

RECORD

February 17, 2007

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Pastor Wayne Krause (standing) works with a group of church members planning for a house church in the southern suburbs of Perth.



Today: Day of prayer for drought

WA grows church planting focus

PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Western Australian Conference's focus on planting new churches has continued to grow with their second Church Planting Summit held last month.

According to conference president Pastor Glenn Townend, church planters came from many places within the conference for the January 20-23 meetings, which was more than just a weekend.

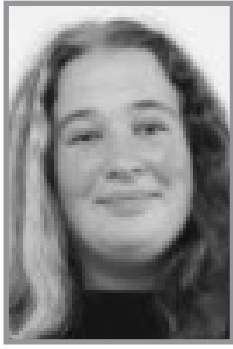
"More than 20 of the 34 who came stayed for the entire time, which is true commitment."

Pastor Wayne Krause, director of the Centre of Church Planting for the South

Pacific Division, spoke on the stages and process of starting a new church, small groups and how to build a strategic plan that includes discipleship. Western Australian Conference leaders also led in training and vision sessions.

But, according to Pastor Townend, the summit was not just about learning. "Participants had plenty of time to reflect spiritually, pray through the prayers of the Bible and apply what they were learning to their particular project," he says. "Being pioneers for God is not just a human plan—knowing what God is doing and blessing is vital."

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There are no easy answers, and this is even more the case with euthanasia.

Good death?

IN AUSTRALIA'S NORTHERN TERRITORY in 1996, voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide were legalised under the *Rights of the Terminally Ill Act 1995*. This legislation allowed the terminally ill to commit physician-assisted suicide but was nullified by the Australian Federal Government in 1997. In this time, only three people chose to end their lives in this manner.

These deaths followed lengthy application processes designed to ensure that it was truly what the patient wanted, that they were mentally competent and also terminally ill.

Voluntary euthanasia—including physician-assisted suicide—has been legalised in Belgium, the Netherlands and Switzerland, with Oregon, USA, having the Death With Dignity law, which covers voluntary physician-assisted deaths, and Colombia working on legislation to allow it.

In more recent times, a doctor from Sydney chose to end his life with the assistance of Dignitas in Switzerland on January 25. Dr John Elliot was suffering from multiple myeloma—an incurable cancer of the plasma cells. In a statement he released to the media, he said, “I am sharing my story to help our politicians understand why people must be allowed control and responsibility in dying, just like they do in living.”

Euthanasia is a divisive issue, and one that's been in the Australian media in recent weeks with the passing of Dr Elliot and Australian Attorney-General Philip Ruddock appealing the decision of the Film and

Literature Classification Board's restricted classification on Dr Philip Nitschke's book *The Peacefull Pill Handbook*.

Opinion polls consistently show around 70 per cent of Australians are in favour of creating legislation to allow voluntary euthanasia, so it must be assumed there are Christians within the numbers of respondents who support voluntary euthanasia.

So how does this work with the Christian belief in the sixth commandment about not killing (see Exodus 20:13)? How can we balance postponing death with doing all we can to ensure those with terminal illnesses suffer the least amount of pain possible? There aren't any hints for dealing with this in the Bible, although there are two mentions of “euthanasia” (see Judges 9:52-55 and 2 Samuel 1:9, 10).

Palliative care has advanced greatly in the past century, and can provide excellent management of pain, care for those who can't care for themselves and support for people in the last stages of terminal illnesses.

But perhaps it could also be said that quality of life isn't just about being physically alive. Thanks to medical advances, life in some form or another can be preserved way beyond what it ever could have been. Although we as Christians live with the hope and expectation of life beyond the present, our society is still heavily focused on not dying or getting older—there are a myriad of pills, lotions and potions you can use in an attempt to ward off either or both.

We must also remember life isn't something we live in isolation—we're connected to God and those around us in a multidimensional set of relationships, and although death and dying are personal matters, they have an impact on those in the surrounding sets of relationships.

But what about when it comes to the end of life? We can never have a programmed “one-size-fits-all” approach with this—each case is different and we all react differently to the deaths of those around us. There are no easy answers, and this is even more the case with euthanasia—do we allow people to choose when they die, seemingly taking the decision out of God's hands, or do we let them live in constant pain?

God didn't create us to die. His ideal was that we would live forever without suffering or pain. But, because of sin, things aren't easy, pain-free or without suffering.

This is something God knows all too well—after all, He sent Jesus to die for all of us. His death provides us with the chance of eternal life where we won't have to worry about these kinds of problems. He'll restore lives as well as the earth—it's all laid out in the final chapters of Revelation.

Death is not the end of everything as far as God is concerned. We have to ensure we're right in our relationship with Him so, whenever the moment comes, we'll know that “in life and in death, we belong to the Lord” (Romans 14:8, NLT).

Adele Nash



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

ABCs grow in the Pacific

LAKE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Adventist Book Centres (ABC) in the islands of the South Pacific are thriving, with 2006 being another record year for sales in most ABCs.

The enthusiasm for Christian literature is best seen in the ABC Open Day held in November, reports island ABC development manager Doug Oaklands.

Mr Oaklands says, "An open day takes several months of planning and advertising, but they're an important outreach into the community. In several places there are television announcements, features on radio talkback and newspaper advertising.

"This is a much-anticipated event. People gather from the early hours of the morning. You'll see people standing or sitting in groups talking together, long before the planned starting time," he adds.

"At opening time church mission leaders come and call the waiting crowd together for a time of worship and thanksgiving to God for the opportunity and privilege to purchase Christian materials for their families."

Several ABCs set up tents to display a specially purchased stock of Bibles, Christian music CDs and DVDs, and a variety

of denominational publications for all ages. These are displayed in interest areas and age groupings.

"After worship, the people reverently make their way into the tents, but the excitement mounts as they see so much on sale," adds Mr Oaklands.

"I was present at an open day where the local radio station was broadcasting live. They were telling the community to come and see what was available—and the people came.

"Throughout the morning, pastors and church leaders spoke on loudspeakers, talking about key literature on sale for Christian leaders, for families, on health and Bible study."

Mr Oaklands hears people say that God's presence is in the ABC tent. He knows there are many who have come to know Jesus and joined the church by such events in the Pacific. He is told that many people have come for the first time to an ABC Open Day.

When the last customer has gone, the leaders, security and the helpers gather for worship to give thanks and praise to God for bringing so many people, and to ask that the Holy Spirit will influence those who purchased literature that day.

"The ABC staff were tired, but satisfied



People at the Lae ABC Open Day.

that God has led and abundantly blessed their ministry for the Lord," says Mr Oaklands. "And I've seen again that the church's publications in the Pacific are a vital part of growing God's kingdom."

Liz Dunstan, book department manager at Signs Publishing Company, who oversaw the distribution of the open day stock, says, "The Pacific arena of our ABC operation is growing as fast as we can supply it, and the preparation for the November open day event starts back in February.

"However, the people are realising that the literature and media products available from the ABC has a revolutionising effect on their lives—meaning we are fulfilling our mission statement in the broadest sense. We expect this current year to be bigger and better than ever!"—**RECORD staff/Doug Oaklands**



◆ Staff from Papatoetoe church, NZ, recently visited Chicago, USA, for 10 days to attend Willow Creek's "Acts 2" and "Preaching and teaching" conferences. They met with leaders of other churches to get more ideas on how to make church work better. The conference focused on local churches and issues relating to planting new locations, maintaining a community and outward vision and how

to be more evangelistic.—**Jacinda Turnbull-Harman**

◆ Aaron Smith recently won the ACT bodybuilder's championship in his class. Set for the National Championships in Melbourne, he did not enter as it was running on Sabbath. Aaron, instead, demonstrated a commitment to God through a personal testimony and



baptism on January 20 at National church, ACT. His friend, Rebecca Poels, played a musical item on violin beside him in the front. On the same day, Robin Maresch was also baptised and National's new volunteer assistant minister, Clansi Roy, was welcomed to the church.—**Dale Authur**

◆ While visiting home in Australia, Gary Krause, a former assistant editor of RECORD, now field secretary at the General Conference and director of Adventist Mission, and his wife Bettina, special assistant to General Conference Presi-



dent Pastor Jan Paulsen, had their 14-month-old daughter, Bethany Grace, dedicated at Alstonville church, NSW. The January 6 service was conducted by the baby's grandfather, Pastor Ernie Krause, prayer was by Gary's brother, Pastor Wayne Krause, whose daughter, Jessica, read a poem. The Scripture readings were read by the baby's grandfather, Dennis Tedman.—**Paula Chestnut**

WA grows church planting focus

(Continued from page 1)

“A highlight of the summit was the reports given by those who were at the first summit and are already establishing effective ministries to new people groups and areas,” reports Pastor Townend.

Brad Flynn, from Jigsaw, a new children’s congregation at Fremantle church, said it was easy to fall back to old habits and that reaching new people and developing others needed to be a focus.

Pastor John Horvath, from All Nations in Mirrabooka, spoke of the need to not only just discuss and write out plans but to meet people and begin doing something to help others. Sven Ostring is working with university students and reported that learning the principles of church planting was important but they had to be adapted to each situation.

Pastor Steve Goods and Calvin Sheldrick, from the new group at Landsdale School, said that gaining prayer support, discussion as a team, following up every contact and having a coach were important to their development. Sharon Walmsley, who is a part of the Landsdale group, spoke about Cafe 7—a faith business venture where they will run a cafe in Landsdale to meet people.—**RECORD staff**



◆ The **Tauranga Adventist School**, NZ, was granted special copyright permission to adapt the children’s tale by **Max Lucado** entitled “**You are special!**” It was recently performed by the 90 students of the school at the local Adventist church. The two **sell-out shows** attracted a total audience of more than 500—the majority from the community.—**Ross Bishop**

◆ **Waitara church**, NSW, held its **first Master Guide investiture** in more than 35 years recently. Co-director of the club **Carol Sedgman** started her Master Guide requirements when she was 16 years old and living in Jamaica. Now 60, Mrs Sedgman was invested, along with her son, **Luke**, and several others.—**Intrasyd**

◆ **Signs Publishing Company** (SPC), usually responsible for visual products, is now indirectly responsible for an audio product. The album, *Desert Rose*, was recorded by JSL, who is made up of vocalists

Julie-Ann Rayner, the daughter of the SPC computer systems administrator, **Sherie Brown**, daughter of the SPC book editor, and **Leonie Jull (nee Rayner)**, SPC subscriptions coordinator and daughter of the computer systems administrator. JSL initially set out to record songs for their posterity but during the process felt they wanted to share with others and so started recording in Easter 2001.

More @ www.jslcd.com

◆ **Professor Bruce Waldrip** has become the world’s first Seventh-day Adventist to be appointed as a

full, tenured professor in science education. Professor Waldrip is also fourth ranked education researcher in Australia in terms of number and value of grants over the period 2001-07. He was the first Adventist to complete his PhD in science education back in the early 1990s. During the past four years, he has attracted more than \$A5 million in research grants. His research focus is on **how to improve the teaching and learning of science.** He writes regularly on cultural issues in teaching, particularly when the teacher is not an indigenous educator.—**Lynne Hughes**

Adventists lead “fly’n’hear”

MANDURAH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

A team of seven Australians, including five Seventh-day Adventists, returned from conducting a volunteer “fly’n’hear” hearing-aid clinic in the city of Aizawal in the north-east Indian state of Mizoram on January 2.

This was the fourth time the team has visited the clinic. The team was led by an Adventist, West Australian hearing-aid specialist Graham Weir, and included Sydney Adventist Hospital staff Ian and Zuali Barrett, community nurse Debie Colieo of Newcastle and Dr Wendy Sexton, a medical doctor from Perth.

The team tested 360 people and supplied Australian-donated hearing aids to approximately 200 in just two weeks in December. Mr Weir, who suffers from a severe hearing loss himself, said the isolated city located in the picturesque, mountainous region between Bangladesh and Myanmar was a fascinating area.

He was also surprised to discover the population of this isolated area were 90 per cent Christian, with a large Advent-



The busy volunteer “fly’n’hear” hearing clinic scene—360 people were tested and 200 provided with hearing aids in two weeks.

ist presence. “The church has at least four very large congregations and even a small hospital. The two main congregations were absolutely packed on Sabbath—mostly with young people,” he says.

“Unfortunately, there are still no professional hearing-aid services for the population of more than 800,000 Mizos, so you can understand why our clinic was packed with locals with hearing problems. It was pretty exhausting, but very satisfying.”

He said the team were grateful for their partial sponsorship by Asian Aid, and especially the large number of hearing aids collected by Joyce Sinclair, director of Perth Lions Hearing Foundation.—**RECORD staff/Graham Weir**

Mission Institute provides missionary training

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The 2007 Mission Institute, held at Avondale College from January 11 to 27, was attended by a small group of six families going to four Pacific-island countries. The two-week-long training program for overseas missionaries is conducted each year by the South Pacific Division's (SPD) Expatriate Support Service and the General Conference (GC)-sponsored Institute of World Mission.

Key presenters this year included Pat Gustin, former director of the Institute of World Mission, Pastor Clifton Maberly, a former missionary to Thailand and Korea, and Pastor Graeme Humble, who is this year under appointment himself to Pacific Adventist University.

Participants this year included four families going to (or already in) Papua New Guinea, one family in New Caledonia and one family in New Zealand serving the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference. However, they represented five different countries of origin, including Canada, Argentina, the Seychelles, New Zealand and Australia.

Each year the Mission Institute helps new missionaries grapple with transition to new cultures and gives instruction in

cross-cultural communication, contextualisation and the global mission of the church.

Pastor Ray Coombe, director of Adventist Mission for the SPD, says, "Mission Institute is a fun time that involves an ethnographic study and field trip to Sydney, a banquet talent night, plus serious research into the area or country of appointment and other assigned reading. The group also included a handful of children, who enjoyed special activities and child care provided by Amanda Hepworth and assistants.

"Morning worships, prayer groups and an agape feast nurtured the devotional aspect of the institute program. Mission Institute participants were responsible for the Sabbath school and worship program for the day at College church on Sabbath, January 27, with the SPD general secretary, Dr Barry Oliver, preaching the dedication sermon."

Although positions for overseas missionaries are not as plentiful as in years gone



The 2007 Mission Institute, attended by six families who are doing missionary work this year, was held at Avondale College from January 11 to 27.

by due to localisation, the SPD supports 49 missionary families within the SPD and has an additional 25 other families working in other parts of the world field, including the GC.

Pastor Coombe says, "Such an expatriate missionary program costs the SPD almost \$A10 million per year to maintain, with these funds coming directly from tithe funds that make up the SPD annual budget. This demonstrates that the day of missionaries is not past, and indeed will never be while our global mission is not yet completed."—**Ray Coombe/RECORD staff**

◆ The six simultaneous outreach efforts held in **Myanmar** from November 11 to 18, 2006, resulted in **903 baptisms**. The efforts were organised by both local members, church leaders and a 46-member support team from the USA and South Korea. To raise awareness of the meetings, themed "Back to Eden," some **80 cyclists** distributed Voice of Prophecy Discovery Bible courses to people living in the country's remotest villages. Their outreach resulted in nearly **1500 individuals earning the Discovery Bible**

Certificate. Organisers of the event plan to return to Myanmar in 2008 to "help finish God's work."—**ANN/AR.**

◆ The **Party for Animal Welfare** made its entry into the 150-seat parliament at the elections for the national parliament in the Netherlands, held on November 22, 2006. **Marianne Thieme** (34), the leader of the party that received enough votes for two seats, is a **Seventh-day Adventist** church member. **Dr Reinder Bruinsma**, the president of the Netherlands Union Conference,

sent his congratulations to her, expressing the wish that she would be able to achieve measurable results in working for her ideals.—**TED News**

◆ The **Vietnam Seventh-day Adventist Church** and the Vietnam Grace Baptist Church have officially received certificates of religious practice in **Ho Chi Minh City**. The certificates were handed over by **Nguyen Thanh Xuan**, Vice-Chairman of the Government Committee for Religious Affairs, who also took the opportunity to wish them a

merry Christmas at a ceremony. Xuan affirmed that the Vietnam Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Vietnam Grace Baptist Church are **provided with all legitimate rights** as well as favourable conditions for performing religious practice, printing and publishing prayer books, building or upgrading worship places and organising seminars and religious events. Established in Vietnam in 1929, the Vietnam Seventh-day Adventist Church currently has seven pastors and close to 13,000 members.—**VNA**

ADRA—International launches HIV/AIDS resources online

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, USA

To raise awareness about the HIV/AIDS pandemic around the world, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)—International has launched a new resource section on its website about the HIV/AIDS crisis.

This new resource is divided into four topic areas. “What everyone should know” details the myths, facts and important information regarding the viruses, and offers Web visitors accurate and up-to-date information.

“Our HIV/AIDS response” includes information on ADRA’s global efforts to fight against the disease. Here, visitors can read about ADRA’s HIV/AIDS initiatives around the world in education, prevention, testing and treatment, as well as working with children living with or affected by the disease.

“Help today” encourages visitors to get involved by telling others about HIV/AIDS, participating in an awareness or fundraising activity, or donating to one or more of ADRA’s initiatives. To facilitate Web visitors’ involvement, the “World AIDS Day resources” section provides ac-

cess to awareness kits, ribbons and other materials to commemorate World AIDS Day and involve communities, churches, small groups and schools in the challenge to stop HIV/AIDS.

Visitors also have the opportunity to formalise their commitment to help by signing a pledge to “join hands with thousands of others to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS.”

Pledge signers promise to do at least one of the following: raise awareness of the disease by telling friends about HIV/AIDS; participate in one of ADRA’s “18 ways you can get involved”; or financially support an initiative or organisation that is actively involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

“With 40 million people around the world suffering from HIV/AIDS, this crisis is something that none of us can afford to ignore,” said Tereza Byrne, bureau chief for marketing and development for ADRA—International. “ADRA is doing everything it can to ensure that visitors to the website are kept abreast of information vital to the battle against HIV/AIDS.”—*ADRA—International*

More @ www.adra.org

Sanitarium receives government grant

BERKELEY VALE, NEW SOUTH WALES

Sanitarium has been awarded a government grant of \$A287,363 for equipment to recycle and reuse manufacturing wastewater at the Berkeley Vale manufacturing site in New South Wales. The site, located on the NSW Central Coast, is the second-highest commercial user of water in the Wyong Shire in an area under level 4 water restrictions and a local dam below 16 per cent capacity.

Sanitarium has been awarded the grant as part of a long-term program to ensure the sustainable supply of water for years to come. The program will see the installation of extensive filtration and reverse-osmosis processes at the Berkeley Vale site to recover millions of litres of manufacturing wastewater for recovery into non-potable water processes. It also looks to expand the storage capacity of the onsite stormwater-retention systems, with the hope to further reduce reliance on town water suppliers.

These projects have the potential to save 78 million litres of water a year, representing a huge contribution to water conservation in the local community. For Sanitarium, it is an opportunity to realise cost savings through the implementation of environmental management projects.—*Jaemes Tipple*

◆ When **Keith Ellison**, the Minnesota Democrat who last month became the **first Muslim elected to Congress**, announced he would take his oath of office on Islam’s holy book, the Koran, he provoked pointed criticism from conservatives. But Jewish elected officials have used Hebrew Bibles and prayer books in taking the oath of office. And Presidents Franklin Pierce and Herbert Hoover both took office **without swearing on a Bible**.—*Omar Sacirbey*

◆ Swedes have **more faith in their local Ikea store than in the church**.

According to a survey by Dagens Industri, 80 per cent of Swedes said they trusted the furniture chain. Although 80 per cent of all Swedes claim to be members of the Protestant Swedish church, only 46 per cent of those polled said they trusted the religious group. **Volvo** was also trusted (69 per cent) more than the church.—*Ananova*

◆ **Reverend Steve Wirth** of Grace First Presbyterian church, California, USA, announced the congregation was just \$A65,000 shy of its \$A1 million goal to transform churches in the post-Katrina

na Gulf Coast. Immediately after the service, a couple presented a \$A5000 cheque and a pledge card for the remaining \$A60,000. The 687-member congregation **raised \$A1 million in less than four months**. Grace First is already supporting the needs of at least two redevelopment churches in the Gulf region, including Berean Presbyterian church in New Orleans and Westminster Presbyterian church in Gulfport.—*ASSIST News Service*

◆ **British Airways** recently announced it would review its

dress code policy after initially ruling that one of its **employees could not wear a cross to work** because it violated the dress code. **Nadia Eweida**, a check-in worker, was told she would have to either remove her cross or hide it beneath a scarf. Eweida, a Coptic Christian, refused and was sent home and placed on unpaid leave. “British Airways permits Muslims to wear a headscarf, Sikhs to wear a turban, and other faiths religious apparel,” she said. “**I will not hide my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ**. The cross is not a fashion statement; it is a faith statement.”—*Agape Press*

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

Church communicators focus on Net, community

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Building a greater profile for the church in the wider community and expanding the church's internet presence are priorities for Adventist communicators. These two areas of focus emerged at the South Pacific Division (SPD) communications advisory meetings hosted by the Adventist Media Network (AMN) from January 29 to 31.

More than 30 communicators from church administrations, church entities and AMN reflected on the church's communications strategies and the opportunities offered by the newly formed AMN, which grew from the amalgamation of the SPD Communications Department, Adventist Media Centre and Signs Publishing Company.

"This was an opportunity to introduce AMN to other church communicators," says Melody Tan, public relations officer for AMN, "and to plan for church communications under this new structure."

Danny Houghton, representing TAG-net, presented the netAdventist platform, which has been adopted by AMN and will



Conference and union communicators participated in the SPD communications advisory from January 29 to 31.

be used to provide and support interlinked websites to local churches and church entities across the South Pacific.

"I am excited that the church is using cutting-edge technology to enhance the spread of the gospel in our part of the world," says Pastor Matupit Darius, communication director for the Papua New Guinea Union Mission.

"These meetings have inspired me to reach out to the public, to let them know about the church we love," reflects Claudia Pereira, marketing manager for Adventist schools in the Greater Sydney Conference. "Networking with other communication leaders from across the South Pacific was invaluable."—*Nathan Brown*

Bomb defused at Adventist church

POSO, INDONESIA

On January 13, Seventh-day Adventists in Poso, central Sulawesi, Indonesia, headed to the Adventist church to worship as usual—until a bomb was discovered by one of the church members under some bushes at the main entrance.

Church members quickly alerted the police, who sent a bomb specialist to deactivate the bomb. According to police, the bomb was active and could have been detonated by a mobile phone.

The Poso Adventist church has a membership of 100, a number that shrank from around 200 since the feud between Muslims and Christians flared up six years ago.

The previous Poso Adventist church

was among four other Adventist churches in the area burned down by extremists in the past few years. Church leaders in the area say the attacks do not specifically target Adventist churches, but Christian churches in general.

"Members of that church are again on red alert. It is not safe and easy now worshipping God in any place," said Pastor Erenst Sahensolar, president of the Central Sulawesi Mission.

The police have sent security forces to survey and secure the area surrounding the church. Indonesia is a predominantly Muslim country with a Christian presence of only 8 per cent. Nearly 6500 Adventists worship in 41 churches in the central Sulawesi area.—*Gay Tuballes/Adventist News Dispatch/ANN staff*

"Pastor the community, not just the church"

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, USA

Many Seventh-day Adventists do little to alleviate the suffering of those in their communities. According to a 2002 world survey of Adventists, only 29 per cent of church members were involved in community service.

But, at its 2005 General Conference session, the Adventist Church recast its approach to sharing the gospel message. With the "Tell the world" vision, the Church intends to "increase the percentage of church members involved in community service from 29 per cent to at least 40 per cent."

Dr May-Ellen Colon, assistant director for Sabbath school and personal ministries for the General Conference, is responsible for nudging members beyond church doors to make that vision a reality. She also heads training programs for church leaders globally to improve community service.

"Twenty-nine per cent is abysmal," Dr Colon says. "It's not all about us."

Dr Colon envisions Adventist churches engaging in a more community-based ministry that creates a church indispensable to the community. "We need a paradigm shift. Pastors should pastor the community, not just the church," she explains.

"Lots of people think that it is a traditional part of Adventism not to be involved in community work," adds Monte Sahlin, a vice-president for creative ministries at the Columbia Union Conference in the United States, "but that's a malformed Adventism that came about in the 1920s and 1930s. The early pioneers of the Adventist Church were deeply involved in issues of injustice and social involvement."

Dr Colon sees this renewed effort at community outreach as a way to enhance and transform traditional witnessing methods. "In this age of fast food, fast results and fast baptisms, this kind of ministry may not gain immediate converts to Adventism but we must work in the community as people who desire the good of others—reflecting Jesus' love for humanity."—*Taashi Rowe/ANN*

Parched but prayerful

BY DAVID EDGREN

DARKNESS SHROUDS THE HOMESTEAD near Albany, Western Australia, as Lorraine Hull, daughter of 78-year-old Edna Turner who owns and runs the farm, finally leaves the side of a heifer struggling to give birth.

“We had the vet out twice today,” says Lorraine. “She’s trying to calf, but she is struggling. Without enough green feed the liver fails and giving birth is very difficult.

“Tomorrow we will have the vet out again and probably have a caesarean,” she expects.

It’s 10.30 pm as Lorraine removes her boots and retires to the house.

This is just one of many examples of how the drought is effecting Australian Adventist farmers. Talking with some of these church members, it soon becomes clear why the Australian Union Conference has called for prayer for rain, for those suffering from the continuing drought in many parts of Australia and for more responsible use of Australia’s natural resources.

“I think this day of prayer is a wonderful idea,” says Edna Turner. “I just know that God answers our prayers. I think it is a wonderful thing for everyone to pray.”

Some welcome rain was received last month by some southern Australian farmers. “We had 47 millimetres of rain recently,” says John Arbuckle from Horsham, Victoria. “It is a good start. It’s put some moisture in the soil. I’m on the tractor right now tilling up some country to plant barley.” Unfortunately, such sporadic rain does not meet the needs of the parched landscape of Australia. Much more is needed—and on a wider scale. It is for this drought-quench-

ing rain that we pray.

“Maybe the Lord has sent us this trial to help strengthen our faith. We rely on Him more to meet our needs,” says Janet Arbuckle.

Many Adventist farmers around the nation are saying similar things. “I’m 78 years of age. I lost my husband a couple years ago. We’ve been here for 45 years and never had a drought like it,” says Edna Turner. “The Bible speaks of droughts and plagues of locust at the end of time. We are having these things like we’ve never seen before.”

“We are heading toward the climax of world affairs,” says John Arbuckle. “Maybe there are more important things than rain. Maybe God is drawing people’s attention to Him. People are more important than income. Farmers are bearing the brunt of it, but it is a message for everyone.”

Max and Bev Hogg, who own a farm near Albury, New South Wales agree. Bev says, “All through Scripture drought was sent to Israel to wake them up,” she says. “Maybe the Lord is trying to speak to Australia.



John and Janet Arbuckle grow wheat near Horsham, Victoria.

“But I have really struggled with why rural Australia is getting hit so hard, when the levels of godliness are high in the bush.”

Farmers near the Hogs have suffered nervous breakdowns, strokes and strained marriages and depression.

“There’s an enormous amount of pain in the bush,” says Bev. “When the Australian Union called for the day of prayer, we really felt blessed.

“But it isn’t just lack of rain causing stress in the bush. Farmers aren’t getting a reasonable return from their crops and that produces a lack of resilience. Farmers, generally, don’t want a bandaid. They don’t want a handout. They want to be given a fair go.”

The plight of the farmer is one that is difficult for city-dwelling Australians to understand. The commitment to the land and the passion for producing a crop is almost beyond words for farmers. “There are incredibly high levels of loyalty in the bush,” says Bev. “Max was born in Albury and brought home to this house. He’s never lived anywhere else. He’s deeply attached to this district, this place and everything about it.”

The commitment to the land and the lives it maintains is the primary focus of the farming family. “Over the past week I have dug two sheep out of the dam,” says Lorraine Turner. “The sheep had gone through the fence into the dam, which has dried up because there is no run-off to fill it. I balanced on a board, up to my hips in mud, trying to wrap a rope around the sheep’s belly. My two nieces were up to their knees in the mud, helping me. All the time I was praying,





These two photos are from the Lovemores' property near Dubbo, New South Wales. The result of the drought can be clearly seen. The grass being eaten by the sheep (right) is due to irrigation from bore water.

'Lord, please help me do this right.'

The Turners hadn't seen the bottom of that dam in more than 20 years. "We saved that sheep," says Lorraine. "But the one that we found earlier had gone in too deep and sucked in water. Once we pulled it out, it died. We've never seen it this dry in 40 years."

"It does test your patience and your faith," says Sonia Lovemore, who raises sheep near Dubbo, New South Wales, with her husband, Brian. "The Lord gave us these sheep in a miraculous way and consequently we said, 'Lord, they're Your sheep. We'll just be Your husbandmen.'"

With large bails of lucerne hay costing \$100 each and feeding only 40 rams, Brian and Sonia cannot afford to give more than two hay feeds a week to their 300 stud

sheep. "We've used the last of our hay that we've produced ourselves. But we are blessed to have irrigation from a borehole. We are throwing water on the ground, so that some of our sheep can eat the roughage that grows."

The tractor driving the pump requires 200 litres of diesel per day. The other bore, which is electric, has tripled their electricity bill. It's these numerous extra costs caused by the drought, coupled with the barren land, that is taxing the life of the farmer. The cost is too great to maintain for much longer for most of Australia's farmers.

"I have heard of people taking sheep to the saleyard and getting one dollar per sheep," says Sonia. "It costs more to transport the sheep than they are worth. Some farmers are forced to shoot their sheep rather than try to feed them."

With the New South Wales Government offering to subsidise the farmers forced to kill livestock, it seems the only option for many farmers. "A packet of .22 bullets costs only seven dollars. It's a trauma! We need some money to feed our sheep rather than kill them," says Sonia. "The Lord sent us a buyer to buy 40 sheep. Had it not been for that, we could have been sunk."

Despite all the hardship caused by the lack of rain, Adventist farmers have resilient spirits. "We're not as bad off as some are," says Edna Turner. "We have a lot to be thankful for. Some people up in the wheat belt have had it dry for four years!"

This amazing—"the grass is always greener here at home"—optimism defies explanation and inspires admiration for those living in the heart of the sunburnt country. There is a love for creation in the heart of Australian farmers and a passion to persist against the odds, which surely comes from the heart of God Himself. While farmers struggle on in the dusty bush, our prayers remind them that there are no orphans in the family of God. We are family and we will pray as one.

The church's call for prayer for this issue and how it is affecting many members of the Adventist family on farms is timely. "In years gone by you budgeted for droughts," says Bev Hogg. "Probably not on paper, but in your head you did, because you knew they were an inevitable part of Australia's climate patterns. But we've never hit anything like this. This is five years."

"We need this rain," says Lorraine Hull. "Our livelihood will be lost if it doesn't rain. In the power of prayer, when two or more of us gather together, we will be heard. This prayer day will make us heard. The rain will come!" **R**



Feeding the sheep on the Hogg farm near Albury, New South Wales.

David Edgren is associate editor of RECORD.

Unbreakable trust

BY CHRISTINE MILES

IT WAS MEANT TO BE A SIMPLE exercise. All I had to do was demonstrate to a large group of children how simple it was to break an egg in one's hand. I practised a couple of times in the privacy of my own home, and then fronted up to the Adventurers meeting.

Unfortunately, when my back was turned, someone else broke the egg. So I found another egg—and continued.

“One of the most fragile objects in life is an egg,” I said to the children. “The thin shell of an egg keeps the insides in but does little to protect the delicate egg from destruction. Eggs are easy to crack, simple to smash, and can't be put back together once they're broken. Trust is just like an egg—it breaks easily.”

I picked up the egg and squeezed around its middle. Nothing happened. I squeezed with two hands. Still nothing. The kids started to snigger. Obviously I wasn't about to impress anyone with physical strength.

But I was determined to break that egg. Clasp the egg in both hands, fingers interlocked, abs held in, knees bent, I applied pressure. Still nothing happened. More giggling. *Why wouldn't this egg break?*

I repeated the action. And the egg exploded.

A little bit of egg goes a long way! In my face, in my hair, in my eyes. Over the top of my head and down my back. Dripping from my chin, my fingers and from the



All I had to do was demonstrate to a large group of children how simple it was to break an egg in one's hand.

table to the floor.

And the kids? They roared with laughter. They rolled around the floor, clutching their stomachs, laughing so hard they cried. (The adults, I might add, laughed too.) We all laughed so much I knew the impact of the message I was trying to teach would be lost if I were to continue immediately. The kids were dismissed to their various classes with a promise that the object lesson would conclude at the end of Adventurers.

If that egg had behaved in the manner I expected, it would have crushed with a simple squeeze. Trust is as delicate as an egg

and as easy to break. We trust our friends to keep secrets. We trust parents and teachers to love and guide us. We trust that our employers will pay our wages.

But trust can be broken when promises aren't kept or lies are spoken. Sometimes it's hard for us to trust, but there is Someone who will never break His word or destroy our trust.

Proverbs 3:5, 6 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”*

When we trust in Jesus, it is as though we have been turned around. Instead of being squeezed by doubts and fears and pressures around the middle, the pressure is applied from end to end. It won't matter how hard you squeeze, an egg held from end to end will not break.

Jesus will never break our trust. His love is an everlasting love. Like the prophet Isaiah, we can say with confidence “Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation” (Isaiah 12:2). **R**

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

Christine Miles writes from Auckland, New Zealand.



Growing a video ministry team

BY JOHN GATE

IN 2003, A SURVEY FOUND ABOUT 2500 CHURCH MEMBERS INVOLVED in video ministry. Besides the pastor, there are usually a number of members in any church delivering videos. But they seldom work as a team, but rather as solo ministers with little support and little interaction.

The local church pastor is usually the video-ministry coordinator. Too often the pastor delivers most of the videos. Video ministry is something that most church members could do if they made the commitment to personal ministry and some training. It's far better

“Get involved in video ministry because it is a simple but effective way to build friendships while sharing our message.”—Pastor Paul

Gredig, Blenheim, New Zealand.

do you grow a team like that? A successful long-term team will never be developed by making public announcements from the front of the church. Grow the video team one member at a time, and invite people personally to be involved.

When people accept the invitation to be a video minister, they need to be trained, and Adventist Media provides resources to help with that. Successful video ministers in the church can share their experience and their ideas, and there are PowerPoints that can be used to help with this as well. These new video ministers need to be equipped with resources as they do their visitation. Further, a support base—where the team can get together to share their experiences, to get encouragement and to keep the vision alive—is very important. This comes back to the team leader or the team coordinator.

If you do not have a personal ministry but would like to have video ministry as your personal ministry, please contact your local church pastor or your personal ministries director, so you can get the training and resources that will equip you under God's leadership to be an effective video minister for Him. **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.

for 20 people to deliver two videos each, than for two people to deliver 20. As we have seen, video ministry involves developing friendships, and friendships can develop only when there is time committed to individual people.

A ministry team is a cohesive group of leader and church members specialising, in this case, in video ministry. How



Record Roo's Kids corner

Hi Kids,
What has a tree got to do with the Israelites being really thirsty? Read Exodus 15:22 - 27 to find out. Then kip has another challenge for you!

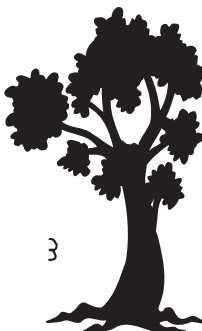
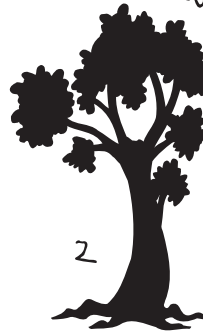
RR

Fill in the Blanks

So _____ brought Israel from the _____ ; then they went out into the _____ of _____. And went _____ days in the wilderness and found no _____ .

Exodus 15:22 NKJV

Maze Which shadow matches the tree?



Hi Kids, Kip here. Can you think of any more Bible stories that involve trees? Write them here.



Answer: shadow number 1 matches the tree.

Peta Taylor

“Get back”? Get real!

DONALD WANKE, SA

I was saddened to read “Get back to . . . !” (Letters, January 27). I thought Ellen White said to preach Christ and Christ crucified. Doesn’t the writer believe in the Second Coming and other prophecies that He needs to have them preached all the time?

I go to a country church where there are a lot more women than men—and, yes, we have women elders and women deacons.

I believe worship is about God, not about me. It’s about what I can contribute not about what I can get out of it. I go to worship God because of what He has done for me and to share with others His great love, thus encouraging one another.

If we were to find the good things in worship and dwelt on them, rather than the negative things, we would be a lot better off and be uplifted.

I am glad to be a Seventh-day Adventist.

JENNIFER MADDY, QLD

I appreciated the letters “On God’s side?” and “Get back . . . !” (January 27). These letters touch the core of our present-day attitude in our once-beautiful, Ellen White-led, no-nonsense, “peculiar” church.

The church of today is too preoccupied with numbers and new trends to know whether most of their attendees are seeking social outings or are there to be prepared for the coming crisis.

But, while we have our few faithful pastors, all hope is not lost.

No gluttons here

MILTON HOOK, NSW

As I read “The chubby church” (Letters, January 27), John 8:7 sprang to mind. I would like to deflect some of the stone-throwing.

At my Adventist church a number of “beanpoles” attend the potluck luncheons. They pile their plates high and go back for seconds. Christian charity constrains us to let them do it because we realise that, through no fault of their own, it is the only square meal they get all week. Casual observers may brand it as “gluttony.” But we know otherwise.

We also have a number of diners who struggle with their weight. They generally limit themselves to munching on a carrot stick or two. We know they have a genetic problem and a few have to be on medication that unavoidably increases their weight. Some may judge them closet gluttons. But we know otherwise. We extend our Christian courtesy to them.

At the risk of sounding elitist, let me assure the writer we don’t seem to have any gluttons in our neck of the woods.

In the meantime, we can trust the hands that were nailed to the cross for us.

Guilt by association?

ARNOLD REYE, QLD

I take issue with the sweeping assertion in “More to Sodom” (Letters, January 20) that “our church . . . is also guilty of sexual perversion.” What does the writer mean? I have been a church member for almost 60 years and have yet to encounter one instance where the church has advocated, countenanced or practised sexual perversion.

There may be some within the church who engage in sexual perversion, but that does not justify the unqualified assertion that the church is guilty. As a member of the church, and therefore guilty by association, I resent my good name being blackened by such imputation.

Hard to be God

MILTON WAINWRIGHT, NZ

I agree with “An Ant in the Kitchen” (*Adventist World*, January 2007) that the suffering of God’s servants can be hard—or even impossible—to understand. It is true that “God is God [and that] as the sovereign ruler of the universe, He can do whatever He likes.” But we have to be careful what we draw from that. As sovereign ruler, He has all power but He is not like us—He does not “like” to rule by His power.

He is love and He wants to show nothing but love to all His creatures and to enjoy nothing but love from all of us. This means that it is very hard to be God.

So how do we understand the sufferings of His most devoted servants? We can’t—yet.

But since God is committed to ruling by love, the day is coming when He will put Himself on trial! At the end of the millennium the whole human family will be gathered before Him and the books will be opened. If God has failed to show perfect love, if He has made mistakes in His dealings with us or if we have suffered from neglect, then it would be His fault that we

did not choose to love Him. Lucifer’s rebellion was groundless, but ours would be well founded. God could deal with a groundless rebellion, but what could He do in the face of legitimate rebellion?

God is good at being God. He is perfect love. And at the end of His trial, He is given a unanimous “standing ovation.” In the meantime we can trust the hands that were nailed to the cross for us.

Thanks, leaders

GRAHAM TURNER, NSW

Recently my granddaughter joined Pathfinders and like most members she enjoys the friendships made, spiritual guidance and activities provided. But spare a thought for those wonderful people who give of their time freely to make it happen. Some leaders are no spring chickens but continue to provide our children a safe and educational place to have fun. These leaders have at times to deal with all kinds of behavioural problems and, in this litigious society, who but the dedicated would want the job?

Thank you to our Pathfinder leaders for a great work. You are helping mould the next generation of Seventh-day Adventists.

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.

Anniversaries

Adams, Pastor Cyrus and Nola (nee Timmins) were married on 2.1.47 at Longburn Missionary College, NZ, by Pastor A G Judge. They celebrated their 60th wedding



anniversary in Perth with their immediate families and then went to New Zealand to share with their extended families some occasions of celebration, but also some of sadness and loss.

Baglee, Albert and Betty (nee Hathaway) of Murwillumbah, NSW, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on 20.1.07 with family and friends, with an afternoon tea at their home. They were married in Wahroonga church by Pastor W E Rudge. To this union



were born four girls; then while working in New Guinea Sally Anne was added to their family. Messages were received from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Governor-General of Australia and other dignitaries.

Martin, Phillip and Wray, of Cooranbong, NSW, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with family and friends on 23.12.06 at the home of their eldest grandson and his wife. A PowerPoint presentation, prepared by David Martin, was presented, giv-



ing some details of Phillip and Wray's life together. Congratulatory messages were received from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Governor-General of Australia and other government dignitaries.

Piper, Alby and Yvonne (nee Sisson) were married on 18.12.56 at Guyra, NSW, by Pastor A Giblett, and recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with many of their family members and friends at Amiens (near Stanthorpe), Qld.

Richter, Pastor Ray and Coralie (nee Dixon) were married on 19.12.46 in the old South Brisbane church by the late Pastor W W Petrie. To mark the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary, celebrations with family and friends were held in Sydney,



Newcastle and the Gold Coast during December. Congratulatory messages were read from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Governor-General of Australia and other government dignitaries.

Speck, Pastor Ormond and Winsome (nee Gallop), both of Western Australia, were married on 5.12.46 in Hamilton, NZ. Their 60th wedding anniversary was celebrated on 10.12.06 by a renewal of their wedding vows



before family and friends in the Victoria Point Adventist church, Qld, followed by an anniversary picnic with family by the lake. They have four children, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Wilkinson, Robert and Marilyn (nee Speirs) were married on 2.12.56 in the old Hamilton (NSW) church, by the late Pastor L C Naden. They were blessed with three children, Geoffrey, Jennifer (dec) and Lynne. A surprise 50th celebration, hosted by their daughter, Lynne, and her husband, Troy Muzurovich, was attended by relatives and friends at Maddies of Bolwarra Function Centre on 3.12.06.

Appreciation

Coyte, Anthony, Emma and Nicholas, along with Pearl, Marita, Heather and families would like to extend their sincere gratitude to all who offered support and comfort following the passing of their much-loved wife, mother, daughter and sister, Julie. The overwhelming support given through your prayers, flowers, cards, phone calls, emails, visits, food and to the many who travelled long distances to offer their support, we say, "Thank you."

Weddings

Chen—Knight. Yunlong Chen, son of Weiming and Qin Chen (China), and Rachel Knight, daughter of Cheryl (Quakers Hill, NSW) and the late Roger Knight, were married on 2.1.07 in the Church of Christ, Doonside.

Pablo Lillo

Clark—Macnaught. John Wayne Clark, son of John and Lesley Clark (Melbourne, Vic), and Gina Maria Macnaught, daughter of Peter Macnaught and Brigitta Bushell (both of Sydney, NSW), were married on 14.1.07 at Curzon Hall, Sydney.

Ian Howie

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Ian and Merilyn Bostock (Wagga Wagga), were married on 18.1.07 in the Wagga Wagga Adventist church.

Nicu Dumbrava

Sexton—Stafford. John Sexton, son of Norm and Mary Sexton (Bridgetown, WA), and Fay Stafford, daughter of Pastor Gordon and Mary Stafford (Carmel), were married on 17.12.06 in the Bickley Adventist church, Perth.

Gordon Stafford

Spaile—Lee. Mark Nathan Spaile, son of Andrew and Gnana Spaile (Sydney, NSW), and Kyung-Soon Lucy Lee, daughter of Bok-ja Polizzi (Sydney, NSW) and the late Jang-Hee Lee, were married on 7.1.07 in the Woollahra Adventist church.

Gary Kent

Obituaries

Adair, Lawrens, born 6.7.1915 in London, England; died 1.12.06 at Surfers Paradise, Qld. He is survived by his devoted wife, Joanne; his sons, Stuart and Andrew; his daughter, Tiana; and their families. The very large number of tributes received from people of all walks of life, bears testimony to the high esteem in which he was held: his well-merited seniority in the RAF as a highly respected airman and skilful navigator, flying in Halifax bombers over Germany during World War II; his story of courage and endurance in concentration camps is recorded in his book *Glass Houses: Paper Men*; his postwar life as a successful and generous businessman was one of dedicated service to God and his fellowman. After Lawrens and Joanne accepted the Adventist faith they were a

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blessing to so many people in numerous ways, particularly through their 30 years of selfless service with AAA under Lawren's dedicated and visionary leadership. He is fondly missed by his much loved family and so many others.

Peter Colquhoun, Casey Wolverton

Barrett, Helga Elizabeth (nee McCallum), born 26.6.1924 at Cottesloe, WA; died 4.12.06 in Bunbury Regional Hospital. On 15.11.52 she married Kevin. She is survived by her husband (Bunbury); and her children, Carmel Wearing (Bunbury), Miriam Jukic (Karratha), Frank (Perth), and Sharon Mair (Australind). Helga was an active, independent person with a heart of gold and was resolute in her beliefs.

Robert Kingdon

Bentley, Rhoda Lillian (nee Steed), born 16.2.1913 in Adelaide, SA; died 26.12.06 at Klemzig Aged Care facility. On 14.8.37 she married Norman, who predeceased her on 11.10.81. She was also predeceased by her eldest daughter, Joyce, on 1.1.2002. She is survived by her daughters, Rowena Amos (Adelaide), Norma Gall (Castle Hill, NSW); her son, Dr Lynton Bentley (Adelaide); her four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. She was a faithful member of the Adelaide City church and attended regularly for over 40 years until ill health prevented this.

Jim Zyderveld

Cherside, Coralie Dawn (nee Roderique), born 10.9.1936 at Bluff, NZ; died 6.12.06 in the John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, NSW. On 14.3.60 she married John. She is survived by her husband; her sons and their spouses, Peter and Tanya,

Craig and Kathie, Bryce and Joanne; and her six grandchildren. Coralie was diagnosed with a form of multiple sclerosis 37 years ago that might allow her five years of life. At that time she asked God, "Keep me going until my boys are independent." Her experience, like that of her carers, has resonated with courage, faith and love.

Adrian Craig, Arthur Patrick

Dobson, Milly, born 8.2.1909 in Horrick, England; died 18.10.06 in Cambridge, NZ, after a long illness. She was predeceased by her husband, Arnold, in 1967. She is survived by her children and their spouses, Patricia and Dennis Smith (Cambridge), Brian and Trish (Tauranga), Neil (Te Kuiti), Judith Andrews (Auckland) and Ann Dobson (Otorohanga); her eight grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren. Milly loved her Lord and served Him as a singer at church, a champion ingatherer, a cook for Big Camp and youth gatherings, and VBS instructor for many years, influencing for good many hundreds of children. Always willing to take people at face value, Milly walked in the steps of Jesus.

Jack Ormsby

Duffy, Doris Elmore (nee Knight), born 24.11.1926 at Glen Huon, Tas; died 29.11.06 at Victoria Point, Qld. In 1947 she married Louis, who predeceased her in 1997. She was also predeceased by her daughter, Shari Duffy, in 1953. She is survived by her daughter, Michelle Forssberg (Greensborough, Vic); and her brothers, Owen and Ronnie Knight (both of Bellerive, Tas). Doris was much loved and enjoyed the friendship of the people she had met while at Avondale College. She enjoyed worship and church and found support and comfort in her faith.

Neil Tyler

Positions vacant

▲ **Senior Staff Auditor**—General Conference Auditing Service—South Pacific (Wahroonga, NSW). 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 contact details of your church pastor) must be sent to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Pacific Division) Limited, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076; email <hr@adventist.org.au>; fax (02) 9489 0943. Applications close **February 23, 2007**.

▲ **Secretary-Treasurer**—Northern Australian Conference (Townsville, Qld) is inviting applications from suitably qualified persons who reflect the mission and philosophy of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to fill the position of Conference Secretary-Treasurer. For further information email or phone (07) 4779 3988. Applications in writing should be forwarded to Pastor Dean Jackson, President, Northern Australian Conference, PO Box 51, Aitkenvale Qld 4814; email <djackson@adventist.org.au>, no later than **February 28, 2007**.

Fish, Arthur Reginald, born 18.5.1917 at Warrnambool, Vic; died 24.11.06 at Traralgon. In 1943 he married Margaret (nee Oliver), who predeceased him in 1981. In 1983 he married Joyce Palmer, who predeceased him in 2004. He was also predeceased by his brother, Walter; and his sister, Emily Cozens. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Joy (Auckland, NZ); his daughter and son-in-law, Glenda and Joe Suson (Traralgon, Vic); his stepdaughters, Noelene Talbot and Marjorie Boden (Qld); and their families; also his sister, Florence Cram (Murray Bridge, SA); and his brother, Vivian (Cororanbong, NSW). Grandfather of four; and Pop of six. Arthur was baptised by Pastor P G Foster in 1935 and has been a faithful witness over the years, resulting in 50 baptisms in the Warburton and Traralgon districts. He was a prolific writer of poetry and will be sadly missed by loved ones and the Traralgon church members.

*Bill Doble
Hanĳ Pitzner, Robert Fish*

Foster, Mona Joy, born 9.5.1923 at Mulbring, NSW; died 26.11.06 in Neringah Hospital, Wahroonga. On 18.9.43 she married Bernard. She was predeceased by her son, Pastor David Foster, in 2000. She is survived by her husband, Pastor Bernard Foster (Sydney); her daughter-in-law, Heather (Cororanbong); and her three grandsons. Joy was much loved by her husband, Bernard, and a wonderful support in ministry in Australia and England. She will be remembered as a kind, caring and gentle person.

Eric Greenwell

Hing, Robert Joe, born 4.1.1919 at Shekki, China; died 8.11.06 at Kogarah, NSW. On 5.9.71 he married Winsome Wan Sat Wong, who predeceased him on 7.4.95. He is survived by his son, Dr Alfred Hing (Beverly Hills). Robert was good natured, gentle, kind, generous and hardworking. He loved his family and had a strong faith in God. He was an elder at Lakemba church, deacon at Ashfield; also a member of Tenterfield and Chinese (Strathfield, Sydney) churches at different times.

*Bruce Grosse
Gilberto Dias, Daniel Chong*

Lane, Beatrice Adelin Lane, born 10.12.1908 in England; died 5.12.06 at Lismore, NSW. Beatrice never married and there are no surviving family members.

David Kosmeier

Lanham, Mary Jean, born 12.2.1923 at Murrumburra, NSW; died unexpectedly but peacefully 4.12.06 in her home at Banora Point. She was predeceased by her parents, Clarence and Kathren Lanham; and is survived by her sister, Joan, whom she lived with for over 80 years. Having loved her Lord, she waits for the Resurrection.

Adrian Raethel, Alwyn Race

Lewis, Leonard, born 20.4.1916 in England; died 5.12.06 at Coronella, Nunawading, Vic, after a long illness. In 1949 he married Florence (Sue). He is survived by his wife (Coronella); and his daughter, Sybil (Croydon). Len was baptised in 1980 at Pastor John Carter's mission in Melbourne, Vic. He became a faithful deacon. He also enjoyed nature and travel.

John Denne

Mataio, Katrina Tuaine, born 30.11.1985 in Auckland NZ; died 14.10.06 in Mercy Hospice, Auckland, after a brief illness. She is survived by her parents, Tai and Taki Mataio; her brothers and their spouses, Tai, Jr, and Kylie, Sam and Marie, and James (all of Auckland). She was much loved by her nephews and nieces Jade, Tiana, Nathan, Keanu, Warrance and Tarani. She died unafraid of death and with the name of Jesus on her lips. She will be sadly missed.

*Jack Ormsby
Paora Teaukura, Teariĳi Iotua*

Ravlen, Jean Elizabeth, born 3.11.1918 at Gloucester, NSW; died 2.12.06 in Lingard Hospital, Newcastle. She was predeceased by her husband, Charles, on 28.11.70. She was also predeceased by her children, Margaret, George, Helen, Trevor and David. She is survived by seven of her 12 children, Barbara, Bruce, Robert, Elizabeth, Vicki, Susan and Kathy. She was a delightful mother, grandmother, great-grandmother; and even a great-great-grandmother. Jean Ravlen was such a large part of the life and soul of the Stockton SDA church. Everyone loved her and admired her strong faith in Jesus Christ, her Saviour.

Jan Janĳiewicz, David Price

Steed, Elsie Alma Millicent, born 18.12.1917 at Tooperang, SA; died 26.11.06 at Ridge Park Health Care Centre, Myrtle Bank, SA. She is survived by her sister, Rhoda Bentley (Klemzig); her nieces, Norma Gall (Castle Hill, NSW) and Rowena Amos (Campbelltown); and her nephew, Lynton Bentley (Glenunga, SA). Elsie attended

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Tooperang church for 80 years. She was a devout Adventist Christian and served as a deaconess and Dorcas leader. She also played the organ for the majority of her years at Tooperang church.

Lee Bowditch-Walsh

Steel, Lucy May (nee Hockley), born 13.7.1923 in WA; died 25.11.06 in Freeman Nursing Home, Rossmoyne. In 1945 she married Reg, who predeceased her. She is survived by her children, Alan, Yvonne Panton, and Ian (all of Perth). May's hospitality and faithfulness of service in the church were her characteristics always.

Thompson, Betty, born 15.7.1920 at Rockdale, NSW; died 25.11.06 at Lismore. Betty worked as a clerk in Sydney until her marriage on 20.1.45 to John, a direct descendant of Nathan Thompson, an early settler of Lord Howe Island. She is survived by her sons, Bruce (Lord Howe Island), Michael (Woodburn, NSW) and Paul (Wauchope); their spouses; also her sister, Edna; her 12 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. The love and esteem in which she was held was shown at her funeral at Lismore, where family members from north Qld, NSW and Lord Howe Island paid her glowing tributes. She died in the certain hope of the Resurrection.

Lionel Hughes, Bruce Thompson

Wicks, Moira May (nee House), born 31.7.1919 to missionary parents in the Cook Islands; died 22.11.06 in Coorabong, NSW. In 1943 she married Bill, who predeceased her in 1987. She is survived by her sister, Eileen Tomkins; her brother, Ron; her daughters, Cheryl Ball

(Eleebana), Julie Griffiths (Silverwater) Rhonda Milthorpe (Bathurst) and Brenda Ford (Cardiff Heights); her seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. She was a lovely Christian who was deeply loved by her family and friends.

Clive Barritt, Claude Judd

Williamson, Joyce Marie (nee Hopkins), born 20.4.1926 at north Rockhampton, Qld; died 25.11.06 at Cleveland. On 9.2.51 she married Richard, who predeceased her in 1980. She is survived by her sons, Ian (Carina) and David (Bonnells Bay, NSW); her brothers, George (Mackay, Qld) and Jack Hopkins (Rockhampton); and her sister, Vera Smith (Sydney, NSW). Joyce has always held her faith in God very highly. She was the "rudder" that guided her extended family and friends through good times and bad. She has been greatly admired and loved by all her family and many friends.

Neil Tyler

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20th anniversary celebration—Camden Haven church, NSW—February 24, 2007.

All past ministers, church members and friends are invited to come along and spend this very special day with us. Lunch will be provided. Sabbath school 9.30 am; main service 11 am. Lunch will follow. For further information phone Christine (02) 6559 5654. Church address: 288 Ocean Drive, Laurieton (opposite the Christmas Cove Caravan Park).

Back to Penguin, Tas. Calling all ex-students and teachers of Penguin Adventist School (now North West Christian School). You are invited to our Reunion Day—July 7, 2007. Please register for our special event. Phone (03) 6437 2705; or email us at <nwacs@inet.net.au>.

James Morrison and Emma Pask will be performing on the CCAS grounds in Erina, NSW, on March 24, 2007. Tickets can be purchased from the CCAS on (02) 4367 7239 or Avondale Music on (02) 4977 1398.

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Gosford church 10th anniversary celebration day—February 24, 2007. All former members and ministers are warmly invited. Sabbath school 10.00 am; praise service 11.00 am, with fellowship lunch to follow.

An invitation is extended to all interested persons to the 40th anniversary celebrations of the opening of the Malanda Seventh-day Adventist church in Malanda, FNQ, to be held on March 31, 2007. Contact Nola (07) 4095 4384.

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