

RECORD

March 25, 2006

In this issue

SNS launches
teaching aids

Adventists observe
WCC assembly

The pollution
within



Avondale approved to offer PhDs



Volunteer nurses Kylie Rabe (left) and Angela Hosea (right) helping the community in the Cook Islands as part of the "Operation food for life" project.

Feeding the 5000— and more

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

About 200,000 people throughout the South Pacific have been fed annually for the past seven years, thanks to a project called "Operation food for life." Run entirely by volunteers, it is an event in which members of the community are provided with a free breakfast, educated to healthier eating options, and where the disabled are ministered to.

To be held in Fiji from April 3 to 8, as well as in Papua New Guinea and Cook Islands toward the end of the year, "Operation food for life" visits a particular South Pacific island for a week and takes the opportunity to feed and minister to the

needs of people, with the aim of exhibiting the love of Jesus.

The ministry was developed by Wahroonga church member Dennis Perry. "Operation food for life" started in Tonga, where Mr Perry was on a business trip, and observed a community living on scraps from a rubbish tip. "I got out of my car, bought some food and spent the day at the tip feeding them," says Mr Perry. "I asked God what *He* was doing about the suffering the people were facing and He replied, 'That's why you are here.' Since then, it's been a question of what God has in mind

(Continued on page 4)



We must keep telling the story of Jesus,
hearing again the music of the gospel.

Another editorial about Jesus

ONE OF THE PRESSURES THAT SEEMS to come with writing regularly is the “need” to write in new ways, on “new” ideas or explore new angles—in short, not to repeat oneself. And it is good to find unique perspectives and to “discover” creative ways of looking at and explaining our experiences of life and faith. But every day there are thousands of pages published, countless ideas explained and re-explained, hordes of writers seeking to share their insights, professional theologians combing the biblical records, philosophers of all persuasions arguing both the abstract and the practical.

And that is just within the Christian community. Louder still, there is the manic din of the competing ideas, philosophies, hopes, fears and dreams of the wider world. One wonders at times what there might be to add to this cacophony of words, thoughts and voices. Is not another page—another set of ideas—just adding to the noise?

Writer Jeanette Winterson, reflecting on the continuing importance of the seemingly old stories of our respective cultures, explains it in this way: “All we can do is keeping telling the stories, hoping that someone will hear. Hoping that in the noisy echoing nightmare of endlessly breaking news and celebrity gossip, other voices might be heard, speaking of the life of the mind and the soul’s journey.”

And so it is with the grand story of Jesus and His stories of the kingdom of God. Despite the weight of telling and retelling, the

temptation to casual familiarity or unfeeling indifference, the plethora of “new” angles, the ease with which we slip into lesser religiosity and the static-like interference of continual reinterpretation and attack, we must keep telling the story. For our own sake and for those around us, neither the impulse to novelty nor the tedium of repetition should be allowed to distract us from this foundation—the central Person who *must* be the core of our faith.

Wherever our life experiences might take us and whatever other aspects of faith, fun or philosophy might catch our attention, we must ever return to the story of Jesus.

If the mystery of His incarnation is not sufficient cause for wonder, what else will do?

If the profound goodness and humility of His life and teaching is not sufficient to chart the course of our lives, where else should we look?

If the tragic miracle of His death is not salvation enough, where will we find greater love or fuller assurance?

If the astounding fact of His resurrection is not certain enough, where will we discover any faith less useless (see 1 Corinthians 15:14)?

If His promises to be with us now and to come back for us are just wishful thinking, what other confidence do we have for stepping into the future?

Indeed, if Jesus is not our greatest and only hope, “to whom should we go?” (John 6:68*).

We must keep telling the old story of Jesus, hearing again and again the music of the gospel. But at the same time we also need to be prepared to see Him in new ways. From time to time, Jesus must upset and challenge us. If His life, death, resurrection, teachings and claims don’t upset us, perhaps we have not encountered Him closely enough, thought about Him long enough or taken Him seriously enough.

In a statement quoted by Jesus and recorded in three of the Gospels, as well as referenced by Peter in his sermon in Acts and his epistles (see 1 Peter 2:7), Psalm 118 foreshadowed these two aspects of the reality of Jesus—His rejection and worth, both when He was here on earth and in the generations since: “The stone rejected by the builders has now become the cornerstone. This is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous to see” (verses 22, 23).

So I am happy to apologise if necessary, but I am not trying to say anything new. Just to keep telling the story, to remind us again who Jesus is as historical fact and living reality, what He did for us, what He does for us and what He will do for us—and that He loves each of us.

Or as Psalm 118 concludes, to “give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever” (verse 29).

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

Nathan Brown



Official Paper of the South
Pacific Division Seventh-day
Adventist Church
ABN 59 093 117 689
www.adventist.org.au

Vol 111 No 11
Cover: Dennis Perry

Editor Nathan Brown
Senior assistant editor David Edgren
Editorial assistant Adele Nash
Editorial assistant Scott Wegener
Copyeditor Graeme Brown
Editorial secretary Meryl McDonald-Gough
Layout Kathy Chee
Senior consulting editor Barry Oliver

www.record.net.au

Mail: Signs Publishing Company
3485 Warburton Highway
Warburton, Vic 3799, Australia
Phone: (03) 5966 9111 Fax: (03) 5966 9019
Email Letters: editor@signspublishing.com.au
Email Newsfront: record@signspublishing.com.au
Email Noticeboard: editorsec@signspublishing.com.au
Subscriptions: South Pacific Division mailed within
Australia and to New Zealand, \$A43.80 \$NZ73.00.
Other prices on application. Printed weekly.

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

Avondale approved to offer PhDs

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

Avondale College now offers a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree after receiving approval by the New South Wales Department of Education and Training. The college offers doctoral studies in the areas of denominational or Australian history, health studies, education studies, such as curriculum and pedagogy, and theology.

Avondale currently offers postgraduate degrees to master's level in leadership and management, education, nursing and theology. Postgraduate students make up about 20 per cent of the student body.

"Many other Adventist tertiary institutions, such as Andrews University, La Sierra University and Loma Linda University, already offer doctoral studies," says Dr Vivienne Watts, vice-president for academic administration at Avondale. "This new approval for Avondale will mean that doctoral students can now consider remaining in Australia to complete their PhD research."

Students who have completed a master's degree or an honours degree may be admitted to candidature and applications can be made at any time of the year. Students may



Master of Ministry graduates may now choose to do PhD studies at Avondale.

study full- or part-time, on-campus or by distance. "It's not necessary to move away from home to complete a PhD, although some contact with the supervisor will be required," says Dr Watts.

The approval of the PhD degree may further increase Avondale's already-record enrolment. Traditionally, increases in enrolment have corresponded with significant developments, such as receiving government accreditation for degrees in the 1970s and the introduction of FEE-HELP in 2005.—**Brenton Stacey**

Contact Dr Watts on +61 2 4980 2120 or visit the Avondale College website <www.avondale.edu.au> for more information.

Andrews University leaders tender resignations

BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN, USA

Niels-Erik Andreasen, president of Andrews University, has submitted his resignation from the office, effective immediately, along with Patricia Mutch, vice-president for academic administration, and Ed Wines, vice-president of financial administration. The Andrews University Board of Trustees accepted these resignations "with regret." The resignations of the two will be effective as of June 30, a press release from Andrews University reveals.

On March 6, the Andrews University Board of Trustees held its spring meeting on the campus of Andrews University. An executive session of the board examined the recent strategic direction of the university and its related plans for the future.

The board felt the university needed to explore the opportunities that would be offered by new leadership and the ability it would provide to implement a new strategic direction for the university.

In accepting their resignations, the board commended the individuals for guiding the university during a significant and challenging time in the university's history.—**Rebecca May**



◆ Springwood church, Qld, **dedicated 13 children** from 10 families at a Sabbath celebration of children and families on February 18. The service by Pastors **Ken Martin, Travis Manners** and **Andre van Rensberg** focused on the symbolism of essential aspects of a child's life—the "**bottle**," which represents a child's physical needs; "**bonding**," the various emotional needs of a child; and

"**the Bible**," the spiritual needs of a child.—**Kirsty Sissons**

◆ Here are some **creative names** for different group initiatives in Victoria: **Living Room**—the name chosen for three groups meeting in homes and public spaces committed to supporting each other in missional ventures and living; **Inspiral**—a community of university students who are committed

to discovering how the gospel can sustain their commitment to peace and justice; **Urban Seed Church**—a worship service in Melbourne's CBD; **Organic Life**—a highly incarnational ministry among a New Age community in North Melbourne; and **The Big House**—a community-based ministry in Pakenham.—**Peter Roennfeldt**

◆ **Pastor David Reilly** (pictured) is the new chaplain for **university and TAFE students in the Sydney region**. He brings some 12 years of local pastoral experience to the role. In addition to chaplaincy, he pastors the Jacob's Well congre-

gation. "Many students in this age group **lose contact** with the church," says Pastor Reilly. "We want to **keep students connected** with other Seventh-day Adventist students." The **Sydney Adventist Students Association (SASS)** has organised a year full of events, including social programs, camps, Friday-night spiritual programs, as well as community outreach and service programs. **More @ www.sass.asn.au**



Feeding the 5000—and more

(Continued from page 1)

for me and how He's going to empower me to do it."

Now in its seventh year, "Operation food for life" has grown to involve more than 400 local and 10 overseas volunteers per visit, including registered nurses. The free breakfast, adequate to feed some 1000 people daily, is sponsored by the Sanitarium Health Food Company, where Mr Perry works as the sales and marketing manager for international business. Plastic plates and spoons are also provided free by a businessman in New Zealand.

"Operation food for life" currently consists of two components—"Food for life," which feeds poor and displaced people, educates people in making healthy eating choices and provides free breakfasts, and "Restore life," started in 2004, which sees volunteers going to places such as prisons and hospitals where prisoners, HIV/AIDS patients and handicapped people are fed.

Lifestyle aids, such as wheelchairs and crutches, donated by Rotary clubs and various organisations, are given to those in need and nurses are on hand to provide medical assistance in line with the program's aim to "change people's lives forever through Jesus."

During "Operation food for life," Mr Perry tries to find those who are paralysed,

disabled or suffering from diseases that cause them to be housebound. When these people are found, they are bathed, fed and introduced to the village they never knew. According to Mr Perry, it's his way of "taking Jesus out of the church and to the people."

Although present in the country for only a week every year, Mr Perry believes the program has a long-lasting effect. "Our aim is to draw the church community's attention to people around them who are suffering, and empower them to follow up on what we have done," he says. "We have team leaders in every country, who continue with the ministry."

Since its inception, the project has been well received in the Pacific islands, including Cook Islands, Tonga, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Kiribati. Mass-media coverage is always certain and Mr Perry and his team have fed anybody from "poverty to prosperity," even providing breakfast for prime ministers, kings and cabinet members.

Mr Perry is currently planning new



Dennis Perry and Kylie Rabe, with one of the people whose life has been touched by "Operation food for life."

components that will include an anti-drugs message, getting into classrooms to address various health issues, and working with governments and health departments to prevent common health problems, such as diabetes.

"Ultimately, it's a program that changes everybody, even myself," says Mr Perry. "The more I do, the more I'm compelled to do. And all these things have nothing to do with me, but everything to do with Jesus. He's still teaching me today what true Christianity is about."—*Melody Tan*



◆ CROQS is a group of motorcycle enthusiasts whose aim is to spread the gospel in rural and remote areas, assist in community projects and **support smaller churches** by presenting Sabbath programs. **Christian Riders of Queensland Society (CROQS)** was established by Park Ridge member **Anthony Whyatt** and is steadily growing in membership. The first CROQS vespers was held on February 3 at Red-

land Bay. The group opened Sabbath together and had a time of fellowship. More vespers programs are planned for later in 2006 along with several **ride 'n' preach Sabbaths**, spectator activities and camps.—*Karen Collum*

More @ www.croqs.org.au

◆ Over a 60-day period, people from more than **78 countries** visited the **Hope Channel web-**

site. With 243 countries in the world, this means representatives from nearly **75 per cent** of the world's countries have visited the website—*Brad Thorp*
More @ www.hopetv.org

◆ Recently the **Stirling church, SA**, members voted in favour of pioneering an exciting **new worship format** for 2006. In place of the traditional Sabbath school and church format a "combined" 90-minute program has been introduced. Rows of **pews have been replaced** by more intimate seating—providing a feeling of togetherness for worshippers



and a better environment for interaction among members. A typical Sabbath includes prayer, singing, an opportunity for members to share God's goodness with each other and Bible study where all the church members are **encouraged to participate**. Hot drinks start at 10 am and the worship service begins at 10.30 am.—*GrapeVine*

YOUR CHURCH DOING SOMETHING EXCITING, INNOVATIVE OR INSPIRING? EMAIL RECORD@SIGNSPUBLISHING.COM.AU

SNS launches teaching aids

BERKELEY VALE, NEW SOUTH WALES

Food Challenges is a new nutrition resource book for teachers, which takes a fresh, fun and engaging look at food, produced by the Sanitarium Nutrition Service (SNS) and the Victorian Home Economics and Textiles Teachers Association (VHETTA).

Food Challenges is written by experienced teachers with an understanding of curriculum requirements Australia-wide. The book, which is designed for upper primary and lower secondary students, invites readers to appreciate good food, as well as have a go at making it themselves. It also encourages children to take lifetime ownership of their own health.

"The SNS recipes are designed to enhance the enjoyment of food—to foster an appreciation of the 'art' of food and encourage students to consider the aroma, taste, colour, taste and texture of whole fresh foods," said Sanitarium Nutrition Service dietitian Melinda Ramsay. "SNS and VHETTA hope that Food Challenges not only makes food education enjoyable and interesting but also helps to foster healthy food patterns among young people—patterns that will serve them for a lifetime."

Food Challenges is structured to highlight a range of different situations or occasions that call for food choices and actions



Food Challenges, published by SNS, encourages children to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

whether that is eating breakfast, snacking after school or attending a celebration. Each chapter features hands-on food production, design challenges, nutrition investigations and case studies.—**Jaemes Tipple**

More @ www.sanitarium.com.au/nutrition/resources.html

Food Challenges is available to order through the Sanitarium website or through the Victorian Home Economics and Textile Teachers Association.

Adventists observe WCC assembly

PORTO ALEGRE, BRAZIL

Three representatives of the Adventist church attended the World Council of Churches (WCC) meetings in Porto Alegre, Brazil, from February 14 to 23.

Dr John Graz, public affairs and religious liberty (PARL) director of the General Conference; Dr Eugene Hsu, General Conference vice-president; and Dr Bill Knott, associate editor of the *Adventist Review*, attended the meetings to learn more about the WCC's goals and plans, especially those that may have an impact on Adventist faith and witness.

Since the first assembly of the WCC in 1948, the Adventist Church has monitored events and trends within this Christian interchurch movement, but has steadfastly chosen not to join or actively participate in the WCC's efforts to promote Christian unity.

Dr Bert Beach, longtime PARL director of the General Conference and a WCC observer for more than four decades, says, "Few would wish to deny that ecumenism has had laudable aims and some positive influences. Its great goal is visible Christian unity. No Adventist can be opposed to the unity Christ Himself prayed for." —**Adventist Review**

◆ The Adventist Discovery Centre in the UK placed an advertisement for the "Take Jesus" correspondence course in the March UK edition of *Reader's Digest*. Before going on public sale 46 subscribers had registered for the course. The advert appears next to the popular "All in a day's work" column. A second such advertisement will appear later this year.—**Dalbert Elias**

More @ www.discoveronline.org.uk

◆ "For many years we in the West were encouraged by the faith and courage of Russian

Adventists," Pastor Jan Paulsen, the General Conference president, told members and leaders attending a Moscow celebration marking 120 years of Adventism in Russia. During the five-day trip, he also met with officials of the Russian Federation, including representatives of President Vladimir Putin. "This meeting was beneficial in that the [state] president's administration heard about the life of the Adventist Church, and we could discuss church and state relations," said Pastor Paulsen, who was accompanied by his wife, Kari. While 15 years is a brief passage in

the life of an individual, Paulsen noted, the past 15 years in the Euro-Asia region has seen great change and growth. Starting with 37,453 members, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has grown to 143,459. In Adventist history, Russia was among the first countries where the church established its presence as part of its worldwide mission outreach.—**Valery Ivanov**

◆ The British Parliament has voted to ban smoking in public places. The British Union Conference (BUC) says it is "delighted" with the decision: "This was our

main objective when I was an executive committee member of the Tobacco Control Alliance, and it was also the purpose of a number of letters sent by me to successive Secretaries of State for Health," says Pastor Richard Willis, health ministries director for the BUC. "It is rewarding to see that years of effort have paid off as it is easy to be discouraged in the face of massive industry pressure." Adventists have always pioneered in smoking cessation, notably through the renowned 5-Day Plan to Stop Smoking program that has helped up to 25 million people quit.—**John Surridge**

Women's leadership training goes to the next level

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, USA

In the past two years thousands of women in Seventh-day Adventist churches worldwide have mastered several facets of leadership using a training program designed by the Women's Ministries Department at the General Conference (GC) headquarters. In April, the third and final level of the program will be released to Women's Ministries Departments around the world.

"This series, in particular, appeals to issues women in today's church are dealing with," said Raquel Arrais, associate director for women's ministries for the GC. Ms Arrais designed this level of the program and has taught several training seminars in South America. "Some of the classes deal with how you can balance home and career with specific courses on cultural sensitivity and fellowship activities."

The program started in 2003 after women's ministries directors from all over the world asked for such a program, said Heather-Dawn Small, women's ministries director for the GC.

"There are just not enough women leaders in the church, and that is partly because there are not enough women trained in

leadership," she said. "We know that many women in the church do not accept positions of leadership because they feel they can't do it. Often they just don't know how things are run and have never felt equipped to deal with the responsibilities of leadership."

The program aims to equip women with the skills necessary to be successful leaders. The curriculum is divided into eight subject areas: history and philosophy, biblical studies, people skills/personal growth, speaking skills, leadership skills, writing skills, nurture projects and outreach projects.

Some of the courses this particular level offers include: small-group dynamics, managing volunteers, writing with a purpose and women's social and legal issues.

Small's department designs the program and then sends it out to women's ministries directors in the GC. It is then translated into several languages.

The first level of the course went out in 2003; the second in 2005. Each builds on the first, with each level going more in depth, Mrs Small said. "This program will help women who are already serving in positions of leadership to improve their leadership skills."—*Taashi Rowe/ANN*

NZCF commits to mending broken people

MANUKAU CITY, NEW ZEALAND

The New Zealand Christian Foundation (NZCF) has committed \$NZ1 million to sponsoring a project aimed at sharing the story of the 3ABN network through Kay Kuzma's book, *Mending Broken People*.

NZCF is providing the books free of charge to people, although it comes with the condition that they pass it on to others to read. David and Joanne Davies created the project after Mr Davies was inspired to share 3ABN with people.

"The responses to date from this project have been amazing, even though we're not even a quarter of the way through sending out the books," says Mrs Davies. "The NZCF is delighted to be able to continue working with the church throughout New Zealand to provide funding for as many projects as we have the resources."

The NZCF has made grants available to nine projects in New Zealand for 2006, including money for Kids Club resources, after-school programs, radio broadcasts, billboards and evangelism.—*Joanne Davies/Adele Nash*

More @ www.nzchristianfoundation.org.nz

◆ Religious education teachers are being encouraged to use **Superman as a modern-day model for Jesus Christ**, to give youngsters an insight into morality and religious thinking. **Helen Cook**, head of postgraduate teacher training at Sheffield Hallam University in northern England, says there are **many parallels** between the "man of steel" and Jesus. "Both were sent by their fathers to Earth, both achieve prominent adulthoods after an obscure childhood, both help the humans they are sent to live with, and both are cham-

pions of truth over injustice.—*Crosswalk.com*

◆ An estimated **26,000 Christians**, including 6000 pastors, gathered in Seoul on February 28 to participate in a two-day **prayer vigil for persecuted people across the border** in communist North Korea. A website was also officially launched to coincide with the vigil, known as the **Wailing Prayer Meeting**. "The main purpose of the prayer vigil is to pray for the people of **North Korea**, who through no fault of their own, suffer from the repressive North Korean regime," says



the main organiser, the Korean Church Coalition, a nonpartisan and non-denominational Christian organisation. The Wailing Prayer Meeting is a prelude of the **global week of prayer for North Korea**, which will run from June 19 to 25.—*BosNewsLife*

More @ www.prayfornorthkorea.org

◆ A new book, **God and the Oval Office**, by **John McCollister**, recounts the religious faith of all 43 American presidents, from **George Washington to George W Bush**. The book does not argue that every president was an evangelical Christian, but makes it clear that the overwhelming majority of presidents expressed faith in God. "The book does not make judgmental statements, it simply says, these are the facts," says Mr McCollister. "Studying the beliefs of America's first few presidents can help in the contemporary debate over the **separation of church and state**."—*Crosswalk.com*

A light in the shadows

BY LES RELIHAN

IT IS ESTIMATED 444,400 OF OLDER Australians aged 55 or more have visual impairment, which represents 9.4 per cent of the 4.7 million Australians in that age group. The estimated number of cases of blindness in 2004 was 56,100 (1.2 per cent), and 388,300 people (8.2 per cent) had low vision. There is a strong association between visual impairment and advancing age.

Christian Services for the Blind has been in operation since 1973. The service was expanded in 1986 to include the hearing impaired and currently operates from the South Pacific Division office.

The library of “talking books” is constantly increasing as more books are read. The average age of our members is 75. A couple of our members are over the age of 100, while we have a few young members as well. Several have been members of the library for 25 years or more and are still active.

Today we want to bring to you the personal side of this ministry by sharing with you the inside story. We wish we could share more with you but space will not allow, but here are just some of the heart-warming notes that come our way almost every day. It is comments such as these that make this ministry so thrilling to be a part of.

We want to thank our constituency for the offerings given every two years. In 2004 the offering totalled in excess of \$A84,000. We also wish to thank those who give donations throughout the year, some of whom are members of the library.

Then there are our volunteer readers who give of their time to be a part of this ministry. We wish to acknowledge Dr Percy Harrold, who has been a part of this service for some years and who, despite retiring recently, continues to read the Sab-

bath school lessons. Thank you.

Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired is that “light” for those who walk in the shadows.

We urge you to give generously this year so you can have a part in brightening someone’s life. Before you do so, consider the many blessings you enjoy every day and take for granted—health, sight and hearing, and many more. Who knows that someday your efforts will be rewarded with souls in God’s kingdom?

In addition, if you know of someone in need please acquaint them with this service, or if you yourself can benefit, make con-

tact with us and we will be happy to help in whatever way we can.

As Jesus said, “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me” (Matthew 25:40, KJV). **R**

For more details, contact the office of Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076, or <adventist.org.au/services/csfbhi>.

Les Relihan is the manager of Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired, based in Wahroonga, New South Wales.

“Dear Les and all the staff, thank you for the wonderful books, which I enjoy very much. . . . Nothing could be better and blessed by God.”—*EA*

“Thank you so much for the new catalogue and your greetings (and photo). Thank you for another year of personalised care. Do enjoy family time and a well-earned break.”—*AF*

“What a blessing these books are! . . . I never get enough of them. I listen to them over and over. I don’t like parting with them. Thank you so much.”—*TB*

“Thank you for all the splendid [tapes] you have sent to me, so beautifully read. I cannot imagine what I would do without them—they are great companions. My knowledge has increased greatly too with the wide variety of reading material you choose for me. . . . Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the company and friendship this great service does for me.”—*MO*

“I appreciate the selection of books. I do listen to many tapes at night, at times until late as I get so caught up in some stories. Keep it up. I am one who is so thankful. I love you all there in Jesus precious name.”—*NL*

“I just must say thank you so much for the wonderful service you provide. My Mum and Dad enjoy it so much. May God continue to bless and guide as you reach out to others.”—*B*

“Thank you for sending me the stories on tape. I really enjoy them and since my accident at work four-and-a-half years ago my eyesight is impaired. I have read more books with my ears than I have in a lifetime.”—*RA*

**Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired Offering
Today, March 25**

The growing cost of retirement

BY RODNEY BRADY

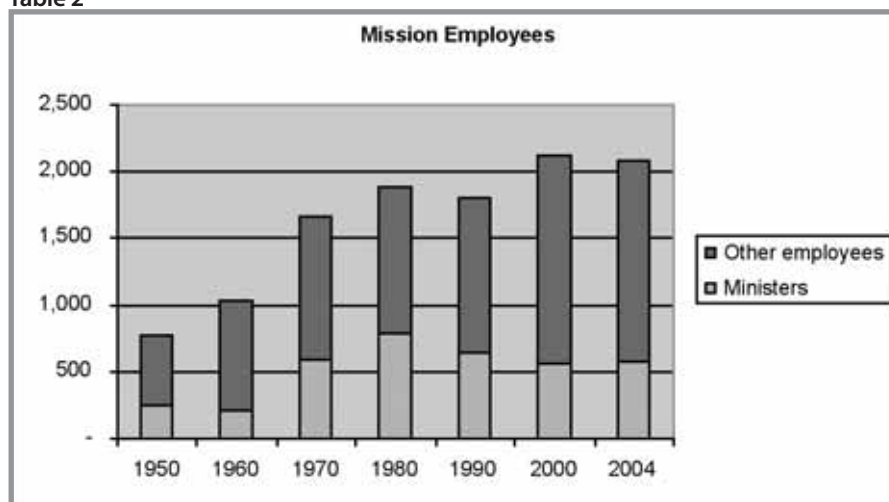
ONE OF THE FINANCIAL ISSUES CONFRONTING the church in the South Pacific today is the cost of supporting retired employees. There are currently 1286 retired denominational employees¹ in the Pacific Islands who have rendered faithful service and are now dependent on the church for support in retirement.

Table 1 is a summary of the sustentation fund operating from 1994 to 2001. During that period income increased by 44 per cent and expenditure by 65 per cent. The accumulated losses amounted to almost \$A1.3 million. To prevent the sustentation fund collapsing the South Pacific Division (SPD) diverted \$A2.11 million from other areas during that period to allow time for changes to be made.

In 2001, the SPD faced a potential crisis with the Island Field Sustentation Fund. Changes had to be made and were. Eligibility for sustentation was changed and a long-term transition program was put in place so that employees will increasingly rely on national provident funds for retirement support. Until 2001, missions contributed a percentage of tithe to sustentation. An increasing number of employees, particularly teachers, now accumulate service credit via non-tithe sources of income so the contribution base needed to be broadened.

Missions now contribute to the sustentation fund an amount equivalent to 15

Table 2



per cent of wages. At the same time they contribute to each employee's national provident fund. The church in the South Pacific is now in a transition phase where it is funding both past and future liabilities for retirement. The combined cost of this is equivalent to almost one-quarter of the cost of wages. The sustentation fund now has sufficient income to meet expenditure but concerns still remain on the future liabilities that have to be funded. The fund needs to accumulate reserves to ensure funds exist to meet future liabilities and to generate investment income to supplement mission contributions.

Several factors have led to the accumulated losses. These include rising living standards, increased life spans, mission

growth greater than tithe increases and inflation. A significant underlying contributing factor is the phenomenal growth in membership across the Pacific over the past 40 years.

Initially the Pacific work had a major component of its workforce provided by expatriate "missionaries." With the development of the church in the Pacific it has been important to replace expatriates with national leadership, and the church has been successful in doing that. With a larger membership comes the need for more ministers and teachers. Table 2 shows the increase in total mission employees during the past 50 years. The graph shows a decline in the number of ministers since 1980 but total employees has increased. A resource shift to education has occurred and most of the increase in employees has been teachers.

It is also worth noting that the growth in employees (ministers, teachers and others) across the Pacific has not kept pace with membership increases.² In 1950 there was one employee for every 14 members. In 1980 the ratio had increased to 1:84 and by 2004 1:223.

In 1990 there were 1017 sustentees in the

Table 1

ISLAND FIELD SUSTENTATION FUND									
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	TOTAL
INCOME:									
Sustentation Contributions	1,130,354	1,220,766	997,250	951,265	1,011,285	1,563,252	1,474,197	1,631,639	8,348,369
Interest Earnings	115,563	114,407	95,319	53,128	37,283	40,745	61,859	34,568	518,304
Total Income	1,245,917	1,335,173	1,092,569	1,004,393	1,048,568	1,603,997	1,536,056	1,666,207	8,866,673
EXPENDITURE:									
Operating Expenses									
Administrative Expenses	7,925	8,390	6,963	7,529	10,008	12,064	16,530	5,412	69,409
Sustentation Disbursements	1,188,970	1,303,073	1,280,621	1,414,182	1,429,571	1,500,679	1,657,356	1,964,256	9,774,452
Total Operating Expenditure	1,196,895	1,311,463	1,287,584	1,421,711	1,439,579	1,512,743	1,673,886	1,969,668	9,843,861
Increase/(Decrease) in Operating	\$49,022	\$23,710	(\$195,015)	(\$417,318)	(\$391,011)	\$91,254	(\$137,830)	(\$303,461)	(\$1,280,649)

Pacific and by 2005 that had increased to 1286. This is an increase of 26 per cent in 15 years and represents a ratio of six sustentees for every 10 employees.

An analysis of current sustentees shows the average length of denominational service is 28 years, with 15 years supported so far from sustentation. Most of those who started work in the Pacific prior to 1970 have now retired. Since they commenced denominational employment, rising living standards has meant they can expect to live longer in retirement than past generations. The workforce has continued to grow so it is anticipated with more employees and longer life expectancy the number of sustentees will continue to increase and thus the cost of the sustentation program.

After wages, retirement expenses is now the largest single cost for missions in the Pacific. The biggest single payroll for the Pacific Islands is the sustentee payroll. The number on the sustentation payroll is more than the number of employees in any union mission of the SPD.

This reality creates a financial challenge and frustration to administrators to fund retirement expenses while at the same time trying to increase the number of employees to nurture a fast-growing membership. No fly'n'build option exists to help missions with this. For those with the project-giving mentality that has developed within the church, supporting sustentees has little appeal—there will be few exciting results or amazing baptism numbers to report from this “project.”

It is a costly program for the church to operate, but it was very costly for sustentees to follow their calling into denominational service and leave the comfort of their home and extended families. The church is now ensuring that they are cared for adequately in retirement, but that comes at a cost. **R**

1. *Denominational employees in the Pacific with sufficient years of service are eligible to be supported in retirement by the church in a program known as sustentation. The recipients of sustentation are known as sustentees.*

2. *The ratio of members to ministers was 1:596 in 2004 compared to 1:116 in 1980. Papua New Guinea has seen its ratio of total employees to membership move from 1:108 in 1980 to 1:493 in 2004.*

Rodney Brady is chief financial officer of the South Pacific Division, based in Wahoonga, New South Wales.

The missing years

BY DAVID CALDWELL

THINK HOW MUCH WE DELVE INTO the details of the last three years of Jesus' ministry and then pause to wonder what could have been recorded of Jesus as he grew up in Nazareth for the preceding 30.

All that is recorded is that He grew up in favour with God and people (see Luke 2:52). What does that tell us of a young man who associated with His peers in His village after working at the carpenter's bench all day?

It has to be that he mixed with the young women of the village and if there were no touches of romance then He was certainly not touched in all points as we are. Comely as He was purported to be, surely some of the girls fluttered their eyelids at Him. And what were His feelings as one after another of His peers would marry?

Did He know any of the fishermen of Galilee whom He later conscripted into His army that would change the world? When His fellow young people played games, what was Jesus like as a competitor?

Then there were those Jewish festivals, scores of them. Can you visualise Him being festive in the booths on the hillsides?

Jewish manhood had made a name for itself in war. The spirit that fought the Greeks in the time of the Maccabees had then been confronted with the military might of Rome.

Young manhood seethed with the spirit of rebellion. How did Jesus relate to all this? Was he a withdrawn pacifist, derided by His friends? Just how did He blend in with the spirit of His peers?

What a field for writers to exploit! To my limited knowledge, no-one has taken up the challenge. Is it impossible to associate the intensity of His ministry with a normal and happy youth?

The imagination of modern writers has run riot with what happened to a Jesus who supposedly survived the tomb and moved to Ephesus, married Mary Magdalene and had

a son: titillating reading for the unbeliever but sacrilege to the Christian mind.

Then a tradition surfaces in the words of William Blake's *Milton* that inspired Parry's hymn "Jerusalem." Could it be that the young Jesus travelled on Phoenician galleys to Great Britain and walked those verdant hills?

This sounds far more plausible than the Mormon belief that he appeared in the Americas to minister to those in prison and there would not have to be mysterious and metaphysical transport involved.

All that is recorded is that He grew up in favour with God and people.

Think of the impact on the minds of our young people if chapters in the Bible were devoted to the young Man who lived a normal youth in a normal village. The young Joseph and David are well depicted in Scripture. Yet we have almost nothing about Him who transcends them both. We have the meagre account of his adventures in Jerusalem at the age of 12. This initiative at least demonstrates that there was an independent spirit in Him even then.

Ellen White has been inspired to take the raw material of the Gospels and expand it into *The Desire of Ages*. What a pity she was not impressed to delve into those missing years and flesh out a role model for our youth—a young and healthy man with normal attitudes to life around Him.

For me, I would welcome the opportunity to meet Jesus at the age of 20 to add to what we know of Him at 30. **R**

David Caldwell writes from Valentine, New South Wales.

The pollution within

BY BRAD WATSON

ZACHARY IS OUR YOUNGEST CHILD and in some ways the wisest. You see, he knows instinctively that you have to be loud to get heard, especially when you're the "littlest." You don't even have to make much sense. Now he is four he is even louder and we hope he learns soon that loud does not always bring "sympathetic" attention!

The second great truth Zachary knows is that life revolves around food, especially the less healthy kind. Pantry raids at dawn have had the sirens going off at our place lately and it is hard to stay stern when you ambush your four-year-old and catch him, hand in the cookie jar and wearing only an embarrassed grin. I've started to tell him stories about the mouse who got so fat that he almost didn't escape the cat. But I'm sure he's the one playing cat-and-mouse with me!

The joy of mud

And then there is that other great truth. Dirt can be glorious. The recipe is quite simple. Abandon Dad's custom-made sand-pit under the custom-made cubbyhouse. Such expensive foibles can't possibly compete with a half-dug garden bed.

Add water, squish enthusiastically, move in the heavy-duty earthmoving toys and you have mud—glorious, sloppy, dirty mud! The sort of mud that smears beautifully all over your face, blackens your clothes, makes goo between your toes and forms the most beautiful mudcakes ever.

And carpet. Magic carpet. Magic isn't it, how dirty footprints on cream carpet instantly cast spells over mums and dads?

While Zachary knows much about the joys of dirt and mud, I must admit that

I'm not looking forward to him learning about pollution of the other kind. That will come with time.

There will be the smelly sludge he sees in drains but he can probably avoid that. Maybe it will be the fumes of busy roads or the thick smog of polluted cities. Well, I guess he can avoid that too. Perhaps he

As sure as kids love mud, adults dabble with sin.

will go to school and learn that polar bears and penguins and great sharks are being poisoned by industrial substances carried north on ocean winds. That worries me more.

Personal pollution

But unfortunately pollution gets even more personal.

Michael, a friend of mine, worked in a dairy to pay his college fees. Being a non-conformist and more than a little lazy, he delighted in wearing the same smelly work clothes, unwashed, day after day and sometimes week after week. Imagine the stench!

Just for fun, Michael slept in Bruce's dormitory bed, fully dressed after one of his dairy shifts. He even wore his gumboots. For some reason he and Bruce annoyed each other and Michael had decided to make a statement.

When Bruce returned to his dormitory

room, fresh and ready for a new semester, he hesitated in the doorway. His nose crinkled. There were loud and unpleasant noises. Take a half-dug garden bed, add water and . . . well, the language got more than a little muddy. There were threats. Loud ones. Bruce's bed had been polluted and would never be the same. Bruce's bed had been his refuge but now it reeked like a stockyard. Even the pillow smelled, and when he changed the sheets he had to be careful to remove dried flakes that had come from the wrong end of a dairy cow.

Still more personal

But pollution gets even more personal than Bruce's bed. People don't just sleep in filth; they carry it on the inside. The Bible calls it sin. Greed, envy, lust are the culprits but selfishness heads the list because it underpins them all. And humans have a habit of frolicking in it, just for fun. As sure as kids love mud, adults dabble with sin.

The difference is that sin isn't easily washed away. It's more like quicksand than sandpits—and the more you wriggle your toes the more it sucks you in. Muddy carpet can be cleaned but how do you clean your mind or spirit?

The Bible makes some suggestions. One is found in the story of a woman who dared to try something different. It's a story of her physical healing against the odds but in a way it is much deeper than that. It's more about pollution and the dirt within.

Reaching to Jesus

When she reached out to touch Jesus' cloak, she knew the risk she took. Cursed for 12 long years with bleeding, she was considered unclean. In her time a woman



who bled was not even to prepare food for a man. The lore of men held that she would certainly pollute him. Periodic bleeding was accepted; however even wives would then cease contact with their men. Constant bleeding was intolerable and meant the life of an outcast, abandonment by husbands and an existence of undeserved shame. Like a leper she would have been shunned and reviled, rejected and alone, comfortable only in the company of other “polluted” people.”

Jesus—a Jewish man—felt her dare to touch the hem of his robe. Even with the crowd pressing in on all sides, he sensed it. Options were available. He could have beaten her mercilessly for daring to touch him in her polluted state. Indeed, custom ordained it. He could demand instant punishment. He could withdraw in shame and rush to a temple to purify Himself from the defilement visited on Him, the defilement of blood. Custom demanded this too.

He could stare her down with righteous indignation for daring to even come near. He was after all, pure. And the crowd around Him, which had also rubbed shoulders with this unclean woman, would surely have approved, for she must have touched many men who pressed close around to hear the most famous prophet of their time.

Trembling, with the entire crowd watching, the woman waited. The moment she had touched Jesus she had felt something. Dare she hope? Was it imagination or had she felt a change within? She could hardly have known that millions of humans, over two millennia, would tremble with her and also look for changes within.

Jesus studied her with compassion. The crowd contained His children and He wanted them to know the difference between dirt and pollution. He wanted them to understand that sin makes people unclean, that only He had the power to purify

and remove what was putrid in their lives. He had already healed her. In the instant she touched, power had left Him. It was never a consideration. Jesus made no fuss. And He didn’t preach a sermon. Matthew, who seems to have been in the crowd at the time, recorded Jesus’ reply: “Take heart, daughter,” he said, “your faith has healed you” (Matthew 9:22, NIV).

Speaking to us

Such compassion speaks still. Take heart! All these years later and I imagine Jesus said more through His actions than through His words. Jesus was never into volume. What He lived and said spoke softly and yet it also shook the world.

*I am clean.
The Son of God mingles
With men and women
And though I am sinless,
I will give all for you.
In all the world,
If you were the only one,
I would die for you.
Take heart for
I will set you free!*

*Ignore the crowd
And believe!
I am Lord.
No blood,
No deed,
No habit,
No sin,
Can separate you from Me.
Reach out
As I have to you
And I will make you clean.*

Pollution is personal. Especially the dirt we carry within. For some of us there are bucketloads of it and it makes a soul-destroying burden! Just being separated from God is a darkness too heavy to carry.

But salvation is special. And that is the one great truth I want Zachary to know when he becomes a man: That God saves. Mud does not stick when God’s around! **R**

Brad Watson is a lecturer in international development at Avondale College, Cooranbong, New South Wales.

The richest man I ever met

BY HELEN GRAY

THAT MORNING was one of the coldest we had experienced in a long time and yet there he sat on his park bench seemingly oblivious to the cold.



He was shabbily dressed. His hair and beard had grown long and scruffy but, though he appeared unkempt, he wasn't dirty. It was obvious he tried to keep as clean as he could regardless of his circumstances. Yet it was none of those things that drew my attention to him; nor indeed his bare feet, though just looking at them made me wince with the cold.

I watched as he meticulously straightened out and folded his handkerchief and the few belongings he had. He took half a bread roll out of his pocket. After offering some to me, he paused to ask a blessing on his meagre breakfast, then he ate heartily.

Three birds vied with each other for the crumbs that fell at his feet. He watched, smiling in silence. So did I.

Then she came: a wee lass holding on to her mother's hand. She stopped in front of the man and handed him a single rose. You would have thought he had just received the crown jewels. The pleasure on his face spoke volumes and his smile seemed even broader than before. No words were spoken, and none were needed. She smiled then quickly skipped away.

I noticed the tear on his cheek and the look on his face—a look of peace and unbelievable joy.

He would have been one of the poorest men I had ever met and yet he had glowed with so much pleasure and satisfaction from the gift of that single rose from one little girl.

There was a time when he had much, until life had dealt a cruel blow. He lived alone now and some would describe his home as a hovel, a one-room shack with only the barest furniture.


Yet as we sat together, he told me he lacked nothing, that he had learned to be content regardless of the circumstances in which he found himself. He valued the little things that most of us overlook—the sound of birds singing in the trees, the smell of a flower, the smile of a child, the warmth of a sunrise, the glory of a sunset. In the days we spent together, he shared so much with me.

He was the richest man I have ever met. **R**

Helen Gray writes from Gawler, South Australia.

Record Roo's

Kids corner



Hi kids,
Elisha performed lots of amazing miracles. You may have heard the story of the borrowed ax? You can find it in 2 Kings chapter 6. Read it and find out what happens to the ax.

RR

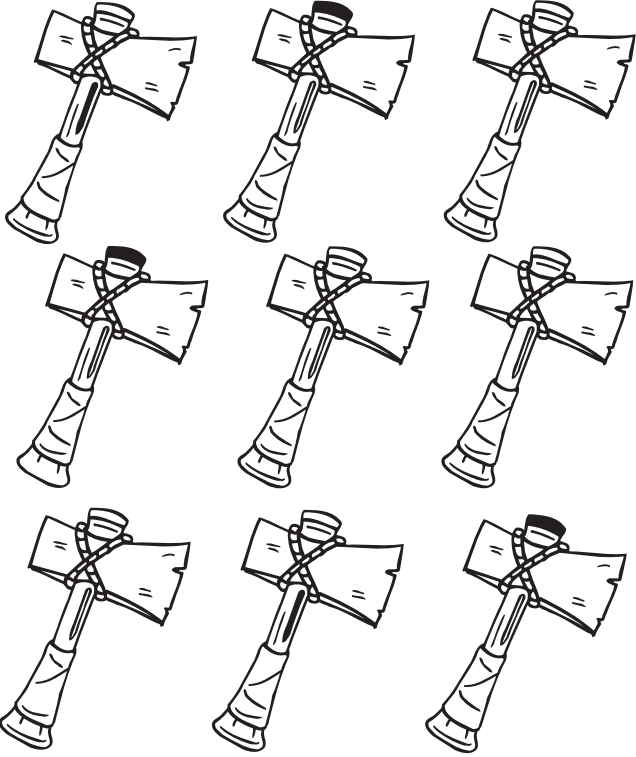
Fill in the Blanks

Have you read all of the story? The ax that the boy had borrowed was now at the bottom of the river! Complete the text below to see what Elisha did, then read the end of the story in verse 7.

"So the man of God said, 'Where did it _____?' And he showed him the place. So he cut off a _____ and _____ it in there; and he made the iron _____.'" 2 Kings 4:6 NKJV

Spot two the same

Circle the two axes that are exactly the same.



Peta Taylor

A youthful insight

MINNA BIDDLE-ROACH, NZ

Thank you, Braden Blyde, for the feature “The importance of memories” (February 18) on how to bring our young ones to the church and keep them there. I believe that if they are brought to the Lord first of all in the home, then, introduced into the church with Christ as the head, they will be less likely to regard older people as representing the church. With Christ as the head, why would they lose their head by rejecting Him?

When we put a person in a position, we have to keep that person there in our own strength. But when the Lord is responsible, He will keep them there!

Thank you for your tip on camp-fire chats regarding boys needing an opportunity to side-talk. This will be handy with my own grandsons. As I am close to 80, some could reject me and put me in the oldie box.

Identity crisis

RON TAYLOR, QLD

It was encouraging to read “Leaders reflect on identity issues” (News, February 25). When a baby is born, it has no real identity until he or she is named. This was true of our infant church until it was given the name Seventh-day Adventist. There were endeavours at the time to hide under the cloak of anonymity, but inspired counsel indicated that this name had divine approval as part of our witness to the world. We are told “the name, Seventh-day Adventist, carries the true features of our faith in front, and will convict the inquiring mind” (*Spiritual Gifts* Vol 4, Part 2, page 55).

What a wonderful privilege we share as part of a church with a vital message for the last days, which, in our day, has flourished to be one of the fastest growing Protestant churches. We are part of a vast congregation totalling more than the combined populations of Australia and New Zealand, in more than 200 countries, worshipping God each Sabbath and preparing for our Lord’s return.

Rather than being like Israel of old who wanted to “be like the other nations,” we should seek ways to emphasise our identity

and the message our name carries. Perhaps we could begin with the most impressionable part of the church, our children, by sending them to a Seventh-day Adventist school.

Start your engines . . .

JULIE DOUGLAS, VIC

Thank you for “What would Jesus drive?” (Editorial, February 25). Visitors do notice what cars are in the church car park and make assumptions about the church and its members from what they see. If we just attend church regularly, and are careful to keep “the rules” about things like the Sabbath and diet, we’re really nothing more than modern-day Pharisees. Jesus lived a radical, confronting, significant life, and we are called to do the same.

I’m not interested in a church whose members can only give a full explanation of correct doctrine with regard to the Sabbath, or end-time prophecies. I long to present to others a church whose members are authentic and genuine in their spirituality, and who try to act as Jesus would in every part of their lives. Like James, we are to show our love by what we do (see James 2:18).

Please, leave the Green politics—and all other politics—out of our church paper. We don’t need to hear it there.

ANDREW KILGOUR, NSW

I agree that Christians do have a duty to look after God’s creation and be responsible with the use of resources. I, too, am annoyed by the needless use of lumbering four-wheel drives. However, your article is irresponsibly city-centric. To put exorbitant fuel taxes in place is discrimination against rural people, and would damage the rural economy. We country-dwellers are dependent upon our cars for transport to work, to church, to schools and medical care.

What about farmers? It would place a great strain upon already financially strapped farmers if their trip to town to buy supplies cost them four times as much as at present. There are no public transport service in the sticks. And what would emergency services workers do, who need such vehicles in and out of hours?

Please, leave the Green politics—and all other politics—out of our church paper. We don’t need to hear it there as well in the mass media.

Honour roles

LEN TOLHURST, NSW

Thank you for the story about Helen Hall being awarded the Order of Australia, (OAM). She is certainly worthy of this recognition. I know of two other Australian Adventists who’ve been thus recognised.

Dr Douglas Easthope was awarded the OAM for his work as a volunteer dentist in the Pacific, especially in the Solomon Islands. He made many trips out there to help people in remote areas who did not have access to dental services.

Another was Leonainie Magnusson, who received her OAM for services to the community for publishing *One Jump Ahead*, a magazine aimed at primary school-aged children, educating them about the dangers of drug abuse.

Are there others so honoured? Perhaps readers may know of others, and pass on the names to the Heritage Room at Avondale College in order to build a

list and thus preserve their memory for posterity.

More satellites

KEN BIRD, NSW

I received a phone call from a man who was watching Hope Channel. His comment to me was, “The Hope Channel is so good. Why aren’t you telling everyone about it?” He’s getting his friends to watch it.

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.

Volunteers!

Youth Pastor—Tawanga Church (New Zealand). Duties include: The youth worker will, by daily commitment to God: 1. Create an environment within which the church youth can make Christ-centred decisions. 2. Attend and encourage the youth to attend all organised church functions. 3. Provide genuine friendship to the youth. 4. Be a good role model. Term: 12 months, commencing asap.

Email:
<volunteers@adventist.org.au>
For more positions, check the web on
<www.adventistvolunteers.org>

+61 2 9847 3275



Anniversaries

Budarick, Horace and Ruth celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on March 4 with friends and family at the Murray Bridge church in South Australia. The couple were married in Tamworth in 1946 by Pastor J B Keith, and spent their working life in Mannum, South Australia, before retiring to Murray Bridge.



Weddings

Gersbach—Overheu. Steven Gersbach, son of Noel and Frances Gersbach of Manjimup (WA), and Kate Overheu, daughter of Michael and Marilyn Overheu of Esperance (WA), were married on 18.12.05 at the Green Place Reserve, Perth, WA.

Andrew Skeggs

Harvey—Honeyford. Dion Harvey, son of Alton and Ida Harvey of Croydon (Vic), and Candice Honeyford, daughter of Joseph and Vivvienne Honeyford of Hampton Park (Vic), were married on 05.02.06 at Poets Lane, Sherbrooke, Vic.

John Byrne, Morrie Krieg

Possingham—Norton. Scott Hilton-Possingham, son of David Possingham and Marlene Hilton of Adelaide (SA), and Rhonda Louise Norton, daughter of Lloyd and Kathryn Norton of Hawthornedene (SA), were married on 25.02.06 at Hazelmere Homestead, Echunga, SA.

Robert Possingham

Saban—Kerby. Mario Saban, son of Jack (deceased) and Maria Saban of Bathurst (NSW), and Sandra Cheryl Kerby, daughter of Ron and Veronica Kerby of Cooma (NSW), were married on 06.03.06 in the garden of Miss Traill's House in Bathurst, NSW.

Errol Webster

Shirley—Williams. Aubrey William John Shirley, son of John and Annie Shirley (both deceased), and Delma Anne Williams, daughter of James and Millicent Brown (both deceased), were married on 05.03.06 in Largs, NSW.

Colin Renfrew, Alwyn Gersbach,
Ernie Krause

Wren—Elo. Brendon Clifford Wren, son of Russell and Yvonne Wren of Stanthorpe (Qld), and Carmen Margaret Elo, daughter of Joseph and Margaret Elo of Brisbane (Qld), were married on 19.02.06 in the Stanthorpe Adventist church.

Warren Fedorow

Zilm—Parker. Brendon Wayne Zilm, son of Terry and Julie Zilm of Birdwood (SA), and Anita Jane Parker, daughter of Steven and Vyrona Parker of Nairne (SA), were married on 05.03.06 in the Brighton Adventist church, SA. They met at Birdwood church camps and the ceremony was officiated by a former pastor of the Birdwood church.

Clive Nash

Obituaries

Clarke, Raymond John, born 21.11.1943 at Leongatha, Vic; died 26.02.06 at his home in Forest Hill, Vic. He is survived by his wife, Rhonda; children, Kathy, Michelle, Leanne, Jeremy, Kevin and Christopher; and mother-in-law, Lurlene McDonald. John was a kind, hardworking and generous man who took pride in his family. He will be greatly missed by them all.

John Denne

Edser, Daphne (nee Richter), born 12.05.1920 at Crows Nest, Qld; died 18.07.05 at Toowoomba, Qld. She is survived by her husband, Eric; her six children and their spouses, Cliff and Rose, Graham and Shirley, Valerie and Cliff, Trevor and Christine, Delmai and Barry, and Malcolm and Janelle; and 19 grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren.

Clifton Maberly, Chris Foote,
Clive Butcher

Kerkvliet, Kristen, born 27.11.04 at Gympie, Qld; died unexpectedly 03.02.06 in the Gympie General Hospital. Beloved daughter of Ashley and Cathy, she was also a much-loved child to a host of Gympie church members. Her sad loss focuses everyone's attention on the reunion that has been promised at the Resurrection morning.

Mike Robinson, Neville Tosen

Morgan, Agnes Bertha, born 25.05.1904 at Rockhampton, Qld; died 01.03.06 in North Rockhampton Nursing Home at the age of 101 years. Agnes was prede-

Positions vacant

▲ **Sales Representative—Sanitarium (Wollongong, NSW)** is seeking a highly motivated person to join their NSW Sales Team based in Wollongong, NSW. This job provides an excellent opportunity for candidates wanting a challenging and satisfying role and one that offers the scope to develop a career in the FMCG industry. The position requires a high level of responsibility and ownership; focus on and delivery of exceptional customer service; an ability to drive product sales; introduction and ranging of new products at store level; merchandising of products at store level; that stores comply with agreed sales initiatives and management/implementation of shelf management at store level. Applicants should have sound negotiation and interpersonal skills; high level of self-motivation/dedication; ability to work at a fast pace while maintaining attention to detail; ability to work as an individual and within a team environment; previous sales experience; computer literacy in Microsoft Office; ability to work closely with the State Operations Manager and a current driver's licence. Applications in writing (including résumé) addressing all the selection requirements above should be forwarded to Group Human Resources, Sanitarium, Locked Bag 7, Central Coast Mail Centre NSW 2252; fax (02) 4349 6099; email: <humanresources@sanitarium.com.au> by **Friday, April 21, 2006.**

▲ **Administrative Assistant—Macquarie College (Wallsend, NSW)** is seeking a person with skills and experience in office management, technology, public relations and event management who would be responsible to the Principal. The position description and selection criteria may be obtained by emailing <office@macquariecollege.nsw.edu.au>. **Applications in writing** (including a CV and the names and contact details of at least three referees) should be forwarded to the Principal, Macquarie College, PO Box 517, Wallsend NSW 2287. Applications close **Wednesday, May 3, 2006.**

▲ **Operating Theatre Manager—Sydney Adventist Hospital (NSW).** This senior position at the Sydney Adventist Hospital will be responsible for the day-to-day management of 10 operating theatres. Suitable applicants require strong management skills, including a proven record in management and communication. It is desired that the successful applicant be a Registered Nurse with a clinical background in peri-operative nursing. Inquiries to Moran Wasson on +61 2 9487 9682. Applications close **Wednesday, April 5, 2006.**

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

Advertisements

Note: Neither the editor, Signs Publishing Company, nor the Seventh-day Adventist Church is responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised. Publication does not indicate endorsement of a product or service. Advertisements approved by the editor will be inserted at the following rates: first 30 words or less, \$A49.50; each additional word, \$A2.20. For your advertisement to appear, payment must be enclosed. Classified advertisements in RECORD are available to Seventh-day Adventist members, churches and institutions only. See masthead (page 2) for contact details.

Final Events DVD and other Amazing Facts products and Your Story Hour dramatised stories are available from the Australian distributor, The Story Factory. Contact Darren or Robyn Peakall, email <info@thestoryfactory.com.au>; or phone (08) 9574 6777.

Gold Coast Christian College 25-year anniversary. All past and present staff and students are invited to celebrate 25 years of Adventist education on the Gold Coast. The program commences on Saturday, May 6 at 9.30 am at the Reedy Creek Baptist church, followed by BYO picnic on the school grounds and a memorabilia celebration at 2 pm. For any inquiries, phone the school on +61 7 5593 4571. We would love to see you there!

Bray Park church anniversary. Bray Park Adventist church invites past members

ceased by her husband, Alfred, in 1993. She is survived by her six children, Mavis Weisse, Keith, Kerrod, Ruth Hamilton, Joan Kerr and Darral; and her remaining sibling, Mabel Neven. One of 15 children, Agnes gave her heart to the Lord at the age of 50 following an outreach program. A faithful follower and believer in her Lord until her death, Agnes will be sadly missed by her family, Rockhampton church and the Rockhampton community.

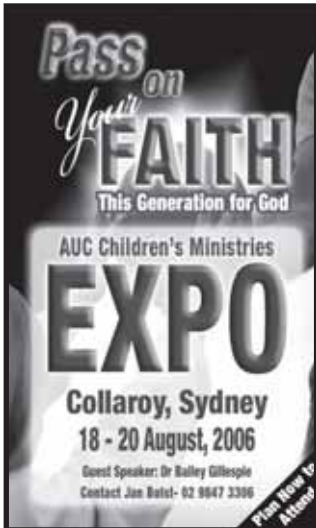
Andy Krause

Robertson, Reg, born 24.11.1913 at Kingaroy, Qld; died 10.06.05 at Toowoomba, Qld. He is survived by his wife, Grace; his four children and their spouses Graham and Helen, Linda and Doug Head, Dawn and Graham Moore and Joy and Lindsay Farquharson; and his 14 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Reg was sharp and alert to the end and unwavering in his faith. He is missed by many.

Clifton Maberly

Wilton, Garth Ashleigh, born 01.11.1932 in Christchurch, NZ; died 07.11.05 at Geraldine, NZ. He is survived by his wife, Burnice (Geraldine); sons, Dale (Cairns, Qld) and Carl (WA); and his sisters, Berwin Butler (Texas, USA) and Gaya Currie (Melbourne, Vic). Garth grew up in an Adventist family and attended Longburn College and Avondale College. He worked in Papua New Guinea for 13 years. Garth also worked for a time as the maintenance supervisor for the Sanitarium Health Food Company.

Ray Codling



and friends to celebrate their 25th anniversary on November 18, 2006. Thanksgiving service commences at 10 am followed by a celebration lunch. Afternoon program at 3 pm. Contact Olive on +61 2 6672 1110 or e-mail <jilpete@optusnet.com.au>. RSVP October 17 for lunch.

For sale—Cooranbong, NSW, 3 bedroom brick and tile house on 600m² block. New paint and carpet. Walk to shops, Avondale Schools and College. \$260,000 neg. Call Heather on 0431 856 598.

Family reunion cruise to Alaska—September 17–24, 2006! Seven days of memories that will last a lifetime! Enjoy Christian Edition, Faith First, Del Delker, Gale Jones-Murphy, Morning Song (Steve Darmody, Jennifer LaMountain, Rudy Micelli, Vonda Beerman, James Rainwater), and other artists. Mike and Gayle Tucker from Faith for Today will be our spiritual hosts. You can't miss this! Email <travel@classictravel.net>; web <www.internetcruising.com>; or write to Adventist Media Productions, 101 W Cochran Street, Simi Valley, CA 93065, USA. Your promotional code is FR.

Cooranbong, NSW—“Ellenborough” Park, a superb new private residential estate set among 45 acres of security-gated parkland. With its huge blocks, it's the perfect place to build your new dream home. For further info phone Johnson and Britten Real Estate on (02) 4973 6888.

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

Receive the Hope Channel and 3ABN NOW! Complete satellite kit for just \$265 + freight. Full instructions for DIY installation or installers available. Rural Electronics (02) 6361 3636; or <ruralele@bigpond.net.au>.

Tours 2006—Allround Travel. **Greece and Turkey—May 8–June 1, 2006.** Archeological sites—Patmos—Gallipoli—quality hotels—escorted throughout. Visit Ephe-

Protect your Cash with ACF Investments

Great Rates

ACF Investments

(02) 9989 8355

sus, Pergamum—post-tour extension possible. **Rome/Paris/Switzerland/Waldensian Valleys—September, 2006.** Pompeii–Venice–Waldensian Valleys–Paris—escorted throughout. Great sightseeing combined with church history. **Mid East—September, 2006.** Egypt/Jordania. Travel with fellow Adventists on these wonderful tours. For more details contact Anita, Allround Travel Centre; phone (07) 5530 3555; fax (07) 5530 3846; email <alltrav@bigpond.net.au>.

Christian satellite. Christian TV is now available—9 channels 24/7! Equipment and full installation—packages from \$A390 (incl GST). DIY kits—packages from \$A265 + shipping (incl GST). We donate \$A10 from every installation to your nominated organisation! For more information or to order today visit our website <www.christiansatellite.com.au> or phone (03) 9704 2266.

Finally

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as you ever can.

—John Wesley

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Adventist Health Professionals Conference Sydney

23 June - 25 June 2006

Where to From Here? Emerging Trends in Health Care

Keynote Speaker: Dr Leland R Kaiser, PhD
University of Denver

As a health futurist Dr Kaiser has been responsible for sparking the imagination of audiences worldwide to change obsolete mind-sets and welcome new opportunities to design a healthier society.

Put this date in your diary and plan to attend this weekend program.

For further information please contact:

Jenny Robson
Adventist Health
South Pacific Division
Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076
Telephone: +61 2 9847 3368
Email: jrobson@adventist.org.au

The second biggest selling book of the past couple of years is *The Da Vinci Code*. The biggest seller is still the Bible.



You can use this opportunity to answer the questions raised with letterboxing cards, available free to churches in Australia.

Church representatives please contact Sue at Adventist Media: **Phone** 02 9847 2222; **Fax** 02 9847 2200; **Email** <sue@amcdiscovery.com.au>; or **write** to PO Box 1115, Wahroonga NSW 2076.

Order in boxes of 4000. Delivery to churches scheduled for May 21, 2006.