

# RECORD

September 30, 2006

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## Day of worship for schools

## ADRA's Adventure Plus gets "served"

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

**O**n August 11, the South Auckland Adventist School held a fun run to raise money for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency's (ADRA) Adventure Plus program.

Karen Saifoloi, assistant principal and Year 3 and 4 teacher at the school, felt this was an important project for the students to take on, so this year, instead of a week of prayer, the school opted for a "week of service."

All 306 students spent their "You got served" week washing faculty members' cars, planting trees for the city council and picking up rubbish.

They also donated one of these service days to the Adventure Plus fun run on their school oval. Each student found sponsors to donate per lap run, with 28 students raising more than \$NZ100 each, and a seven-year-old taking the prize with \$NZ410.50.

In total, the students raised \$NZ9500. They donated \$NZ3500 of this to Middlemore Hospital's new birthing unit and the remaining \$NZ6000 to ADRA's Adventure Plus.

The school handed the cheque to the Adventure Plus team on September 4, who were able to use it to buy an urgently needed new truck.—*Tara Lewis*



# Fallen

Something is desperately, dangerously and diabolically wrong.

*Angel 2: “Babylon is fallen—that great city is fallen—because she seduced the nations of the world and made them drink the wine of her passionate immorality” (Revelation 14:8).\**

IN HIS BOOK *LIFE AFTER GOD*, DOUGLAS Copeland has one of his narrators describe TV footage of a zoo in Miami, Florida, in the flooded aftermath of a hurricane: “There were pictures of ducks and tall elegant birds swimming in the wreckage except they didn’t know it was wreckage. It was just the world.”<sup>1</sup>

He describes the situation in which we find ourselves. Most of the time we swim placidly amid the wreckage of the world in which we live. We look at the brokenness, tragedy, sorrow and evil by which we are surrounded and are tempted to assume it’s “just the world.” Indeed, we almost find it impossible to imagine life without the presence and influence of evil. We begin to take evil for granted, ignoring the fact that so much with which we are at least superficially comfortable is profoundly wrong.

Then every so often we are surprised by an obvious outburst that reminds us of the underlying malevolence of what evil has made of our world. A personal loss or grief, a national tragedy, a humanitarian disaster or some violent outrage lays bare the fallenness and brokenness. From the terrifying and heartbreaking headlines to the quiet desperation of our individual disappointments and despair, our eyes are opened

again—albeit briefly—to the wreckage.

It is to this reality that the message of Revelation 14’s second angel calls our attention. All is not right with the world. In fact, something is desperately, dangerously and diabolically wrong. The story began with a world created wonderfully good by a great and loving God but evil entered the story. We live among the fallout from that story. And the inevitable result of this trajectory is utter hopelessness and self-destruction.

In the context of the gospel story (see Revelation 14:6), this is exactly what we need saving from. In our honest moments, we can recognise this fallenness within ourselves. We can readily name the evil elsewhere but, before turning our attention to righting the wrongs around us, we must confess our own failings and admit we see at least the seeds of that same evil in our thoughts and actions.

But this story is also played out in the big picture of our world. In the presence of evil, the power structures of our world tend to work against God, His people and His intentions for this world. The political, economic, religious and social systems of our world are seasoned with this bias toward brokenness. The oppression, tragedy, outrage and injustice of human history are the all-too-obvious results. And so—as people of God—we must resist and actively work to counter the forces in our world that seek to co-opt, subvert, exploit and destroy all that God created and He described as “good.”

Yet, at the same time, the systems of this

world also seek to hijack our allegiance, styling themselves in the position that belongs only to God as our Creator and Redeemer. The Bible regularly employs two images to describe the way evil works in the world. The prostitute or adulteress whispers seductively, tempting us to a life of self-centred pleasure and luxury, picking the best the world has to offer merely for our own gain and amusement. Alternatively, the beast demands attention, threatening and often using violence to try to force its will, embodying a regime in which only the strong survive and those who don’t are obviously too weak to be of any real value.

But another voice calls from heaven, “Come away from her, my people. Do not take part in her sins, or you will be punished with her” (Revelation 18:4). God is not threatening, so much as—in His love—alerting us to what the end result of evil must be. Mercifully, evil can never be forever.

When we are tempted to complacency in the face of the horrific reality of our world, the second angel calls us to awareness of the fallenness in which we live and to lift our eyes beyond the wreckage we have mistaken for the real world to the “everlasting Good News” God proclaims.

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

1. Douglas Copeland, *Life After God*, Washington Square Press, page 85.

**Nathan Brown**

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

# Adventists attend Australian Christian forum

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

On August 6 and 7, more than 300 politicians, prominent citizens and academics met in Canberra to review the contribution Christianity has made to the development of Australia as a nation as part of the first Australian Christian Heritage Forum (ACHF).

Although Australia is largely considered a secular country, with religion being a private matter that has no role in public life, the ACHF aimed to advance an “alternative” perspective, focusing on the important role Christianity has played in shaping the nation’s values, institutions, professions and government.

The forum also worked to encourage Christians in their efforts to make positive contributions to society by finding a constructive voice and continuing with positive work. Many denominations were represented at the ACHF, with the emphasis being placed on Jesus rather than a specific denomination or church.

Representatives for the Adventist Church attended the forum, including Dennis Reye, Pastor Eric Davey, Julie and Ken Weslake, Melody Tan and Drs John and Vivienne Watts.

Pastor Ray Coombe, public affairs and

religious liberty liaison for the South Pacific Division, represented the Australian Union Conference at the ACHF and says, “It was an interesting conference, which was not as ‘aggressive’ with a political agenda as I thought that it might have been. There was a strong emphasis on the Christian heritage in the history of Australia, but no specific recommendations or resolutions as to where to go with it in the future.”

The plenary addresses at the forum explored Australia’s Christian heritage and character, as well as Australia’s perspectives on Jesus and values. Seminar topics included culture and education, business and commerce and politics and law. Tim Costello, Ken Duncan and Roger Corbett, as well as a number of academic historians, were among the speakers at the forum.

Speakers emphasised the need for Christians to be more involved in society, not less, but to remember they have to earn the right to be heard, rather than assuming it as a divine “right,” with the focus on debate instead of dogma.

In his opening plenary address, Geoffrey Bolton, chancellor of Murdoch University, said, “Christian concepts and imagery are enmeshed in much of what we regard as Australian self-concept and Australian myth: egalitarianism, sacrifice, innocence

betrayed, the ideal of a good society.”

“Because most of the sessions were taken up by the presentation of various papers, there was very little participation or group discussion that might have led to the formulation of specific actions, so in some ways it was not as fruitful, nor as harmful as it might have been,” Pastor Coombe comments.

“Tim Costello struck a very good balancing note on the opening night by warning against an American-style right-wing lobbying of government, but highlighting the importance of not backing away from the reality of our Christian heritage, and the importance of those values in our culture. There was an obvious presence of some committed Christian politicians, but they did not dominate nor did others attempt to politicise the program too much.”

Christian politicians attending the ACHF included Kevin Rudd, MP, Guy Barnett, MP, and Senators Steve Fielding and Barnaby Joyce.

Both Mr Rudd and Mr Barnett pointed out that the right and left are not religious categories and that no political party has an exclusive claim to Christian values.—*Adele Nash/ACHF/Ray Coombe*

More @ [www.australianchristianheritageforum.com.au/](http://www.australianchristianheritageforum.com.au/)

◆ **College Park** is the first urban church in the South Australian Conference to adopt a smaller country church, **Port Augusta**. This marks the start of increased **cooperation between churches** in South Australia. The arrangement is envisaged to provide both **spiritual and physical support** to the smaller church. “College Park have been wonderful in adopting us,” says **Robert Dorante**, minister of Port Augusta church. “We are really grateful to them, and without assistance we wouldn’t be able to do all the things we can now do.”—*Grapevine*



◆ The leaders of the **Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM)** office in Lae participated in a **groundbreaking ceremony** on September 1 to celebrate the commencement of work on their new office complex. The two-storey, 50-office building will cost some K3.5 million and will take two years to build. The new building is being built next to the current office,

which was built in the 1970s. Some departmental directors are currently working from a temporary office nearby as the current office building does not have enough space.—*Matupit Darius*

◆ The instant popularity of the new lunch ministry at **Papatote church, NZ**, took everyone by surprise. Each week, around 200-250 people are choosing to linger after church for **food and fellowship**. Original anticipation was 100-150 diners would stay for lunch. But a few weeks into the ministry numbers reached

almost 300 people. Regular eaters help out by contributing toward the cost of the food. Members are also using this time to **step out of their comfort zone**, sitting with someone they don’t know and engaging in conversation.—

*Jacinda Turnbull-Harman*

◆ Almost **\$A3500 was raised** by Years 7-10 students from **Sydney Adventist College, NSW**, recently—in just a few hours. The students volunteered to go door to door collecting funds for the 90th annual ADRA appeal.—*Graciela Rosales*

# ASANZ Convention attendees meet with New Zealand and Indonesian politicians

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

From June 27 to July 2, tertiary students and supporters from New Zealand, Australia and America gathered in Wellington to attend the Adventist Students Association New Zealand (ASANZ) 2006 Convention.

Held at the El-Rancho Waikanae Christian Convention Centre, the theme was “Called to serve!” and featured international speakers Pastor Ron Clouzet from Southern Adventist University, Tennessee, Pastor Dan Augsburg from Michigan, and Pastor Bien Tejano, the incumbent Philippines Ambassador to New Zealand.

These speakers presented on a variety of topics that included “The Holy Spirit and the call to service,” “Evangelism,” “Surrendering to Christ,” “The privilege of prayer” and “Relationship issues” relevant to Adventist young people.

Pastor Mau Tuaoi, the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference youth director, Pastor Nick Kross, from the South Pacific Division Youth Department, and Pastor Bob Larsen, the regional church pastor, were all present for the opening night,

with Pastor Kross remaining for the entire convention.

Students attending took part in daily outreach activities, which included tree-planting along the Kapiti coastline as part of the Nga Uruora project and distributing copies of *Steps to Christ* and Sanitarium Up & Go drinks in central Wellington in exchange for participation in a brief religious survey.

More than 120 copies of *Steps to Christ* were given out to the general public by a handful of students in two hours, while 160 new trees were planted at the same time.

A visit to the Indonesian Embassy in Wellington was arranged in order for canned food items and used clothing collected by the ASANZ students to be formally presented as a contribution to the victims of the Yogyakarta earthquake in Indonesia, which occurred in the early hours of May 26.

As the Indonesian Ambassador to New Zealand had yet to be appointed, the ASANZ group was officially received by the Chargé d’Affaires Minister Counselor Mrs Marlina S Tahrir, who graciously accepted the expression of sympathy and extended gratitude on behalf of the Indo-

nesian people and her government.

An opportunity was given to the student body to respond accordingly whereby the vision and mission of ASANZ was explained by the ASANZ president, Dianne Sika-Paotonu, and the role of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Indonesia emphasised to the embassy officials who were present. Following the presentation, the group was given books and DVDs about Indonesia.

One of the highlights at the convention was the official tour of Parliament buildings, where the group was also permitted to enter the debating chamber during question time and observe Cabinet ministers debating the current tertiary issues in New Zealand.

While at Parliament the ASANZ group met with Hon Chris Carter, Minister of Conservation and Ethnic Affairs—a result of involvement with the tree-planting project. During this meeting an opportunity was given to share with the minister and his officials the vision and mission of ASANZ students as Adventist young people, emphasising the community aspect of ASANZ’s outreach efforts.—*Dianne Sika-Paotonu/RECORD staff*

◆ **Avondale Memorial church**, NSW, recently installed a **new Johannus organ**. An afternoon of music was held on June 24 to introduce the organ. The event featured world-renowned organist **Peter Kneeshaw**, along with the church’s 60-voice choir, under the baton of **Alan Thrift**. Earlier this year, **Stanmore church**, NSW, celebrated its 108th anniversary and the return of its **fully restored pipe organ**. After two years of restoration, the organ was rededicated to the glory of God. The organ was originally **purchased in 1928**.—*Northpoint/Intrasyd*

◆ **Caboolture church**, Qld, runs a popular community program called **“Creative activities.”** Week by week almost 100 community members attend a wide variety of classes—from craft to computer lessons. **Glenda Dunn** found a brochure in her letterbox about the program and, with the class discovering she is a skilled dressmaker, was asked to teach a number of classes. **Impressed by the friendliness** of the organisers, she soon started attending church services and, after Bible studies, was baptised on August 19.—*Kristiina Somerville*

◆ On July 5, young people of **Otara church**, NZ, presented a drama adaptation based on the book ***Lineage of Grace*** by **Francine Rivers**. With a touch of humour, passionate dramatisation and gospel singing, the story was told of the outpouring of God’s amazing grace upon the ancestral mothers of Jesus. Many of the young people came forward at the **concluding altar call** of the production. One week later, more youth were requesting baptism.—*Peter Howard*

◆ **Warrimoo church**, NSW, recently completed a **“Six weeks of spiritu-**

**al growth”** campaign that resulted in the formation of five home fellowship groups. The campaign explored the five basic privileges of Christian living: worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and mission. All were encouraged to show their commitment by **wearing a small ribbon** throughout the week—a different colour each week. When asked what the small ribbon represented, members had an opportunity to tell about their church’s spiritual growth campaign and **extend an invitation** to attend a small home-fellowship group.—*Roger Vince*

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ OCTOBER 14—ADRA APPEAL SUPPORT OFFERING; SPIRIT OF PROPHECY DAY

# Day of Worship for Melbourne schools

## MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

**G**rowing faith—the essence of Adventist education” has continued to be the focus for Adventist education in Victoria in 2006, and has been taken on in context of both students and teachers.

In a first-time event, August 18 saw all Melbourne Adventist schools come together for a Combined Adventist Schools Day of Worship—“Magnify.” The morning program was for the primary students, and more than 1000 students and staff from the seven primary schools came from as far away as Geelong and Warburton for a worship program focusing on “Sharing Jesus.”

The afternoon program was for the secondary students, with more than 800 students and staff sharing thoughts on “Getting Jesus out there.”

Every school was involved in presenting various parts of the programs, such as prayer, praise and worship, musical items, testimonies and introducing speakers.

Each school also had the opportunity to share a short visual presentation—“This is my school”—to enhance a sense of fellowship.

Students attending the programs were given age-appropriate challenges from Pastors Wayne Boehm and Derek McCutcheon to share Jesus with others.

Tania Calais, schools development of-

tion, Children’s Ministries and Youth Departments of the Victorian Conference to work together in focusing on evangelising the 1800 students in our schools.”

“Growing faith—the essence of Adventist education,” the theme first presented by Lanelle Cobbin from the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference at the 2005 South Pacific Division’s Principals Conference, and the theme was further expanded on by Mrs Cobbin at the Victorian Conference’s teachers meetings in April

At the beginning of August, a special “Week of spiritual emphasis” was also organised for the teachers in Victoria, with readings, discussion and sharing times during morning staff worship focusing on the book of Hosea and God’s love.

The week culminated in a special Sabbath worship program for teachers, with guest speaker Dr Norm Young and featuring music

from *First Love*, a musical production written by Lindsay Morton, a teacher at Gilson College, Victoria.—**Tania Calais/RECORD staff**



*The choir at the Combined Adventist Schools Day of Worship, which was attended by more than 1800 students from schools in and around Melbourne.*

ficer for the Victorian Conference, says, “It was a fabulous opportunity for students to see a bigger picture of what our Adventist schools stand for, and also for the Educa-



◆ **Xtreme Conversion**, a Christian reality-TV show that compares the all-out commitment of extreme sports enthusiasts to the focus needed to be a real Christian, is set to air on various television stations, including Hope Channel. Each half-hour program tracks the **real-time progress of Christians** who, through the power of Christ, are making powerful changes in their lives. There’s testimonies and tips from Christians who have gained victories over life challenges such

as drugs, pornography, alcoholism and obesity. “The parallels between extreme sports and Christianity are not only amazing, but also thoroughly biblical,” says **Dwight Hall**, host of Xtreme Conversion and an elder of the **Coldwater church**, Michigan, USA. Xtreme Conversion adds thrill and imagination by uniquely **mixing clips of surfing with baptism** and skydiving with prayerful testimony. Mr Hall’s goal is to get viewers to make the ultimate decision—to “jump out of the plane,” so to speak.—**Barry Champion**

More @ [xtremeconversion.com](http://xtremeconversion.com)



◆ The **Fresno Westside church**, California, USA, ran a **community baby shower** with games, food and gifts on June 25 for almost 300 women and their young children. Many of the guests were from two area rehab facilities, a refuge for victims of domestic violence and a local emergency housing agency. The party culminated six months of out-

reach activities, including weekly parenting classes. **Catherine Ruff**, the ministry’s coordinator, says, “We’d been Bible-studied to death so **we changed it to a witnessing class.**” Her class began going door to door on Sabbath afternoons, meeting and praying with the neighbours. If no one was home, a card was left telling the resident that they’d been prayed for and to call if they wanted a visit. **Most neighbours wanted prayer** for themselves and their families and follow-up phone calls and visits were also made.—**Caron Oswald**

# Former RECORD editor launches book in Australia

SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES

Pastor Geoff Garne, editor of RECORD from 1981 to 1985, has launched his book *Still the Best News Ever!* in Australia.

A compilation of articles written by Pastor Garne and published in Seventh-day Adventist magazines around the world over a period of 50 years, Pastor Garne sees the book as “a token of praise to God for the goodness he has shown me over the past 80 years of my life.”

Pastor Garth Bainbridge, secretary of the Ministerial Association in the Greater Sydney Conference, spoke at the launch while Dr Eric Webster, editor of *Signs of the Times* in South Africa, provided a prayer of dedication for the book.

“This book has been crafted by a deep love and concern for others and a passion for Christ,” said Dr Webster during the prayer.

The book was dedicated to the “ministry of finding the lost, pointing the way to



Dr Eric Webster, Pastor Geoff Garne and Pastor Garth Bainbridge at the launch of Pastor Garne's book *Still the Best News Ever!*

the Saviour, encouraging the saints and in anticipation of the glories of life eternal.”

According to Pastor Garne, now a retired pastor living in Auckland, his vision for the book is that it will be bought by Adventists to give to their non-Adventist family and friends.—*Melody Tan*

***Still the Best News Ever! is available at Adventist Book Centres for \$A14.95 or \$NZ18.95.***

# Sanitarium launches new products

BERKELEY VALE, NEW SOUTH WALES

Sanitarium has introduced two new offerings to its range of Vegie Delights meat-free meal bases, opening up more easy-to-prepare options for people wanting delicious, tasty dishes in the quickest time possible.

Vegie Delights Mince and Stir-Fry Strips are made from textured vegetable protein and are perfect for a host of contemporary cafe-style recipes. Both are 99 per cent fat free, cholesterol free, a great source of iron and zinc, are high in vitamin B12 and meet the Heart Foundation's strict nutritional guidelines for the Tick logo.

Susan Wilson, Sanitarium group product manager, says the new additions to the Vegie Delights range are an ideal fit for those looking to cook more vegetarian meals. “Newspoll research conducted in May 2006 shows one in two Australian women eat at least one vegetarian dinner a week. Combined with the already broad Vegie Delights range, the Mince and Stir-Fry Strips provide even more simple options for people looking to create delicious vegetarian meals quickly,” she said.

There are now more than 20 products in the Vegie Delights range.—*Julie Praestiin*  
**More @ [www.vegedelights.com.au](http://www.vegedelights.com.au)**

◆ Members of a **Presbyterian megachurch** in Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA, have **decided overwhelmingly to withdraw** from the Presbyterian Church, making it the largest congregation to do so. More than 1000 members of Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian church turned out and **voted 967-to-36** to affirm a vote by church elders to leave. The group then voted to request affiliation with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). The decision comes after the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church adopted a policy that some pastors say **will allow gay pastors**

in the church.—*crosswalk.com*

◆ A bulk supermarket that gives away all its food has provided a helping hand to 18,000 Christchurch, NZ, families and individuals during the past four years. The **0800 Hungry Ministries Trust** warehouse in Wainoni has **hundreds of pallets of groceries** lining their shelves. “You name it, we probably have it,” says manager **Debbie Drain**. “Everything was going to the dump until we came along.” Goods are donated by suppliers, most of it close to its use-by date or having dam-

aged packaging, but still perfectly useable. 0800 Hungry aims to **provide churches with a tool to connect with their local community**. When people phone for food, the organisation contacts a local church, which is asked to provide volunteers to pick up the parcels from the warehouse and deliver them.—*John McNeil*

◆ Christian groups are outraged at a **new law passed** in the Indian state of Chhattisgarh, which requires **government approval of any religious conversion**. The bill has been amended to say that

“returning to one's original religion will not be treated as conversion,” which Christian groups believe is a way to allow Hindu organisations to reconvert Christians back to Hinduism.—*Christian News Today*

◆ A report shows **Lakewood church**, Houston, USA, is currently the **fastest-growing US church with** 12,000 additional members this year. The annual report listed the top 100 fastest growing churches in America—52 churches were not in last year's top 100.—*crosswalk.com*

IS YOUR CHURCH DOING SOMETHING EXCITING, INNOVATIVE OR INSPIRING? EMAIL [RECORD@SIGNSPUBLISHING.COM.AU](mailto:RECORD@SIGNSPUBLISHING.COM.AU)

# ADRA receives grant for Disaster Volunteer program

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) has been successful in two Australian Federal Government grant applications totalling \$A98,219, made through the National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund (NEVSF).

Funding from both grants will be used to further develop ADRA's National Program support for its Disaster Recovery Volunteers. This includes improvement of volunteer recruitment, training, equipment, operational resources and database development.

Gary Christian, ADRA–Australia's National Program director, says, "This is a significant achievement for ADRA and the growth of our Disaster Recovery Volunteers Program. This not only allows us to grow and improve the quality of our program but also illustrates the confidence that NEVSF have in the organisation and the credibility of ADRA's work in Australia."

"This funding will make possible sig-

nificant improvements to our program, that will help ADRA be more efficient, responsive and enhance capacity, when an emergency happens," says Chris Olafson, ADRA–Australia's Disaster Response coordinator.

The two grant applications of \$A55,000 and \$A43,219 were submitted on March 2 and were recently approved for the full amount requested.

ADRA was one of 440 agencies applying for this funding.

Currently the ADRA Disaster Recovery Volunteers Program has resourced more than 2000 volunteers throughout Australia. The program provides emergency accommodation services to evacuees and emergency management personnel.

ADRA–Australia is fully accredited with the Australian Government's Agency for International Development (AusAID). It is signatory to the Australian Council for International Development Code of Conduct, which requires members to maintain high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.—*ADRA–International*

## Community HIV/AIDS centre highlights issue of child abuse

LAE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Child abuse occurs in many rural villages in Papua New Guinea. This information was shared with participants who attended a recent Konigi child-abuse prevention training program for community and village leaders in the Watabung Sub-Districts in the Eastern Highlands.

The program was organised by the Muki Community and held at their newly built HIV/AIDS Resource Centre. It was funded by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency–PNG through AusAID's PNG Church Partnership Program. Training, which lasted for a week, was facilitated by the Adventist Health Department, Wat-

abung Police Commander Senior Constable Peter Dii and the child-abuse section of the Eastern Highlands police department.

The 36 participants were given information about forms of child abuse, how to prevent it from occurring, possible solutions, who to contact if reports are made and how it is related to the spread of HIV/AIDS in PNG.

Adventist health program manager James Gahare told the participants that by looking at the statistics in the country, child abuse is shown to be a major indicator for many who contracted the HIV/AIDS virus under the age of 19.

Adventist health is working in many parts of PNG to raise HIV/AIDS awareness.—*Martina Darius*

## Adventists add voice to global concerns

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, USA

Continuing concern for the deplorable living standards and threats of violence facing people in many parts of the world was expressed by Jonathan Gallagher, an Adventist representative from the General Conference's Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL), who joined more than 2500 other delegates from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) at the United Nations (UN) building in New York for the 59th Annual NGO Conference.

Their mission? To draw up a better and more effective means of forming global partnerships to protect security and foster development worldwide. Meeting under the theme "Unfinished business: Effective partnership for human security and sustainable development," the leaders of civil society and government present committed to finding practical methods to make the world a safer and more humane place.

As UN General Assembly president Jan Eliasson reminded conference participants, such goals require immense commitment. "We have such huge tasks now that I sometimes ask myself, 'Will we make it?'" But he was quick to add that they could certainly be accomplished. "Working together, creating international structures, creating strong and effective international cooperation, strengthening the United Nations, is a good thing for the world."

Mr Eliasson also emphasised the need for contribution to be made by NGOs, and encouraged them to work with the UN to develop and secure human rights.

"Adventists are committed to social action, recognising that our interest is in the whole being of what makes us human—mental, physical, social and spiritual," said Pastor Gallagher. "Consequently we are very much involved in making this world a better place through humanitarian action that includes health, education, disaster relief, development aid, social development programs and so on. We believe that by so doing we are following the example of Jesus in caring for all the needs of humanity."—*PARL/ANN staff*

# Live to give

BY BRAD WATSON

IF I GAVE YOU \$100,000 IN CRISP, \$50 NOTES, you'd be excited, wouldn't you? And if I said you could spend it on whatever you wanted, when you wanted, with no strings attached, how would you feel then? What would you do with it? You could pay all those bills and buy a new car. You could go on the holiday of a lifetime and fulfil your dreams! Maybe you could retire—even if it was just for a while.

Now, instead of giving you \$100,000 to spend, what if I asked you to raise that amount for mission work? Your task—if you accepted it—would be to settle in Cooranbong, establish a fundraising organisation for mission work, and lead Avondale College students in fundraising for 27 years. During that time you would participate enthusiastically in everything from endurance walks, to curry days, money-can collections, car washes, food stalls and music events.

Hold it there! I know you're eager to accept the challenge but before you go getting all enthusiastic you should consult an expert like Charles! Ninety-six this year, Charles Pointon is known to a generation of Avondale College graduates.

Until recently he was the oldest student at Avondale College and most know him as the elderly man who sits patiently in the cafeteria with a sign asking for donations. Recent students know him as the old guy on the orange scooter. Others know Charles as a bearded gentleman with a heart for poor children. And just about anyone who has met Charles knows of his passion for COSMOS.

COSMOS is a campus charity that has raised \$A108,158. It has been a huge task. But, according to Charles, raising money for mission is fun! Take, for example, the fact that he sought sponsorship to walk from Cooranbong to Newcastle at age 74—and he walked the full 50 kilometres! In 2001—aged 91—he inspired students when he walked halfway, a full 25 km.

Charles Pointon was born in London in 1910, became an Adventist in 1937, survived

the Blitz during World War II and migrated to Australia in 1969 after the death of his wife. Since 1978 he has been enthusiastically raising money on the Cooranbong campus and has become quite an identity.

"Why do you do it?" I asked Charles recently when I interviewed him. "Why not relax and take it easy?"

"Well," he replied after a pause, "helping others is important. COSMOS was not my idea but when I was introduced to it I took the skeleton of an idea and put flesh on it. Through the efforts of many this missionary club has become an important part of college life. It is my greatest accomplishment."

In fairness to others, Charles points out that from 1990 to 2001 he was able to help COSMOS for only a few weeks each year when he made special trips to Avondale College. "I was at Kempsey helping with the Aboriginal ministry, teaching Sabbath schools, preaching and organising programs," he says. "I'm grateful to Dr Barry Oliver and others who kept COSMOS going until I returned."

Charles is amazed and humbled to have raised more than \$100,000. "COSMOS has been like the mustard seed, small at first but grown into a big tree." When asked if he had enjoyed giving away all the money to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Asian Aid and other humanitarian organisations he replied, "The world is full of those in need and it gives me great joy to spend the money for their good, rather than for mine. I'm surprised I'm still alive at 96."

Ever the optimist, Charles says, "Life gets better and better as you get older. I've got so much in my mind to think about and life is getting more interesting. My mind is clearer than ever before. My body is getting a bit weaker but generally life is greater and more wonderful as the years go on."

Charles admits to knowing the well-kept secret of living well and long. If you ask him he is likely to look you in the eye and



Charles Pointon.

say, "I've been a vegetarian for 70 years. I have never smoked and never drunk alcohol. I have a strong faith in God and I pray regularly. I've always been very fond of Jesus. My mother taught me that from a young age."

Finally I asked if Charles had any advice for all us young people who want to make a difference. "Oh yes," he replied enthusiastically. "Every person should be a witness and missionary for God, at home and at college, as well as getting trained and equipped for the work."

"God is the one," Charles says. "God has inspired me to serve."

Charles is proud of the achievements of COSMOS and thanks all the supporters over 27 years of fundraising. "Special thanks go to Dr Bruce Lo, Eugene Landa, Warren Scott and Astar Alexis for inviting me to join with them in the idea of a missionary club at Avondale. They left me to carry the baby," he says with a grin.

COSMOS continues to operate on the Cooranbong campus of Avondale College by raising funds for selected charities, including ADRA and Asian Aid. "Avondale is proud of Charles Pointon's commitment to helping needy people," says college president Dr John Cox. "I would like to express my personal appreciation of his fundraising work, which has earned him the admiration and respect of the entire Avondale College community." **R**

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



# Hard heart

BY SUSAN JOHNSTONE

I can't breathe—it's agony wondering where you are. Picture me on my knees—have you run too far? Can you hear . . . can you hear the sound of my heart break with each step you take? Can you feel . . . can you feel me when I say: 'Please come back to me. I miss you; will you come to your senses? Please come back to me.'\*\*

The loving father pleads for his prodigal son. The son—broken and contrite—was ready to fling himself at his father's feet begging for forgiveness. Meanwhile, the "sensible" brother lurked in the shadows, watching the spectacle with disdain.

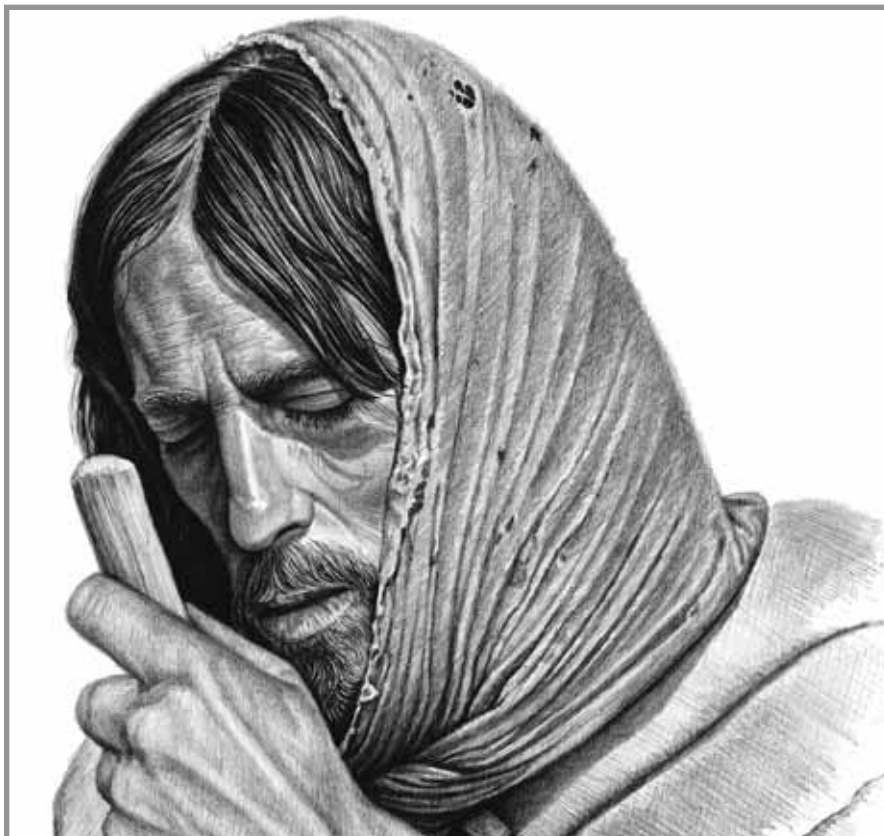
Which one are you?

Do you wonder at the enthusiasm of other Christians and think you just don't get it? Are they faking it or is this something you can have, too? Is it something you want? A flame minutely flickers in your heart, yearning to be fanned into a blaze, but it wavers feebly in indecision.

Do you think sometimes of the icy blackness in the corner of your heart—a hardness that sometimes threatens to overwhelm, a hardness that produces your proud thoughts, your flashes of anger, your cold feelings toward those you should love?

This is the hard heart that only you know about—only you and God. He sees it. He knows your ache to be healed, paralysed by an apathy and despair that tempts you to think, *Maybe this is as good as it gets*. That's why He's offered to give you a heart of flesh to replace that heavy weight, your stony heart (see Ezekiel 36:26).

Although your feelings tell you something different, don't ignore the truth that God cares. Even at the shopping centre



Higher Clips

you see sparrows darting about between the cars searching for crumbs. Such tiny creatures—oblivious to the wider world you live in, yet cared for by your heavenly Father. Aren't you worth more than many sparrows? (see Matthew 10:31).

God knows all about your hypocrisy—the times you strive to be "good" but inside you know it's all a pretence. He knows your inability to create your own joy and zeal for worship. He knows your stagnation and the feeling that you are just going through the motions of "doing church." Yet there is no condemnation; just a plea to come back to the true Source of life. Why subsist on chlorinated tap-water when the springs of living water are offered for free?

When Jesus stood at the Temple steps and denounced the teachers of the law and the Pharisees, there were tears in His eyes. His face contorted with sorrow and anguish, He proclaimed their sins of pride and hardness of heart. While God condemned these leaders, He still nursed compassion for the individuals.

Jesus cried, "How many times have I wanted to put my arms round all your people, just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would not let me!" (Matthew 23:37, TEV). This is not the

wrath of a fed-up God but the emotional weeping of a loving heart cut deeply. It is a gut-wrenching plea to come back to the shelter of His arms.

It's not too late for you.

Whatever you do, wherever you go, God's love is there. In black and white you read that nothing can separate you from the love of God (see Romans 8:38). But it's not just black and white, it's reality. Even as the weeks and months slip past when you turn aside from time with God, preoccupied with other things, God's love is there. When you look at the Bible on the shelf and pass it over for a magazine or turn to the TV remote control, God's love is still there. As you come to church with a smile pasted on your face and your thoughts drift to your plans for afterwards while others listen to the sermon, God's love is still there.

Though you don't feel it, God's love is still there. He is searching relentlessly for you, His lost sheep. He is calling you.

What will you do? **R**

*\*Michelle Tumes, "Please Come Back" from Listen, Sparrow Records, 1998.*

*Susan Johnstone writes from Stanthorpe, Queensland.*

# Seeing the invisible

BY GEOFFREY GARNE

AS PART OF HUMANITY'S CONTINUING exploration of the universe, humanity has succeeded in landing exploratory probes on the planets Mars and Jupiter in recent years. The photographs transmitted back to earth can only be described as awesome. Yet no trace of life has been found out there. No evidence of a Supreme Being has been detected. So millions of people are asking, Why should I believe in God? How can you believe in Someone you've never seen, of whom there is no tangible evidence?

This is not a new question. It has vexed the human mind and spirit for centuries. In Job, thought by scholars to be the most ancient book in Scripture, the question is asked, "Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? Job 11:7\*). For us tiny creatures to try to comprehend everything there is to know about God is like a colony of ants trying to figure out everything there is to know about humanity.

When God chose Moses to lead the Hebrew people out of slavery to their own land, Moses wished he could see God. God's answer to His wish was, "Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live" (Exodus 33:20). Yet the Bible tells us "he endured, as seeing him who is invisible" (Hebrews 11:27). To Moses, God's presence was as real as though he could actually see Him. He saw God with the eye of faith.

Have you ever wished you could see God? I have had such a wish, especially in times of deep distress and trial. Yet seeing God with the eye of faith and experiencing His personal presence as if we could actually see Him, is not a privilege exclusive to only spiritual giants like Moses. It is a privilege we all can enjoy. To each of us ordinary 21st-century pilgrims, God's presence can be as real as if we could actually see Him. Peter tells us, "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not,



yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (1 Peter 1:8).

Let's consider six suggestions I have found helpful toward experiencing this reality:

## 1. We can see God in His handiwork.

A Westerner was travelling with a Bedouin through the desert. After their first night's stopover, the Bedouin said, "There were camels passing our tent during the night."

"Really?" responded the Westerner. "How do you know? Did you hear them? Did you see them?"

"No," responded the Bedouin with a smile. "I did not hear or see them, but I can see their footprints in the sand."

Similarly, we may not be able to see God, but we can see His footprints in the sand. We can see His handiwork in every fragrant flower, in every shapely leaf, in every lofty tree, in every bird in flight, in the honeycomb of a beehive. We don't need to look outside our own bodies to see evidence of the master mind of a creative Genius: the

structure and function of our eyelids, our fingers, our knees, our tongues, our skin, our hair, our voice boxes, to mention only a few of a million wonders of the human body. Like David we have reason to exclaim, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well" (Psalm 139:14).

A brilliant Jewish scholar, Dr Cerald L. Schroeder, has written a remarkable book entitled *The Hidden Face of God*. The author, a professor at the Hebrew University, in Jerusalem, sets out to demonstrate that although God's face is hidden from us mortals, we can see Him encoded in the mystery of DNA, in the miracle of the human mind, in the marvel of nerves and muscles, in everything that comprises the universe around us and within us. It makes intriguing and inspiring reading.

## 2. We can see God in His providential leading in our own lives, in the lives of others, and in history.

Here is just one example from the annals of history:

Published in 1611, the King James Version of the Bible has been a staple in Christian literature for more than 400 years. Although its language is now somewhat old-fashioned, it has spoken to the hearts of untold millions of readers all over the English-speaking world. But consider this: On November 5, 1605, a group of disgruntled citizens plotted to blow up the British Houses of Parliament at a session they knew King James I would be attending. The plot was miraculously uncovered and foiled. Guy Fawkes, the man who had placed the explosives, was tried and hanged. But for that, King James would almost certainly have lost his life. The British monarchy would have been in disarray and the country would have fallen into the hands of an anti-Scripture faction. Instead, the Christian leaders of England were spurred on to produce an Authorised English Version of

Scripture. It was completed and presented to King James six years later.

Hundreds of fascinating stories like that could be cited from the pages of history!

### 3. We can see God in His Word, the Bible.

The Bible is a revelation of God. What kind of God does it reveal Him to be? When Moses longed to see God, “the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty” (Exodus 34:6, 7).

I encourage you to read the stories recorded in the Bible of people God has dealt with in this way. Whenever you're feeling discouraged or confused about some situation you find hard to handle, open the Bible and read a story that reveals God's dealing with people. Keep a Bible with you in your car, and whenever the going gets tough, open it and read. Read the about Job, Daniel, Esther or Jonah. Read the Gospels or the book of Acts.

In all these accounts you will see the invisible God interacting with ordinary people like you and me, in the kind of human situations and crises we have to endure from day to day.

### 4. We can see God in Jesus.

Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God—a revelation of His character, love, power, redeeming grace, wisdom and His plan of salvation. Twenty-four times in the New Testament Jesus is referred to as the Saviour. When everything else has been said, the God of the Bible is the God of John 3:16: “God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

In His preaching Jesus referred to God as “our Father” no fewer than 60 times. Because He is your Father, you are His child. He loves you and cares about you. You are precious in His sight. There is nothing in the world that is for your good, that He would withhold from you. “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:32).

### 5. We can see God in our worship of Him.

Look at the awesome picture of what happened to Moses when he came to the tabernacle to worship Him: “And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend” (Exodus 33:9, 11).

Moses couldn't actually see God; the cloud veiled Him from his sight. But his communion with God was as intimate as if he could see Him. They spoke to each other “as a man speaks to his friend.”

We too can have the enriching, uplifting

## Moses couldn't actually see God; the cloud veiled Him from his sight. But his communion with God was as intimate as if he could see Him.

experience of the Divine-human encounter when we worship Him in church, in our homes, in the quiet place of prayer. As we lift our minds heavenward and open our hearts to Him, He will reveal Himself to us and lift the burdens that threaten to crush us. He will speak to us personally, as a man speaks to a friend, as a parent speaks to a child.

### 6. We can see God reflected in the lives of beautiful people.

The poor and homeless of Calcutta saw God in Mother Teresa. She summed up her philosophy of life in these memorable words: “Jesus comes to meet us. To welcome Him, let us go to meet Him. He comes to us in the hungry, the naked, the lonely, the alcoholic, the drug addict, the prostitute, the street beggars. If we reject them, if we do not go out to meet them, we reject Jesus Himself” (Mother Teresa, *In My Own Words*).

The people of central Africa saw God in David Livingstone, the Scottish missionary-explorer who opened up the then

Dark Continent to the gospel. He died on his knees, praying for Africa. The British authorities instructed that his body be brought back to England for burial. But the people of Africa protested, “He belongs to us. Let us take out his heart, then we will send his body to England.” Their request was granted. After they had removed his heart and buried it in their midst, they tenderly carried his body on their shoulders to the coast, where it was shipped to England for burial in Westminster Abbey.

We see God every time we sing one of the hymns of Fanny Crosby who, although totally blind throughout her 95 years, wrote hundreds of beautiful hymns reflecting her love for her Saviour.

We see God when we listen to the magnificent music of Beethoven, including his much-loved “Hymn to joy” in his Ninth Symphony, who could not hear much of the music he wrote because he became completely deaf during the later years of his productive life.

Look around you, and you will see God in the lives of beautiful people near you today!

### Seeing the Invisible

“Moses endured as [if] seeing him who is invisible.” You and I will never be called upon to endure as much as he did. But whatever it is we may have to endure, we can bear it as if seeing Him who is invisible—seeing Him in His handiwork seeing Him in His providences in our lives and the lives of others, seeing Him in His Word, seeing Him in Jesus, seeing Him in our worship of Him, and seeing Him in the lives of beautiful people who reflect His love.

And some day, when the battle is ended and the victory is won, we will see His face! He promises us this in His Word: “We shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2). Then the God we now “see” will be visible: “His servants shall serve him: and they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads” (Revelation 22:3, 4). **R**

*\*All Bible quotations are from the King James Version.*

**Geoffrey Garne is a former editor of RECORD, who writes from Auckland, New Zealand.**



# What's going on here?

BY JOHN GATE

ONE WAY OF MAINTAINING CONTROL IS TO SET THE AGENDA. But, in outreach, that can be disastrous. In Jesus' method, He looked for the agenda in people's lives, and came on board with their agenda, walked with them, won their confidence and led them to know and accept Him. In our outreach ministry, we need to adapt that principle. It means we need to be open to people, open to their needs, and open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. That requires adaptability and emphasises the importance of prayer in outreach, especially video ministry.

It is convenient to have a one-size-fits-all approach. But it's not real. People are different, and it takes tact and thought to be able to adapt our approach in video ministry to where people are at and what their agenda is. We have already seen how the video minister commences as a courier but then becomes a friend, and as time goes on even a close friend and confidant. The video minister needs to act appropriately at each point of the growing friendship.

Jesus won people's confidence because—as our strategy statement reminds us—He listened to people, sympathised with their needs and responded in some positive way. People—especially postmodern people—are wary of sham and put-on religion. Postmodern people are slow to respond, yet they value friendship. When they see someone is genuine and authentic, they are more prepared to listen seriously to what they have to say and what they have to offer. By focusing on people and their needs and agendas, the video minister will win people's confidence and open the way for the work of the Holy Spirit as He speaks to them through the friendship and through the videos.

## Friendship is a vital key to effective video ministry.

Discovering people's agenda is not difficult. By simply asking general questions about family, work, hobbies or any things of interest, recur-

ring themes soon become clear. People love to talk about members of their family or extended family. As people share, it soon becomes clear what brings joy or sadness to them. These are the things that the video minister is listening for, praying about and desiring to respond to in such a way as to be of help and assistance.

Remember our strategy statement: "Jesus mingled with people as one who desired their good." He was mixing with people and building friendships, but taking notice of their needs and responding to them. That is what the video minister is doing as he or she delivers videos and meets people week by week. **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,  
Aaron and Moses were sent to do a special job for God.  
You can read all about their story in the book of Exodus.

RR

### Fill in the Blanks

"So the \_\_\_\_\_ said to \_\_\_\_\_: ... 'You shall \_\_\_\_\_ all that I \_\_\_\_\_ you. And \_\_\_\_\_ your brother shall tell \_\_\_\_\_ to send the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ out of his land.'"

Exodus 7:1, 2 NKJV

### Word Search

A	G	A	C	S	D	H	S	M	P	G	H
O	S	U	D	O	X	E	E	A	E	A	M
M	E	I	S	S	M	V	L	S	O	A	N
S	S	N	E	L	O	M	C	R	M	N	O
P	N	S	R	A	S	R	A	I	M	L	R
S	O	G	M	V	R	H	R	N	M	S	A
M	R	S	I	E	P	I	I	L	D	X	A
S	I	S	E	S	A	P	M	O	O	A	A
M	C	I	S	M	A	E	G	Y	P	T	A
R	I	N	P	L	A	G	U	E	S	I	A



- |         |          |
|---------|----------|
| AARON   | MIRACLES |
| MOSES   | COMMAND  |
| MIRIAM  | SIGNS    |
| PHAROAH | EXODUS   |
| EGYPT   | SLAVES   |

Can you find all the words from the list in the puzzle above?

Colour in the picture of Aaron

## How not to advertise?

**MARIOS AND LEISA COBACOGLO,**  
QLD

What's going on with the recent full-page Sanitarium So Good advertisement in RECORD (page 31, August 12)? This is the type of advertising you'd expect to find in any worldly magazine, but definitely not in RECORD.

RECORD is a church publication and all advertisements should be representative of this. Our family and friends all found this not only appalling but offensive in this context. You can't say that a strappy bikini-clad woman is not being used to sexually promote So Good.

**ROSALIE WAINWRIGHT,** NZ

Since when did RECORD become a pornographic magazine? I strongly object to Sanitarium's recent So Good ad showing a nearly naked woman. Totally out of place in our lovely magazine.

**CHRISTINE TAYLOR,** NSW

I was shocked to see a full-page Sanitarium advertisement for So Good displaying a couple on the beach in their swimwear. The picture portrays the guy piggybacking the girl while they seem to be having lots of fun in their lack of clothing.

I felt really uncomfortable, and showed this to my husband, who agreed and felt the same way I did. We were surprised to see such an advertisement in our church magazine. We are not old, nor are we religious fanatics, but felt that this was definitely inappropriate advertising.

Sure, we can go down to the beach and see this and worse displayed wherever we look. We have become so desensitised within our society to what is right and wrong that morals have slipped out the door. They could have had a little more clothing on so as not to suggest any sexual overtone, which is definitely loud and clear in this advert.

What are we saying to the world? Do we have to resort to sex to sell our products? Are our products different enough anyway so that people will just want them, where they stand out on their own as good and pure? What are we saying to our young people? We are told to be separate from the world. Philippians 4:8 urges us to think

on things that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely and of good report. We should be putting away any hint of sin in our lives, not promoting it.

**RESPONSE: REX SHEEHY,**  
MARKETING MANAGER, SANITARIUM  
HEALTH FOOD COMPANY

On behalf of Sanitarium I would like to offer my sincerest apologies for any offence caused by this advertisement. We have considered the comments received and will take them into account in future.

The image in question was not chosen to stimulate sexual attraction, but as an image conveying a message that links back to the health and wellbeing aspect of Sanitari-

um's mission statement: "We inspire and resource our community to experience happy, healthy lives."

um's mission statement: "We inspire and resource our community to experience happy, healthy lives." The intent of the photograph in this advertisement is to show—in the context of our product So Good Active—healthy and happy Australians who have the physical fitness to enjoy nature, companionship and the benefits you can get from a plant-based diet.

vote prior to the booth's closure—along with several other people making a dash to beat closing time. Some church members may feel that this risks an encroachment on sacred Sabbath hours. However, since our Sabbath commitment ends at sundown, how can we justify *not* voting on Saturday when there is clearly enough time to attend a polling booth after Sabbath but before voting closes?

It may be convenient for us to assert our supposed entitlement to a pre-poll or postal vote on religious grounds, but is it not wrong and potentially illegal to not vote on Saturday in circumstances when it is possible to do so?

## Is it not wrong and potentially illegal to not vote on Saturday in circumstances when it is possible to do so?

### Thinking alternative

**J E FORBES,** VIC

"New cancer vaccine" (*Adventist World*, September 9) was an informative article but the little aside at some "natural" products is not helpful. The majority of these products are sold at health stores or by naturopaths, not "pyramid schemes" as the article suggests.

The huge amount of documented and "covered up" side effects of medical drugs are what are leading many people to seek "natural" remedies, which at least "first do no harm" in the majority of cases. Just because something is "untested and unproven" according to standards set out by medical bodies, does not mean some benefit is not being experienced with some natural products.

In both the drug and natural field, it is important not to throw the baby out with the bathwater.

**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.

um's mission statement: "We inspire and resource our community to experience happy, healthy lives."

The intent of the photograph in this advertisement is to show—in the context of our product So Good Active—healthy and happy Australians who have the physical fitness to enjoy nature, companionship and the benefits you can get from a plant-based diet.

## Sabbath voting

**PHILIP SMITH,** QLD

My wife and I voted on Saturday in the recent Queensland state election. The electoral commission in Queensland sends all electors a guide explaining how and when to vote. The guide states clearly that an elector may vote before election day for a number of reasons, one of which is if "your religious beliefs prevent you from voting at a polling booth on election day." Sunset on September 9 was at 5.38 pm—some 20 minutes before the poll closed at 6 pm.

Since we live just 10 minutes walk from our nearest polling booth, my wife and I left home a little before Sabbath closed, pausing for prayer at sunset while waiting in the fields outside the venue. We then went inside and proceeded to cast our

## Volunteers!

**Volunteers needed—Adventist Alpine Village (Jindabyne, NSW).** General maintenance, kitchenhand, customer service. Term: 12 months. Stipend paid and accommodation provided. For more information, contact Hayley O'Donnell.

Email:

<volunteers@adventist.org.au>

For more positions, check the web on <www.adventistvolunteers.org>

+61 2 9847 3275



## Appreciation

**Seed.** The family of Pastor Ernest H J Steed wish to thank the many relatives, friends and well-wishers throughout the South Pacific Division who sent letters, cards and called with sympathy for the family's loss. Thank you all.

**Weare,** Pastor Doug, Glenn Weare and Sharon Brewer and their families would like to thank all relatives and friends who generously supported us through your prayers, encouragement, flowers, cards, food, phone calls, visits and offers of help during Avis's sickness and after her death.

## Weddings

**Barbu—Maneaa.** George Barbu, son of Constanta and Petrisor Barbu (Pitesti, Romania), and Luminita Manea, daughter of Pastor Liviu and Irina Manea (Brisbane, Qld), were married on 3.9.06 at Capalaba Adventist church, Qld

*Gabriel Ontanu, Liviu Manea*

**Rodrigo—Tomas.** Ashan Rodrigo, son of Senapathige (Sri Lanka) and the late Josephine Rodrigo, and Suzana Tomas, daughter of Dura and Rahilja Tomas (Brisbane, Qld), were married on 24.7.06 in the Botanical Gardens, Sydney, NSW.

*Gary Kent*

**Sherwood—Devenish.** Frederick Leonard, son of the late Frederick and Frances Sherwood, and Audrey Marguerite Devenish, daughter of the late Horrace and Louisa Murdock, were married on 3.9.06 at Woodloes Heritage Chapel, Perth, WA.

*Patrick Marshall*

## Obituaries

**Cox,** Christopher Thomas, born 1.6.1936 in Melbourne, Vic; died 23.6.06 in Bethlehem Hospital, Melbourne. He is survived by his wife, Marion; his children, Dianne, Jenny, Christopher and Fiona; their spouses; and his 13 grandchildren. Chris had a close relationship with God and looked forward to the Resurrection. A memorial service to farewell Chris was held at Glenhuntly church on 9.7.06.

*Irene Karaoglanis*

**Fainouma,** Valroy Lance, born 29.6.1939 at Mackay, Qld; died 14.7.06 at Mackay. He is survived by his wife, Joan; his children and their spouses, Gavin and Eileen, Graham and Janelle, Russel and Tony; and his grandchildren, Theodore and James.

*Rick Ferret*

**Hodgetts,** Terrence (Terry) Royce, born 22.9.1928 in Tas; died 8.5.06 in Hobart, Tas. On 22.1.49 he married Nola. He is survived by his wife (Launceston); his son and daughter-in-law, Steven and Julie (Devonport); his daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and Chris Moore (Launceston); his grandchildren, Jade, Rebekah and Marcus; and his great-grandchild, Cadance. Terry was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was also a devout Christian, whose life was a blessing to his family, friends and the church. He will be sadly missed.

*Harry Saunders, Francis Pule*

**Moxon,** James (Keith), born 25.1.1922 at Southport, Qld; died 4.8.06 just out of Dorrigo, NSW. He is survived by his three sons, Douglas, Stuart and Gregory. Keith was a visionary child of God, who is now resting in his grave awaiting the call of the Master. He rests in peace.

*Kevin Brown*

**Roberts,** Damon Mark, born 27.4.2001 in Sydney, NSW; died 21.8.06 at Gosford. Damon was the only child of Rodney and Melayna Roberts (Gosford), who died when he was five years old as the result of a tragic accident. He will be sadly missed by family and a large supportive network of friends.

*Russel Stanley*

*Andrew Kingston, Ian Howie*

**Robinson,** Olive Jean, born 18.4.1916 at Springfield, Tas; died 20.4.06 at Legana. She was predeceased by her husband, Archibald; also her son, Michael. She is survived by her daughters, Jill, Jackie and Gayle; their spouses; her grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. Olive was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She will be sadly missed by her family, friends and her Launceston church family. Sadly missed, but forever in our hearts.

*Harry Saunders, Francis Pule*

**Thoresen,** Asa Clifford, born 9.9.1930 in Blenheim, NZ, the fourth of 11 children; died 31.5.06 at McMinnville, Oregon, USA. On 31.8.52 he married Shirley Scarr. He is survived by his wife (McMinnville, USA); his daughter, Davona (Tanzania); his son, Meylan (Portland); and his nine grandchildren. Asa taught biology for 32 years at Andrews University, 20 of those being as chairman of the department. His quiet, Christian demeanor influenced many of his students to have a closer relationship with God. He also helped design the science complex at Andrews University, which was occupied in 1972. In 1992, when he retired, he was chosen to receive the John Nevins Andrews medallion. Asa lived according to God's directives. A memorial service was held in the McMinnville SDA church.

*Lyn Bryson*

**Wallace,** Pastor Cedric Rolland, born 17.11.1939 in Johannesburg, South Africa; died 24.8.06 at Arundel, Qld. He is sur-

## Positions vacant

▲ **Trust Services Director—Greater Sydney and North New South Wales Conferences** are seeking expressions of interest for the position of Director of Trust Services. Preference will be given to applicants who hold ministerial credentials. **Applications** should be sent to General Secretary, 4 Cambridge Street, Epping NSW 2121; or email <mworker@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **October 13, 2006.**

▲ **Northpine Childcare and Early Learning Centre—Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland).** Applications are invited for the following positions: Director, Team Leaders and Childcare Assistants, to commence operations in January 2007. Detailed job descriptions are available on request. Applicants should be practising Seventh-day Adventists, team focused, committed to excellence and possess relevant qualifications and experience in the childcare industry. **Applications in writing** (including detailed résumé and references) should be forwarded to The Director of Education, Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland) Ltd, 19 Eagle Terrace, Brisbane Qld 4000; or email <tkent@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **Monday, October 9, 2006.**

▲ **Primary and Secondary Teachers—Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Queensland).** Have you considered joining the exciting ministry of Adventist education? Consider a move to the Sunshine State! Due to ongoing development and growth, vacancies exist for both Primary and Secondary Teachers in a range of schools in 2007. Expressions of interest are welcome and should be sent to The Director of Education; email <tkent@adventist.org.au>.

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

vived by his wife, Hillary; his son, Alistair; his daughter, Dianne (both of Melbourne, Vic); and his sister, Audrey (Perth, WA). Prior to his retirement in Queensland, as a pastor/evangelist, he proclaimed the gospel news with heartfelt conviction and passion, ever faithfully tending to the pastoral needs of the many congregations he served in South Africa, Queensland and Sydney. While serving as ministerial secretary in the South Queensland Conference, Cedric responded to a call to serve as president of the Tasmanian Conference for a period of eight happy years. While his untimely passing leaves an aching void in the hearts of his loved ones, they live on with valiant hope for tomorrow's eternity.

*Peter Colquhoun, Casey Wolverton*

**Bray Park SDA church** invites past members and friends to celebrate their 25th anniversary, November 18, 2006. Thanksgiving service commences at 10.00 am, followed by a celebration lunch. Afternoon program 3.00 pm. Phone Olive (02) 6672 1110; or email <jilpete@optusnet.com.au>. RSVP October 17 for lunch.

**The Retired Workers Fellowship (Vic)** invites Victorian and interstate members and other retirees to join in the following programmes. Day trip coach outing, October 25. Luncheon meeting in Warburton, November 22. For further information phone Ken Killoway (03) 9801 8986; Ken Knight (03) 5966 5147; or Arthur Johnson (03) 5967 1914.

**Advent Funerals**—an Adventist business serving our church community. Sydney/Wollongong/Central Coast/Newcastle. Phone 1300 791 182; fax (02) 4648 0166; email <adventfunerals@aol.com>.

**Cooranbong Florist (NSW).** Creative flowers for all occasions—weddings, flower bouquets, birthdays and funeral tributes. Network for flowers worldwide. Jean Williamson, 5 Alton Road, Cooranbong. Phone all hours (02) 4977 2547.

**Encounter Bible-study film strips and audiotape set** needed for use with a person with special needs. Please phone Pastor Colin Dunn on (02) 6568 2838.

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

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

**Amazing Facts, Your Story Hour, Empowered Living Ministries and 3ABN products.** Visit **The Story Factory** Online Store for quality Christian products <www.thestoryfactory.com.au>; email <info@thestoryfactory.com.au>; or contact us freecall 1800 452 133.

## Finally

Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.—**Robert Kennedy**



BRISBANE ADVENTIST COLLEGE

# BAC2BAC

40th Anniversary

Calling all ex-students who attended either the primary or high school since we opened in 1966. You are invited to our **BACK2BAC 40th Anniversary Celebration Weekend**. Register now for our special weekend.

All services and festivities will be held on site at the College with the exception of the banquet on Saturday night which is planned for a local restaurant yet to be confirmed.

We also plan to launch our Alumni on this weekend and we look forward to starting this exciting forum within our College. **Be sure to book this into your calendar NOW and call your classmates to make sure you share the fun!** We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at **BACK2BAC!**

**Don't miss out! Registration forms are available by phoning us on (07) 3347 6444 or email: [info@bac.qld.edu.au](mailto:info@bac.qld.edu.au)**

*Join us in the  
Celebrations!*

**27-29 October  
2006**



## LONGBURN ADVENTIST COLLEGE CENTENNIAL 2008 - CAN YOU HELP?

As part of the planning towards our Centennial celebrations in 2008, we require photographs of past principals. If you have any on the list below, please contact Sheila McNabb (details below). Please note we require photos taken at the time the person was working here, not present-day photos for those who are still living.

**Pukekura Training College:** Chaney 1908-10, Smith 1911-12.

**Oroua Missionary School:** Mills 1913-14, Paap 1915, Piper 1915, Mills 1916-20, Rosendahl 1920-21, Kirk 1922-23.

**NZ Missionary College:** Cossentine 1924-27, Rosendahl 1928-33, Greenway 1934-38, Palmer 1939-44, Wilkinson 1945-50, Syme 1965,

**Longburn College:** Davis 1973-79, Cooke 1980-85

**Longburn Adventist College:** Devine 1989-93, Hann 1994-97.

### Contact Details:

Email: [SheilaM@lac.school.nz](mailto:SheilaM@lac.school.nz)

Mail: Sheila McNabb, LAC, PO Box 14001, Longburn 4866, New Zealand.



## LONGBURN ADVENTIST COLLEGE A Year 7-13 Boarding School In The SDA Tradition

Situated near Palmerston North in the North Island of New Zealand, Longburn Adventist College has established itself as one of the premier colleges in its local area. With a rich boarding and day school heritage dating back to 1908, LAC has much to offer. In 2005/6, 100% of Year 13 LAC students achieved University Entrance.

LAC's charter demands that the SDA Christian ethos remains the centre of its value system. Our boarding students have clearly stated that the SDA Christian boarding environment has played a vital part in their decision to follow Christ.

### AN AFFORDABLE OPTION!

All-inclusive fees per year (approximate)  
*Including boarding/tuition/uniform/other costs*  
AUD\$9,000  
NZ\$10,700

### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Email [info@lac.school.nz](mailto:info@lac.school.nz)

Phone 64 6 3541059

Fax 646 3551350

Website [www.lac.school.nz](http://www.lac.school.nz)

**We encourage early applications  
for the 2007 school year.**



*"In Christ, we educate,  
encourage and empower"*