

RECORD

November 4, 2006

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Leaders review Pathfinder honours

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Pathfinder honours—developing and recognising young people's skills and knowledge in youth groups—in the South Pacific Division (SPD) will undergo their first major revision and update in more than 50 years ago.

“This is a process that's long overdue,” says Pastor Nick Kross, SPD associate director of youth ministries. “Legislation and practice have changed in many of the skill areas and we are aiming to provide Pathfinder leaders with the most up-to-date information available with this review.”

Thirteen representatives from conferences in Australia and New Zealand were

appointed to form the Honour Review Committee. The committee will review and update notes, information, worksheets and assessment tools pertaining to more than 200 different Pathfinder honours.

Writers have been selected to write the new notes that will conform to current practice. The new notes will form part of a DVD resource to be produced by SPD youth ministries in August next year.

“This review will increase the skill levels of our Pathfinders,” says Pastor Kross. “It will also help to retain interest in the clubs and ultimately bring our children closer to the Lord.”—*Melody Tan*



More importantly, you can't fool God at all.

The golden calves

RECENTLY I HAD WHAT CAN BEST be described as a fake tanning “incident.” With summer fast approaching after a winter’s worth of minimal sun exposure, I decided it was time to do something about creating some golden calves with the aid of tanning lotion. Instead, my legs went a startling shade of nuclear tangelo with a hint of bronze, much like the shade favoured by British soap stars.

I was lying to myself that this fake tan thing was going to work, I concluded after much exfoliation, which reduced the severity of the shade my legs had adopted, but left me still needing to wear trousers for a week.

Throughout history, humans have been lying to themselves and others in ways they think aren’t too bad.

The Greeks lied about the Trojan Horse being a friendly parting gift.

Old wives tales are still around, because according to them, keeping a dried frog in a silk purse will prevent epilepsy and if you’ve bitten your tongue while eating, it means you’ve recently lied.

“No, you don’t look fat in that” or “The shoes were on special!” are other prime lies.

“Would you believe . . . ?” was one of the lines on *Get Smart* guaranteed to be followed by a variety of decreasingly threatening (and inversely increasingly hilarious) claims made by Maxwell Smart when facing enemy agents.

And what about those Weapons of Mass Destruction?

My golden calves didn’t really seem that bad in comparison to some of these examples. However, Exodus 32 tells the story of another kind of golden calf—the original one. Moses had been gone for a while on Mount Sinai, receiving the Ten Commandments, and the people of Israel were getting impatient. Instead of waiting a little longer, they went to Aaron and asked him to make them some new gods to worship, which he did.

God is unimpressed and tells Moses that He’ll destroy the people. Moses pleads for them and then heads down the mountain, where Aaron gives him an amazing explanation for just how the golden calf came to be.

You can just imagine Aaron attempting to look surprised in an innocent way, saying, “This is so bizarre, but I threw some gold into the fire and you won’t believe this, but out came a golden calf! I know! It’s crazy, but don’t they say the truth is stranger than fiction?” (or that’s something like what he said in Exodus 32:22-24).

Sooner or later, lies come out, because you can’t fool all of the people all of the time.

More importantly, you can’t fool God at all. Lying to God is a pointless exercise, and it will have consequences. Sometimes that doesn’t stop us from trying, even though He knows what’s in our hearts and minds.

The story of Ananias and Saphira in Acts 5 is an example of this. The lie they told was

made in order to look generous with what they were giving the church from the sale of their property, but also to minimise the monetary sacrifice they’d have to make to bring this about.

Church people around this time were doing incredibly generous things, and there were many acts of genuine altruism as “much grace was upon them all” (Acts 4:33, NIV). Barnabas, for example, sold a piece of land and gave all the money from the sale to the apostles.

Ananias gives the apostles the money from their property’s sale, minus what he and his wife had agreed to keep back, pretending it was the full amount.

Instead of thanking him, Peter asks, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? . . . You have not lied to men but to God” (Acts 5:3, 4, NIV). Ananias dies suddenly on hearing this. His wife comes along a little later and also dies after being asked a similar question by Peter and lying to him in her answer.

Lies may not always be that fatal, but it’s not worth keeping our “golden calf” lies or those of any other “colour” or bovine persuasion. It may seem a bit old-fashioned but, as your grandmother no doubt told you, honesty really is the best policy.

Adele Nash



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

Vol 111 No 43
Cover: Susan Jackson

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www.record.net.au

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

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

Adventist parliamentarian re-elected in Qld

WOODRIDGE, QUEENSLAND

Desley Scott, member for Woodridge in the Queensland State Parliament, was re-elected in the state elections on September 9, with a 77.9 per cent two-party preferred vote. Now in her third term as part of the state's Labor government led by Premier Peter Beattie, Mrs Scott accepted the Labor nomination five years ago, following 16 years of working as the secretary for the previous members for Woodridge.

"I had another very resounding win and it is good to be able to get back to work," says Mrs Scott. "I have turned down an offer of additional duties so I'm able to devote as much attention as possible to several projects in my electorate."

Mrs Scott believes her position is about supporting community projects and social welfare, and says, "I am enjoying the work here very much and we have seen huge changes in the local area, but there is always so much more to do. There has been so much invested in upgrading our infrastructure and services. Similarly, the work being done in our schools to meet the high needs of some of our students, as well as the huge diversity of cultures is



Desley Scott (right), Member for Woodridge, Queensland State Parliament.

magnificent."

The seat of Woodridge in the southern suburbs of Brisbane covers Slacks Creek, Woodridge, Kingston, Logan Central, Marsden and Crestmead and is often considered to be one of Queensland's most disadvantaged communities, with high unemployment and crime rates, but Mrs Scott has a different perspective. "This electorate understands how to work together and demonstrates the true essence of a healthy, happy community," she says. "People are focused on the most important issues such as family and community, with many in-

involved in voluntary work and many churches active in programs such as providing breakfast at schools, and practical support for families. People are less materialistic than much of society today and therefore have a different set of values. It is a wonderful area in which to work."

Currently, Mrs Scott is involved in programs for the Pacific islander community, an affordable housing program and a volunteer-based program designed to mentor and assist young mothers. Of these projects, she says, "It's simple to say it in a sentence, but in fact, all programs will take a huge amount of effort on behalf of many partners in our community."

In the past two elections, Mrs Scott has been voted in with increased majorities. She says of her coming term in office: "I'm looking forward to also increasing chaplaincy in our schools, an increase in Youth Support Workers and continuing to bring partnerships and networks together to tackle some of our more pressing issues. I've agreed to do some specific work on volunteering for the Minister for Communities, and will also work on possibly six ministerial caucus committees."

Mrs Scott attends the Cornerstone Adventist church in Brisbane.—*Adele Nash*



◆ **Sanitarium products are now available for online purchase and home delivery—anywhere in Australia.** The online store **Only Australian Groceries** has most Sanitarium products available for purchase—most receiving an AAAA rating for being Australian owned and Australian made using Australian ingredients.—*Jaemes Tipple*

More @ www.onlyoz.com.au

◆ **A memorial service for racing car driver Peter Brock** was held on September 27 at the Edwardstown Baptist church, SA, for the motor sport community of South Australia and Peter Brock fans. The evening was presented by South Australia's motor racing chaplains—Baptist minister **David Vaughan** (pictured, left) and Adventist pastor **Dave Hamilton** (right). The entrance to the church was adorned with several classic Holdens and two Peter Brock Foundation cars. Pastor Hamilton offered prayer for the family and fans and the eulogy from Peter Brock's funeral in Melbourne, by



Neil Crompton, a friend of Brock and a Channel 10 commentator, was screened. Pastor Hamilton gave personal insights about hope and how Mr Brock was a **deeply spiritual man who was still searching**. He shared a conversation he had with Brock at the Clipsal 500 race where Mr Brock confessed his spirituality and claimed he was still working out where God fitted in.

The service concluded with a DVD tribute and a minute's silence. "I was deeply honoured and humbled to be invited to publicly farewell one of my childhood heroes," says Pastor Hamilton.

◆ **Players and supporters of the Maoro Chiefs touch rugby team**, affiliated with Pacific Adventist University Touch Association, **cleaned and scrubbed out the Six Mile Clinic** in Port Moresby, PNG, on one Sunday morning. This was part of the team's initiatives to help the needy areas in Port Moresby.—*Elisafiona Onea*

Launceston commences radio outreach

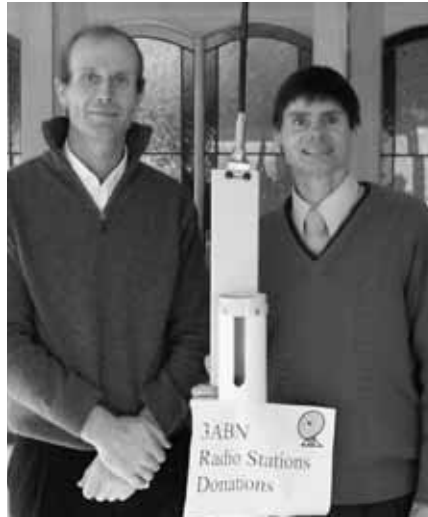
LAUNCESTON, TASMANIA

The first Tasmanian Adventist radio station recently began broadcasting from Hadspen, 10 kilometres west of Launceston.

The low-power FM station commenced operation as a relay station, automatically receiving and rebroadcasting programs to nearby communities 24 hours a day. This project was initiated by two Launceston church members, Vaughan King and Maurice McGuire. Mr King had learned of radio outreach through Matthew Steele, a pioneer of this media at the Alstonville church (NSW).

Mr King and Mr McGuire shared their vision with the Launceston church. Substantial support, encouragement and assistance came from many church members. In addition to the licence in Hadspen, two other broadcasting licences have been acquired—one at Newnham on the north side of Launceston with potential to reach almost half of the city—possibly 30,000 people—and the other at Longford, with a population of 3000.

According to Mr King, these licences were awarded in answer to much prayer: “When we put the applications in, I urged church members to pray earnestly that if God wanted us to broadcast His message in



Radio enthusiasts Maurice McGuire (left) and Vaughan King (right).

our region, He would provide the licences we needed at the base price, and so far as possible avoid having to bid for them at an auction with competitors. The outcome was thrilling!

“Three licences were granted directly at the reserve price of just \$A280 each. As the total cost of each low-power station is only about \$A1500, these installations provide our church with a low-cost entry into the modern world of media broadcasting.”

Mr McGuire has also obtained three licences in regional areas, which will broad-

cast from the mountain tops with 10 times the power, providing substantial coverage on the highways between Recherche Bay and Huonville (in the south of the state), Oatlands and Launceston (in the midlands) and from Launceston to Elizabeth Town (in the north). He believes that—with planning—the Adventist Church could broadcast with the potential to reach most of Tasmania’s population.

Mr King says each radio station can be developed to be more than a relay station. “Our radio stations are the centre of a communications hub that will provide a clear identity of who Adventists are, and what we believe,” he says. “I believe this programming will go a long way toward overcoming prejudice and misinformation, and greatly advance our mission.

“With the addition of a computer at each site, we could insert regular announcements that promote the activities of local church ministries such as the ADRA Shop, ADRA Appeal, nutrition classes, seminars, small groups, Pathfinders and social events.”

And, according to Mr King, the possibilities are many. “We could record and air local programs and worship services, offer literature resources such as *Signs*, videos and DVDs and invite the community to come and visit our church,” he explains with enthusiasm.—**RECORD staff**

◆ A Gender Mainstreaming Workshop was held for 30 ADRA-PNG staff and invited guests recently at Lae International Hotel. The workshop was facilitated by Lucy Berak from Wewak, Sepik Province, and covered an introduction to gender, gender roles, practical needs, gender issues in development projects and gender in the organisation. Feedback from the workshop found participants gained a better understanding of why gender is an important issue, the importance of integrating gender into all levels of the organisation and programs and

an increase of respect for both sexes.—*Rebecca Reye*

◆ Joan Eiszele of Glenorchy church, Tas, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia earlier this year for her work as coordinator of community support for more than 300 refugees at her church during the past 26 years. Mrs Eiszele (pictured) has also been a board mem-



ber of the Migrant Resource Centre of Southern Tasmania since 2002, been a volunteer for Lifeline for 20 years and has had her work featured in the January–February 2006 issue of *Signs of the Times* (available online).—

The Mercury

More @ www.signsofthetimes.org.au

◆ Heidi Fedorow (pictured) of Auburn church, Vic, recently completed a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) at the University of New South Wales, which saw her delving into the depths of



the human brain and how it is affected by Parkinson’s disease. Only last year, Dr Fleur Hillier also received a PhD from the University of New South Wales. Her thesis was entitled: **Managing creative and health production processes: issues, similarities and differences.**—*Jeanette Stephen*

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ NOVEMBER 11—ANNUAL SACRIFICE OFFERING (GLOBAL MISSION)

Offering to fund new church plants

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The Annual Week of Sacrifice Offering (WOS) scheduled for November 11 will help open up Adventist work in hundreds of new unentered areas, and plant new churches as part of the Adventist church's Global Mission strategy. All of the WOS Offering goes to the Church's Global Mission budget, and it directly impacts on new mission projects around the world.

The South Pacific Division (SPD) receives \$US220,000 each year to help

fund new church plants in our own Division, "but this is only a fraction of what the world church is doing in other places, especially in Asia and the 10/40 window where the church faces the greatest challenge among non-Christian cultures and religions," says Pas-



Twenty-five people were baptised in a recent Global Mission project at Naqara village—a previously unentered area in Wainimala Province in Fiji.



Funded by Global Mission, a portable sawmill in the Solomon Islands helps open non-Adventist villages through community sawmilling projects.

tor Ray Coombe, director of Global Mission for the SPD.

During this year within the South Pacific Division, Pastor Coombe reports, Global Mission funds have helped support volunteer missionaries in Papua New Guinea (PNG), Vanuatu, Fiji, Australia and New Zealand.

Global Mission projects are establishing an Adventist presence in isolated island groups, in Highland villages in PNG, in Aboriginal communities, among Sudanese immigrants and Asian stu-

dents in Melbourne, among Russian-speaking immigrants at Bishopdale in Christchurch, and in the heart of Sydney's central business district.

"This is cutting-edge church growth and mission," says Pastor Coombe.

In the past, the Annual Week of Sacrifice Offering was linked to the Week of Prayer in early September, and provided an opportunity for members to literally sacrifice a week's salary to support the mission of the church.

"Although the offering is not now linked to the Week of Prayer, we hope that the challenge of Global Mission will still inspire our members to give sacrificially on November 11."—Ray Coombe/RECORD staff



◆ Some Adventist churches in California, USA, are regularly gathering early in the morning to pray. The **House of Hope**, Hanford, with around 60 members, has between five and 10 members meeting at **6 am Monday to Thursday** and 8 am on the weekends for an hour. They read scripture, share how God has blessed them and pray for missing members, unchurched in the com-

munity, church leaders and the country. At **Mountain View Korean church**, some 30 members hold a **6 am Sunday morning prayer sessions** weekly (pictured). Those who can't make it are encouraged to start **777 prayers**—praying about seven topics of prayer every day for seven days at 7 am and 7 pm.—*Dee Reed*

◆ America's **bankrupt worshippers** must now **abstain from paying tithes** and offerings. A federal judge has reluctantly ordered debtors to repay their credit-card bills first—ruling charitable or

religious contributions no longer considered a necessary living expense for those filing bankruptcy. **Judge Littlefield**, who made the ruling, criticised the legislation, but says the "court's hands are tied" until Congress makes further revisions.—*Jason Kan*

◆ **Portland Adventist Academy**, Oregon, USA, students took their studies of various physical and mental disabilities to another level—**living a day with a physical impairment**. Using ear protectors, crutches, wheelchairs and darkened sunglasses, the class

relied on other senses and helpful friends through their day. "I was so surprised how hard it was to complete simple tasks like opening a door," says **Anelisse Johnson**, on crutches with a simulated ligament tear in her knee. "I can't imagine how difficult it must be for someone who has to live daily with this challenge." **Linda Johnson**, the teacher who organised the exercise, says, "I want my students to feel **compassion for other's challenges**, think twice about offering assistance and, most of all, to feel a blessing for the gift of health."—*Heather Fowler*

SPD ex-pats join Mission Institute meetings

BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN, USA

Two expatriate families from the South Pacific Division, now working at the General Conference, attended the Summer Mission Institute held at Andrews University, Berrien Springs. Associate Secretary in the Ministerial Association, Pastor Anthony Kent, his wife Debora, and two girls, Chelsea and Georgia, attended the program for overseas missionaries, along with stewardship director Dr Erika and Maxine Puni and daughter, Janae-Grace.

Held in June, this was the 114th Mission Institute conducted by the Institute of World Mission (IWM) since they began preparing missionaries for cross-cultural service in 1966. The South Pacific Division also conducts a pre-training Mission Institute for missionaries each January at Avondale College with assistance from the IWM. Because of their recent transfer to the General Conference following their appointment last year, these two families had not been able to attend an Institute prior to the summer program conducted at Andrews.

"The program was well organised and conducted. The logistical and professional support for missionaries during the three weeks was excellent," said Dr Puni. "We

certainly were inspired by the stories of the missionaries (both new and old). The networking and spiritual journey together with the presenters and participants during the time of the institute was great.

"We were quite moved with the dedication service for missionaries at the Pioneer Memorial church on the last Sabbath; this was a wonderful idea, and one senses a spirit of commissioning and sending from the local congregation at this service."

Pastor Kent commented that "it was very informative, particularly in terms of cross-cultural ministry. We particularly appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the cultural differences between Australia and the United States. Recognising and understanding these differences has assisted us greatly in adapting to life in this environment.

"The Mission Institute was also a great



Overseas missionaries attending the Mission Institute meetings held at Andrews University included two families from the South Pacific Division.

opportunity to meet with others who are doing cross-cultural or missionary work. It was an inspiration to observe commitment, faith and zeal that takes people to far-flung places—responding to the call and commission of Jesus. The specialised program for our children was also appreciated," said Pastor Kent.

Another Mission Institute will be held at Avondale College, January 11-27, 2007, for new recruits who will be going into mission service next year. A re-entry retreat will also be held at Crosslands Youth and Convention Centre on January 2-6 for returning missionaries.—**Ray Coombe**

◆ US television network NBC has given the children's **VeggieTales cartoon** the 10 am slot in its Saturday morning line-up but is **editing many references to God out** of the show. The 30-minute episodes that encourage moral behaviour based on Christian principles began airing on September 9. Bob the Tomato, Larry the Cucumber and their pals got a Nielsen rating of .95 in their first week, which means about a million homes were tuned in. Despite some viewers' discontent, VeggieTales creator **Phil Vischer** takes a more positive outlook. "Let's focus on one thing:

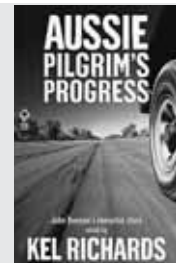
kids are meeting Bob and Larry on network television. And that's really cool."—**Chansin Bird**

◆ A version of the **Bible Adolf Hitler rewrote**, *Germans With God*, which contains **12 Nazi commandments** and removal of references to Jews, has been discovered recently in church offices in Hamburg, Germany. Thousands of churches received copies in 1941—the idea to boost the Nazi vision. Hitler ordered race theorists to rewrite the Bible so he could harness the power of the religion he hated to his

cause. It is believed **most copies were destroyed** by Christians.—**Mark Ellis**

◆ More than **40 botanical gardens** run by churches and Christian groups in Germany are inviting people to get to know the **120 flowers, bushes and trees mentioned in the Bible**. One garden near Dresden has attracted more than 7000 visitors since June last year.—**Christian News Today**

◆ **John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*** has been retold in



down-to-earth Aussie English by **Kel Richards**, author of *The Aussie Bible*. The book contains characters such as

Fair Dinkum and Trusty, his faithful fellow-swaggies; villains like Mr Pop Psychology, **Lord Blowfly and the Toady**; misguided travellers like Gasbag, Galah and Boofhead; and arch-enemies of the Lord of the Road including The Destroyer, Dr Depression and Miss Gloom.—**David Dixon**

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

Sanitarium study points to mums for kids' health

SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES

A new Newspoll study commissioned by Sanitarium Health Food Company shows Australian mums have answered the call from government and health experts and are changing their kids' eating habits to reduce their waistlines and improve their wellbeing.

The national survey of mothers of school-aged children reveals that almost half—47 per cent—have chopped back their children's consumption of sugary breakfast cereals compared to two years ago. One in three also claim their kids are eating fewer burgers, chips and pies and drinking less fizzy drinks.

Mothers of teenagers and those in major metropolitan areas are more likely to say their children's consumption of so-called junk foods has declined over the past two years.

Sanitarium dietitian Cathy McDonald said the findings are great news for the health of the nation as it battles an obesity epidemic, with almost a quarter of Australian children overweight and one in 20 obese.

"Mothers unanimously acknowledge the importance of their role in helping their children have a healthy diet, so it is great to see them having more involve-

ment with what their kids are eating to ensure their long-term health and wellbeing," she said.

Driving the change is a shift in attitude among mums, with two in three saying they have taken a more active interest in their children's diet. Almost half say they have more access to information on the importance of healthy foods, while 42 per cent claim their children's school has encouraged them to have healthier food.

Ms McDonald said the research also shows recent messages about the health benefits of wholegrains over highly processed or refined grains such as those found in white bread and sugary cereals have hit home.

Seven out of 10 mums believe wholegrains are very important in their children's diets and almost nine out of 10—88 per cent—know that "wholegrain" means grains that have not had any part removed.

The findings are backed by a new AC-Nielsen Scan Data analysis showing Australians are moving away from sugary breakfast cereals in favour of healthier products.

In the past year the total cereal market grew 0.6 per cent in volume with muesli growing 12.5 per cent, the "functional health" segment rising 9 per cent, flake biscuits increasing 3.4 per cent and oats/porridge gaining 2.7 per cent. Children's cereals dropped 4.3 per cent and flakes lost 3.6 per cent by volume.

Sanitarium leads the market in its commitment to wholegrain breakfast cereals. All Sanitarium cereals are at least 51 per cent wholegrain, with Weet-Bix the gold standard at 97 per cent wholegrain.—**Crossman Communications**



Sanitarium's Nutrition Service is a free advisory service for consumers and health professionals. Highly trained nutritionists and dietitians provide friendly, helpful unbiased advice and easy-to-follow recipes to help people make healthy food choices.

Adventist musician takes up pen

SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES

Multi-award-winning singer/songwriter Francine Bell has launched her first book *Lights! Camera! Action!* to provide people with strategies to overcome modern society's problems through practical insights gleaned from her personal experience.

"The book is a compendium of difficult situations we all go through in life," said Pastor Graeme Loftus when launching the book at the Wallsend Adventist church. "This is a book to keep in your handbag or glove box and taken out when you need encouragement."

Some 60 people who attended the launch were also treated to a mini-concert by Ms Bell as well as her students and colleagues at the conservatorium of music of the University of Newcastle.

"I want to instil hope into people who are becoming increasingly hopeless," says Ms Bell, a member of the Charlestown Adventist church. "We can feel down when we don't know God or His master plan. The book is my little testimony to help them overcome life challenges."

Part of the proceeds of *Lights! Camera! Action!* will support Lifeboat Community Services, a mobile van ministry that provides personal services, financial consultation, food and fellowship to the needy around the Newcastle area. It will also help fund Hearttext by Francine Bell, an online business that produces inspirational gifts.

Starting her career in France more than 25 years ago, Ms Bell has performed on television and stage in Europe, America, Canada and Asia, as well as Australia.

"It's only a little book, but I think it's perfect for busy people who do not have time to read," she says. "I'm very pleased with it."—**Melody Tan**

Lights! Camera! Action! may be purchased from your friendly Adventist Book Centre.



Professional singer, now author, Francine Bell.

Redundancy

BY ELIZABETH OSTRING

IN THE SULTRY SAUNA OF QUEENSLAND'S summer, we had found the one place where a breeze could soothe our bodies and our thinking. About 15 of us formed a circle on the veranda outside the dining room, and our discussion focused on discipleship. I looked around the group, all young enthusiastic students from around Australia. Our teacher was young, about to take up his first pastoral duties, but he was a little nearer my age than the rest of the group, which was comforting. I confess I was not concentrating as hard as I should have been, but suddenly a voice riveted my attention.

"In my work in information technology I always aimed for redundancy."

Redundancy? I thought. *Whoever in their right mind would aim for that?*

Redundant thinking

When our family returned from almost two decades of mission work in Asia, in one of the world's hottest economies, I was shocked to be confronted with many people who had lost their jobs. What I found particularly tragic were the scores of men in their 50s who had been skilled in an occupation that somehow was no longer needed in society. The pain in their dark and hollow eyes would haunt me every time I met one.

All the qualities that had made them so employable over the years were suddenly worthless. Their narrow expertise was not easily transferable. Their dogged loyalty to the company made them afraid of trying somewhere new and, worse, new employers afraid of them. And their age seemed a barrier to everything, where giving a school leaver a chance in life—and a boss a cheap worker—seemed so much more logical than the expense of trying to retrain a near-retiree.

My own experience with redundancy was embarrassing. My professional colleagues often spoke in thinly disguised contempt for women who suffered from a bird-brained disease called "empty-nest syndrome." Obviously, they implied, women who suffered this pathetic condition had little of value to occupy their time, and so when they no longer had to cut school lunches or act as taxi to music lessons, basketball practice—and Pathfinders—or organise food collection from the supermarket, they had nothing else to do.

But I had plenty to do. It was not the jobs I missed, but the company of a couple of entertaining and stimulating young people. I had given my very best to my mothering activities, and suddenly I thought no-one wanted or needed those efforts. I felt as redundant as a dinosaur podiatrist.

No, redundancy was definitely not something I wanted to aim for.

Or was it? Did I really want children who needed me to prop them up through life? Doing the "mummy thing" might be good for my fragile ego, but it would be a disaster for my children. I was sad to see them go, but I was very glad they could cope alone.

I was more than happy they could contribute meaningfully to other people's lives. And we were still friends, still sharing the joys and stresses of life with each other. So perhaps the success of parenting could be measured in redundancy, after all.

And what about our mission experience? Didn't every good missionary know the measure of their success was working toward redundancy? Our job was not only to teach people the good news of salvation in Jesus, but also teach people to teach others in their culture of this good news. It had been hard to leave our mission posting, but it would have been agony if there had not been capable local people to carry on the good work.

Something to aim for

I clicked back to the present and refocused on the students around me. *Couldn't all of them benefit from my experience in life?*



Sure, but only as they were able to incorporate that experience into an experience of their own. As long as I was doing things for them, thinking for them and dreaming for them, telling them what to do, they could not reach their potential. I reluctantly had to admit my redundancy was the only way to their fulfilment of God's plan for them.

The greatest worker this world has ever known aimed for redundancy. I doubt I would have been able to walk away and leave evangelising the world to the inept failures Jesus had to work with. He didn't leave them comfortless, but He certainly left them. Incredibly, He simply handed over His job to them.

If I had the responsibility of the salvation of the world on my shoulders I would hover around giving orders till everyone gave up in despair or disgust. Jesus knew better.

In this way, redundancy implies something more than being unemployed. A redundant person has done a job that someone else takes over.

That was what this comment was about. If you do your job really well—aiming for redundancy—you will train someone to continue the good work. And redundancy does not preclude moving on to train someone else or to do another job.

Working together

How often we are all tempted to think our worth as Christians depends on a job we do. But truly committed leaders will be preparing others to take their place. No-one should feel he or she is the pillar of the church, that everything would collapse without him or her. No-one should ever feel they have to carry the burden alone, because by God's grace they will be preparing for redundancy, and training others to fill their shoes and wear their hats.

Like Jesus, we can move on to other jobs. We can use our experience to pioneer new churches or new ministries. We won't be concerned whether there are young people or the elderly on committees. We simply need every able-bodied person we can find to carry out the commission Jesus Christ gave us to do—to go, into all the world. **R**

Elizabeth Ostring writes from Christchurch, New Zealand.

Prayer keys: Practising Christian meditation

WITH JOY BUTLER

IT ISN'T SOMETHING WE HEAR A LOT about in churches but the Bible often speaks about meditation. We are to meditate on the Word of God, on the testimonies and the law, on His works. Psalm 46:10 says we should "be still and know that I am God" (NIV).

Ellen White wrote, "All who are under the training of God need the quiet hour for communion with their own hearts, with nature, and with God. . . . We must individually hear Him speaking to the heart. When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God" (*The Ministry of Healing*, page 58).

Christian meditation teaches that to reach peace it is not necessary to withdraw into oneself. The Christian meditator actively seeks communion with Christ. The focus of attention is Jesus rather than the nothingness of Nirvana or the meaninglessness of mantra. Christian meditation is disciplined thought directed to God or to one's own heart about God, about what God has made or done, or about one's relationship with God.

Many studies have been conducted on transcendental meditation, a method for experiencing deep physical and mental relaxation designed to enhance an individual's normal daily activity. There is nothing vague about the potential benefits of meditation. But Satan has disassociated meditation from religion and dresses it up as a new mental health food with marvelous promises. Christians need to reclaim the truth about meditation.

One writer lists several kinds of Christian meditation. There is no one set way so long as the focus is on God's Word, His will or His works. But here are some suggestions:

1. Practise the presence of God. During odd moments of the day, tell yourself, "I am in God's presence now." All through the day, remind yourself you are in His presence and receive His blessings.

2. Structured meditation. Christians in the 17th century usually followed this method. After praying, take a passage of Scripture, a biblical story or an event and consider it slowly, point by point, during a set time each day. Use four steps: remember, consider, behold and respond. Use your "sanctified imagination" as you think about each step.

3. Devotional meditation. Set aside 15-20 minutes in a quiet place where you will not be disturbed, make yourself comfortable, relax the muscles starting from the feet up, pray for God's presence, choose a portion of Scripture that is rich in meaning, close your eyes and think about those words. Or remember the words of a simple song and sing them over to yourself. Use recorded quiet music, if necessary. Do this each day.

This list is not exhaustive. You may combine methods. It is not so important how you do it as how often you do it. All the physical and emotional benefits of non-Christian meditation can accompany the regular practice of Christian meditation. The benefits of Christian meditation exceed all meditation techniques that omit the spiritual dynamic. Christ-centred meditation is the only system of meditation to put it all together: the physical, the mental and the spiritual. **R**

For more information, email <jbutler@adventist.org.au>.

Joy Butler is coordinator of prayer ministries for the South Pacific Division.

“Go forth with confidence!”

BY CHERIE WATTS

IT WAS MY SECOND YEAR OF MEDICAL school, and the day of the dreaded MSAT—multi-station assessment tool—exam had arrived. The MSAT was the practical part of our exams: 25 stations, each with a different task, with a buzzer sounding every five minutes to indicate when we must all shuffle around to the next station. There were no second chances. If you didn’t finish the station in the five minutes allotted to you—life and the exam moved on relentlessly.

At some stations we were being tested on the way we examined and interacted with the patient, and our ability to recognise signs and symptoms. The examiners had been scouring the wards for weeks beforehand so there were plenty of “interesting” patients with heart murmurs, odd-looking skin rashes and unusual X-rays. At other stations we had to demonstrate our suturing technique on the obligatory pigs’ trotters or we had to name every structure with a pin stuck in it on a fresh anatomical specimen. There was even a station that was designed to test how ethical we were.

The first few stations passed smoothly—the pigs’ trotters were duly sutured, to my great delight I recognised the characteristic sound of aortic stenosis and I managed to examine a baby without making him howl.

And then I came to the neurology station. I’m sure the temperature dropped as I entered the room. The examiner gave me a bored stare before directing me to take a history from the patient. After I did this, the real “fun” began when he started asking questions. I don’t know how he managed it, and in fairness to him he probably didn’t do it on purpose, but his expressionless face



and verbal probing seemed calculated to encourage doubt. Once that seed of doubt had been sown, it was easy for him to lead me on a merry dance with his questions. Panic set in and I started babbling medical jargon whenever he asked a question, but making most of it up as I went.

Mercifully, the buzzer sounded and I scurried off, my confidence shattered. And after several more stations I encountered another memorable examiner.

This professor was the polar opposite of the neurology examiner. He introduced himself with a smile and a handshake, and must have recognised how tense I was. The first thing he told me to do was to sit down and take a few deep breaths. Then

in a relaxed manner he moved on to the business of examining. To my great relief I was even able to answer his questions sensibly. But the turning point of the exam occurred just as the buzzer sounded again. The professor looked me straight in the eye and said with a smile and a commanding voice, “Go forth with confidence!”

I don’t remember much else about the exam. I know I didn’t pass the neurology station, but I must have passed enough of the others not to have to sit the MSAT again! What I do remember clearly is the kindness and grace that professor showed me.

And I remember the assurance that professor gave me, an assurance I have also applied to my faith—the ability to “go forth with confidence” no matter what kind of dreadful mistake I have made in the near or distant past.

I remember a story of Jesus. His teaching was interrupted by a vocal group of Pharisees insistently thrusting a woman before Him, demanding His opinion. “They said to Him, ‘Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?’ They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, ‘Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.’ And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground” (John 8:4-8, NRSV). And one by one the crowd of righteously indignant men dropped their stones and quietly went away.

When they were left alone, “Jesus straightened up and said to her, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no-one condemned you?’ She said, ‘No-one, sir.’ And Jesus said, ‘Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again’” (John 8:10-11, NRSV).

What a demonstration of grace. Jesus was the only one in that crowd who was without sin, who was in a position to condemn her. Yet He did not. Neither did He excuse or condone her sin; He told her clearly to leave it behind.

This kind of grace fills us with overwhelming hope, encouraging us to come to God every time we need forgiveness. He does not condone or minimise sin, but neither does He cast us aside as beyond help. Instead, through this account of the woman caught in adultery, we can almost hear His voice reaching down to us: “Neither do I condemn you; go your way and sin no more. Go forth with confidence, because I have forgiven you. You are still My child, and I still love you.”

Paul continues this theme in his letter to the church in Rome. To highlight their utter security in Christ, he asked them a series of rhetorical questions before giving a powerful summation: “I have become absolutely convinced that neither death nor life, neither messenger of Heaven nor monarch of earth, neither what happens today nor what may happen tomorrow, neither a power from on high nor a power from below, nor anything else in God’s whole world has any power to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord!” (Romans 8:38, 39, Phillips).

Just as the kindly professor did not want me to fail my MSAT because I was living under the cloud of one exam station dreadfully answered, neither does my heavenly Father want us to spend our lives cowering under the dread of past sins. While some of the consequences of sin are far-reaching, they cannot separate us from His love and forgiveness. Because of what Jesus has done for us we do not live under His condemnation. Jesus died and rose for us, and now He is at God’s right hand. He longs to redeem, to rescue and to transform.

Go forth with confidence! **R**

Cherie Watts is a medical doctor, who writes from Brisbane, Queensland.

How great

BY ELEANOR LUKALE

I STAND IN THE DARKNESS, A SOLITARY figure in the womb of the world. Nothing but time and space, yet I am not alone. There is a magnificent power that controls the universe. This power holds the glittering stars in their place, lets the bubbling brooks flow and guides the winds in their billowing paths. This great power is far beyond one’s own magnitude of thought, far beyond one’s own spectrum of understanding.

This power works intricately with detail, even in the unknown crevices of life. It forms the essence of our being and allows continuity in the rotating sphere we call the universe. It breathes life into every living being.

Its majesty stands as tall as the mountainous grandeur of the Himalayas and far beyond, as wide as the wind-swept prairies and far beyond, as deep as the deepest oceans and beyond, for there is no limit to its infinite works.

This power is in the mighty, roaring oceans as they crash upon the minute grains of sand. I can see its power sweeping around the tall trees, swaying in the breeze—a power so strong that it can even

move mountains.

With or without this acknowledgement, we instinctively know there is some driving force that keeps everything in its place and gives some order to the chaotic world we have created. Some see something of this and try to describe it using other names. Others simply don’t know.

But I call Him the ultimate, the divine and everlasting, the force behind it all.

I call Him God, Creator of the universe.

“The heavens keep telling the wonders of God, and the skies declare what he has done. Each day informs the following day; each night announces to the next. They don’t speak a word, and there is never the sound of a voice. Yet their message reaches all the earth, and it travels around the world” (Psalm 19:1-4, CEV).

I stand in the darkness, a solitary figure in the womb of the world. Nothing but time and space, yet I am not alone, for He is in control. **R**

Eleanor Lukale writes from Cooranbong, New South Wales.





What do I follow up with?

BY JOHN GATE

PEOPLE WHO VIEW VIDEOS WILL KEEP VIEWING VIDEOS. People will watch one series of videos right through, and will then be happy to view another series. But it's important to start people viewing another series before you come to the end of the current series. Do this by offering a couple of videos from two different series. Some people will like one presenter more than another. They can then be watching two videos in tandem as they move into the second series. There is no set strategy for any particular video or video series to follow up from *Search*. Everybody is different. Everyone will warm to a different presenter, so give people the option as to which one they want to view.

Video ministry is a valid and viable means of outreach, but it is just one of many ministries God is using to connect people with His kingdom. Therefore, for video ministry to be most effective, the video minister seeks to network with other ministers and ministries.

“The Discovery team appreciates the opportunity to network with pastors and church members in outreach.”—Pastor

David Price, associate director,

Adventist Discovery Centre.

Networking is the process of involving people with many different media for receiving the message. For example, at the appropriate time the video minister could offer an application card for a correspondence course. Share with people websites or online courses they can do. Or deliver a *Signs* magazine in a casual way on the basis of the friendship that has developed. Some will enjoy *Signs* and want to subscribe to receive more.

On the basis of friendship, people can be invited to special events at church, for example a visitors day. Another way of networking is to invite people to a seminar or a special meeting, or to be involved in a small group like Homes of Hope. Hope Channel—another form of video viewing—is a great way to direct people. It may be that a practical way of helping people is to install a dish so they can receive Hope Channel. That really enhances video ministry.


The more people hear the message through different outreach media, the greater the chance God has to connect with them. There is a time and a place for everything, and the video minister will be thinking and praying about each person they're visiting, and looking for ways of networking with other ministries so they can be touched in other ways and be drawn closer to Jesus. **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,
After the plague of frogs came a plague of lice!
Imagine how annoyed the Egyptians were getting by now! Read all about it in Exodus 8:16 - 19.

RR

Fill in the Blanks

...For Aaron _____ out his _____ with his _____ and struck the _____ of the _____, and it became _____ on man and _____. All the dust of the land became _____ throughout all the land of _____.

Exodus 8:17 NKJV

Word Search


S	U	D	A	T	O	H	E	D	E	E	O
P	C	C	L	K	E	M	E	R	U	S	T
S	L	E	C	O	O	D	E	O	G	L	E
A	T	O	O	S	H	L	O	L	A	A	T
L	A	R	E	H	P	A	E	H	L	A	E
S	D	S	U	O	A	O	O	U	P	T	G
S	E	I	E	C	S	T	E	R	E	O	Y
P	Y	P	E	C	K	I	D	C	A	R	P
L	T	S	B	E	A	S	T	S	I	H	T
D	R	L	T	S	U	D	Y	G	S	L	P

MOSES
EGYPT
LORD
PHAROAH
STRUCK
DUST
LICE

PEOPLE
BEASTS
PLAGUE

Colour In

Colour in the picture.



A timely blast

GRENVILLE KENT, NSW

“What difference?” (Perspective, October 7) was a sleek gospel cruise missile to spiritual pride. It was “straight testimony,” without subtle self-congratulation, legalism or anachronism. As a church pastor I winced and said “Yes!” a few times. It reminded me of those horror statistics from Ellen White about one in 10 Adventists being converted to Jesus. It’s wake-up time, so thanks for giving such a clear blast on the watchman’s trumpet (see Ezekiel 33:6, 7), without blowing your own. Encore.

The future?

MARIE FORD, NSW

What a shock to realise the photograph on the cover of the October 7 RECORD (“Historic meeting for Pacific administrators”) was not from the archives—it was current! The only giveaway was the absence of ties and coats on the men in the front row. If this is a result of the decision of the South Pacific Division session to discontinue future sessions, it is regrettable and offensive. The photograph is racist and sexist—and unless the youth of the church have suddenly aged in looks, there was nobody under 30!

The event was described as “a watershed for the church in the South Pacific” and “particularly relevant.” What shocking statements in the light of what this church is, what it stands for and is striving to achieve. Don’t retreat—let’s advance. The prophet Joel’s words are being fulfilled (see Joel 2:28, 29) but this photo certainly doesn’t look like it.

Careful reading

CHRIS MALAN, NSW

Reflecting on the statement “Thousands are today in insane asylums whose minds became unbalanced by novel-reading” (“The Book of Books,” *Adventist World*, RECORD, October 14), I can only say how utterly amazing.

I studied psychiatry for one year—fifth-year medical school—and they completely failed to mention this connection between

novel reading and lunacy. During my rotation through a large psychiatric hospital the danger was not brought to the attention of our group of medical students. I knew a number of psychiatrists—strange fellows, some of them—but they all failed to mention novels driving their patients mad.

A “word of prophecy” should be assessed on its own merits (see Deuteronomy 18:21, 22). Rehashing what we know is untrue as truth is something we should not do. And trying to defend absurdities with arguments that defy all logic is something better left to the truly stupid.

It is not up to us to pass judgment on the intimate relationship of a man and his God.

Judging—or not

BERYL CARPENTER, WA

The writer of “Croc hunter question” (Letters, October 14) seems sure Steve Irwin will not be in heaven. That is not for us to decide. God alone knows the answer.

God judges fairly, according to the knowledge that a person has. I’m not insisting Steve will be in heaven. It is not for us to judge.

The writer goes on to urge that “to be a Christian automatically makes us an environmentalist.” Does every Christian always recycle the recyclables? And wash the car on the lawn so there is no wastage of water? And if they don’t, are they no longer Christian? It is not for us to judge!

ROB PATTERSON, NSW

I am amazed at the insight the writer of “Croc hunter question” has at his disposal. There are many of us who would love to be able to determine others’ thought patterns and their relationship with the Creator. We would then be in a position to be able to target the fallen without “wasting” our time on those who are saved.

His insight goes even further to admit that Steve Irwin does love the animals, then he infers he would not feel equally at home with the Creator. The Bible says, “A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel” (Proverbs 12:10, NIV).

We don’t know about Steve Irwin’s relationship with God, only God knows. But he has started out well by caring for the animals in such a loving way and whether he is there or not there to meet Jesus at the end is not for us to decide.

COURTNEY WINDUS, QLD

As a student completing my final weeks of study in conservation, I was rocked by the passing of a man who had so much love and passion for a world full of God’s creatures.

I have learnt much during the past two

years about how to care for and protect the wonderful world God has given us. But I am not an “environmentalist” automatically because I am a Christian.

God Himself charged us with the responsibility for all living things in Genesis 1:26: “God blessed them: ‘Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth!’” (*The Message*). But I do not believe that Christians are “automatically” environmentalists. I see people every day who are “Christian,” yet have little concern for the environment.

We are each given spiritual gifts (see 1 Corinthians 12:4-11) to use and it is God who directs us to use our gifts. Not everyone who is a Christian will be as passionate about the environment. And there are many passionate environmentalists who are nonbelievers but still recognise their responsibility to care for our world.

It is not up to us to pass judgment on the intimate relationship of a man and his God (see Matthew 7:1) or whether they have acknowledged the handiwork of God’s creation in their own life’s work.

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—Mount Diamond Adventist Secondary School (Boroko, PNG).** The Seventh-day Adventist Church is seeking to appoint a Principal for Mount Diamond Adventist Secondary School.

▲ **Director of Administrative Services—Pacific Adventist University (Port Moresby, PNG)** is seeking to appoint a Director of Administrative Services to oversee the professional management of the operations of the university's administrative office. For further information please visit the POSITIONS VACANT section of the SPD website at <spd.adventist.org.au/employment>. Applications in writing (including your CV, three work-related referees and the contact details of your church pastor) should be forwarded to Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Limited, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076; email <hr@adventist.org.au>; fax (02) 9489 0943.

▲ **Karalundi Aboriginal Education Centre (Meekatharra, WA)** is seeking expressions of interest in the following positions for 2007: **Cook; Male Dorm Parent; and 2 Teachers** (Years 1–3 and 8–10). For job descriptions and general inquiries please contact Glenn Grey <administrator@karalundi.wa.edu.au>; or phone (08) 9981 2000. Applications in writing (including your CV) should be forwarded to Administrator, PMB 6, Meekatharra WA 6642.

▲ **Accountant—Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care (NNSW) Ltd** is seeking an Accountant to join the team at its Avondale Retirement Village, to work closely with the managing director in managing the Cooranbong office. The successful applicant will hold appropriate business/accounting qualifications or equivalent experience; be team oriented and committed through practice to the mission of the church. Applications in writing should be forwarded to Mr Greg Fowler, Assistant Chief Financial Officer, North NSW Conference; email <gfowler@adventist.org.au>; PO Box 7, Wallsend NSW 2287; phone (02) 4951 8088; no later than **November 16, 2006**.

▲ **Manager, International Program—ADRA—Australia** is seeking an experienced community development professional to manage an identified international project portfolio. Based in the ADRA Wahroonga office, the position will be required to develop and facilitate new projects/programs and liaise with government and regulatory bodies. For further information please visit the POSITIONS VACANT section of the SPD website at <adventist.org.au/employment> or contact Rachelle Greive on (02) 9489 5488. Applications in writing should be forwarded to Human Resources, ADRA—Australia, PO Box 129, Wahroonga NSW 2076; email <rgreive@adra.org.au>. Applications close Wednesday, **November 15, 2006**.

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Appreciation

Heise, Pastor Vern, Dr Lyell and Gaylene, Vhonda Copertino, Dr Geoffrey and Keren, and their families, sincerely appreciate the expressions and acts of love, support and sympathy received following the sad loss of Edna, wife and mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. The prayers, calls, cards and floral tributes are greatly appreciated.

Lillioja. Corinne and her family would like to say a sincere thank you to all those lovely people who phoned, sent flowers and also cards at the time of Helmut's passing.

Diserens—Ngenda. Darren Zane Diserens, son of Eril and Nancye Diserens (Nelson, NZ), ad Neroli Ann Ngenda, daughter of Eryia and Faye Ngenda (Brisbane, Qld), were married on 8.10.06 at Tamborine Gardens Chapel, Tamborine North.

Frank Williams

Hort—Harris. Troy David Hort, son of Kerry (Perth, WA) and the late Bruce Hort, and Sharleen Faye Harris, daughter of Dean and Irina Harris (Giddegannup), were married on 15.10.06 at Carmel College Adventist church, Carmel.

Peter Fowler

Kakazu—Biddle. Pastor Kevin Rikio Kakazu, son of Roy and Eileen Kakazu (Kailua, Hawaii), and Amanda Kaye Biddle, daughter of Nev and Judy Biddle (Brisbane, Qld), were married on 11.6.06 in the Sandgate Baptist church, Brisbane

Ross Baines

Paxman—Halicki. Steven Mark Paxman and Jannina Bella Halicki were married on 1.10.06 at Valley View Function Centre, Henley Brook, Perth, WA.

Steven Goods

Weddings

Carey—Gabriel. Sabian Peter Carey, son of Peter and Rhonda Carey (Alstonville, NSW), and Jessica Lee Gabriel, daughter of Steve and Anne Gabriel (Wollongong), were married on 1.10.06 at The Quins Farm, Manangle.

Pablo Lillo

Volunteers!

Volunteers needed—ADRA—NZ. Adventure Plus (NZ). Adventure based learning program delivery, group facilitation, program development, outdoor recreation instructing (training provided). Term: 11 months. Stipend paid and accommodation provided. For more information, contact Hayley O'Donnell.

Volunteers needed—Asian Aid Organisations. **Hostel Assistant—Elim Adventist Home and School** to assist the director with all aspects of running the busy institution. Term: 12 months. **Teacher—School for the Hearing Impaired.** Duties include teaching sign language and English. Term: 12 months in 2007. **Hostel and Teaching Assistant—School for the Blind.** Duties include teaching English, running a music program for the children. Term: 12 months.

Active SDA church member—PNG Union Mission Health Department and ADRA—PNG. Nursing or health science qualifications, competent with computers, good communications skills. Term: 2 years. Living allowance and accommodation provided. Inquiries: Sandy Morton at <smorton@adra.org.au>. Application form available from Hayley O'Donnell.

Email:

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

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Obituaries

Hook, Beverly Rose, born 30.7.1922 at Trafalgar, Vic; died 20.8.06 at her home in Doncaster East. She was predeceased by her husband, Ernest, a war veteran; and seven of her eight siblings. She is survived by her brother, Lloyd Crabtree (Rosebud); and her many nephews, nieces, grand-nieces and grand-nephews. She was a loving and supportive aunt and grand-aunt and will be sadly missed by her family. Bev was a lover of nature. She was also a lover of people and made warm and lasting friendships. The Nunawading church will be the poorer as a result of her passing.

Walton Pitt, Tony Campbell

Smith, Joyce Maud (nee Monkhouse), born November 1924 at Carlisle, WA; died 12.5.06 in Ray Village Nursing Home, Busselton. In 1944 she married John, a former sailor in the RAN and later a WA rail worker, and together they were baptised and became members of the Busselton SDA church in July 2003. She is survived by her husband; her children, Neville, Dianne, Graeme and Lauren; her 14 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. John and Joyce were a very happy couple, who raised and delighted in their four children. Her health deteriorated rapidly before her death.

Brian Tink, Andrew Olsen

Smith, John Foster, born 9.12.1919 at Collic, WA; died 19.8.06 in Bunbury Hospital. He was predeceased by his wife, Joyce, on 12.5.06, after sharing almost 62 years of happy marriage as a devoted and caring husband and father. He is survived by his children, Neville, Dianne, Graeme and Lauren; his 14 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. John had a positive and influential sense of humour that will certainly be missed. He shared with his wife the joyful hope of the Resurrection, and what a reunion that will be! Frank Dyson

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AVONDALE COLLEGE GRADUATION 2006

Friday, December 1

Sydney Campus

Consecration Service, Faculty of Nursing & Health prospective graduates, Wahroonga Church, 7.30 pm

Lake Macquarie Campus

Consecration Service, for all other prospective graduates, Avondale College Church, 7.30 pm

Sabbath, December 2

Programs held on Lake Macquarie Campus in the College Church:

8.40 am & 11.30 am	Church Valedictory Services
10.00 am	Sabbath School
4.00 pm	Sounds of Praise
5.30 pm	President's Reception, Upper College Hall (Ticket entry only)

Sunday, December 3

Lake Macquarie Campus, Cooranbong, Chan Shun Auditorium
10.00 am Graduation Service (Ticket entry only)

For more information visit our website www.avondale.edu.au
Or contact Rosalie Rickards, President's Office 02 4980 2101
Graduation Coordinator & Personal Assistant to President

Missionaries lunch—Avondale Grad, Sabbath, December 2. There will be a combined lunch (immediately after the church service) for the missionaries and ex-missionaries, families and friends who attend the Avondale graduation. Please bring a plate of food sufficient for your family and a little extra for a friend. Drinks and some goodies will be provided. This year's reports will feature the role of missionary women, married, single, paid and unpaid. If you have a good story, please phone John or Beth on (02) 4970 4075; or email <johnkosmeier@bigpond.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.

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>.

Tours 2007—Allround Travel. Introducing our program for 2007. China/Thailand (May), Greece/Turkey (April), Reformation Tour (May), Mexico (April). Fully escorted, wonderful tours—travel with Adventists. Contact Anita or Debbie; phone (07) 5530 3555; email <alltrav@bigpond.net.au>.

Giant book sale. NB 80% = \$3–\$4. Thousands of quality used books on a great variety of subjects. Details next week. Make a calendar note now. Nunawading church, Sunday, November 19.

A new budget-priced devotional daily-reading book, Living With God, will enrich your devotions, sermons and worships. Amazing stories of God's providence—South Pacific and Europe, by David and Gaya Currie. Only \$A19.95. This beautiful hardcover book makes an excellent gift. Orders before December 10 receive free DVD of Northern Territory—Kakadu, Litchfield Park Waterfalls, Katherine Gorge etc. Adventist Book Centres, Adventist Resource Centre; or <davidcurrie35@primusonline.com.au>.

For all home or investment loans phone Sponsor a Child (SAC) Home Loans. Your mortgage can sponsor a child through Asian Aid, and fight poverty. Phone Carl Ginger 1800 722 734; <www.sachomeloans.com.au>.

Data projectors, screens, DVDs VCRs, PA systems etc. Lower prices for SDA churches, schools etc. Australia only. Rural Electronics (02) 6361 3636; or <greenfields@netconnect.com.au>.

Finally

When a person forgives another he is promising to do three things about the intending wrongdoing; not to use it against the wrongdoer in the future; not to talk about it to others; and not to dwell on it himself.

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