

# RECORD

April 21, 2007

## In this issue

ADRA responds to  
Solomons tsunami

---

Statement on Islam  
a "relationship tool"

---

To three friends  
I wish I had



Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare (right) and Pastor Andrew Kingston after the unveiling of a commemorative plaque.



MVAC gives  
ministers  
a serve

## Solomons PM reopens Adventist head office

HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare officially unveiled a plaque in a ceremony to rededicate the Adventist head office at Burns Creek on March 10. The event was witnessed by members of the Adventist Church in Honiara and the dignitaries who attended.

The ceremony began with songs performed by singing groups from local congregations in the city. These were followed by a speech from the general secretary of the Solomon Islands Mission (SIM), Benjamin Asa, the dedication sermon from the mission president, Pastor Andrew King-

ston, and the act of dedication performed by Pastor George Fafale.

In his sermon, Pastor Andrew Kingston highlighted a need to rededicate the office building but, more importantly, to rededicate the Adventist believers to God. "Like this building, I would ask that each of us rededicate ourselves to God that He will use each of us in a mighty way," he said.

Prime Minister Sogavare thanked the Adventist Church for its contribution to the nation in areas of health, education and spiritual care.

"The concept of one mission is what the

*(Continued on page 5)*



We don't need to scare people into church.

# Not *what*, but *how*

RECENTLY I WAS TALKING TO A friend who had returned from a weekend trip into Melbourne. He mentioned a sign he'd seen on a church that read, "Eternity: It'll be hell without Jesus." In his words, it was "pretty full-on."

Although the church probably meant well, such signage harks back to fear-driven religious beliefs. And it's unfortunate that sometimes Christians think they have to frighten or shock people into believing in God—it's like displaying something beautiful surrounded by high-voltage razor wire.

The talk with my friend made me wonder whether in spite of changes to the way we as Christians do evangelism, we're still getting some of it wrong. Instead of making friends with those around us, inviting people along to church and then letting God work on things in their life He finds to change, it often seems the approach has been to go in hard with changes that "have" to be made, invite them to church and then try to make friends with them.

Not to say that doesn't get results—mass evangelism still works in many parts of the world. But perhaps we need to consider not just the numbers who might come to an evangelistic series and subsequently may come to church, but also how many people we frighten off. As one Adventist writer suggests, "Public evangelism divorced from people's needs widens the gulf between people and God."<sup>1</sup>

We don't need to scare people into

church. With the odd exception, most churches are quite welcoming and friendly. And Jesus is worth talking about. His story is remarkable, but unfortunately that alone sometimes isn't enough to encourage people to give church a try.

According to a study conducted in the 1990s by Herb Miller, more than 70 per cent of visitors come to church due to a personal invitation from someone they know. The study also noted that people tended to stay at churches where they formed relationships with people there. Small groups were also noted as playing an important role in building relationships.

Last October, our church's Council on Evangelism and Witness met to discuss ways in which people are being brought into a relationship with God, particularly through the use of small groups.

Pastor Lowell Cooper, a General Conference vice-president, said, "I believe small groups allow the beliefs of the church to be expressed in human interactions at the deepest level of relationship. A small group culture can be perhaps the most effective way of transferring belief into action and influencing other lives."<sup>2</sup>

Ellen White mentions a number of times in *Gospel Workers* and *Evangelism* that our attitudes and methods play a strong role in whether those around us will choose to accept the gospel. According to her, it isn't the message itself that will cause people to accept or reject it, but how it's presented and packaged. She also notes that methods of

evangelism will differ from place to place in terms of what will and won't work.

Jesus' approach was not only to preach, but to mix with people, showing that He cared and was able to minister to their needs. His example shows sermons are important, but should be complemented with personal ministry—what we do for others in providing friendship, care, comfort and counsel has the potential to draw more people to Him by setting a positive example.

Ellen White urges, "If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one. But, though professing to be converted, we carry around with us a bundle of self that we regard as altogether too precious to be given up. It is our privilege to lay this burden at the feet of Christ and in its place take the character and similitude of Christ. The Saviour is waiting for us to do this."<sup>3</sup>

Church should be about being authentic in our relationship with God and being willing to make connections with those around us. And Christ must be at the centre of whatever we do.

1. Tompaul Wheeler, *Things They Never Taught Me*, Review and Herald, 2006, page 35.
2. "Small groups are focus of evangelism and witness council," <http://news.adventist.org>, October 2, 2006.
3. Testimonies for the Church, Vol 9, pages 189-90.

Adele Nash



Official Paper of the South Pacific Division Seventh-day Adventist Church  
 ABN 59 093 117 689  
[www.adventist.org.au](http://www.adventist.org.au)

Vol 112 No 14  
 Cover: Johnny Tango

Editor Nathan Brown  
 Associate editor David Edgren  
 Editorial assistant Adele Nash  
 Editorial assistant Jarrod Stackelroth  
 Copyeditor Graeme Brown  
 Editorial secretary Meryl McDonald-Gough  
 Layout Nathan Chee  
 Senior consulting editor Barry Oliver

[www.record.net.au](http://www.record.net.au)

Mail: Signs Publishing Company  
 3485 Warburton Highway  
 Warburton, Vic 3799, Australia  
 Phone: (03) 5965 6300 Fax: (03) 5966 9019  
 Email Letters: [editor@signspublishing.com.au](mailto:editor@signspublishing.com.au)  
 Email Newsfront: [record@signspublishing.com.au](mailto:record@signspublishing.com.au)  
 Email Noticeboard: [editorsec@signspublishing.com.au](mailto:editorsec@signspublishing.com.au)  
 Subscriptions: South Pacific Division mailed within Australia and to New Zealand, \$A43.80 \$NZ73.00.  
 Other prices on application. Printed weekly.

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

# ADRA responds to Solomons tsunami

## GIZO, SOLOMON ISLANDS

In response to the earthquake-triggered tsunami that hit western Solomon Islands on April 2, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia is in dialogue with its staff on the ground who are conducting a needs and damage assessment in coordination with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO).

The ADRA Solomon Islands acting country director attended an NDMO meeting in the Solomons to obtain accurate information on the extent of the damage and needs. The outcome of this meeting will enable ADRA Solomon Islands to determine its response. An ADRA Australia staff member is currently in the Solomons on a monitoring trip and will be able to assist the local ADRA staff in preparing its response.

ADRA Australia has immediately made \$US10,000 available for emergency relief in the event that the assessment indicates needs and ADRA Solomon Islands can implement the funding.

The coastlines of Gizo, Noro and Taro were effected by the tsunami, with reports Choiseul, Vella Lavella, Kolombangara, New Georgia, Gizo, Simbo and Ranogah had also been hit.

Pastor Andrew Kingston, president of the Solomon Islands Mission, says, "At Kukudu the water rose by three metres, flooding the classrooms of the school. The wharf has gone and the swing bridge joining the office compound with the school compound is hanging by a thread."

The school's generators, tractor and ride-on mower were also flooded by the tsunami. The wharf nearby was destroyed, but the mission boat *Varivato* is safe as it was travelling between islands when the earthquake and tsunami struck.

Pastor Kingston says, "Reports are that several houses have been severely damaged. School staff and any students—luckily it is holiday time here—together with regional office staff went up the hill to Honda, the lay training centre, where they will wait until everything settles down."

Gizo Hospital was evacuated before the water rose. However, the water inundated the shops, destroying the Adventist Book Centre and its stock. The Adventist church was flooded, but is still intact.

The Adventist school in Puzivai on Choiseul was destroyed in the earthquake and tsunami, as well as the associated staff housing and dormitories. No lives were lost, but two students were seriously injured.

Pastor Kingston says, "Poserai was also

engulfed by the sea but I am unsure of the damage that was suffered. Being right on the water I would say there was quite a deal of damage. Having returned not long ago from a trip to Choiseul, Vella and Kukudu, I would say that all villages including our own Adventist villages have suffered. Around 150 houses were destroyed in an Anglican village on Choiseul."

On the Simbo Islands, most villages were destroyed and a pastor and his wife were killed during the earthquake. Pastor Kingston says, "Sadly lives have been lost and people out west are missing."

Pastor Lawrence Tanabose, president of the Trans-Pacific Union Mission, says, "Our prayers are with the suffering ones, and those who are greatly affected by the tragedies."

The earthquake, measuring 8.1 on the Richter scale, was located 45 kilometres offshore from the island of Gizo in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands. This caused a tsunami that swept over coastal villages, destroying numerous buildings, including hospitals. The death toll from the tsunami is expected to increase as rescue teams get to more remote villages.—

**RECORD staff/ADRA Australia/Andrew Kingston/Lawrence Tanabose**

*More @ [www.adra.org.au](http://www.adra.org.au)*



◆ Students at **Carlisle Christian College, Mackay, Qld**, heard three diverse speakers during a busy Week of Prayer. Held in the school's outdoor amphitheatre, **Ginni Allen**, from the United States (pictured), spoke on answers to prayer. Then **Pastor Rick Ferret** spoke about allowing God to take control of one's life, after being branded as a failure. On the last day, **Pastor**

**Andy Litchfield** spoke on how to share the love of Jesus. Music was a highlight of the week with Pastor Ferret's spontaneous, jumping up and down choruses.—**Terry Rogers**

◆ When the power went out at **Avondale Primary School, Coorabong, NSW**, at 12.05 pm on March 30, no-one worried. The 260 lights, fans, air conditioners, computers and printers were turned off as part of the **Earth Hour** initiative that saw more than **2.2 million Sydneysiders** plunge into darkness on March 31. Keen to take part in



the **environmental initiative**, the school chose to turn their lights off for one hour during a school day and took the opportunity to turn it into a learning experience. "The teachers had the opportunity to talk to students about conserving energy and water, and reducing global warming," says primary school deputy principal **Ruth Webster**.—**Braden Blyde**

◆ School students from **Mountain View Adventist College, Sydney, NSW**, have joined students from 11 other schools in planting **9000 native trees** and **6000 ground-cover grasses**, in the Anne Aquilina Reserve, Doonside. "Up to 2000 tonnes of carbon dioxide would be soaked up by today's plantings," says Greening Australia's carbon business manager **Glen Klatovsky**. "These kids will probably plant enough trees today to cover their families' carbon emissions for the next 12 months.—**Parramatta Sun**

# MVAC gives ministers a serve

DOONSIDE, NEW SOUTH WALES

**M**ountain View Adventist College's annual ministers breakfast was held on March 20. The college hosted nearly 20 ministers from a range of denominations, including Seventh-day Adventist, Uniting, Baptist, Christian Life, Catholic and Pentecostal churches in the area, at the early-morning function.

The ministers breakfast had a twist this year with the Year 11 hospitality class catering for the event.

Students prepared and served a hearty and healthy breakfast that was enjoyed by all who attended. This was a first for the hospitality students, who were able to put



Ministers from the Doonside area enjoyed the breakfast provided.

theory into practice and felt privileged to be able to serve the guests.

A number of students provided musical items to entertain the guests during breakfast.

Reverend Margaret Schubert from the Uniting Church commented on the performances and said she "felt privileged to be able to attend the breakfast and see the talent your students have."

The ministers breakfast is one of the ways the college aims to thank spiritual leaders for the work they do in the community, and show appreciation for their support not only for the college staff and students but also in the local community.—*Fiona Lelilio*



Students help Year 11 hospitality teacher Rachel Foo (right) to serve the food for breakfast.



◆ A member of **Swan Valley church, WA**, graduated on February 20 with a **Doctor of Philosophy** from **Curtin University of Technology**. **Geoffrey Browne**, pictured with his wife, **Roslyn**, wrote his thesis on how **religion** and **spirituality** have typically been measured in population health studies. Although widely acknowledged as having an important influence

on personal health, many studies do not include any measure of their influence or are flawed. Taken from surveys of the general community and church congregations, Dr Browne showed how religious beliefs can influence health and suggested some appropriate ways for measuring religion and spirituality in future health studies.—*Lynn Burton*

◆ An article supporting **Creation**, written by Sanitarium's Development and Innovation's principal research director and well-published author, has been included

in the latest issue of **Chemistry in Australia**. Written by **Dr John Ashton**, the article is believed to be the first to advocate Creation in an **Australian scientific journal**. The article, entitled "A creationist's view of the intelligent design debate," presents facts that provide a suitable explanation for the origins of the world and can conform with modern scientific methods.—*Julie Praestiin*

◆ The **Lae Top Town church, Papua New Guinea**, was filled to capacity during the recent **International Women's Prayer Day** and

many women could not get in. Another denomination in the city had been nominated to host this year's prayer day but had pulled out a few days before the event. PNG Union Mission women's ministries director **Agnes Kola** was guest speaker at the event and said attendees from other denominations were impressed with the way the day was conducted. Some husbands also accompanied their wives to the program.—*Matupit Darius*

◆ For three Sabbaths in a row students, staff and community mem-

# Lecturer's poetry among best

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

**T**wo poems from Avondale College communication lecturer Carolyn Rickett are among the best pieces of creative writing from the University of Sydney. Ms Rickett performed readings of the poems at the launch of *Phoenix*, the first anthology of the writing. "It's nice to have poetry published, but the real joy is in the process of working with other writers," she says

Dr David Brooks, the director of the creative writing program, spoke at the launch. "The University of Sydney is attracting some of the best new writers in the country, and this journal is more than just a showcase for the program itself," he says. "These writers are mature. Their voices, fresh as they are, are also strong and confident."

Ms Rickett is collaborating with the editor of *Phoenix*, Judith Beveridge, one of Australia's leading poets, on a study of poetry and healing. The two will conduct their study at Sydney Adventist Hospital, with an objective of publishing an anthology of poetry where writers experiencing illness can use poetry as a means of therapeutic intervention.

Avondale College will draw on the experience by offering creative writing as a subject from 2009.—*Ursula Borgas*

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ APRIL 21—UNION INSTITUTIONS OFFERING ◆ APRIL 28—TERTIARY STUDENTS DAY



# Whangarei church celebrates 50 years of significance

WHANGAREI, NEW ZEALAND

The Whangarei Adventist church has celebrated its 50th anniversary and been named in the top 10 of *The Northern Advocate's* list of significant buildings in the local area for their architectural design.

Coming in fourth in the survey, the church's design was praised by Kara Dodson, who compiled the list, as "a gem of Deco perfection that would be at home in Napier and almost makes me want to get religion."

The church's curved facade, tower and contrasting details were also described as "a joy to behold" in the survey released in early March.

Whangarei church member Malcolm Ford says, "The present church, opened in 1956, was originally designed without the tower structure. It became obvious that without this distinctive feature, it looked rather bland and could have been passed off as a mere commercial building. For those of us who were involved in the building of this church, it is rewarding to see it



*The Whangarei Adventist church, named as one of the area's best examples of Art Deco architecture.*

included in this recent survey."

Other buildings included the Brutalist-design old post office building, the Butter Factory and Whangarei Men's and Women's clubs.

Whangarei Adventist church celebrated its 50th anniversary late last year, with people travelling from around Australia and New Zealand to be part of the celebrations.

This provided people with a time to reflect on the history of the church. The Sabbath program also included a tree-planting ceremony to honour the church's pioneers.—**RECORD staff/Malcolm Ford/The Northern Advocate**

# Solomons PM reopens Adventist head office

(Continued from page 1)

government of the day is embarking on in its 'bottom up' approach—we want to empower the grassroots," he said. He also encouraged the church leadership to continue to use the office for the spreading of the gospel message to the people of the Solomons.

The office will house the new administrative team, which cares for the Adventist Church in the entire Solomon Islands. Since the building complex opened in the 1980s, it has housed different church entities, including the Western Pacific Union Mission, which was later moved to Fiji. Since then the Eastern Solomons Mission and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency Solomons have operated from the building until SIM was inaugurated at the end of 2006.

The church was previously under three administrative bodies in the Solomon Islands, but with the new realignment, endorsed by church members last year, the church can "now speak with one voice," Pastor Kingston said. "This is the beginning of the many challenges ahead. We hope that we will stand together to make our new organisation successful for the glory of God."—**Jonnie Tango**

bers of **Aore Adventist Academy, Vanuatu**, have attended a prayer meeting in the church at 5 am. **George Vanua**, a Sonoma ministerial graduate, and his wife, **Heather**, initiated the meetings, which they plan to continue all year. Mr Vanua is the new Bible teacher and will assist the boys dean, while Mrs Vanua hopes to teach an accounting subject for the new Year 13 program. The first prayer request of the group was that their new principal would clear immigration and now, **David Rogers**, of Cooranbong, NSW, and a former principal, has arrived.—**Jill Macgillivray**

◆ The "Island of Golden Smiles," **Bahrain**, was the venue for the very **first camp-meeting** in the Gulf Section North. Adventist expatriates working in Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia joined the members in Bahrain for a time of reflection and fellowship led by **Pastor Kjell Aune**, president of the Middle East Union. He spoke about our relationship with God and how God desires our friendship, not service through fear. Guest speaker Pastor Daniel Duda, ministerial director for the Trans-European Division, spoke on seven spiritual pathways of a Christian's relationship with

God.—**TED News**

◆ More than **44,700 new Seventh-day Adventist believers** made history in the **Inter-American Division (IAD)** of the Adventist Church on March 24, when they joined the Adventist faith community. Their decisions marked the largest number of baptisms in a single day in that region. The territory-wide event, called "**Pentecost and more**," featured satellite feeds from all 15 unions, which were broadcast throughout the world. "This is a very extraordinary day," said **Pastor Jan Paulsen**, General Confer-

ence president, as he spoke at the **El Palacio de los Deportes in Santo Domingo**. "I've preached most Sabbaths and travelled all around the world, but I have never done anything like this." More than 10,000 people crowded into the stadium to witness the event, which was the culmination of months of outreach work in the region and took the coordinated efforts of hundreds of pastors, church staff and laypeople. The program was also part of the launching of the Adventist world church's Spanish-language television channel, **Esperanza TV**.—**IAD/ANN**

# Statement on Islam to provide “relationship tool” for Christian, Muslim communities

BEIRUT, LEBANON

As almost any psychologist will tell you, open-minded dialogue is vital to achieving mutual respect and understanding. That advice also applies to communities of faith, according to Seventh-day Adventist leaders in the Trans-European (TED) region, where an estimated 60 to 65 per cent of citizens are Muslims.

Adventists in the region recently adopted an official statement on Islam to help foster a more constructive relationship between Muslims and Christians. “As [the Adventist] movement continues to grow in the world,” the statement begins, “we are looking for [a] good relationship with Islam, a faith with a similar sense of godly calling that is followed by one-fifth of the world’s population.”

The statement draws parallels between Islam and Christianity, such as submission to the Creator God and a common Abrahamic heritage.

It also applauds the scientific, literary and philosophical contributions of Muslims throughout history and recog-

nises Islam’s prophet Mohammed as “a spiritual and social reformer at a time of confusion and ignorance.

“We believe that among peoples of all faiths, God has through history preserved a people of authentic submission in the face of apostasy, oppression and persecution. We acknowledge that within Islam there are such people. . . . Within this group of sincere believers we see potential partners for further exploring our spiritual understanding of the One true God,” the statement reads.

The statement ends with a call for Adventists to commit to “honesty, fairness and respect in describing Islamic faith,” and vice versa.

It acknowledges doctrinal differences—such as belief in Christ as Saviour and Son of God—but says such differences should “not be made points of controversy or generate attitudes of superiority, but rather provide an opportunity for respectful dialogue, knowing that it is ultimately God who brings conviction to the heart.”

Bertil Wiklander, president of the TED, says, “We must show Muslims that they can trust us, while we stand by our

Adventist faith. . . . We should not underestimate the challenges, but I feel that times are changing and that we can look forward to dialogue and, I pray, successful work among Muslim people.”

Regional church leaders have sent the Statement to the General Conference (GC), where officials will decide how such a statement would “best benefit the mission of the world church,” says Pastor Michael Ryan, a GC vice-president.

While Pastor Ryan admits that “statements are not nearly as important as the way church members interact and behave toward people of other faith groups,” he does believe they bolster positive relations.

“The Great Commission instructs the church that every person is invited to know Jesus Christ. This [statement] will provide a relationship tool to help Adventists better understand the people [they] are inviting,” he says.

“People, regardless of background and religious affiliation,” Pastor Ryan adds, “need to be perceived by the church as worthy of genuine respect. Statements such as this one help get that message across.”—*ANN/Elizabeth Lechleitner*

◆ A Polish man is in trouble for offering an **online confessional** for **Catholics** who can’t be bothered with church. **Borys Cezar**, 37, set up the website that welcomed visitors with the words: “Welcome to the virtual confessional.” It then leads participants through the process of confession, ending with “Congratulations, your sins have been forgiven.” Cezar is facing a heavy fine or jail for offending religious feelings and his website has been closed down. He said: “I’m a Catholic myself. I go to confession like anyone else. I didn’t want to offend anyone.”—*Ananova*

◆ An Australian couple from Colyton, NSW, are doing something a little different with their pension. **Rocco** and **Mary Riccio** wanted to make a difference so they pooled their resources to **build an orphanage** in **India**, which they run entirely from their **Australian pension**. The couple started **The Children of God’s Kingdom** orphanage five years ago near Chennai. At present they have **20 children** in their care, ranging in age from three to 16. They spend their time between Australia and India.—*Australian Christian Channel*

◆ The **Bible Society’s work** in Australia is **200 years old** this month. Although not formally established until 1817, the first gifts from the British and Foreign Bible Society arrived in Van Diemen’s Land (now Tasmania) in 1807, and included 50 Bibles and 100 New Testaments. The society then supplied 500 Bibles and 1000 New Testaments to the **Reverend Samuel Marsden**, a settler and schoolteacher bound for NSW in 1808. Bible Society New South Wales (NSW) came into being through an Act of the NSW Parliament on March 7, 1817. Bible Society NSW (then called the NSW

Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society) was the first auxiliary branch in the Pacific of the Bible Society.—*Ramon Williams*

◆ Anglicans in London, England, have filled the streets in a procession marking the **200-year anniversary** of the **abolition** of the **slave trade**, as a large choir sang the hymn, “**Amazing grace**,” written by reformed slave trader John Newton. The two-hour service was held at the place where 2700 ships had left to take slaves, two out of 10 of whom died on the ships.—*Australian Christian Channel*

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

## ADRA busy as bees in Anakie

ANAKIE, VICTORIA

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Australia have combined with the Willaura Lions Club to provide further assistance to beekeepers who lost 3000 beehives in the 2006 Grampians and Anakie bushfires.

Through the organisation of the members of the Stawell Seventh-day Adventist church, a welcome donation was provided from ADRA to purchase 350 queen bees, which were distributed to beekeepers whose hives were lost in the 2006 bushfires.

For beekeepers this was an important donation, as the queen is the centre of im-

portance in a bee colony, and a new queen in a hive gives the bees and the beekeeper a new lease of life.

The Willaura Lions Club enabled the purchase of 170 queen excluders, which are an important and costly component in a beehive. In the 2006 bushfires, the 3000 hives that were destroyed had their queen excluders reduced to a lump of melted metal and twisted wire.

It is expected that it will be a number of years before the beekeeping industry in the area can return to normal production, as plants that produce pollen and nectar recover from the fires. These donations will assist in the recovery process.—*Peter Kaczynski/The Ararat Advertiser*

## “You are the church,” president tells youth

NEW YORK, NEW YORK, USA

With questions running the gamut from music to marriage, General Conference president Pastor Jan Paulsen chatted with a group of Adventist young professionals and students in New York City on March 29. The conversation marked the 15th instalment in Pastor Paulsen’s “Let’s talk” series, featuring live, unscripted and unedited dialogue.

If “Let’s talk—NYC” hinged on one theme, it was that young people should have as much a say in the church as those chairing committees and on church boards. “Have you got to be elected as an officer or be president somewhere [to make a difference]? You are the church every bit as much as I am,” Pastor Paulsen told participants.

While the young people gathered welcomed his optimism and message of empowerment, many said limited resources and less-than-supportive attitudes from some older members of their congregations still make church involvement difficult.

Pastor Paulsen acknowledged the participants’ concerns and commended those who take initiative even when they feel their local congregations do not appreciate or fully support them. He said the church needed to make strides toward better “loving and engaging” young people. “There is no reason why anyone has to have passed

the age of 45 or 50” before they can fully participate in the church.

One participant asked if Pastor Paulsen felt there was a place in the church for unconventional talents, such as rap or choreography. “Let your extraordinary spiritual gifts and the wealth of your energies, ideas and creative talents flow into the life of the church,” he answered.

“Some people feel uneasy about things that are new and different. Be patient with them. Help them to know you as a person whose heart is absolutely committed to the church. The worst thing you can do is not be engaged. Let your gifts positively impact the church,” Pastor Paulsen advised.

As it often does during “Let’s talk,” the question about women’s ordination emerged early on. “We are hoping to address this issue as a global community, not just as cultural units,” Pastor Paulsen said. “I respect the world church’s decision [on women’s ordination], even though I recognise that God has endowed women with a calling to ministerial functions just as he has endowed men.

“I know of no biblical reason why women can’t be recognised in ministry as fully as men [are]. Women offer strong, creative participation to the life of local congregations. A church that denies their participation is a church that is robbing itself of the gifts God has endowed the community with.”—*ANN*

## PNGUM provides financial training

LAE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

More than 50 employees of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) recently attended a three-day financial-management training workshop at the church’s headquarters in Lae, Morobe Province.

The participants included principals, education directors, health directors and secretaries from all over the country.

The training was conducted and organised by the church’s treasury department to strengthen the employees’ skills in managing funds from the government and its partners.

Facilitators for the training included the PNGUM’s chief financial officer Solomon Agdon and associate financial officers Praveen Saggurthi, Rex Rosas and Riches Christian.

The training was funded by the church’s national treasury department and AusAID through its Church Partnership program, as part of its capacity-building for church employees.

The training workshop was the first of its kind to be run in Morobe and the participants appreciated the chance to develop their financial-management skills.

“The training was very useful as we are not trained accountants, but deal with money during our training and programs,” said James Gahare, program manager for Adventist health ministries in the PNGUM. “The training helps those of us who have not trained as accountants to prepare our budgets in the proper way.”—*Martina Darius*



Attendees of the three-day finance training workshops appreciated the opportunity to gain financial skills.

# To three friends I wish I had

BY ROY NADEN

**D**EAR SAM, HAMED AND JO,  
How I wish I had met each of you and that we had become lifelong friends. Sam, you could have explained the depth of your Jewish faith to me and helped me understand my God better. Hamed, you could have taught me to understand the beauty and justice inherent in Islam. Jo, you could have been my agnostic friend, teaching me to ask honest and difficult questions, showing me how doubt and faith are closely linked together. But we never met. We lived separate lives.

Now we're in our 70s, arthritis and shortness of breath are making their presence felt whenever we see a flight of stairs—and look for a lift! Mortality is hovering on the horizon of our lives with increasing intensity. And I'm reflecting often about “what might have been” and my grandchildren.

When we left university, we intended to change the world. I believed that my calling to be a pastor would give me endless opportunities. It did. But growing my church absorbed all my energy and enthusiasm. Looking back, I confess to being more concerned about the affirmation of my church leaders than fulfilling the dream!

I had hoped to leave my small corner of the world a much better place than I found it. However, as my church grew, the community around us got worse. And I did nothing of significance to bridge the gaping chasms between our congregation and people of other faiths—or no faith at all. The three of you may have done the same, absorbed in your businesses, religions and other important goals.

For me, rejoicing in past successes is now overshadowed by my sorrow over past neglect. My belief in an imminent second coming of Christ blinded me to my responsibility to care for God's creation. My belief in the “chosenness” of my church made me smug, and that closed any real dialogue with others of different convictions or philosophies.

If only I had stopped and thought more about what really matters; if only you had



iStock

stopped and done the same! Instead of living three parallel lives, we could have learned more about the treasures each one of us has been carrying. I am convinced now that with your help, I would follow Christ better! All of our lives would have been much richer.

It's all “what might have been.”

I'm growing old, and have some time on my hands, so I'm taking a belated new turn in what little is left of the road ahead. I'm committing to be a better listener. Not to argue, but to learn, not to seek to demolish another's beliefs, but to discover their strengths and how they could enrich my life. I want to get beyond the tempting titbits of conversation that will flow from the political debates, and instead to seek out those with spiritual lives different from mine and to learn from them—especially from Jews, Muslims and agnostics.

We are fellow travellers on the same difficult road for our world of deteriorating climate, challenges of globalisation, dishonesty in politics and rigidity in religion. I must hear the things people from these different persuasions want to tell me. I want to walk this new path seeking mutual understanding, not domination; building, not tearing down; and working for the good of the wonderful creation God gave us all.

Most importantly—the main reason that prompted this note—I want to model this sense of inclusiveness to my son and daugh-

ter and my two grandchildren in the hope that at least in our family, there'll be a new interest in the uniqueness and convictions among our recent growing circle of friends outside our church.

The facts are, Sam, Hamed and Jo, the four of us are leaving the world in a much bigger mess than we found it. In the years I have left, I'm doing something about it.

The journey to a better world seems daunting. What can we really accomplish until we are no more? Much, I'm beginning to think. We can leave a legacy in words, in resources, in prayer. I would like to spend the rest of my days blowing the wind into the backs of those who can use such a legacy to further the dream.

A quote from Mother Teresa has greatly encouraged me. She said something like this: Few of us can do great deeds, but we can all do small deeds with great love. If I had even one “old” friend from the other great faiths, I would say to them, “Please accept the ‘changing’ me, so together we can yet make our small worlds better by listening, by acting for the sake of those who come after us and for the good of the world we will soon leave behind.” **R**

---

*Roy Naden is an emeritus professor of Andrews University. Originally from Australia, he now lives in retirement in Seattle, Washington, USA.*



# Making poverty history?

BY MEGAN COLES

FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, I have wanted to volunteer in Africa and help the starving and hurt children I had read about and seen in the media. I finally got the chance in November 2004, when I volunteered in a community centre in Lusaka, Zambia, for nine weeks.

I was teaching Grade 2, which comprised children of seven to 14 years. The community centre had approximately 500 children who attended school irregularly as they had to work, beg or steal for a living to support their families. Of the 500 children, about one in four was an orphan and around 30 per cent were HIV positive.

While I was there I was also confronted with malaria, TB, starvation, malnutrition, poor access to water and sanitation, lack of medical clinics and poverty in general. However, AIDS was what shocked me and broke my heart most. To most people, AIDS is just a word for a disease; but for me it became reality and, for 39.4 million (according to UNAIDS in 2004), it is their lives.

I remember hugging an orphan girl who was 16 years old, and couldn't walk or talk and could barely move due to AIDS. I taught an eight-year-old orphan boy who missed school most days due to AIDS. A beautiful friend deteriorated before my eyes as I watched her body go from a relatively healthy frame to lying in bed covered in her own urine and vomit, and not being able to talk due to AIDS. I held babies who were on the verge of death due to AIDS. The stories go on and on.

The people did not have access to anti-retroviral drugs because the clinics did not have enough stock and, when they did, the majority of the people could not afford them anyway. Therefore people were dying of a disease that we, in Australia, are able to control because we have access to

these drugs along with education and support. As Bono, musician and anti-poverty campaigner, has described the need to help these people, "It's not a matter of charity, it's a matter of justice."

In November 2005, I volunteered in a village called Koraput in the state of Orissa, India. This village has the highest infant mortality rate in all India. I saw babies dying of thrush to the mouth due to lack of water and because mothers were not



educated about simple hygiene practices. The villagers worked up to 15 hours a day for less than \$US1 per day. The money was not enough for them to buy food, let alone clothes and medicines. They did not have clean drinking water, therefore they were dying from parasites.

After my experiences overseas, I knew I could not go back home to my everyday life and do nothing about the poverty and injustice in this world. When a mother begs you take her dying baby because she loves the child too much to keep it, knowing she cannot look after it because she is dying, I knew I had to help bring about a change in this world. Why should I, fortunate enough to be born into a white middle-class Australian family, receive proper health care and education while others in developing countries cannot?

I was also reminded of the last part of Micah 6:8, the call "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God"

(NIV). I realised that if I call myself a Christian I have an obligation to live like Christ would want, and that is to show His love to the nations. I knew I had to do something here in Australia.

As a result of prayer and many discussions with everyone I met about these convictions, I came in contact with an organisation called The Oaktree Foundation and spent much of last year working with them to highlight conditions and injustices in developing countries, facilitating workshops in primary and secondary schools in Melbourne regarding social-justice issues and inspiring young people to make a positive difference in the world.

It is time for Christians to take a more active stance against injustice, against hunger, against corruption, against abuse and against poverty. Our lives need to consist of more than just the daily grind of work and the weekly worship of God in our churches. These are important, but we also worship

God through our daily actions.

Let us all work together to "make poverty history" and let's humbly show the world that as Christians we really do care. Let us not turn our backs on more than half the world's population. People have often asked me, "You can't change the world, so why try?"

All I can say is that I might not be able to change the whole world but, through God, I can change the world around me. And how can we tell those people whose lives have been positively impacted due to the actions and love of others, that we did not make a difference? For those people, we might be the world. **R**

*The views expressed in Perspective articles are not necessarily those of the editors or the church. Readers may wish to respond.*

**Megan Coles writes from Malvern, Victoria.**

# Losing control of the gospel

BY D BENJAMIN MASON

IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS IN A remote corner of the South Pacific, there is an energetic movement on a quiet harbour that did not exist a couple of years ago. The movement is due to the activity of a small fleet of outrigger canoes navigating from their night docks at Put-Put, a Catholic plantation, toward a small Adventist primary school on the campus of Kambubu Adventist Secondary School.

In a relationship where regular commuting between the Catholic plantation and our Seventh-day Adventist institution has often been discouraged or closely observed by critical and sceptical eyes, a new relationship is slowly developing—a better relationship.

This relationship has been altered as a result of Papua New Guinea Seventh-day Adventist Schools joining the unified education system of Papua New Guinea. With the national government now paying the wages of mission teachers, a substantial decrease in Adventist school fees for our primary and secondary institutions has occurred.

School fees at Rugen Harbour Adventist Primary School have dropped by nearly two-thirds. As a result, access to our church school has increased, allowing for low-income earners working on plantations such as Put-Put to send their children to receive an Adventist education. The decision to save and resurrect a fading education system has also unexpectedly resurrected a fading consciousness of an old gospel commission.

Historically, in times of transition, on the verge of huge church growth, the availability of the gospel has taken unexpected forms as well as the unexpected lead.

At first glance, both the form and lead may seem undesirable and at times even unscriptural. But the forms we tend to be most comfortable with can cause us to develop a false sense that we have ownership and control.

Perhaps the most effective form of dispensing the gospel and increasing access to its riches is when the gospel message exceeds our comfort levels. This reminds us that the truth, the purpose and the need of the gospel is greater than we often realise and far greater than we can possibly manage on our own. We can see examples of this in the Bible.

## Peter's learning experience

Consider the story in Acts 10, where Cornelius and his household were baptised by Peter. Despite the baptism and Peter's dining with Gentiles not being part of the strategic evangelism plan of the church in Jerusalem, the Spirit moved and things happened. After this dramatic alteration to the church's practice and way of thinking, the followers of Christ were challenged to reconsider two aspects of the gospel message—ownership and access.

The door giving wider access to the risen Saviour was first opened by the Holy Spirit; the church later followed this leading. As is often the case with riches, people do not need an invitation to seek it. People do not

need to develop a desire. People of all races and places naturally seek greater truth and riches. We all thirst for it at times. And so the promising words of Christ, "they will be filled" (Matthew 5:6\*), sound even sweeter.

Peter's arrival at Cornelius' house was only to confirm what had already been established by the Spirit. Crossing these uncharted waters would have led some believers to closely watch these Gentile members with critical and sceptical eyes. Upon arriving at Cornelius' house, Peter himself asked, "May I ask why you sent for me?" (Acts 10:29).

Through the working of the Holy Spirit, Cornelius was able to discern and acknowledge that there was indeed truth and richness in the Word that the Christian Jews submitted themselves to. This was his intention: to share, to partake, to become a beneficiary of the blessings, joy and confidence that the followers of the Christ had.

Peter's return to Jerusalem was greeted with caution. However, upon hearing Peter recount the result—the outpouring of the Holy Spirit—there was little left to question: "When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God" (Acts 11:18).

For most families, it is not a natural act to allow—let alone accept—a new member into the household, into the family. A newcomer may even be labelled as illegitimate and contrary to a true family member. But, despite our first inclinations, it is necessary to act differently in the family of Christ.



Adoption is an act by which every member of the family of Christ enters (see Galatians 3:26).

## A centurion's faith

A second example of the access to God's truth leading His church can be found in the story of the centurion seeking a blessing for his servant (see Matthew 8:5-13). Those in the crowd would have murmured that surely no good could come from this centurion's visit. It was more plausible to think that this soldier's only goal would be to seize and dominate control of this fast-growing movement.

But the centurion requested of Jesus only words. Surely this could not be all this centurion desired of Him? How puzzling this Roman centurion's request must have seemed to the Jews witnessing this event unfold. His request did not fit the mould, his words contradicted what they always suspected and assumed. "Just say the word" was his only request of Jesus (Matthew 8:8).

Only words, a desire for words. Is it not possible that the same request is sought by many today? To be able to hear the words of truth, words of comfort and words of hope. To comply with this request seems like a small thing. To share what the Lord offered so readily seems natural. It seems acceptable.

What was Jesus' response to this outsider seeking what was on offer? "I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith," He said. "I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 8:10, 11).

And the centurion's servant was healed. But this event was not only a rich blessing to the centurion and his servant, it should be seen as an even richer and valuable experience for the Jews. Witnessing this event gave them an opportunity to reflect and possibly reconstruct their understanding of the family of God, His ownership and our responsibility.

## Led by the Spirit

The centurion, Cornelius and floating fleets of schoolchildren, through unsuspecting individuals and events the Lord reveals that His family is drawn from a diverse multitude of individuals and people groups maturing in the Saviour's grace at different rates but in one truth.

People have many valid concerns regarding how the church should engage and interact with the world that surrounds us. Like Peter, we need to spend time on rooftops, or somewhere similar, where we also can submit ourselves to receive the leading of the Holy Spirit. Like Peter, let us embrace and acknowledge that the Holy Spirit directs and empowers us, that it isn't us directing and empowering the Holy Spirit.


From my rooftop, my attention has been drawn to the wakes made by the canoes pointing toward an Adventist primary school, real evidence of a blessing. A blessing that affirms to me that God has not lost ownership of His gospel, nor the people who proclaim and hunger for it. **R**

\*Bible quotations are from the New International Version.

**D Benjamin Mason is principal of Kambubu Adventist Secondary School, Kokopo, East New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea.**

# Record Roo's

Kids corner



Hi Kids,  
Do you like surprises?  
Imagine being a spy exploring a new land. You wouldn't know what dangers awaited you! When Moses sent spies to the land of Canaan no one knew what they would find. Read the story in Numbers 13:21-33.

RR

### Fill in the Blanks

Then they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and there \_\_\_\_\_ down a branch with one cluster of \_\_\_\_\_; they carried it between two of them on a \_\_\_\_\_. They also brought some of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Numbers 13:23 NKJV

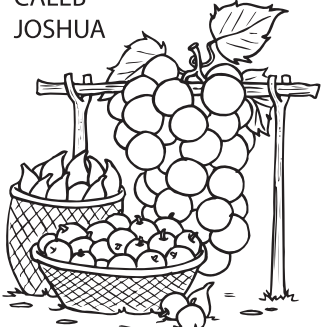
### Word Search

P	A	C	A	N	A	A	N	I	T	E	S
O	M	D	J	E	B	S	I	T	E	S	
M	A	H	C	M	O	S	E	S	C	J	A
E	L	K	I	H	G	L	F	S	A	O	A
G	E	P	T	T	P	I	E	R	L	R	R
R	K	L	I	O	T	P	A	E	E	D	O
A	I	O	E	F	A	I	V	N	B	A	N
N	T	P	S	R	R	S	T	F	T	N	O
A	E	G	G	Q	S	U	P	E	I	S	Q
T	S	C	A	R	R	Y	I	I	S	G	N
E	I	X	A	M	O	R	I	T	E	S	S
S	N	J	O	S	H	U	A	A	S	S	W

- SPIES
- CANAAN
- CARRY
- PEOPLE
- CITIES
- GIANTS
- FRUIT
- FIGS
- GRAPES
- POMEGRANATES

- MOSES
- AARON
- AMALEKITES
- HITTITES
- JEBUSITES
- AMORITES
- CANAANITES
- JORDAN

- CALEB
- JOSHUA



## Jesus and Osama

DANNY BELL, WA

“Jesus loves Osama” was a pretty radical thing to advocate in a church magazine (*The Edge*, March 31).

I understand the concept and don't think anyone would dispute the idea but the statement may—as Reverend Nile said—appear to condone these figures. I don't think any church would be game enough to put up a poster saying “Jesus loves paedophiles,” even though in reality He does.

In an age when young people are revolting against established democratic governments, to put stuff like this around is irresponsible. Not to mention that there are good, balanced non-Christians out there, who live in disgust at what bin Laden has done. He is a self-confessed murderer, killing thousands of innocent people. While saying Jesus loves him is true, in the wrong context it could do more harm to our message than good.

JOHN WALLACE, NZ

I appreciate what you're trying to say with “Jesus loves Osama” but I must disagree that the Baptists got it right. The church sign shows the care we must take when using slogans to “advertise” Christianity. What does it achieve? How does it help non-Christians think about Christianity? What does it imply?

Thoughts come to mind such as: “Jesus must be an idiot”; “Bush obviously isn't a Christian then”; or “Baptists obviously live on a different planet.” Isn't this counterproductive?

It's true that Jesus loves Osama. But is that reason enough to make a sign saying it?

It does raise the question, what is Christian love? Is preventing your enemy and his death-cult followers from murdering their neighbours, loving him? Surely it is.

The tragedy of today is that leaders have so quickly forgotten how early Christianity overpowered the global might of paganism. The humble Carpenter and His followers were dressed in sandals, not jackboots. If we believe what they believed, perhaps we could achieve what they achieved. God promises protection and blessing to those who are righteous. Maybe military protection is necessitated by our unrighteousness. Judgment begins at the house of God.

## Military questioning

LACHLAN IBBOTT, QLD

In response to “Unbearable arms?” (*Letters*, March 24) and other correspondence regarding military and other similar services I raise the following simple questions.

If the good Samaritan actually came across the traveller getting a beating by thieves on the road, should he: (1) Stand by and wait until the beating is concluded then offer “loving and compassionate Christian assistance” to the badly beaten man after the event; or should he (2) step in immediately

and offer any assistance necessary to stop the abuse when it is actually needed?

And what might be the traveller's thoughts toward the Samaritan in this situation if he catches, between blows, a brief glimpse of the Samaritan standing by waiting patiently and observing with compassion, complete with first aid box and wallet, as the thieves complete their beating?

Do persons joining military or police services sign up with the expectation that they may need to take a life or with the view of trying to help in any way they can? Do they join and later perform their duties hoping they will not be put in a position where they have no choice but to take a life?

In relation to noncombatancy, people should be careful about their comments when such comments are made without all the relevant information. These “uninformed” comments not only irritate and cause division but hurt those who may be the subject of the debate and who try to perform their duty faithfully.

DAVID CHESNEY, VIC

For Christians, a noncombatant approach to war has much to commend it. But as a worldwide church with a growing membership, the Adventist Church needs to consider the consequences if everybody did what our church has promoted in the past.

Some of your contributors seem willing to accept the consequences of complete pacifism. As individuals dealing with other individuals they are perfectly entitled to

take such an approach. The Sermon on the Mount appears to be directed to individuals, not to corporate bodies like governments.

If a government decides it doesn't need any defence forces it would be a risky decision. For such a government to rely for its defence on “great and powerful friends” would be completely hypocritical.

Gandhi is celebrated for the success of his nonviolent civil disobedience. It worked with the British; but there are scores of countries today that would care for him quickly if he tried those tactics. Incidentally, he believed violence was better than cowardice.

## It's true that Jesus loves Osama. But is that reason enough to make a sign saying it?

KERREN MOULDER, QLD

After 13 years in the military, I had never heard of Seventh-day Adventists or the gospel. Yet I recently discovered that in one battalion in Townsville, there are 10 soldiers who acknowledge their affiliation as Adventists, yet do not attend church or fellowship with Adventists and do not express their faith or affiliation at work.

Is it because they were abandoned when they enlisted, especially if they were combatants? Is it because they are not welcome in Adventist congregations because they chose a military career?

If we, as representatives of Christ, are responsible for proclaiming salvation to all, why are those who serve in our armed forces neglected? Why don't we have Adventist chaplains to guide, lead and reconcile soldiers to Christ? Why aren't Adventists dedicated to serving and saving soldiers as the soldiers are in serving their country and saving others?

Are issues relating to combatant and non-combatant roles fogging our obligation to present Jesus to those in our armed forces, or perhaps the discussion is hindering God's presence and work in our military?

**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.

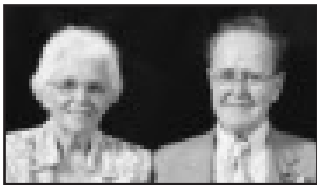


## Anniversaries

**Blucher**, Trevor and Wendy (nee Wilkin-son) were married on 19.03.57 in Adelaide, SA, and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 18.03.07 at a special luncheon in the home of their eldest daughter, Robyn and husband, Gary Whyatt, Seaford Rise, SA. Many friends, including their two bridesmaids, Wendy Brooks (nee Pitt) and Sadie Phillips (nee Kemp) and groomsmen, David Sutton, joined the celebration. They have two other daughters, Julie Fehlberg (Terrigal, NSW) and Nerida Stafford (Renmark, SA); and six grandchildren. Trevor and Wendy live a busy but peaceful life at Lake Bonney, Barmera, and attend the Riverland church, Berri.

**Doebelin**, Clive and Hazel (nee Heise) celebrated 50 years of marriage on 03.01.07. They were married in the old Eight Mile Plains church, Qld, and the ceremony was conducted by the bride's brother, Pastor Vern Heise. Family and friends joined the celebrations and wished the couple God's blessing. Clive and Hazel live at Victoria Point Retirement Village, where they have lived for 10 years.

**Heise**, Fred and Kathleen (nee Crombie), also known as Ena, were married on 05.02.47 in the Eight Mile Plains church by Pastor Frank Hooper. They recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with family and friends in Coffs Harbour, NSW. They have four children, eight



grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Ena continues to use her gifts for hospitality, care and friendship, while Fred knits woollen garments such as knee rugs, beanies and socks, which have given comfort to children in places like Mongolia, Nepal and at home. They have retired in Coffs Harbour, after living in Brisbane, Qld, and Perth, WA.

**Lillioja**, Harry and Ilma (nee Scarfe) were married on 14.01.47 in the old Napier church, New Zealand, by Pastor Reginald Burnes, in a double wedding with Ilma's late sister, Joan, and Will Timmins. They have six children, 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Harry worked



for many years as a literature evangelist and later for Sanitarium. They celebrated their anniversary in Sydney, with immediate friends and family. Congratulatory greetings were received from Her Maj-

esty, Queen Elizabeth II, the Honourable Anand Satyanand, Governor-general of New Zealand, and Mrs Helen Clarke, Prime Minister of New Zealand.

**Lonsdale**, Keith and Leila (nee Howard) of Oakleigh, Vic, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 05.11.06 with family and friends at the church they were married at Daylesford, 60 years to the day.



Their flowergirl and maid-of-honour, as well as 60 friends and family members, celebrated their anniversary with afternoon tea. The couple were also surprised to be staying in the bride's childhood home for the weekend.

**Miller**, Pastor Ross and Myrtle celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with over 100 family and friends on 10.02.07 at Wantirna church, Vic. During pastoral ministry of more than 33 years, the Millers worked in New Zealand, Fiji, Victoria, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and South



Queensland. As volunteers in their retirement they pastored the Penang church, Malaysia, and the Suva church, Fiji, and Ross has taught at six laymen training schools in Fiji, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. They have four children, 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

**Watson**, James Joseph and Pauline Elaine were married on 09.03.57 in Brisbane, Qld. Pauline was already a Watson before the couple were married. They celebrated 50 years of marriage by renewing their vows on March 10 at their home "Graeclands." The beautiful ceremony was attended by relatives, friends and members of the Esk church. A wonderful example that true love lasts forever.

**Webster**, Pastor Jeff and Else (nee Attinger) were married on 04.02.57 in Adelaide, SA, by Pastor William Lock. Six grandchildren dressed in white honoured the couple in the celebration with family and friends at "Parronrah," Kangaroo Valley, NSW. The Websters have three children, Bettina (Schmidt), Mark (deceased) and Jenny, with husband, Paul Marcus.

## Retirements

● **Owen Cowley**, Avondale College (35 years). ● **Alan Craig**, Sanitarium Health Food Company (44 years). ● **Colin Crawford**, North New South Wales Schools Ltd (42 years). ● **John Dose**, SPD Ltd-Mission

## Volunteers!

**English Teacher—Wisdom Bank Language School (Taiwan)**. To teach elementary classes as well as assist with the local church evangelism and youth program. Fantastic opportunity! Term: 12 months, commencing July 1, 2007. For more information contact Hayley.

**Medical Staff—Simla Base Hospital (India)**. Two teams needed for surgical camps. Surgeons (urology and plastics), anaesthetist, scrub nurse, scout/scrub nurse. Term: August 3–8 and Nov 31–Dec 5, 2007. Please contact <sarah@onemission.org.au>.

**URGENT! Teachers—Thailand**. No experience necessary. Please contact Hayley for more information.

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

+61 2 9847 3275



Hostel (34 years). ● **Robert Porter**, South Australian Conference (30 years). ● **Rosalie Rochefort**, ARV Western Australian Conference (25 years). ● **Evelyn Rose**, Sydney Adventist Hospital (22 years).

**Papua New Guinea Union Mission**  
Western Highlands Mission  
● **Edward Kamen**.

Bouganville Mission  
● **Evelyn McKenzie**.

Morobe Mission  
● **Ande Sune**.

Madang Manus Mission  
● **Charles Ume**.

**Trans-Pacific Union Mission**  
Atoifi Hospital  
● **Isaiah Paul**.

Fiji Mission  
● **Akanisi Nabiti**. ● **Ledua Lalakobau**.

Samoa Mission  
● **Atalina Malaga**.

## Weddings

**Brinsmead—Richards**. Adrian Lars Brinsmead, son of Calvin and Joy Brinsmead (Dubbo, NSW), and Lynelle Mae Richards, daughter of Ross and Wanda Richards (Mooree), were married on 18.3.07 at Tamworth Adventist church, NSW.

Frank Cantrill

**Engelbrecht—Webster**. Loren Edward Engelbrecht, son of Bernard Engelbrecht and Warina Walker (both of Sydney, NSW), and Robyn Rosemay Webster, daughter of Pastor Gary and Marilyn Webster (Sydney), were married on 16.3.07 at Galston Adventist church. Gary Webster

**Fetaui—Clayton**. Eric Paul Fetaui, son of the late Paul and Kuini Fetaui (formerly from Western Samoa), and Pauline Helen Christine Clayton, daughter of Donald and Lorna Elliott (Kangaroo Point, Qld), were married on 24.3.07 at Snug Harbour Docks Hotel, Kangaroo Point.

Humberto Rivera

**Grills—Carter**. Anthony Grills and Denise Carter were married on 18.2.07 at the Tamworth Adventist church, NSW.

Frank Cantrill

**Rifo—Cifuentes**. Cesar Alexis Rifo, son of Maria Inzunza (Chile, Temuco), and Paula Marcela Cifuentes Briones, daughter of Jorge and Maggie Cifuentes (Melbourne, Vic), were married on 25.3.07 at the Ferntree Gully Adventist church.

Richard Araya-Bishop

**Robbie—Silva Withmory**. Gavin James Robbie, son of Dr Bruce and Beverly Robbie (Bilambi, NSW), and Cecilia Teofila Silva Withmory, daughter of Juan and Cecilia Silva (Kellyville NSW), were married on 11.3.07 at the Parramatta Adventist church, Northmead. Rein Muhlberg

**Vickers—Hunt**. Malcolm Vickers and Christine Hunt were married on 25.2.07 at the Tamworth Adventist church, NSW.

Frank Cantrill

## Obituaries

**Bacci**, Marco, born 20.5.1944 in Italy; died 22.2.07 in Perth, WA. On 9.4.67 he married Carol. He is survived by his wife (Bridgetown); his daughter, Gina Slater (Perth); his sons, Raymond (Busselton) and Gregory (Greenbushes); his four grandchildren; and two adopted grandchildren. Marco worked many years in the mining industry and volunteered for St John Ambulance. He was loved and respected by his family and in the community.

Robert Kingdon

**Barnes**, Mavis Freda (nee Rendell), born 4.9.1917 at Prahran, Vic; died 27.2.07 at Villa Maria, Wantirna South. On 9.11.40 she married John (Wally). She is survived by her husband (Boronia); her children, Marlyn Turville (Ferntree Gully), Lynette Evans (Murwillumbah, NSW), Barry (Seaford, Vic), Dawn Close (Yarram) and Ian (Kilsyth); their spouses; her 11 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. Until a prolonged illness limited her mobility, Mavis attended the Ferntree Gully church, where she was a much loved member. She will be remembered as a quiet, loving person with a beautiful smile and will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Darrell Croft, Kylie Ward

**Chad**, Lynette Janice (nee Stettaford), born 3.11.1943 in Melbourne, Vic; died peacefully 24.2.07 in Mona Vale Hospital, NSW, after a 17-year battle with illness. On 3.12.77 she married Max. She is survived by her husband; and her sons, Mark (both of Mona Vale) and Scott (Sydney). Lyn loved horseriding, bushwalking and swimming. She was a registered nurse and worked for many years at Inala Home for

Become Our Partner Helping Avondale

INCREASED RATES! PERSONAL SERVICE

**ACF Investments LTD**

27 YEARS OF SERVICE  
\$60 MILLION IN DEPOSITS

Contact Greg or Fay  
Ph (02) 9989 8355 Fax (02) 9989 8340 acfi@avondale.org.au  
PO Box 502, Wahrenonga NSW 2076

## Positions vacant

▲ **Accountant/Accounts Clerk**—*Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community (Meekatharra, WA)* is seeking an Accountant/Accounts Clerk. The position requires competence in all aspects of management accounting, including a good understanding of GST, MYOB, payroll, preparation and lodgement of BAS etc. For further information regarding Karalundi and the above position, contact the Administrator on (08) 9981 2933; email <administrator@karalundi.wa.edu.au>. Applications in writing should be forwarded to The Administrator, Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community, PMB 6, Meekatharra WA 6642. Applications close **May 18, 2007**.

▲ **National Distribution Manager**—*Sanitarium Head Office (Berkeley Vale, NSW)* is seeking a permanent full-time National Distribution Manager to report to the General Manager—Logistics. The successful applicant will be responsible for Sanitarium's warehousing, delivery and customer service functions for its Australian operations; will have relevant business experience of 10 years or more indicating track record of delivering effective results; and proven management skills in the Logistics or Transport and Warehousing industry, preferably FMCG. Applications in writing should be forwarded to Group Human Resources, Sanitarium, Locked Bag 7, Central Coast Mail Centre NSW 2252; fax (02) 4349 6099; email <humanresources@sanitarium.com.au>. Applications close **April 27, 2007**.

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

the mentally and physically handicapped.

*Gilberto Dias*

**Davis**, Mary Josephine, born 21.7.1927 in Rockhampton, Qld; died 22.2.07 in Wyong Hospital, NSW. She is survived by her husband, Lyle; her children, Geoff, Lynette Rolston, and Peter; her six grandchildren; her brothers, John and Ken Riepon; and her sister, Jean Lindbeck. Graduating from primary teaching at Avondale in 1948, Mary taught at Collinsvale and Moonah schools, Tas; Carmel College, WA; Kilsyth State Primary and Oakleigh Schools, Vic; and Longburn College, NZ. She was also an enthusiastic fundraiser for school and church facilities, especially for the new Kempsey church. She was a devoted and loving wife and mother, and is greatly missed by family and friends.

*Bruce Manners, Barry Satchell*

**Ehlers**, Mildred Ruth (Millie, nee Mattingley), born 20.9.1918 in Brisbane, Qld; died 6.3.07 in Gold Coast Hospital. On 12.11.41 she married Harry, who predeceased her on 25.9.82. She is survived by her children, Joan Anderson (Walloon) and Brian (Birkdale); and their families. Millie was a committed Christian, a loving mother and grandmother; one who loved people. She will be missed by many and we look forward with confidence to the Resurrection.

*Ray Fraser, Bob Possingham*

**Holmesby**, Frances Dorothy (nee Ardley), born 15.10.1918 at Penarth, Wales; died 24.2.07 in Wyong Hospital, NSW. On 15.4.41 she married Harry. She was predeceased by her son, Barry, in 1950. She is survived by her husband (Wyeec) and her children, Marie Hutchison (Wyeec) and Jeff

(Jilliby). Fran and Harry's work in nursery wholesaling naturally led to plant propagation in retirement and the Wyeec Adventist church benefited from their contribution of time and effort in fundraising. Fran was much loved by all and will be sadly missed by her close and faithful family.

*Alan Saunders*

**Kemp**, Hector Ebenezer, born 10.12.1914 at Surrey Hills, Vic; died 7.3.07 at Monbulk. On 21.11.40 he married Mavis Ward. He is survived by his wife (Warburton); his daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and David Ridley (Monbulk); his granddaughters, Christina, Bronwyn and Lorinda; their spouses; and one great-grandson. Hector and Mavis were hardworking in all their endeavours in farming, and also in contributing to the cause of Christ. Hector's faithfulness remains as a testimony, both in church buildings and in lives influenced toward the kingdom. Many gathered to acknowledge this esteemed brother at services at Wesburn Cemetery and at the Warburton church on 13.3.07.

*Dean Giles, Eric Kingdon  
Darrell Croft, Kingsley Andrews*

**Lawrence**, James (Jim), born 13.10.1930; died 26.2.07 at Ballarat, Vic. He was predeceased by his wife, Valerie, in 2003. He was also predeceased by his daughter, Lynette Lawrence. He is survived by his daughters, Joy Jacobson (NSW), Jeanie Lawrence (Creswick, Vic) and Kate Lawrence (NSW). Jim was involved in building the Avondale Memorial church, carrying out much of the welding on the steelwork. He also worked as a welder at the Sanitarium Health Food factory in Cooranbong.

*Brian Lawty*

**Salom**, Dr Alwyn Philip, born 23.3.1928 in Adelaide, SA; died 18.2.07 in Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane, Qld. On 17.1.57 he married Audrey Speers. He is survived by his wife; his daughters, Amanda Galehawk (both of Cooranbong) and Melissa (Hornsby); and his granddaughters, Sarah, Jessica and Virginia. Alwyn began church work at the age of 16 as a junior teacher in South Australia. He taught and studied in the USA; was a senior lecturer at Avondale College; served in pastoral ministry in the North NSW and Greater Sydney Conferences; then in 1986 he became the founding director of the Institute of Church Ministry and the dean of the theology faculty. From 1991 until his retirement in January 1996, he served as personal ministries director for the South Pacific Division. He continued as director of the Institute of Church Ministry until 1999, and as its associate director until his death. Alwyn had a varied career, but he maintained a constant commitment to his Lord and a passion for His church.

*Doug Robertson  
Ray Roennfeldt, Bruce Manners*

**Smith**, Kevin Lewis, born 26.1.1936 at Katoomba, NSW; died at home 17.2.07 at Kimbriki, near Wingham. He is survived by his wife, Glenda; his children, Annette, Trevor, Andrew, Janelle and Kerrie; their spouses; his brother, Ronald; his sister, Roslyn; their spouses; and his grandchildren. Kevin served his Master faithfully. He was extensively involved in his community through the Burrell Creek Rural Fire Service, The Manning Valley Historical Society and the Burrell Creek Youth and Community Association. He awaits the call to eternal life at the second coming.

*Wilf Pascoe, Daniel Cinzio*

**Spring**, Edna May (nee Heise), born 6.9.1917 at Rockhampton, Qld; died 2.3.07 at Victoria Point. In 1940 she married Edgar Roberts, who predeceased her in 1976. In 1980 she married Garth Spring, who predeceased her in 2000. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Barry and Val Roberts (Algerger, Qld); her sisters, Ruth Sperring, Alma Robe, Yvonne Nethercott and Hazel Doebelin (all of Victoria Point); her two grandchildren; and three great-

grandchildren. Edna was an independent, conservative and congenial person, who knew no compromise in matters of importance. She is sadly missed.

*Keith Miller, Neil Tyler*

**Wakefield**, Ruby Elizabeth, born 24.8.1916 at Bundaberg, Qld; died 2.3.07 at Ipswich. On 5.9.36 she married Harold, who predeceased her. She was also predeceased by her daughter, Mary. She is survived by her children and their spouses, Judy and Morris Roll (Cooranbong, NSW), Kay Ball (Mildura, Vic), Roger and Gloria (Rockhampton, Qld), Tony and Diane (Sarina), Carol and Daryl Butler (Ipswich), Jenny Cook (Bundaberg), and Michael (Ipswich). Ruby had a deep personal spiritual experience that she was able to share with many people for their encouragement. Her church family will indeed miss her, especially those of her Sabbath school class.

*Sandor Gzaski*

**Walters**, Valma Lillian, born 4.9.1915 at Gulgong, NSW; died 27.2.07 at Dubbo. In 1936 she married Arthur (Art), who predeceased her on 24.10.76. She is survived by her children and their spouses, Roma and Harry Smith (Yamba), Nola and Bill Burrell (Perth, WA), Garry and Leona (Elong Elong, NSW), Neville and Nola (Dubbo), Kaye and Adrian Hackney (Narromine), and Beryl and Arthur Mortimer (Dubbo); her 20 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren. Val was a special person, renowned for making personal sacrifices to help others; a committed and faithful Christian; and a devoted mother. She loved the farm and was a very capable horsewoman. She was a blessing to many and an example for all.

*Graham Wynniatt*

**Wieczorek**, Stefan, born 4.8.1920 at Radom, Poland; died 18.2.07 in the Gold Coast Hospital, Robina, Qld. He is survived by his first wife, Danuta; his children, Miroslaw and Ewa; his daughter-in-law, Freda; his six grandchildren; his two great-grandchildren; his second wife, Helena; her children, Zbigniew and Irena; their spouses, Ewa and Krzysztof; her five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Organized by the Adventist Institute of Family Relations

21st National Christian Family Conference  
Sydney

Building Strong Healthy  
*Marriages*  
The Promise, Potential and Power

Featuring International Guest Speaker  
**Dr Scott Stanley**

Cost: \$170 - Lunch Included  
Bookings: 02 9847 3306, jbolst@adventist.org.au

**July 16 -17, 2007**

Sydney Adventist Hospital, Level 2 Conference Room  
187 Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga NSW

dren. He fell asleep with the blessed hope of the Resurrection.

Lloyd Robinson, Jerzy Nurzyński

## Advertisements

**Note:** Neither the editor, Signs Publishing Company, nor the Seventh-day Adventist Church is responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised. Publication does not indicate endorsement of a product or service. Advertisements approved by the editor will be inserted at the following rates: first 30 words or less, \$A49.50; each additional word, \$A2.20. For your advertisement to appear, payment must be enclosed. Classified advertisements in RECORD are available to Seventh-day Adventist members, churches and institutions only. See masthead (page 2) for contact details.

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

**Receive the Hope Channel and 3ABN.** Complete satellite kit \$265 + freight; prime signal areas in Australia only. Full instructions for DIY installation. Installers available. Rural Electronics (02) 6361 3636; or <ruralele@bigpond.net.au>.

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

**Family reunion "campmeeting at sea" cruise to the Caribbean**—February 4-14, 2008. Come with us to the beautiful islands of the Bahamas, St Thomas, Dominica, Grenada, Bonaire and Aruba! Departing Ft Lauderdale, Florida, on the *Emerald Princess* cruiseliner (brand new). Your musical hosts will be the Heritage Singers, Jaime Jorge, Herman and Sonnie Harp, Rudy Micelli, Jennifer LaMountain, Margie Salcedo-Rice, Gale Jones Murphy and others. Randy Roberts, senior pastor of the Loma Linda University church, and Fred Kinsey, communication director for the North American Division, will be our inspirational speakers. Come, enjoy a new ship, a new concept, and a new itinerary! Phone (805) 585 0090, ext 202; or go to <www.classictravel.net/campmeeting; or <campmeeting@classictravel.net>.

**Incredible India!** An incredible journey! Request your exciting itinerary now. Tours scheduled for Oct/Nov 2007. Contact Personal Guide Services—India, PO Box 42066, Casuarina NT 0811; phone (08) 8945 2845; mobile 0427 510 841; email <info@pgsindia.net>; web: www.pgsindia.net>.

**Electrician 4U**—for all your electrical needs contact Bruce Petrie on 0418 333 175. Servicing Melbourne Eastern, South-Eastern, Outer Eastern and Yarra Valley areas.

## Finally

Feel for others in your own pocket.—Charles Haddon Spurgeon

## Arthur and Leonie Duffy: Good and faithful



**Then**—He was a country lad from Tea Gardens, NSW, and she grew up on an apple orchard in southern Tasmania. Many years ago, they met and fell in love at Avondale College and have since spent a lifetime in unstinting, faithful service.

Arthur, the colporteur, musical evangelist, preacher, teacher and administrator—a humble man of many talents. Leonie, the tireless pastor's wife, mother, teacher and rock-solid companion and friend. It is hard to estimate their combined contribution to the church over many decades. We salute them.

**Now**—Seventeen years into retirement they have recently settled into an ARV villa in Wahroonga. It wasn't easy leaving their beautiful home with its elevated views over the bush. Rather than impose on their middle-aged children, they made the far-reaching decision to move before they were moved.

Their new home is private, comfortable, solidly built and well appointed. The commercial centre of Hornsby is 10 minutes away, and the best medical facilities Sydney has to offer are nearby. It means much to be surrounded by the Adventist family that has been so much part of their lives.

The bush is still at their doorstep and they continue to enjoy gardening, albeit scaled down but more manageable. While still active and maintaining good health, they live life to the full.

**Was moving into their villa the right choice?**

"We felt we had to make responsible decisions about providing for our old age and we did so at the right time and definitely have decided on the right place," says Arthur.



**Adventist Retirement Villages are located in:**

**South Queensland Conference** (07) 3218 7777:

Caloundra, Capricorn, Melody Park and Victoria Point

**North New South Wales Conference** (02) 4951 8088:

Alstonville and Cooranbong

**Greater Sydney Conference** (02) 9487 0600:

Hornsby, Kings Langley and Wahroonga

**Victorian Conference** (03) 9259 2100:

Bendigo, Nunawading and Warburton

**South Australian Conference** (08) 8269 2177:

Morphett Vale

**Western Australian Conference** (08) 9389 7222:

Busselton, Nollamara and Rossmoyne

