

RECORD

November 26, 2005

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Central Coast Adventist School students share a joke with Gosford City Council representatives John Mouland (third from left) and Jim McFayden (far right).

Adventist students' small business works

ERINA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Over the past few months, students from the New South Wales Central Coast Adventist School have been working with Young Achievement Australia (YAA) and representatives from the Gosford City Council to develop a fully functioning small business.

The project has seen the Year 11 Business Studies class transformed through the practical application of learning.

Specialising in the sale of trucker caps, Randomly Asked has returned a 200 per cent profit on initial investments with 10 per cent of this going straight to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

Students put forward a number of different charities before finally voting for ADRA. "We're a Christian school and we wanted to give something back—it's just good business," said company secretary Sally Anderson.

The class board meetings are regularly attended by local councillor Vicki Scott and other mentors from local government and the business community.

The Gosford Deputy Mayor, Jim McFayden, who is also a shareholder in the company, even came out for a quick tour of the school courtesy of the Randomly Asked executives.

Students were encouraged to take up
(Continued on page 5)



Perhaps hope makes most sense in the midst of hopelessness.

“The grief was not despair”

MEETING ONE’S SPONSOR CHILD IS supposed to be a moving and profound experience—at least according to the stories told most often by celebrities and other charity spokespeople. But it was she who was crying—every time she saw me during the couple of weeks I was visiting her home. She was only five months old at the time and I’m sure I was simply too big, too white, too foreign, too scary.

No big deal. I just needed to remind myself that sponsoring a child in a developing country is far less about me feeling good about helping a cute kid and having my photo taken with her, as it is about the complete change brought into her tiny life. The opportunity for her to grow and learn in a loving, relatively safe and hopeful environment is not about me and my small, tax-deductible, monthly contribution.

But visiting an orphanage in central Cambodia does bring with it moments for reflection. Perhaps the deepest memory is of one evening worship.

It was the close of Sabbath. That morning I had been part of their worship and attempted my first sermon by translation. And as the sun dipped toward the horizon, the assorted families, teachers, houseparents and young people were singing in the local language, which sadly precluded my direct involvement but gave me opportunity to observe the members of the group, many of whom I had learned a little about during the previous week.

And I was struck by the collective weight of horror within the various experiences of these people. I could only imagine the unspeakable evil many of these people had witnessed, the suffering they had endured and the sorrows they had felt. From killing fields to refugee camps, forced labour to near starvation, the murder of family and friends to continuing injury and disease, each person there represented a unique litany of tragedy.

And it wasn’t just the individual stories but also the collective story. These were the children of the past 30 years of political and social nightmare in Cambodia and even in the wider world that largely turned away. By virtue of being born in that time and place, their lives were woven into the bloodstained recent history of their nation. Together, they were scarred by the atrocities and haunted by the continuing realities of poverty, disease, exploitation and injustice.

And the realisation of the tragedies with which I was surrounded hit me hard. It was one of those occasions when the ache inside feels like you are about to cave in. The horror is almost within reach. The evil of these circumstances tears at our self-satisfied Western consciousness. There is a grief that feels like anger, frustrated at its own uselessness and hypocrisy. There is something that screams inside us that the world should not be this way.

Later as I stretched next to my wife beneath the mosquito net in the warm tropical night, I quietly sobbed this grief

into the darkness.

Yet the grief was not despair. The existence of the orphanage itself not only meets a terrible need but also sounds a note of hope.

And perhaps hope makes most sense in the midst of hopelessness. Perhaps such a gathering of scarred and battered lives in an act of worship ranks among the most profound expressions of hope and somehow points us to the heart of the kingdom of God.

In a prophecy that Matthew employs to describe Jesus, Isaiah describes the personal compassion of God and His quest to put this world right: “He will not crush those who are weak or quench the smallest hope. He will bring full justice to all who have been wronged. He will not stop until truth and righteousness prevail throughout the earth” (Isaiah 42:3, 4).

During the following days—as I played with the kids and vainly continued my attempts to coax a smile from our small sponsor child—I had further opportunities to reflect on the nature of hope. Such reflections must keep coming back to a God who stepped into the deepest tragedies of our world to spark the dream of God for our world through His death and life—“And his name will be the hope of all the world” (Matthew 12:21).

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

Nathan Brown



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

HIV/AIDS VCT Centre success in PNG

LAE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Papua New Guinea has had success recently with its HIV/AIDS Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centre (VCT), located in Lae. The VCT Centre opened for business to the public in April this year, and has been educating and counselling people about HIV/AIDS since.

Recently, the centre's staff conducted HIV/AIDS awareness workshops and VCT sessions for 16 students at the Wauwin Secondary School. This followed an invitation to do so from the Family Health Association, which is one of the VCT's partners and provides training specifically for young people.

As a result of the sessions, three students



Wauwin Secondary School students in HIV/AIDS awareness workshops.

were motivated to visit the centre and volunteer to refer clients to it for counselling and testing.

Henry Hapen, VCT coordinator, feels that people are beginning to realise the benefits and value of having the services the centre provides, and have come to feel comfortable about asking questions regarding HIV/AIDS. "Clients value how they are treated by the centre team," he says. "They value the customer service and confidentiality."

Kym Piez, agency development director for ADRA-PNG, says, "The centre is open each weekday and provides rapid-result blood tests, pre- and post-test counselling, home visits, referrals to hospitals, resources for reading, and distribution of information, education and communication materials. All services are provided free of charge."

The VCT Centre has also gained recognition from outside of the community, gaining accreditation. Mrs Piez says, "Just this month, ADRA received formal notice from the National AIDS Council Secretariat (NACS) that ADRA-PNG's VCT Centre was successful in gaining accreditation."

Sharon Walker of NACS said in her letter to ADRA that they were "impressed at what has already been put in place by



Students spend time with ADRA educator Nick Gaunedi (left) during the HIV/AIDS awareness workshop at Wauwin Secondary School.

the staff. The development of a number of forms specific to VCT counselling was impressive."

The accreditation is the next major step for the centre in providing a well-serviced centre that conducts confidential and pre- and post- test counselling between a rapid blood test. A second counsellor is currently being recruited so that service delivery is provided for both male and female clients.

The ADRA-PNG VCT Centre has just about to commence extensive refurbishing and extensions, which will be completed early in 2006. The extension includes two private counselling rooms, a resource centre and extra training rooms.—*Tok Save/Adele Nash*



◆ **Byron Bay church, NSW**, members have been providing a **free meal** for some 200 people every Thursday evening for more than a year. Strategically located in the shopping precinct of town, the project, designed to **connect the church with the community**, feeds the homeless and disadvantaged of Byron Bay and is now fre-

quented by backpackers too.—

Northpoint

More @ connectatbyron.org

◆ The **Mount Druitt church, NSW**, held a **football challenge** with the firefighters of the **local brigade** in the western suburbs at Poppendetta Park. Games were played fortnightly on Sunday mornings. The team welcomed people walk-



ing along the streets and soon extra teams were needed to accommodate huge numbers—with players coming from other churches in the Parramatta area.—
Intrasyd

◆ A **spring service** was held at **Wanganui church, NZ**, for the first Sabbath of spring. Many floral arrangements decorated the



church, testimonies were given about nature's beauty and members **donated food** to the local food bank to be used for those in need.—*Gloria Greenfield.*

◆ **Warwick church, Qld**, brought together 36 ministers, head elders and their wives from the south-west Queensland region earlier this year to discuss how ministers and elders could **work together more efficiently** in the mission of the church. Those attending this first-time initiative came from Roma, Toowoomba, Goondiwindi, Kingaroy, Ipswich, Dalby, Warwick and Stanthorpe.—*Mary Fedorow*

ADRA joins fight to cut illiteracy in Pacific island nations

LAE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) has joined with governments and other groups to help reduce illiteracy rates in the Pacific nations of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the Solomon Islands.

In PNG, ADRA is working with the Anglican Church in an effort to reduce illiteracy in the country. The Anglicare StopAids PNG agency is helping ADRA in the literacy projects targeted at communities in the National Capital District and Central Province.

ADRA-PNG Adult Literacy project manager Aaron Kasse said they were going into partnership with others so that illiteracy could be targeted aggressively so that people could be empowered to manage their lives better.

Illiteracy in PNG is high and has been an ongoing concern for the government, as rates are some of the lowest in the Pacific. The adult literacy rate is around 64 per cent. In the Solomon Islands, poverty and unrest mean education isn't easy for children to obtain.

Brally J Tavalia, the ADRA Adult

Literacy project manager in the Solomon Islands, said high levels of illiteracy in the Solomons is a contributing factor to social problems in communities there. Those who are unable to read or write, he believes, cannot make informed decisions about things as easily as a person who is literate and this can cause problems for them.

Based on this finding, he said the ADRA Literacy program, under the AusAID-funded Community Strengthening Reconciliation Program, is taking steps to address the situation. ADRA Literacy is currently conducting training at targeted political areas in central Guadalcanal and north Malaita to educate illiterate adults in reading, writing and living a more meaningful life.

"With this three-year program in place, we hope to reduce the illiteracy rate by 2007," Mr Tavalia says. "ADRA is pleased to be part of this nationwide campaign to help eliminate illiteracy in this country. ADRA is a stakeholder in the process of eliminating illiteracy."

Recently, 27 participants representing different denominations from within the west Tasiboko region attended and successfully completed a two-week training

course for teaching reading and writing, before being sent out to put what they had learned into practice. Mr Tavalia thanked the participants for their time and willingness to contribute toward reducing the illiteracy rate in the country.

Attending the certificate presentation, ADRA's Country director, Cherry Galo, urged participants to utilise whatever skills and knowledge they have acquired to help reduce the illiteracy rate in their respective areas and the country.

Attending on behalf of the Solomon Islands Government was the director of Non-formal Education of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, James Iroga. Stressing the importance of the program, Mr Iroga said the government fully supports literacy projects.

He added that the government looks forward to the expansion of services by ADRA and other non-government organisations to rural areas.

"The illiteracy rate in the country is so high and there is a need to address the issue. The government is already looking at areas to minimise the problem," Mr Iroga said.—*Solomon Star News/Tok Save/Post Courier News*



◆ Pastor Lyndon and Olive Schick (pictured) of Kanwal, NSW, use a different type of footwork to collect for ADRA. They have a collection of nearly **2000 ornamental shoes** in a museum. While entry is free, visitors are encouraged to give a donation, of which 100 per cent goes to ADRA. Some **\$A2000 has been raised** so far. The shoes, in the form of inkwells, moneyboxes, pincushions and teapots,

to name a few, range from 3 mm to 40 cm in size. Opening for group bookings by appointment, presentations of the history of some of the most interesting shoes are given and **Devonshire tea** is served for visitors.—*Northpoint*

◆ The **40 Hour Famine** has traditionally meant fasting for 40 hours. Nowadays it's often 40 hours without technology or even furniture. However, three girls from Tweed Valley College, NSW, decided to go without all three at once. **Alisha Johnson, Stephanie Donaldson and Rebekah Dobson** (pictured) went camping on a rural property



over a weekend, refusing the luxuries of camp chairs, gas lights or torches, and food. Then, deciding to go to church to obtain more sponsorship, they **walked eight kilometres** to church and sat on the floor during their visit. Alluring aromas of the church lunch led to a hasty exit after church, where they hiked uphill on empty stomachs, in the **wind and rain**. The girls were proud to raise \$A400 from their efforts.—*Northpoint*

◆ **Avondale Colledge**, NSW, will have a **third campus** when the college's School of Aviation moves from Cooranbong Airport in December. The school will relocate to **Cessnock Airport** and be referred to as the Hunter Valley campus. The Faculty of Nursing and Health at Sydney Adventist Hospital is called the Sydney campus and the main campus in Cooranbong is the Lake Macquarie campus.—*Brenton Stacey*

◆ Adventists featured at the 2005 **Gospel Entertainment Music (GEM) Awards** ceremony, designed to recognise UK Gospel

Adventist students' small business works

(Continued from page 1)

positions of responsibility, ranging from quality control and sales through to senior management.

Their hard work was recently rewarded with the company achieving blue-chip status within the YAA program. They have also been chosen as one of four finalists for the Company of the Year Award (the winner will be announced tomorrow night). With more than 40 entrants from schools and universities across Australia, the students are understandably proud of their achievement.

Hayley Ferris, the teacher in charge of the Business Studies class, said, "It's incredible! The students are learning the reality of the business right down to negotiation skills and workplace relations."

Student Sally Anderson points out that the experience was not without its challenges: "It's hard working through our differences but we were determined to succeed. Now having a chance to win Company of the Year is just a fantastic reward for all our hard work."—**Andrew Robartson**

artists, on October 29 in the Bethel Convention Centre, West Bromwich, UK. The theme music for the event was written and arranged by **Carlance Parnell** from the Stafford church. There was a performance from 11-year-old **Jeharna South**, from the Penderford church, Wolverhampton. She sang "When you believe," for which she received a standing ovation. **Blessed Voices** won "Best album" category and gave a live rendition of their song "Relations." **The London Adventist Chorale** was announced as winner of the "Best established choir" category.—**Sharon Platt-McDonald**

◆ What began as a small group of worshippers in the 1970s has grown to include more than 1000 Ghanaian Seventh-day Adventists in Britain. The **London Ghana congregation** has just broken ground on a **£3 million church complex**. The building site covers nearly two-thirds of an acre and when completed the church will **seat 650 worshippers**, and include media, music and youth halls.—**Isaac Amo-Kyereme/ANN Staff/ANR**

◆ **Middlesbrough, UK**, church is now providing three styles of Bible-study classes. The "**university class**" is for those who want to

go through the lesson study in the traditional manner. The "**explorers**" class takes a more practical look at the same lesson. A new class concept is the "**initiation class**," which is used specifically as a discipleship class. "We want to become a little more 'community friendly,'" says Pastor Peter Jeynes. "There's a long way to go, but we do have **people from the street** attending church now."—**Peter Roennfeldt**

◆ Each September the town of Tipton, Indiana, USA, hosts the **Pork Festival**, which attracts thousands of people to the many activ-



ities. The **Cicero church** has its **Tipton Living Center** just off the town square, in which it holds many cooking schools, stop-smoking clinics, and Coronary Health Improvement Project programs. This year they opened its doors during the Pork Festival and offered **free blood-pressure screenings**, free bottles of water, scripture balloons, and resources on physical health and spiritual health.—**Ramona Trubey**

Drought-stricken communities receive aid

WAHROONGA,
NEW SOUTH WALES

The lives of farming communities stricken by drought in the Narromine, NSW, region has just been eased with about \$A35,000 worth of hampers, gift vouchers and cash, thanks to Strathfield resident Brigitte Perik.

In a project called "Operation spring boost," Mrs Perik, with the help of the Ashfield Seventh-day Adventist church, packed and collected 125 hampers valued at almost \$A200 each. Donations toward the project

came from members of 25 Adventist churches and the Adventist Women's Ministries network throughout the Greater Sydney region. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) also donated \$A2500 toward the hampers.

"Those of us who live in the city are usually unaffected by drought and tend to take things for granted," says Mrs Perik, who owns her own food business. "I read about how badly the drought had affected the farming communities and wanted to



Narromine church members help to unload "pamper pack" hampers for people in drought-stricken areas as part of "Operation spring boost."

do something practical to help families in the outback."

Mrs Perik says she has been overwhelmed by the response. "It's just amazing how generous the community is in doing things for people who need help," she says. "I am also extremely thankful to the support and advice from my church and ADRA."

The hampers were packaged and delivered free by courier to the Narromine region on October 19.—**Melody Tan**

Sanitarium awards employees

BERKLEY VALE,
NEW SOUTH WALES

Sanitarium's CEO, Kevin Jackson, recently announced the recipients of the company's Ambassador Award program for 2005.

Dennis Perry, marketing and sales manager for the Export Division located at Castle Hill, was awarded the Laura Lee Ambassador Award for his willingness and passion to help anyone, wherever the need exists.

Mr Perry has worked for the company for more than 34 years and in the past six years has run the Food for Life program in the South Pacific islands, which brings together communities, Adventist Church members and government and community leaders in sharing food and teaching good, healthy living skills.

Feta Fesolai, who works as the laundry supervisor at Auckland's manufacturing site, was nominated for the Sam Bearpark Award for her caring and generous attitude and her involvement in her church and community.

"The Ambassador Award gives oppor-



Sanitarium's Ambassador Award-winning employees for 2005.

tunities to staff from all walks of life and with different skills to be recognised and appreciated," says Mr Jackson. "We always have an wonderful group of people who are nominated and it is an uplifting experience to celebrate our staff. For me it confirms we have the right people, the right company and the right leading from our CEO on high."

The awards were named after Laura Lee, who was the first to open a health cafe, educate people in healthy living and was innovative and caring, and Sam Bearpark, a sales representative in New Zealand during the 1940s, who was known as "Mr Sanitarium." He was well-known throughout the South Island.—
Julie Praestiin

World Christian leaders meet, focus on HIV/AIDS

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Leaders of a wide range of Christian churches met in Geneva, Switzerland, for a series of consultations from October 16 to 22.

The Conference of Secretaries of the Christian World Communions brought together 27 representatives from the majority of mainstream Christian denominations. Many topics relating to Christian life were discussed at the conference, but the main focus was on HIV/AIDS.

Dr John Graz, director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the General Conference, represented the Adventist Church at the conference. "This year we did ask for all representatives to speak on the subject of what their community is doing to help the HIV/AIDS challenge," says Dr Graz.

"Faced with such a devastating pandemic, all Christians need to demonstrate their compassion and concern in very practical ways," he says. "It is important that we know what each other is doing so we can be aware and bring the maximum benefit to those who are suffering.—
Jonathan Gallagher/ANN

◆ More than **900 houses of worship** were destroyed, seriously damaged or forced to suspend services after **hurricanes Katrina and Rita** hit the Gulf Coast of America. The devastation wrought by the storms poses unique challenges for congregations whose members have been dispersed far from their traditional places of prayer.—*Religion News Service*

◆ An interfaith group has released a **new textbook, *The Bible and Its Influence***, aimed at teaching public high school students about the Bible while **avoiding legal and religious disputes**. The nonprofit Bible

Literacy Project of Fairfax, Virginia, spent **five years and \$US2 million developing the textbook**, which won initial endorsements from experts in literature, religion and church-state law. The 41 contributors include prominent evangelical, mainline Protestant, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Jewish and secular experts.—*The Associated Press*

◆ More **Britons believe in ghosts** than God, according to research. Of the 2012 people polled, more than 68 per cent said they believe in the existence of ghosts and spirits, whereas 55 per cent said they

believe in the **existence of a God**. Some 26 per cent believe in UFOs, 19 per cent in reincarnation and just 4 per cent in the mythical **Loch Ness Monster**. The survey found 12 per cent believe they have actually seen a ghost and 76 per cent said that TV shows and films like *The Blair Witch Project* have helped convince them **spooks and ghouls** really exist.—*Ananova*

◆ A Baptist pastor has died after being **electrocuted while performing a baptism** at his church in Waco, Texas. The accident happened when **Kyle Lake**, 33, pastor of University Baptist church (UBC)

and the author of two recent books, was electrocuted **after touching a microphone** during a Sunday morning baptismal service in front of a crowd of more than 800. The woman he was about to baptise was unharmed, not yet being in the font. Pastor Lake was the pastor for the past seven years at UBC and the author of two books, *Understanding God's Will* and the new-release *Understanding Prayer*.—*ASSIST News Service*

◆ A Bible in the University of Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany, is **written on 2400 palm leaves**.

Mission awareness challenge given to church communicators

GLADSTONE, OREGON, USA

Raising Seventh-day Adventist church members' awareness of mission activity was a challenge presented to 150 church communicators who met in Gladstone, Oregon, USA. Members of the Society of Adventist Communicators were given the challenge during their annual convention.

Such awareness is more critical in societies where financial resources can be found, since mission giving has been flat in recent years, church experts say. According to a report presented in July at the 2005 General Conference session in St Louis, Missouri, worldwide giving to tithe and other local offerings has increased over the past 50 years, while giving to mission offerings has remained static.

Adventists today are giving the same dollar amount to missions that they gave 50 years ago, which means mission offerings today have one-fifth the "buying power" of 1950, despite the church having grown from 1 million to more than 14.3 million members.

"Mission is central to our life and purpose as Adventists—we exist for mission," says Patricia Gustin, who recently retired as director of the Institute of World Mission, the training centre for cross-cultural missionaries. Ms Gustin was one of five panelists at the discussion challenging communicators to promote the church's emphasis on worldwide mission.

Many Adventist members today think the church no longer sends or needs cross-cultural missionaries, according to Rick Kajiura, Office of Adventist Mission communication director. Yet, according to Ms Gustin, 30 to 40 per cent of the world does not have access to anyone who represents the Adventist Church, including cross-cultural missionaries. The church currently has more than 800 cross-cultural missionary families and each year another 120 to 130 new families are trained.—

Hans Olson/ANN

Signs leads to "symphonious" baptism

LANDSBOROUGH, QUEENSLAND

You never know where one *Signs of the Times* magazine can lead you, and Ivan Colledge wouldn't have known that when he picked up a copy of the magazine in 2004 that it would lead to his baptism.

Late last year Mr Colledge walked into the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) op-shop in Landsborough, Queensland, for a browse around. He saw the *Signs* rack out the front of the shop and took a copy of the magazine home, read it cover to cover and noticed the advertisement for *The Search* video series inside.

Mr Colledge posted the application to the Discovery Centre, and they posted his details to Landsborough church pastor Mike Brownhill. Pastor Brownhill delivered the video, and in July, Ivan had the opportunity to meet Pastor Geoff Youlden. Ivan attended all Pastor Youlden's lectures and responded to an appeal at a baptism to end the program.

Pastor Brownhill comments, "This was



Ben Beaden

Ivan Colledge (right) is welcomed into the church following his baptism.

certainly a symphonious baptism, as the Holy Spirit used our ADRA op-shop, our *Signs* magazine, Media Centre and Discovery Centre, a visiting evangelist, as well as a local church pastor and his friendly church to all work in harmony to bring a precious soul over the line.

"I'd like to thank all the people working in the background of these ministries for their role in Ivan's conversion, especially the volunteers working in our op-shops. Let's pray there'll be lots more baptisms to follow in this pattern."—RECORD staff

8000 Bibles distributed to Hurricane Katrina victims

NAMPA, IDAHO, USA

Three Pacific Press-owned Adventist Book Centres—in Texas, northern California and Pennsylvania—teamed up to distribute free Bibles to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Through a special offer from Thomas Nelson Bible Publishers, the Adventist Book Centres were able to get the Bibles for \$US1.00 each.

In turn, the Adventist Book Centres asked their local constituents and customers to donate \$US1.00 per Bible to cover the costs. Through the generosity of their constituents, the stores raised enough money to purchase 8000 Bibles.

The Bibles were then shipped to a warehouse staffed by the West Houston Adventist church in Houston, Texas, and distributed to Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

Jorge Velez, assistant manager for the Texas Adventist Book Center, says, "In

addition to water and food, one of the top things that people were asking for was a Bible."

Pacific Press also donated 10,000 copies of the sharing booklet *Does God Care That I'm Hurting?* to be distributed with the Bibles.

The distribution of the Bibles comes on top of other relief efforts that have focused on providing people with food, shelter and clothing, as well as assisting with the clean-up work.

Various Adventist aid and volunteer groups, including the Adventist Development and Relief Agency and Adventist Community Team Services, have been involved in the relief efforts.

A hurricane relief fundraiser concert was held on November 19 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA, and featured performances by Wintley Phipps, Carmen Hope and Jennifer La Mountain.—Pacific Press Publishing/Florida Conference News

The French Pilot

REVIEW BY JULENE DUERKSEN-KAPAO

FLICKING THROUGH AN OLD LEGAL register now filled with recipes, newspaper clippings and a few diary entries, Allen Steele stumbled across more than he was hoping for. He knew his family's oral history, but Steele was excited to find documents linked to his heritage. The book belonged to his grandmother, had been given to his mother, and then handed down to him before she died.

Immersed in the history of his family, the Lamoreauxs, Dr Steele—who now serves as assistant to the president and department head of communications at Avondale College—began an investigation that would take him around the world following the footsteps, the tides and the stories of his famous ancestor, André Lamoreaux.

André was a Huguenot, among the French Protestants who followed the teachings of John Calvin and were forced to flee France in the 16th and 17th centuries to escape continuing persecution. *The French Pilot* is a riveting retelling of André's life from a young boy through the trials and events that would make him a hero in his family line, respected by his family and friends, and a dedicated man of God. Beginning in the late 1600s, Steele traces André as a child in a French village, Lusignan, to a coastal shipping town, Meschers, to Bristol, England, and finally to New York.

André's mother was a devout Catholic, his father a Protestant. He was unaware of the precarious line his father walked until the local Catholic priest overlooked André as an altar boy and treated his father different than he did the other fathers. As he grew older, André began to see the hypocrisy and false teachings of the established church and began to search for something different. It wasn't until a cousin introduced him to a hidden "chapel," a

place where Protestants met in a clearing in the woods, hearing truth and praising God, that André gave his heart to the Lord and his life to service.

Steele takes the reader on an absorbing journey as we walk with André through his search for peace and a safe place to worship. Coincidence and his namesake, Uncle André, took the younger André to Meschers. It was here André learned to be a shipping pilot, met his wife, Suzanne, and started working against the King through daring acts helping Protestants flee the country: "And so it was decided. They would start an underground ferry to freedom for the distressed, under cover of darkness, just as their uncle had done before them. The pick-up point would be at Suzac Beach just north of Meschers. A dinghy would take people from the beach out to the ships in the estuary. It would be André's job to find sympathetic ship captains who would be willing to take the unfortunates on board" (page 83).

This wasn't the last time the Lamoreauxs would be involved in underground activities. Suzanne helped a local prison in Bristol, bringing food and water to the French prisoners; she also helped poor girls who had nowhere to go by providing them with a bed and food for a short time before André could get them to a new life; and finally once settled in New York, Suzanne became part of the slave underground railway, providing shelter and safety for two Negroes at a time as they headed north to freedom.

The French Pilot is a thrilling history lesson. Putting real faces and lives to the Dissenters, Steele opens readers' eyes,

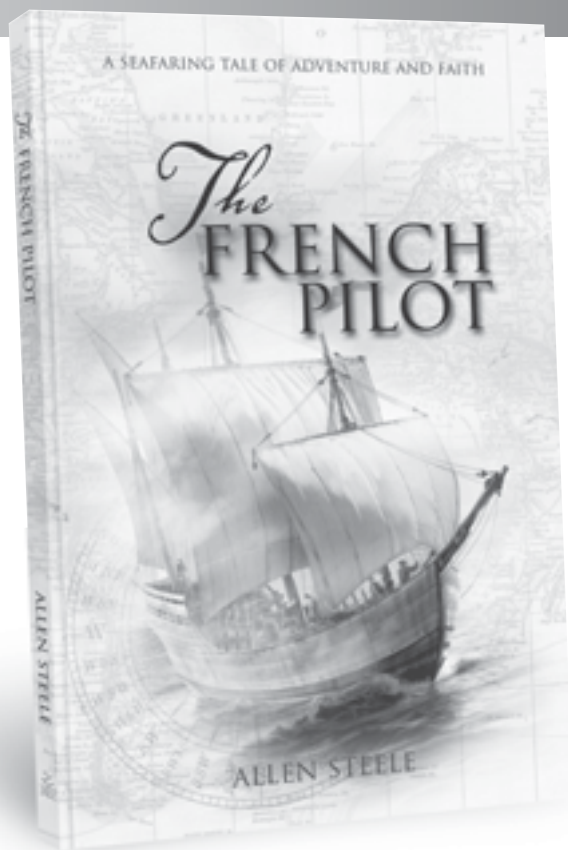
minds and hearts to what life would have been like for Protestants living under the unbending law of Catholic rulers. The Lamoreauxs encounter numerous faith-testing experiences—the loss of several children, two at birth, one at the tender age of three, the burning of their chapel, and the brutality of the King's soldiers—each drawing the family closer together and closer to God.

André's adept navigation skill made him a reliable sea pilot, but it also brought him a myriad of challenges including capture by pirates and a short time in jail. Although there were many frustrations and trials along the way, the Lamoreauxs continually trusted in the Lord's guiding.

Steele pens a fantastic summary of a beautiful life. Easy to read, interesting and thrilling to the heart, *The French Pilot* will challenge your own beliefs and keep you asking, "What would I have done?" **R**

The French Pilot: A Seafaring Tale of Adventure and Faith, by Allen Steele, Signs Publishing Company, 2005, paperback, 177 pages. Available from Adventist Book Centres, price \$A24.95; \$NZ29.95.

Julene Duerksen-Kapao writes from Longburn, New Zealand, and is the regular book reviewer for The Edge.





Jean-Noel Adeline preaches in the Noumea church, New Caledonia.

Noumea church grows with passion

BY NATHAN BROWN

searching for God and needing Him—secular people. They realise that secularism is not the answer.”

Mr Adeline says he was aware of the challenges of working in New Caledonia but was confident God was prepared to work with them. “Dr Allet told me the challenges they have in winning souls and he asked me what I thought about it. I told him my goal was for 100 souls this year. He said, ‘You didn’t hear me.’ I replied that by God’s grace we will do great things for the Lord.”

In the Noumea church alone, 108 people have been baptised this year, nearly doubling the membership, but Mr Adeline emphasises that this is not just about numerical growth.

“The whole campaign was about leading people into knowing Jesus Christ so they can be free—free from sin, free from self,” he explains. “As a result there’s been lots of spiritual healing. It’s amazing to hear people testifying about what Jesus has done in their lives. During the campaign we have 15 minutes of worship songs to attract people, then there’s time for testimonies. The people are listening, and can relate now to what I am saying, because it’s not only a message; it’s a message that will do something in your life.”

Mr Adeline also highlights the power of prayer in the public program and personal lives of those attending. “I have a box in front,” he reports. “They are given small pieces of paper. They write their problems, without their names, and drop it in the box. Then we lift up the box before God, then seven people praying at the back of the church who open the box and read the problems of the people.”

According to Mr Adeline, the experiences of this year have also seen a change in

the church’s attitudes. “I’ve been trying to lead them to understand why we exist as a church,” he says. “It’s to win as many people as we can for the kingdom of God. Instead of going to heaven alone, God has planted us here to be a light, and when we’re a light we will attract people, because the gospel is beautiful. So now the members are starting to realise that they are not just here as spectators.”

The philosophy has an impact on how the Noumea church has grown. “When the campaign is over, it’s not really over with those we baptise,” says Mr Adeline. “We put them into small groups, which are there to build relationships and especially to nurture their spiritual life. We don’t want to miss that. We began with a revival program, then an evangelistic campaign followed and then we put them into small groups. But now what is happening is the people in the small groups are bringing their friends.”

Mr Adeline is excited that his church family are sharing in his passion. “My passion is to let people know there is a wonderful God,” he says. “It is only through Him that life becomes meaningful, that there is sense to life. And of course I teach that this God is so much in love with us that He is coming back soon, and whatever we have missed down here below, we will get everything up there in heaven.

“God is good,” he concludes. **R**

Nathan Brown is editor of RECORD.



Worshippers pack the Noumea church.

THE OUTSTANDING STORY TO EMERGE at the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference session in September was the dramatic growth of the church in New Caledonia this year. This growth has been focused on the church in Noumea but has spread to other regions of the island nation. In all, 188 people have been baptised, a significant increase in a mission that has averaged fewer than 20 baptisms per year for many years.

Jean-Noel Adeline is the pastor of the Noumea church and has been appointed the evangelist for the New Caledonia Mission. He arrived in New Caledonia at the beginning of this year, after working in Canada and studying at Andrews University. A native of the Seychelles, Mr Adeline is an enthusiastic evangelist and says he and his young family are having a wonderful time in New Caledonia.

“We were praying that God would send us to the right place,” Mr Adeline recalls. “While browsing the Internet, I came across New Caledonia and I knew [Dr] Patrice [Allet, president of the New Caledonia Mission] from Andrews, so I wrote him a letter. He told me there had been a vacancy, but someone had already taken it. He told me to pray about it and eventually it worked out.”

New Caledonia has been a difficult place for the church, according to Mr Adeline. “There was a time when the church was thinking of not recognising New Caledonia as a mission because it was not growing,” he says. “It’s very secular. It’s French. They’ve just adopted everything from the French. It’s hard to win people. That’s why evangelism has not been working here. But I’ve noticed one segment of society who are

The ocean of God

BY SUSAN JOHNSTONE

ISIT ON A BEACH ON NORTH STRADBROKE Island at the end of a Queensland winter. The fine sand cushions my feet while a cool southerly breeze plays with my hair. Sunlight sparkles on the waves as I watch my daughter jumping in the surf.

“Come on in!” she calls, vines of wet hair clinging to her neck and shoulders.

I shake my head with a smile. “Too cold!”

“It isn’t!” she laughs, throwing diamond splashes of water in the air. “It’s beautiful!”

I’ve heard that before. I’m not convinced. Her cajoling continues though, and before too long I leave my comfortable perch and begrudgingly walk toward the ocean.

A swathe of salt water sprawls over my toes and I recoil. It is cold, almost icy. I try again, the flowing wet sliver greeting me, retreating, darting back again to see my response.

“It’s freezing!” I call out to my daughter, who simply laughs and beckons me closer. I gingerly go deeper, until I am wading, the cold wetness buffeting my legs. My bravado propels me rather than a desire to be there, but whatever my motivation, gradually I am immersed.

The ocean surges around me now, taking my breath away. One second I am being pushed by a great swell, the next, I am held in an aquatic embrace. Water effervesces around me from below, rising to the rolling surface.

I am awash with vibrancy . . . liquid rushes around and under me, and salty spray drips from my face.

Like my daughter, I, too, have sodden hair sticking to my skin, flicking in my eyes, and circling my neck. Somehow the cold

has changed to a warmth of energy with the ocean surges so my pores are tingling. This is an adrenalin rush purer than any theme park ride. I’m glad I changed my mind and made the decision to take the plunge.

It reminds me of a song. “Stones and sea”^{*} talks of seeking contentment collecting stones on the seashore, while beside us beckons the vastness of the ocean: “You’re missing precious things—raise your eyes and look toward the sea.”

In the swirling waves, I think of this allegory and I think of God. I allow myself to be buffeted and rocked by the swells. I think of He who pulses the ocean with His power. I imagine His love surrounding me and invigorating me.

Later that day we drive around the headland, and from a high vantage point we watch the expanse of sea, heaving and rolling as far as the horizon. At night, we sleep in a tent on the foreshore, and in the darkness of early morning, I awake and hear the thunderous crash of waves relentlessly calling.

It’s true. Too easily we try to satisfy ourselves with the pebbles and sand of life. Our home, work, family and community activities are all valuable things and can bring a certain level of fulfillment. But there is more—so much more—to life.

We cannot begin to comprehend it on a



Angela Brown

purely intellectual level. Like me on the shore, worrying about the cold, we can be put off by a negative perception of church or religious people.

But God calls to us relentlessly, calls for us to be with Him. Instead of dallying at the water’s edge, when we fully immerse ourselves in God we come alive. Jesus said, “I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness.” (John 10:10, Good News Bible).

When we are filled with God’s Spirit, are sustained by the Bible—God’s living Word—and surround ourselves with true, godly people, we begin to experience the reality of the greatness and vastness of God. In turn, our own lives become richer and fuller than we could ever imagine and we have something real we can share with those around us.

“Come on in. It’s beautiful.” **R**

^{*}By *Eden’s Bridge*

Susan Johnstone writes from Stanthorpe, Queensland.

True religion

BY PETER MCGOWAN

THE CHRISTIAN WORLD HAS BEEN beset to the point—in some quarters—of obsession with the debate over worship style. “What music should we have?” “Should the atmosphere be formal or informal?” “Who are we trying to reach, youth or adults?” “Should there be different styles for different tastes?” “What preaching style should we employ?”—and on and on, ad nauseam!

The question of worship style or “godliness” is important for the last days, according to Paul (see 2 Timothy 3:1, 5), but the problem is not new. For example, Jeremiah 6:20 clearly shows that Israel’s worship style was unacceptable.

This perennial problem of religious form appears to go deeper. It is interesting to note from the experiences of Israel that sometimes, even when practising a form of religion instituted by God Himself, this was unacceptable. Consider what the Bible says about religion: for example, “I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies” (Amos 5:21*).

So, according to God and the Bible, what is acceptable religion? Is the Bible in favour of religion? Apparently not! And neither is the modern world—most people are extremely cynical about religion generally; many are quite disgusted by it. This is despite surveys repeatedly showing more than 80 per cent of people believe in a personal God; that is, people are spiritual but not religious.

In my observation, often those who debate church worship styles are interested in religion, while the world is interested in spirituality; hence the absence of people from churches!

So to answer our question, consider the verses in the table (right) that show this distinction quite clearly. In each case, Jesus or the prophet condemns religious practice (worship forms) and then insists on the real duty of a spiritual person.

Notice here that genuine spirituality

(true worship) has more to do with what happens outside the church than inside. Spirituality is apparently concerned with justice, mercy and faithfulness—not religious forms, which the Bible condemns as an end in themselves.

Jesus’ example

What was the distillation, summary or keynote of Jesus’ ministry? It can be found in His first sermon at Nazareth, at the commencement of His earthly ministry: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour” Luke 4:18, 19, quoting Isaiah 61:1, 2).

Accordingly, Jesus was interested in justice, mercy and faithfulness, but often condemned religious forms. As Christians (the word means an imitator or disciple of

Christ), if this is the sum and substance of Jesus’ ministry, then it should be ours too (see 1 John 2:6, 1 Corinthians 11:1, 1 Timothy 1:16). For example, if God is generous, we must be generous to others (2 Corinthians 9:9).

There is an apocryphal story of a debate between two men about the existence of God. One contended that an omnipotent, just and loving God is logically inconsistent with the current brutal state of society. He concluded, “I don’t know why God allows poverty, famine and injustice when He could do something about it.” His Christian friend replied, “I’m afraid God might ask me the same question.”

How to preach

But Jesus went still further. Luke (see 7:22 and 18:22) clearly identifies the poor and needy as Jesus’ primary target audience. Further, the needy should be “preached” to by ministering to their needs.

Matthew 23:23	Justice	Mercy	Faithfulness
Micah 6:8	Act justly	Love mercy	Walk humbly before God
Jeremiah 7:3-6	Deal justly	Do not oppress the alien, widow etc	Don’t follow other gods
Jeremiah 9:24	Justice	Kindness	Righteousness
James 1:26, 27	—	Care for orphans	Unpolluted by world
Isaiah 58:3-14	Loose chains of injustice	Share food and clothes	Keep Sabbath
Zechariah 7:4-14	Administer true justice	Show mercy and compassion, do not oppress widows, orphans, alien and poor	Listen to the Word of the Lord
Psalms 112	Verse 5: Good will come to him... who conducts his affairs with justice	Verse 9: He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor	Verse 1: Blessed is the man who fears the Lord

Only then can a person entertain the idea of taking the radical step of becoming a disciple of Jesus and so ministering to others.

James 2:15-17 makes this explicit: "Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." We must not tell people about God's love, but show them. Expert explanations are not enough—only practical demonstrations will suffice.

But such ministry is not to be half-hearted. Isaiah 58:10 requires us to "spend" ourselves on behalf of the needy. Again, Jesus is our example worthy of imitation here (see 1 Peter 2:21).

Some time ago my wife became suddenly very ill and spent five days in intensive care, followed by a further three days in hospital. During this time, we discovered we had two sets of friends: "Group A" sent flowers, cooked hot food and offered to shop and clean etc; "Group B" offered sympathy.

When thinking about this afterward, I noticed that "Group A" were all agnostics and atheists, while "Group B" were church members. That is, the atheists and agnostics offered more spiritual ministry than the church members. Of the two groups above, Group A showed more evidence of being Jesus' disciples (see John 13:34, 35) than Group B. It seems Group B is often too busy being religious.

In Matthew 21:23-32, Jesus told the parable of the two sons. The point of this story was to distinguish between what people said and what they did. The religious leaders (verse 23) talked about religion but did nothing. Jesus concluded that the tax collectors and prostitutes would enter the kingdom ahead of the religious leaders. It appears that religion is often a disadvantage in the Christian walk!

Matthew 5:16 tells us that the effect of a true disciple is to cause their friends and associates to praise God because of their good works. Would that all Christians had such a reputation!

The judgment

Matthew 25:31-33 sets the scene for what will be one of the most poignant events of history, when God sits in judgment on all. The story describes a wonderful group of the saved who spent their lives in service and unwittingly ministering to the needs of others. They are commended and invited to enjoy eternal life with the Lord Jesus. By contrast, the damned are described as those who did not spend themselves in ministry. Matthew 7:22, 23 elaborates by recording that such people were careful in all their religious duties.

Thus, the great judgment scene we know as the parable of the sheep and the goats appears to separate the people of earth into those who are spiritual—the saved—from those who are religious—the damned.


Put another way, the religious have only a "form of godliness" (2 Timothy 3:5) while the spiritual have harnessed the power of the Spirit (Romans 8:5) to transform their lives into an imitation of Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18) and His ministry to others. **R**

**Bible quotations are from the New International Version.*

Peter McGowan writes from Lilydale, Victoria.

Record Roo's

Kids corner



Hi Kids,
Kip and I have one golden rule in our friendship. Do you know what it is? We must keep our promises. God says he will keep His promises too. David made a promise to Jonathon. Find out what that was in 2 Samuel 20: 1-42.
♥ RR

Fill in the Blanks

"The Lord is not _____ in doing what He _____."
2 Peter 3:9 ICV

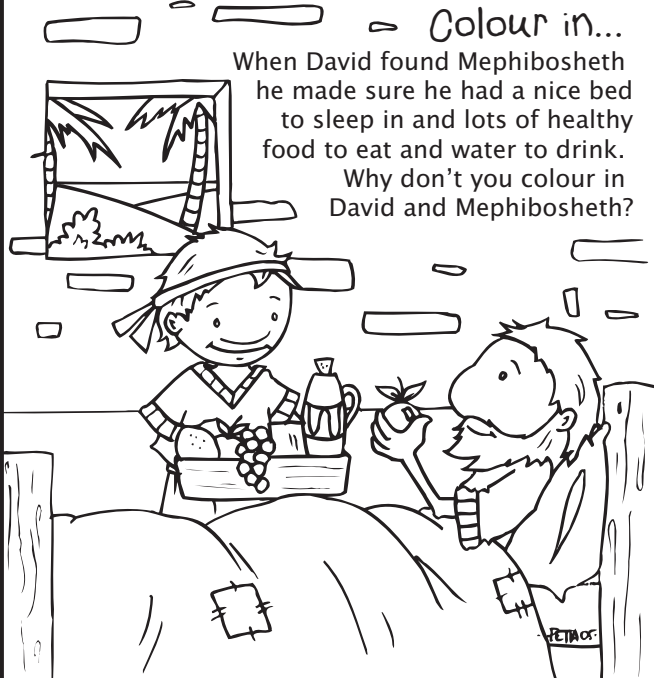
Unscramble...

Today's story has a person with a really interesting name. Try and unscramble the letters to find the names of some other Bible characters with interesting names. The first letter is given to help you out...

hiboehthpsem	M _____
bedzee	Z _____
bubrelezab	Z _____
rothpsumi	T _____
moslae	S _____
moarbohe	R _____
daobhia	O _____
ptahlina	N _____

Colour in...

When David found Mephibosheth he made sure he had a nice bed to sleep in and lots of healthy food to eat and water to drink. Why don't you colour in David and Mephibosheth?



Origins

BILL JOHNSON, NSW

ADRA does a remarkable work worldwide and we can be justifiably proud of this arm of the church. However, in relation to the literacy program in PNG (Feature, October 29), I would like to give due credit to Women's Ministries. This project originated in the mind of the former division director of Women's Ministries. She located and liaised with Ruth Colvin, an American specialist in literacy teacher training, in initiating this program, which was initially funded by the General Conference.

The division Women's Ministries director, together with its then leader in PNG, Kay Humble, made a successful submission to the Australian Government, which was submitted through ADRA. Ruth Colvin came from the USA to conduct this very successful program. She worked with the PNG Government and influential citizens to establish a National Literacy Institute to ensure the survival of the project.

It was at that point ADRA assumed ownership, and it is well that they have been able to maintain the major work already done in this very important initiative by Women's Ministries.

More information

ALDONA JONES, VIC

It was enlightening to read about the political contribution made to the Liberal Party by the Sydney Adventist Hospital and the CEO's response (Letters, October 29).

Dr Clark has given only a vague expla-

nation that doesn't explain anything. I am no wiser as to the nature of the "community forum" or the reason for it. When a church organisation participates in a "community" event, it is usually well reported, so for the benefit of we who don't live in Wahroonga, what was the nature and topic of the forum and who was the politician?

If it is appropriate for the church and its organisations to render a little more to Caesar, then it would also be appropriate to know a little more about it.

ROBIN HILL, NSW

I fail to see any connection between contributions to humanitarian, charitable or social ventures and the Australian Liberal Party. A donation to the Liberal Party does not meet those criteria. What are the humanitarian or charitable ventures related to any political party?

That the Sydney Adventist Hospital lies

More on the young

FRANK VAN DER WEST, NSW

I doubt the young really want to take on church leadership. Anyone with even limited understanding of organisational structures will see that if the young were to take over its higher positions, the church would split into independent sections. Wisdom of older members is necessary in matters of administration to keep the church together.

Let the older administrators facilitate the implementation of ideas put forward by enthusiastic youth, and may God bless them!

JACK WARING, QLD

The idea that the church should keep young people out of decision-making bodies is flawed and lacks credibility.

While I was head elder of the Bishoptdale, NZ, church in the 1970s and 1980s, we

Let the older administrators facilitate the implementation of ideas put forward by enthusiastic youth, and may God bless them!

within the electorate of the Attorney-General doesn't mean it should make a donation to his political party. Seventh-day Adventists should be concerned about such payments. The reputation of the hospital should be based solely on the quality of its care. That sort of quality is not bought with money.

I would like to see an investigation into this by an independent body. If this does not happen, I will not be supporting the SAH in the future.

introduced younger, married men in their 20s into eldership, with up to five serving with senior men.

Of those men, one is now a minister caring for three churches; one is a national ADRA director; a third a former Longburn College principal and a now a conference education director; another is a business consultant.

Church officers, read the last paragraph of page 271 of *Education*. We must mentor our young people.

petros



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



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Weddings

Connolly—Dixon. George Thomas Connolly and Dorothy Joan Dixon (both of Melody Park, Nerang, Qld), were married on 24.10.05 on the Gold Coast.

Ray Richter, Lloyd Robinson

Hutton—Suel. Timothy Mark Hutton, son of Rodney and Katherine Hutton (Brisbane, Qld), and Anthea Louise Suel, daughter of Norman and Louise Suel (Toowoomba), were married on 23.10.05 at Daydream Island, Whitsundays, Qld.

Dana Howard

Obituaries

Gill, Gwenyth June Gill (nee Broadhurst), born 29.6.1923 at Wagga Wagga, NSW; died 3.9.05 at Murrurundi. In 1944 she married Victor Abrahams, who predeceased her in 1979. She is survived by her children, Kevin (Richmond), Neville (Murrurundi), Colin (Richmond), Brian (Narangba, Qld), Mervyn (Tamworth, NSW), Susan (Northgate, Qld) and Garry (Tamworth, NSW); her 13 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren. In 1966 Gwen was baptised, along with two of her sons, Colin and Brian, by Pastor Arthur Needham. She moved to Murrurundi in 1993 where, until prevented by illness, she attended church with the Murrurundi Adventist company. She was well known and well regarded by the Murrurundi community, and a large number of local residents joined with her family for the graveside service at Murrurundi on 9.9.05. *Brian Abrahams*

Roi, Marjorie Ngakoata O Nga Hau E Wha Hoeta (nee Taituha), born 24.8.1935 at Pukekohe, NZ; died 6.8.05 in Auckland Hospital. She was predeceased by her children, Taipu, Tapuarui and Piki. She is survived by her husband, Iripa; her children and their spouses, Tera and Barken Poko, Annette and Ben Fualo, Iripa, Melvina and John Hill, John, Darrell, Tengaro, Kimiora, Roberta, David, Metuarau and Barton; her 44 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. Marge was deeply committed to her

God, church and wider community. She was also a foundation member of the Auckland Maori church, a member of WCTU and local civil committees. Her enthusiasm, love and willingness to share is greatly missed.

*Jake Ormsby, Jesse Nathan
Robbie Erceg, Bill Pehi*

Advertisements

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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 Corral 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>.

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Positions vacant

▲ **Secretary—South New Zealand Conference (Christchurch, NZ)** is seeking a permanent Secretary to work in the youth area and also assist in general office duties. The successful applicant will have good communication skills; be well organised and able to work under pressure to meet deadlines; be self-motivated; have suitable qualifications and experience; pay attention to detail and have competency in Word, Excel, Publisher and preferably Corel Draw. **For further information** contact Melissa Savage +64 3 365 1020 ext 801. **Applications in writing** (with current CV) should be forwarded to Seventh-day Adventist Church, PO Box 5186, Papanui, Christchurch, NZ; fax +64 3 365 1030; email <snzconf@adventist.org.au>, no later than December 9, 2005.

▲ **Building Project Manager, PNG—The Seventh-day Adventist Church** is seeking to appoint a Building Project Manager for the Papua New Guinea Union Mission headquarters based in Lae, PNG. **For further information** please visit the POSITIONS VACANT section of the SPD web site at <adventist.org.au/employment>. **Applications in writing** should be forwarded to Human Resources, South Pacific Division, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga, NSW 2076; email <hr@adventist.org.au>; fax (02) 9489 0943, no later than November 30, 2005.

▲ **Early Childhood Professionals—Castle Hill Adventist School Early Learning Centre (NSW)** is seeking full-time and part-time Early Childhood Professionals for their proposed Early Learning Centre, due to open January 2006. They are needing Early Childhood Teachers (university trained or other approved qualifications); trained Child Care Workers (TAFE qualifications in Child Studies); and untrained team members. Experience preferred but not essential. New graduates welcome and job share considered. **Applications in writing (with résumé and current references)** should be forwarded to: Principal, Castle Hill Adventist School 84-90 Cecil Avenue, Castle Hill 2154; email <principal@castlehill.adventist.edu.au>, no later than December 2, 2005.

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I am organising a “Genealogy of Christ” charity display in Bathurst in December. If you are interested in writing (1–2 pages) on Adam/Eve/Isaac/Boaz/Ruth/David/Solomon; or another character in Matthew, please send by 3.12.05 to <Kerrie@gardenspectacular.com>.

Suggestions for The Lay Preacher on how to preach the Adventist distinctives in refreshing and challenging ways. Contact Pastor Austin Fletcher, 83/10 Central Road, Cooranbong, NSW 2265; phone (02) 4977 3287; <aefletch@hunterlink.net.au>.

The Avondale College church building is 20 years old. We’re celebrating on March 11. You’re invited, especially if it was your church home. Details? Phone (02) 4980 2272; email <sharon.turner@avondale.edu.au>.

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Finally

A miracle is an event which creates faith. Frauds deceive. An event which creates faith does not deceive; therefore it is not a fraud, but a miracle.—*George Bernard Shaw*

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Email: enquiries@avondale.edu.au

What do you give a child who has nothing?

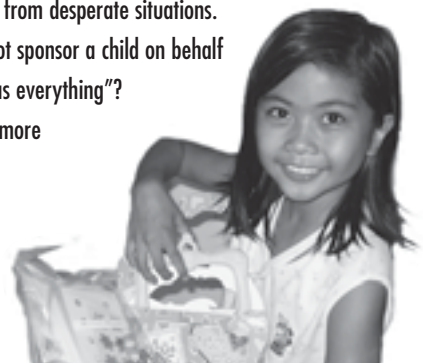


Christmas should be a time of giving, happiness and reflection. But for many children around the world, it is a time of **sorrow**.

With International Children's Care, you can help **transform** the life of a child and **rescue** them from desperate situations.

This Christmas, why not sponsor a child on behalf of the person who "has everything"?

Contact our office for more information.



Donations over \$2 are tax deductible

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International Children's Care is not an official church organisation but is supportive of the church.