

RECORD

May 27, 2006

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Women's ministries directors Fua Gaia of the Sydney Samoan church, Marica Tokalau of the TPUM, Agnes Kola of the PNGUM, and Jan Greenaway of the SNZ Conference at the women's ministry advisory held at the South Pacific Division headquarters.

Women's ministries examines inequality

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Women's ministries directors of the South Pacific Division (SPD) have agreed that the issue of gender inequality and low numbers of women in pastoral ministry within the Seventh-day Adventist church needed to be addressed during an advisory held at the SPD head office from April 26 to 30.

The vision is to encourage and enable women to take up more active roles in evangelistic outreach programs and the nurturing of the local church while continuing to educate the public about the role of women in churches. The decision was

one of several dealing specifically with the work of the Women's Ministries Department in the SPD.

"The actions passed during our meeting will make our jobs easier," says Jan Greenaway, women's ministries director of the South New Zealand Conference. "I believe it will build awareness within the SPD and help us to function better since barriers will be removed."

Besides addressing the issue of gender inequality in churches, plans by the women's ministries leaders for the department this quinquennium included establishing

(Continued on page 5)



Many Adventists are failing to use this flagship of church evangelism.

After 120 years . . .

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY YEARS is as long as it took Noah to construct the ark. That's the same length of time it's taken to build *Signs of the Times* magazine into what it is today. And just as Noah began with a blueprint from God, so did the *Signs*.

In 1902 Ellen White said, "The great object of our publications is to exalt God, to call men's attentions to the living truths of His word" (*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, page 12). She adds that we are to "call attention to books dwelling on practical faith and godliness," specifically educating people in the "word of prophecy." "They need to know," she concludes, "that the signs of the times are fulfilling" (page 14).

To this end, the church's first missionaries to Australia, when they began publication of its first outreach paper in Melbourne in 1886, were faithful, even incorporating the philosophy into the name of that first magazine—*Signs of the Times and Bible Echo*.

When the ark was complete, it stood as a silent witness to the words of God and the judgment to come. But despite its size and presence, it saved just seven souls. It may be that others were converted and died before the Flood, but for the most part people didn't avail themselves of this means of salvation.

Is it going that way with *Signs*? After 120 years, is it likewise being ignored?

I admit the comparison is a stretch, but the Bible is quite clear that the times will be similar, and Adventists haven't missed

that. And, like Noah, we have a duty to warn the world of what awaits them.

In its various incarnations around the world, *Signs* does that systematically, thoroughly and without bright lights and whistles, quietly preaching to both the converted and unconverted. So why—in the South Pacific and around the world—do we see *Signs* subscription graphs trending downwards? Many Adventists are failing to use this flagship of church evangelism as a means to securing both their own and others' salvation.

As I write, subscriptions to *Signs* in Australia and New Zealand stand as many as 4000 down on a year ago. On the other side of the ledger, thanks to the generosity of visionary church members and the corporate church, an additional 15,000-16,000 *Signs* a month are going directly into homes through the "Go *Signs*, Go gospel!" project. This initiative aims to place a sample of the church in every home across the two countries over the coming decades. But, at the present rate, given growth, it might take us another 120 years to do that.

Ellen White's compilation *Counsels to Writers and Editors* contains a chapter devoted to "Periodical Circulation," in which she offers timely advice. For example, she suggests that prices shouldn't be lowered in order to gain subscriptions. She says people, including the ministry, rather than driving a hard bargain in order to get more for less, should "seek to bring the minds of the people to see the true value of the publications"

(page 131). She says the *Signs of the Times* is an inexpensive publication even at its full price. (Currently our own *Signs* operates at just above break-even and at virtually no profit, despite the huge annual investment in it.) "The price of our papers should not be made so low that no margin is left to work upon" (page 133).

In respect to content, she says our papers shouldn't be "filled with long discussions or long doctrinal arguments." This might come as a surprise to some, who say *Signs*, with its less-than-comprehensive articles on doctrine and prophecy, has nothing to offer them. Articles should be "short and interesting . . . and practical" (pages 132-3).

In speaking plainly to RECORD readers, I am probably speaking to the converted (subscription- and salvation-wise, I hope). Almost 15 years in such close association with our papers has endeared them to me, and each issue of *Signs* is like a new baby in my family. So to see a decline in the subscriptions, albeit with an increase in circulation, brings sadness, for it means fewer of our Seventh-day Adventist fellowship receiving it, fewer members sharing it.

Unlike Noah's ark, during the past 120 years many have found their way to truth and entered the church through reading *Signs*. Together, let's all do what we can to add to that number.

Lee Dunstan
Managing editor, *Signs of the Times*



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

General Conference commission begins deliberations on church structures

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, USA

Global unity of the church, its mission and the best use of resources to achieve that mission were identified as three “big issues” to be considered by the Commission on Ministries, Services and Structures, established by the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s leadership in October 2005.

Explaining the rationale for the commission’s appointment, Pastor Jan Paulsen, General Conference (GC) president, said these three “big concerns will drive the commission’s considerations.”

Pastor Paulsen, who is also chair of the commission, added, “Whatever comes out of the work of this commission, it would probably be good to see it as a chapter in the book of our church—a book that will not be completed until the journey is over, for the church is a living organism and life is dynamic.”

The underlying purpose of the commission, according to Lowell C Cooper, a GC general vice-president, and commission vice-chairman, is to examine ways in which ministries, services and structures can be most effective and efficient in accomplish-

ing the church’s two most prominent values of mission and unity.

Referring to the structures of the church, which “have served us well for a century,” Pastor Paulsen said these structures were set up “when our world membership was at 75,000 and were scattered thinly internationally, and we were vastly dependent on resources and ideas coming from the Western developed world. Is this adequate for us to go into the 21st century with 25 million or 50 million members?”

Though referring primarily to organisational structures, Paulsen recognised this issue affects ministries, departments and services of the worldwide church as they flow from the organisational set-up of the church.

Among the issues for the commission’s consideration, Pastor Paulsen identified an increased need for better, reciprocal communication in the church “between local membership and global leadership in order to obtain and sustain a sense of involvement and partnership in the global life of the church.”

During its initial and primarily organisational session of the 100-member commission meeting in Loma Linda, Califor-

nia, on April 10, four presentations were considered as a background for the future deliberations.

The presentations, together with the rationale and reasons for the commission’s task, brought together a theological understanding of the church and its organisation, the history of the church’s organisation and principles upon which it developed, and options for possible reconfiguration of departmental services that are focused on the ministry of the local church.

In its first action, the commission decided to focus on two topics for its deliberation and presentation at the next meeting in October, prior to the GC’s Annual Council, namely, the concept of flexibility in denominational structure—what are its boundaries and how could it operate, and; the place of “Unions of Churches” in denominational structures.

The commission is made up of representatives from the world church and local church regions, as well as pastors and lay members. It follows an earlier, smaller commission that was set up in 2004 and is charged to study and outline a strategy for organisational change to better serve the church.—*Rajmund Dabrowski/ANN*

◆ After 13 years of prayer, planing and fundraising, the **Adventist Community Centre, Caloundra, Qld**, was opened on February 18 by **Pastor Neil Watts**, South Queensland Conference president. Originally founded in 1992 by members of Landsborough church, the new building, able to seat 150, was used only **one week after opening** for a Daniel Seminar.—*Judy Ward*

◆ **Eight Mile Plains church, Qld**, was visited by **17 youth pastors** from around the South



Pacific Division (SPD) on March 11. They shared stories from the Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and PNG. **Pastors Gilbert Cangy**, SPD youth director, and **Nick Kross**, SPD associate youth director, were also involved in the day.—*Liliana Munoz*

◆ The Year 11 students from **Tweed Valley College, NSW**, will be the **first school group** from Australia to **visit Mongolia**. Leaving in September, they will spend just over two weeks in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar and be involved in **opening the first Adventist school**. The students are keen to build on their expe-



rience with STORM Co trips of times past.—*Northpoint*

◆ The **first regional meeting** on the **Gold Coast, Qld**, in recent times, was held on May 6 for Gold Coast churches **Burleigh Heads, Central (Southport) and Nerang**. The meeting commenced with a worship service taken by the president of the South Queensland Conference, **Pastor Neil Watts**, who, in the afternoon, introduced some of his coworkers who gave brief reports on their conference portfolios.—*Reg Brown*

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Bible teachers association established

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

As a result of an action taken at the August 2005 meeting of the Australian Union Conference (AUC) Board of Education, a new initiative saw the establishment of a national Secondary Bible Teachers Association (SBTA).

At its inaugural meeting held on November 21, 2005, aims, objectives, rationale and mission statement were discussed. Officers were elected into voluntary positions at the meeting, with Paul Glasbergen elected president.

A subsequent meeting of the SBTA was held on February 13. This meeting was chaired by Mr Glasbergen with terms of reference, protocols, association articles and communication strategies the main items discussed.

Philip Knight, associate national director of curriculum for Adventist Schools Australia and SBTA committee member, says, "Given that religious studies is part of our core business, this association will be instrumental in supporting and empowering our Bible teachers with a range of resources and professional development



Philip Knight and Paul Glasbergen (front left) with members of the AUC's Secondary Bible Teachers Association.

opportunities."

As spiritual development through religious studies is seen as an integral part of the education process at Adventist schools, the AUC believes there is a need to support the teachers of religious studies in schools around Australia. The SBTA aims to assist in maintaining the vision, ethos and special character of Adventist schools in the country by empowering teachers as spiritual leaders, as well as supporting them with resources and networking.

Plans are under way for the SBTA to collate secondary Bible teachers' resources in a form that's readily accessible, such as electronic and web-based, for all Bible teachers in Adventist schools to have easy access to.—Adele Nash/Philip Knight

First Adventist early learning centre opens in Victoria

LILYDALE, VICTORIA

After two years of planning and prayers, the Edinburgh Early Learning Centre opened its doors on May 1. The centre is built on the grounds of Lilydale Adventist Academy and Edinburgh Adventist Primary and has been developed to provide Christian child care in the Lilydale area along with an educational program to prepare children for their first years at school.

"There is a lot of interest in our new centre and families viewing the facilities have been enrolling their children before leaving," says the director, Joan Hope. "We praise God for His leading and answers to prayers in the development of this ELC. It is the aim of each staff member to introduce our wonderful God to each child placed in our care."—Jacqui Knight



Classroom teacher Priscilla Coulston with a student at the early learning centre.



◆ "... coming, ready or not!" This was the theme of an evangelistic campaign recently held in the Philippines by Wolfgang and Lyn-Joy Jenke, currently ministering to the Mount Isa church in far north Queensland. They spent February on the island of Leyte in the Philippines, where more than 100 visitors, besides local church members, came nightly to the programs. At the end of the 12 programs 52 were baptised. They also

visited the local prison to share Jesus with the inmates and nine decided to be baptised in a 44-gallon drum within the prison.

◆ In a joint venture with the Kingscliff Adventist Community church, NSW, and the management of Banora Point Caravan Park, 48 vegetable and flower gardens were established in the park by dozens of church members. This was done in addition to previous attention given to the park's residents, who generally come from a low socioeconomic background. Food parcels and

toys were handed out at Christmas time and excess bread from several local bakers is also currently delivered on a weekly basis to residents.—Northpoint

◆ Two Avondale College staff members have spoken to more than 1800 delegates at what is believed to be the largest sporting convention in the South Pacific. Senior health and exercise science lecturer Dr Darren Morton and sport and recreation coordinator Harry Neale presented a joint talk on speaking with confidence, during the FILEX Fitness

Industry Convention, held at the Sydney Exhibition Centre, April 21-23. Dr Morton also presented his views on spirituality and health as well as presenting the keynote address. Dr Morton won Author of the Year at the the 2003 FILEX convention.—Stephane Millien

◆ Sonship, a mission group from Hillview church, NSW, produced a cookbook of traditional Solomon Island food as part of their fundraising campaign for their third annual mission trip to the western Solomon Islands in July.—Braden Blyde

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

Women's ministries examines inequality

(Continued from page 1)

better job descriptions and succession of roles within the conferences and union missions, encouraging conferences to set up domestic violence and families taskforces as instigated by the SPD Domestic Violence Taskforce to address abuse issues, as well as the remuneration and recognition of employees and volunteers.

The SPD Women's Ministries Department also adopted a new vision statement, shortened from the original spiritual vision, and a new motto: "Touch a heart, tell the world."

"The advisory has been very interesting, enjoyable and educational," says Agnes Kola, women's ministries director of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission. "It's nice to have a forum to air our issues. Instead of talking to our unions alone, we have a group of sisters from the SPD that will put more weight behind the actions we want implemented."

Guest speakers for the advisory included Drene Somasundram, chaplain of Avondale College's Sydney campus, Mirella Gordon, acting director of the SPD Communication and Public Relations Department, and Deanna Pitchford, member of the South Queensland Domestic Violence Taskforce. Topics ranged from how to prepare Power-Point presentations to planning communi-

cation strategies.

"This will certainly help with my planning for a women's ministries advisory in Papua New Guinea in May," says Ms Kola. "Hopefully it will help better educate women's ministries leaders and improve our work in PNG."

The advisory concluded with a Friday-evening dedication service in the chapel of the Sydney Adventist Hospital. Dulce Ferguson, previous women's ministries director of the Greater Sydney Conference, addressed the group.

"After three days of encouraging reports, prayer and talk, the fine music, scriptural drama and talk on Friday was particularly inspirational," says Joy Butler, SPD women's ministries director. "I believe that the words of Joel 2 are being fulfilled all over the world and the Spirit of God is among us here in the SPD."

Chaired by Mrs Butler, the advisory included representatives of a number of conferences and union missions, including the North New South Wales Conference, South New Zealand Conference and Trans-Pacific Union Mission.—*Melody Tan*



Deanna Pitchford.

Update on Adventists in Iraq

AMMAN, JORDAN

During a recent executive committee meeting of the Adventist Church delegation of Iraqi Adventist Church leaders, who had endured a hazardous journey to attend the session, reported on the work of the church in their war-torn country.

"Our Iraqi brothers and sisters told me they leave their homes as little as possible," said Middle East Union president Kjell Aune during the March 19 meeting held in Amman, Jordan. "The other day a bomb went off in a market in Baghdad, killing around 60 innocent people. It is impossible for them to foresee where bombs can be placed and at what time of day they can explode."

According to statistics presented at the session, before the embargo and the American-Iraqi war, the Iraqi Adventist Church numbered about 250 members. Many of the members, like a great number of other Iraqis, have now fled the country.

"We are now down to about 150 members in the records, more likely around 100 in reality," said Basim Fargo, the newly elected president of the Iraq Field. Two people were baptised in 2005.—*MEU Communication Department/AR*

◆ On March 3-5 the **North England Conference Pathfinder department** held its first training camping weekend. Candidates arrived in snow to meet temperatures that would fall to -6°C that night. They had their **largest intake of Master Guide candidates**, 41 in all, and for the first time for many years **began the Pathfinder Leadership Award** training again with 23 candidates. On Sabbath morning the Master Guides led the Morning Watch at 7.45 in heavy snow to the warming words of the chorus, "Fire, fire, fire. Fire fall on me."—*Messenger*



◆ Not only did she win the title of **Miss United Negro College Fund (UNCF) 2006**, becoming **Queen of Oakwood College**, Alabama, USA, she broke the existing record of the **highest amount** ever raised by any contestant. **Kimberlee Allers** raised more than \$US28,700 in six months and was awarded a year's scholarship. Miss Allers went on to repre-

sent Oakwood College in Dallas, Texas, at the Miss UNCF National Coronation.—*Kylah Allers*

◆ Looking for opportunities to rehabilitate these offenders, **John Sibal**, chief officer of the Dasmariñas Municipal Jail, was delighted when the prison ministry team from the **Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS)** offered to present a 15-day "Happy living" series at the jail. The AIAS prison ministry team, consisting of 10 to 15 students and staff, has been active at the Dasmariñas Muni-

pal Jail for several years but this was the **first evangelistic series** to be held at the jail. During the series approximately 250 of the 370 inmates crowded into the jail's meeting room to join in the singing, prayer time and to hear the health lectures. At the end of the series, 151 inmates, **nearly 50 per cent of the total inmates** in the jail, decided to be baptised in large barrels obtained for the service. Each baptismal candidate received a new Bible, and **special vegeburger lunches** were provided for all prisoners.—*Gina Wahlen/ANN*

New church resource available this week

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Arriving in every church this week with the RECORD will be a new quarterly DVD from the Department of Adventist Mission. Church

pastors, Sabbath school leaders and other church departments will be able to use the Adventist Mission DVD throughout the next few months to share mission stories and reports of mission work around the world. The South Pacific Division (SPD) is joining with the General Conference's Office of Adventist Mission to supply the DVD free of charge to every church in Australia, New Zealand and to island missions as a resource of mission stories.

Although the DVD features reports on the Thirteenth Sabbath Mission Offering projects, it also covers mission outreach and reports from other areas of the world. According to SPD director of Adventist Mission Pastor Raymond Coombe, "The Adventist Mission DVD is intended to in-



The Adventist Mission DVD.

spire and challenge our members with the mission outreach of the church.

"The new DVD is in addition to the regular *Mission News* and will complement what *Mission Spotlight* is already doing for some churches."

The DVD combines many short one- to two-minute features, along with longer five-minute and 10-minute programs, which can be used in a variety of situations. This quarter the focus is on the South American Division, with reports from Argentina and Brazil. However it also includes stories from Mozambique and Lesotho. Next quarter the Adventist Mission DVD will feature stories and reports from our South Pacific Division, which is the recipient of third quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

"Don't miss seeing the inspiring reports of world mission on this DVD," says Pastor Coombe, "but also check out other resources and information on the Adventist Mission website—<www.AdventistMission.com>." —Ray Coombe/RECORD staff

Sanitarium celebrates 108 years of healthy living

BERKELEY VALE, NEW SOUTH WALES

The Sanitarium Health Food Company has celebrated its 108th birthday, cementing its place as Australia's largest and longest-running health food company. The company first opened its doors from a modest rented bakery in Melbourne on April 27, 1898, and continues to operate under the mission of helping its customers to "learn to stay well." Staff at the 11 working sites in Australia celebrated the birthday with a number of events.

The general manager for Sanitarium Health Foods Australia, Dean Powrie, says little has changed in the company's philosophy since its doors first opened. "From its early beginnings until today, Sanitarium has maintained its objective of delivering healthy eating options," he said. "Linking good diet and good health is something that will always be important to Sanitarium, and remains the key to our business success."

Mr Powrie added, "We're excited about the challenges that lie ahead, but also wish to acknowledge our past and thank all those who have helped make Sanitarium an Australian success story." —Anna Dear

◆ **Advertising regulations** for promoting alcohol in many countries is stricter than **Australia**, which has a self-regulatory code. **Sweden** prohibits advertising of products with an alcohol content of more than 3.5 per cent, **Denmark** 2.8 per cent and **Norway** 2.5 per cent. **Italy** restricts alcohol advertising until 8 pm, **Spain** 9.30 pm and **Portugal** 10 pm. In **France** alcohol beverage companies are banned from sponsorship of sports, bans alcohol ads on TV, allows restricted content on radio and print ads if they include a moderation message.—*White Ribbon Signal*

◆ A new US reality TV show **God or the Girl** pits four aspiring young Catholic priests against their libidos during the **final four weeks before their decisions** to take the church's Holy Orders, with the vow of chastity. Reviewers expressed relief after the first episode for it didn't pursue the stereotype everything-goes, outrage-is-good credo of American reality TV.—*Catherine Hours*

◆ **Two large-scale Christian evangelistic series** have happened over the April 28–30 weekend. **Hope Rwanda** hosted the largest Chris-

tian gathering Rwanda has ever seen with **28,000** Rwandans gathering to hear evangelist and author **Joyce Meyer** speak at Amahoro Stadium in the nation's capital, Kigali. This event was part of Hope Rwanda's 100 Days of Hope—a project to **cover the same 100 days as the 1994 genocide** (April 7 – July 15) to remind the world of this year's 12th anniversary of the genocide. In New Zealand, **Harvest '06** had more than **21,000** people over three nights fill the Westpac Centre Arena in Christchurch for **New Zealand's first full-scale evangelistic event** and one

of the largest evangelistic outreaches in the country's history. Christian recording artists **Audio Adrenaline**, **Steven Curtis Chapman** and **The Katinas** performed before Southern California pastor and evangelist **Greg Laurie** delivered his message. Nationally recognised radio talk-show host **Simon Barnett** served as the emcee for the Sunday evening program. Some 120 local churches worked together for two years to organise Harvest '06.—*Mark Badham/Assist News*

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www.harvestcrusade.org

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WAASA plans for a future of outreach

PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Students from the University of Western Australia (UWA) and Curtin University of Technology set aside April 22 to reflect on their spiritual calling and develop strategic plans for building the university ministry in WA. They were joined by Dr Jared Watts, a recent UWA graduate in medicine, Marilyn Cvejic, a visiting Avondale College student, and Dr Sven Ostring, the Adventist Students Association (ASA) president and WA tertiary student chaplain.

The students joined together to reflect on the relevance of Luke 10 to university student ministry and spent time discussing and identifying the needs of university students and ways in which these needs could be met. Plans for the university student ministry converged toward organising major service projects and planting a university church in Perth.

"The university ministry was strongest here in Perth when the focus was on service," says Dr Watts.

The student group was also very keen to learn what planting a university church would involve. "This is what I came to this



WA university student ministry leaders bond during a WAASA strategic planning weekend.

weekend to hear about," said Gavin McKenzie, who is studying physiotherapy at Curtin University.

As a result, Wendy Sexton and Dr Ostring are now in the process of forming a core leadership team that will spearhead this initiative. Ms Sexton has been leading the drive to develop the university student ministry in Western Australia, now called WAASA. Her medical studies have brought her into contact with many unchurched people in the WA medical system, which has increased her passion for sharing the gospel in the wider community.

"It is very encouraging to have such strong leaders within medical school here in WA," says Dr Ostring.—*Adele Nash/Sven Ostring*

Small church helps school girls SHINE

FORSTER-TUNCURRY, NEW SOUTH WALES

Small churches often have big dreams, but it is often challenging not having the personnel to develop and run programs. This was the challenge for the Forster-Tuncurry church in New South Wales, a small church with only about 20 attendees each week.

The church was challenged in early May 2005 when applications for Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) grants were released and found the answer by making a link with the pastoral-care worker at the local high school, where funds were needed to continue and expand the "SHINE" program at Great Lakes College.

SHINE is an eight-week program for teenage girls in Year 8. It is a practical course that aims to teach life skills and values to those who participate. The program is based on the belief that each girl is created with purpose and that life has tremendous value, and follows a series of personal-growth programs and a community follow-up.

The Forster-Tuncurry church made a joint application with the local ministers association, employer of the pastoral-care worker, requesting ADRA funds for the SHINE project.

This was successful, and SHINE received a \$A5000 grant. This enabled the program to be extended to the Tuncurry Campus, permitting 24 girls who are at risk to participate in the program each term.—*Debbie Hopper*

Ordained after 39 years of service

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Accompanied by his wife, Francoise, Dr Nemani Tausere, the vice-chancellor of Pacific Adventist University (PAU), was ordained to ministry on March 31. The PAU church was filled to capacity to witness the ordination, which was described as another milestone in his career as God's servant.

The president of the South Pacific Division (SPD) and chancellor of PAU, Pastor Laurie Evans, preached the keynote sermon, focusing on the call and ordination of Joshua.

Pastor Evans said the call to ministry was a lifetime commitment to which there was no turning back. He further reminded Dr Tausere about the "challenging times" ahead but also encouraged him to persevere because God would lead him through.

In response, Pastor Tausere said, "To God be the glory. I never dreamt that such a moment would occur in my life and in my family. During my past 39 years of service, I can only testify of God's goodness. Tonight I claim God's grace, power and His promises, and acknowledge He is limitless."

Pastor Tausere was born and initially educated in Fiji. He has a bachelor's and master's degree in education, as well as a PhD from Andrews University in educational administration. He has served in various capacities in the South Pacific Division, mainly in educational institutions like Fulton College and PAU. Prior to his coming to PAU in 2003, he was the education director of the SPD.—*Edna Worri*



Pastor Tausere with his wife, Francoise, and SPD general secretary Barry Oliver.

Is it worth it?

BY CELIA MONCRIEFF

THE RATTLE OF SAUCEPANS AND THE whirr of a blender awaken me from sleep well before dawn. This morning is following hard on the heels of yesterday's shopping trip; lumbering off in the old van from farm to supermarkets and bulk stores, piling the vehicle high with produce until it appears to groan under the weight.

By the time I emerge, the cooking is well underway. The day is a blur of dicing, slicing, sizzling, spicing, peeling, frying, baking, boiling, shaping, mashing, washing and cleaning. The tension mounts as the hands on the clock tick closer to the time of departure and Heather's one small oven and three sets of gas camping jets struggle with heating the meal-for-300 on time. All hands are on deck, from little Tebany, to Joshua home from university for the holidays. My mind spins as I walk down the steps with my camera, leaving the final frantic preparations to Heather and Tim.

Is it worth it? I muse as I navigate the crowded streets of Byron Bay. I swing my car in through the narrow gates of the little white church on one of the main streets and am once again reminded of the monstrous task undertaken by this tiny church. I notice that the setting up for the evening is in full swing.

Tables are standing out under the trees

and right across the front lawn of the church. Long serving benches adorn the little hall and the tiny kitchen is already laden with Merrill's slices, Christine and Dave's fruit crumbles, Sue's soup and Maria's salad. The two ovens are bursting with food Heather has sent in advance.

They arrive in dribs and drabs from the streets of Byron until the grounds of the church are filled with a throng of humanity. Long beards, tattoos, weather-beaten faces, intelligent eyes that twinkle with life and empty eyes that have been so long filled with despair that pain no longer registers. Young backpackers from all over the world stand in groups as they wait for the meal to arrive. Some of them haven't eaten a decent meal for days.

There is an expectant stir as Heather and Tim's van lurches through the gate like a big white elephant in a crowded marketplace. They are late and a long queue that has seemed rooted to the ground starts to surge forward expectantly.

Big pots of soup, long trays of lentil patties, mountains of roast potatoes and vegetables of every colour, a huge vegetarian



turkey trussed up like the real thing, and enormous tubs of fruit salad are passed into the eager hands of the servers. Heather darts around like a bee delivering pollen. My camera lens follows her, searching for a picture. She doesn't stay in one spot long enough to focus, but I can't help noticing that her eyes are smudged with the shadows of exhaustion. Tim's face glows as he welcomes the guests and asks God's blessing on the food.

I don't even have to ask this church why they bother to prepare a three-course meal instead of just serving soup and buns as most charities would. I can see that these lonely people of the street and these young backpackers are treated like kings for an evening and I can feel Jesus smile. Life has worn steel-capped boots when it has dealt blow after blow to some of these guests of Manna Haven, and the Byron Bay church seeks to be the hands of Jesus to heal the bruises of the soul.

I see it as Christine hugs one of the regulars with genuine warmth, I observe it as Tim listens to the earnest conversation of Scottie and they laugh together. They are brothers. There is no superiority here. Those who sleep on park benches or in humpies in the bush are treasured guests.

Candles on the tables flicker as the evening wears on and the church grounds slowly empty. I watch with interest as some of the guests stay to help clean up. They join in the chatter and busyness of the volunteers who have come from as far as the Kingscliff church to help serve.



As I drive back up the freeway I feel weighed down by the enormity of the task. But conversations with Heather and Tim cause this feeling to be replaced by excitement as they relate stories of lives being turned around.

One gentleman whose home was a little tent pitched in the bush was awoken by a voice, to find his tent on fire. He had just enough time to escape; his few meagre belongings were burned to a cinder. "Everything was gone," he said, "except the Bible you gave me at Manna Haven. It wasn't touched. I know it was God who woke me."

As lives are being restored some are beginning to seek jobs and housing but it is not easy in Byron Bay and the surrounding areas. Housing is scarce and expensive. The council does not know what to do about this situation. Help is desperately needed. Byron Bay church has plans to build a commercial kitchen. When questioned about where these funds are going to come from they just reply that God will send what is needed.

The Byron Bay congregation has become a little more varied. The small congregation of middle-class Adventists is dotted with guests sporting tattoos and long hair. Every Saturday night the streets of Byron Bay resonate with the rich voices of Johnny and Michelle and others as they host a spiritual concert and singalong. My eyes are drawn to a young man whose face looks chiselled by the wind and hollowed by life. He sways to the music as he plays along on a tin whistle he has pulled out of his pocket. Two young men stash bottles wrapped in brown paper under their chairs and their eyes are glued to the makeshift stage as they soak in the atmosphere.

Requests for Bible studies are becoming more frequent, and incredible stories of lives being turned around are tumbling over each other and shouting to be told. The people of Byron Bay church are scrambling for resources. They need your prayers—and hands and hearts who are willing to help.

Is it worth it? I am ashamed of my question. **R**

More @ www.mannahaven.org

Celia Moncrieff writes from Byron Bay, New South Wales.

Of ordinary people

BY CLIVE NASH

THE BIBLE IS FILLED WITH STORIES OF ordinary people who did extraordinary things. Because they were willing to be used by God, they not only made their mark on history but their names are written in the book of life—destined for eternity. Yet, it was not their abilities alone that warranted their fame or their eternal destiny. After all, who gives us our skills? Of course, it's God Himself.

I think of people like Moses who protested that he was no public speaker and could not go before Pharaoh (see Exodus 3:11). I think of Jeremiah who said, "Ah, Sover-

I find encouragement in the Bible stories of people whom God could use because they were ordinary.

eign Lord. I do not know how to speak; I am only a child" (Jeremiah 1:6*). Yet God assured him that those He employs He also empowers. "I am with you," He told Jeremiah (verse 8). That promise of God's presence was enough.

Sometimes we see young men or women of great promise who do not realise their potential. They squander their God-given powers of mind. On the other hand, we have all noticed young people who go on to significant achievement because they made the best of what talents they had through hard work and dedication.

Ellen White once wrote: "It is discipline of spirit, cleanness of heart and thought that is needed. This is of more value than a brilliant talent, tact or knowledge. An ordinary mind, trained to obey a 'Thus saith the Lord,' is better qualified for God's work than are those who have capabilities, but do not employ them rightly. . . . Men may take pride of their knowledge of worldly

things; but if they have not a knowledge of the true God, of Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, they are deplorably ignorant, and their knowledge will perish with them. Secular knowledge is power; but the knowledge of the Word, which has a transforming influence upon the human mind, is imperishable" (*Maranatha: The Lord is Coming*, page 63).

At times preachers or leaders appear in our midst who seem destined for a great work for God. They may be intelligent, persuasive speakers whose silver tongues can touch people's hearts. They are charismatic, charming people. Yet how often have we seen such led away from the truth? Perhaps they have focused more on attracting people to themselves rather than humbly pointing souls to Christ. Or they have been ensnared in immorality or some other trap of the evil one.

I find encouragement in the Bible stories of people whom God could use because they were ordinary. They doubted their own abilities. They had to depend on God.

Maybe you feel like a very ordinary person. You may distrust your own abilities and importance. That may not be a bad thing.

I feel as though I am an average sort of person. Yet when I think about God's love for me, I realise I am far from ordinary in His eyes. Paul calls the Colossian church members "God's chosen people," who are "dearly loved" (Colossians 3:12).

Amazing! We are loved by the all-powerful Creator of the universe. And, like Jeremiah, we can rely on God's assurance, "I am with you."

Do not fear to be an ordinary person. With trust in God, ordinary people can do extraordinary things. **R**

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

Clive Nash pastors the Muswellbrook and Singleton churches in New South Wales.

The hope of justice

BY KEN MARSH

WE LIKE TO REFER TO OURSELVES as a people of hope. But other belief systems would also argue they offer people hope. How is the hope we offer different to that of other world views?

Our salvation story is grounded in the reality of the relationships found in the Creation account of Genesis 1-3. On this foundation, our hope is expressed in 2 Peter 3:13: "We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness."

In the Old Testament righteousness and justice go hand in hand. They are at the foundation of God's throne (see Psalm 89:14; 97:2). A righteous God loves justice (Psalm 99:4). He delights in "kindness, justice and righteousness" (Jeremiah 9:24). It is the righteous who will inherit the land (Psalm 37:29). And, we are told, "the righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern" (Proverbs 29:7).

Sin destroyed the right relationships that existed in Eden. Eventually God delivered the Israelites from the oppression and injustice of Egypt to establish them as a beacon of righteousness to a world in darkness (see Deuteronomy 4:5-8). Despite Israel's continued failure, God continued to hold out the promise of one who would bring justice to the nations (see Isaiah 9:7; 11:4; 32:1; 42:1-4; 51:4, 5).

It was in this context that Jesus arrived. He announced His mission to the world in words that reflect Isaiah 61:1, 2: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Luke 4:18, 19).

Jesus claimed He was the fulfilment of the Old Testament Scriptures—the Law and the Prophets. Heaven and earth may pass, said Jesus, but the smallest point of the law will remain until all is fulfilled (see Matthew 5:17). In John 5:39, 40, Jesus rebukes the Jews for searching the Scrip-

tures that testify of Him and yet failing to accept Him. Our hope today resides in this same Jesus, the promised Messiah who will rule the nations with righteousness and justice, thus restoring the harmony that existed between humanity and creation in the beginning (see Ephesians 1:10; Colossians 1:20).

Meanwhile, the world cries out for justice. Economic inequality, trade laws that favour the rich and powerful, exploited labour forced to work in sweatshop conditions without protection or regulation,

The gospel without a charter of social engagement is simply another form of escapism.

refugees fleeing persecution with no-one willing to grant them a home, children forced into prostitution, and child labour are just some of the symptoms of our sick world.

In the Old Testament, the spiritual condition of the people was reflected in the condition of the land (see, for example, Hosea 4:1-3). Perhaps the greatest injustice of our time is the wanton destruction of the natural environment. In the short-term it is often the poorest and most powerless members of the human family who suffer the immediate consequences of the callous greed of others. In the long-term, future generations face a diminished existence as a result of the destructive ways of current generations.

Two things have not changed throughout the course of human history: the nature of God and the condition of the unregenerate human heart. That is why I am drawn to a Saviour who has a passion for justice and who offers the only lasting solution to the injustices of our world.

I have great respect for those who through peaceful protest, organised cam-

paigns and their support for people and organisations working to alleviate injustice, seek to make the world a better place. But, sadly, many of these fail to see the church as relevant. Is the church seen as being more interested in maintaining the status quo? Are we as Christians too caught up in the service of consumerism? Or is the Christ we proclaim merely a pale reflection of the genuine and our message one of escapism?

It is appropriate for the church to relate prophecies such as those of Matthew 24 to world conditions as signs of the soon return of Jesus. We present the prophecies to appeal to people's anxieties and present Jesus as the way out.

But what we often fail to do is make the clear connection between global conditions, our sin and the Christian mandate to work for justice. If we are to properly represent Jesus to the world we will follow the example of His ministry. Jesus worked to alleviate human suffering, challenged the unjust social, religious and political structures of His day, and preached the gospel of God's grace. To do less is to present a distorted, narrow picture of Christ. The gospel without a charter of social engagement is simply another form of escapism.

It is the Law and the Prophets that testify of Jesus Christ. These clearly articulate God's principles of justice. We should share our hope in Jesus in terms of His coming to reign with righteousness and justice and relate current social and environmental conditions to the consequences of our rebellion against God's principles. This message has relevance and urgency in its appeal to peoples of all nations to "worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and springs of water" (Revelation 14:7). **R**

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

Ken Marsh is occupational health and safety officer for the South Pacific Division, based in Wahroonga, New South Wales.



Guilty, but . . .

BY CHRISTINE MILES

A LETTER WAITED IN MY LETTERBOX that sunny summer's day. It wasn't obvious who had sent the letter, but the envelope somehow promised things unknown, so I cast it aside to read later when I had time to enjoy it.

"Later" came, and I sat down with a cold drink, put my feet up and ripped open the envelope. The only thing I recognised was the NZ Police logo in the top left-hand corner. I felt myself go hot and cold in the split seconds it took to skim down the page to identify why the police were writing to me.

Ten days prior I had, apparently, exceeded the speed limit—by 22 kilometres per hour. A whopping \$180 fine awaited my attention. I was bemused to notice that the day I infringed the traffic laws was Sabbath. I knew without a shadow of a doubt that it had been that day when the church service had run late and I had been hurrying home to feed the hungry masses and get back to run an Adventurer program by 2.30.

I couldn't quite believe it. So I went for a drive. I worked out where the speed camera would have been positioned. Being a person who takes pride in my camera-spotting ability (and my safe within-the-speed-limit driving usually), I couldn't believe I hadn't seen it. But the thing that caught my attention most was that there was no signage indicating the correct speed limit.

I drove the length of road twice more to check—and double-check. Definitely no

speed-limit signs. I would argue my case. One hundred and eighty dollars, which could be spent on better things, was worth the effort.

It was a difficult letter to write. First I had to state the identifying details of my crime. I was required to write the date, the infringement notice number, the ICN number (whatever that is) and my vehicle registration number. I had to take ownership of the allegations against me. I wanted to shout that I'm an upright citizen of society, I've never had a speeding ticket in my life, that I was going about the business of the Lord.

Then I had to defend myself. I argued that there are no speed-limit signs on that road and that any driver would assume it to be a 60 km/h zone because it was a main arterial route.

There was one problem with my argument: based on the information in that incriminating letter, the speed camera had to have been right outside a school. And the speed limit outside schools, whether sign-posted or not, is 50 kilometres per hour.

I was trying to plead my innocence when I knew in my heart I was guilty. I was adding a lie to my disobedience. I thought long and hard before I finally added my signature to the letter.

As a human being, I am guilty of everything. I have been angry, I have coveted, I have lied, and when I was a kid, I stole a packet of lollies from the corner store.

Once.

I have been proud, I have been selfish, and I have been deceitful.

I have been impatient, and rude, and hot-tempered.

I am not the person God intended me to be.

One day, I will stand before God and He will judge me. My actions will be examined, in order that I may receive what is due to me for the things I have done, whether good or bad (see Acts 17:31; Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 4:10).

It is an unspeakable relief to know that I do not have to defend or explain my many sins, mistakes and weaknesses to God. I do not have to search for plausible excuses, nor do I have to tell half-truths. I can ask God's forgiveness, I can ask for His help. I can know that Jesus is sitting at the right hand of God in heaven (see Hebrews 1:3) and He's carrying my sin for me: "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21, NIV).

Paul, who was responsible for teaching many of the early Christians about the love of God, concludes his letters with one sentence: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you." The saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is for me. And you. **R**

Christine Miles writes from Auckland, New Zealand.



Video ministry: Anyone like a hand?

BY JOHN GATE

TRUE SUCCESS IN ANY MINISTRY IS DEPENDENT ON GOD AND HIS blessing. However, God's blessing is extended by having helpful and appropriate resources for ministry. Adventist Media has developed a number of resources to assist video ministers in their special ministry.

In these articles we are using the *Search* series as the example, as that is the one that we have been using for the past six years in our outreach, and one with which we are most familiar. However, the principles of video ministry can be used with any outreach video series.

Adventist Media has produced a resource CD for effective video ministry. This is available free to churches and pastors involved in video ministry.

The comprehensive resource kit includes items such as a handbook on video ministry, scripts for the TV and radio advertisements, the topics and

titles in the *Search* video series, a one-page summary of each of the episodes, a listing of the tail offers in the *Search* series, newspapers ads that can be used to advertise a free viewing of *Search*, name tags and calling cards, PowerPoint series for training in churches, group study guides, suggestions for follow-up, and a graphic library for those who want to develop their own advertising for this ministry. There are also delivery record sheets that can be printed off, information about privacy and how to deal with language barriers.

However, these resources are no substitute for our dependence upon prayer, the Holy Spirit, the friendships that we make with the viewers, and the personal support extended to those involved in this ministry. It's encouraging to know all the resources of Heaven are available to those who place themselves in the Master's hands to reach out with His love to others. **R**

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

If you would like to receive a copy of this resource CD, contact the director of the Adventist Discovery Centre, PO Box 1115, Wahroonga NSW 2076; or by phoning Adventist Media on +61 2 9847 2222.

John Gate is director of the Adventist Discovery Centre.



Record Roo's

kids corner



Hi Kids
King Asa was a good King,
and even though God rewarded
him with years of peace in
the land, King Asa had his
people do lots of building
so their towns would be
well fortified.
RR

Fill in the Blanks

"Therefore he said to _____, 'Let us build these cities and make _____ around them, and _____ and _____, and _____, while the land is yet before us, because we have sought the _____ our God: we have sought Him, and He has _____ us _____ on every side.' So they _____ and _____."

2 Chronicles 14:7

Word Search

Can you find all the words listed below in the puzzle? Circle them as you find them.

W	F	T	G	A	T	E	S	R	F	O	S
T	W	A	O	P	L	R	U	O	T	O	E
D	E	R	E	P	S	O	R	P	A	A	I
R	T	P	B	A	E	T	S	S	I	B	T
U	R	B	R	T	I	S	S	R	A	A	I
L	B	S	U	F	N	L	R	R	E	R	C
E	E	B	I	I	L	W	T	E	D	S	L
A	O	E	B	A	L	A	S	A	W	A	S
A	D	A	W	T	E	T	A	O	N	O	L
U	T	P	L	T	R	A	P	D	R	S	T

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| ASA | BUILT | LAND |
| CITIES | FORTIFIED | PROSPERED |
| WALLS | GATES | BARS |
| TOWERS | | |

Resonance of “heart”

ROBIN GREENFIELD, NZ

How my heart rejoiced when I read “The heart of Adventist identity” (Feature, April 29). It was a wonderful confirmation and call to what we essentially need to be about, proclaiming the person, life and death, words, compassion and presence of Jesus Christ. What a call to return to our first love.

I worry sometimes our focus can tend toward the Israelite-type behaviour when Jeremiah needed to warn, “My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water” (Jeremiah 2:13, NIV). May we consider prayerfully the possibility of having dug some cracked cisterns and demolish them.

And may we drink and share freely from the springs of living water Jesus offers and all souls will be strengthened and refreshed.

ERIC WINTER, NSW

Give us more like “The heart of Adventist identity.” For too long the church has expended energy and means and time following every new ecclesiastical fad as ventured upon by Christendom. The results speak for themselves.

A major crisis for Adventism is that of regaining its true identity and Ball again urges the church to get back to the authentic Jesus who *is* our identity in every aspect of the church’s understanding of God, our mission, worship, theology and confidence in our future.

If the real Jesus is not the catalyst for every church and individual member’s spiritual journey, then all is futile.

ELIOT BOLST, VIC

“The heart of Adventist identity” was a great read and a great reminder of the foundation truths on which Christianity and Adventism have been established.

But while these are core to Christianity, they are not unique to Adventism; that is, they do not identify those who hold to these truths as Adventists. Surely the word *identity* suggests a distinctive attribute or set of attributes held by an individual or group, and in the context of this article, the Adventist Church.

So what is it that makes Adventism distinctive, that gives it an identity, that makes it different from most—or all—other Christian groups? Could it be the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s identity is an accumulation of truths or doctrines, some of which are held by others but none of which are held in totality by any other group? And if so, what are they?

If the real Jesus is not the catalyst for every church and individual member’s spiritual journey, then all is futile.

Men need ministry

JOY BUTLER, DIRECTOR OF WOMEN’S MINISTRIES, SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

Ministry by, for and to men is becoming increasingly necessary in the church today. Peter Fowler, minister of the Carmel church, as mentioned in *RECORD* (News, May 6), is to be commended for his initiative in fostering a network of men’s groups. Everywhere I go, men ask, “When is the church going to start a men’s ministry? We are hungry for help, information and encouragement like you give the women.”

With media attention so often focused on degrading both men and women and their important roles, people need good role models. Surely Christians can provide a biblical model of what men and women can be in a society gone wrong. Just as thousands of women now benefit from retreats and events provided to encourage, train and empower women for love and service, men need the same opportunities for learning about connectedness with people and a fuller understanding of who Jesus is and what He wants them to be.

Prayer for pastors

DARRIN PARKER, QLD

I write in praise of the ministers who remember that God calls them to a lifetime of ministry and who continue to serve God and support His church in retirement.

Recently I received an encouraging letter from Pastor Eric Winter and an email from Pastor Harold Harker telling me my family was on his prayer list. After reading

both, my wife and I praised God for these men who, although retired from full-time service, continue to serve the Lord.

Of the 18 people who started in my theology class back in 1982, as far as I am aware only two have been in ministry for the past five to 10 years. I enjoy the support and assistance of several other retired pastors also, and know I would not be in ministry today

if it were not for the support of these men and their families.

I want to encourage every retired ministry family to continue to minister via letter, email and phone calls to their full-time colleagues. You have a wealth of experience that we find helpful, your encouragement empowers us, and your prayers help us carry on the Lord’s work. On behalf of the currently serving full-time ministers, I thank you and praise God for your continuing ministry to us.

Cyclone thanks

M AND V MORIARTY, QLD

As a victim of the recent Cyclone Larry in northern Queensland, we suffered some structural damage but more extensive damage to trees on our property. What trees were not uprooted, either snapped off or lost all their branches.

The Sunday following the cyclone a crew of 18 energetic “young” people from Townsville—three hours drive away—arrived on our doorstep to help with the clean-up. They put in a full day of chain-sawing and dragging branches and logs off our property.

Thank you to Pastor Cranville Tooley and his team. You gave us hope that the Lord is watching over us.

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.

Positions vacant

▲ **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.

▲ **Teachers**—*Gilson 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.**

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

Appreciation

Johnston, Shirley, Jennie and Warren, Rodney and Amelia would like to say a huge and sincere thankyou to each and every one of you who have walked beside us during Graham's illness and passing. Thank you for your friendship, prayers, visits, phone calls, cards, food, letters and support. We have been overwhelmed by your kindness. Please accept this as our personal thanks. Due to your generosity, \$1000 was raised in Graham's memory and has been donated to his favourite ministry, Helen Hall's orphanage in Thailand.

Anniversaries

Collier, Keith and Audrey (nee Thompson) were married on 14.4.56 in the Golcar Baptist Chapel, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, UK. They pledged before God, their family and friends to "love, honour and cherish" each other until death parted them. Fifty years later, with those same ideals still firm, they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in Christchurch, NZ, with a different group of family and friends, including their two daughters, Angela and Linda; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Little did they realise in 1956 that 15 years later, in 1971, their path would lead them to south NZ and ultimately to baptism into the Rangiora SDA church in November 1989, where they are a loved and essential part of the church family.

Silver, John and Edith were married on 8.4.46 and celebrated their 60th anniversary with many happy and joyous reminiscences and memories shared with family and friends at their home, 13 Sutherland Drive, Nowra North, NSW, on Sunday, 9.8.06.



Weddings

Carter—Campbell. David Gordon Carter, son of Gordon and Lynn Carter (Hamilton, NZ), and Diane Lynette Campbell, daughter of Max Campbell and Lynette Stafford-Bush, were married on 7.5.06 in the Hamilton Adventist church, NZ.
Martin Luke

Franke—Bairstow. Clinton Leslie Franke, son of Gregory and Glenys Franke (Donnybrook, WA), and Courtney Rose Bairstow, daughter of Matthew Bairstow and Loretta Upton (Albany), were married on 30.4.06 in the Albany Adventist church.
Gary Roberts

Hilas—Rudenskikh. Michael Christopher Hilas, son of Chris and Leonie Hilas (Sunnybank Hills, Qld), and Diana Alexandrovna Rudenskikh, daughter of Alexandr and Galina Rudenskikh (Kochki Village, Novosibirsk, Russia), were married on 7.5.06 at the Albert Street Uniting Church, Brisbane, Qld.
Jorge Munoz

Krogdahl—Mandru. Jonathan Michael Krogdahl, son of Michael (Mackay, Qld) and Beverley Krogdahl (Townsville), and Nicoleta Mandru, daughter of Nicolae and Mariana Mandru (Macedonia), were married on 15.4.06 at Bradleys Head, Mosman, NSW.
Garth Bainbridge

O'Donnell—Masters. Brandon John O'Donnell, son of Tony and Shayne O'Donnell (Sydney, NSW), and Hayley Jane Masters, daughter of Rob and Eleanor Masters (Martinsville), were married on 6.5.06 in the Morisset Hospital Chapel, Morisset.
Ian Howie

Petrie—Mumford. Bruce Petrie, son of George and the late Florence Petrie, and Jan Mumford, daughter of John and Norma Mumford, were married on 2.4.06 in the Lilydale Adventist church, Vic.
Darren Croft

Reinhard—Allan. Malcolm Scott Rein-



15 Academic Excellence Scholarships in 2007

15 Avondale Foundation Academic Excellence Scholarships are being offered to first year Avondale College students in 2007.

- ◆ Open to Australian and New Zealand students
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Applications close 30 November 2006.

For an application form or further information please contact the following:



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 Fax: 02 4980 2151 or International +61 2 4980 2151
 Email: enquiries@avondale.edu.au
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hard, son of Victor Reinhard (Violet Town, Vic) and Marilyn Endicott (Cooperbrook, NSW), and Cordelia Faith Allan, daughter of Christopher and Claudette Barnes (South Africa), were married on 16.4.06 at Maidenvale Farm near Taree, NSW.
Garth Bainbridge

Sedger—Leopold. Ken Sedger and Anna Leopold were married on 2.4.06 at Bible Garden, Palm Beach, NSW.
Horrie Watts

Short—Elms. Shane Short, son of Kevin Short and Jenny Brown (Warburton, Vic), and Helen Elms, daughter of Kevin and Evelyn Harrison (Yarra Junction), were married on 19.3.06 at Upper Yarra Dam.
Darren Croft

Obituaries

Goods, Elaine Ruth (nee Linard), born 8.5.1925 at Brighton, Vic; died 21.2.06 in Royal Perth Hospital, WA. On 4.10.49 she married Wes, who predeceased her in August 1981. She was also predeceased by her son, Ivan, in October 1970. She is survived by her children, Lindsay (Jimboomba, Qld), Ron, Loraine Hort and Robyn Goods (all of Perth, WA). Elaine was a loyal church member who loved Jesus Christ. She was a very social person; cared about people and was very involved in the welfare work of the church. She also had a great memory and loved sharing stories.
Lynn Burton, Steven Goods

Pittard, Rhonda Fay Ivins (nee Marchant), born 22.12.1925 at Richmond, Vic; died 12.4.06 at Albury, NSW. On 31.6.45 she


married John (Jack) Pittard, who predeceased her and is buried alongside her in Tuncurry, NSW. In 2001 she married Ron Ivins. She is survived by her children and their spouses, Rodney, Cheryl and Raymond Judd, Leon and Adriana, Calvin and Karen; her brother, Avery; her eight grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter. Rhonda was devoted to her family.
Tony Knight

Rushworth, Albert Noel, born 20.6.1915 at Mascot, NSW; died 28.4.06 at Coffs Harbour, aged 90 years. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Vera; his daughter, Beverley Stocker (Loma Linda, California, USA); his sons, David (Coffs Harbour, NSW), Paul and Keith (Perth). Though not an Adventist, Albert contributed to a very happy and peaceful relationship. A few weeks before his death, he gave his heart to God and now awaits the resurrection day.
Gordon Smith

Shelford, Barry Claude, born 4.2.1933 at Glen Innes, NSW; died 14.4.06 at Lisimore. On 24.12.63 he married Myrtle. He is survived by his wife (Lismore); and his children, Glenda Fitzpatrick, Sharon Reddell (both of Toowoomba, Qld) and Michael (Sydney, NSW).
David Kosmeier

Sika, Tevita David, born 8.8.1934 at Vava'u, Tonga; died 24.4.06 in Wellington Hospital, NZ. He is survived by his wife, Teisa; his son, Joseph, his daughter, and son-in-law, Dianne and Reno; his granddaughter, Alisha; and his sister-in-law, Oli. David, otherwise known as Sika, was committed not only to the Well-

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ton SDA church, but also to his Tongan people. Serving as elder, head deacon and songleader for many years, he was known for his reliability, devotion to church activities, love for singing and his warm, welcoming smile. He is sadly missed by the Tongan community, friends and most of all, his family, who look forward to the day when Sika will sing again with the heavenly choir in heaven.

Bob Larsen

Tondut, Arthur George Albert, born 26.8.1907 in Perth, WA; died 25.4.06 in Perth. On 9.7.42 he married Stella Lau-

terbach. He is survived by his wife (Rossmoynne); his nieces, Lesley Bright, Phylis Ruthven (both of Perth), and Robyn Miller (Collie); and his brother-in-law, Stan Lauterbach (Perth). For many years Arthur grew flowers for investment and for placing in the church; a faithful apprentice of the Master Gardener.

Phil Rhodes

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- Post on Internet newsgroup alt.religion.christian.adventist in early 2004

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