

RECORD

April 15, 2006

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"The winning way" wins at Games

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

The winning way—the Adventist Church's outreach focused around the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne—was a major success and won many friends for the Adventist Church, according to those who led the street outreach teams.

"Of all the churches involved in ministry for the Games, the Adventists have been the leading church in outreach," commented Tony Crook, executive director of the Bible Society.

More than a year ago Pastor John Denne, secretary of the Ministerial Association for the Victorian Conference, envisioned the

concept of "Jesus is the winning way" as an outreach at the Games. That vision became the reality of "The winning way" with 60,000 gold medals, 50,000 *Signs of the Times* lift-outs, 500,000 postcards and 7000 sampler DVDs of programs available from the Adventist Media Centre being distributed during the Games period.

During the Commonwealth Games, which finished on March 26, these "winning way" items were put into packs along with a Gospel of Mark and an ADRA water bottle—and distributed widely. But the program wasn't just about giveaways.

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I don't think I've ever been more worried in my life.

More than bushfire prayers

I'D NEVER LIVED IN A BUSHFIRE-PRONE area before moving to Victoria. It was barely a week after I'd bought my house this January when some individual decided to light a fire in the bushland about half a kilometre from my new abode.

I don't think I've ever been more worried in my life. Apart from enhancing my love and admiration for the Country Fire Authority, that day really brought home to me the importance of prayer.

Perhaps that was because I realised there'd probably be no way I could hold off a raging bushfire with a garden hose in each hand, singing, "We shall overcome!" at the top of my lungs. Yes, God has promised to be there with us when we walk through the fire (see Isaiah 48:2), but I wasn't really ready for my own personal re-enactment of the fiery furnace.

So what's a girl to do?

In the face of my helplessness, prayer seemed to be the answer—as well as ringing my parents, who organised a prayer chain of friends and family.

Of course, that's a sort of emergency prayer situation. Not all prayer is like that and we shouldn't wait only for those moments before we start talking with God. Neither should prayer be kept just for public situations, although that is important too.

But probably the most important prayer times are our alone-time with God. This gives us the opportunity to be totally open with Him in a way that we perhaps can't

be with others.

A personal prayer life was very important to Jesus when He was here on earth. A little more than 2000 years ago, Jesus became God in human form and it was vital for Him to live His life in a way that was absolutely dedicated to and connected with His Father.

Satan was going to try to tempt Him as much as possible. Jesus knew He needed regular times alone with God, talking to Him in prayer. It wasn't just about asking God for "things," but spending time *with* Him. His prayers include asking God to help Him accomplish what He'd come to earth to do and asking for blessings on others' lives and ministry. Jesus was in constant communication with God.

Two thousand years on, we still can't have healthy relationships without communication. And the same goes for our relationship with God. Even though God already knows it all, He still likes to hear us share things with Him so He can share things with us.

In the chapter about prayer in *Steps to Christ*, Ellen White talks about the way God loves to hear from us and that nothing that matters to us doesn't matter to Him. "Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend," she writes. "Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him" (page 93).

Sometimes I think we forget about just conversing with Him, and bring a list of things we want answered instead. We spool off this, that and care for Aunt Mildred's bunions so she can realise her dream of coaching the Socceroos, throw in a bit of thanks for the nice weather and drop off to sleep, forgetting that God likes to have us talk to Him like we would with a friend. Of course, that doesn't mean we can't ask God for things but there's so much more to it than that.

In Matthew 7:7-12, Jesus talks about our need to ask, seek and knock so we can gain the blessings God has planned for us. Ellen White asks, "Why should the sons and daughters of God be reluctant to pray, when prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse . . . ?" (*Steps to Christ*, page 94).

Of course, God won't always answer our prayers in the way we want them to be answered—sometimes we have to wait, or the answer is no or it comes to us out of left field—but He always listens to everyone, including us.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 sums it up perfectly: "Keep on praying" (NLT).

Keep on talking to God, no matter where we are or what we're doing. After all, if prayer really is the key that unlocks the storehouse of heaven, what have we got to lose by using it?

Adele Nash



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

Vol 111 No 14
 Cover: Chris Widuch

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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!

ADRA joins Cyclone Larry clean-up

INNISFAIL, QUEENSLAND

In its continued relief efforts, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)—Australia is operating an equipment loaning scheme to help Innisfail residents clean up after Cyclone Larry.

Cyclone Larry was rated as category five when it pounded the northern Queensland coast. The cyclone created winds of up to 290 km/h, which tore roofs from homes and buildings and severely damaged vegetation. The damage is estimated at \$A1 billion.

No church members in the area have been seriously injured and their homes suffered only minor damage. The Innisfail church hall suffered the worst damage, losing both its roller doors and full-length louvres on both sides. But there was no serious damage to the church building itself.

A small group of people had taken shelter in the church hall to escape the cyclone. Dana Howard, minister of the Innisfail church, spoke with Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio while the cyclone was lashing the building, saying the only thing to do was pray.

Mr Howard, Pastor Roger Ward of Cairns and Brent Jones of Kuranda met with State Emergency Service volunteers on March 23 to coordinate bringing help to the

people, possibly in the outlying districts.

ADRA's response in Innisfail is being coordinated by Warren Scale, a disaster response expert who also worked for ADRA in Thailand following the 2004 Asian tsunami.

"Fortunately, there is assistance open to affected households," says Mr Scale. "But ADRA is keen to help those who may not qualify for government assistance and to find the best ways of helping them."

Drinking water and emergency food parcels for affected families in the towns of Innisfail and those further inland on the Atherton Tablelands are being supplied by ADRA. Generators have also been purchased to help those who are without power. As a further part of its response, ADRA is providing emergency funding for community members who have been identified by Centrelink as not qualifying for government or other assistance packages.

Following Cyclone Larry, ADRA—Australia immediately allocated \$A50,000 to the



ADRA—Australia volunteer Brent Jones (left) with Innisfail's Adventist minister, Dana Howard.

response effort and has already distributed emergency water and food packages to affected households.

ADRA—Australia has purchased equipment, such as chainsaws and generators, to loan to community members following the category-five cyclone last month. ADRA's "equipment bank" is operating from the Innisfail ADRA Op Shop.—*Candice Jaques/Melody Tan/Adele Nash*

To donate to ADRA's Cyclone Larry response, call 1800 242 372 or visit <www.adra.org.au>.



◆ The East Prahran church, Vic, commemorated its **70th anniversary** on March 4. Dedicated on February 1, 1936, the church was filled 70 years on with some 200 people, including 60 from the current membership, to reflect on the times past.—*Jill Rendell*

◆ The **Easter camp-meetings** of the **Western Australian Confer-**

ence this weekend are broadcasting their main tent's presentation **live on radio** and replay recordings from the youth, 30+ and Teen tents at later times. The broadcast will include music and interviews in between programs. The local suburbs that are able to receive the radio signal were letterboxed with a program schedule.—*NewsWest*

◆ **Labour pains** were not enough to prevent **Sikiki Lloyd** from going ahead with her **baptism**. "I had family up from Newcastle and down from Lismore," she says. "I didn't want to reorganise

my baptism because I had really been looking forward to it all year." Though labour started on Friday night, the baptism was held on Sabbath, December 3, at a local resort's pool in Coffs Harbour, NSW, and her **baby boy, Niutao**, was born at 7 am the following morning.—*Scott Wegener*

◆ The second full year of the **South Australian Conference's**



use of the **BPAY** online electronic banking system to collect funds has resulted in a transaction **increase of almost 70 per cent** with transaction values up by 36 per cent. The first three months of the third year have produced a transaction increase of 37 per cent and value increase of 23 per cent. Tithe makes up 52 per cent of all transaction and school fees 41 per cent.—*GrapeVine*

◆ **Correction:** The theme song for "The winning way" (RECORD March 18) was actually written by **Janine Max**.

Seeking the original Adventist Anzacs

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

An Avondale College lecturer is seeking to uncover the story of the first Anzacs from Seventh-day Adventist backgrounds.

Dr Daniel Reynaud, a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Arts, has discovered a number of Adventist young men who served in the Australian forces during World War I.

"Details are sketchy," says Dr Reynaud, "but I've found a reference to an Adventist as part of an interdenominational Bible-study group in Egypt, before the Gallipoli landings. He was probably from Sydney, but I haven't been able to trace his name."

The then *Australasian Record* gives brief obituaries of several others who served, including Lance-Corporal H Stout (Gippsland, Victoria), who was killed on Gallipoli while serving as a medic, Charles A J Morton (Bridgetown, Western Australia), who died in France in August 1916, William Clarke (Sydney, New South Wales), who served at Rabaul, and Lieutenant A M (Bert) Anderson (Melbourne, Victoria), son of Pastor A W Anderson, who was killed



Avondale College lecturer Dr Daniel Reynaud.

in a flying accident in January 1918.

Dr Reynaud's interest was prompted by his discovery of references to Adventists while he conducted research into the Anzacs and religion.

"While the typical Anzac is usually portrayed as being quite irreligious, it's becoming clear to me that a solid minority of soldiers had strong religious convictions, and sought to uphold them in every circumstance at the front," says Dr Reynaud. "The individual stories I have are of Anglicans, Baptists, Methodists and other mainstream denominations. I'd love to tell the story of the original Adventist Anzacs as well."

Contact Dr Reynaud (mail PO Box 19, Cooranbong NSW 2265 or email <daniel.reynaud@avondale.edu.au> if you have information about an Adventist relative or friend who served in the Australian forces during World War I.

Medal-winning conscientious objector dies aged 87

PIEDMONT, ALABAMA, USA

Desmond T Doss, Sr, who braved ridicule to serve in World War II as a US Army medic without carrying a gun, and who laboured on a Sabbath, May 5, 1945, to rescue 75 wounded soldiers pinned down by enemy gunfire on the island of Okinawa, died on March 23 at his residence in Piedmont, Alabama. Mr Doss, the only conscientious objector to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor during World War II, was 87 years of age.

A feature-length documentary called *The Conscientious Objector* was made about Mr Doss in 2004. It is reported that Mr Doss, a quiet, unassuming man, never liked being called a "conscientious objector," preferring "conscientious cooperator" instead. Instead of accepting a deferment from the military draft, he voluntarily joined the US Army, but never took up arms.

When US President Harry Truman gave Doss his medal, President Truman told him, "I'm proud of you; you really deserve this. I consider this medal a greater honour than being president."—ANN staff

The Conscientious Objector is available through ABC stores.



◆ **Fulton College, Fiji**, is offering a "Christian values and moral education" class to their students. Taught by the new principal, **Tony Hay**, students are enjoying the class even though they have only two copies of the textbook *Passing on the Torch* to share between them. "It would be nice to have more copies but we find ways to cope."—**David McClintock**

◆ **Braving frosty conditions, Avondale School, NSW**, students completed a demanding challenge course to help fund the construction of a new play area. For many years, upper primary students had only one set of play equipment and the "Turning obstacles into opportunities" program set out to change that. Students sought sponsorship for the completion of the challenge course that was designed and constructed free of charge by the Avondale College outdoor recreation department. A total of \$A28,000 was raised thanks to a last-minute contribution of

\$A8000 from Sanitarium. In recognition of Sanitarium's contribution a plaque has been placed above the newly constructed play area.—**Braden Blyde**



◆ **Noosa Christian College, Qld**, has 36 Prep students enrolled this year and for the first time is running two Prep classes. Commencing in 2003 with a total school enrolment of 37 students, the college has grown to 170 students in only three years—a **359 per cent increase**. A new secondary year level is planned to be added every year until 2011, when the school will have **complete P-**

12 classes available. The **future expansion** of the college includes the building of another four primary classrooms and a double-storey classroom block for middle schooling—containing two science labs, a double room for temporary library and a general classroom. This year the college has added a barn for animal husbandry and an oval.—**Cherie Harrop**

Ministers upgrade in PNGUM

LAKE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

One woman was among 114 ministers who recently graduated from a two-week intensive course that was conducted by the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) in Lae. The course was tailored to upgrade Adventist pastors from all over the country who had graduated from Omaura School of Ministries, so they can meet the entry level for the three-year theology-training program at Sonoma Adventist College, East New Britain Province.

The bulk of the pastors in PNGUM did their training at Omaura, where they do a one-year training course. Many often return to do the second year after several years of field work.

Convenor of the upgrading Pastor Tony Kemo said that one of the aims of the training program is to reduce that gap between those who were trained at Omaura and those at Sonoma and Pacific Adventist University (PAU). He stressed that in the past, the church had conducted quite a number of Bible conferences that catered only for pastors who had graduated from Sonoma and PAU.

"I have been planning for this upgrading for a long time and I am thankful the church has finally come up with the funds



Some of the 114 ministers at the recent PNGUM training course held in Lae.

to make it come true," says Pastor Kemo who is the ministerial secretary for the PNGUM.

"I wish this course were conducted earlier," says Pastor Stephen Kamae from Eastern Highlands Province. "This course is dynamic but it is too late for me because I am retiring at the end of this year."

Dr Paul Petersen, South Pacific Division field secretary, Dr David Tasker, PAU head of theology, and Dr Ray Roennfeldt, head of Avondale theology, were the guest lecturers at the upgrading program. Dr Roennfeldt was excited about the upgrading because he was a lecturer at Omaura in the 1980s.

Dr Tasker said he was very impressed with the receptiveness of the pastors. He further said a number of them could gain entry to the degree program at PAU.—*Matupit Darius*

Church plant success

LANDSBOROUGH, QUEENSLAND

April 8 marked a special day in the history of the Landsborough church, Queensland. Three new church companies started in Maleny, Kilcoy and Woodford—all planted from the ever-growing church in Landsborough.

Pastor Mike Brownhill comments that there has been discussion about getting a Maleny plant established over recent years, and recent overflowing of Landsborough church during worship services has brought this issue to a head.

"It now gives the locals an option of attending a Sabbath-keeping church on the Blackall Range," Pastor Brownhill says. Landsborough church has run evangelistic series in each of the three towns, with the Kilcoy and Woodford campaigns only just finishing.—*Ben Beaden*



Landsborough members involved in the church plants.

◆ **Robel Gezahegn**, the Adventist World Radio (AWR) producer for the Tigrinya language, traversed up to the **northern part of Ethiopia** to Shimelba, a refugee camp. While a place for a small group to meet to listen to the AWR Tigrinya program was organised, news of a pastor visiting the camp quickly spread throughout Shimelba. The following evening, an **unexpectedly large number** of attendees forced a move to an alternative location. A large open space was found where people came to watch soccer games of the

English Premier League through satellite receiver. All the **soccer games were cancelled** for the week and each evening attendance increased until nearly 1200 camp inhabitants were attending—12 per cent of the entire population. Despite limited religious freedom in the area, nine people dedicated their lives to God.—*Benjamin Schoun*

◆ Touched by the dire need of the **mountain people of Kashmir** who experienced the earthquake in Pakistan, **Kaitlyn Mayne**, of the Newberg church, Oregon, USA,

decided to do what she could to help. She chose to prepare special invitations to her 13th birthday party, **asking, in lieu of presents**, that guests bring **donations for earthquake survivors**. When all of the "gifts" were counted, more than \$US1 275 had been donated for ADRA's work in Pakistan.—*Gleaner*

◆ Twenty-four children from the **Stanborough Park**, UK, Adventurer and Pathfinder Club took part in a **two-hour swimathon** at Bricket Wood Sports Centre on February 26 to raise funds for a camporee

trip planned later this year. The children, **aged between five and 14**, swam for an hour and 45 minutes. The three most junior swimmers, all aged five, between them swam a total of 1.85 kilometres while **Naomi Burgess completed 3.85 kilometres** herself. The combined distance of 36.35 kilometres swum by the children was enough to **cross the English Channel**. Several hundred pounds is anticipated to be raised from the event and several more fundraisers are in the pipeline, including a half-marathon, sponsored hike, and investiture day concert.—*BUC News*

Church awards communicators

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

Two Avondale College staff members are among the latest recipients of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's top communication award. And an Australian author was also recognised with the Bridge Awards on March 23.

Bradley Trevor Greive, who wrote the *Blue Day Book*, was recognized for his books. Mr Greive is a *New York Times* best-selling author and has written 16 books that have sold 12 million copies around the world. He is also an international wildlife conservationist.

Mr Greive sent a recorded acceptance speech: "I thank my parents for sharing their Christian beliefs with me. I once wasn't a devout churchgoer but when I joined the army those Christian values proved vital especially in dark times. Those Christian values have led to so many opportunities for a Christian sense of brotherhood all over the world."

Avondale College's senior communication lecturer Dr Allen Steele and receptionist Andrea Steele also received a Bridge Award from the General Conference's (GC) Communication Department for "pioneering and inspirational work fulfilling God's mission through Adventist radio broadcast-

ing" and "skills in corporate communication, writing and public relations."

The Steeles served Adventist World Radio (AWR) from its inception in 1971 until 1976, then from 1985 until their move to Avondale. They lived in Portugal, Guam, Germany and England during their tenure. Dr Steele served primarily as vice-president for strategic planning, Mrs Steele as director of public relations. Dr Steele's first book, *Loud Let It Ring*, celebrated the first 25 years of AWR.

"Receiving the award is an unexpected honour," says Dr Steele. "We've dedicated our lives to serving the church. It feels good to know that's appreciated."

Mrs Steele says broadcasting to those in hard-to-reach places and in their own language is reward enough. "Doing my bit to change people's lives, that's given me all the joy and pleasure I need."

Pastor John Banks, associate director of communication for the GC, conveyed the news of the award to the Steeles in an email. "Your professionalism, dedication and creativity are an example to many," he wrote. "We are honoured to recognise you as ex-



Maurice Ashton

Dr Allen and Andrea Steele have received a Bridge Award for their work in communication.

emplary Adventist communicators."

The Steeles are the first husband and wife to win the award. Others winners with a South Pacific connection include Pastor Ray Coombe, a former director of communication for the church in the South Pacific, the late Gabriel Reynaud, a producer, and Dr Bruce Manners, former editor at Signs Publishing Company.

The Communication Department established the Bridge Award in 2001 to recognise meritorious contribution to Adventist communication through avenues of public church awareness, visionary thinking, excellence in responsible journalism and professional mentoring, in addition to outstanding achievements in media, public relations and public affairs.—**Brenton Stacey/ANN**

◆ Australia's second "Jesus. All about life" campaign was officially launched in Canberra recently with the raising of more than 60 flags along Commonwealth Avenue leading to Parliament House. Each flag carries the brand of the campaign with 'Jesus' in a large white script against a red background. The campaign's television advertising started in March 6 and will run until Anzac Day. While the television ads are the main part of the campaign, they are being supported by the flags, banners outside churches, radio and press advertising and posters on the backs of

Canberra's ACTION buses. "Jesus. All about life" is an initiative of Bible Society NSW. It ran successfully in Adelaide in August, 2005 and plans are in hand to take the campaign to Tasmania, Brisbane and Melbourne during the next few years.—**Bible Society**

More @
allaboutlife.com.au

◆ On March 9 Sports Chaplaincy Australia (SCA) was launched nationally at the Telstra Dome in Melbourne. Cameron Butler, the new national director says, "If people want to talk about life

issues, stresses and the pressures of life, we are there to offer off-the-field support. As Christians we can share a different perspective and show them there is a spiritual aspect to life. Chaplains also offer support for the families of sportspeople, spend time with them in hospital, support them through reprimands and suspensions and help them through depression." A panel of sporting personalities spoke about the work of chaplains in their lives: Tim Watson (Australian Rules football); Margaret Court (tennis); David Beard (volleyball); and

Jason Stevens (Rugby League). The launch included a segment "What sport would Jesus play?" SCA has 120 chaplains reaching 5000 athletes, coaches and staff each week.—**Helen Woodall**

More @
sportschaplaincy.com.au

◆ While India's population as a whole is 94 per cent Hindu or Islamic, and just 2.4 per cent Christian, there is a state in the north-east of India, Nagaland, that claims 99 per cent of its two million population is Christian.—**Dan Wooding**

“The winning way” wins at Games

(Continued from page 1)

On March 18, VicYouth—the Victorian Conference’s Youth Department—held a youth rally in St Paul’s Cathedral, located in the heart of Melbourne adjacent to Flinders Street Station. The rally attracted more than 1100 young people, as well as many passersby.

“Our speaker, A J Grant, was absolutely amazing,” reports assistant youth director Derek McCutcheon. “He spoke to the hearts of the people. Everything went as well as we had hoped.”

“The church was fuller than I have seen it in the five years I have volunteered here,” commented a tour guide from the cathedral who was present at the rally. “It was an amazing program with music, lights and cameras.”

Those cameras were recording the program for Hope Channel, which broadcast the event on March 28.

The rally was also a positive event from the perspective of participants. “I was really inspired and felt like exploding with gratitude to God for the opportunity to see and be involved in the program,” says Darius Ignasiak from the Wantirna Polish church. “The magnitude and quality of the service was truly inspirational.”

On March 19, the Revelate concert in Brunswick Park in Melbourne’s inner city, organised by Rebecca Auriant and Derek McCutcheon from VicYouth, drew huge crowds. Some 1500 Sanitarium sausages were sizzled and handed out to people,

along with “winning way” packs, as they enjoyed music by Sons of Korah, Mayday, Simeon, and Rocfish for the kids. The huge event couldn’t have happened without more than 100 volunteers from STORM Co, The Salvation Army, Fusion, the Pinnacle of Terror and other church youth. During the program two people asked for Bible studies and one nine-year-old girl and her parents were so enamoured with the Pinnacle of Terror that they asked where the nearest Adventist church to their home was located, as they wish to attend.

During the 10 days of the Games, STORM Co teams moved throughout the city doing face painting, ballooning, clowning, and handing out “winning way” gold medals. VicYouth, in league with Christian radio station 89.9 Light FM, delivered more than 4000 packs each day during the Games.

The resources designed for the “winning way” outreach have been appreciated and creatively used for effective ministry as individual items, according to team members. “The sampler DVD is the best resource the church has ever produced,” says John Dell of Geelong. “There has never been anything before that gets it all together.”

“The winning way” gold medals were also a hit—drawing crowds and even fooling international visitors into shaking the hand of one “gold-winning athlete” among team members.

The special Games *Signs* has been used by churches and individuals in numerous ways. Peter Ansell, pastor of the Bendigo and Echuca churches who has served as a literature evangelist, says, “These



“The winning way” winners.

Signs are the easiest and best home opener I have ever had.”

“We gave out Fruity Bix bars together with the *Signs* magazine,” reports Gateway church planter Johny Wong. “We then offered the free DVD sampler to all who had finished our survey. We have made 40 contacts who indicated a wish to study the Bible. We now run weekly Bible-study meetings at the university.” Gateway church is now using the Commonwealth Games *Signs* in English as a second language classes to teach foreign students English.”

The involvement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Commonwealth Games Christian outreach has had a positive impact on the views other denominations have of Adventists, according to feedback received by the outreach teams. The evangelistic resources of “the winning way” demonstrated our passion for Jesus and drew non-Christians toward Jesus.

Evangelistic follow-up programs have commenced in many churches around the Melbourne area, focusing on meeting the needs of the newly gathered interests.

—Dave Edgren



“The winning way” team.

Longburn plans to refurbish chapel

BY BRIAN MERCER

LONGBURN ADVENTIST COLLEGE (LAC) has much to be proud of. For more than 98 years, LAC—now based near Palmerston North, New Zealand—has been educating students from the Pacific rim and beyond. This year, the college hosts students from New Zealand, Australia, French Polynesia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Japan, Taiwan and Korea.

LAC is seen by the local community as an excellent school where students are given an outstanding Christian-focused education. What is particularly pleasing is the significant increase in Adventist boarding students, highlighting the positive perception by Adventist families. The boarding program is now the largest it has been for many years.

We are proud of our students and teachers. Our 2005 students achieved outstanding academic results, with 90 per cent of students achieving NCEA Level One (School Certificate) and 100 per cent gaining university admission.

LAC is a school with a waiting list for entry, with some parents from the local community electing to put their children in school as boarding students in an effort to ensure admission.

We are also proud of the spiritual commitment of our school community. We have a school where students overtly practise Christianity through word and deed. Just recently, more than 80 students committed to baptismal classes at the end of a

Week of Prayer. Later this year, 30 students and teachers from our school community will be flying to the Cook Islands to assist in the maintenance of our sister school, Papaaroa Adventist College.

While we are proud of many things at LAC, there is at least one area needing improvement. Central to our worship is our chapel. This is the place where many students, both past and present, have committed their lives to God. It is the focal point of the school, where our Christian beliefs and the special character of the school are enunciated.

Unfortunately, this building, built in 1963, is in urgent need of refurbishment, with a new roof being the first priority. The 40-year-old tiles have deteriorated to the point where repair is no longer viable, with leaks appearing in a number of places in the building.

To replace the roof will cost approximately \$NZ50,000. The school does not have the money to do this but the April 22 offering collected in the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC), along with assistance from the NZPUC, will allow us to start.

In 2008, LAC will celebrate 100 years since its inception as the Pukekura Training



The current chapel at Longburn Adventist College.

School near Cambridge, south of Hamilton. Four years later the school was transferred to its present location.

While its location and name have changed, LAC has not forgotten its history, with many graduates from the college serving both the church and the community. We plan to celebrate our beginnings in 2008.

We ask that as you consider your contribution for this Adventist institution, please recognise the wonderful contribution this school has made in this part of the world. Our chapel—the spiritual centre of this school—needs to be refurbished, so it will continue to draw students to God. We know God will continue to bless LAC and we ask for your prayers in this exciting time of the school's history. **R**

Brian Mercer is the principal of Longburn Adventist College, in Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Union Institutions Offering—April 22
Australian Union Conference: Mamarapha College

New Zealand Pacific Union Conference: Longburn Adventist College

Mamarapha builds indigenous ministry

BY GORDON STAFFORD



MAMARAPHA COLLEGE IS making a significant impact on the lives of indigenous Australians. This is best demonstrated through their stories:

When Darryl first came to college, he was so shy and quiet it was hard to talk with him; it was several months before he spoke up in class. Today, Darryl is still shy by nature, but he confidently leads out in singing, takes a worship now and then, and is becoming a spiritual leader among his people in Port Augusta.

James came to the first block of study at college unsure of himself, depressed, addicted to smoking and with a history of rejection and other problems. I hardly recognised James when he came to the second block of study. He had let Christ come into his life, and with tobacco and the old life gone there was a new sense of direction, purpose and a joy that I hadn't seen before. That joy still shines in his face today, and James is studying full time at the college.

College subjects cover a wide range of areas; in addition to the biblical and ministry subjects, each year's study includes units on the home and family, human relations, life skills, music, health, and computers. Marion Hastie enjoys all the subjects, both biblical and non-biblical, "because the spiritual basis upon which the subjects are taught model to me the need to bring God into every area of my life," she says.

"Not many college directors and assistant directors run the college, teach you to play musical instruments, conduct your choir, eat with you, pray with you, befriend you, share your trials as well as share a joke and even drive the bus for you! This is why I love Mamarapha!"—*Marion Hastie, second-year student, Brisbane, Qld.*

Students come to the college from across Australia, and "because Christ is the centre of what we learn, it is spilling over and crossing all cultural boundaries," says student Aymond Burdett.

"Mamarapha College stands true to its name 'God heals,'" says Ciana Hastie, a second-year pastoral ministry student. "We begin each morning with worship, which helps us focus and centre our minds on Christ, who alone can bring about the harmony we experience in this environment. This is a miracle in itself; we have people come from all over Australia, from different walks of life learning how God can use us to spread the gospel. It has opened my eyes to a wealth of knowledge that I wish everyone could have an opportunity to learn and know."

Christ's love shows in the way students from different Aboriginal cultures and regions accept each other and work together. When students share their experiences in churches around Perth, God's love reaches across the cultures.

Guest lecturers are a regular part of the college teaching program, and many say they receive more than they give. "Students are friendly and open to learning, with a good sense of humour," according to visiting lecturer Pastor Anthony McPherson.

Dr Allan Lindsay comments that "each time I have taught at Mamarapha, I been blessed and impressed by the school, its staff and by the sincerity of the students who are happy, cooperative and keen to learn.

"To someone who might want to attend Mamarapha College," he continues, "I would say, 'do all you can to get there! The staff are most helpful and encouraging, and the courses have been prepared thoroughly to equip you to play a major part in the life of the church.'

"Mamarapha College is doing a wonderful work in developing the talents of our Aboriginal people so they can effectively

preach and teach the gospel to their own people and occupy positions of leadership. The work among our Aboriginal people has been slow to start but in recent years it has expanded rapidly, and this is in no small way due to the influence of Mamarapha. Our indigenous people must also have the opportunity to hear of Jesus and His soon coming. I believe those who understand and are part of their culture are the most effective workers to reach their hearts."

"Mamarapha is most worthy of our financial support," he adds. "All who care about the gospel going to *all* the world and the eternal salvation of all, regardless of colour, caste or class, will give—as they are able—to Mamarapha, for there will be many in heaven who will be there because of the school's influence and instruction."

"Mamarapha is a place where indigenous people can learn that doesn't feel foreign to them. They see there are many other dedicated Aboriginal Adventists around. The more trained Aboriginal leaders, the better the future of the churches they are working in," adds Anthony McPherson.

"It has been a blessing and a privilege for us to come and study at an institution such as this," says Ciana Hastie. "I am truly grateful for the ones who had the vision to start an indigenous Bible college." **R**

Gordon Stafford is director of Mamarapha College in Karragullen, Western Australia.

"In nearly 30 years of teaching, I never entered the classroom at the beginning of the day to find students praying together that God would help them to learn and understand their lessons for the day. But this was my experience at Mamarapha."—*Dr Allan Lindsay, guest lecturer*



A prayer at Easter

BY NINA THIGANOFF

OUR LORD, OUR SAVIOUR, OUR REDEEMER,
We bring to You an offering, our tribute of gratitude and praise.
In all our ways we acknowledge our indebtedness and
Recognise our utter dependence on Your generous provisions.

First and foremost we bring You thanks
For Your amazing love,
A love that compelled You
To renounce Your heavenly throne
To cast aside Your glorious crown
And in their stead take on the form of a human, a common man.

We praise You for Your life here on earth.
We marvel how You comforted and healed,
And even restored the dead to life.

We glory in Your patience and endurance:
You had to labour for Your bread while living in this world,
Frequently You had no dwelling place to call Your own,
At times You were exhausted, lonely, misunderstood, beset by grief.

It is awesome that You did not shrink from the agony of Gethsemane,
Neither did You quake before the earthly tribunals
Where false witness was borne against You,
Where You were reviled, and scourged, and finally . . . condemned!

How heavy must have been the cross upon Your shoulder,
How arduous the path inclining up toward Golgotha,
How terrible the nails they hammered into weakened hands and feet,
And then . . . the fearful spear thrust in Your side.

You bore it all
With no complaint or recourse.
Forgive us for our guilty part, for all the pain we caused.
Accept our humble thanks:

For the forgiveness of our sins,
For the power to make us clean,
For hope,
For comfort,
For life,
For all.

Amen. **R**

Nina Thiganoff writes from Cooparoo, Queensland.



Out of the mouths of . . .

BY NORMAN H YOUNG

I LOVE ANDREW DENTON'S TELEVISION program *Enough Rope*. Denton is a clever interviewer whose gentle style deceptively conceals a very probing dialogical technique. However, on this occasion the preview advertisements didn't grab me because his guest was to be the lead singer of a rock band.

I had heard of U2 and even of its lead singer Bono, but I'd never heard the band play or him sing. I watched the interview out of habit, and because Denton is enjoyable in his own right.

Bono conformed to my preconceived image of a rock star: long hair in need of a shampoo, earrings, studded leather jacket and tinted sunglasses. I didn't expect much wisdom to come out of this interview.

How wrong I was!

On a mission

With great energy, Bono expressed his belief that it is within the power of today's Western nations to eliminate world poverty. He called it "stupid poverty" that kids were "dying for lack of food in their belly in the 21st century." Or that "3000 Africans, mostly children, [were] dying every day from mosquito bite," and that, he said frankly, "is ridiculous."

I was gobsmacked. This was no empty-headed, drug-taking, loose-living, no-hoper, but an articulate and passionate advocate of a very worthy cause. Even his vocabulary exploded my assumption that all rock stars were monosyllabic bone-heads. He used words like "incendiary," "mesmeric," "baroque," "invective," and "expletive," as well—of course—as the occasional colourful expression.

Bono's fame is such that he has access to world leaders. After praising the intellectual feat of putting a man on the moon, he challenged the United States president, George Bush, with this proposal: "We're not asking you to put a man on the moon here, Mr President. It will cost less to bring mankind back to earth so to speak and be that generation" that ends this stupid poverty. Bono was instrumental in getting Bush to give two grants of \$US25 billion and \$US15 billion, the latter "to get anti-retroviral drugs to Africans."

Nor did he let Australia escape. Bono wants rich nations to give 0.7 per cent of their gross domestic product (GDP) to address the problem of the world's poor. That's what it will take, he argued, to end the obscenity of world poverty. Australia gives, he thought, about 0.28 per cent of

its GDP. If by 2010 we got to 0.5 per cent, then, he argued, "11 million people would have access to clean water, 18,000 deaths avoided from AIDS and TB. . . . These are real lives, real numbers. What an opportunity to be able to do that."

We—the ordinary people, he said, have to be generous enough to give our politicians permission to spend our tax money in this way. Wow! There's no shifting the responsibility to someone or somewhere else—it's yours and it's mine. And all this from the mouth of a rock star!

Talking faith

Then to add to my confusion the well-dressed Andrew Denton is an avowed atheist while Bono—the rocker—is a Christian.

"I do have faith," Bono declared to the Australia-wide television audience, "and it is challenged on a daily basis by what I see in Africa." But he no longer blames God for the continuance of world poverty.

The response to the tsunami was "very eloquent," says Bono, but in Africa there's "an avoidable catastrophe of tsunami proportions every week." We have the resources if we have the will, he points out, so it's really something for us to do and not

something to avoid by blaming God.

Like Job, I was speechless.

Living faith

“No-one has a greater life [than] a spoiled rock star like myself,” Bono confessed. “But I can’t really enjoy it the way I’d like to, knowing that there’s this haemorrhaging of human life, which could be stopped and isn’t being stopped.”

And I thought rock stars simply lived for drugs, booze and sex!

Bono doesn’t deny the enormity of the challenge. He’s not advocating giving money to support corrupt leadership or decorating presidential palaces. “Let’s be tough,” he said, “and vigorous and demanding of our aid. But let’s increase it.”

He challenges the conservative Christian community with the thought that AIDS is “the leprosy of our age.” He refuses to let Christians hide behind pious words while ignoring the plight of the Third World.

Bono quoted Tom Lantos, a concentration camp survivor, about how the crowds stared blankly at the Jewish prisoners as the Nazis herded them onto the trains.

We cannot say today, Lantos noted, that we do not know where the trains are going.

“We are letting children die for the lack of medicines you can get in any corner store.” And, according to

Bono, “that’s what our generation has got to do. We’ve got to go down and lie across the tracks.”

And I thought rock stars simply lived for drugs, booze and sex!

The final dismantling of my idea of a rock star was when Bono spoke about his family. He says he is fortunate in that he doesn’t have a factory job that takes him away from home from 7 am to 9 pm. Most mornings he is home with his wife, Ali, and the kids.

“I have an amazing family life and it’s elastic and it’s a little hectic and a little chaotic, but it’s full of laughter and—they’re great kids,” he told Denton.

Rethinking

I was reeling. Bono didn’t conform to my preconceived idea of a rock star—except in outward appearance. But then God’s not overly impressed with outward show (1 Samuel 16:7; Matthew 6:2-6; 1 Peter 3:3). With God, expect the unexpected.


A rock star had shattered the comfortable complacency of my middle-class cocooned Christianity. The radical Jesus rebuked the religious cant of his day with a bracing ethic to the poor (see Matthew 5:42; 6:21; 10:8; 19:21; Luke 11:39, 40; 12:33, 48; 14:13, 33). Bono confronts the Western world—especially Christians—with the same radical ethic.

God chooses strange spokespersons: out of the mouths of babes (see Matthew 21:16), despised nobodies (see 1 Corinthians 1:27-29), and a rock star He has spoken—at least to me. **R**

Norman H Young is a research fellow of the Faculty of Theology at Avondale College, Cooranbong, New South Wales.

Record Roo's

kids corner




Hi kids,
Have you ever found something that was hidden or lost? Were you excited to find it? Imagine how excited Hilkiyah was when he found a long lost book of God's law? Read the story in 2 Kings 22:3-20

RR


Fill in the Blanks

“Then Hilkiyah the high _____ said to Shaphan the _____, ‘I have _____ the _____ of the _____ in the house of the _____.’ And Hilkiyah gave the _____ to Shaphan and he _____ it.” 2 Kings 22:8



Spot the Difference

There are 10 differences



Words or action?

BRENTON STACEY, NSW

The irony! Worldwide meeting of church leaders (in crime-riddled city) to shape plans and foster unity. Delegates raise issues of equality and representation. Worship is colourful and vibrant, but business mostly mundane and statements largely symbolic.

Summarise the most recent General Conference (GC) session and the World Council of Churches assembly (“Adventists observe WCC assembly,” News, March 25, and additional reports at <www.adventistreview.org>) in four sentences and you find little difference between the two. Yet, we send thousands of delegates to one and just three observers to the other. A suggestion, then, to restore some balance:

I suggest that the next GC session be held in South Africa with the church’s response to HIV/AIDS the first agenda item. Invite Bono—Christian, lead singer of rock band U2 and “eloquent spokesperson” for the poor in Africa, according to GC president Jan Paulsen—to open the session. Encourage leaders of other churches to speak in person about how they have responded. Commit to working together as Christians to prevent the spread of the virus.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church does have a voice. We are not members of a faith community who talk only to ourselves and only in spiritual terms. Right?

Good operation

DEBRA MCGRATH, NSW

Thank you for the report on “Operation food for life” (“Feeding the 5000—and more,” News, March 25). In May 2005 it was my pleasure to volunteer with many others and travel to the Cook Islands to help with the “Food for life” ministry.

The experience was both immensely rewarding and challenging. To see smiles on children’s faces and to visit those less able than me was a privilege. To tell people Jesus loves them and to show love in a prayer, a simple smile, a handshake, a hug, breakfast, home and hospital visits, medical help,

fun runs—and more—is priceless. God has shown me such grace and love that if I can show it to others I’m truly blessed.

The program wouldn’t be what it is without the Sanitarium Health Food Company and great support of the South Pacific Division leadership.

“Operation food for life” showcases Jesus and amplifies our church in such a positive light that it affects almost every person in every country to which the ministry travels. I was stopped by total strangers in the street in the islands, thanking me for the influence and practical help of “Operation food for life” in the country.

We are not members of a faith community who talk only to ourselves and only in spiritual terms. Right?

Thank you, Sanitarium. By working hand in hand with our church we are changing lives for Jesus forever!

KEN GALE, NSW

I would like to attest to the amazing work being done throughout the Pacific region with the “Operation food for life.” I attended the last Cook Islands outreach as a volunteer and as a result my life has taken on a new perspective. My first observation was the hours the local church members put in to make it an amazing success. No-one in the Cook Islands was overlooked. Food was provided to cabinet ministers, hospital patients, students and prisoners. Wheelchairs and other aids were also provided.

The local people approached us wherever we happened to be to thank us personally for our time and efforts.

Sanitarium’s support is making a world of difference. And the way Dennis Perry introduced each program by uplifting Jesus showed the true purpose of the Adventist Church.

This program is the church’s best-kept secret!

Prayer and ministry

JAMES STANFORD, VIC

“Ministry to ministers” (Letters, March 18) was timely. I praise God for the writer’s

concern for their minister. May God raise up others to pray for their ministers too.

Some years ago, I had the privilege of being a prayer partner to the ministers in the church where I was. And today the shoe is on the other foot. I am now a pastor, and God has raised up for me a prayer partner.

Before I started the adventure of ministry I didn’t fully understand the pressures ministers face. I feel I have been greatly blessed by God’s provision of a prayer partner for me, and that my ministry has been more effective and less stressful than it otherwise might have been.

A model for youth

SHANE HERBERT, NZ

“The missing years” (Feature, March 25) states “what a pity [Ellen White] was not impressed to delve into those missing years and flesh out a role model for our youth.”

But *The Desire of Ages* says, “The more quiet and simple the life of the child—the more free from artificial excitement, and the more in harmony with nature—the more favourable is it to physical and mental vigour and to spiritual strength” (page 74). That says it all!

The author also states that at the age of 12 (Jesus’ adventures in Jerusalem) “there was an independent spirit in Him even then.” Yet the Bible says Jesus did nothing of Himself, but did what His Father did (see John 5:19), judged on what He heard from His Father (John 5:30), and spoke what His Father commanded (John 12:49). Jesus said, “I do not seek my own will but the will of the Father who sent me” (John 5:30, NKJV).

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—Tauranga Church (New Zealand). 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.

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Anniversaries

Fowler, Des and Frances (nee Whaley) celebrated 50 years of marriage with their four children and families on 18.3.06. Marrying on 7.4.56 at St Peter's Anglican church, Hornsby, NSW, they became Seventh-day Adventists shortly after through a Voice of Prophecy letterbox campaign. Over the years they have worked tirelessly for church and family, which includes nine grandchildren. They have held church office at Waitara (Greater Sydney), Woy Woy (NNSW) and currently at Kurri Kurri (NNSW).

Heise, Vern and Edna were married in the Avondale Village church, Cooranbong, NSW, on 5.3.46 by Pastor Norman Ferris. Sixty years later to the day, they celebrated at the same spot, with some of the original wedding party in at-



tendance. At the luncheon, messages were received from state and federal leaders, and from HRH Queen Elizabeth II. Pastor Vern and Edna have contributed many years of dedicated ministry to congregations in most states of Australia. Their family and friends saluted them with expressions of love and appreciation.

Randall, Eric and Valma (nee Willis) met while they were students at Carmel College, WA (formerly known as Western Australian Missionary College). They were married in the old Bickley church by Pastor A F J Kranz.

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All their children and their families, and some of the great-grandchildren were present for the celebration at their son Don's home. Letters of congratulations were received from HRH Queen Elizabeth II, federal and state politicians; also greetings from their best man Pastor Ernie Lemke and flowergirl Linley



Tolhurst were added to the scrapbook of their lives, made for them by granddaughter Louise Cullen. Eric and Val have been loyal and contributing members of the Merredin church for 59 of their 60 years of marriage.

Weddings

Greenham—Williams. Luke Raymond Greenham, son of Steven Greenham (Albury, NSW) and Heather Carver (Goulburn), and Kristel Skye Williams, daughter of Rodney and Maria Williams (Ulladulla) were married on 12.3.06 at Little Forest Lodge, Reception Centre, Milton.

Lawrence Landers

Mickan—Paular. Calvin John Mickan, son of Hedley and Beverly Mickan (West Wallsend, NSW), and Luzvis-minda Ocho Paular, daughter of Rodrigo and Luciana Paular (Surigao City, Mindanao, the Philippines), were married on 19.2.06 in the Boolaroo Adventist church, Newcastle.

Lindsay Laws, Harold Edmunds

Nilsson—Goodall. Phillip Richard Nilsson, son of George and Eunice Nilsson (NZ), and Lana Maureen Goodall, daughter of Bruce Goodall (West Auckland) and Pru Turner (Auckland), were married on 26.2.06 in St George's Anglican church, Ranfurly, Auckland.

Russell Willcock

Positions vacant

▲ **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>. Employment conditions: Independent School Award applies. **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 **Monday, April 24, 2006.**

▲ **Aircraft Maintenance Engineer—Adventist Aviation Service (Goroka, PNG)**—is seeking an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer. For further information please visit the POSITIONS VACANT section of the SPD website at <spd.adventist.org.au/employment>. **Applications in writing** (including your CV, three work-related referees and the contact details of your church pastor) should be forwarded to: Human Resources, South Pacific Division, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076; email <hr@adventist.org.au>; fax (02) 9489 0943. **Applications close May 11, 2006**

▲ **Director of Care Services—Adventist Residential Care (Rossmoyne, WA)** is seeking a Director of Care Services for its 80-bed aged care facility located in Perth. The position description and selection criteria may be obtained by emailing Jolyne on <jfelix@adventist.org.au>; or phoning (08) 9354 4133 during office hours.

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

Obituaries

Andric, Marija (nee Muzek), born 22.3.1913 in Slovenia; died 21.2.06 in Brisbane, Qld. In 1944 she married Franjo, who predeceased her in 1997. She is survived by her children, Ivica, Marica and Pavle; their spouses; her grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. We cannot do justice to her life by describing her in just a few sentences, for she was a woman of grace and laughter, warmth and kindness, dignity and beauty. She was worthy of great love and it is with that great love that we will hold her in our hearts forever.

Dragan Mladjen, John Andric
Dusan Milosavljevic, Dragisa Vidacak

Barons, Frederick Heath, born 15.9.1918 at Plympton, SA; died 5.3.06 at Warwick, Qld. He was predeceased by his wife, Laurel. He is survived by his children, Beverley (Forestfield, WA), June (Glenhuntly, Vic), Kaye (Boonah, Qld), Grant (Booragoon, WA), Stuart (Berwick, Vic); his 13 grandchildren; his 23 great-grandchildren; and his two great-great-grandchildren. Fred served his country during World War II and served his Lord faithfully as well.

Warren Fedorow

Belan, Dr Vlad John, born 9.2.1961 in Newcastle, NSW; died 25.9.05 in Mater Hospital, Newcastle. He met and married the love of his life, Jillian Wallace, in 1993. They established a home and family and were very happy. He is survived by his wife; his young children, Vincent and Francesca; his mother, Olga Belan; his sister, Anna Hick, and family; and parents-in-law, Ruth and Rollo Wallace, and their family. Vlad was a very special person. He was not only a sought-after medical doctor; he was also a very caring and devoted husband and father. He was seriously clever, lots of fun, very generous, an excellent doctor and a genuine friend. He will be very sadly missed.

Owen D'Costa

Curnuck, Harold William George, born 19.3.1913 at Goolwa; died 17.2.06 in Bar- ington Hospital, Coffs Harbour, NSW. He was predeceased by his first wife, Lillian; also his sons, Stephen, Brian and Vernon. He is survived by his second wife, Maureen (Boambee East); his children, Alen, Kevin, Beryl De Ryder, Ivan (all of Bundaberg, Qld), Bruce (Walla Walla, USA), Shirley Toepfer (Telegraph Point, NSW), Milton (Oberon) and Evelyn Booth (Toowoomba, Qld). Harold was a practical and unique character, living a long and happy life, full of variety; and he looked forward to his Lord's return.

Ken Love, Gordon Smith

McLean, Bertha Helen (Betty), born 29.4.1923 at New Plymouth, NZ; died 8.6.05 at Invercargill. She was predeceased by her husband, Jack. She is survived by her children, John, Faye, Reece, Wendy, Heather, Allison, Averill and Christine; her sister, Elsie McGill (Invercargill); and her 12 grandchildren. Betty was a very active member of the Invercargill church for over 60 years. She was also a great gardener, very hospitable, and "Aunty" to many of the Invercargill families. She is missed by all her family and friends.

Mel Trevena

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