

RECORD

May 20, 2006

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Celebrating 10 years of VIA service



Visiting the Mona Lisa, while filming *The Code*: (left to right) James Lounsbury (director), Anthony Jennings (cinematographer), Leah McLeod (presenter) and Behren Schulz (producer).

Adventists respond to *Da Vinci* challenge

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Answering the release of the cinematic adaptation of *The Da Vinci Code*, two major resources from Adventist sources are answering the questions and challenges posed by the bestseller and now blockbuster.

The Code is a five-part docudrama DVD series produced by Adventist Media and *The Da Vinci Decode* is a new book published by Signs Publishing Company. Both projects have been sponsored by the Australian Union Conference (AUC) and form part of an evangelistic strategy to take the opportunities of a renewed interest in the story of Jesus, created by *The Da*

Vinci Code.

According to Pastor Grenville Kent, coauthor of the *The Da Vinci Decode*, his motivation for writing the book was an overheard conversation. "One day on the street I heard one council worker say to another, 'Are you still a Christian? Haven't you read *The Da Vinci Code*?' That motivated me.

"I know of young Adventists who've stopped coming to church after reading it," he comments. "A girl from my church had a university friend tell her to read *The Da Vinci Code* and she'd get over her silly Christian faith. (Continued on page 5)



Real wonder

Let me ruin the ending of the story for you.

DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS, I have spent a lot of time with *The Da Vinci Code*. With articles in *Signs* magazine, editing *The Da Vinci Decode* book and small contributions to other projects, as well as putting together this issue of RECORD, Dan Brown's story has occupied a fair space of my working life—and beyond.

Somewhere along the way, I knew I needed to read the novel that had been sitting unread on my bookshelf for the previous two-and-a-half years. So with a couple of weeks holiday in February, I took the book away with me and spent a day or so drawn into its fictional world. Having previously read of the claims of the novel, I was somewhat prepared for the attacks on the heart of the Christian faith and I was also prepared to be engaged by an exciting story. But I must admit the ending took me by surprise.

So let me ruin the ending of the story for you. Who knows what the screenwriters will have done with this in adapting it into a movie but, in its book form, *The Da Vinci Code* ends with the hero overwhelmed in a moment of worship: "Langdon felt himself awoken fully now to the thrill of unthinkable possibility. . . . Raising his eyes to heaven, he gazed upward through the glass to a glorious, star-filled night. . . . With a sudden upwelling of reverence, Robert Langdon fell to his knees."

These are highlights from a larger description that touched my heart with a sense

of wonder and awe. And such feelings are not everyday experiences in my life.

I suspect my experience of the novel provides at least a partial answer to a series of rhetorical questions posed by writer Brian McLaren regarding *The Da Vinci Code*: "Why is the vision of Jesus hinted at in Dan Brown's book more interesting, more attractive and more intriguing to these people than the standard version of Jesus they hear about from churches? . . . Is it possible that even though Brown's fictional version misreads in many ways, it at least serves to open up the possibility that the church's conventional version of Jesus may not do Him justice?"¹

The day after I read *The Da Vinci Code*, I turned my attention to the manuscript that has now become *The Da Vinci Decode*. It helped clear up some of the lingering questions I had about Brown's assertions, exposing the shaky historical and theological foundations upon which they were constructed. But more importantly, it led me again to a similar experience of wonder and awe.

Allow me to "spoil" another conclusion—"In summary: the most likely explanation is that the Resurrection was historically true." Reminded of the weight of evidence and more significantly of the incredible experience of Jesus' first followers as they slowly came to realise that Jesus had indeed returned to life, I was touched again by a sense of reverent astonishment.

Even as His followers battled their

doubts, a sense of awe began to dawn upon them: "As he spoke, he held out his hands for them to see, and he showed them his feet. Still they stood there doubting, filled with joy and wonder" (Luke 24:40, 41*).

We too easily dismiss, with an irreverent familiarity, the most profound and astounding stories of God working in history, seeking instead the contrived thrills of popular storytellers and mythmakers. The Bible becomes a source of pleasant-sounding promises rather than world-shaking reality. We "find timeless truths present in the Bible, but it is because they were true in real places for real people at real times."²

This is the reality John reflected on when writing, "The one who existed from the beginning is the one we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is Jesus Christ, the Word of life" (1 John 1:1).

If we could reclaim that sense of wonder, we would sink to our knees with greater reverence than Robert Langdon could ever muster. And we would have found the ultimate Answer to the worst Dan Brown or those of his ilk could contrive—the awesome, living reality of Jesus Himself.

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

1. Brian McLaren, *The Secret Message of Jesus*, W Publishing Group, 2006, page x.

2. Rob Bell, *Velvet Elvis*, Zondervan, 2005, page 62.

Nathan Brown



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

VIA celebrates 10 years of service

BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND

Volunteers in Action (VIA) celebrated 10 years of service in March. Beginning with eight volunteers in 1996, VIA has grown to provide more than 580 volunteers to 13 missions in a number of Pacific nations.

The independent ministry was founded by Queensland retirees Cliff and Val Morgan. As long-time volunteers, the Morgans saw a need to focus on training local volunteers throughout the South Pacific Division to work developing churches in remote areas. This led them to found VIA.

Mr Morgan says, "VIA is now starting its 11th year of operation. Our achievements are the result of God's blessing and the support of a great network of people. It is encouraging how the Lord has led since our inception 10 years ago."

In that time, VIA has received more than \$A3.2 million in sponsorships. The greatest amount was given in 2005, with \$A831,180 donated. The majority of this funding came from churches and members in Queensland. The money is spent on funding volunteers and providing equipment for the volunteers to aid in their mission work.

The Malaita Mission in the Solo-

mon Islands has eight full-time pastors and 50 VIA volunteers in their workforce.

President of that mission, Pastor George Fafale, says, "We at Malaita Mission wish to thank donors for kindly providing funds that enable us to have more workers in the field."

VIA has contributed to more than 30,000 baptisms in its decade of existence. Pastor Harold Harker, VIA coordinator for the Trans-Pacific Union Mission, says, "Around 30 per cent of all South Pacific baptisms in 2004 and 2005 are from the work of Volunteers in Action."

Since 2000, VIA has also contributed more than \$A1 million to putting roofing on 514 churches, at an average cost of \$A2124 per church.

"The statistics show that VIA is a God-and people-blessed program," says Mr Morgan. "With such growth you might think that the need to share the gospel in the Pacific island missions has been met. Not so, we believe the best is yet to come."



Volunteers with the Adventist Aviation plane that transported them to VIA training meetings in Kikori, PNG, in March.

An example of this is Papua New Guinea, where VIA volunteers are in high demand. Mr Morgan explains, "In November 2005, I met with 13 of the 18 district directors of the Western Highland Mission. That huge mission already had more than 120 VIA missionaries in their workforce. However, the directors appealed for sponsorships for 65 extra volunteers for 2006.

"Almost every mission in PNG has the same appeal—more volunteers, please. So the gospel commission to go—or help others to go—is still a major focus for VIA."—*Adele Nash/Cliff Morgan*

◆ **Thank you** for your support in giving generously to the **February 11 RECORD Offering**. A total of \$A120,733.15 was received.

◆ **Avondale College** staff members and students have continued a **50-year tradition** by helping commemorate **Anzac Day**



services at Morisset, NSW. The **Avondale Brass Band** played at the dawn service before drum major **Dr Lynden Rogers** led the group on the 10 am march from the railway station to the country club. The band then played at the memorial service, where it accompanied tenor **Dr Robb Dennis**, the head of the Music Department.—*Bonnie Dennis*

◆ **Induction ceremonies** were held for the **Windsor Adventurer Club** and **Mountain View Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs**, NSW, on March 11. Both ceremonies



involved the **lighting of candles** for each of the new inductees to the clubs.—*Intrasyd*

◆ **Elizabeth Lodge** and **Esther Somerville Nursing Home**, NSW, have successfully completed **accreditation** in March 2006. They were recommended as being compliant with all 44 standards met as per government

regulations. In their comments, the assessors said they were **very impressed** with the professional and compassionate staff and also the food—**asking for some of their vegetarian recipes**. The assessors personally thanked staff and management, saying it was a delight to visit the nursing homes and noted the great atmosphere to work in.—*Intrasyd*



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Two ordained in Greater Sydney

SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES

Pastors Pablo Lillo and Pavel (Paul) Belan, ministers in the Greater Sydney Conference (GSC), were recently ordained to pastoral ministry.

Pastor Lillo, director of communication and children's ministries and associate director of stewardship for the GSC, was ordained on March 4 at the Parramatta Seventh-day Adventist church.

"I've always been very passionate about serving God and building His kingdom," says Pastor Lillo. "I feel honoured and humbled in receiving the credentials as a minister of the gospel."

Pastor Lillo's ordination charge was read by Pastor David Blanch, president of the GSC, and Pastor Michael Worker, general secretary of the GSC, offered the prayer of ordination during the service.

The ordination of Pastor Lillo was witnessed by church members from several churches in which he had spent his life and ministry. These included Wetherill Park, Avondale, Hillview, Gosford, Fox Valley and Parramatta.



Pastor Lillo with his wife, Megan, and their daughter, Cana.



Pastor Belan with his wife, Nataliya, and the ordination party following his induction into ministry.

Currently the pastor of the Ashfield and Toongabbie Adventist churches, Pastor Belan was ordained to pastoral ministry in the Ashfield Adventist church on March 25.

First arriving in Sydney in 1998 from Ukraine, Pastor Belan started his ministry in Australia as a volunteer pastor of the Russian Adventist church in Strathfield. He became

a full-time pastor of the Russian church and chaplain at the Macarthur Adventist School in 2002 and later also became the youth pastor at the Campbelltown Adventist church.

"I feel great about the ordination," says Pastor Belan. "To me, it's an expression of trust by the church and an encouragement for me to continue on."

Pastor Belan's ordination charge and prayer of ordination were also presented and offered by Pastor Blanch and Pastor Worker.

The ordination of Pastors Lillo and Belan bring the number of ordained ministers in the Greater Sydney Conference to 39.—*Melody Tan/Pablo Lillo*



◆ On December 3, some 200 people at the **New Plymouth church**, NZ, reflected on God's providence during the past 100 years. Their **centennial program** included videos, photos and historical sketches.—*Jenny Rielly*

◆ **Retreats and training seminars** are being held all over the South Pacific Division. On Febru-

ary 9-10 the **Wellington Samoan** (Porirua) and **Hutt Valley Samoan** churches, NZ, hosted a leadership training and church development weekend with **Dr Erika Puni**, director of stewardship for the General Conference. "Leaning on Jesus" was the theme at **Nu'uuli Women's Ministry Camp**, Samoa, attended by more than 60 ladies on February 17-19. **Falesoa Puni**, director of women's ministries for the Samoas-Tokelau Mission, gave out promise boxes to remind them that if the going gets tough, "lean on Jesus' promises." More than 450 women attended the

annual **Women's Ministries Retreat at Watson Park**, Qld, on the weekend of March 24-26. Guest speaker **Rebecca Curtis**, from Montana, USA, encouraged each woman to trust God's hand through whatever life may bring their way. Following successful retreats at the **Adventist Alpine Village**, Jindabyne, NSW, and **Camp Howqua**, Vic, a third Filipino-Australian Adventist interstate retreat was held at **Currimundi Resort Centre**, Qld, for 180 participants. Guest speaker **Dr Armand Fabella**, PhD in counselling and minister of

Loma Linda church, California, USA, provided useful information and counsel to families and couples. The retreats came from the desire to forge a closer Christian fellowship with **Filipino-Australians** living in different parts of Australia. Plans are now under way for the fourth retreat in Sydney, NSW.—*Scott Wegener*

◆ The British Union Conference president, **Pastor Cecil Perry**, together with executive secretary **Pastor Eric Lowe** and treasurer **Victor Pilmoor**, sent a card to **Her Majesty the Queen**, on

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

Adventists respond to *Da Vinci* challenge

(Continued from page 1)

“[Coauthor Dr Philip Rodionoff] has taken seminars on this, and had Christians ask worriedly whether the book’s claims are true.”

Pastor Geoff Youlden, presenter of *The Code*, concurs: “*The Da Vinci Code* may be a work of fiction but it potentially changed the way millions of people perceive the Bible and Jesus Christ. It has also brought religious discussion back into everyday conversation and people are interested in knowing the truth about the characters they have read about.”

Both resources focus on the central claims of Dan Brown’s novel: the divinity and history of Jesus, the origins of the Bible and the status of women in Christian belief.

The Code production crew, with presenters Leah McLeod and Geoff Youlden, visited key sites from *The Da Vinci Code* story. “We also visited the locations of the Gnostic gospels in Egypt, and the Dead Sea Scrolls in Israel,” says Adventist



Media’s series producer Behren Schulz. “And we interviewed historians, archaeologists, professors, scientists and Bible scholars.

“The series mixes documentary with drama,” he explains. “Woven into each of the five episodes is the story of a young woman on a quest to discover the truth about her own mysterious origins, demonstrating humanity’s insatiable desire ‘to know.’”

“It’s not time to hide our heads in our hymnbooks and ignore it,” explains Pastor Kent. “It’s time to do a 1 Peter 3:15—to ‘give

a reason for the faith’ that is in us, ‘with gentleness and respect.’ I feel good that God is turning a potential attack on Christianity into a chance to retell the story of Jesus for a new generation.”

Pastor Kent says his church is running a seminar on *The Da Vinci Code* in a cafe near the cinemas in Castle Hill (NSW), “so we’ll use our book as a



On location with Pastor Geoff Youlden (right), presenter of *The Code*.

giveaway,” he adds.

Pastor Roger Govendor, director of personal ministries for the AUC, challenges church members to use these resources and this opportunity to share the story of Jesus with their friends, neighbours and family members. “This is a great initiative and I would like to challenge every church member to get on board, as well as to participate in the seminars that are being planned by church ministers.”—**Nathan Brown**

See review of *The Da Vinci Decode*, page 9.

the occasion of her **80th birthday**, expressing their congratulations and their wishes for God’s continued blessings during her reign. The card was one of more than 20,000 the Queen received, along with 17,000 email messages.—**BUC News**

◆ **Meeting Point**, a church plant in Llandrindod Wells, Wales, organised a family “egg hunting, egg decorating and egg rolling” event in the town park on Easter Sunday. The 94 people from the community who participated in the event had 450

eggs to hunt for in the park. The **re:vive** team, church planters in Grantham, England, built spiritual and social friendships over the Easter weekend and decorated a Scout Hall with **2000 daffodils** to help explain the story of Jesus.—**Peter Roennfeldt**

◆ **An underwater wedding** was performed by **Pastor Sergio Romero** of the Salt Lake Spanish church, Utah, USA, in a small lake recently. **Dawna Little** of Utah and **Mohamaad Zukirmi Bin Seman**, who had grown up on the Perhentian Island of Malaysia

heard good things about Pastor Romero through their scuba diving instructor and asked him to officiate their underwater wedding. During preparations together, Pastor Romero learned that the bride **was a Mormon and the groom a Muslim**. “Through our planning time, I could share my faith. We had many **discussions about Jesus** and about the Adventist Church,” says Pastor Romero. On the wedding day, while the bride’s parents waited on the surface, six individuals descended 13 metres below the surface—a member



of the Wasatch Hills Seventh-day Adventist church, Pastor Romero, a wedding photo-

grapher, cameraman from the **local TV news** and the wedding couple. The group used writing slates to communicate in the ceremony of 15 minutes and **while fish circled around** the group Pastor Romero declared the couple husband and wife. The experience has now led to their request for Bible study.—**Lisia Latu/Sergio Romero**

Sanitarium mourns researcher

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

On Sunday April 2, Dr Sidney (Sid) Cole passed away after a two-year battle with cancer. Sanitarium Health Food Company colleagues remember his significant contributions to the food industry in Australia and internationally, and his involvement in community and church activity.

Dr Cole was born in 1939 in Geelong, Victoria. During high school he discovered an interest in science—with physics and chemistry as favourite subjects. This led him to enrol at the University of Melbourne in 1956, where he completed a science degree. In 1960, he attended Avondale College to study for ministry. It was there that Dr Cole met his future wife, Yvonne Millward. They were married in New Zealand in 1961.

He didn't complete his ministerial studies, instead beginning work at the Sanitarium factory in Cooranbong, and later went on to gain masters and doctorate degrees from Newcastle University. In 1967 he was appointed director of the Australasian Food Research Laboratories.

Dr Cole worked for a number of church institutions in Australia and the Americas, including time in Brazil as production manager and laboratory director for



Dr Sid Cole.

Adventist health food companies there. He also worked for North America's Adventist Development and Relief Agency as a regional director and International Health Food director worldwide for the Adventist Church.

Returning to Australia in 1995, Dr Cole recommenced work with Sanitarium and was extensively involved in research projects for the company. A research and development building was dedicated to him by Sanitarium in October 2005.

Dr Cole is survived by his wife, to whom he was married for 45 years, two daughters and four grandchildren.—*Julie Praestiin*

ADRA staff in Solomons safe

HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) staff in the Solomon Islands are all safe, despite the civil unrest that broke out in the week of April 23-30 following the elections for Prime Minister that saw Snyder Rini resign after eight days in office.

The main ADRA office, located 10 kilometres east of Honiara in Lunga near Burns Creek, remains open, with staff working from the office or from home.

ADRA has two projects in the Solomon Islands, one of which has been suspended due to the civil unrest.

ADRA's HIV/AIDS project office, located in Honiara's New Chinatown where much of the violence was targeted, has remained undamaged but was closed. The project, currently in its third year, will recommence when the area is deemed safe. Their Community Strengthening and Rehabilitation Program has been able to continue.

ADRA-Solomon Islands staff are making daily assessments of all project activities. ADRA-Australia is also conducting regular assessments in coordination with other Australian non-government organisations with projects in the affected area.—*ADRA*

◆ According to a study recently published in the *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*, **people who attend** a religious service on a weekly basis tend to **prolong their life 1.8 to 3.1 years**. In comparison, regular physical exercise prolongs life 3.0 to 5.1 years, while proven therapeutic regimens add 2.1 to 3.7 years to a person's life. **Daniel Hall**, leader of the study, speculates that the social aspect of religion may have something to do with the results. "There is something about being knit into the type of community that

religious communities embody that has a way of mediating a positive health effect," he says.—*AgapePress*

◆ Launched via a Russian Soyuz rocket on March 29, **Jeff Williams** boarded the **international space station** a couple of days later for a six-month stint in space where he gave his **pastor a quick phone call**. Mr Williams, a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran church in Houston, Texas, USA, called Pastor John Kieschnick who was in prayer with the congregation's team of "prayer partners," and could feel

his mobile phone vibrating in his pocket. When finished, he found a message on his phone from Mr Williams assuring him he was safe on the space station and **thanking his church for their prayers** and support. Some 350 Gloria Dei members attended a "**launch party**" in the church gym, where they watched a live broadcast of the launch from Kazakhstan. Gloria Dei is sending Mr Williams recordings of video greetings and the Easter service. So that he can share in the Lord's Supper while in space, **communion wafers and wine** are also being

sent to Mr Williams periodically on the Russian Progress automated resupply vehicle.—*Paula Schlueter Ross*

◆ **Wycliffe Bible Translators** has taken Scripture to a largely illiterate nation of more than **820 indigenous languages**. In the past 50 years, Wycliffe has worked on nearly 400 of the languages in **Papua New Guinea**, completing New Testament translations in 159 of those languages. Some 200 more are on the way.—*CSW*

More @ www.wycliffe.net

Avondale lecturer to appear on science show

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

A common notion is that one should not swim after eating. An Avondale College staff member has taken the argument one step further by presenting his side of the argument in a “Myth-Busters”-type television program.

Dr Darren Morton, senior lecturer in the Faculty of Lifestyle Education and Visual Communication, will be appearing on a new show—its working title is *Life Laboratory*—with Dr Robin Callister of the University of Newcastle. Dr Callister is senior lecturer in the School of Biomedical Sciences at Newcastle. The two are experts on abdominal pain, co-authoring several articles on the subject.

Beyond Productions, the company producing *Life Laboratory*, taped Drs Morton and Callister at the university, where Dr Morton graduated with his PhD in “Exercise-related transient abdominal pain.”

“Not many people are familiar with this area of study,” says Dr Morton. “I guess that’s why the producers invited us to appear on the show.”



Dr Darren Morton.

So, what about the eating–swimming myth, is it true? For the record, Dr Morton says eating then swimming poses no specific danger. “While it does increase the chances of getting a stitch, it’s not dangerous. The worst thing you could possibly end up with is stomach pain.”

Life Laboratory is a 13-part series and is scheduled to air sometime in June on the Nine Network in Australia.—*Stephane Millien*

ADRA responds to food crisis in Africa

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, USA

Hunger is etched in the faces and eyes of children, women and men living in the countries of Niger, Mali, Zambia and Kenya. These millions are struggling to survive in the face of a devastating drought that has made food a scarcity in the region.

In response to the resulting food crisis, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is providing food for families in Niger, Mali, Zambia and Kenya, who are fighting to survive in the face of hunger, suffering and malnutrition.

In a continuing effort to alleviate hunger in many parts of Africa, an ADRA assessment team arrived in the region on March 26, to analyse the situation and initiate an extensive relief effort. They are currently visiting Kenya, Ethiopia, Malawi and Zambia as well as the ADRA office for Somalia, which is also located in Kenya.

“During our investigation, we will gather the necessary information that will allow us to respond adequately to the food shortages in the countries affected,” said Frank Teeuwen, bureau chief for emergency management for ADRA–International. “From there, we will be able to initiate new programs and new funding for programs that will enable us to meet the needs of the most vulnerable sections of the population.”

ADRA is working to distribute food to the families of malnourished children in villages in Niger, where severe drought has caused famine. In Mali, ADRA began an emergency response to improve the overall nutritional status of 31,732 vulnerable children under the age of five in the districts of Gao, Menaka and Ansongo.

In Zambia, ADRA is working with other aid agencies to implement two interventions to counteract the effects of the food crisis. Both programs have benefited some 200,000 people. In Kenya, ADRA plans to work in the Mandera district in the North Eastern Province and Kitui district in the Eastern Province of Kenya, where the effects of drought has caused suffering for approximately 3.5 million people.—*Nadia McGill/ANN*

Australian churches support Mission College

SARABURI PROVINCE, THAILAND

Four Australian churches brought Christmas early to the ESL and Religion Department at Mission College in Thailand this month.

Church members donated money to purchase 250 new Bibles, a TV and DVD player, electronic Bibles, Bible storybooks, the Bible on CD, and Bible stories on DVD. They also donated books and slide projectors.

Mission College’s new president, Dr Warren Shipton, formerly from Townsville, Queensland, organised the project with his wife, Jan. “I’m delighted with the project. It almost got out of hand,” says Dr Shipton. “The churches just kept on giving up to the day before our goods were

packed for Thailand.”

The Aitkenvale church, Townsville City Community church, Thuringowa church, with help from members of the Mackay Central church and the Edgewater Road church, in London, donated more than \$A7,000 worth of goods toward the project.

A set of Bibles will be placed in each ESL classroom and the books will be used to start a reading library for the ESL students. The Religion Department will use the Bibles for giving Bible studies to Buddhist students.

“The college is grateful for such enthusiastic support. We would like other churches to catch the vision and surprise us with their generosity,” commented Dr Shipton.—*Julie Cook*



Sony Pictures Releasing

Da Vinci Code questions

BY DAVID MARSHALL

MORE THAN 50 MILLION COPIES of Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* have been sold in book form, and now there's the Hollywood blockbuster movie. Even those who have not read the book are vaguely aware that it is "anti-Christian" or "anti-Catholic"—or both. There is substance behind that vague awareness. But that should not cause us to react in panic either for or against the book.

For its first half, the book is a page-turner. Brown leans heavily on a book published 24 years ago by Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh and Henry Lincoln titled *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*. He makes no secret of his indebtedness to those authors, even naming some of his characters after them!

Almost exactly halfway through, the author puts his core beliefs into the mouths of his two central male characters, Langdon and Teabing. And the key idea: That Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene, that they had a daughter, that descendants of the daughter are still around, and that documents are extant that prove this.

The narrative of the second half of the book takes the form of a murderous search for those documents together with what is termed "the Holy Grail"—in this work of fiction, the body of Mary Magdalene.

The "Jesus-was-married-to-Mary-Magdalene" idea has been around for some time. Brown suggests that the Jesus–Mary marriage is, in part, authenticated in the late-date Gnostic gospels. It isn't. A lot of strange stuff is found in the Gnostic gos-

pels, but not that particular piece.

Any danger in *The Da Vinci Code* comes from the author's weaving fact and fiction together without making a distinction. Because his taste is for conspiracy theory rather than history, Dan Brown is often guilty of factual errors.

An example: He says much about the Catholic organisation Opus Dei. Central to his plot is a murderous monk called Silas. Fact: There are no monks in Opus Dei.

Brown argues Christ's divinity was a dogma that did not arise until the reign of Constantine in the fourth century. But copies of the Gospels of Luke and John exist dating from between 175 and 225 (that is, a century before Constantine). John's Gospel begins with the most wonderful affirmation of Christ's divinity found anywhere.

Yes, Constantine created a religion that represented a mix of Christian and pagan practice. But, no, he did not rewrite the New Testament.

The central piece of "evidence" produced by Brown's characters in favour of the belief that Jesus and Mary Magdalene were married is Leonardo da Vinci's painting *The Last Supper*. The figure to the left of Jesus, always assumed to be a youthful John, is deemed to have feminine characteristics. Even if that were so, how could it be "evidence"? The painting was done 1500 years after the event!

Brown's character Teabing argues that the Christian church's teaching about Christ is almost totally mistaken. He offers his listeners "photocopies of the Nag Hammadi

and the Dead Sea Scrolls" and identifies them as "the earliest Christian records," which "do not match up with the Gospels in the Bible."

The Nag Hammadi scrolls, in fact, date from about 350 AD. The Dead Sea Scrolls are copies of Jewish texts from Old Testament times. Neither the Nag Hammadi writings nor the Dead Sea Scrolls relate to the New Testament and the Jesus story. The Gospels and the Epistles in the Bible, however, date from the first century AD. They are the earliest Christian records, by comparison with which the accuracy of all other manuscripts should be evaluated.

And the basic assumption in *The Da Vinci Code* is that the ancient pagan worship of "the sacred feminine" is superior to Christianity.

In contrast, here's my credo: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory" (John 1:1-14, NIV).

Now there's a solid foundation. **R**

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David Marshall is editor of the *British Union Messenger*, based at Stanborough Press, England.

For more responses to *The Da Vinci Code*, visit www.signsofthetimes.org.au.

Decoding *Da Vinci*

REVIEW BY JULENE DUERKSEN-KAPAO

ONE OF THE HOTTEST BOOKS OUT IS *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown (published in 2003). It has created a stir within Christianity, wider historical communities and individuals seeking the truth among the fiction of novelists and alleged cover-ups by church leaders. Partly fact, creatively presented, *The Da Vinci Code* has begun a discussion worth joining. Grenville Kent and Philip Rodionoff have done just that, contributing a thoughtful and careful analysis and discussion in *The Da Vinci Decode*.

The Da Vinci Decode works through the various claims and theories presented by Brown providing a balanced biblical and historical perspective. Easy to read and follow, *The Da Vinci Decode* is a must-read in this convoluted discussion of myths, theories and straight-out lies.

Although Brown cannot back up and support many of his claims and theories, the book has become a bestseller. This is more than a concern when the book makes some big claims (including Jesus Christ not God in human form but merely human, history being rewritten in 325 AD by Constantine and Mary Magdalene being divine). Kent and Rodionoff say, "Like many good stories, *The Da Vinci Code* is not just a good story. The book makes big truth-claims, and sets out to expose what it describes as 'the greatest cover-up in human history' within Christianity itself."

Kent and Rodionoff jump into the conversation providing brilliant point-by-point evidence to the claims, supported with historical facts they are hard to argue with. "Imagination is why we pay novelists so well, but imagination is not to be taken as seriously as history or religion," and imagination is exactly what Brown had as he weaves a little bit of truth into lies.

The Da Vinci Decode is a brave step, exciting and riveting in their arguments,

Kent and Rodionoff give Brown an "A+ for creativity, F for history. . . . Brown has asked some fascinating questions about Jesus, and is looking for a spirituality free from dogma, arrogance about truth, hypocrisy, unreasonable laws and sexism. The Jesus of the New Testament would probably agree with many of those aims." Kent and Rodionoff do not attack Brown



trying to disprove his theories, they merely work through each claim providing the necessary information to make an informed decision. More importantly, each reader is challenged as to what they think about Jesus, the Son of God.

As Kent and Rodionoff build their arguments, it is difficult not to see the truth. With careful presentation of the facts, historical and biblical, *The Da Vinci Decode* allows the reader to join the discussion and search for themselves.

One claim in *The Da Vinci Code* is that the Bible is a product of man, not God.

Kent and Rodionoff use the prophecy of Daniel 9:25, 26 in a sincere Bible study in disproving this claim—and a section in the appendix is dedicated to further study of the prophecy and its fulfilment. "We can be confident," they conclude, "that the Bible, which continues to outsell Brown's novel, is historically reliable and has remained functionally identical for almost 2000 years."

It is clear that *The Da Vinci Decode* is not out to "get" Brown, rather to introduce the reader to a thorough presentation of truth. "Listen to Daniel 9:24-27 personally: Your sin is ended, your guilt is atoned for, the goodness you've been given will last forever. God is not angry with you."

The Da Vinci Decode reminds readers how easy it is to slip from truth when presented with a tantalising mixture of truth and fiction whether it be about the Bible, history or belief. "The original Judaism was all about monotheism and monogamy—one God, one marriage partner. The people often conveniently forgot that, but it remained the true Judaism."

Readers will appreciate the historical background provided and additional insight given. Kent and Rodionoff remind readers that God's original message of love and grace remains the same, regardless of how the package is changed, yet they are careful to point out that truth must stand alone, supported with the facts, not a theory lacking accurate support. **R**

The Da Vinci Decode: Is Christianity "the greatest cover-up in human history"?, by Grenville Kent and Philip Rodionoff, Signs Publishing Company, 2006, paperback, 120 pages. Available from Adventist Book Centres, price \$A7.95; \$NZ9.95.

More at www.thedavincidecode.net

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



Angela Brown

Jesus loves me—always

BY MURIEL CROSS

IT'S THE FIRST SONG I REMEMBER SIGNING: "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so." I remember I loved to sing it when I was very young.

My parents conducted a home Sabbath school as we were an isolated family of Adventists. My father led our little do-it-yourself Sabbath school using the same format as was used around the world and, as was the custom in those days, we sang a children's hymn before studying the lesson.

When it was my turn to choose the hymn, I would always choose "'Jesus loves me'—all the verses."

I was too young to read but quickly learned the words, and my siblings and I would sing as lustily as we could that Jesus loved us.

At that time, the Jesus who loved me—and whom I loved in return—was a picture of a lovely young man with hair waving around His shoulders and wearing a lovely white robe with sandals on His feet. On His knee was an adoring child, or sometimes He held a cuddly lamb in His arms.

As time went by, I learned the story told at Christmas, that Jesus was born as a baby to an earthly mother, and that He had a mum and dad like I did. My picture of Him changed as I learned about Him growing up, playing games and eating

food like I did.

With the passage of more time, I learned more and my picture expanded. Jesus grew up and went about doing good. He healed

**Through the years
of my long life, Jesus
has been a constant
friend to me.**

the sick and showed the common people how to live. They loved Him but the leaders were jealous because He was doing more for the people than they were. The leaders wanted Him out of the way so they killed Him—they crucified Him on a cruel cross. And He let them do it to save all those who love Him so we can live with Him forever. As the story of His life and death unfolded itself to my mind, my heart trembled with awe—such love!

I was overjoyed to learn that He didn't stay dead but rose from the grave and met with His friends, leaving them the promise of His return. This promise was for all

those who love Him. He will take them to His home in heaven where they will live with Him forever in peace and love. What a promise.

Through the years of my long life, Jesus has been a constant friend to me. When I get stressed out and don't know what to do, He whispers to my heart, "It's all right. I love you. I love you." He soothes my fears and fills my heart with joy.

And the song I learned as a very small child is still true—but I have come to appreciate some new verses. A few months ago a dear friend sent me an email of the "seniors' version" of "Jesus loves me." I love singing it and drawing comfort and peace from the words:

Jesus love me this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow,
Though my eyes are growing dim,
He still bids me trust in Him.

Though my steps are Oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way. **R**

Muriel Cross writes from Victoria Point, Queensland.



Video ministry: Where will it stop?

BY JOHN GATE

IT IS EXCITING IN VIDEO MINISTRY TO WATCH AND SEE THE BROAD influence the videos have. It's not unusual to call to pick up a video and find it has been lent to friends or relatives, or someone has borrowed it. This is a reason to rejoice because of the expanded effect.

There have been numerous reports of members of other Christian churches who have used the *Search* videos in their church services or

"My experience is that videos get lent, shown at study groups. . . . If they are enjoying it, they will share it." —Ken Bird, pastor,

Lithgow, South New South Wales

people will request other video series and that's an opportunity to share with them from the large range of other evangelistic videos we have available.

On the tail of many of the *Search* videos there is an offer for additional material. People who request those offers by phone are processed by the Discovery Centre and each week these people are sent the additional material, with the opportunity to enrol in a correspondence course. The Discovery Centre has many students who were first contacted through *Search* videos.

Also, video ministry is a great opportunity to make friends. It's not just a matter of delivering the video. It's an opportunity to get to know the people who are viewing the videos and build friendships.

Experience has shown that inactive church members have become active again through viewing the videos. All of us become stronger Christians as we get involved in outreach and share and do what Jesus has asked us to do. Above all, across Australia and New Zealand today, many new members in our churches were first contacted through television advertising and followed up through video ministry.


What other ways have you found that videos influence people? **R**

This is part of a series of articles exploring video ministry and how it can work in your community.

John Gate is director of the Adventist Discovery Centre.

Record Roo's

Kids corner



Hi Kids
Have you ever read about a King named Asa? He was a good King who loved the Lord. You can read about him in 2 Chronicles chapters 14, 15 and 16.

RR


Fill in the Blanks

"Asa did what was _____ in the sight of the _____ his God."

2 Chronicles 14:2 NKJV

Spot Two the Same

Can you find two pictures of King Asa that are exactly the same?



Answer: pictures 2 and 4 are the same

Peta Taylor

Finding a balance

DAVID CHESNEY, VIC

“A used bullet” (Editorial, April 22) is certainly topical. And many believe the Sermon on the Mount offered a radical new agenda. Others, mainly in the Reformed tradition, believe Jesus only clarified the law and the prophets. Even the emphasis on thoughts isn’t unique—look, for example, at the 10th commandment.

“Turn the other cheek” is a quote from Lamentations 3:30. But a man could, without guilt, kill a night intruder (see Exodus 22:2).

“Love your enemies” can be found in Exodus 23:4 and Proverbs 25:21. A main point of the book of Jonah is that one should love one’s enemies. War in the Old Testament was compatible with loving enemies and turning the other cheek. Paul noted that authorities did not bear the sword for nothing (see Romans 13:4).

Consider these propositions :

Europe is not a Muslim state because Charles Martel’s Franks won the Battle of Tours in 732 AD. Protestantism survived in Germany and the United Kingdom because they had military support. Canada is largely Protestant because Wolfe won the Quebec Battle in 1759.

If the peace lobby hadn’t been so strong in the 1930s, Hitler would have been restrained and 50 million would not have died in World War II. The United States did not start World War I or II but she did end them. She then poured in money and troops to rebuild her enemies’ countries (Germany and Japan).

On the other hand, we looked away while Pol Pot slaughtered two million Cambodians and 900,000 Rwandans were massacred.

Discipline questions

IAN RANKIN, NZ

The title “Bring back church discipline” (Editorial, April 29) disturbs me. We have a responsibility to discipline, but I think the road to discipline is forward, not back.

As a young minister I considered it my duty to see that church beliefs and standards of conduct were strictly upheld. Over the years I have mellowed a lot and I hope

this has been the result not just of getting older, but of growing in wisdom.

I believe the purpose of church discipline should always and only be redemptive and never, ever, punitive.

The story told in John 8:1-11 about the woman brought to Jesus for judgment, gives some fascinating insight. Which is the greater insight: “If any of you is without sin,

As a young minister I considered it my duty to see that church beliefs and standards of conduct were strictly upheld.

let him be the first to throw a stone at her” or “Neither do I condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin” (NIV)?

The accusers did the right thing for the wrong reasons. They brought the woman to Jesus for judgment and in doing so they brought themselves into judgment. The great tragedy of the whole episode was their running away, for if they had accepted His judgment of their action, and not run away, they would have heard Jesus say to them, “Neither do I condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin.”

Young people and new Christians look to older Christians to be their pattern of Christlikeness. This calls for integrity, refusal to compromise, but openness to being questioned, openness to considering another person’s point of view and all of this to be done in love.

It is our responsibility to be so committed to the leadership of the Holy Spirit that our lives will draw others to desire the relationship we have with God and the love we share with fellow believers.

Easter unease

CLIVE NASH, NSW

In “Hope Channel News Notes, No 61” the Hope TV programs over the Easter weekend were promoted with these words: “Easter Sunday celebrates Christ’s victory over Satan, sin and death!”

The Sunday morning of Christ’s resurrection was indeed an occasion of “victory over Satan, sin and death” but it was not on the day that we call Easter Sunday. I must confess to feeling some unease over the growing promotion of Easter celebra-

tions in our church. There is no command in the New Testament to have an annual celebration of either Jesus’ birth or death. Two New Testament rites celebrate Christ’s death—baptism and communion.

We should take advantage of Christmas and Easter to remind the community that we as Seventh-day Adventists believe in the absolute importance of the birth, life, death

and resurrection of Jesus. We can also speak of His soon return on occasions like these. We can point to the real commemorations of these essential events while avoiding the non-Christian emphases.

For these reasons, I appreciated the low-key approach in RECORD, April 15 issue. The poem “A prayer at Easter” (Feature) was a tasteful inclusion.

Church says thanks

BRUCE MANNERS, NSW

In March, Avondale College church celebrated the 20th anniversary of the opening of its church building. During the celebratory worship service we recognised and thanked several individuals and organisations that had made the establishment and building of the church possible.

We want to also thank individuals throughout the South Pacific Division who supported the building of the church through offerings and donations 20 and more years ago. Your gifts helped to establish a place within which a vibrant community meets.

While a church is people and not bricks and mortar, these bricks and mortar have given us a place and the space to worship, pray, fellowship and do all the things a church does within its building.

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!

Urgently Needed!—*Eden Valley Academy (Thailand)*. One teaching position in Maths and Physics, and one teaching position in English and basic Geography. Must have English as first language. Volunteer pays travelling expenses. Accommodation and food provided. Term: 12 months, commencing June 1, 2006.

Email:
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For more positions, check the web on
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Anniversary

Phare, Jack and Elva (nee Maunder) were married on 14.4.41 at the Tauranga (NZ) Seventh-day Adventist church. On 14.4.06 they celebrated their 65 years of marriage with many



members of their large family at their home in Te Puke. They have lived nearly all their married life on their farm/orchard in Te Puke, raised 10 children, and have 35 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren and one great-great

grandchild. They have been very active in many departments of their church through the years and are still sharing the gospel.

Retirements

Stanley Armstrong, Western Australian Conference Schools (25 years). **Kenneth Dever**, Victorian Conference Schools (38 years). **Kathleen Kelly**, Sydney Adventist Hospital (30 years). **Colleen Manners**, Western Australian Conference (17 years). **Valerie Southon**, North New South Wales Conference (24 years). **Errol Webster**, South New South Wales Conference (30 years).

Weddings

Bradshaw—**Croft**. David Bradshaw, son of Don and Jan Bradshaw (Corowa, NSW), and Neroli Croft, daughter of David and Sandra Croft (Warburton), were married on 24.4.06 at a private residence in Yarra Junction.

Harold Waldrup

Fehlberg—**Fox**. Dane Paul Fehlberg, son of Paul and Karen Fehlberg (Valentine, NSW), and Rachel Lee Fox, daughter of Maxwell and Jannette Fox (Tamworth), were married on 23.4.06 at St Patrick's of Nulkaba church.

Graeme Loftus

50th Anniversary Whangarei SDA Church

In 1956 many hands were busy preparing the new church in Whangarei for its dedication and its first wedding. If you remember the Norfolk Street days, the move, or have been part of the church program since, please plan to join us Labour Day weekend.

October 21, 22, 2006

To express interest in receiving the information circular due out in May, please write to Church Reunion, PO Box 676, Whangarei, North New Zealand; or email Susanna Weber
bettysretreat@xtra.co.nz

House—**Houson**. Gary Walter House, son of Dudley and Lyn House (Croydon, Vic), and Lynelle Marlise Houson, daughter of Keith and Rose Houson (Cooanbong, NSW), were married on Easter Sunday, 16.4.06 at Trinity Lutheran church, Melbourne, Vic.

Gil Valentine

Kiat—**Kable**. Ho Shen Kiat and Wendy Kable (both of Kellyville church, NSW), were married on 16.4.06 at Peppers Retreat, Long Island, Whitsundays, Qld. Friends and family came from the USA, Singapore and across Australia.

Peter Roennfeldt

Krieg—**Jankowski**. Jon Krieg, son of Pastor Morrie and Bernice Krieg (Chirside Park, Vic), and Estelle Jankowski, daughter of Eddie and Anne Bielicki (Glen Waverley), were married on 24.4.06 at Tatra Estate Receptions, Mount Dandenong.

Morrie Krieg

Maidment—**Crainean**. Michael John Maidment, son of Colin (Sydney, NSW) and the late Margaret Maidment, and Rina Peony Crainean, daughter of the late Maw and Vika Wong (formerly of Fiji), were married on 30.4.06 at Toronto Adventist church, NSW.

*Geoffrey Youlden
Peter Cousins, Neil Watts*

Russell—**Clark**. Dean Thomas Russell, son of Alan and Donna Russell (Doncaster East, Vic), and Rachel Stephanie Clark, daughter of David and Lorrina Clark (Lesmurdie, WA), were married on 23.4.06 in the Holy Trinity Anglican church, Kew, Vic.

Stewart Taplin

Obituaries

Banks. Esther Annie (nee Petherbridge), born 27.10.1910 at Preston, Vic; died 16.4.06 in Esther Somerville Nursing Home, Sydney, NSW. She was predeceased by her husband, Jim; and her siblings, Ruth Shallard and Lindsay Petherbridge. She is survived by her brother, Clyde Petherbridge. Her parents, George and Elizabeth Petherbridge, and her grandmother, Esther Somerville, were early members of North Fitzroy (Vic) church. After marriage in 1967, Jim and Esther were happy members of the Katoomba (NSW) church family for 21 years.

Esther, Ruth and Lindsay contributed generously to the establishment of Elizabeth Lodge and Esther Somerville Nursing Home in Normanhurst, NSW. Her nieces, Shirley Mowday, Heather Sperring, Roslyn Stacey, Jennie Underhill, and families, will miss Esther greatly. She never deviated from her hope of new life in Jesus and now awaits the Life-giver. *Des Mowday*

Clare, Florence Isabel (nee Rewald), born 19.1.1917 at Cloyne, Qld; died 9.4.06 in Brisbane. She was predeceased by her husband, Lawrence Shields, in 1956; also her sons, Lawrence, in 1973, and Stanley, in 2003. She is survived by her husband, Gordon Clare; her daughters and their spouses, Hilary and Rod Robinson (Caloundra), and Ruth and Rob Harris (Wollongbar, NSW); her stepdaughter and her spouse, Christine and Russell Akers (Sydney); and her stepson and his spouse, Bob and Margaret Clare (Currumbin, Qld). Isabel was a member of Albion church from 1938 to 1946; Stanthorpe church from

1946 to 1956; then back to Albion in 1956. During this time she held many church offices and fell asleep awaiting the coming of the Lord.

Gordon Oaklands, Ted White

Dampney, Mavis, born 20.11.1913 at Nyngan, NSW; died 19.4.06 at Murwillumbah. She is survived by her husband, Alan; her many extended family members and friends. Mavis was a tireless church worker and will be sadly missed by her friends whose lives she touched with her kindness and love. She is now resting, awaiting the call of her Lord whom she loved and served.

Jim Cherry and Alan Davis

Emanuel, Cornelieta Maria (Mary, nee Siregar), born 19.8.1911 at Bungabondar, Sumatra, Indonesia; died 16.4.06 in Ryde Hospital, Eastwood, NSW. In 1942 she married Hedwich, who predeceased her in 1966. She was also predeceased by her son, Marliano, in 1975. She is survived by her daughter, Douwina

Positions vacant

▲ **Part-time Internal Auditor**—*Sanitarium (Cooanbong, NSW)*. This hands-on position calls for a professional, self-motivated person who is committed to the achievement of high quality cereals production processes. **Essential criteria** includes demonstrated commitment to achieving quality and product safety standards; excellent numeracy and literacy skills; highly computer literate (Microsoft Office); hold or be willing to obtain Internal Quality Auditor Certificate/HACCP Auditing Certificate/indepth knowledge of ISO9001 2000 requirements. **Applications in writing (including résumé)** should be forwarded to Group Human Resources, Sanitarium, Locked Bag 7, Central Coast Mail Centre NSW 2252; email <humanresources@sanitarium.com.au>; fax (02) 4349 6099; by **Friday, May 26, 2006**.

▲ **Teachers**—*Wilson College (Taylors Hill, Vic)* is a coeducational Seventh-day Adventist school with 625 students in prep through to Year 12 and is located 25 minutes from Melbourne via the Calder Freeway. **Art teacher, Years 7-12**: An experienced secondary art teacher is required to commence teaching as of commencement of Term 4, 2006. **Senior English Teacher**: An experienced Senior English Teacher is required to commence teaching as of June 12, 2006. **Applications in writing** (including referees for the following positions) should be forwarded to Lyndon Chapman, Adventist Schools, PO Box 215, Nunawading Vic 3131; or <lchapman@adventist.org.au>; no later than **Tuesday, June 6, 2006**.


▲ **Part-time Administration Assistant**—*ADRA—Australia Ltd (Wahroonga, NSW)* is seeking a part-time Administration Assistant. **For further information** please visit the POSITIONS VACANT section of the SPD website at <http://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, ADRA—Australia, PO Box 129, Wahroonga NSW 2076; email <rgreive@adra.org.au>; fax (02) 9489 7790; no later than **Friday, June 2, 2006**.

▲ **Principal**—*Karalundi Aboriginal Education Centre (Meekatharra, WA)* is seeking a competent, committed and Christian school Principal. The successful applicant will be loyal to the beliefs and values of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; demonstrate a willingness and ability to enhance the school's performance and by doing so, improve the opportunities for Aboriginal children. While previous experience in indigenous education is desirable, a proven history of effective leadership, a sound knowledge of learning processes and ability to secure current teacher registration are essential. **For further information** please contact the Administrator on (08) 9981 2933; email <administrator@karalundi.wa.edu.au>. **Applications in writing** should be forwarded to The Administrator, Karalundi Aboriginal Education Centre, PMB 6, Meekatharra, WA 6642.

▲ **Hospitality Staff**—*Coronella Retirement Village (Nunawading, Vic)* is seeking experienced staff for casual positions (with a view to permanent part-time) in the following areas: **Catering Services, Laundry Services and Housekeeping Services**. Coronella Retirement Village is home to 134 elderly residents. The successful applicants will have experience in any of the above areas, have a stable work history, strong communication skills, and will be motivated and passionate about working within the hospitality industry. Health-care experience and/or an understanding of Aged Care Accreditation will be considered favourable, but not essential. **Applications in writing** (including your résumé) should be forwarded to Bev Bof, email <bbof@adventist.org.au>.

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


Story " Story 2 Story 3



Boris Ambrus
Graduate, 2004

I got closer to God"

For generations you've helped us to provide a spiritual home for students like Boris. Would you help again as we build a new residential complex for them?



Avondale College Opening
June 10

Andreason and David (Balmain); her granddaughter, Michelle Emanuels (Denistone East); her granddaughter, Maia Andreason and Juan (Sydney); and her great-granddaughter, Jessa. Mary was a faithful homemaker; had a strong faith in God; loved her Lord and her family; and had the gift of hospitality. *Bruce Grosse*

Hanbury, William Frederick (Bill), born 24.7.1914 in Perth, WA; died 30.3.06 in Perth. Bill never married and is survived by his sister, Dorothy Edwards; and his brother, Ernest Hanbury (both of Perth). Bill was a longstanding literature evangelist who laboured hard to share the good news of the gospel. *Phil Rhodes*

Kelecsenyi, Frank, born 20.1.1928 in Budapest, Hungary; died 14.4.06 in Nepean Hospital, Sydney, NSW. Frank became debilitated by cancer from 2003 and in April 2006 his condition had worsened. He is survived by his wife, Maria Kelecsenyi. He was a good husband to Maria and a supportive stepfather to Charles, Maria, Jimmy and Martha; a faithful provider, trustworthy and reliable. He will be sadly missed by all those who loved him. *Johnny Murison*

Kelly, Nancy Rhoda, born 28.1.1931 at Cape Town, South Africa; died 25.4.06 at Ballarat, Vic. In 1951 she married John Bester in South Africa, who predeceased her in 1974. She was also predeceased by her son, Percy Bester, in 1984. In 1992 she married Robert Kelly. She is survived by her husband (Linton, Vic); her children, Roger, Veronica, Julian, Lawrence and Wendy (all in South Africa); her 16 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Nancy was a loving and caring mother, and a person of unwavering faith. Her love for and trust in God was infectious; always ready to quote a suitable passage from Scripture or sing a hymn, all from memory. Her great desire was to see Jesus. She will be missed by family, friends and members of the Ballarat (Vic) church. *Brian Lawty, Mike Francis*

Mort, Elizabeth Boronia (Betty, nee Buck), born 2.8.1921 in Perth, WA; died 5.4.06 in Perth. In 1947 she married Stephen Grun-

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dy, who predeceased her. She was also predeceased by her second husband, Reginald Mort. She is survived by her children to her first marriage, Stephen Grundy, Anne Grundy, Edward Grundy and Katherine Grundy (all of Perth). Betty was a faithful Christian disciple, always sharing God's love with someone. *Steve Goods*

Pedrana, Iris Florence, born 5.9.1915 at Coimada, Vic; died 8.4.06 in the Bendigo Hospital. She was the daughter of David and Henrietta Pedrana; youngest of four children. She was predeceased by her parents; and her siblings, David, Joseph and Mary Stacey. Iris never married and is survived by her nieces, Joan, Nola, Lecia, Joyce; and their families; her nephew, Clive Pedrana; and family; great nieces and -nephews; and great-great-nieces and -nephews. As a lady Bible worker she had a fruitful and much appreciated ministry. She is remembered as a lovely, generous person. *Ken Mead*

Wallace, Louisa Frances (nee Healy), born 10.5.1933 at Ohaeawai, NZ; died 8.4.06 at Te Poi. On 10.11.56 she married Ian. She was predeceased by her son, Glenn, on 20.2.75. She is survived by her husband (Matamata); her children and their spouses, Marion and Martin Miles (Auckland), Pauline and Tony Downing (Te Poi), John and June (Kaiakohe), and Duane and Kim (Ngaruawahia). Always hospitable, Lou was quietly devoted to her God, to her family, and to her church, where she served as treasurer for more than 40 years. She will be sadly missed by all, including her 12 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. *Mark Turner, Jan Veld*

Your mission connection

See news from around the South Pacific including:

- Innisfail
- Papua New Guinea
- Warburton
- Fiji

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Finally

The human race has one really effective weapon, and that is laughter.—*Mark Twain*