hear during October as it plays **60 30-second ads**. The South Pacific Division Communication Department is trialling this radio advertising campaign to encourage community people to connect with the Adventist health message by visiting the church's web site,

enrolling in the Health correspondence course or buying the *Taking charge of your health* DVD series. Phase two and three of this trial will be broadcast on stations **2GB** in December and **FM 103.2** in February.—**Bruna Tawake**

◆ Students at **Macquarie College** junior school have raised more than \$A8300 during their recent annual **ADRA Walkathon**. This year their support was focused on sup-



porting **ADRA-Solomon Islands**. Special guest speaker **Darin Roberts**, project director for ADRA-Solomon Islands and a former student of Macquarie College, promoted the cause in a chapel period. The whole junior school of more than 360 students walked up to **10 kilometres** around Lake Macquarie.—**Peter Roberts**

◆ Students from **Brisbane Adventist College**, Qld, recently achieved **first place** in the Quota International Music Eisteddfod held for all schools in the South Brisbane area. Competing in the



strings section, the primary ensemble, conducted by **Jan Cawse**, came first out of 15 schools. The primary quartet placed second, while the secondary ensemble, conducted by **Wendy Lemon-Cawse**, also achieved first place in their age group. "Considering our college was competing for the **first time against large private and state schools**, our achievements are fantastic," says Mrs Cawse.—**Gavin Williams**

New field program helps students find footing

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

First-year theology students at Avondale College are learning about practical ministry in a new format this year.

About 20 students are participating in a three-fold field education program that includes church placement, spiritual development and mentoring.

Senior theology lecturer Dr Doug Robertson says the new format is “rooted in reality” and gives the students “something more than a classroom experience. We generally learn best by doing.”

The students are all serving at College Church instead of being allocated to other Seventh-day Adventist churches in the local area. “They’re assets to the church,” says senior minister Dr Bruce Manners, who along with college chaplain Dr Wayne French supervises the students. “They already have a passion for ministry, and they bring this passion into the church.”

First-year student Tim Whale has been given the “awesome opportunity” to minister with the church’s Regeneration and Rejuvenation teams. These programs

target non-churched young adults. “Your willingness and dedication to finding opportunities to be mentored and involved determines your enjoyment,” he says.

Dr Robertson and the church’s pastoral team ran four separate seminars on Tuesdays during first semester to help the students develop a personal devotional life.

The seminars focused on spiritual disciplines such as journalling and prayer. In second semester, the students participated in the Network program and took a Myers–Briggs test to identify their spiritual gifts and their temperament.

They have also served as mentors to students at Avondale Schools. Mr Whale says he has enjoyed the two-way learning process. “You’re learning to become a mentor, and they’re learning that you care for them.”

Dr Robertson says he is enjoying learning more about the students. “The new format gives us as theology lecturers the chance to work beside the students. That’s a big plus.”

“It’s been a positive experience, for the church and for the students,” says Dr Manners.—*Aaron Bellette*

Sanitarium launches healthy soup line

BERKLEY VALE, NEW SOUTH WALES

Celebrity Overhaul star Dr John Tickell is so passionate about the abundant health benefits of vegetable soup and the brilliant taste of his personal recipe, he has come up with his very own heat-and-serve soup for people too busy to make it from scratch.

The Sanitarium-made soups debuted in Woolworths and Franklins supermarkets in Australia on October 16, offering consumers two 12-vegetable full-flavoured varieties—minestrone and vegetable.

Dr Tickell says vegetable soup is perfect year-round as a great tasting, filling meal with some wholegrain bread or as a fail-safe snack, which can kill your hunger in an instant. “It fits superbly with my simple and easy rules for healthy eating,” he says.—*Jackie Crossman*



◆ The Year 6 class at **Avondale School**, NSW, knitted 16 rugs for the residents of the **Charles Harrison Nursing Home and Hostel**. The project was inspired by **Shani Mangion**, a class member, who volunteers each afternoon at the home assisting in feeding, reading and talking to the residents. After crocheting beanies and weaving scarves for them-



selves the students saw knitting as an opportunity to contribute something to the community. **Knitting squares** that could be sewn together to make knee rugs, all children knitted at least five squares with **Emma-Lea Lawrence** and **Kristen Cochrane** contributing more than 50 squares each. The children delivered rugs and shared morning tea with the delighted residents while swapping knitting stories.—*Karen Zeuschner*

◆ Pastor **Daron Pratt** from Memorial church, NSW, recently won an award for best five-minute **impromptu balloon twisting** at



the Australian Balloon Convention. Pastor Pratt has just launched a new book and DVD, titled *Twisted Gospel Applications*, available from the South Pacific Division Children’s Ministries Department.—*GraceLink*

◆ Our young people are participating and achieving in many various activities. Students at **Darling**

Downs Christian School, Qld, constructed the **best catapult** for the second year running at the Southern Queensland Schools Science Challenge. They also again came second in the **bridge-building** challenge. Pathfinders at Papatootoe church, NZ, went out on a **Sweet Blitz**, handing out hundreds of sweets to people throughout the community. **Sarah-Jane Williams**, a Year 12 student at Macquarie College, NSW, received an **Editor’s Choice Award** for her poem entitled *Silence*. Children at **Taree church**, NSW, ran an **entire church service** on the topic of the Second Coming.

Avondale's heroes for a day

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

Avondale College's Lake Macquarie campus was an even safer place on September 14 as students dressed as their favourite superhero to raise money for missions. Others opted to buy nachos and drinks as they watched the tug-of-war between the superheroes.

SociaLight leader Robyn Litster said events organised on the campus to raise money for charities, such as the student club COSMOS, received good support from students. "I love to see students get involved, especially when they make such an effort to dress up and participate," said Ms Litster. "We especially appreciate their willingness to donate money."

SociaLight raised more than \$A300 for COSMOS, which will use the money to help provide education for children in northern India.—*Makushla Kontaxis*



Gilmore Tanabose

Some of Avondale's superheroes.

◆ The Disney 2005 Teacher of the Year title was awarded to David Vixie, an 8th-grade humanities teacher at Paradise Adventist Academy, California, at the annual Disney Teacher Awards. Chosen out of 50,000 nominees nationwide for his exceptional creativity, innovative teaching style and ability to inspire his students, he also won the award for Outstanding Middle School Teacher. Mr Vixie won \$US10,000 from Disney, \$US5000 for his school and a trip to Disneyland for a special five-day event. "I'm not receiving this award because of any natural ability of my own," said Mr Vixie in his accept-



ance speech. "My strength comes from God. Strength is for service, not status." Mr Vixie also spent 100 hours preparing a four-minute video presentation shown at the event showing his influence on

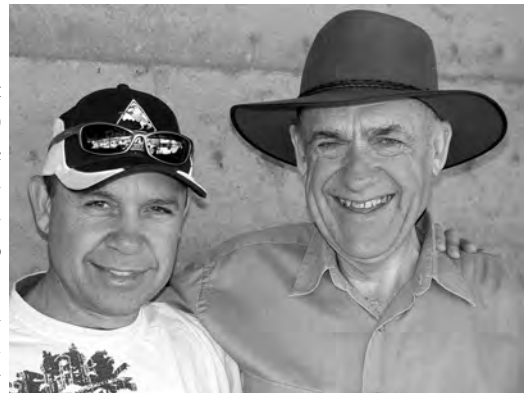
First indigenous leader for ATSIM in WA

PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries (ATSIM) has a new leader in the Western Australian Conference, with Pastor John Beck becoming the first indigenous person to hold the position.

Pastor Beck graduated from Mamarapha College in 1999 and will commence work as ATSIM leader for the conference in January 2006. Pastor Beck will be based in Perth and have two major roles. He will be starting an Aboriginal church in Perth and will be the ATSIM coordinator for the conference. He will also travel around Western Australia to engage with and encourage the other pastors who are involved in Aboriginal work.

Pastor Glenn Townend, president of the Western Australian Conference, says, "There are more Aboriginal people in Perth than other places in the state and yet we have never really capitalised on this mission potential. Pastor Beck has the pastoral skills and passion to do this. We are delighted to have him on our team, as he



Pastor John Beck (left) with Pastor Eric Davey (right), director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries for the Australian Union Conference.

has a real heart for God and His people.

"Pastor Beck is coming back into ministry after some time off where he cared for his wife, Annette, with her terminal illness. It has been a year since her passing and Pastor Beck senses that he is ready to use his skills in ministry again."

ATSIM work in Western Australia has been growing steadily in the past five years, with more churches being planted around the state and new areas being entered. There are also plans to expand the work of the Karalundi Aboriginal Education Centre.—*Adele Nash*

students.—*Mickey News/Pacific Union Recorder/Adventist Review*

◆ Since **Sow 1 Billion** was launched two years ago, church members and leaders around the 13 world divisions have distributed 850 million Bible-study invitations around the world. By the end of 2004, almost 80,000 baptisms and more than a million Bible-study requests had already been reported as a result of this initiative. Work is continuing toward the goal of distributing 1 billion Bible-study invitations around the world.—*Adventist Review*

◆ *US News & World Report's America's Best Colleges 2006* issue has highly ranked three Adventist education facilities. **La Sierra University**, California, for the third consecutive year, was named the top school in the Campus Diversity: Universities—Master's (West) category. **Southern Adventist University**, Tennessee, is ranked one of the Best Comprehensive Colleges—Bachelor's, and **Walla Walla College**, Washington, ranked 37th out of the 65 top tier schools in the category of Best Universities—Master's in the western region of the United States of America.—*Adventist Review*

NZPUC puts worship before business

(Continued from page 1)

“And there are a lot of people we meet every day who need to see the Father—in us.”

Session delegates joined the regular Sabbath worship services of the Papatoetoe church, which hosted the session. Pastor Walshe shared highlights from around the NZPUC, foremost among which was the growth of relational ministry. And this is bringing results, said Pastor Walshe. “During the past five years, we have trained 1200 people for relational ministry,” he reported. “In New Caledonia, this change of focus has seen growth rates increase significantly this year.”

The worship service also gave opportunity to farewell Pastor Walshe, who had previously accepted the position of director of family ministries for the South Queensland Conference. Pastor Kendell Cobbin, Ministerial Association secretary for the NZPUC, paid tribute to the leadership of Pastor Walshe. “You have created in us a passion for connecting people with the Father,” said Pastor Cobbin. “And we’re not going to forget that.”

After an afternoon of reports from departments and missions, the 89 delegates were introduced to the formal business session with a video overview of NZPUC locations, activities and mission.

Rodney Brady, chief executive officer of the South Pacific Division, chaired the voting of amendments to the constitution and by-laws. He explained to delegates that these changes were “to bring some matters into line with wider church policy and to comply with New Zealand taxation law and other legal requirements.”

The need to elect a new NZPUC president arose from Pastor Walshe’s call to Queensland. The acceptance of the nominating committee’s report was the last item of session business, which saw the election of Pastor Jerry Matthews as president. Pastor Matthews has served as president of the North New Zealand Conference for the past four years.—**Nathan Brown**

Secretary-treasurer gives double report on growth

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Secretary-treasurer Peter Lynch gave separate reports for the distinct aspects of his role to the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC) session on September 25. In his first year in the dual position, Mr Lynch reported on membership trends across the five conferences and missions in the five years to June 2005, and on the four years of financial operation for the NZPUC since its creation at the beginning of 2001.

According to Mr Lynch, the NZPUC has recorded a modest growth rate of 3.88 per cent over the quinquennium, bringing total membership to 17,364 in 169 churches and companies. “Baptisms and professions of



President Pastor Allan Walshe (left) and secretary-treasurer Peter Lynch chair business at the New Zealand Pacific Union session on September 25.

faith have been up and down,” he reported. “But if things continue as they appear this year, we are looking at a record year.”

Mr Lynch reminded delegates of the stated aims of the NZPUC. “Evangelism has been a strong focus within the union and it is wonderful to see the Lord working,” he said. He noted the record growth rate in New Caledonia as an example of this.

However, he also sounded a note of concern. “We also need to be mindful of our ‘back door,’” he told delegates, reflecting on an apostasy rate above 30 per cent of total baptisms. “This is a disturbing statistic and each of us can help minimise this erosion of members. Once we welcome new members to our church, we need to make every effort to involve them in our church family.”

Mr Lynch also signalled an interest in surveying churches within the NZPUC to determine rates of active membership and how this compares with statistical records. “That will give us some interesting insights into the make-up of our church,” he said.

“In this quinquennium, there has been some tremendous work done in all areas. But there are many challenges facing our church and we do not want to see churches die,” Mr Lynch commented in his report. “The challenge now is to look for every opportunity to witness to God’s people and spread the message.”

After fielding questions from delegates, Mr Lynch turned to the treasurer’s report, which echoed the patterns of growth. “We have seen some strong growth in tithe,” he reported. “The North New Zealand Conference is the primary tithe-giver, followed closely by the French Polynesia Mission.”

While Mr Lynch noted tithe slipped back marginally in 2004, he reported a growth of just above 9 per cent for the four years.

“It has been wonderful to see the tithe continue to grow beyond the rate of membership growth,” he commented. According to Mr Lynch, this equates to a 7 per cent growth in tithe per member from 2001 to 2004. However, he also noted that “not necessarily every member is contributing in this way.”

Offerings given in the NZPUC also increased by 4.8 per cent across the reporting period.

“I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all our church membership for their loyalty in supporting the operation of the church as evidenced by the tithes and offerings given,” said Mr Lynch.

“There is much to be done in the coming year to ensure the financial security of the church and with the help of the constituents, through the giving of tithes and offerings, this can be achieved,” he concluded.

Mr Lynch acknowledged the contribution to these reports of his predecessor, Warrick Long.—**Nathan Brown**

Breakthrough in New Caledonia inspires session

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

We have struggled for many years but this year has been a breakthrough year," Dr Patrice Allet, president of the New Caledonia Mission, told delegates to the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference session. The report from the New Caledonia Mission was a highlight of the session, with the New Caledonians also featured in the Sabbath school mission focus and Jean-Noel Adeline, pastor of the church in Noumea, invited to share stories of their recent success on Sunday afternoon.

"After averaging fewer than 20 baptisms for a number of years, we have had 188 baptisms this year to date," reported Dr Allet. This represents a growth rate in excess of 70 per cent this year and compares dramatically with the previous growth rate of around 3 per cent.

Dr Allet traced the development of the church's focus and resources over the past quinquennium that have contributed to the recent growth. He commented on training in health ministry, small groups and relational evangelism. "We are focused on training local people and development of our pastoral team," said Dr Allet. "We have two people training in Collonges Theological Seminary in France."

The development and translation of resources for the French-speaking territory have also been significant, according to Dr Allet. These include the translation of *The Search* video series and the growth of literature evangelist ministry.

"This set the pace for what has happened this year," reflected Dr Allet. "The growth we have seen has been due to teamwork of many people and we are grateful to all of them."

Belying this preparation, Dr Allet admits God took church leadership by surprise. "At the beginning of this year, we had a revival series [in Noumea]," he explained. "We didn't expect much from this but the Lord did a miracle. We realised we had more than half a church full of visitors, so



Jean-Noel Adeline (left), pastor of the Noumea church, and Dr Patrice Allet, president of the New Caledonia Mission.

we improvised an evangelistic series to follow on.

"We didn't have to do a lot of advertising. God brought the people, and people brought their friends."

And the outreach momentum has continued through the year, with 26 more baptised on the weekend of the session. "This year has been a crazy year with outreach," said Dr Allet.

Of course, such rapid growth brings challenges. "Two-thirds of the [Noumea] congregation are new to the church and we have the problem of finding space for all these people," reported Dr Allet. Follow-up plans focus on the spiritual formation of new members, small-group ministry, establishing new churches and continuing to develop leadership.

"We are overwhelmed with what is happening and we have employed two new ministers to work with this growth," Dr Allet told delegates.

And he also see this growth will flow to the outlying regions of the mission territory. "With the conversion of a pastor of another church from the Wallis and Futuna Islands, we now have the opportunity to begin work in what has been an unentered territory."

This is part of the plans being made for ongoing growth in the New Caledonia Mission. "We are hoping—with God's continued blessing—to reach more than 1000 members in the coming quinquennium and to begin to work toward conference status," said Dr Allet. "That is our dream."—*Nathan Brown*

NZPUC nominating committee report

Note: While voted by the session, these appointments are subject to acceptance.

Administrators

President—Pastor Jerry Matthews
Secretary-treasurer—Peter Lynch

Departments/associations/services

Education—Owen Ellis
Youth and Family Ministries—Pastor Eddie Tupai; Associate (based in Auckland)—Steve Kane; Associate (based in Christchurch)—Willie Strickland

Church Development—Dr Karl Johnson
Ministerial Association Secretary and Trust Services—Pastor Kendell Cobbin
ADRA—Referred to union executive committee

Women's Ministries Coordinator—Referred to union executive committee

Children's Ministries Coordinator—Referred to union executive committee

Health—Referred to union executive committee

Mission officers

Cook Islands:

President—Pastor Uma Kata
Secretary-treasurer—Eparama Drou

French Polynesia:

President—Pastor Marama Tuariihionoa
Secretary—Pastor Jean-Claude Alger
Treasurer—Referred to the union executive committee

New Caledonia:

President—Dr Patrice Allet

NZPUC executive committee

Union officers; conference and mission presidents; directors of church development, youth, ADRA and health; Ministerial Association secretary; principal—Longburn College. **Elected members:** Brendan Pratt, Ika Tameifuna, Kevin Petrie, Olepa Korenhoff, Ricky Howe, Kyla Kuzniarski, Marina Haumani, Darryl Doom, Liz Teretai, Jean-Noel Adeline.

NZPUC connects for growth

BY NATHAN BROWN

LIKE THE OTHER UNIONS OF THE South Pacific Division, this year session marked the end of an era for the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC), but particularly so with the departure of Pastor Allan Walshe and the election of Pastor Jerry Matthews as the new union president. After the session, the outgoing president, Pastor Walshe, shared some thoughts on the establishment of the NZPUC and the progress that has been made in the past five years.

The NZPUC is a unique union. It must have been a challenging process setting up this new union.

Yes, the birth of this union was a very interesting time. Many years ago, Frederick Leboyer said, "Birth may be a matter of a moment . . . but it is a very unique moment." The birth of this union was a unique moment in the life and history of the South Pacific Division because it does have a unique structure. The birth occurred due to the vision and insight of the officers of the South Pacific Division in order to bring about efficiencies within their territory, particularly in the area of governance and finance. The birth was smooth but the growing pains were hard. These pioneering years have been challenging. Bringing together entities that had previously belonged in two different unions, our wide cultural diversity, a unique departmental situation and an overstretched treasury all added to the challenge. However, those challenges have been successfully met, and this union has grown into a very effective, committed and productive entity due to the hard work of our union team as well as the flexibility and adaptability of the pastoral and teaching teams and church members right throughout the union.

Tell us about your departmental and treasury structure.

Our union departmental directors not only serve the five entities throughout the union but also serve as conference depart-

mental directors for the New Zealand conferences. This has been challenging for all of us but I believe that each of our departmental people have carried out their unique and often demanding roles in an outstanding way and have also risen to the task of keeping a balance between their conference and union roles.

Our treasury area is a challenging one also as we do centralised accounting and provide treasury services for the union, North New Zealand and South New Zealand conferences and New Caledonia Mission. This has been a consistent challenge as we have a small treasury team. But through hard work and excellent efficiencies they have been able to provide these services.

This has brought about financial efficiencies throughout the union and particularly for North New Zealand. This is the reason they have been able to put more money into their pastoral field operations.

So what has been your vision for the NZPUC and what has happened toward its fulfilment?

Research has shown that while we as a church are good at sharing information, we are not as effective at performing ministry through relationships; society, on the other hand, currently is more interested in learning through relationships than through merely gaining information. Therefore our vision has been to assist the conferences and missions to "move our churches from information to relational ministry." We adopted a vision and mission statement, but then discovered, like most entities, that vision and mission statements may be framed on the wall but are not often remembered by each of our staff members. So we decided to adopt a simple "focus statement" that each of our people could carry with them in their mind and heart.

A statement that seemed to encapsulate



Pastor Allan Walshe, outgoing president of the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference.

everything we wanted to do was simply, "To connect people with the Father . . . through relational ministry." We believe that if people are truly connected with the Father, things like personal spiritual growth and outreach will follow.

This focus statement became an easy method for our team to evaluate their ministry in harmony with

our vision. So, for instance, our youth director could ask himself, "What is it about this ski camp that I can use to connect these young people with the Father?" And our church development director could ask, "What is it about our small groups that will connect people with the Father?"

What strategies did you adopt to enact this vision and also to keep this focus alive?

We developed a threefold strategy. First, we started what we called a Ministry Planning Group. This group was made up of all of our departmental people and we met on a regular basis for training and enrichment as well as to find ways in which each department could work toward this vision and focus.

Our second strategy was to assist the conferences and missions in making "personal spirituality" foundational in all their churches. We believe that personal spiritual formation (our personal connectedness with the Father) is a primary purpose of the church and so we made this our foremost priority. Just one of the things achieved in this area was that more than 1000 church members attended seminars on how to conduct "hot house" spiritual relationship-building small groups. Already there is a proliferation of these groups around the union and we have received many encouraging emails and positive feedback from this process.

The third part of the strategy was to train people on behalf of the conferences and mis-

sions in “relational ministry.” One of the things achieved in this strategic focus was conducting 12 seminars throughout the union territory with an unprecedented number of more than 1200 people attending. These people learned, among other issues, methods of how to share their faith through relationships and how to conduct relational small groups. Our small groups in Adventism are often based on merely information sharing, whereas people are longing to be nurtured and connected with the Father through the relationships built in the group. We have also developed a menu of 12 resources that facilitate a process of “intentionally developing relationships with unchurched people.” Some excellent results have been achieved where these strategies have been adopted and followed.

You have been called to Brisbane to be the director of family ministries for the South Queensland Conference. Was that a hard decision to make?

Yes and no. Yes, in that it is hard to leave the camaraderie of our office team as well as the marvellous people in this union. We have made many friends here and I have enjoyed my role in leading a team in changing a ministry paradigm.

On the other hand, we put the call opportunity out before the Lord in prayer and were convinced this is the journey that God wants us to be on for our next adventure in His service. We have only

turned down one call in our ministry and that was because it would have created a real problem for one of our daughters.

Following the pre-eminence of the call of God for us came other factors like family. My mother died during this quinquennium and I was out in French Polynesia and unable to be there. At that time I realised we have been away from our families for a considerable number of years in ministry and sometimes we wished we could be there when they needed us. Brisbane is where [my wife] Wendy’s family and my only remaining sister live and it will also put us closer to our grandchildren.

Also, I am drawn to this role. I love training, teaching and leading in retreats. Previously I have been a director of family ministries for 12 years at union and conference level (along with youth ministry) and I enjoyed that role. Healthy churches exist when families within them are spiritually healthy.

So Wendy and I are firmly convinced that this is where God wants us, and while we are sad to be leaving jobs and a home we have grown to love, we are extremely excited about this new possibility God has placed in our path.

What have been the personal highlights of the past five years in your role?

There have been so many but let me just mention a few. First, working with our team and seeing the majority of them become so involved in our focus of “connecting people with the Father” and developing creative ways of enabling this process to happen in their department or role.

Next it has been exciting to see in each of our entities those areas that have particularly embraced the model of a spiritual/relational ministry. For instance in New Caledonia, where for the last quinquennium and the first part of this quinquennium they experienced 3 per cent growth. We went out there and did the relational model training and the president took it on board. They began to work with their people in the area of spiritual formation then ran a spiritual renewal program, commenced small groups, followed up with a crusade with a relational focus and then followed through with small groups. The results have been electrifying. [See report: “Breakthrough in New Caledonia inspires

session,” page 7.]

I was there just last weekend and ran a number of training seminars in the area of enriching their small-group life as well as spiritual formation. The flight was delayed, so we put on a seminar called “Learning how to enjoy the presence of God” on the Tuesday night, and the largest city church was full. Most of them were new people.

In Aitutake in the Cook Islands, where they have followed this model, last year they baptised 25 people where previously there would be four or five baptisms per year. In Wellington, New Zealand, we went there and did the relationship-building small-group training and these groups have continued to grow rapidly in that area, as they have also done in Auckland. In French Polynesia following the relational ministry training, all of the pastors voted to follow the relational model of ministry. These things I find truly exciting.

Finally, one of the most enriching things for me personally has been to be so heavily involved in teaching and training in the area of spiritual formation as well as ministry through relationship-building small groups. This required a bit of juggling with my administrative role commitments but it was absolutely worthwhile.

How would you describe the health of the church in the NZPUC?

While there is still much to be done, the union now is in good shape. In those areas where deep spiritual formation and the relational model of ministry have been embraced, spiritual life and relational small groups are already growing. Any other approaches that might be taken in the future will be able to build on these fundamental and essential building blocks of genuine, deep connectedness with the Father and relational ministry.

It is always nice to leave a place in good shape and I am pleased that life will be much easier for Pastor Jerry Matthews, the new NZPUC president, as the painful pioneering work has been done and the building blocks are in place. Growth is already occurring spiritually, financially and numerically and yes, the union is poised for a bright future. **R**



The focus of the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference has been “to connect people with the Father . . . through relational ministry.” These people were represented by the delegates to the NZPUC session.

Nathan Brown is editor of RECORD.

Meet William Miller

BY JEFF CROCOMBE

WILLIAM MILLER WAS BORN ON February 15, 1782, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts—the eldest of the 16 children of William and Paulina Miller. When he was four, the family moved to Low Hampton, New York—a frontier area. Miller's father leased 100 acres of land, cleared it, constructed a log cabin, and planted wheat.

Miller's formal education was limited. Until the age of nine, he was taught at home by his mother—there being no local schooling on offer. From nine to 14, Miller attended a small local school that ran for three months in winter, when there was little farm-work to be done. Miller wanted to further his formal education but the family finances did not allow him to do so. Such was his desire for education that as a boy, he chopped wood during his “leisure hours” in order to earn money to purchase books of his own.

When not working, Miller made up for his lack of formal study by spending much of his time reading, being fortunate to have access to the private libraries of three prominent local identities. His days filled with farm labour, Miller would read at night by firelight—candles being too expensive.

Miller kept a diary from March 21, 1798, when he was 16, to September 20, 1801. The first entry tells us that it was a rainy Sunday, and that Miller's grandfather preached at their house from Psalm 23:4 and Colossians 3:1.

In the wider world

In 1803, aged 21, Miller married Lucy Smith and they moved across the state border to Poultney, Vermont. Ostensibly a

farmer, Miller made great use of Poultney's library—the first in Vermont. In this, he was aided by his wife who “took a deep interest in his improvement and promotion; and made it her pleasure and business to relieve him as much as possible from all the family cares which might call him away from his books.”¹

Soon after this move, Miller declared himself a deist, believing in a God who created the universe but who left it to run on its own under the laws of physics. He rejected miracles and did not accept the Bible as a revelation from God.

While in Poultney, Miller was elected to a number of civil offices including Constable, Deputy Sheriff, and Justice of the Peace. By this time Miller had become a young man of considerable community standing; and despite limited formal education, he was known to possess a certain degree of literary skill.

Continuing to serve his community, Miller was commissioned a lieutenant in the Vermont militia in 1810. On June 18, 1812, war was declared between England and the United States and shortly after, Miller was promoted to captain.

For most of the war, Miller saw little or no action; working first as a recruiter, then spending a period sick. But in August 1814 Miller was ordered to Plattsburgh where he was part of an American force of 1500 regulars and 4000 volunteers who defeated 15,000 British troops in the Battle of Plattsburgh. He wrote to his wife on September 12, 1814, following this battle, “How grand, how noble, and yet, how awful! The roaring of cannon, the bursting of bombs, the whizzing of balls, the popping of small arms, the cracking of timbers,

the shrieks of the dying, the groans of the wounded, the commands of the officers, the swearing of the soldiers, the smoke, the fire, everything conspires to make the scene of a battle both awful and grand!”

Miller came to view the outcome of this battle as miraculous and therefore at odds with his deistic view of a distant God far removed from human affairs. He later wrote, “It seemed to me that the Supreme Being must have watched over the interests of this country in an especial manner, and delivered us from the hands of our enemies.”²

On November 11, 1814, Miller wrote a somewhat tongue-in-cheek letter to his children, not having received the promised weekly letter from his wife. It expresses well his religious beliefs at the time: “Dear children, you have lost your mother, and but a little while, and your father must follow; perhaps when you receive this, he will be no more. . . . Your present time ought to be devoted to your studies. Remember the lives of your parents were short, and you know not the hour you will be called for. . . . Your first study ought to lead you to look upon the Supreme Being as the Author of all things. When you learn his attributes, or as much as a man is to know, you will ever keep in mind that he sees every action of your life, knows every thought, and hears every word. If you follow this rule, you cannot go far astray.”

Miller began to question the deist doctrine of annihilation after the death of Spencer—a sergeant in his company who was also from Poultney. He expressed his dissatisfaction with this belief in a letter to his wife dated October 28, 1814: “But a short time, and, like Spencer, I shall be no



more. It is a solemn thought. Yet, could I be sure of one other life, there would be nothing terrific; but to go out like an extinguished taper is insupportable—the thought is doleful. No! rather let me cling to that hope which warrants a never-ending existence; a future spring, where troubles shall cease, and tears find no conveyance; where never-ending spring shall flourish, and love, pure as the driven snow, rest in every breast.”

He closed his letter saying, “Good evening. I am troubled.”

Back to the Bible

Following his discharge from the army on June 18, 1815, Miller returned to his wife and children in Poultney. Shortly after, however, he moved with his family back to Low Hampton. He paid off the mortgage on the family farm where his mother now lived with his brother, Solomon, and acquired for himself a 200-acre farm close by.

Once in Low Hampton, Miller took tentative steps toward regaining his Baptist faith. At first he attempted to combine both, publicly espousing deism while simultaneously attending his local Baptist church. His attendance turned to participation when he was asked to read the Sunday sermon during one of the local minister’s frequent absences. Some time later, his participation changed to commitment—one Sunday when he was reading a sermon on the duties of parents he became choked with emotion: “Suddenly the character of a Saviour was vividly impressed upon my mind. It seemed that there might be a Being so good and compassionate as to Himself atone for our transgressions, and thereby save us from suffering the penalty of sin. I immediately felt how lovely such a Being must be; and imagined that I could cast myself into the arms of, and trust in the mercy of, such an One.”²³

Miller was soon challenged by his deist friends to justify his newfound faith. He did so by examining the Bible closely, declaring to one friend, “If he would give me time, I would harmonise all these apparent contradictions to my own satisfaction, or I will be a deist still.”²⁴ Miller then commenced with Genesis 1:1, studying each verse and not moving on until he felt the meaning was clear. In this way he

came to believe the time of Christ’s second coming was revealed in Bible prophecy.

Basing his belief principally on Daniel 8:14—“Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed,” (KJV)—and using the accepted “day-year principle,” Miller concluded the cleansing of the sanctuary represented the earth’s purification by fire at Christ’s second coming and that the 2300-day period started in 457 BC with Artaxerxes’ decree to rebuild Jerusalem. Simple calculation then revealed this period would end—and hence Christ’s return occur—in 1843. Miller records, “I was thus brought . . . to



the solemn conclusion, that in about 25 years from that time [1818] all the affairs of our present state would be wound up.”²⁵

Miller eventually shared his views, but was disappointed at the lack of response from those he spoke to: “To my astonishment, I found very few who listened with any interest. Occasionally, one would see the force of the evidence; but the great majority passed it by as an idle tale.”²⁶ A somewhat reluctant messenger, Miller recorded his unwillingness to engage in a public ministry, despite having felt a “call” to do so from 1828: “I tried to excuse myself for not going out and proclaiming it to the world. I told the Lord that I was not used to speaking; that I had not the necessary qualifications for gaining the attention of an audience; that I was very diffident,

and feared to go before the world; that I was slow of speech and of a slow tongue. But I could get no relief.”²⁷

Preacher of the end

In 1831, Miller finally began his public ministry. He was an effective—and humble—preacher with a burning desire that his message reach everyone possible: “Be warned, repent, fly, fly for succour to the ark of God, to Jesus Christ, the Lamb that once was slain, that you might live, for he is worthy to receive all honour, power and glory. Believe, and you shall live. Obey his work, his spirit, his calls, his invitations. There is no time for delay; put it not off I beg of you, no, not for a moment.”²⁸

In a letter to his friend Truman Hendryx dated July 21, 1836, he rejoiced that “Infidels, Deists, Universalists, Sectarians: All, all are chained to the their seats, in perfect silence, for hours, yes days, to hear the Old Stammering Man. . . . It is God only that could produce such an effect on such audiences. Yet it gives me confidence.”

Miller was a busy preacher—in 1845, he reflected upon his work, stating: “I laboured extensively in all the New England and Middle States, in Ohio, Michigan, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and in Canada East and West, giving about 4000 lectures in something like 500 different towns.”²⁹

Despite the urging of his supporters, Miller never personally set an exact date for the expected Second Advent. However, in response to their urgings he did narrow the time-period to sometime between March 21, 1843 and March 21, 1844. However this time-period passed without incident, and on March 25, Miller wrote to Joshua Himes, “The time, as I have calculated it, is now filled up; and I expect every moment to see the Saviour descend from heaven. I have now nothing to look for but this glorious hope.”³⁰

Further discussion and study resulted in the brief adoption of a new date—April 18, 1844. Like the previous date however, April 18 passed without Christ’s return. Some days later, Miller responded publicly, writing, “I confess my error, and acknowledge my disappointment; yet I still believe that the day of the Lord is near, even at the door.”³¹

In August 1844 at a camp-meeting in

Exeter, New Hampshire, everything changed when Samuel S Snow presented a message of earth-shattering proportions—what became known as the “seventh-month” message or the “true midnight cry.” In a complex discussion based on typology, Snow presented his conclusion (still based on the 2300-day prophecy in Daniel 8:14), that Christ would return on the 10th day of the seventh month of the present year. Using the calendar of the Karaite Jews, this date was determined as October 22, 1844.

Yet the sun rose on the morning of October 23 like any other day, and October 22—that day of great hope and promise—became for the Millerites, the day of greatest disappointment. Hiram Edson recorded his feelings following this Great Disappointment: “Our fondest hopes and expectations were blasted, and such a spirit of weeping came over us as I never experienced before. . . . We wept, and wept, till the day dawn.”¹²

Not only were the Millerites dealing with their own shattered expectations, they also faced considerable abuse and even violence from the general public. On November 18, 1844, Miller wrote to Himes about his experiences: “Some are tauntingly inquiring, ‘Have you not gone up?’ even little children in the streets are shouting continually to passersby, ‘Have you a ticket to go up?’ The public prints, of the most fashionable and popular kind, in the great Sodoms of our country, are caricaturing in the most shameful manner of the ‘white robes of the saints,’ Rev. 6:11, the ‘going up,’ and the ‘great day of “burning.”¹³

Despite his profound disappointment and the scorn of the general public, Miller never gave up his belief in the second coming of Christ. Following the Great Disappointment he appealed to the Millerite believers: “Brethren, hold fast; let no man take your crown. I have fixed my mind on another time, and here I stand until God gives me more light, and that is, today, today, and today, until he comes.”¹⁴


William Miller died on December 20, 1849, still convinced the Second Coming was imminent. **R**

1. Sylvester Bliss, *Memoirs of William Miller, Joshua V Himes, 1853, pages 18, 19.*
2. *ibid*, pages 52, 53.
3. William Miller, *Apology and Defence, Joshua V Himes, 1845, page 5.*
4. *ibid*, page 6.
5. *ibid*, pages 11, 12.
6. *ibid*, page 15.
7. Bliss, *op cit*, page 92.
8. Everett N Dick, *William Miller and the Advent Crisis, Andrews University Press, 1994, page 16.*
9. Miller, *op cit*, page 22.
10. George R Knight, *Millennial Fever and the End of the World, Pacific Press, 1993, page 162.*
11. Bliss, *op cit*, page 256.
12. Knight, *op cit*, page 218.
13. James White, *Sketches of the Christian Life and Public Labors of William Miller, Steam Press of the Seventh-day Adventist Publishing Association, 1875, page 310.*
14. Bliss, *op cit*, page 278.

Jeff Crocombe writes from Brisbane, Queensland, where he is a postgraduate student in theology.

Record Roo's

kids corner



Hi kids,
Have you ever been in a situation that scared you? Imagine how David felt when he faced Goliath. God wants us to remember that He is always with us. Read 1 Samuel 17:1-50 to find out what happened to David and Goliath

RR

Fill in the Blanks

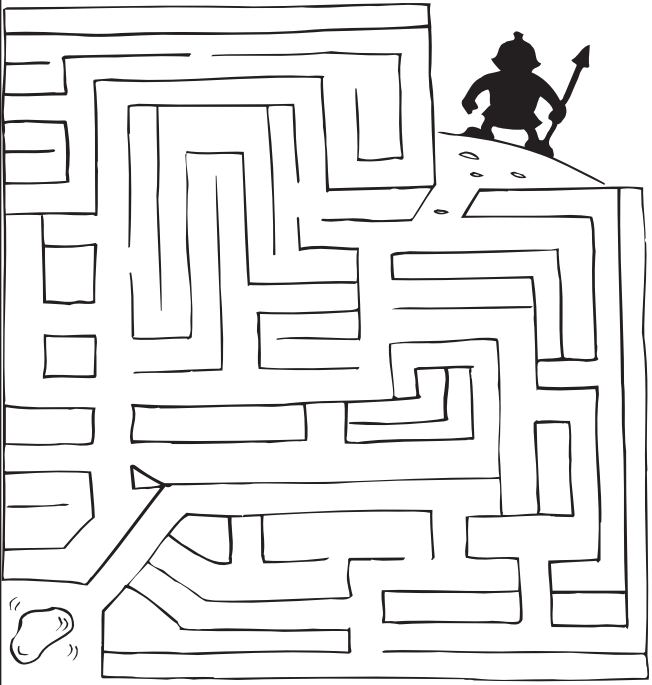
"Don't worry, because I am ___ you. Don't be afraid, because I am your ___."

Isaiah 41:10 ICB

Matching Pairs...

Match the adult animals to the baby animals by drawing a line from one side to the other. One has been done for you already.

kangaroo	tadpole
cat	calf
pig	joey
dog	kitten
frog	lamb
cow	puppy
sheep	piglet



A-Mazeing...
Help David's stone get to Goliath.

An opportunity lost

RHONDA MORCOMBE, WA

In respect to the workplace safety issue commented on (“Take more care,” Letters, October 1), my reaction to the picture and article was to feel encouraged, seeing a young man working in the mission field. He could be working anywhere in the world with such an obvious skill and making a lot more money, no doubt. But he isn’t. He is giving 110 per cent to mission work.

My need is to affirm this young man, encourage him and pray for him. No way did this picture or article portray a negative image of our church. Obviously the letter writer missed the “bigger” picture there portrayed.

LINDEN MILLIST, PNG

I am disappointed by the uninformed and inaccurate assertion that our staff operate machinery without respect for safety. Further, the letter suggests AAS doesn’t portray a positive image of the church.

This couldn’t be further from the truth. AAS staff and as an organisation are committed to safety awareness.

Had the letter writer studied the picture closely he would have seen the drill was not running; rather, it was still in the process of being set up!

I encourage readers to view the *Adventist News* DVD or video (No 2, 2005, “Mission offerings help church take off”) that highlights the work of AAS in PNG. They can decide for themselves if AAS personnel ignore safety considerations. Meanwhile, thank you for your prayers and offerings.

petros

Love of lucre

COLIN JOB, VIC

“The art of not shopping” (Editorial, September 24) criticises our Protestant work ethic. Many things are blamed, including capitalism, for the greed, excessive debt and accumulation of wealth in today’s society.

The writer quotes several Bible verses but forgets the root of the problem: “The love of money is the root of all evil” (1 Timothy 6:10). Money is not the problem for materialism, but the lust for it is. There’s nothing wrong with being successful in business.

part of it was simple.

Nowadays we have many denominations with several requirements, some in contradiction to others. How can we secure the purity of the doctrine of a given church without a screening?

NOEL RUSSELL, QLD

Sometime back Bridget Gunn rejoiced that, as the rationale for it states, our Statement of Fundamental Beliefs is not a creed set in theological concrete (“Sunrise at last,” Letters, July 16)—and so should we all! Our statement of beliefs presents an organic body of knowledge held by a church still growing into truth. Don’t all

How many members of long standing could right now meet the criteria for membership we require of others?

The Protestant work ethic is to work hard, be honest and, if successful, remember to share the blessing with the less fortunate. It is only as we forget the last that we become a society focused on self.

superior insights grow out of questions raised?

But isn’t there a tension between these fine principles, as implied the preamble to our 28 fundamental beliefs, and our new, mercifully briefer, baptismal vow, which seems to require not only a close familiarity with the 28 but also an unqualified endorsement of the whole package?

Some of us were baptised last week; some of us have filled the pews for decades. But how many of us know the whole 28 and affirm their every detail?

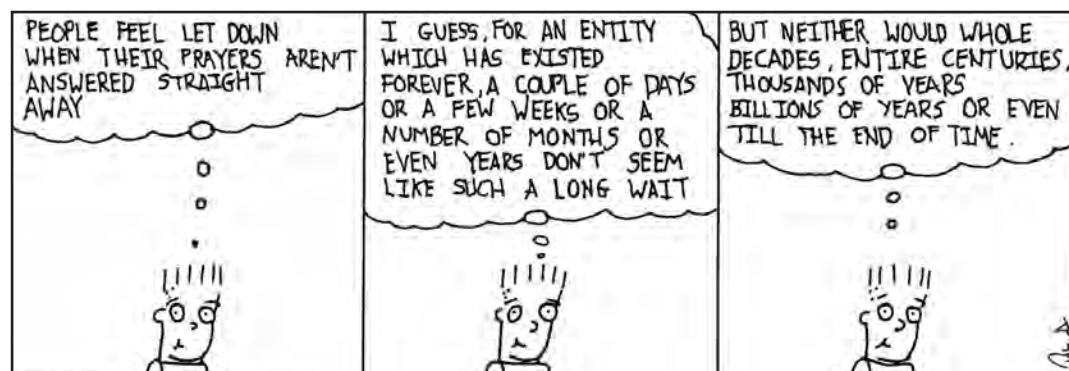
How many members of long standing could right now meet the criteria for membership we require of others? And how many of our workers—including some our most loyal, experienced and fruitful—feel a shadow of exclusion because they entertain some healthy quibble?

Baptismal vows

GENNARO COZZI, VIC

I read with interest the comments on an alternative baptismal vow (“Baptism blue,” Letters, October 1). Although in principle I agree that nothing that is not confirmed by the Bible should be made part of the basics of a church, I can’t agree with the conclusion regarding Philip baptising the Ethiopian.

There was but one Christian church at that time and the belief required to become



Note: Views in Letters do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Letters should be less than 250 words, and writers must include their name, address and phone number. All letters are edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author’s original meaning will not be changed. Not all letters received are published. See masthead (page 2) for contact details.

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Obituaries

Arthur, Lola Elaine (nee Everson), born 12.3.1922 at Kempsey, NSW; died 14.8.05 at Auburn, NSW. On 9.11.42 she married Frederick, who predeceased her in 1999. She was also predeceased by her brother, Lionel Everson. She is survived by her children and their spouses, Janice and Barry Algie (Tuncurry), Alan and Sue (South West Rocks) and Robyn and Bill Bradshaw (Wentworthville); her sister, Fay Wicks (Kempsey); her brother, Warren (Port Macquarie); her two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Lola was a lifelong Christian and a faithful member at Fairfield church for 42 years; she provided fresh flowers year round for over 30 years. She had a bright personality, a loving and caring nature, was very hospitable, loyal to God, and loved gardening.

*Bruce Grosse
Darren Garlett, Terry Geelan*

Bright, Isabel Constance (Connie), born 19.9.1920 at Bunsty farm, near Toodyay, WA; died 14.7.05 in Perth. She is survived by her husband, Doug; her children, Murray, Russell and Eddie; her seven grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Jim Tonkin

Campbell, Ivy Grace, born 13.7.1909; died 26.6.05 in Christchurch, NZ. She was predeceased by her husband, Cec; and her son, Morian. She is survived by her daughter, Eryn Hoare; her daughter-in-law, Lyn; her grandchildren, Darren, Stefan and Shannon Hoare; and her great-grandchild, Ashlee Hoare. Ivy was a long-time member of Aranui church.

Neil Thompson

Jacobs, Kaili, born and died 13.8.05 at South Eastern Hospital, Melbourne, Vic. She is survived by her parents, Paul and Karen; and her sister, Amelia. We never had the opportunity to meet Kaili, but we look forward with eager anticipation to the day of Jesus' coming when she will be reunited with her family.

Kylie Ward

Noonan, Edna Madeline (nee Nobbs), born 8.8.1915 on Norfolk Island; died 10.8.05 on Norfolk Island, just after her 90th birthday party while on holiday from Auckland. Edna married Ross, who was stationed on Norfolk with the air force during the Pacific War. They left Norfolk and made their home in Epsom, Auckland, NZ. There were no children to the marriage. She is survived by her sister-in-law, Shirley (Girlie) Nobbs. Edna was a lovely, gracious and charming old lady.

George Porter

Osmond, Michael Ross, born and died 15.3.05 in Rotorua Hospital, NZ. He was the much wanted and loved son of Philip and Jenny (Kawerau). He will be sadly missed by his mum and dad; his twin brother, Steven; his older sister, Christal; and his older brothers, Tim and Andrew. They all look forward to the Resurrection when Jesus comes and they can be reunited as a family again.

Phil Laws

Richard-Marsters, Palmer Nelson, born 17.10.1946 at the Papaaroa Adventist Mission in Rarotonga, Cook Islands; died 14.8.05 at home in Auckland, NZ. On 2.8.64 he married his beloved soul mate and best friend, Nga (Teatuamatangikino Ngatamariki). He was the youngest son of the late Pastor

Positions vacant

▲ **Accounts Payable Clerk—North New South Wales Conference (Wallsend, NSW)** is seeking a full-time Accounts Payable Clerk to provide clerical support services under the direction of their accountant, and compile and maintain accounts payable records. The successful applicant must be a practising, baptised member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, with a strong commitment to its mission; a working knowledge of the church and its operational management; and appropriate qualifications and/or experience in a similar role. **For further information** please contact Russell Halliday on (02) 4951 8088; or email <rhalliday@adventist.org.au>. Applications close October 31, 2005.

▲ **Head Librarian—Avondale College (Cooranbong, NSW)** is seeking a Head Librarian commencing at a date to be negotiated in late 2005 or early 2006. The successful applicant will have a degree and be eligible for professional ALIA membership, previous experience in library management and in the management of staff. For a job description please go to web site <www.avondale.edu.au>. **Applications in writing** should be forwarded to Sonya Muhl, Avondale College, PO Box 19, Cooranbong NSW 2265; <sonya.muhl@avondale.edu.au>; no later than October 28, 2005. Applicants should address the selection criteria and provide the names and contact details of at least three referees. **For further information** please phone Dr Vivienne Watts on (02) 4980 2120.

▲ **Assistant Editor—Signs Publishing Company (Warburton, Vic)**. The South Pacific Division is seeking expressions of interest for the position of Assistant Editor at the Signs Publishing Company. Essential: A documented background in quality writing; a strong aptitude for journalism; and a passion for the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. **For further information** please contact Nathan Brown, Editor, Signs Publishing Company; phone (03) 5966 9111; email <nathan.brown@signspublishing.com.au>. **Applications in writing** (including résumé and three work-related referees and the contact information for your church pastor) should be forwarded to Colin Clark, Director of Human Resources, South Pacific Division, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga, NSW 2076; email <hr@adventist.org.au>; fax (02) 9489 1713; no later than October 25, 2005.

▲ **IT Manager—Papua New Guinea Union Mission (Lae, PNG)**. The Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Limited is seeking a qualified and dedicated Information Technology Manager for the PNGUM head office based in Lae, PNG. **For further information** please visit the POSITIONS VACANT section of the SPD website at <http://adventist.org.au/employment>. **Applications in writing** should be forwarded to Human Resources, South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga, NSW 2076; email <hr@adventist.org.au>; fax (02) 9489 0943; no later than November 2, 2005.

Richard Marsters and the late Mere Teiho. He is survived by his wife; his children, Richard, Ta'i, Teiho, Vicky and Peter. He was, among many things, a gifted artist, fisherman, singer, dedicated husband, caring father, loyal uncle, selfless brother and kind friend. He inspired many throughout his long career as an educator, teacher and principal. A devoted Christian, his passion was the Word of God, which he yearned for and lived by daily. His family miss him dearly, but look forward to his resurrection.

Kayle de Waal, Tai Richard

Smith, Tobias James, born 23.1.05 at Armadale, WA; died unexpectedly 11.5.05 at Armadale. He is survived by his parents, Daniel and Tanzy Smith; his brother, Johnathon; and his sisters, Clarissa and Olivia (all of Kelmescott).

Jim Tonkin

Thompson, Sylvia (nee Orchard), born 27.9.1927 at Lithgow, NSW; died 5.6.05 at Springwood, Qld. She was predeceased by her husband, Joe, in 1990. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Shane and Jane (Springwood).

Ken Bird

Turner, Percy Joseph, born 18.12.1918 in Perth, WA; died 4.8.05 in Gosford Hospital, NSW. In 1949 he married Shirley Boyd, who predeceased him in 1986. He was also predeceased by his youngest son at birth. He is survived by his children and their spouses, Reg, Rae and Vernie Everett, Maureen and

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Elementary Teacher, SDA Residential English High School—India. Applicants must speak fluent English and have completed their high school diploma. Duties include teaching English, Bible and other classes according to ability. Also teach songs, games and help with youth activities. Term: commencing asap to March 31, 2006. Call number SUD.REHS.2005.01.

English-Religion Teacher, SDA Language Institute—South Korea. Applicants must speak fluent English and have completed a Bachelor's degree. Duties include teaching 25 classes on average of six hours, five days per week; be involved in evangelistic and church activities. Term: 2–12 months, commencing December 27, 2005. Call number NSD.KLI.2005.07.

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Roger Pitt; and his seven grandchildren. Following air force service during World War II, he resumed farming. In 1976 the family moved to Cooranbong, where he was employed by the Sanitarium Health Food Company. Percy is lovingly remembered as a generous leader in local church, community and volunteer mission projects.

Walton Pitt, Arthur Patrick

Watson, Ira Mildred (nee Hill), born 5.6.1908 at Lismore, NSW; died 13.8.05 at Victoria Point, Qld. In April 1938 she married Walter, who predeceased her in 1996. She was also predeceased by her son, Ray, in 2004. She is survived by her children, Barry (Elanora), Glenda Stace (Port Macquarie, NSW), and Jim (Adelaide, SA). Ira was a true Christian, who lived her faith to the best of her ability. She awaits the Lord's return.

Warren Price

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Capel centenary celebration—December 3, 2005. Capel church invites former members to our celebration, commencing at 9.30 am, Sabbath school, 11.00 am, worship service, Light lunch and afternoon program. To assist with catering please contact Yula Vollrath (08) 9727 2356; or Peter Ansell (08) 9756 2065 before November 11, 2005.

New Plymouth church invites past members to celebrate 100 years of worship on December 3, 2005. For further information contact Margaret Chisnall on (06) 753 6588 (NZ); email <mchisnall@clear.net.nz> with subject "centenary."

Data projectors, screens, DVDs VCRs, PA systems etc. SDAs committed to lower prices for SDA churches, schools etc. Ask for Trish at Rural Electronics (02) 6361 3636; or <greenfields@netconnect.com.au>.



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25th celebration—Illawarra Adventist School—December 9–11, 2005. Families and friends of IAS are invited to join us in celebrating 25 years at our Corrimal site. Weekend highlights include vespers Friday night, Sabbath school and worship service, followed by combined lunch. A dinner program is planned for Saturday night and will need to be reserved in advance. Festivities continue on Sunday with a school fete, inviting members of the community to come and join in our celebrations. Further information contact Ian or Leanne at IAS on (02) 4285 3485; or email <illsda@aspire.com.au>.

Real estate—Perth, WA. For professional and courteous service north of the river, please contact your experienced Adventist representative, Ellen Farmer, on 0402 059 364; or (08) 9246 3777; or email <ellenf@bigpond.net.au>; <www.davidevans.com.au>.

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 worship 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 <yvonnelj@ozzinet.net>.

Volunteers. Adventist Health Association seeks expressions of interest from medical and paramedical graduates and undergraduates to serve on the yacht *L'Oiseau*, in the Eastern Solomon Islands Mission (see news story in RECORD dated August 13). Contact <bhands@flatrate.net.au> for details.

Allround Travel Centre (Queensland). Specialists in travel to all parts of the world. Groups—tours—competitive airfares. Phone (07) 5530 3555; fax (07) 5530 3846; email <alltrav@bigpond.net.au>.

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Finally

I thought I heard the voice of God, and climbed the highest steeple. But God declared, "Go down again, I dwell among the people."