

RECORD

January 14, 2006

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2005



Papua New Guinea Union Mission president Pastor Thomas Davai (front) introduces the newly elected and re-elected mission presidents.

PNGUM plans for continued growth

LAE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

A plan to double the number of church members and pastors in Papua New Guinea (PNG) during the next five years was adopted by the 13th session of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM). Some 235 delegates, representing the 10 missions of Papua New Guinea, met at the PNG University of Technology in Lae from November 29 to December 3, reflecting on the progress of the church during the past five years but also focusing on the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Pastor Thomas Davai, PNGUM president, described the opening of the session as “a milestone in the history of the Adventist Church in PNG.

“Papua New Guinea Union Mission has seen a lot of challenges,” he told delegates, “but mostly they have been good challenges and they are the stepping stones to our success. During these meetings, we will be hearing many reports. I hope they will be an inspiration to you and a reminder that we serve a living God.”

South Pacific Division (SPD) president Pastor Laurie Evans reminded delegates that what they would do over the days of the session was not just about Papua New Guinea but was part of a series of similar sessions that had happened around the division and around the world. “This is how the business of the church is conducted,” he said. *(Continued on page 7)*



Reports from PNG session



As members of the same body we are each part of this mission.

St Louis to Lae

THE REPORT FROM THE PAPUA NEW Guinea Union Mission—held in Lae last month—in this issue of RECORD marks the completion of a season of sessions. During the last six months of 2005, I have had the unique opportunity to sit through six sessions—General Conference session, South Pacific Division session and four union sessions. Add an annual meeting of the South Pacific Division executive committee and it means 30-something days spent in meetings, plus days of travel and writing reports.

As with any meetings that involve sitting for days at a time, it has at times been a test of endurance. But it has also been an opportunity for education and reflection—and something of a privilege.

They included many highlights, which I have tried to share through the reports in RECORD. But these organisational gatherings and the way the business of the church transpires also raised a multitude of questions.

The journey began at the General Conference session held in St Louis in early July. It took me some time to work out what to think of that event and I struggled to know what to write. But perhaps it made most sense to me a couple of weeks after its conclusion as I added a couple of weeks holiday to my travel.

I was lying awake, listening to the grunting of pigs and the barking of dogs in the darkness in a small village in rural Cambodia. It is a place rarely visited by Westerners and where I had little way of

communicating with the local people, beyond smiles and uncertain translation. I realised I was almost useless to share with our hosts an inkling of Christianity and the hope it brings.

And I thought back on other places I had visited during that trip. I had spent an afternoon walking Hollywood Boulevard—complete with the stars of the famous—with the pastor of the Hollywood Adventist church, reflecting on what it means to be the church at such an address. I had sat and talked with friends who work at the General Conference headquarters, listening to their reflections of the joys and frustrations of working in that part of the church. I shared an evening meal in a genuine English pub with a group of young adults, who are engaged in planting a new church in their town. And now I had met some of the church members in Cambodia.

And that night as I thought on these experiences, it occurred to me that I am poorly equipped to be the church in any of these places but that this is the purpose of such a broad church organisation. Only by working together across the world—each in our respective communities, countries and areas of expertise and experience—can we be most effective in connecting people in these various places with the good news of the kingdom of God. This is Paul's "body of Christ" analogy (see 1 Corinthians 12:12-27) on a worldwide scale.

And so it has continued as I have travelled around the South Pacific and met and talked with so many people from across this

vast region.

From church planting in the cities of Sydney and Melbourne to work amid indigenous people in outback Australia; from the vast ocean distances of Kiribati to new national leadership in the Pacific; from rapid church growth in the historically difficult French-speaking territory of New Caledonia to outreach in multicultural suburban Auckland; from the work to relaunch Adventist Aviation's outreach to the remote areas of the Papua New Guinea highlands to a rescued and revitalised education system across the country, church members are being the church in their local context, working with their local needs and challenges.

That is what being the church is about. That is the purpose of church structure and organisation at all its levels. To the extent that the church organisation supports, facilitates, encourages and allows these countless efforts, it is a good thing. Where it hinders, frustrates, distracts or discourages, the organisation is a serious problem and needs to be changed or ignored.

But more importantly, as members of the same body we are each part of this mission. As we hear these stories from around the worldwide church, they are us and we are them. It is the one mission—to be witness of and participants in the kingdom of God whoever and wherever we might be, "to the ends of the earth" (see Acts 1:8).

Nathan Brown



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

One year on from tsunami, ADRA encourages remembrance

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, USA

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) remembered the survivors and victims of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami with a three-minute “Sound of silence” to mark the one-year anniversary of the disaster that killed at least 280,000 people in South-East Asian countries.

Charles Sandifur, president of ADRA International, says, “When the tsunami struck, the world responded with overwhelming financial generosity. When the world paused on the anniversary, survivors were reminded that they are not alone, and that the loved ones they lost have not been forgotten.”

In the hours and days following the world’s most devastating tsunami, ADRA was on the ground

with emergency aid. Its initial emergency response included the provision of food, water, shelter, blankets, water containers, chlorine tablets and mosquito nets.

A year later, ADRA remains active in its tsunami response. To date it has pro-

grammed more than \$US39 million worth of aid into tsunami relief efforts. Currently, ADRA has long-term development programs in place that are working to rebuild lives and restore dignity and hope to the people affected by the tsunami in

local hospital facilities, school rehabilitation and developing the sustainability of school systems and community linkage projects.

ADRA is working with local groups to relocate households, find viable cash-crop alternatives, build energy farms and develop vocational training centres. ADRA has also been focusing on providing women with literacy and vocational skills training.

Because Indonesia is the most severely affected country, tsunami response there is planned until December 2009. Work will also continue in Sri Lanka and India to that time. Thailand’s rehabilitation projects are expected to continue until January 2008.

ADRA has also prepared a special report to help individuals learn how the agency has allocated its disaster funding. The report includes photos, a time line of the disaster, narratives

and stories from ADRA front-line workers, as well as details of ADRA’s immediate response and its current long-term rehabilitation projects.—**ANN/ADRA International**

More @ www.adra.org



ADRA workers in Indonesia in the days following the tsunami.

Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and India.

ADRA’s long-term development projects in the countries affected by the tsunami include health education, educational rehabilitation and livelihoods recovery, some of which include upgrading

◆ A **Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP)** training weekend at **Advent Park, WA**, had 58 people representing 16 churches attending. This was the first training session of its kind in Australia. “WA is leading the way,” says **Dr Vic Gidley**, president of the Lifestyle Medicines Institute (Australia) Inc. “The participants’ commitment to move ahead and desire for a coordinated effort in Perth impressed me.” A steering committee was appointed, under the auspices of Adventist Health Association, to further CHIP program development in Perth. The CHIP is also being held at Waitara church, NSW,

the Sydney Adventist Hospital and at the Adventist church in Christchurch, the first to run the program in New Zealand. CHIP is a community-based intensive lifestyle health-education program with post-course support for participants to lock in change. In the past 16 years some **40,000 participants have completed the CHIP** in several countries.—**News West/James Anderson**

More @ www.chipglobal.org

◆ A single vegetarian cooking class run by the **Erina church, NSW**, in the Central Coast Adventist School food technology room,



accepted by some, and a group is even now going camping with church members.—**Cheryl Ivin**

gained so many bookings that the four-day course **had to be run four times over**. After each session participants were invited to a vegetarian luncheon, either at someone’s home, at church or a barbecue—some 20 accepted the invitation. In addition, some 10 have attended church, 20 requested a subscription to *Signs* magazine and others are having videos delivered. The **opportunity to go walking** every Sabbath is offered, also

◆ Northern Australia’s **Teen Expedition 2005** was an exercise in survival and self-sufficiency skills as nine teens from **Mackay, Townsville, Cairns and the Atherton Tablelands** recently kayaked more than **100 kilometres in six days around the Whitsundays**. Together with six staff members and a support yacht, the seafarers island-hopped their way to Whitehaven beach—spotting turtles, dugongs and dolphins on the way.—**Kent Kingston**

Historic NZ church celebrates 80 years

PAPANUI, NEW ZEALAND

The second Seventh-day Adventist church to be built in the South New Zealand Conference has celebrated its 80th anniversary over the weekend of October 22 and 23. Many people from all over New Zealand gathered to celebrate the milestone.

"The church has a long and colourful history," says Papanui's pastor, Neil Thompson. "It was the second church to form in our conference and was dedicated on the same day as the Sydenham church, sometime during Big Camp held from January 6 to 18, 1925, in Sydenham.

"The stories and the people involved in the early life of the church were legendary," says Pastor Thompson. "Back when Papanui church first began, meetings were held in the old Sanitarium health retreat and then were moved to the packing-room floor of Sanitarium. We were told of people using empty packing boxes for pews and singing songs while smelling the aroma of cooked wheat."

A driving force in the establishment of the church was the then-Sanitarium factory manager, Mr Dyason. It was said that with-

out his drive and enthusiasm, the Papanui church and school may never have gotten off the ground.

Stories about the history of the church and those involved with it were told on the weekend, including that of Mr Tinworth, who was the Sanitarium factory manager in the 1930s. He helped Weet-Bix and Marmite to become household names in New Zealand, and worked on half-pay to ensure that people could remain employed at the factory through the Depression years.

Pastor Thompson says, "It was this spirit that birthed the church in Papanui and drove this fledgling group to grow to become a church with 308 members by the early 1970s. That same spirit is still alive and well in Papanui church, with members digging deep into their pockets to fund the refurbishment of the hall and grounds. The church has never looked better and the updated hall is a real credit to the team who gave so much to make it happen."

Dr Graeme Bradford, a former pastor of the church who led the successful church plant of the nearby Bishoptdale church, preached the sermon on the anniversary weekend and spoke on living in the times before the Second Coming.—*Adele Nash*

Firsts for Avondale College Foundation

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

Some significant initiatives were voted through at the Avondale Foundation's 27th Annual General Meeting held at Avondale College on October 23, 2005.

Election of officers for 2005-06 took place, with Dr Norman Young being elected as president of the College foundation.

Dr Young has been associated with the Avondale Foundation since its establishment in 1978. He also lectured in the college's theology faculty for many years.

In responding to his election Dr Young said, "My role will largely be a matter of encouraging the very talented group of volunteers and executives who run the various foundation businesses."

Other officers elected include Jim Williams as secretary and Chris Akroyd as treasurer. vice-presidents include Gavin Currie, Todd Saunders and Rodney Long.

A significant milestone at the AGM was the retirement of Lyn Knight after 27 years of leadership in a variety of roles at the foundation. Mr Knight was the driving force behind the formation of the foundation and has worked to ensure

◆ **Doug and Coral Camps** of Nunawading church, Vic, have accepted the challenge to start their **retirement** by living and working in **Mongolia**. With the Australian Union Conference's focus on outreach to Mongolia, the rapid expansion in believers has warranted a church facility. After 36 years of teaching woodwork and metalwork, Mr Camps will set up a **cabinet-making and joinery workshop** to help support the church building program with furnishings not readily available locally. He also plans to provide workshop facilities, building materials and tools for the **six fly'n'build** teams already planned for 2006. Mrs Camps will teach English and conduct outreach in the capital, Ulaanbaatar. The church will include a health-education centre and medical and dental clinics.—*Robert Gan*

◆ **Moe church**, Vic, used three different methods of outreach recently. An **ADRA Op Shop** was opened in Newborough by **Pastor Phil Brown** and the local MP, **Ian Maxfield**, in time for the ADRA Appeal. The public were also invited to a **"wild creatures" presentation** by Ferntree Gully church's **Andrew Wegener** on a Sabbath



afternoon—complete with live reptiles. Only three weeks later, a **harvest festival** was held, gathering enough food to cover the front of the church. Fusion Australia received the goods, which were distributed to feed the hungry in the Gippsland district.—*Helen Sale*

◆ The **Gateway Adventist Centre**, Vic, recently held a baptism at the Lerderderg Gorge State Park for



five people with **different countries of origin**. Those baptised by **Pastor Isaac Foo** were (pictured, L-R): **Keith Paulusse** from Holland, **Joanne Zhu** from China, **Natalie Ng** from Malaysia, **Berenice Cheng** from Singapore and **Benson O Singa** from Kenya. The backgrounds of these five included a second-generation Adventist, a reclaimed Adventist, a Buddhist and an atheist. Gateway has more than **16 nationalities** worshipping with them each week.

the success of the laymen-initiated foundation.

The meeting expressed their appreciation for the Knight family's contribution and wished them good health in their retirement.

It was also voted for the first time to grant Academic Excellence Scholarships for students studying degree courses at Avondale College.

A total of 15 scholarships valued at up to \$A27,500 each for a four-year course will be awarded each year commencing in 2006. Other grants to the college included \$A55,000 for faculty research funding, \$A40,000 to replace a minibus and \$A30,000 for video conferencing equipment.

It was also decided that fundraising should be placed in the hands of the college itself, but the foundation will continue to support Avondale through the profits it generates from its enterprises, totalling a minimum of \$A200,000 per annum.—*Adele Nash*



Dr Norman Young, former theology lecturer at the college, is president elect of the Avondale College Foundation for 2006.

Ordination at Livingston

PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Anthony MacPherson was ordained to ministry at Livingston church in Western Australia on Friday evening, October 21.

Pastor MacPherson had always wanted to be a pastor as he was growing up, but some uncertainty arose in his teenage years until he felt that God led him to study theology at Avondale College.

Pastor Andrew Skeggs, minister of the Freemantle church and colleague of Pastor MacPherson, said in his address, "Anthony is gifted to be a great pastor. He brings people together and has a great relationship with young and old.

"He is an excellent teacher, a voracious reader, deep thinker, and able to explain ideas clearly. He equips God's people for God's work—he has been a driving force in the development of small groups in his local churches. He loves Jesus Christ, and that love is obvious to all around him. Christianity for him is a way of joy and



Pastors Glenn Townend, Steve Goods, Graeme Christian, Anthony MacPherson, Andrew Skeggs and Laurie Evans at Pastor MacPherson's ordination service.

happiness."

Pastor MacPherson was welcomed into the worldwide ministry by Pastor Laurie Evans, South Pacific Division president, and into the local pastoral fellowship by Pastor Clem van Ballegooyen, senior pastor of Livingston church.

Pastor MacPherson is currently pastor of the Victoria Park church and associate pastor of Livingston church.

A large group of members from both churches attended the ordination to show their appreciation of their pastor.—*RECORD staff*

◆ At 100 years Frank Shearer is still strapping on waterskis to make him possibly the **world's oldest waterskier**. Mr Shearer, a retired GP in Washington state, USA, credits his health to staying active all his life and following the **Adventist diet guidelines**. He gardens, takes walks and works out with small weights. He also rides horses and can be seen atop a steed on the cover of the November 2005 **National Geographic magazine**, which features him in an article about Adventists and longevity (RECORD, November 12). For his 100th birthday, his son, **Doug**, helped organise a dream-come-

true water-skiing trip to Acapulco, Mexico. "I've made 100 and it's been a good life," Mr Shearer says. "I think I'll sign up for another 100."—*Ross Courtney / Desiree Adib*

◆ A new evangelistic centre was opened in **Durres, Albania**, on November 26, the second centre in Albania funded by the December 2000 worldwide Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for Albania. "The centre is centrally located and so is ideally situated for ministry to the community," reports local minister **Pastor Alban Matohiti**. The building was dedicated for min-

istry to the community and officially opened by Adriatic Union Conference president **Pastor Branko Bistrovic**. More than 150 were present for the opening, which also served as an occasion to farewell **Leigh and Barb Rice**, who have led the church in Albania for the past six years, and to **Joseph and Alison Maticic**, who have pastored the Korca church and ministered to the needs of the pastoral team since 2003.

◆ The drama **One Hope Street**, produced and directed by **Mark Grey** of Carmel Greystone production company in England, aims to

deliver messages to young people about premarital sex, drugs and that Jesus makes a positive difference in one's life. **Don McFarlane**, Global Mission/stewardship director for the Trans-European Division, says he hopes the church can help fund the series. "Its big strength is it being a popular soap-opera style," he says. **One Hope Street did not use professional actors** but was open to the church for whoever was interested to act—drawing people from ages seven to 47. The pilot show is available for purchase in the United Kingdom and aired at the New York Film Festival.—*Wendi Rogers*

Secretary sounds alarm amid growth

LAKE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

While the Adventist Church in Papua New Guinea continues to grow, the picture of church member losses is “alarming,” according to Dennis Tame, general secretary of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM).

During 2000-04, 46,979 people were baptised, Mr Tame reported to delegates to the PNGUM session on November 30. The past quinquennium saw net growth of 13.3 per cent to 224,469 church members in Papua New Guinea, which gives a church member to population ratio of about 1:20, one of the highest ratios for the Adventist Church anywhere in the world.

According to Mr Tame, this figure may not fully represent the impact of the church in PNG. “In the most recent census figures, approximately half a million people identify themselves as Seventh-day Adventists, which also includes young people and other unbaptised members who meet with us,” he reported.

“But this growth has placed a heavy responsibility on the church to nurture new members and provide training oppor-

tunities for leaders who take on responsibility in their local churches,” he said.

“Even the smallest loss is too great,” Mr Tame commented as he told delegates of the 17,891 members reported “lost” or “missing” through apostasy during the past five years.

The figure represents a loss of 38 per cent of church growth. “We must act to stem the flow of members slipping out the back door while we welcome new brothers and sisters into church fellowship through the front door.”

Mr Tame also pointed out that these figures include only baptised members. “If we were to add our young people who leave the church without being baptised, this number would grow further, perhaps even double,” he said.

But, according to Mr Tame’s report, this trend appears to have peaked in 2003. “I am happy to see that during this year—our year of nurture—there has been some progress made on this problem,” he

commented. “We need to maintain our focus on nurture; we need to be consolidating our membership.”

Mr Tame highlighted minister numbers as one factor to be addressed. Despite a growing church, the past five years has seen only a small increase in the number of ministers, not keeping up with growth. On average, each pastor in the PNGUM ministers to 678 members in 10 churches. However, Mr Tame noted the important contribution of volunteers, particularly the 399 supported by Volunteers in Action.

On the whole, Mr Tame was positive about the figures presented. “God has surely blessed the progress of His work,” he said. “There has been healthy membership growth. But nurturing is an important task and one in which each member must become involved.”—**Nathan Brown**

Treasurer embraces PNG challenges

LAKE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The challenge to operate the whole program of the church in this union is so enormous that it requires considerable faith to go forward as well as funds to finance its operation,” said Solomon Agdon, treasurer of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM), in his report to the PNGUM session. Mr Agdon has worked in the PNGUM for only the past two years, but described this time as “the most challenging and enriching experience in my life.”

Mr Agdon was pleased to report an overall increase in tithe and offerings during the past five years and a total annual income in

2004 of approximately K9.3 million. While PNGUM remains heavily reliant on financial appropriations from the South Pacific Division, local tithe-giving has grown from 17.93 per cent of PNGUM expenditure in 2000 to 25.66 per cent in 2004.

According to Mr Agdon, this represents progress but he would like to see more. “We need to have a vision as to how we can find other sources of funding, beyond tithes and offerings,” he urged delegates. “We have a number of idle properties in our missions and we need to think about what we can do with them. Unless we can identify a source of funding, many of our dreams for the church cannot happen.”

Looking to the future, Mr Agdon is

keen to work with missions toward attaining conference status. “There are three possible candidates for conference status and we hope they can work toward that in this quinquennium,” he said, suggesting the three largest missions—Western Highlands Mission, Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission, New Britain New Ireland Mission—as the most likely candidates.

“If we see this happening, we see the church growing with a solid financial base,” he commented.

“We wish to acknowledge and greatly appreciate the faithfulness of God’s people in giving generously to support the church’s work through the giving of tithe and offerings,” he added.—**Nathan Brown**



Delegates to the 13th session of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission.

PNGUM plans for continued growth

(Continued from page 1)

“But we’re not just a business entity. Our primary reason for being here is to discover the will of God. This is God’s work and He has promised to guide us.”

Against this background—and with a strong focus on worship, preaching and prayer—the session turned its attention to the future of the church in a lively Friday-morning discussion, which voted to adopt the proposed strategic plan. But this was another step in a much larger process.

According to Pastor Davai, a strategic planning committee was established in 2003 and has worked to assess the needs of the church, conducting surveys and extensive consultation. “In the past we have tried to come with strategic plans from the top down,” he commented. “Sometimes it has worked, but sometimes it hasn’t. We think it is best that strategic planning should come from the bottom up and that you people tell us what you want us to do.”

Pastor Blasius Managos, PNGUM associate general secretary and chairman of the strategic planning committee, presented the plan to the session. “This is a shift in focus away from ‘business as usual’ to being ‘purpose driven,’” he explained. “The local church is the lifeblood and central focus of this plan. If our plans do not have relevance to the local church, they are worthless.”

The strategic plan identifies four goals for the new quinquennium: the nurture of members; leadership; evangelism and community care; and communication and accountability. It also includes a proposal for the establishment of a national Adventist radio station to help with the nurture of and communication with church members, as well as ongoing evangelism.

“I am really impressed with this document,” Pastor Barry Oliver, general secretary of the SPD, told delegates. “It is an important document. I must congratulate the leadership of the PNGUM. The plan commences with a broad vision and moves right through to appropriate action steps. It is a model local missions can readily use as they work through a strategic planning process in their regions.” —**Nathan Brown**

PNGUM nominating committee report

Departmental directors

Adventist Aviation Service—Pastor

Roger Millist

Adventist Book Centre—Pastor Piuki

Tasa

ADRA—Dr Raul Schneider

Adventist Health—Gad Koito

Children’s Ministries—Judith

Nagamisovo

Communication and VOP/AWR/

Satellite—Pastor Matiput Darius

Education—Steve Piez

Ministerial Association—Pastor Tony

Kemo

Public Affairs and Religious Liberty—

Pastor Thomas Davai

Personal Ministries/Sabbath School—

Pastor Samuel Silas

Stewardship and Prayer Ministries—

Pastor Benjamin Kola

Women’s Ministries and Family

Ministries—Agnes Kola

Youth and Tertiary Students

Ministries—Pastor Geoffrey Pomaleu

Mission officers

Bougainville:

President—Pastor Richard Rikis

Secretary—Rex Memora

Treasurer—Renca Solomon

Central Papua:

President—Pastor Peter Oli

Secretary—Pastor Gilbert Egu

Treasurer—Max Lassah

Eastern Highlands Simbu:

President—Pastor Jessley Farugaso

Secretary—Pastor Gibson Lohia

Treasurer (Acting)—Derek Sumunda

Madang Manus:

President—Pastor Makau Daroa

Secretary—Pastor Lucas Marley

Treasurer—Aru Gelegal

Morobe:

President—Pastor Kave Tau

Secretary—Pastor Matias Roka

Treasurer—Lynden Aturora

New Britain New Ireland:

President—Pastor Blasius Managos

Secretary—Pastor Jonathan Wera

Treasurer—Bray Yomba

North East Papua:

President—Pastor Peter Yorio

Secretary—Pastor Benny Soga

Sepik:

President—Pastor Simeon Nara

Secretary—Pastor Dipson Yehisembi

Treasurer—Nolly Noah

South West Papua:

President—Pastor Kepsie Elodo

Secretary—Pastor Michael Kave

Western Highlands:

President—Pastor Benjamin Hap

Secretary—Pastor Joel Makao

Treasurer—Smith Baba

PNGUM executive committee

Elected members: Francis Keres; Aho Baliki; Stainer Sapu; Pastor Zizae Izoke; Matricia Mari; Fifaia Matainah; Joshua Giru; Willy Kove; Johnson Wapunai; Jenny Robert; Elijah Hon; Pastor Jacky Taipu.



Backed by South Pacific Division (SPD) and PNGUM officers, SPD president Pastor Laurie Evans speaks at the opening of the 13th PNGUM session.

PNGUM growing—and maturing

BY NATHAN BROWN

THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA UNION Mission (PNGUM) session, held in Lae from November 29 to December 3, was unique among the four union sessions held last year in the South Pacific Division (SPD). Rather than reflecting on the creation of a new administrative entity and infrastructure, the PNGUM held its 13th regular session and reflected on a quinquennium of relative stability and progress.

Having led the PNGUM during the quinquennium as secretary for the first two years and president for the last three, Pastor Thomas Davai was reappointed at the SPD session in September. At the conclusion of the PNGUM session business, he took time to talk with RECORD.

What is your background?

I'm from the Central Province of Papua New Guinea. I grew up in Port Moresby and that is my home town. I have been in ministry for the past 28 years and about 90 per cent of that time has been in administrative roles.

You must have seen some remarkable changes in the church in PNG during that time.

When I first came into the ministry, church membership was relatively small but you could see it beginning to grow. It's a big improvement. But with that growth comes challenges.

You're based in an office [in Lae] with almost a quarter of a million church members and perhaps many more attached to the church. How do you keep in touch with a local church somewhere in PNG?

That is a very good question. That is one of the reasons we want to establish a radio station. The best contact we have at the moment is perhaps by word of mouth and passing messages along. In the past we

have had a magazine so church members were able to read reports of growth and development in other places. That has not been happening but I believe in the next quinquennium our new Communication Department is going to do something about that.

What are the challenges that come with such rapid growth?

Sometimes we don't seem to be catching up to the rate of growth. But of course we can't stop that growth, it has to go on. It's a good problem but we really need to find solutions.

As pastors we are outnumbered—the ratio of pastors to the church membership is very low. Normally a healthy church would have about 150 members, but most churches have 200-300 members. Some of the churches in the city have 300, 500 or even 600 church members, and that is very difficult for one pastor to care for. And besides that, he has other smaller churches to look after. And that is the challenge.

Over the years you have worked in the church, how has the church changed with the growth?

The more we grow, the more there is the possibility of not caring for members properly. There is the chance of not even knowing who the church members are because there are so many.

I have also found that spirituality has been a real problem. Therefore, sometimes behaviour becomes a problem. Many Adventists have been involved in tribal fighting, for example. So while we have grown, we have also seen some problems within the church.

So the strategic plan that has been adopted here at this session is aimed at addressing some of those issues.

Yes, we are trying to address the growth,



Pastor Thomas Davai.

evangelism and staffing challenges. We need to have more pastors trained to care for the church members. If we can increase the number of pastors, the load will be lessened. We also need to be building, organising and developing churches.

It's a big job and a big challenge. Sometimes I wonder whether we're going to accomplish what we've been dreaming. But by God's grace and with careful planning, I believe we can work with our leadership at the local missions. Once they see they are the ones who are going to carry out and implement these plans, I believe something will work out.

Papua New Guinea has many different cultures. How does the church work in this setting?

I guess the advantage is that we are one country, whereas some other unions have a number of countries and a number of different political leaders. We feel that we are more united in our objectives and our aims. While the country has more than 800 language groups, many of our cultures are much the same. This has been an advantage.

When I was in the Western Highlands Mission we had to overcome some of these issues. Once in a while there are regional programs and during those regional programs there is more interacting and knowing more about the person on the other side of the province. These are times when people can interrelate and mingle, get to know each other so they can see what is happening around them.

It's important to get together like this. It's important for a session to continue functioning like this. It's not just a political thing or an organisational thing. It's a unity thing.

What impact does the high proportion of Adventist church members have on Papua New Guinea society?

Well, the census figures suggest that as much as 10 per cent of the population consider themselves Seventh-day Adventist. And because of that the church has established itself in the eyes of the public and the people in the country have seen that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is making an impact. There are Adventists in government; there are Adventists in political areas. Adventists fill some of the key positions in the country. So that is making an impact.

Do you as the national leader of the church in Papua New Guinea interact regularly with governments and other organisations?

I am director of the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department in the union and my counterparts in the local missions are also directors in their local areas. When I have to get in touch with the leaders of the country or other churches I already have a good relationship with them, so when we meet they know who I am. We also have good contact with public figures in provincial areas and in the missions.

Is Papua New Guinea a better place because of the church being here?

Well, like everybody else they will say their place is better, but as a Papua New Guinean I think it's a better place.

I think the basic need is for each individual member to know Christ. They have to make a difference in their own areas. If we want a corporate church to make a difference, each member needs to make a difference—in their own homes, in the areas where they live. Adventist identity must be revealed in the lives of our people, young and old. And if the church members' behaviour is improved because of studying the Bible and having Jesus in their lives, that will make a big impact.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

I enjoy working with people, especially young ministers and church workers, seeing them develop. I think to see young people growing up and taking responsibility is a joyous experience. And of course church leadership and administration have become part of me over the years and I like to see more young people becoming leaders.

Personally it must be a difficult job at times. How do you keep doing it?

Yes, it is tiring sometimes and your energy is sometimes very low. But I believe in a good family and I'm a family man. I have a good wife who supports me and our children are also supportive. They're all in the church. And every time I run a program they are concerned and I make sure they are part of the program because they are my support base. I think without a strong family, any leadership will be weak, but my family has been a great asset in my leadership.

Of course, I also need to rely on God. Sometimes I feel that I don't know enough. I say, "Lord, help me, I think I need to know more." And so in my personal life, I totally depend upon God. I spend more time in prayer. Even though life gets very busy at times, I make sure I spend time in prayer and personal devotions.

Traditionally PNG has been thought of as the "mission field" by church members in Australia and New Zealand, but is PNG becoming less of a mission field? How important is the continuing support for the

work of the church here?

The support of the church in Australia and New Zealand is very important, but at the same time we are trying to encourage our members to broaden their vision, not only to depend on the missionaries but to be missionaries for themselves. We do appreciate the support that is given us and we will leave the door open for those who want to give support. We cannot do it all ourselves and we welcome those who come here to give support in many ways.

The church in Papua New Guinea is going through some challenging times. As the membership grows, we need to ensure the church's programs are funded adequately. I really like to see the church progressing—spiritually and growing up. But at the same time we are hoping and praying that our membership realises the stewardship part of it, that each member needs to feel responsible to support the church programs and activities.

What are your visions or dreams for the next five years for PNGUM?

Well, my visions and dreams for the next five years are that all the strategic planning is put in place and bears results.

My vision as president of PNGUM is to make more leaders in the local administration, right down to the local church. If that is achieved, the church is in the capable hands of our people. **R**

Nathan Brown is editor of RECORD.



PNGUM session delegates met with Lae church members for worship on December 3.

Hindson awards 2005

BY NATHAN BROWN

EVERY TIME THE MEETINGS OF THE South Pacific Division executive committee roll around, I find myself seated in the far back corner of the large meeting room, strategically positioned under a photo of the staff of the Australasian Union Conference office taken in 1919. Standing on the left-hand end of the second row is a small woman designated “Record editor and Sabbath school secretary” by the name of Anna Hindson. For me, it is a regular reminder of the heritage of RECORD and the remarkable woman who served as editor for 34 years.

But with each year of RECORD, we add to that heritage, so it is appropriate to recognise some of those who have made quality contributions to this magazine in the past year with a series of awards named after this RECORD pioneer.

And the 2005 Hindson award winners are:

Best devotional article

- Kellie Hancock, “Walking on water,” November 19.

A short reflection on the experience of Jesus’ disciples and their reactions to finding themselves caught up in the middle of the miracles of Jesus, even at their own risk. And, of course, Jesus was right there with them to lift them from their confusion and danger. Well written with life application and a conclusion that “shows” rather than “tells.”

Best feature article

- Elizabeth Ostring, “Lessons from a day in a queue,” November 5.

This story—sparked by Dr Ostring’s day in the St Louis airport following the General Conference session—brought together many of the themes of the year of RECORD. In a year of sessions, Dr Ostring contrasted the “buzz” of the General Conference with the tedium of waiting in line for an entire day. The article tied in

with a continuing discussion on RECORD’s “Letters” pages about the involvement of young people in the life and leadership of the church and demonstrated the balance needed in this “debate.”

Best letter

- Tracey Craig, “A teacher’s view,” April 16.

Tracey Craig—the schoolteacher of the letter’s title—presented a strong reply to a suggestion from an earlier letter that teachers discriminate against disadvantaged students. She described the dilemma in which teachers often find themselves (gaining empathy from the former teachers on the editorial team), while admitting teachers are not perfect. This was a letter written with passion but also with genuine care both for students and teachers within our schools.



Best news photo

- Janet Rieger, “Kids wound-up for Sabbath school,” May 7.

When it seems almost everyone has a digital camera, we receive more photos than ever, but good photos are still a rare and precious gem. Mrs Rieger supplied this photo to illustrate a story on a children’s department initiative delivering wind-up cassette players, which worked to tell the news story as only a picture could. The photo captures the enthusiasm of the children and demonstrates why this was a worthwhile project.



Best news article

- Jacinda Turnbull-Harman, “Church garden attracts community award,” April 30.
- Richard Worley, “Baptisms follow PAU prison visits,” November 19.

Joint winners because we were unable to choose between the two, particularly because of the diverse nature of the two stories. Jacinda Turnbull-Harman’s report of the Papatoetoe (NZ) church gardeners was a great example of a “soft news” story, which was complemented by a good-quality photo of the subjects on location. By contrast, Richard Worley submitted a more “serious” story on outreach by Pacific Adventist University staff and students. This article was well put together and was also supported by worthwhile photos.

Best practical feature

- Susan Johnstone, “Practising forgiveness,” May 7.

Susan Johnstone takes her readers through a perhaps incidental but no less challenging personal experience of giving a blood sample. Left with a bruised arm but reflective, she asks herself—and readers—how well we forgive those who do not get things right the first time, how good we are at second chances and that sometimes the place we are least forgiving is within the church. Her challenge is to make forgiveness practical. **R**

Nathan Brown is editor of RECORD.

Resolutions to keep all year

BY VICTOR PARACHIN

ONE SUNNY DAY IN JULY, A FRIEND of mine announced she had made a new resolution. Weary of stepping into her walk-in wardrobe and seeing scores of shoes, skirts, shirts, pants and coats crammed inside the sizeable closet, she declared: “From this day forward, I am going to give away or toss out two items for every new one I buy.” That, she explained proudly and firmly, would help her cut down on the number of garments she owned and would “start the ball rolling for a simpler lifestyle.”

Her action that July day made an impression on me for two reasons. First, her resolution was primarily spiritual. Rather than place the focus on something material, such as resolving to get a new car, find a new job, move into a new and larger house, she placed her focus on developing a simpler lifestyle. Second, her resolution was made in July, not January. The word *resolution*—a private or public declaration that one plans to alter some aspect of life—is usually associated with January 1. Logically, the beginning of a new year is a good time to inaugurate lifestyle changes.

However, taking a corrective step in the way one lives should not be limited to one day on the calendar. In fact, the Bible encourages us to make such changes and move into a deeper life. One example is the psalmist, who wrote, “I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes” (Psalm 119:59*).

The apostle writes, “Whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable . . . think about such things . . . put it into practice” (Philippians 4:8, 9). So here are some spiritual resolutions to make and keep all year:

To cultivate the art of contentment

Contentment is the word used to describe a person who is at peace, cheerful, glad, gratified, satisfied, serene, thankful. People who exhibit contentment know how to be comfortable with their lives. Writer George Eliot wisely noted: “The contented man is never poor, the discontented never rich.”

That quality is worth having. Learn how to cultivate contentment.

To count your blessings daily

It’s too easy to see what’s wrong, what’s not working, what’s been damaged; a partner is rude, a friend is uncaring, a child is self-centred, and more. The problem with being focused on those negatives is we miss all the positives in our lives. It’s a wonderful resolve to take time to count our blessings on a daily basis.

Journalist Anne Cushman does just that: “In a silent inner litany, I say ‘thank you’ for the magnificent gifts of a healthy body: lungs that breathe the cool, foggy air; a nose that smells eucalyptus leaves and banana muffins; eyes that see birds swooping outside my window; a tongue that has just savoured a golden, juicy peach. I express gratitude for my friends, my family, my son riding his tricycle up and down my deck, the doe and fawn that wander through my yard, nibbling on the lower branches of a plum tree. I give thanks that bombs aren’t falling on my city, that tanks aren’t smashing through the walls of my house.”

To be kinder than necessary

In this troubled world, kindness and behaving with courtesy and consideration may appear to be a light, frivolous and ineffective tonic. Yet, a kind, compassionate act

can resonate for years to come.

In his memoirs, famed business consultant Peter Drucker tells of being impacted as a child by his grandmother’s acts of kindness he witnessed shortly after World War I. He recalls watching her kindness toward a woman who had a tarnished reputation in their Austrian neighbourhood. “Everyone else would pretend not to see the woman,” he writes. But his grandmother would always greet her warmly and inquire into her health and life.

Then, one evening when his grandmother learned the woman had a cold, he vividly remembers that his grandmother “crawled up the five flights to her apartment—this was post-war Vienna and elevators rarely functioned—rummaged in her medicine cabinet for cough drops, then painfully crawled down again,” giving them to the woman others ignored and ostracised.

To be more forgiving

Whenever you’re offended, hurt or wounded by the words or actions of another, choose to forgive freely and generously. This may take some practice but as you work at the fine art of forgiveness, your living will be fuller, richer and freer. You will be more joyful and less burdened. “He who has not forgiven an enemy has never yet tasted one of the most sublime enjoyments of life,” noted the Swiss theologian John Casper Lavater.

Eighteenth-century British writer Phillip Chesterfield noted that those who forgive are larger, better individuals than those who choose not to. He wrote: “Little, vicious minds abound with anger and revenge, and are incapable of feeling the pleasure of forgiving their enemies.”

To eliminate and eradicate a judgmental spirit

Censure, criticism and judgmentalism run rampant in our society. This is true in spite of the fact that Jesus simply and bluntly commanded: "Do not judge" (Matthew 7: 1).

A woman recently wrote advice columnist Dear Abby to pontificate, saying: "There is a couple in our church who drive everyone crazy. These people live in a pretentious, affluent neighbourhood. They drive an expensive car and are extravagant in everything they do. Their children misbehave often, and the whole family acts like they're better than everyone else. Maybe if you remind these individuals that God can see them, whether they are in church or not, they'll know they aren't fooling anyone." The letter was signed "Miserable Methodist in New York."

Abby wisely responded, "God can see you too: Happy are they who tend to their own gardens and waste not their time complaining about their neighbour's shortcomings." A judgmental attitude does no-one any good. This is something to eliminate and eradicate completely.

To be all you can be

Life will bring unexpected and even unwanted challenges your way. It may be a period of unemployment, a disturbing medical diagnosis, a painful separation or worse. Rather than shrink away in fear and pity, rise to the occasion. Meet the challenge with all the courage, integrity and faith you can muster. Remind yourself that being courageous does not mean being unafraid. It simply means being afraid but moving ahead anyway.

In her book *Kitchen Table Wisdom*, physician Rachel Naomi Remen provides an inspiring account of someone who rose to the occasion when faced with a major life issue. At the time, Dr Remen was providing psychological support to people who had a life-threatening illness. One of the new resident psychiatrists asked if he could join her and observe some of Dr Remen's sessions. During one session, "a former gang member, whose hands were covered with tattoos, was speaking of the deep love he now felt for his young wife who was dying of cancer, the ways in which this capacity to love had caught him unawares and so had healed him."

As that former gang member continued to share insights about himself and the experiences of intense intimacy and tenderness with his wife, Dr Remen glanced over at the young psychiatrist who was observing. He had stopped taking notes and his eyes were filled with tears. When the patient left, Dr Remen asked the psychiatric resident if he had learned anything useful from the session. He smiled as he replied: "We are all more than we seem."

And more so when our lives are lived in partnership with God. When faced with an event not only unexpected but most unwelcome, tap into your reservoirs of fortitude and faith. Rise to the occasion. Be all you can be and you will emerge triumphant, not tragic.

These are resolutions that can be made—and kept—at any stage in the year. But if the beginning of a new year prompts you in this way, now is as good a time as any. **R**

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

Victor Parachin writes from Tulsa, Oklahoma, United States.

Record Roo's
Kids corner

Hi kids,
Do you ever wish that you had something that your friend has? God tells us that true happiness is not getting what you want, it is being grateful for what you have already got! King Ahab wanted something. Find out what by reading 1 Kings 21:1-28 ♡ RR

Fill in the Blanks

"Be _____ with what you have."
Hebrews 13:5 ICB

In-words...

Work your way to the centre of the grid, using all the fruit names provided. All the words overlap each other – a few letters have already been entered, to start you off.

				E				
								A
				N				

NECTARINE
SULTANA
GRAPES
LEMON
APPLE

Colour in...
Naboth and his vineyard.

Don't forget kids

MARILYN MERRETT, SA

Libraries are dear to my heart, and I'm dismayed when I visit churches to find their library is a cupboard out the back filled with old books and downlink videos. I agree with Cecelia Hopkins that the library can and ought to be an integral part of a church's ministry ("Your church library," Feature, November 19). When you get the location and presentation right, you're on the way to a healthy and successful library.

But don't forget the children. At our Morphett Vale church, they're a vital component. We try to cover the age range from the youngest toddler to the elderly.

And if children are going to play computer-type games, why not place Christian games there? We have, and they're a hit. Children are our future; don't forget them.

Contrary views

ROLF VAESSEN, QLD

Richard Worley writes that our women should be more assertive (Letters, November 19), but the Adventist Church, according to *The Adventist Home* (pages 331, 332), believes women should be reserved.

Doing the maths

BILL TRUSCOTT, NSW

I was excited to see the call for greater focus and support for local churches made at the recent South Pacific Division session repeated at the first meeting of its executive committee ("Landmark meetings begin with mission," News, December 10). The benchmark figure was that at least 60 per

cent of tithe should be utilised in support of the local church.

Of tithe collected in a local conference, 25 per cent is sent on to the division for use by itself, constituent unions, and General Conference. Policy allows a further 15 per cent to be used in support of missions and our education system. Adding these to the 60 per cent local church target, you have 100 per cent, leaving nothing for the conference.

If it really is important to enhance the role of the local church as a centre for mission, then support of the local conference is

The problem is not less money given but rather to find ways to increase giving to the regular needs of the church mission program.

also vital. I trust that division leadership understands that local conference resources and support will greatly enhance local church mission.

There must be a significant reduction to the present 25 per cent of tithe departing a local conference to places far from this centre of mission for the benchmark 60 per cent to be achieved.

RESPONSE: ROD BRADY, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

First, the 25 per cent figure to the division is not quite correct. It is 10 per cent to the union, of which the union then sends on 10 per cent—1 per cent of tithe—to the General Conference. The division portion is on a sliding scale of contributions for church functions beyond a single conference such as the Adventist Media Centre and the mission field. It is not used for division office expenses. The average from conferences is about 13 per cent.

Second, church policy allows up to 15 per cent for education; the reality is, most conferences use far less.

Third, conferences have other sources of income, but tithe is the major source.

However, Mr Truscott is correct—to reach this target will require change. That is why the South Pacific Division, when it discussed the concept, said it can be accomplished only as the South Pacific Division, the union conferences and local conferences work together, making changes and shifting resources in order to reach that

goal. This exercise has been accomplished in North New Zealand Conference, which is budgeting to use more than 60 per cent of tithe for field staff and evangelism in 2006.

Better funding

CORALIE RICHTER, QLD

We keep reading of a lack of funds for island mission-field work. But one must remember that in the 1950s, there was one main provider for mission outreach, whereas today there are many.

They are all well supported. In the South Queensland Conference we have at least four, including ADRA, Asian Aid, Pacific Yacht Ministries, Volunteers in Action and more—all worthy causes in the work of God and winning souls for His kingdom. The problem is not less money given but rather to find ways to increase giving to the regular needs of the church mission program.

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.

Can you fill this space?

Are you an aspiring—or experienced—cartoonist or artist? Do you have the ability to look at church life from a different perspective? Do you wish to share your sense of humour with a wider audience? Have you ever thought you could contribute to RECORD in this way?

We are looking for a new contributor or contributors for this space. It can be whatever shape you wish but about this size.

Send four to six samples of your work to RECORD (see masthead, page 2 for details) by March 1. We will pay for cartoons we use and will consider your submissions with a view to a longer-term arrangement. Write/draw soon.

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Appreciation

Watts, Ted and the Jones, Brown and Watts families wish to sincerely thank all who sent cards, called and rendered other expressions of love and sympathy after the passing of Ruth, their beautiful and loving wife, mother, mother-in-law and mama. The ongoing support and prayers of our church family and many friends have greatly helped, comforted and strengthened us during this time of sorrow and stress.

Anniversaries

Bow, Tom and Norma (nee Watson) were married 17.11.45 in the Albert Street Methodist church, Brisbane, Qld. They were baptised by Pastor Burnside in 1952, and Tom served for 35 years as elder in three Queensland churches: Sherwood,



Harrisville and Gympie. Tom and Norma recently moved to Atherton and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at the home of their son and daughter-in-law, Daryl and Julie. Their daughter, Lorellie, from Melbourne, was also present for the happy occasion.

Frame, Pastor Bob and Peg met with family and friends 6.11.05 for a luncheon at the Fletcher Park Inn in North Carolina, USA, to celebrate important milestones in their lives. On November 8 they had been married for 67 years, and on November 23, Bob had his 90th birthday. For the occasion, their son, Peter, from Sydney, NSW, was able to be with them.



Gredig, Frank and Peg were married on 26.7.45 in New Plymouth, NZ. Their diamond wedding anniversary was celebrated in New Plymouth in September when their entire family, along with friends, joined to wish them well. Congratulatory



messages were received from HRH Queen Elizabeth, the Governor-General and the Prime Minister of New Zealand. Since joining the church in 1965, they have served as campground caretakers at Haskell Park in Auckland over two separate occasions, and also spent a year at Alawara Retirement Village, Bendigo, Vic, as caretakers.

Weddings

Brestovac—Sofranko. Miroslav Brestovac, son of Milos and Dara Brestovac (Doboj, Bosnia and Herzegovina), and Ester Sofranko, daughter of Miso and Maria Sofranko (Melbourne, Vic), were married on 13.11.05 at Glen Innes Adventist church, Auckland, NZ.

Kayle De Waal

Delvin—Du Preez. Russell Delvin, son of Stuart and Sonia Delvin (Woolongong, NSW), and Raelene Du Preez, daughter of Ralph and Ruth Du Preez (Raymond Terrace), were married on 25.9.05 at Hopewood Estate Gardens, Bowral.

Keith Jackson

Jennings—Fehlberg. Grant Jennings, son of Laurie and Denise Jennings (Brisbane, Qld), and Sharon Lee Fehlberg, daughter of Nigel and Margaret Fehlberg (Morayfield), were married on 20.11.05 overlooking the ocean at Coolool Beach.

Neil Lawson

Lambe—Matthews. Jared Russell Lambe, son of Russell and Raewyn Lambe (Wishart, Qld), and Hayley Louise Matthews, daughter of Ian and Cherril Matthews (Rockhampton), were married on 6.11.05 in the Springwood Adventist church, Brisbane.

Jorge Munoz

Marshall—Olsen. Bradley Peter Donald Marshall, son of Pastor Patrick and Margo Marshall (Cannington, WA), and Karen Marie Olsen, daughter of Jeffrey (Beverley) and Norelle Olsen (North Perth), were married on 4.12.05 at Araluen Botanic Park, Roleystone.

Pat Marshall

Mitchell—Bonetti. Stephen Scott Mitchell, son of Kenyon and Felicia Mitchell (Sydney, NSW), and Angela Judith Bonetti, daughter of Victor and Jenifer Bonetti (Suva, Fiji), were married on 27.11.05 in the Waitara Adventist church, NSW.

Nataniel Pereira

Position vacant

▲ **Carmel Estate Manager—Western Australian Conference** is seeking a Carmel Estate Manager who is competent to maintain and develop the estate to ensure its financial viability. Other competencies will include: implement the development and other plans produced by the Carmel Estate Management Committee. An initial contract for the project will be for two years with a remuneration package to suit. **Applications in writing** (including résumé and details of current SDA church membership) should be forwarded to Warrick Long, secretary-treasurer, Western Australian Conference, PO Box 134, Gosnells WA 6110; phone (08) 9398 7222, no later than January 27, 2006.

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

Obituaries

D'Souza, Wilfred Francis, born 12.10.1938 in Bombay, India; died 6.11.05 in Hinuja National Hospital, Mumbai. He was predeceased by his wife, Teresa. He is survived by his children, Terence and Sandra (both of Sunnynook, Auckland, NZ). Willie will be remembered as a happy-go-lucky man who loved Jesus and took every opportunity to speak about Him.

Russell Willcocks, Hugh Heenan

Hyam, Kenneth Micheal Charles, born 10.5.1915 at Nowra, NSW; died 17.10.05 at Albion Park. On 6.1.40 he married Mary Brown., who predeceased him in 1998. He is survived by his children, Ken (Wollongong) and Ann Ryan (Albion Park).

Ken Bird, Murray Thackham

O'Neil, Joan May (nee Corby), born 2.5.1927 at Lithgow, NSW; died 23.11.05 at Lithgow. In 1948 she married Joe. She is survived by her husband; and her children, Lorna, Margaret, Ron, Keith, Dianne, Tom, Eric, Ruth, Malcolm and Karen.

Ken Bird

Petrie, William Neville, born 25.3.1921 at Timaru, NZ; died 6.11.05 in North Shore Hospice, Takapuna, Auckland. On 23.11.48 he married Daph. He is survived by his loving wife; his son, Michael; his daughter, Rachel; and his brother, Brian. Neville (Neg) was instrumental in the establishment of the North Harbour SDA church in its current location. A hardworking, gentle family man who will be sorely missed.

Russell Willcocks, Ian McKean

Valeremao, Shirley Dorothy (nee Lucas), born 22.12.1935 in India; died unexpectedly 15.11.05 at Eudunda, SA. She is survived by her husband, Mark (Ray); also her children and their spouses, Sirena Valeremao (Port Willunga), Bridget and Terry McDonnell (Tas), Laura and Angus Peruzzo (Sydney, NSW), Dean and Sandra (Adelaide, SA); and her 13 grandchildren. She was also a second mum to her nephews, Neale, James and Dale Valdermao. Shirley was a gracious person who was well known for her hospitality, kindness, and her ability to make home a place where her family loved to be. The love and respect afforded her by those her life touched is a beautiful testimony to her life. She will be sadly missed as her family wait for the day Jesus will give her life once more.

Ross Simon

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For the centenary celebration 2006 Warburton church is preparing an honour roll of all ministers and assistant ministers with their portrait 6" x 4" preferably black and white. If you have not yet been contacted would you oblige by posting a copy of your portrait as urgently as possible addressed to Keith Johanson, PO Box 29, Warburton, Vic 3799. with your name, address and the years you served. We have not been successful in contacting everyone for their portrait. Your cooperation is appreciated.

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Signature

Volunteers!

Youth worker—Tauranga church, NZ. If you are energetic, keen to work with young folk from 10 to 25 years of age, love the Lord, and are 20 to 30 years old, then this could be where God wants you for 2006. If you are interested, please contact Hayley at Adventist Volunteer Service.

Youth pastor—Kingscliff church, NSW. Must be single and at least 20 years old. Living allowance, accommodation, meals, phone allowance and vehicle provided. Full job description available upon request. Term: January to December 2006.

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Finally

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