

# RECORD

December 16, 2006

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"telling the world"

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The Mary of  
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*The South Pacific Division executive committee met for its annual meetings on November 14-16. (See reports pages 5 to 7.)*



## Graduates told, "God's on your side"

## SPD affirms "know, experience and share"

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

**T**he South Pacific Division (SPD) has recommitted to its vision statement, adopted in the previous quinquennium, to "know, experience and share our hope in Jesus Christ." This vision statement is a key component of the SPD strategic plan for 2006 to 2010 presented to the SPD executive committee during its annual meeting held on November 14 to 16.

The strategic planning document, presented to the committee by SPD general secretary Pastor Barry Oliver, includes a mission statement, major quinquennial goal and identifies seven strategic focus areas.

According to the strategic plan, "the

major goal in this quinquennium will be to develop a nurturing and sharing community of believers. This will be measured by: a reduction in the apostasy rate of at least 10 per cent; a net membership growth of at least 20 per cent; and an increase in the retention rate as measured over a 10-year period."

According to the document adopted by committee members, the church's mission and major goal will be accomplished through seven focus areas: grace, worship, discipleship, community, identity, leadership and governance.

*(Continued on page 5)*



# Hope

As a single-word summary of Christianity, *hope* works well.

A FEW YEARS BACK I STUDIED THE medieval Christian text *The Cloud of Unknowing* as part of a university course. Quoted in an essay I read recently, I was reminded of the following suggestion from this book of mystical spirituality: “Take just a little word, of one syllable rather than two. . . . Fasten this word to your heart, so that whatever happens it will never go away. This word is to be your shield and your spear, whether you are riding in peace or in war. With this word you are to beat upon the cloud and the darkness above you.”

I shared the quote with my wife and her almost instant reaction was to tell me she knew “my” word—but she said I should work it out myself. I was intrigued and bugged her the rest of the day, until she relented. And I liked her suggestion: Hope.

As a single-word summary of Christianity—and Adventist Christianity in particular—*hope* works well.

Based on the reality and promises of God, a mustard seed of hope is always more significant than a mountain of despair. That’s why Paul can assure us that the hope that grows through the experiences of our life and faith “will not disappoint us” (Romans 5:5\*).

Hope is the shining star to guide our lives, to spark our faith and to spur our faithfulness. As one writer put it, “A true Christian should have but one fear—lest he should not hope enough” (Walter Elliot,

*The Spiritual Life*). In fact, Paul goes so far as to suggest Christians should “overflow with hope” (Romans 15:13).

Hope should be a steady and ever-present element of every Christian experience. Hope is what we celebrate when we rejoice in the sunny days of faith; and hope is what we cling to when all we can see is darkness and all we can hear is silence. That hope is of equal relevance amid our times of challenge and triumph is what sets hope apart from mere wishful thinking.

There is a tangible reality to hope, even when it is at its most intangible. “Ultimately our gift to the world around us is hope. Not blind hope that pretends everything is fine and refuses to acknowledge how things are. But the kind of hope that comes from staring pain and suffering right in the eyes and refusing to believe that this is all there is” (Rob Bell, *Velvet Elvis*).

Such hope has a world-changing quality to it. It is not focused on ourselves or our “escape” from the realities of life but on God as the centre of our hope and on others as those who can benefit from and share in the hope we have been given. Our hope is not some kind of self-centred insurance policy; instead it’s a call to be agents of hope in a sometimes hopeless world.

Hope is the foundation upon which we can build a life and faith that matters, and that makes a difference in a world that needs to be different.

According to the writer of Hebrews, such hope is the foundation for basic Christian living: “Without wavering, let us hold tightly to the hope we say we have, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near” (Hebrews 10:23-25).

Hope is the “shield and spear” with which we counter the real assaults of life, from the terrifying tragedies that shake us to the core to the succession of minor disappointments and discouragements that wear away at our souls and our best intentions.

Even when all else fails, we can hope that somehow this matters—and that this simply cannot be all there is. Hope trusts that there is meaning even in the apparent meaninglessness.

Amid the challenges and opportunities, disappointments and celebration, fears and joys life throws at us, I hope. When I look at myself, when I look at the church and when I look at the world, I can’t see anything more important or more relevant than *hope*.

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

**Nathan Brown**



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

# Prayer retreat promotes “telling the world”

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Over the weekend of October 27 to 29, the female staff of Pacific Adventist University (PAU) as well as some of the married students' wives met for a prayer retreat, which was held at a Catholic retreat centre in Port Moresby.

With the theme of “If my people pray,” special guests at the retreat were Joy Butler, prayer ministries coordinator for the South Pacific Division, Dr Carol Tasker, head of PAU's School of Education and specialist in spiritual formation, and Connie Booker, a singer from Cairns, Queensland.

“The beautiful, cool, breezy centre was built in a monastery style, and was very conducive to prayer and quiet,” says Mrs Butler. “The weekend featured two meals a day of healthy food, meetings, time for reflection and quiet prayer, as well as fine artwork by Bryan Paul, art lecturer at PAU.

“We also spent time in prayer on our own, together praying for our children, praying for our church and praying for each other.”

Dr Tasker led the women through a process of meditating on the Scriptures, spending time writing about it and praying on their own.

The women's ministries team, head-

ed by Loretta Boton, Francy Tausere and Fula Bori, planned the event carefully and prayerfully, including times for teaching, devotions, prayer vigils, group prayers, individual meditation and singing.

On the Sabbath afternoon, the children from the International School at PAU provided a musical program led by Maranata Titimanu. The women also did some street preaching at a nearby market, before attending a regional meeting at the John Guise Stadium, where 5000 people had gathered to hear the “Tell the World” emphasis for the next quinquennium. Mrs Butler spoke there on the women's ministries theme of “Touch a heart, tell the world.”

“Some of them had never been to anything organised by women's ministries before and were most impressed,” says Mrs Butler. “They committed themselves to pray for their schools/departments at the university. Others recommitted to Christ and to continued prayer for their children. Some had given up. Others said they were changed from this experience. Others were revived in their walk with God.



The women who attended the prayer retreat.

Some came only at the last minute because they had been reluctant to postpone their work—they are all very busy women with huge timetables and schedules, marking and so on.

“They were so pleased they decided to come. Many shared testimonies and stories of how God had blessed them, spoken to, or used them in some way. Such events can only bring encouragement and revival to the church.”

One of the women who attended the retreat, with supporters, has decided to restore and open a church and women's centre on the coast south-east of Port Moresby, while another and her friends have decided to grow their prayer ministry on the PAU campus, as well as opening a prayer room for the School of Nursing.—*Adele Nash/Joy Butler*

◆ This is the **final issue of RECORD** for 2006. The first issue for 2007 will be delivered for January 20.

◆ A recent arts festival at **Carmel Adventist College, WA**, attracted more than 200 people. From **swing band classics to drama** and choir items, the young people showcased their abilities before friends and family.—*Kerrie Long*



◆ Supporting selected community projects has become a part of the regular program at **Canberra Christian School (CCS), ACT**. Again this year the school took part in **Pink Ribbon Day** on October 24 to raise funds for the National Breast Cancer Foundation. All the children dressed in something pink and/or purchased pink ribbons from the school and some brought in a little extra as a donation. Total raised on the day was \$A79 from the school of 34 enrolled students. The school also **sold bandannas** to support “Canteen” later that week. The children wore their bandannas



with their uniform. This project raised \$A145 to support teenagers with cancer. Earlier in the year the school also had a “yellow day” for **Daffodil Day** and the school was featured on the local TV news and in the newspaper. CCS finds it easy to support cancer fundraising projects as many of the children know someone who has been on the cancer journey.—*Jenny Coutts*

◆ **Esperance Christian Primary School, WA**, recently took part in the annual **Music Festival** and took home a **first place**. The school was competing against six other school in the small schools section. Esperance school had 67 students enrolled in 2006—90 per cent coming from the wider community—and is the Western Australian Conference's only country school. The school has recently had **plans approved** to build and extend administration areas and a new transportable toilet block.—*Rhonda Morcombe*

# Avondale graduates told, "God's on your side"

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

Avondale students will leave college with confidence as a strong God-on-your-side theme emerged from each of the presentations given over the graduation weekend (December 1-3).

Dr Darren Morton, speaker for the consecration service on the Lake Macquarie campus, read from the Dr Seuss book, *Oh, The Places You'll Go!*

He then advised graduands not to plan their lives too far in advance. "We find the most remarkable places when . . . we allow ourselves to be directed by the breath of the living God. . . . When you feel Him blowing you a certain direction, take courage and go with it. [Then] may you be able to say, 'Oh, the places I went!'"

Katherine Cooper told nurses on the Sydney campus how she had once cared for a frightened patient and his distressed family in a corner of the oncology ward at the Sydney Adventist Hospital.

"Knowing Jesus is by my side . . . brings me comfort and peace when I consider the

incredible responsibility of having people's lives in my care," she said.

Pastor Ken Vogel spoke during the valedictory services of being called to Bourke in the Outback.

nated Pastor Vogel to head a community project. "God throws out the challenge and yet always assures the outcome. . . . Step out in God's power with an eye to conquer!"



Avondale College graduation service speaker Dr Kerri-Lee Krause told graduands to carry a peg or two in their pocket. "You never know when you'll be needing to spread that tent of yours and break new ground," she said.

"Many of my fellow graduates asked what I had done wrong." He wondered, too, after meeting the mayor, who told him to leave because the town had too many Christian do-gooders.

However, a year later, the mayor nomi-

A focus of Dr Kerri-Lee Krause's work as a senior lecturer in higher education at the University of Melbourne is on the transition process, or what philosopher Charles Handy calls "discontinuous change."

"God specialises in preparing us and seeing us through discontinuous change," she said during the graduation service. "[He is] a God of the unreasonable . . . a God of the seemingly impossible when it comes to new and expanding visions."

Some 246 graduands were eligible to march during the service, held in the Chan Shun Auditorium on the Lake Macquarie campus. These included the first with a Master of Education (honours) degree, Bachelor of Arts degrees in visual communication, Bachelor of Theology/Bachelor of Ministry degrees and graduate diplomas in ministry and in theology.—**Brenton Stacey**

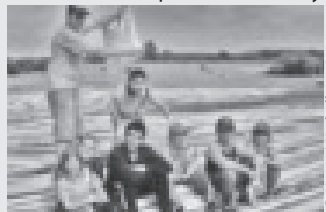


◆ Four of the **Adventist bank workers** of the Lae branch of ANZ, who had their branch declared the **best branch in Papua New Guinea**, were also awarded personally. **Wallis Pingin** (pictured, right), the manager of the Lae branch and elder at Four Mile church, received the Best Branch Manager Award; **Polowe Oli** (left), who attends the Cor-

rective Institution church (CIS), received the Best Mortgage Specialist Award; **Dorcas Guba** (second from left), who also attends the CIS, received the Best Prime Consultant Team Leader Award; while **Manteo Uwefa** (second from right) received the Best Sales Service Consultant Award. Mr Pingin attributes the success of the Lae branch to the Thursday morning devotion time. Ministers from various Christian denominations are rostered to conduct **worship for staff** every Thursday morning before the bank opens. "When a staff member is spiritu-

ally motivated, service and good performance falls in line," says Mr Pingin.—**Matupit Darius**

◆ The **Gosnells Pathfinder Club**, WA, picked up 15 hectares worth of irrigation pipes over one weekend (October 13 and 15) in an attempt to raise \$A40,000 to attend the camporee in January



Graeme Mitchell

2007. The Gosnells group of 26 young people has also cleaned toilets, catered food for groups and sold chocolates and towels to raise money.—**Melody Tan**

◆ The **Strathfield Russian church**, NSW, commemorated the **40th anniversary** of the opening of their current church building on October 7. The day was filled with musical items, testimonies by recently baptised members, a reminiscence of the **former long-term ministers** of the church and a lunch together for old friends to catch up.—**Intrasyd**

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

## SPD affirms “know, experience and share”

(Continued from page 1)

“Strategic plans are dynamic documents. They are always subject to review and demand a process of accountability,” said Pastor Oliver. He explained that each department, service and entity has prepared measurable goals and strategic objectives based on the areas on focus.

“Strategic planning for the church is one of the most complicated processes that anyone can undertake,” Pastor Oliver commented. “We have spiritual objectives in the church that defy measurement.”

Committee members were presented with the strategic plans of SPD departments and entities. Each entity presented aims, key performance indicators and desired outcomes for the planned activities in the quinquennium.

Pastor Oliver sees this process as a healthy development in the church. “A culture of strategic planning has developed in our church in recent years,” he said. “We set objectives and then under the leading of the Holy Spirit plan how we to accomplish those objectives and how to allocate resources appropriately.”—**Nathan Brown**

## SPD membership to reach 400,000 this year

WAHROONGA, NEW  
SOUTH WALES

**W**e expect our membership will reach 400,000 by the end of this year, which is good news,” reported Pastor Barry Oliver, general secretary of the South Pacific Division (SPD), in his report to the annual meeting of the SPD executive committee. Pastor Oliver was reflecting on figures showing a division-wide church membership of 390,206 at the end of 2005.

“Our membership continues to grow,” said Pastor Oliver. “In the past two years, we have seen a definite upswing in our membership growth. The year 2005 was a session year and traditionally we tend to see slower growth in session years. But following on from the Year of Evangelism in 2004, we continued to grow strongly. We also experienced lower membership losses in 2004 and 2005, giving us strong ‘kingdom growth’ (baptisms less losses).”

Pastor Oliver suggested committee mem-



*The South Pacific Division (SPD) executive committee meetings were chaired by (left to right) SPD president Pastor Laurie Evans, general secretary Pastor Barry Oliver and associate secretary Pastor Brad Kemp.*

bers should be “encouraged, but never satisfied” with the figures presented.

For the purpose of comparison, Dr Oliver presented statistics to the committee from the worldwide Adventist Church. He highlighted the challenge in a rapidly growing church of being a church with many new members

According to the General Conference statistics, the South Pacific represents 2.65 per cent of the worldwide Adventist Church. In the countries of the South Pacific, there is one Adventist member for every 85 people, which is the second “best” ratio across the 13 divisions of the worldwide church.

—**Nathan Brown**

◆ “This was really the **first full meeting of the new division executive committee**, the composition of which has changed considerably as a result of the last division session,” comments South Pacific Division (SPD) president **Pastor Laurie Evans**, reflecting on the meetings held November 14 to 16. “There are significantly more representatives from the **Pacific islands**. This has made for a broader input of views and will over time make for more meaningful discussion and a better decision-making process for the rather diverse cultural church that we have in the SPD.”

◆ Pastor **Neone Okesene** has been appointed general secretary of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission. Pastor Okesene currently pastors the Henderson Samoan and New Lynn Samoan churches (NZ). He will replace **Dennis Tame**, who is returning to Australia for retirement.

◆ A report from **David Afele**, manager of **Adventist Alpine Village** (AAV), near Jindabyne (NSW), has highlighted improvements in the operations and financial situation of AAV. AAV staff have undertaken an ongoing **maintenance program**, adopted

a **vegetarian diet** for all visitors and has plans to begin regular **Sabbath worship services** at AAV. According to Mr Afele, use of the facility by church groups, schools and members is increasing and demand continues to be high from a variety of Christian outdoor groups.

◆ A **policy** voted by the **SPD executive committee** has opened the way for **primary caregivers to balance work and family commitments** with more flexibility. “The church has many primary caregivers who make a valuable contribution to the work of the

church,” comments **Colin Clark**, SPD director of human resources. “And we are wanting to make it easier for them to continue working and to return to work. We want to support people who are bringing up families and it is beneficial to both parties. We miss out if this skill-base is lost.” The policy allows for **up to four weeks unpaid leave** in addition to regular leave entitlement and the flexibility for negotiation between the employing church entity and the caregiver for working hours to suit care requirements, for example, compatible with school hours.

## SPD moves to reduce sustentation costs in Pacific

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The South Pacific Division (SPD) executive committee has voted to implement a plan to pay out the retirement support—known as sustentation—of employees with short denominational service records and of denominational teachers who are now funded by national governments.

With the increase of superannuation schemes and national retirement funds in Pacific countries, the SPD froze accrual of service credits for sustentation purposes in 2002. However, according to Kelvin Peuser, associate chief financial officer for the SPD, who presented the proposal to the executive committee, “Projections suggest we might need to continue paying sustentation as long as 2060.”

At the same time, the Island Field Sustentation Fund has not been a self-sustaining fund. Between 1994 and 2002, the fund lost more than \$A900,000 and required an injection of \$A2.1 million from the SPD. This has been remedied somewhat since 2002 by a 15 per cent levy on all denominational payrolls in the union missions. “We can now see the sustentation funds beginning to run in surplus,” reported Mr Peuser. “But the new levy has had an impact on mission budgets.”

To address this continuing liability, the plan includes increasing the age to eligibility from 58 to 60 from January 1, 2008. Depending on various criteria, the SPD will pay out existing liability to the majority of employees with less than 15 years service at an estimated cost of \$A850,000. The payments will be funded by special appropriations from the SPD and union missions over two years. This will reduce the cost and duration of the SPD’s liability under this fund and will reduce the costs to the budgets in the union missions.

“This action follows a similar move made in Australia and New Zealand, when placing all employees on superannuation support,” commented SPD president Pastor Laurie Evans.—**Nathan Brown**

## Tithe growth continues

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Tithe continues to grow strongly in the South Pacific Division (SPD), according to the report of SPD chief financial officer Rodney Brady given to the executive committee.

Reporting on figures for 2005, he commented, “We had a very good year for tithe.” Across the SPD in 2005, tithe grew by 3.74 per cent compared with 2004, with a 10 per cent increase in Australia offset by declines in the remainder of the division.

“But the news is even better when we look at this year,” Mr Brady added. “Division-wide to August this year compared to the previous year our increase is about 10.8 per cent. That’s a very good result.” According to Mr Brady, this represents an additional \$A4.6 million dollars for the year-to-date.

“We are happy with what is happening but it is also exciting to see the potential,” commented Mr Brady. He reported that average tithe per week per member in Australia and New Zealand is about \$A16.

And Mr Brady was also looking further afield in his report. “Offerings collected for work outside of the conferences continue to be low compared to tithe but saw a slight upturn in 2005,” he said. “Most of those of-



*SPD chief financial officer Rodney Brady employed an attention-grabbing visual aid to highlight the rates of giving by church members across the South Pacific.*

ferings look at work outside the division—they go to the General Conference for the church’s work around the world.”

General Conference vice-president Pastor Gerry Karst echoed Mr Brady’s comments. “This upward trend is seen around the world,” he told committee members. “It isn’t a huge increase but it is heading in the right direction. And there needs to be resources behind our mission.”

SPD associate chief financial offer Kelvin Peuser also presented financial statements for SPD entities for acceptance by the SPD executive committee.—**Nathan Brown**

## Wage adjustment recognises skills shortage

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The skills shortage in society is having an impact on the workforce available to the church, according to comments by Pastor Laurie Evans, president of the South Pacific Division, to the SPD executive committee, introducing a proposal to restructure the remuneration schedules for church employees in Australia and New Zealand.

“This is one of the greatest challenges facing private and corporate enterprises,” said Pastor Evans, citing various business and management sources. “And the situation is also applicable to the church. He reported a number examples including at least six major accounting positions that at the moment remain unfilled.

According to Peter Brewin, special assistant to the SPD president, the acceptance of this proposal saw the completion of an 18-month process to develop new remuneration schedules for business and professional employees and for ministerial employees. The new schedules will see wage rises for senior employees, but with a greater focus on recognising merit and professional development, rather than just length of service.

A small group of lay members of the executive committee were given the opportunity to independently review the proposal and presented a report to the wider committee. This group recommended the proposals in principle as “fair and reasonable” and expressed their appreciation of the process and information provided.—**Nathan Brown**

# Input sought on church organisation

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Input is being sought from church members about the future structure of the Adventist Church. This is part of the work of the General Conference's (GC) Commission on Ministries, Services and Structures. A report on the progress of this Commission was presented to the South Pacific Division (SPD) executive committee by SPD general secretary Pastor Barry Oliver, who along with five others from the SPD is a member of the commission.

"There have been many comments and perceptions over the years about the way the church is structured," reflected Pastor Oliver. "This is a window of opportunity for us to have input as a church."

Since the formal organisation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1863, there has been minimal restructuring with some refinement in 1901-03 and the introduction of divisions to the GC administration in 1916. According to Pastor Oliver, the key question is "Do we have the right kinds of structures to meet the needs and mission of the church at this point in time?" First, however, the commission needed to address the questions as to whether church structure

was flexible and open to change.

"For much of our history, many have thought that we are bound by the structure we have been given," said Pastor Oliver.

Pastor Oliver was part of a working group commissioned to provide a rationale for flexibility. The paper that was produced was presented to SPD executive committee members and is available for consideration by church members. "This is probably the most significant paper that has been written by the worldwide church on this subject and it sets a baseline that we can change to better fulfil our mission," reported Pastor Oliver.

He urged all interested church members to access the material produced by the commission and to consider what input they may have to this continuing process by May 31, 2007. "This is one area about which I think most people have an opinion," said Pastor Oliver. "We have opportunity to give input into this significant aspect of the worldwide church. We invite feedback from church entities and members and this should be submitted to the SPD general secretary."—**Nathan Brown**

*To access papers and materials produced by the commission, see <[www.adventist.org/commission](http://www.adventist.org/commission)>.*

# Policy changes to assist new church buildings

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Emphasising the South Pacific Division's (SPD) focus on local churches, the SPD executive committee has approved a series of policy amendments to assist churches in obtaining finance to purchase and develop buildings and facilities.

"We have noticed it is becoming more expensive and more difficult to build local churches," said Rodney Brady, chief financial officer of the SPD. "In global terms, every Australian capital city is in the top 20 most expensive for real estate. Coupled with increasing government requirements

for public buildings, current policies have meant developing new facilities has become almost beyond reach."

Mr Brady pointed out that, in the past 10 years, only five new churches have been established in Australia and New Zealand—and three of these have been possible only with major external funding.

The policies adopted will allow churches to borrow a larger percentage of the funds required for major renovations or extensions, an extension of the time churches can take to repay loans and establishing a fund that is expected to contribute more than \$A1.25 million per year to local church acquisitions.—**Nathan Brown**

# HIV/AIDS strategy "mainstreams" with whole church

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

In Papua New Guinea, we are faced with a crisis that is just unimaginable," reported Dr Chester Kuma, associate director of Adventist health for the South Pacific Division (SPD), as part of the report of the SPD's commission of HIV/AIDS to the SPD executive committee. "HIV/AIDS presents a major challenge to the world and to the church. It has grown beyond the boundaries of health and encroached upon the socioeconomic structures of nations around the world."

According to SPD director of Adventist health Jonathan Duffy, the recognition that this is not just a health issue has led to the move to "mainstream" HIV/AIDS awareness and initiatives, engaging all departments of the church. The first such mainstreaming program was held with the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) in June this year.

"We felt the responsibility in this issue has been placed on the church," added PNGUM president Pastor Thomas Davai. "HIV/AIDS issues must be included in all activities of the church. It is part of all our strategic planning.

"This disease has frightened a lot of people. People are beginning to realise the importance of life and family."

PNGUM has produced a DVD "O Papa God" to address issues surrounding HIV/AIDS and stigma associated with this disease. "Whenever this has been viewed it has made a big impact," Mr Duffy reported.

"For us as a church, it is also a spiritual issue," he said. "This is not something we are exempt from as a church. It's a very real issue we must be working on among our own people as well as the wider community."

Michelle Abel of the Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA) reported on how ADRA is working with the church and governments to address this crisis.

The HIV/AIDS mainstreaming program is planned for Trans-Pacific Union Mission in June next year.—**Nathan Brown**

# ACF funds growth

BY BRADEN BLYDE

**T**HE AVONDALE COLLEGE FOUNDATION (ACF) continues to grow and contribute to Avondale College. ACF president Norm Young and treasurer Chris Akroyd explain the foundation's current activities and contributions.

## How did the foundation begin?

**Norm:** It was the brainchild of businessman Lyn Knight. Twenty-eight years ago, he had the vision to set up a foundation to support Avondale by approaching church members and asking them for large donations.

**Chris:** At the time Avondale and the South Pacific Division (SPD) were financially pressed. Knight saw a need and developed a strategy to help ease the SPD's financial burden. He developed various levels of donors, with payments made over a five-year period.

**Norm:** Most people thought Lyn was crazy to ask people for such large donations, but the foundation signed up many and it continued to grow.

## How does ACF now raise its funds?

**Norm:** The foundation started as a member-based fundraising activity. Members would visit churches, run information programs and ask for donations. Nowadays the majority of our funds come from the foundation's businesses.

## What businesses are these?

**Chris:** The foundation owns the largest propagation nursery in New South Wales, the profits of which support Avondale. During its life, the nursery has been very profitable, but recent drought conditions have reduced the company's returns. So until the drought is broken we can't expect as great a contribution from it as previously.

The foundation also has a 50 per cent share of the largest macadamia oil producing company in Australia. Based in Alstonville (NSW), Macadamia Oils produces food quality oils, cosmetics, moisturisers and soaps, and we get good returns from this investment.

**Norm:** The complete skin-care range is

available from many of the Adventist Book Centres.

## Are these ACF's only businesses?

**Norm:** No, our major business is ACF Investments, which has more than \$A60 million in depositors' funds.

We offer a personal service with competitive interest rates.

## If you have more than \$60 million, doesn't that give you plenty to fund Avondale?

**Chris:** These funds belong to the depositors to whom we pay interest. We invest these funds responsibly and conservatively for a small margin and only the profits are available for distribution to Avondale. Thus depositors help Avondale without depriving themselves of a good rate of interest.

## So if the foundation has had such great success in direct fundraising, why doesn't ACF do it now?

**Chris:** Some of the businesses we set up grew quickly and were consuming a lot of the volunteers' time. And our fundraising was becoming less effective. The first time you harvest you get big donors, but then it gets harder and harder.

**Norm:** Fundraising was becoming fairly costly for us; it was taking all the profits of our businesses to run. We also felt Avondale was in a better position than us to administer the fundraising. The tax office restricted tax deductibility for donations given to the foundation to capital projects such as buildings, whereas Avondale has tax deductibility for all donations given directly to it.

**Chris:** However, the foundation still receives bequests and donations and these are managed according to the donors' wishes. One hundred per cent of donations the foundation receives are used to assist Avondale.

## How is ACF supporting Avondale?

**Norm:** Originally, donations were put into



*Braden Blyde (left) chats with Avondale College Foundation president Norm Young and treasurer Chris Akroyd.*

a building fund that offered tax deductibility to donors. From 1978 to 2002, the foundation provided through its donors more than \$A5.4 million for such buildings as the chemistry laboratory, the College church, the library's extension and the auditorium's renovation.

**Chris:** Under the current program a minimum of \$A200,000 is given to Avondale every year from the profits of the foundation's businesses. At our annual general meeting, the college president presents requests for funding: student scholarships, staff research and new buses—or whatever it might be. Avondale makes the application to us, we look at it and perhaps tweak it a bit. Then through consultation with Avondale we come up with a package that best uses the foundation's funds.

**Norm:** From the beginning of this year we are giving 15 Academic Excellence Awards to students. These are offered to students who have superior results in the university entrance exam and are enrolling at Avondale for the first time. Over a four-year course, a student can receive up to \$A27,500 in scholarship funds. By 2009 we should have 60 students receiving such ACF-funded scholarships. In addition, we give three annual Awards of Excellence worth \$A2000 each, and there are several bequests invested with ACF Investments that help fund further scholarships to the value of \$A11,500 annually. Furthermore, interest from the Avondale Foundation Ministerial Training Fund is used to support senior theology majors. This year three students received a total of \$A11,875 from this fund.

**ACF has a fairly low public profile. Surely this is counterproductive?**



**Norm:** Back in the days when we were fundraising in churches and at camp-meetings we had a public face and were fairly well known. But we don't do that now. That is probably why we have dropped off the radar. We have this year taken steps to let more than the 2000 people who come to Avondale's graduation know we give a substantial cheque to the college president during the ceremony.

**Chris:** We would like people to invest with ACF Investments and become more informed about the businesses we run. It all comes down to the fact that our profits are used to help Avondale grow and hopefully to make it a better place for students to study.

#### What relationship is there between ACF and Avondale College?

**Chris:** The foundation started as a group of church members who offered to help Avondale. It has never officially been part of Avondale, but it works cooperatively with the administrators. We work in consultation with Avondale to determine how best to spend the foundation's funds. The SPD is supportive and provides us with an office at reasonable rent in Wahroonga. We are independent of Avondale and of the church's administration, but we enjoy a good and cooperative working relationship with them.

#### What does the future hold for ACF?

**Chris:** We have the ambition that, in the not too distant future, we will be giving \$A1 million a year to Avondale College. We believe that by putting money into students, they will be attracted to come to Avondale. We would like to see Avondale become a university. We would like to offer more scholarships and even perhaps fund a lecturer's position.

**Norm:** We run the foundation's enterprises to help improve Avondale. The things done with the profits are practical and student-focused initiatives. We would like to facilitate as many Adventists as possible to come to Avondale. We believe Avondale is a great teaching institution, and a great place for students to be. **R**

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*Braden Blyde is outgoing president of the Avondale Student and Faculty Association.*

# Relevation

REVIEW BY JULENE DUERKSEN-KAPAO

**R**EVELATION ISN'T JUST ANOTHER Adventist book written by an Adventist for Adventists about Adventist stuff. Rather, *Relevation*—a collection of Nathan Brown's contributions to *Adventist Review* and *RECORD*—asks real questions about Adventism encouraging church members and non-members alike to consider the big picture.

The word "relevation: the act of making relevant or demonstrating relevance"—a word coined by Brown when beginning his monthly column for *Adventist Review*—reflects a keen thinker, ready to ask the tough questions and seek to formulate responses to the big questions facing Christianity today, while constantly seeking relevance. Brown doesn't shy away from being honest and open about who he is and what he believes, and *Relevation* is an open testament to his own journey.

Thought-provoking and fresh, Brown suggests that if we stop, step back and take a look, we could get a new perspective of our church, ourselves and Jesus. "Wherever our life experiences might take us and whatever other aspects of faith, fun or philosophy might catch our attention, we must ever return to the story of Jesus. . . . We must keep telling the old story of Jesus, hearing again and again the music of the gospel. But at the same time we also need to be prepared to see Him in new ways."

Brown is not afraid to say things like they are and he speaks for many when he writes, "There is a growing element of young adults stepping back from the church, not because they don't believe in the church and its mission but because—from their perspective—the church doesn't seem to believe in the church and its mission. They do not give up on the church, the church in reality gives up on them." Many of his articles have sparked debate and given voice to church members who may feel disenfranchised, particularly around the topic of young people. Others have received scathing words of criticism, but Brown's humble attitude is "if everybody agreed, there would be no progress."

From *The Da Vinci Code* to session meetings, mowing church lawns

to angry letters, headline news to the great music debate, *Relevation* touches on a myriad of issues that make Christianity, and more specifically Adventism, unique and special. But Brown doesn't provide nice, succinct little answers. Instead, he gets us thinking by encouraging readers to consider what is beyond the norm and to be real in their worship, their relationships, their church and especially with Jesus.

Brown could be the voice of this generation, not just of young people but of those dissatisfied with where our church is today and desperate to make a difference. Not only does Brown discuss issues, but he dares to dream: "Imagine if our church realised that a concern for social justice and humanitarian action are not optional extras to our Christianity, but that reaching out now to HIV/AIDS sufferers and future victims of this pandemic is at the heart of what Jesus and the gospel is about."

*Relevation* is timely and speaks to the heart. Brown hasn't given up on church, but he urges the church he loves to be centred on the God he loves. *Relevation* is about being relevant in our Christian walk every day; working and reworking words, creating new words and ideas, Brown challenges us to think big in how we respond to the big issues of our world and to seek God—"Ultimately, the quest for God finds its end in the person, life, teachings, death and resurrection of a poor Jewish preacher in the first century . . . that must be a continuing challenge to our understanding of God and spirituality." **R**

*Relevation* by Nathan Brown, Signs Publishing Company, 2006, paperback, 128 pages. Available from Adventist Book Centres, price \$A19.95; \$NZ24.95.

More at [www.relevation.com.au](http://www.relevation.com.au)

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*Julene Duerksen-Kapao writes from Longburn, New Zealand.*

# The Mary of Christmas

BY VICTOR PARACHIN

**A**LTHOUGH MARY, THE MOTHER OF Jesus, became an important focus of theology and piety in the history of Christianity, she is seldom mentioned in the New Testament. Mary is never mentioned explicitly in the New Testament letters and only once in the book of Acts and Mark's Gospel. She is involved in two stories in the Gospel of John, but the writer never identifies her by name.

Yet, in Luke's account of Jesus' birth, Mary is a bright and shining star. Luke writes eloquently about the character and strength of Mary, suggesting Mary's words and actions are informative and inspiring for all Christians. So here are 10 spiritual lessons to learn from this remarkable woman who gave birth to Jesus.

## Mary was open to spiritual messengers.

In Luke 1:28, an angel appears to Mary saying: "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."\* Clearly Mary was spiritually open to receiving a message from God. Being receptive to spiritual messengers is an important component for a growing and vibrant spiritual life. And while we may not always receive messages from angels, God often comes to us through others in order to lead us into new growth and new directions.

## Mary practised discernment.

Luke 1:29 candidly notes: "Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be." Those words reveal Mary was not naive. She needed to think and sort this out in her mind. All of us need to remember that questioning, even doubting, is acceptable. "Doubting is not a sin," writes author John Aurelio. "Nor does it denote a lack of faith. Lack of faith is a pure and simple disbelief. Doubting is an invitation to enter into the mystery more deeply, to go beyond the superficial."

## Mary set aside fear.

Luke 1:30 reads: "But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid.'" Being troubled by

the initial message did not prevent Mary from setting fear aside and moving forward in faith. The angel's words—"Do not be afraid"—reminded her to continue trusting God. Those are four words that each of us ought to repeat whenever we feel fearful, hesitant, timid or uncomfortable about some event facing us.

Let them become your affirmation of faith, using them this way: *Do not be afraid—I can reach beyond myself, seeking help from others. Do not be afraid—I can be hopeful in the face of this difficult situation. Do not be afraid—I will trust God to lead me through the dark valley. Do not be afraid—I can risk rejection and offer help where it is needed. Do not be afraid—I can love even when the love is not returned.*

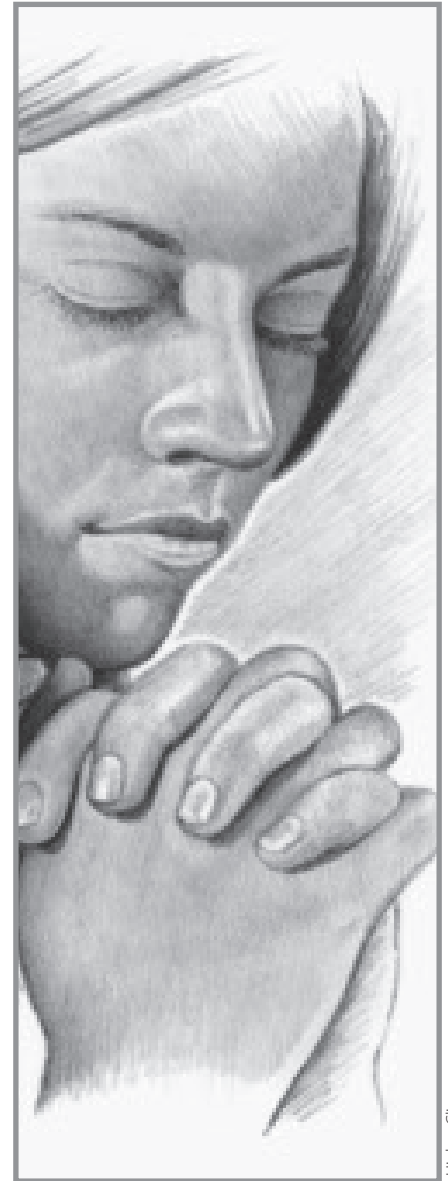
## Mary was obedient to God's call.

Even though Mary was puzzled and troubled by what she learned, Luke makes clear she was obedient nevertheless: "I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said" (Luke 1:38). Her obedience is a sign of her deep faith. British cleric Charles Spurgeon observed: "Faith and obedience are bound up in the same bundle. He that obeys God, trusts God; and he that trusts God, obeys God."

## Mary sought support for her vocation.

There are times when going it alone is going nowhere. When issues, questions or problems arise for us, seeking support and a second opinion is the wisest course of action. This is what Mary did, according to Luke 1:39, 40: "Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she . . . greeted Elizabeth." Mary turned to a friend whose faith she admired and whose opinions she valued. Such support is invaluable.

In his book *Invisible Means of Support*, Dennis Augustine advises: "Find those persons with whom you are comfortable. Find those persons in whose presence you feel more energetic, more creative and more able to pursue your life goals. Stay away from persons who make you feel ap-



Higher Clips

prehensive, or who influence you to doubt yourself. Especially, stay away from those persons who drain you, so that your energy is all used up in trying to maintain the relationship."

## Mary rejoiced at being in God's service.

There is a noticeable absence of joy and delight in many Christian lives. So many act out of duty rather than joyful service to God. This was not true for Mary. Luke 1:46, 47 describes Mary's joy: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour." Joy and delight in God's service ought to be a key characteristic of Christian living.

## Mary trusted God.

While pregnant she had to make an arduous journey from Nazareth to Beth-

lehem (see Luke 2). She trusted that God would protect her and Joseph on the trek and be with her if the baby was born en route. Mary was not panic-stricken because her faith and trust in God was steady and strong.

We need to cultivate Mary's trust. Jeremy Taylor advised: "Look at that beautiful butterfly, and learn from it to trust in God. One might wonder where it could live in tempestuous nights, in the whirlwind, or in the stormy day; but I have noticed it is safe and dry under the broad leaf while rivers have been flooded, and the mountain oaks torn up from their roots."

#### Mary knew how to be flexible.

When there was no room at any inn or hostel, she accepted whatever accommodation was made available—in her case, a simple stable. She could bend rather than be broken. Mary knew how to "go with the flow" and accept what is rather than always hold out for what ought to be. She believed God would guide and provide.

#### Mary dedicated her Son to God.

Luke 2:22 recounts: "Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord." Like all good parents, Mary wanted God to bless her child and to bless her parenting. It is a great responsibility and joy to raise children. God's assistance ought to be expected throughout all the ups and downs of parenting.

#### Mary made certain Jesus grew not only physically but emotionally and spiritually.

Luke succinctly reports: "And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God" (Luke 2:40). The challenge for all parents is to ensure their children grow in wholeness and holiness. This is greatly facilitated when parents themselves provide positive role models—and in all Mary had done she had demonstrated that quality in her own life and choices. **R**

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

**Victor Parachin is a regular contributor to Signs of the Times magazine, who writes from Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA.**



Higher Clips

## A Christmas challenge

BY REUBEN HOPE

**T**HOUGH CHRISTMASSES HAVE COME  
and gone  
More than two thousand years,  
The story of the Saviour's birth  
Is still music to our ears.  
The angels' chorus sang the song  
Those years of long ago;  
Today we are His messengers  
To set the world aglow

He asks that we will shine our light  
In a world that's dark with sin.  
If we are to succeed in that,  
Then He must dwell within.  
We must be the Saviour's hands  
To clothe the poor and lame,  
To feed the hungry, help the sick—  
That's how we praise His name.

On that initial Christmas Day,  
God's gift to all mankind  
Was given as a gift of love,  
To free us from the bind  
That man is all entangled with.  
Our hearts so full of sin  
Are freed from Satan's clutches  
When Jesus lives within.

So let us, on this Christmas Day,

Spread His love abroad.  
A kind word to the lonely  
We can all afford.  
A helping hand in time of need—  
That is the Saviour's way.  
We need to do the things He'd do  
If He were here today.

He's coming back before too long.  
The signs are all around.  
Will you hear the words "Well done"  
When before Him you are found?  
For He says the things we do  
For others in their need  
Are things that we have done for Him  
When we overcome our greed.

Jesus gave His life for us.  
What will you give for Him?  
On this coming Christmas Day  
Will you let Him in?  
He longs to take your heart of stone  
And fill it full of love.  
Then He'll take you home one day  
To dwell with Him above. **R**

**Reuben Hope writes from Auckland, New Zealand.**



# It's lunchtime!

BY JOHN GATE

**H**OW CAN WE ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO RESPOND AND ACT ON WHAT they have been viewing? In 2005, the Victorian Conference faced this challenge and tried something new. About eight weeks after the TV advertising, and when people had been viewing videos for five or six weeks, they invited the video viewers to "Lunch with Geoff." This was a church-sponsored vegetarian meal, usually in a public venue, where people could mingle freely together, enjoy friendship over a vegetarian meal—either lunch or dinner—and enjoy having Geoff as guest speaker.

Pastor Geoff Youlden is the presenter of the *Search* videos and is a drawcard. He shares a little on his role in the production of the *Search* series, and then focuses attention on world conditions today. The presentation takes about 45 minutes and, at the conclusion, guests are invited to enrol in a prophecy seminar, starting a week from the lunch.



Pastor Geoff Youlden (second from left) with video ministry guests at "Dinner with Geoff" at Rowville church, Victoria.

In the 15 churches where this new approach was trialled, 80 per cent of the video-viewing friends enrolled in the prophecy seminars. It was a major breakthrough.

Each church involved in video ministry should plan a Lunch with Geoff about two months after the time of TV advertising in their area. Information is available for advertising, application forms, menus and other items that need to be attended to.


Video viewers are happy and comfortable to attend programs such as this, because everyone likes a free meal, and because they attend with a friend that they have come to trust through the delivery and viewing of videos.

It's worth a try in your church. It's time for lunch! **R**

*John Gate is director of the Adventist Discovery Centre.*

## Record Roo's

Kids Corner



Hi Kids,  
Imagine being surrounded by so many locusts that you couldn't even see the ground! Locusts were Egypt's eighth plague. Read more details in Exodus chapter 10.

RR

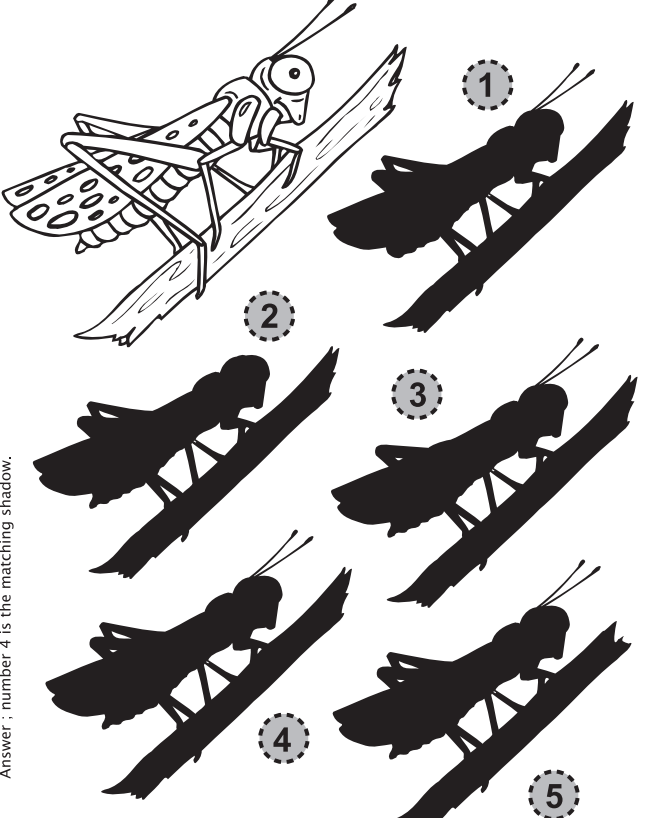
### Fill in the Blanks

'Or else, if you refuse to let my \_\_\_\_\_ go, behold, tomorrow I will bring \_\_\_\_\_ into your territory. And they shall \_\_\_\_\_ the face of the \_\_\_\_\_, so that no one will be able to see the earth...'

Exodus 10:4, 5 NKJV

### Match the Shadow

Study the picture of the locust below and find a shadow that fits it.



**Read**

As well as covering the ground, where else did these insects appear? Read Exodus 10 verses 5,6 and 15.

Answer: number 4 is the matching shadow.

Peta Taylor

## Combat boot?

DANIEL MATTEO, QLD

In response to “Stand up and . . .” (Letters, November 18): If you saw an old woman being beaten with a two-by-four, would you try to save her or stand there and say: “I’m a Christian. I don’t participate in combat”? In certain situations we have a Christian obligation to help those in need. The defence forces are a necessary institution in a sinful world.

I served in the 1st battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment for five years and saw operational service in East Timor. I completed my service without being called on to take a life. Due to the efforts of my unit many lives were saved. I eventually left the Army because of the way it inhibited my Sabbath-keeping. I am a committed Seventh-day Adventist; however, it would be my Christian duty, if I witnessed an attack, to use force to aid the victim.

KERREN MOULDER, QLD

I was called by God to serve in the Australian Army and did so for 15 years. Our defence force bears a message of salvation to all people, irrespective of nationality.

Our soldiers went to Rwanda, Somalia, East Timor, Solomon Islands, Iraq, Afghanistan, Banda Aceh, Bali—not to kill and maim, but to protect from rape and murder, rescue from slaughter and starvation, train people in areas of law and order.

I enlisted to protect those who cannot protect themselves, to defend the oppressed, rescue and save those who are persecuted and to give food, medicine and humanitarian assistance to those who are starving, dying and displaced. This is not a “fuzzy notion of patriotism.” It is what Jesus calls us to do.

TIM WELCH, SA

In the past half-century, our armies have not been deployed to fight another country but to save civilians. The Australian involvement in East Timor was to stop carnage and destruction. The British deployment in Northern Ireland was to stop thugs killing innocent people. The armies of the European Union deployed in Bosnia were there to protect civilians from people determined to wipe them out (they also provided ADRA safe passage). NATO involve-

ment in Kosovo was to protect people, as were foreign troop involvement in Somalia, Lebanon, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Refusing to help those in distress is un-Christian, as illustrated by Jesus in the story of the good Samaritan. Many people see the Australian armed forces as protectors and as good Samaritans.

Adventist involved in the armed forces have my full support. Protecting people is the higher moral ground and there is no “fuzzy notion of patriotism” or desire for “earthly supremacy” in helping others. Jesus said, “Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13).

## Refusing to help those in distress is un-Christian, as illustrated by Jesus in the story of the good Samaritan.

### Adventist counsel

GRAHAM STACEY, AVONDALE COLLEGE, NSW, AND BRYAN CRAIG, DIRECTOR, ADVENTIST FAMILY MINISTRIES, SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

“Adventist Counselling Centre opens in WA” (News, November 18) highlighted the need for counselling services for Seventh-day Adventist families. We applaud this desire to care for Adventist families. However, several statements infer a danger of receiving services from sources other than Adventists, which, in the majority of cases, is not supported by fact.

Several assumptions appear to influence such an opinion: that only an Adventist can help an Adventist; that there is a single “approved” Adventist counselling modality; that all other counsellors are inferior; that all other counsellors are antagonistic to the Adventist world view, and undermine the Adventist faith experience.

Without reservation we support the Adventist Church establishing professional service centres. However, in many situations, Adventist families cannot get to Adventist counsellors. Further, there are times when Adventist families could benefit from professional services not associated with the church—finding a secure and neutral environment away from “in-

house” associations.

Many professionally trained Adventist counsellors provide helpful service to both Adventists and non-Adventists. If we can trust Adventist counsellors to be professional, we should extend that trust to other professionals. Adventists do not have a monopoly on the healing ministries.

If you are an Adventist needing counselling services, ask the following questions before commencing: What is the background, education, training and experience of the counsellor? Are they trained as a relationship counsellor? What is the type of counselling offered? Is it suitable to my needs? What are the management procedures of

the clinic with respect to record keeping and confidentiality? Do they belong to a professional association to help monitor professional standards and practices? Do they receive ongoing peer or professional supervision? Will they refer me to specialised service providers if necessary?

After receiving satisfactory answers to these questions, ask whether they understand and respect your Adventist tradition and are prepared to work with you.

### White outrage

IAN JOHNSON, NSW

I am appalled at the open ridicule expressed in “Careful reading” (Letters, November 4) against the inspired writings of Ellen White. To refer to her writings as “absurdities” and her as “the truly stupid” is offensive. Being unaware of the connection between what a person takes into their brain and later psychiatric problems reveals a need for learning about life—and the human mind.

**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.

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## Appreciation

**Kelly**, Geoff and Ina, together with siblings Roslyn, Bronwyn and Warwick, and families, would like to thank all friends, relatives, and various church families for cards, flowers, visits, phone calls, prayers and other expressions of sympathy on the death of our beloved eldest daughter, Christine. Also, many thanks to the staff at Sydney Adventist Hospital, Jacaranda Lodge and the support group, and those who tended her in her last days.

## Weddings

**Clifford—Norman**. David Allan Clifford, son of Garry and Julianne Clifford (Lake Munmorah, NSW), and Sarah Elizabeth Norman, daughter of Mark (Sydney) and Anne Norman (Cooanbong), were married on 10.11.06 on Coon Island, Newcastle.

*Trafford Fischer*

**Hanna—Brice**. Dr Rafik Hanna, son of Evonne (Ontario, Canada) and the late Peter Hanna, and Sarah Esta Brice, daughter of Susan White (Brisbane, Qld) and the late Walter Brice, were married on 1.10.06 in the Old Mill Chapel, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

*Andrew Kapusi*

**Harrison—Sedgman**. Christopher Harrison, son of Gordon Cork (Newcastle, NSW) and Sue Harrison (Taree), and Joanna Sedgman, daughter of David Sedgman and Louise Green (both of Sydney), were married on 8.10.06 in St John's church, Wilberforce, near Sydney.

*Grenville Kent*

**Hughes—Murdoch**. Harold John Hughes and Shirley Ann Murdoch (nee Smith), were married on 18.11.06 at Cleveland, Qld.

*Neil Tyler*

**Kammermann—Bergman**. Timothy John Kammermann, son of Tony and Lynette Kammermann (Dubbo, NSW), and Pia Helena Bergman, daughter of Jorma and Tuija Bergman (Finland), were married on 12.11.06 at Orana Education Centre, Dubbo.

*Dale Arthur*

## Volunteers!

**Clinical Assistant/HIV and AIDS Coordinator—PNGUM Health Department**. A registered nurse (or similar) is required to assist the PNGUM health director. Duties include: coordinate all PNGUM HIV and AIDS mainstreaming plans and activities; organise, conduct or support health workshops, seminars or conventions, as authorised by health director. Please contact Rebecca Reye (rreye@adra.org.pg); or Hayley on (02) 9847 3275.

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

+61 2 9847 3275



**Smith—Chia**. Mitchel Nathaneal John, son of John and Julee Smith (Bunbury, WA), and Jasmine Caroline Chia, daughter of Andrew and Gabrielle Chia (Capel), were married on 18.11.06 at Meadowbrooke Estate, Boyanup.

*Robert Kingdon*

**Thomas—Slame**. Christian Thomas, son of Aldredo and Maria Thomas (Sydney, NSW), and Ana Carina Slame, daughter of Amado and Nelida Slame (Catamarca, Argentina), were married on 10.10.06 in Catamarca, Argentina.

*Daniel Vergara*

**White—Beetz**. Mark William White, son of James and Robyn White (Sydney, NSW), and Gina Marita Beetz, daughter of Benjamin and Corrie Beetz (Taree), were married on 12.11.06 at Beecroft Presbyterian church (Sydney).

*Nataniel Pereira*

## Obituaries

**Bagshaw**, Violet, born 7.4.1916 in England; died 23.10.06 at Morlin Lodge, Red Hill, Canberra, ACT. She was predeceased by her husband, John, in 2001. She is survived by her daughters, Jackie Blaxall (Sydney, NSW), Cynthia Bean and Vivien Stewart (both of Canberra, ACT). Violet cared greatly for the needs of her family and those around her. Later in life she enjoyed family visits and had a particularly joyous spirit.

*Dale Arthur*

**Biermann**, Maria, born 18.11.1907 in Germany; died 7.11.06 in Brisbane, Qld, 11 days short of her 99th birthday. She is survived by her sons and daughters-in-law, Vince and Elisabeth, and Wolfgang and Jane; and her grandchildren, Ashley, Shans, Melinda, Amanda, Tracy and Sean. Maria was a faithful member of Albion church in Brisbane, and attended faithfully until her 97th year, and then unfortunately had to go into palliative care for the remainder of her very fruitful life. Her strong faith, good courage and her cheerful personality will be sorely missed by her large church family and family members.

*Ted White*

## Position vacant

▲ **Supervisor, Preschool**. The Papatoetoe Seventh-day Adventist Community Church has formed a community trust to develop a new early childhood centre, the **Papatoetoe Footsteps Community Preschool** located in Puhitui Road, Manukau City, NZ. The planned opening is second term 2007. The Supervisor must have the appropriate teacher registration with the NZ Ministry of Education and the proven experience to take this leadership role. **Applications in writing** (including resume) should be forwarded to the Chairman, Footsteps Community Preschool, PO Box 23-231, Hunters Corner, Auckland, NZ; email <jim@incentivedirect.co.nz>; phone (09) 360 4470. Applications close **January 12.2007**.

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

**Billis**, Peter James, born 1.5.1935 in Forbes, NSW; died unexpectedly 24.10.06 at home near Wards River, NSW. He is survived by his wife, Meryl; his children and their spouses, Keryn and Bill Hickey, Christine and Graham Stewart, Stuart and Melissa; and his eight grandchildren. Peter was held in high regard, both in the church and in the community. He served as head deacon and treasurer in the Gloucester Adventist church; was a member of Apex, Rotary and Probus, as well as one of the Adventist representatives on the Gloucester Inter-Church Council; and had been a member of the local fire brigade. All the clergy from the town's Christian churches were in attendance, and a guard of honour was formed by the Gloucester Rotarians at the graveside. Peter will be greatly missed by all.

*Wilfred Pascoe*

**Cameron**, Reginald Lawrence, born 7.7.1936 at Murrumbidgee, Vic; died 7.11.06 in Alfred Hospital, Prahan. On 30.4.68 he married Joy. He is survived by his wife; his son, Craig (both of Ringwood); his daughter, Kathryn (Turkey); and their families. Laurie was an active member of the local Rotary Club; also Probus (a fellowship of retired businessmen), and tennis club. The memorial service was attended by an equal number of church members and non-church members. The Ringwood church was packed, undoubtedly due to Laurie's loving and friendly nature. In 1989 he received a heart transplant and lived a further 17 years.

*Mervyn Sparrowhawk, Michael Mohanu*

**Cassie**, Allen Francis, born 17.2.1935 in Brisbane, Qld; died 3.11.06 in Brisbane, after a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Shirley (nee Brooks); his children and their spouses, Linda, Kenneth and Anne Marie, Brian and Jan, Rodney and Linelle, and Neville and Leanne; his five grandchildren; and his older sisters, Joan, Norma and Ethel. Allen was extremely active in the building industry for his church. As a faithful member of Mitchelton church, he helped in rebuilding Mitchelton church hall and church renovations, Albion church extensions and renovations, and many other church projects both here and overseas. He will be sorely missed by his family and church family.

*Ted White*

**Cooke**, Margaret Joyce (Peg, nee Appleton), born 15.9.1924 at Corinda, Qld; died 3.11.06 at Cleveland. On 11.4.46 she married Ashley. She is survived by her husband (Victoria Point); her daughter, Wendy (Lismore, NSW); her son, Peter

(Port Hedland, WA); her sister-in-law, Val Appleton (Thorntons, Qld) her five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Peg had served in the church as deaconess, kindergarten Sabbath school leader, and in Dorcas; also as president of the Welfare Federation. She was a beautiful person, very loving, kind, lovable and generous. She loved helping people.

*Keith Miller, Neil Tyler*

**Cracknell, Sr**, Frederick William, born 26.3.1917 in Perth, WA; died 1.11.06 in the Northaven Nursing Home, Turrumurra, NSW. He is survived by his wife, Olive (nee Adam); his half-sister, Velma (Perth, WA); his children and their spouses, Fred and Janelle (Lake Macquarie), Glen and Christine (Perth, WA), Desiree and Don McNicholl (Sydney, NSW); his 17 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. After training as a teacher at age 37, he spent his remaining working life in WA as the senior art master and eventually assistant to the Deputy at Bentley High School. While suffering ill health in his latter years, Fred never lost his creative and eccentric approach to living. Loved and respected by all who knew him, he will be sadly missed by family and friends.

*Barry Wright*

**Cross**, Muriel Alison (nee Cowley), born 4.3.1913 in Mackay, Qld, and was the fifth of 10 children; died 21.10.06 at the ARV Hostel, Brisbane. In 1939 she married Roy. They enjoyed 63 years together in service for God and others. She is survived by her daughters and their spouses, Ann and Dr Roger Henley, and Robyn and Michael Raymond; her five grandchildren; her five great-grandchildren; and her brother, Ted. Muriel lived a happy, productive life for almost a century, and despite her advanced years she remained positive and grateful to God for His goodness. Her gracious attitude endeared her to all who knew her.

*Judy Fuu, Selwyn Bartlett*

**Detoya**, Maximino Demandante, born 29.5.1926 at Dumangas, Iloilo, Philippines; died 18.8.06 in Murray Bridge Soldiers Memorial Hospital, after a short illness. In 1954 he married Encarnacion. He is survived by his wife; his children, Lorna Barker (Murray Bridge), George (Mawson Lakes), Edgar (Murray Bridge), Allan, Alma Inato, and Joel (all of Davao City, Philippines); and their families. Maximino was a teacher all his working life, and retired with his wife in 1989. He was a living sermon, loving and dearly loved.

*Lee Bowditch-Walsh*

**Dyer**, Myra Julie, born 20.2.1919 at Loxton, SA; died 1.11.06 at Howdon House, Barmera. On 13.2.43 she married Murray. She was predeceased by her children, Julie, on 12.11.75 and Dennis, on 28.10.50. She is survived by her husband; her children, Barbara Yates, Heather Rossach, Wendy Leckie, Terry Dyer, Alison Woolford, and Gloria Dyer (all of Barmera); and their families. Myra loved her Lord. She was a true Aussie; loved her country and its people; and was still a "truckie" at 83. She has a place in Truckies Hall of Fame, Alice Springs, NT.  
*Robert Porter*

**Faggotter**, Horace George, born 18.7.1908 at Broken Hill, NSW; died 20.9.06 at Wynnum, Qld. He was predeceased by his wife, Annie, in February 2006. He is survived by his son, Robert (Tingalpa, Qld); his daughter and son-in-law, Vera and Grant John (Merrin); and his five grandchildren. Pastor Alec Thomson conducted the funeral service with the comforting words of 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.  
*Alec Thomson*

**Fisher**, Jack Patrick, born 11.11.2006 at Wagga Wagga, NSW; stillborn 11.11.06 at Wagga Wagga. He is survived by his parents, David and Jacqui (nee Verhoeff); and his sister, Brooke. Jack's family look forward to Christ's return when their disappointment will be turned to joy.  
*Neil Lawson*

**Jurello**, Janina, born 15.9.1911 in Lithuania; died 7.11.06 in Jindalee Nursing Home, Narrabundah, ACT. She was predeceased by her husband, Eustucha. She is survived by her son, Konrad Jurello Sr; her daughters, Luda Kracauk and Ala Child (all of Canberra); her six grandchildren; her 10 great-grandchildren; and her two great-great-grandchildren. Janina came to appreciate very much the freedom and opportunities that life in Australia can give, and was very glad that these could be shared with her family.  
*Dale Arthur*

**Krussmann**, Vera Isabelle, born 14.2.1910 at Grenfell, NSW; died 1.11.06 at Bellingen. In 1931 she married Walter Hope, who predeceased her in 1945. In 1953 she married Hubert Krussmann, who predeceased her in 1968. She was also predeceased by her son, Lawrence, in 1990. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Betty and Ken Trewin (Maitland); her daughter, Nell Haydon (Bellingen); her son and daughter-in-law, Reuben and Beth Hope (Auckland, NZ); her daughter-in-law, Lorraine Hope (Brisbane, Qld); her 10 grandchildren; her 16 great-grandchildren; and her one great-great-grandchild. Vera will be remembered as a kind, unselfish and caring person whose life reflected her strong love for her Lord.  
*Eric Greenwell*

**Lewis**, Jennifer Megan (nee Marshall), born 19.7.1939 at Portland, England; died 14.11.06 in Mater Hospital, Brisbane, Qld. In 1976 she married her second husband, Eugene. She was predeceased by her son, Shaun Marsh. She is survived by her husband; her children, Shalayne, Nicholas, Alyson and Pelham. Jenny gave much of her life to working for and with the

disabled. She also sponsored an overseas child. She finally closed her eyes after a courageous battle with cancer.  
*Bob Possingham*

**Matherson**, Edna, born 10.1.1919 under the old bridge on the Barron River at Kuranda, Qld; died 29.10.06 at her home in Cairns. She was predeceased by her parents, Charlie and Rosie Matherson. She lived the past 63 years with the King family and is sadly missed by the Matherson and Maloney families. Edna was a matriachal figure among her Aboriginal people and a much loved member of the Cairns SDA church.  
*Roger Ward*

**Middleton**, George Robert, born 18.3.1937 at North Perth, WA; died 1.11.06 in Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Perth. On 30.7.58 he married Nancy Till. He is survived by his wife; his children and their spouses, David and Shona, and Lisa and Phil Barlass; and his granddaughter, Ashlee (all of Perth). George was not a church member, but was known among members and well thought of in the community. Nancy, Lisa and Phil have been active members in Perth and North Perth churches.  
*Cyrus Adams*

**Olchowik**, Judith Theresa, born 15.6.1937 at Horsham, Vic; died 3.11.06 at Coritas Christi, Kew, after a long battle with cancer. On 12.6.60 she married Arthur. She is survived by her husband; her daughters and their spouses, Helen Olchowik, Anna and Ian Gustafsson, and Kathy and Peter Smith (all of Melbourne); and her five grandchildren. Judith enjoyed singing, dancing and artistic things. She now rests in Christ.  
*John Denne, Barry Cheswick*

**Scott**, Elaine Yvonne (nee Pengilly), born 26.11.1921 at Concord, NSW; died 8.11.06 in the ARV Hostel, Brisbane, Qld. Elaine committed herself to God at an early age and she trusted His leading throughout her entire life. She spent 20 happy years as head of the Dressmaking Department at Avondale College. In 1962 she married Bill, and they shared 43 wonderful years. She was predeceased by her brother, Ron Pengilly, in 1989; also her sister-in-law, Fay Pengilly, in 1998. She is survived by her husband; her cousin, Pastor Reg King; her niece, Del Bennett; and her nephew, Colin Pengilly. Elaine's faith remained strong throughout the illness that finally claimed her life. She now rests peacefully, awaiting the call of the Life-giver.  
*Judy Fua, Neil Peatey*

**Skelton**, James Fredrick (Jim), born 9.2.1914 at Wee Waa, NSW; died 5.9.06 in Charles Harrison Memorial Home (Cooranbong). On 29.1.37 he married Lorna. He is survived by his wife (Cooranbong); and his daughter, Pam Kessell (Redhead). Jim was a tireless worker for Charlestown and Hamilton churches. As a deacon, he had a passionate involvement with JMV's and Pathfinders. He was always serving and giving in his local community.  
*Colin Renfrew*

**Smith**, Laurance Parker (Laurie), born 19.1.1951 at Ngaruawahia, NZ; died 19.7.06 at Te Kauwhata, after a long ill-

ness. He is survived by his wife, Marie (nee Johns, Te Kauwhata); his children and their spouses, Darian and Adrienne, Luana and Cliff Beverley (Auckland), Nicola and Tony Price (Tauranga), Bevan and Dallyce (Te Kauwhata), Claire and Andrew Pope (Central Coast, NSW), Aimee, and Wayde (both of Sydney); his four grandchildren; his father, Parker; and his siblings, Calvin, Hazel Boldero, Geoff, Cheryl Krissonsen (all of Te Kauwhata, NZ), Denys (Cambridge), Grace Richter (Newcastle, NSW), and Lyn Wood (Brisbane, Qld). Laurance was an outgoing person who loved life, his family, and God. He spent many hours working for the benefit of young people, both in his local community and in church programs, especially Pathfinders. He was greatly loved by many and is sadly missed.  
*Ben Timothy, Ross Simon*

**Soar**, Margaret, born 15.11.1915 at Hucknall, England; died 15.11.06 at Strathalbyn, SA, on her 91st birthday. On 16.3.40 she married Eric, who predeceased her in 1978. She is survived by her sons, Tony, Chris, Roger, Andrew and Tim; her eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. Margaret was a gentle, well-mannered person with a constant smile. She will be sadly missed as we wait for the Resurrection morning.  
*Allan Croft*

## Advertisements

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**Carmel centenary—2007 Homecoming weekend.** Calling all former students, workers and friends of Carmel Adventist College. Our centenary will be held next year and the highlight of our year-long celebrations will be the Homecoming weekend to be held **September 28–30, 2007**. This will commence with a Vespers program on the Friday evening, and include a special Sabbath service, evening program and Sunday tour of the college. Please plan now to attend. For further details contact Mrs Nerolie Hiscox on (08) 9293 5333; or email <nhiscox@adventist-ed.wa.edu.au>.

**Cottage to rent.** New 1 bedroom fully-furnished cottage on market garden farm one hour north of Brisbane CBD. Rental agreement negotiable. Phone (07) 5496 1949; <koolkuna\_retreat@bigpond.com.au>.

**Vacancies:** Health Centre Manager, gardener, cleaner, laundry, cook. Enrolments open for 2007. Medical Missionary Training Institute Inc. <mmti@tpg.com.au> <www.mmti.org.au>; (07) 4778 0000; 0404 715 102.

**House for sale on 2 ha, near Altonville, NNSW.** Large, modern 5 bedrooms, open living area design. Large veranda with north-east country views. Large shed approved for home industries. Sealed road. Phone (02) 6628 6006.

**Volunteer Indigenous Project Coordinator.** South NSW Conference require a project coordinator for 6–12 months to work at Dubbo, NSW, with a focus in indigenous ministry. The role will require someone with good communication skills, a desire to empower indigenous people, detect potential leaders, organise programs and appropriate projects. Expressions of interest: Norm Hardy, General Secretary, South NSW Conference; email <nhardy@adventist.org.au>; phone (02) 6249 6822.

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**Go Veg** making your Christmas yummier! Schnitzels, strudels, patties, pastries, gift hampers. 10 Berry Street, Clyde, NSW. (02) 9897 0000. 9.00 am–5.00 pm, Monday to Friday. www.goveg.com.au. Sorry no eftpos. Cash only. Go Veg open until 22/12/06 and reopens 15/1/06. Wishing our valued customers a merry Christmas and an enjoyable and rewarding 2007.

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## Finally

Nothing makes your sense of humour disappear faster than having somebody ask where it is.