

RECORD

July 28, 2007

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Signs editors—(left to right) Lee Dunstan, Nathan Brown and David Edgren—look over a recent magazine on the set of the promotional SignsTalk DVD.



Major issue: Losing our members

Signs magazine still changes lives

WARBURTON, VICTORIA

Cindy Leung, a marketing campaigner, became an Adventist and led eight of her family members to Christ after receiving a copy of *Signs of the Times*, personally delivered by Pastor Richard Carter in 2005.

After being baptised, Ms Leung decided to quit her job to take up ministry overseas. Today, she leads a small church group of between 15 and 20 people in Hong Kong.

“*Signs* is the perfect avenue for developing a relationship with non-believers,” says Pastor Carter, associate pastor of Mount Colah and Galston churches in Sydney.

“It’s definitely been a major tool for my personal ministry.”

Lee Dunstan, *Signs* Ministry Coordinator, believes stories like Ms Leung’s represent the core of what the magazine is about. “It’s great that one connection like that can multiply so much further,” he says. “We pray about it and the rest is the Lord’s results.”

However, he says such testimonies come as no real surprise but simply highlight the impact a single magazine and willing spirit can make when working in partnership with God.

(Continued on page 5)



No-one wanted the old church bulldozed but few saw it for what it was—a goldmine!

Read it! Share it!

JOHNSON WAS AN AVID ANTIQUE COLLECTOR. Through years of buying, selling and researching, he knew the value of things. Usually this knowledge influenced his decisions of when to buy and when to sell. But this time it was different.

John grew up in Lue, New South Wales—a small country town with one main street and two churches. One was Catholic, the other Protestant. Raised in the Protestant church, John had never been in the other—not for a wedding, baptism or funeral—it just wasn't done!

Years after he grew up and moved to the city, the Catholic church closed its doors. Then it went up for auction. John decided that he would attend and buy a pew. When the time came for the bidding on the building itself, the opening price was \$35,000. Someone bid. The auctioneer moved up to \$37,500. "\$35,000—Going once, going twice." John knew the church was worth much more and bid—believing it would cause a bidding war and result in a fair price. The other bidder dropped out and John was the proud owner of a church!

"What am I going to do with a Catholic church?" he asked himself. He decided to store his antique collection in the church. He even set up the vestry as a bedroom, where he could sleep when coming out to swap antiques.

Ten years later, John decided to sell the church. It went to auction again and sold for \$345,000. His mistaken purchase proved

a worthwhile investment! John had made a huge profit, not because he planned the investment but because he valued the history of the town he loved.

As Adventists we are a lot like Lue, NSW—we have history that is often undervalued and unappreciated. The foundational building blocks of our movement—which have served to bless and grow the church since its inception—are barely given a glance as we pass them by.

How many times had the citizens of Lue gone past that little old church? Surely they appreciated its presence—it was part of what made their town unique. It was beautiful. But, when it came time to place a monetary value on the church, few were willing to do so.

Signs magazine is a lot like that church. Our little magazine has been the starting point of many people's journey with Jesus. For more than 120 years, *Signs* has showed people the way to eternal life. It continues to do so today. *Signs* exists to clarify our foundation for faith—both to us and to the world. Every *Signs* magazine explores the fundamental teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. *Signs* has strengthened the faith of many believers.

I have a confession to make. Before being hired by *Signs*, I had never read a *Signs* magazine cover-to-cover. And now that I know what a fantastic resource and professional presentation of our Adventist message it is, I am ashamed of myself. I wish I had read *Signs* while I was pastoring a local church.

If I had read it, I would have shared it. It is worth sharing.

What about you? Are you like John? Or are you like me and the other members of the Lue community, who undervalued the worth of their history? No-one wanted the old church bulldozed but few saw it for what it was—a goldmine!

Signs is more than history. It is a vibrant, readable and enjoyable magazine today. It is beautifully designed and passionately committed to sharing our Adventist message. When was the last time you read one cover-to-cover? I'll make a bold assumption—if you haven't read *Signs*, you aren't effectively sharing it either.

Your friends and family are precious to Jesus. Loving relationships is the key ingredient to people joining our church. *Signs* is a great way to introduce your friends and family to your faith. *Signs* is written especially to speak to that readership.

I would like to invite you to take up the *Signs* 2007 challenge—Read it! Share it!—to have at least two subscriptions to *Signs* this year. Your church has received a *Signs* DVD that explores this theme more fully. Make sure to watch it as a church family!

People need to hear our message, which *Signs* faithfully presents. *Signs* has proven its value over and over. If you read it, you will share it. And people will come to know Jesus!

David Edgren



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Editor Nathan Brown
 Associate editor David Edgren
 Editorial assistant Adele Nash
 Editorial assistant Jarrod Stackelroth
 Copyeditor Talitha Simmons
 Editorial secretary Kristel Rae
 Layout Nathan Chee
 Senior consulting editor Barry Oliver

www.record.net.au

Mail: Signs Publishing Company
 3485 Warburton Highway
 Warburton, Vic 3799, Australia
 Phone: (03) 5965 6300 Fax: (03) 5966 9019
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Our vision is to...
know
experience
 and **share**
 our hope in Jesus Christ!

Loss of members a “major issue” for Adventist Church

RINGWOOD, VICTORIA

While growing slowly, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia is also losing members, the 2006 Australian census has revealed. The initial results of last year's census, including details of the Australian population's religious affiliation, were released last month.

Although 55,000 people identified themselves as Adventists in the 2006 census, about 10,000 of them are aged below 14 years, indicating that they would have most likely not been baptised into the Adventist Church as official members. The number of official church members in Australia at the end of 2006 was 52,771, suggesting that as many as 10,000 people who are officially recorded church members may no longer identify themselves as Adventists.

“Reaching out to people who once worshipped with us should be on every church's agenda,” says Pastor Chester Stanley, president of the Australian Union Conference (AUC). “Warm, friendly churches are so important and we need to touch people's hearts. This is not a time for theological dissertations. Tender loving care will do

wonders.”

According to Pastor Stanley, the South Pacific Division made a commitment in May to take initiatives to actively pursue and address the issue of ministering to those who have left the church.

Another group of Adventists that Pastor Stanley is concerned about are the young people, with the figures showing some loss of young people over the past 10 years, both for the Adventist Church and most other Christian churches.

“I am being reminded repeatedly about the young people we are losing,” says Pastor Stanley. “This is a major issue and I personally believe we need to call a national forum for the church to address it.”

According to Pastor Stanley, the Adventist Church has been making huge investments in its young people. The Children's and Youth Ministries Departments in church conferences organise a wide range of activities, including Pathfinders and youth camps. Adventist schools



Pastor Chester Stanley.

also employ a network of school chaplains, while university chaplains are being introduced.

Pastor Stanley says he is also “frustrated” by the church's lack of growth in Australia. The 2006 census revealed that there has been an increase of only 2500 Adventists in the past 10 years.

“Because Western society has created such individualistic people, it's a significant challenge getting someone to be persuaded to commit to an organisation,” he says. “Evangelism needs to be at the top of the church's agenda. We have to keep at it, experimenting with different methods that touch people. It's not easy work but we have to maintain that focus.”

According to Pastor Stanley, “Adventists have teachings, values and principles that can enrich people's lives, and we can offer hope to a needy world.”—*Melody Tan*

More @ <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/home/Census%20data>



◆ On June 9, nearly 70 children, with a support crew of a dozen adults, led the Papatoetoe church, NZ, worship service. Titled “Why Jesus?” the theme of the worship service showed why Jesus is believable. Feedback has been positive. “This is the first time my son has ever been fully engaged in a church service from beginning to end,” said one mother. “Children

are people too and need to be involved in every aspect of church life,” commented another parent. “Relationships develop as children work with others, whom they might not usually associate with.” says Keryn McCutcheon, Papatoetoe's director of children and family ministries. “An opportunity is provided to build relationships with adults. Kids Church is a huge memory maker, and is an event they can be proud of.”—*Christine Miles*

◆ During the Queen's Birthday honours in New Zealand, Arian

Oka, an active member of Manganui church, was awarded the Queen's service medal for services to the Cook Island community. Mrs Oka has been involved with the Aitutakian and Cook Island communities for more than 30 years. She was a member of the parent-teacher committee of Auckland Girls Grammar and an instructor to its Cook Island culture group.—*Auckland Harbour City News*

◆ A recent “over 60s” retreat at the Adventist Alpine Village, Jindabyne, NSW, saw 25 sen-

ior citizens enjoy a weekend of fellowship and worship. The weekend was initiated by David Afele, the village manager, and conducted by guest speaker Pastor Garth Bainbridge. Activities ranged from chats across the dinner table to some braving a climb of Mount Kosciuszko and tours of the area. Participants felt inspired by the weekend. “The presence of God was among us and a feeling of peace and serenity filled the whole place,” says attendee Lyn Sandy. “What a wonderful blessing we received.”—*RECORD staff/Lyn Sandy*

Members satisfied with church health fund

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The results from a survey conducted by 10 member funds of the Health Insurance Restricted Membership Association of Australia (HIRMAA) show that current members of ACA Health Benefits Fund are some of the most satisfied in the industry.

Results from the customer satisfaction survey were benchmarked across the 10 restricted member health funds, with ACA Health ranked second highest, based on all satisfaction-related questions.

Some 98 per cent of members who responded said they were either “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with their health fund membership, in the online survey conducted to ascertain member satisfaction in February.

“This is the first year that we decided to participate in the survey and we have been extremely pleased by the results,” says Ms Janette Royce, finance and membership manager of ACA Health. “We wanted to use the survey results to help us find out what members thought, what areas they were happy in and what kind of improvements we need to make.”

Members were asked their satisfaction

levels in areas such as the level of communication, telephone responsiveness, the speed of payment of claims and whether it offers good value for money to its members.

ACA Health ranked first in questions on members’ perception of integrity and of being financially sound and secure, above that of the other nine restricted health funds, which included organisations such as the police, teachers and steel workers.

The combined results of the survey for the 10 restricted member health funds were presented to Tony Abbott, Australian Minister for Health and Ageing, when he met with HIRMAA Fund representatives in May.

“We are still looking at making changes and improvements to better serve our members despite our positive results,” says Ms Royce. “We will be aiming for first place in overall members’ satisfaction next year!”

ACA Health has more than 4400 members, and provides private health insurance for the employees and families of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its associated institutions in Australia. All past members and dependants are also eligible to join the fund.—*Melody Tan*

More @ www.acahealth.com.au

Macarthur school dedicated to growth

SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES

On the evening of May 18, MacNamara Hall at Macarthur Adventist School was filled with parents, student, staff and special guests, to celebrate the addition of two buildings to the campus—the new hall and a pre-kindergarten building, which is hoped will aid its aim to become a kindergarten to Year 12 school.

Local member of parliament Chris Hayes attended the dedication program and encouraged the students and staff, commending the school on its development. Mr Hayes is a frequent visitor to the school and has shown a keen interest in its progress.

The theme for the night was, “Building for the future” and since the school’s establishment in 1974, the school has grown in size of both students and buildings.—*Claudia Martin*



Principal Jill Pearce at the opening of the new hall at the school.



◆ Students at Macarthur Adventist School, NSW, experienced a day of fun and excitement as the KidzBodz team, taking part in the healthy eating awareness program, aimed to educate students in combining exercise and healthy eating. The day started with breakfast, emphasising the importance of a good, nutritious meal to begin the day and pro-

gressed with interactive narrative adventures, discovering the major body organs and their functions within the body. Students learnt why exercising and eating the right kinds of foods can provide energy and strength in their growing bodies. “It was really good, a great way to have breakfast, much healthier and social,” said 13-year-old Kristy Maletin.—*Claudia Martin*

◆ Dundas Croatian church, Sydney, NSW, recently organised a gospel music concert by the famous Croatian songwriter, composer and pastor, Fredrik

Miller. The church was holding the concert at the Punchbowl, a Croatian club, in an effort to target the wider Croatian community. When personal ministries leader Bozica Habush and her husband Frank tried to book, the Punchbowl’s booking officer told of how he was on holiday with his family, when he became stranded in Gosford by brushfires. The police advised him to go to the Gosford RSL Club, where he met an ADRA representative, who offered the family a free motel room. He shared how impressed he

was with Adventists and their organisation, and arranged for the ballroom to be hired free of charge. The concert was attended by the general consul of the Republic of Croatia with his wife and children, as well as more than 50 non-Adventists.—*Kristin Thiele*

◆ More than 100 Pathfinders recently cleaned Suva City, Fiji, as part of their community service. Youth director Pastor Duana Lawedrau started the program last year and church young people have contin-

Signs magazine still changes lives

(Continued from page 1)

Urging church members to “Read it, Share it,” Mr Dunstan says a promotional DVD produced by the Adventist Media Network is available to all churches, encouraging members to subscribe to extra copies of *Signs*, to distribute among friends and colleagues.

Signs editor Nathan Brown believes that reading the magazine and being familiar with it, will instil confidence and equip people for personal ministry. By receiving an extra copy, he says, “you can share it in a natural, friendly, personal way and that may be the most simple form of evangelism you can do.”

And *Signs* is continually putting this slogan into practice. Between May 2005 and July 2007, approximately 430,000 copies of *Signs* magazine have been packaged and delivered across the 11 conferences in Australia and New Zealand. Each month, some 16,000 magazines have been distributed as part of the “Go *Signs*, Go Gospel” initiative, which aims to place a *Signs* magazine in every home in Australia and New Zealand.

“Go *Signs*” deliveries and the use of *Signs* door-to-door also played a role in preparing for the recent “Discoveries” evangelistic series in Melbourne. In the first few issues of this year, *Signs* magazine featured

a number of articles by presenter Pastor Mark Finley.

Pastor Finley, a vice-president of the General Conference, attributes the attendance at the eight-week evangelistic series—in part—to the use of *Signs* magazine. “When you consider that we started with more than 2400 people, the drop-off after five weeks was not that significant and I really believe *Signs* helped us with that,” he says.

In addition, the Victorian Conference distributed 1000 copies of *Signs* to everyone who attended the final night of Pastor Finley’s presentations. Since the conclusion of the “Discoveries” series, the conference has committed \$A5000 toward *Signs* subscriptions, for some 250 seminar attendees who were not baptized.

“We see *Signs* as a presentation of Adventism and its relevance to today’s needs,” says Dr Denis Hankinson, president of the Victorian Conference. “Our hope is to motivate and assist those who attended the evangelistic series to stay in touch with Adventist belief through further contact with Adventists.”

According to Mr Dunstan, it is the continued support and generosity of others that places a copy of *Signs* in the hands of those who need it most. “Each month, up to 200,000 people read *Signs* magazine and some will eventually join the church as a re-

sult,” he says. “Chances are, it was a magazine someone else paid for and shared with them.”

The magazine is now also reaching across international borders with great results. From

January 2007, Pacific Press—publishers of the US *Signs* magazine—have adopted the smaller format of the Australian edition. A cooperative arrangement has created a link between the two versions of the magazine, with the sharing of articles and design work, which is done at Signs Publishing Company.

The new format has provided a boost to the US edition, with subscriptions growing by 10,000. “The cooperative venture of our two publishing houses—Signs Publishing and Pacific Press—in producing an international *Signs of the Times* is a landmark that makes a stronger magazine than ever before,” says Dale Galusha, president of Pacific Press.—*Stephane Millien*

More @ www.signsofthetimes.org.au



ued doing it every fortnight. “We feel it is a good thing to do, because ‘cleanliness is next to Godliness,’” he says. **Peniasi Lawedamu**, 11, from the Uluniwai church in Lami, said he was part of the clean-up because he wanted to make Suva look clean. A brass band from **Beulah College, Tonga**, provided music for the young people while in Fiji, to arrange for visas to travel to America to attend the Tongan International Congress.—*Fiji Times*

◆ On June 16, the first pastors

of **Israeli descent** in Israel were ordained to share the gospel in their country. **Pastors Oleg Elkin** and **Valentine Novgorodsky** now join four other pastors in ministering to about **800 members** of the Adventist Church in Israel. Although neither pastor was born in Israel, anyone who is Jewish or has Jewish parents, grandparents or spouses can be granted citizenship automatically, according to Israel’s Law of Return. **Pastor Richard Elofer**, president of the Israel Field, said the ordinations were “historic” and an important move forward for the church.

“Until about 10 years ago, the church leadership in Israel was completely foreign,” Pastor Elofer says. “Today the church has their own Israeli pastors, which lessens cultural barriers.”—*Taashi Rowe/TED News/ANN*

◆ Seventeen people, who have committed to joining the Seventh-day Adventist Church in **Egypt** at an ongoing evangelistic meeting, are providing hope for the church’s future there. The six-week series in **Cairo** titled “**Revelation of hope**,” has garnered positive publicity for the small

church in Cairo. Officially, there are 840 Adventist church members in Egypt but Pastor Samir Barbawy, president of the Egypt Field, says in reality about 200 members are active in the country of 75 million people. The meetings have drawn an average of 100 attendees with Egyptian, Filipino and Sudanese backgrounds. Each evening’s message was written specially for the series by **Pastor Mark Finley**, a General Conference vice-president. The sermons were translated into Arabic and used in a computer slide-show program.—*Taashi Rowe/ANN*

Sabbath-school lesson podcast goes worldwide from SPD

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

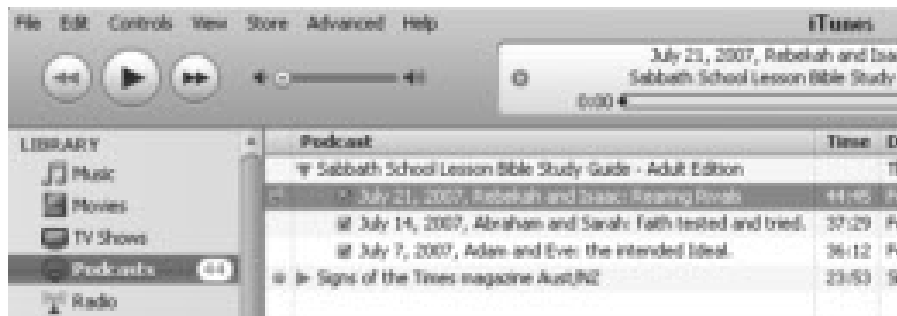
Plans to further distribute the adult Bible-study guide—or Sabbath-school lesson—have grown, since it was first made available as an audio podcast over the internet at the beginning of this month (“SS lessons podcast from SPD,” News, June 30).

News of the lesson podcast appeared on Adventist websites in Europe and North America, a few days after its launch in the South Pacific Division (SPD).

The Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department of the General Conference (GC) have also asked permission to promote the podcast on their website, alongside “Sabbath School University,” a weekly half-hour satellite broadcast.

The podcasts, recorded and produced by the SPD’s Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired, in partnership with the Adventist Media Network, features on more than 600 local Adventist church websites on the South Pacific Web Network.

This meant church members on the network could log in and download the podcasts without leaving their local church website.



The South Pacific Division’s Sabbath-school lesson podcasts, which are available to download from iTunes or through your local church website, have been a success around the world.

According to Merryl Murphy, webmaster for the Inverell Adventist church, her husband purchased an MP3-playing device so he could download the lessons and listen to them while walking. “I’m sure others would do the same, so it is very worthwhile,” she says.

“With technology on our side, the ultimate goal is to lead our members to have a closer walk with Jesus through the study of His Word, the Bible,” says Pastor Roger Govender, Sabbath school and personal ministries director of the Australian Union Conference.

He adds there are plans to broaden the lesson podcasting, saying, “We are now

making plans to podcast a youth Bible-study guide.”

The first few Sabbath-school lesson podcasts have been downloaded more than 1000 times already, with 190 downloads within the first few days. The podcast downloads occurred in more than 15 countries, with the majority from the USA and Australia. Other countries included China, Jamaica, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.—

Melody Tan

You can download the adult Sabbath-school podcast from your local church website, if it is part of the South Pacific Web Network Project, via iTunes or by visiting <<http://sspm.adventistconnect.org>>.

◆ The British Secret Service, MI6, has published a report in the *Sunday Express* magazine, revealing that some 200 million Christians in 60 countries around the world are at risk of suffering persecution. The report reveals that in Sudan, for example, “thousands of Christians have been massacred and the fundamentalist government has done little to protect them.” In Iraq, “Sunni and Shiite factions accuse them of collaborating with the American ‘crusaders.’” In the Central Asian nations of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, Muslim preachers “under the influence

of al-Qaeda” present Christians as followers of a religion closely associated with Western colonialism and call for their expulsion. The report also mentions North Korea, China, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Uganda as countries where Christians are persecuted. “North Korea has sent some 50,000 Christians to concentration camps, while in China some 40,000 have suffered the same fate,” the report states.—
Assist News Service

◆ A new document, authorised by Pope Benedict XVI, restating Roman Catholic views that Protes-

tant denominations are not churches “in the proper sense,” has been criticised. The document says that Protestant denominations “have not preserved the genuine and integral substance of the Eucharistic Mystery [and] cannot, according to Catholic doctrine, be called ‘Churches’ in the proper sense.” General secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, Setri Nyomi, says, “It makes us question the seriousness with which the Roman Catholic Church takes its dialogues with the Reformed family and other families of the church.”—*Ramon Williams*

◆ Ugandan police are holding a Ghanian preacher over a stage magic device they fear may dupe people into believing they have experienced miracles. Customs officials seized the Electric Touch device, which magicians use to give small electric shocks to volunteers, from “Prophet” Obiri Yeboah at an airport last week. The pastor heads one of many Pentecostal churches in Uganda, receiving large sums of money from congregations seeking miracle cures for diseases or help with financial problems.—
Rueters/ABC News

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

Young alumna still studying

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

Avondale College's Alumni Association has announced its Young Alumni of the Year but the recipient is still studying.

Sarah Clifford graduated with distinction with a Bachelor of Science (chemistry) in 2002. She returned the following year, completing a Bachelor of Teaching while also completing a first-class honours degree in chemistry at the University of Newcastle. She is currently completing a Doctor of Philosophy in analytical chemistry at Newcastle.

Ms Clifford speaks highly of her experience at Avondale but admits never being sure of what to do next. She refers to an illustration a friend had drawn for her. The illustration came with this piece of advice: "If you hold the handle . . . it's easier to maintain the illusion of control. But it's more fun if you just let the wind carry you."

Alumni Association president Pastor Roger Nixon presented the award to Ms Clifford during a forum meeting on the

Lake Macquarie campus this past semester (May 23). "Avondale provides us with the opportunity to become valuable people in society," he told members of the 2007 graduation class. "It is a well known fact that those who obtain their bachelor's degree become leaders and movers in their community."

Public relations officer Brenton Stacey also spoke. "If you're in your final year of study, returning to Avondale is probably not on your list of priorities. But in 10 years, it may be," he said, suggesting students may want answers to questions such as, "Where are my classmates and friends now?" "Belonging to the Avondale College Alumni Association will help provide an answer to that question."

Avondale College president Dr John Cox and

graduation coordinator Rosalie Rickards had earlier announced, with a brass fanfare, Krista Howard as the graduation class co-president for the Lake Macquarie campus. Melissa Barrett is the co-president for the Sydney campus.—*Ursula Borgas*



Sarah Clifford is the recipient of Avondale College's Young Alumni of the Year Award for 2007.

Church continues to push new media methods for ministry

BINFIELD, BERKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

Last month, teenagers in Pastor Victor Hulbert's youth group put video clips of mountain boarding and other antics from a church camping trip on YouTube. They said their friends, who aren't Christian, saw the clips and were surprised Adventists were "normal" people.

"This is actually evangelism," said Pastor Hulbert, communication director for the British Union Conference. "They're seeing Adventists as real people who can have fun."

Learning new methods of such subtle, or even overt, evangelism brought about 100 Adventist church leaders, communication professionals and technology experts from around the world together for the fourth annual Global Internet Evangelism Forum at Newbold College in Bracknell, Berkshire, Britain, held from June 28 to July 1.

"Those who are still not with us need to know that there is a deliberate approach to the internet in the church," said Pastor Rajmund Dabrowski, communication director for the General Conference, which sponsored the event.

"Some are stuck with the predictable approach to evangelism," Pastor Dabrowski added.

Many attendees said it was a good forum for networking and picking up new strategies. Some participants seemed surprised that the church's leadership is investing in listening to younger technology experts, to improve methods of ministering via new media. While some attendees are still learning of new media uses, others wished the conference was more hands-on and less theoretical.

Pastor Raafat Kamal, a field secretary for the Trans-European Division, said the percentage of the world population using the internet for faith purposes has increased by two-thirds since 1998.—*Ansel Oliver/ANN*

More @ <<http://news.adventist.org>> or <www.gien.adventist.org>

Search on for young Adventist songwriters

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

If you're a young Adventist songwriter with a song you'd like to share with other young people around the world, the General Conference (GC) is looking for you.

The GC Youth Department has reached its 100th year of service and to celebrate this milestone, a *World Adventist Youth Song Book* is being compiled, which will be available to young people all around the world.

The songbook will be compiled from compositions by Adventists and used in congregations during praise time, such as theme songs for youth congresses or camporees.

Each division from around the world has the opportunity to provide 12 songs for submission to the GC.

Pastor Mau Tuaoi, director of youth and family ministries for the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference, says "If you have written a song and would like to be part of this awesome initiative, all you need to do is contact the South Pacific Division Youth Department for an application form."

From there, 12 songs will be chosen to send in to the GC Youth Department.

Pastor Tuaoi adds, "Please note that the deadline for the submission of your song is August 3, 2007. We look forward to hearing from you!"—*RECORD staff*

Email <ateina@adventist.org.au> or call +61 2 9847 3222 for forms.

How to “share it”

BY DALE GALUSHA

GOD GAVE US THE GREAT COMMISSION: “He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation’” (Mark 16:15, NIV). And one of God’s chosen methods of sharing the gospel is through the printed page. Millions of people trace their knowledge of the gospel and personal conviction to reading a tract, booklet or book.

The pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church effectively used the printed page to share their faith. James White urged ministers: “The press is a mighty engine. Let it do its work, and save the lungs; short, spirited discourses and the books will do tenfold more than long argumentative discourses which weary the people, and wear out the speaker’s lungs. . . . Brethren, you may do the people much more good, and still save your lungs and your breath, by getting them to reading” (*Review and Herald*, December 18, 1856).

Similarly, Ellen White wrote much about the power and use of literature: “There are many places . . . which can be reached only by publications—the books, papers, and tracts that are filled with the Bible truth that the people need. Our literature is to be distributed everywhere. The truth is to be sown beside all waters; for we know not which shall prosper, this or that. In our erring judgment we may think it unwise to give literature to the very ones who would accept the truth most readily. We know not what may be the good results of giving away a leaflet containing present truth” (*Christian Service*, page 15).

All Christians are called to share their faith and to be a part of the evangelistic process of the church. While we don’t all have the same gifts, there are two things we can all do:

- Pray. Every Christian is called to pray for the lost.
- Share literature. It’s simple—and literature is a tool every member can use.

Principles for sharing literature

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you.

- Build relationships—people are more likely to read something given to them by a friend. Treat people the way you would like to be treated.
- Develop a plan to cover a particular area and a follow-up strategy.
- Keep a supply of literature with you at all times.
- Choose appropriate material.
- Read the literature yourself, so you know what it says.
- Say something like, “I have found this helpful. You might enjoy reading it.”
- Never force a person to take literature.
- Don’t litter.

Each piece of literature should have the following:

- Bible-study enrolment card or information for requesting Bible studies.
- Phone number and/or address for further information.

Items to keep with you at all times

- Lesson 1 of a Bible-study series.
- Bible-study enrolment cards.
- A copy of *Signs of the Times*.
- *Steps to Christ*.

Places, times and ways to use literature

At work

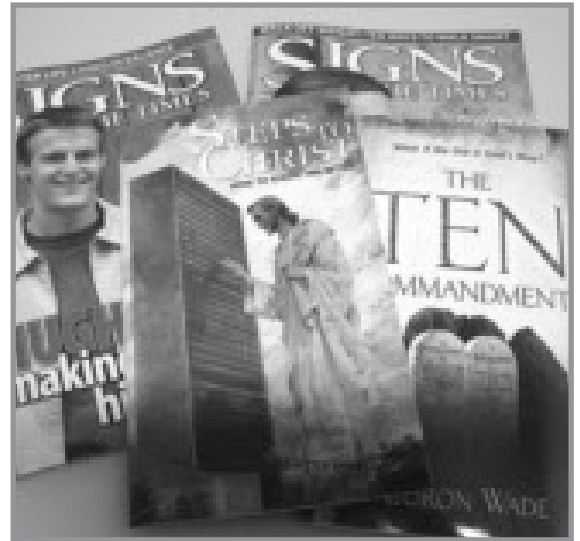
- If you own a business, set up a literature rack for customers, clients or patients.
- Subscribe to magazines like *Signs of the Times* and place them in the waiting area.

When travelling

- Share a piece of literature with the person next to you on the plane.
- Leave sharing booklets in hotel or motel rooms.
- Give a booklet to those you meet.

In the neighbourhood

- Welcome baskets—take a basket to your new neighbours. Include a loaf of bread, juice and a good book or magazine.



- Choose a territory—around the church or around your home. Visit each home and offer a piece of literature. As the Spirit leads, offer to pray with those you visit.
- Give literature that tells our beliefs. Arrange them in a logical sequence and deliver once or twice a month.
- Be sure to have some material for children to leave with families.
- Send *Signs of the Times* to your neighbours.

Everyday opportunities

- Always have some literature with you. Dedicate a place to keep literature so it is always ready to give away—a pocket, place in your car, briefcase or purse.
- There are countless ways to use tracts:
 - Leave in waiting rooms;
 - Include with payments;
 - Give to a person you visit.
- Give a magazine to your doctor for his or her office or waiting room.

At church

- Literature racks at your church—members and visitors will be encouraged by having a supply of reading material they can pick up from the literature rack in the foyer of your church.
- Seminars at church—every time you have a seminar of any kind at church, provide a table of free literature.
- Church interest list—send regular mailings to those on the interest list. The mailings should include a letter as well as a book, booklet or magazine.
- Postcodes around church—many pieces of literature can be mailed to a postcode around your church, perhaps *Steps to*

Christ or *Signs* magazine. Do this several times each year.

- Missionary magazines—list the individuals you are praying for and send each of them a copy of *Signs* each month.
- Set up a program for visiting the household and sharing various types of literature:
 - Deliver the church bulletin or share a book or magazine.
 - Read a book or story to someone whose eyes may not allow them to have the joy of reading.
- New member retention—make sure new members are cared for by using some of the following:
 - At their baptism, present a “spiritual food basket” to the new member. This could include a devotional book, a *Signs* magazine and a story book.
 - Deliver books on a monthly or quar-

The power of the printed page

“The message of salvation can be presented through means of the printed page. It never flinches, it never grows tired, never grows disheartened; it works while we sleep; it travels cheaply and requires no rented building; it never loses its temper; and it works long after we are dead. The printed page is a visitor which gets inside the home and stays there; it always catches a man in the right mood, for it speaks to him only when he is reading it; it always sticks to what it has said, and never answers back.

“The printed page is deathless: you can destroy one, but the press can reproduce millions. As often as it is martyred it is raised. It can enter doors locked to the evangelist; it preaches in the factory, the train, the kitchen; it visits the school and the jail; it whispers in the ear of the dying.

“The printed message can reach those whose religions forbid them to go to church. Away from searching eyes, from the probing investigations of the state, away from the demand of superstitious religion, away from the critical intrusions of friends and family, the message of salvation can be read and understood.”

—Milton Martin

terly basis to all new members for their first year in the church.

- Church school—make sure the parents of the children from non-Adventist families attending your local church school are receiving *Signs* each month.
- Greeters at church—make sure each of the greeters at church have a supply of literature that they can share with visitors to the church.

At Christmas time

Despite the mass commercialisation of the holiday season, people’s hearts are still touched by God’s love and His gift to the world. During this time, people are more open to the gospel message than at any other time.

Consider these ideas for using Christmas as an opportunity to present the gospel to those you know and love:

- The gift that keeps on giving. Send *Signs of the Times* to a friend, coworker, relative or neighbour.
- The story of Jesus’ birth from *The Desire of Ages* is certain to touch many hearts.
- Add a book to every Christmas basket given to families by your church.
- Remember former and inactive members. Send a book or magazine subscription with a Christmas card or letter from the church or pastor.
- If your church has a special Christmas event for the community, be sure visitors takes home a gift of a book or magazine.
- Give a book to a friend. A book from your Adventist Book Centre makes an excellent gift.
- If you’re a teacher, Sabbath-school teacher or Pathfinder leader, you know nothing will thrill a child’s heart more than a small gift book from you.
- When you give holiday greetings to your neighbours, be sure to include a gift for their children.

Special projects

- Hospital visitation
- Prison ministries—become involved in a prison ministry program:
 - Send *Signs* magazines to inmates.
 - Organise Bible correspondence courses for inmates with the Adventist Discovery Centre.
 - Work with the prison chaplain to supply books for the prison library.

Overseas projects

- Collect religious books and magazines from members in your church. Send them to a missionary or church overseas.
- Take up a collection of funds in your Sabbath-school class and send a monthly subscription of *Signs* to a church overseas.
- Develop a sister-church relationship with a church overseas. Share materials and stories with your sister church.
- Send literature that can be used in an evangelistic series overseas.
- Send materials to a literature evangelist overseas.

Other ideas

- *Signs* racks—commit to supplying *Signs* magazines for a rack in town.
- Place an ad in your local newspaper. You’ll be surprised the number of individuals who write in for a free book on subjects such as grief, marriage, parenting or health. Send these books to those requesting them and write a personal note to send along with the books.
- Reach out to former and inactive members—your church can gather a list of former and inactive members in your area. Begin by praying for them. Then, send a magazine such as *Signs*.
- Share a box of books—purchase a box of books. Divide them among church members, challenging them to be creative in distributing these books during the week. The next Sabbath, let members tell about the various experiences they had.
- Share a book—many public places have a book-lending section. People exchange books—you leave one and take one. This is the perfect place to leave a good book.
- Having a garage sale at your church or home? Include a table with “Free books!” Put sharing books out. Gather previously read books from church members. You’ll be amazed how many pick up these books. People love “free.”
- Many gyms and sports clubs have a magazine rack. People leave and pick up magazines to read while working out. Take your copy of *Signs of the Times* and leave it in the rack. **R**

Dale Galusha is president of Pacific Press Publishing Association, based in Boise, Idaho, USA.

Local church: Broken Hill, NSW

BY DAVID EDGREN

IN 1998, BROKEN HILL SEVENTH-DAY Adventist church was told they would no longer have a resident pastor. Their first response was to form a prayer circle immediately after church and pray for the church—the church still prays together in this way, every Sabbath after the worship service. During this nine years of weekly prayer, their 60-member church has celebrated 17 baptisms, church attendance increased 33 per cent and outreach has escalated dramatically.

How has Broken Hill become such a success story? The people of this outback church have become lovers of the lost—in a way that must be seen to be believed.

There are events every day in which church members are involved. Yes—every day. Each event is well known and invitations are offered often. I was there only for the weekend and was invited to four different events. I was able to attend the Sabbath luncheon and Friday youth tea—to which I had been invited by Mitchell, one of the young people.

The youth tea began in 2000 when Marilyn Harris, Mitchell's mum, heard that churches who had weekly meals with their

youth, kept them.

She began hosting a Friday night tea in her home—and has been doing so every week since. One young man, Ryan, started coming to tea and now attends church faithfully.

Every Saturday night there are games in the church hall. Why? Because the church leaders heard that churches that play together stay together. So, they do.

There's bocce at 2 pm on Sundays—an open invitation is offered to church visitors every Sabbath. I received two separate invitations on the Sabbath I was there.

Church members also do Bible studies, prayer groups, video deliveries, visits, lead and participate in training meetings and preach sermons.

Origins of a culture

So, what started this passion for the lost and the church young people? Largely, it emanated from the life and ministry of one woman. Her name is Anne Marinovich, and she has been attending Broken Hill church for 10 years. When she or another church member hears of something that can be done to connect people to Christ,



they try it. And so far, they haven't stopped anything they've started.

Anne has a weekly schedule of community and church involvement that would make Dorcas proud. On Sunday, "we visit a 78-year-old lady who won't come to church," says Anne. "So we take church to her." Tuesday mornings is playgroup for her two grandchildren and the other six kids who come to church regularly, which is funded by ADRA. On Wednesday, she attends the chapel service at the local hospital with a couple of church members.

"Thursday night, everyone knows we'll be having tea at McDonald's," Anne says. "Some church members—most of the youth—meet at 5.30 and we have tea together." Anne also runs Bible studies with contacts on Tuesdays and Fridays.

A common thread in Broken Hill's story is that anyone can be involved. Friendship evangelism is more than an idea at Broken Hill—it's a way of life.

After living in Broken Hill for a few years—and becoming more and more involved—Anne presented a challenge to the Lord in prayer. She often walks to her "prayer rock," where she prays for the people from church. During one conversation on the prayer rock, Anne said, "I can't grow this church any further without help, Lord. The person that joins me on this rock for prayer will be the person you are sending to help me."

Over the next few months, Anne invited four different ladies, while they were on a walk together, to make the journey up to the prayer rock. Each declined the invitation. Some had to get back home, others didn't fancy the trek up the steep incline. One day, John Harris mentioned he was going for a walk early the next morning. Anne told John, "I usually don't walk that early but if that's when you are going, I'll join you."

Anne's story

Anne stood in the hospital room, looking at her newborn son. "He probably won't make it through the night," the doctor said.

Anne's mum said, "Let's go to the chapel." Anne didn't believe in God—and couldn't imagine why her mother would suggest they go to the chapel when these could be the last moments she had with her son.

"I went with her," Anne says. "I didn't know what else to do." In the chapel, Anne decided to give God a chance—if He existed. She sank into a pew and prayed, "If You help my little boy live, I'll work for You for the rest

of my life."

"I meant it," Anne says, "but I didn't expect any change in Mark's condition."

Heading back from the chapel she was met by a nurse in the hall. "He's just had a turn for the better."

Mark is now 19 years old. He is severely deaf and has mild cerebral palsy. "He's my miracle boy," says Anne. "And he's the reason I'm here in church today."

Mark has been accepted and loved by the people, young and old, of Broken Hill church. His faithful love of Jesus and his caring nature have been a blessing to both the church and community.



Far left: Leading ladies Marilyn Harris, Thora Johnson and Anne Marinovich all preach and run many of the activities at Broken Hill.

Left: David Piper and Mark Marinovich enjoy a time of fellowship—drinks are served every Sabbath between Sabbath school and church.

Right: Broken Hill's head elder, John Harris.

As they walked along they were headed toward Anne's prayer rock. She hadn't even considered asking John. "It wasn't even in my mind because I was looking for a woman," Anne says.

When they neared the base of the hill, Anne heard herself invite John to come and pray for the church on her prayer rock. John answered, "I could do that."

They climbed the hill and once they were seated on the rock she said, "You pray for the left half of the church (where people sit in pews) and I'll pray for the right." She was amazed that John knew every person by name, just as she did.

She didn't tell John for quite some time about her deal with God. She still wasn't sure if she should team up with John, as she was uncomfortable with the difficulties that being opposite genders could present. But, over time, she followed through with her prayerful promise and began to work with John.

Theory and practice

Broken Hill head elder John Harris, a mining engineer by profession, has always been into organising systems. Over the past 10 years, he has worked with the local council to help build social programs that meet needs previously put in the "too-hard" basket. His passion is solving and systematising the unsolvable.

As John watched Anne and others at church in daily ministry, he could see the effectiveness of friendship evangelism. He knew it was working but wanted to explain it strategically. His goal was to distil what they did as a church into something that could be taught as easily as it was being caught. He wanted to make it transferable—so other churches could benefit from friendship evangelism in the same way Broken Hill was.

John discovered the "Evangelism Scale"

in Ron Gladden's book *7 Habits of Highly Ineffective Churches*. After slightly altering the diagram and tightening the definition of the four sections—he renamed it the "Huge-Harvest Scale." Over the past few years, he has been applying and teaching the scale.

Recently, he presented it to the Australian Union Conference's Presidents Council—the aim ultimately being to develop a network of Adventist members, empowering and resourcing local churches in Australia. He was encouraged to begin in New South Wales and grow outward from there.*

The Huge-Harvest Scale represents the model Broken Hill church has uncovered, values and intentionally uses to interpret and plan its activities. Friendship evangelism is the foundation that leads to prayer, using one's spiritual gifts and personal witnessing.

John says, "Everyone in the world is on the Huge-Harvest Scale somewhere." The extremities of the scale are -10 and +10, representing respectively a 3-A Lost Person (Absolutely Antagonistic Atheist) and a 3-D Christian (Definitely Devoted Disciple). The cross in the middle represents the point when a person decides to become a baptised Christian.

John concludes, "It is the role of the local church to work with the Holy Spirit, to assist as many people as possible to become 3-D Christians. Becoming a disciple is the result of a process that has many steps prior to baptism and after." **R**

This is part of a series of articles profiling healthy local churches in the South Pacific Division.

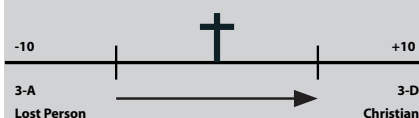
* To contact John regarding the Huge-Harvest Scale, email him at <thestudio@westnet.com.au>.

David Edgren is associate editor of RECORD.



The Huge-Harvest Scale

BY JOHN HARRIS



At both -5 and +5 there is a line, marking a major transition point and thereby dividing the Huge-Harvest Scale into four sections:

-10 to -5: Becoming acquainted with members of the church, learning to trust them and becoming ready to hear the message—from a Contact to an Interest.

-5 to 0: Hearing the message and responding to it by baptism—from an Interest to a Member

0 to +5: Growing in ones personal relationship with love for and worship of God—A Faithful Member

+5 to +10: Training for and serving in ministry and/or missionary activities—an Active, Faithful Member

From the perspective of the local church, these sections correspond to the following broad church activities:

-10 to -5: Outreach, needs-orientated evangelism, friendship evangelism—any trust-building activity

-5 to 0: Message evangelism—any activity where the message is presented for non-members

0 to +5: Nurture—activities typically include Sabbath school, church and prayer meeting/small groups.

+5 to +10: Planning, training, equipping and empowering for ministry—developing leaders and teams, and entrusting people with responsibilities.

What is the South Pacific Web Network?

BY JEANELLE ISAACS



THINK OF ONLINE COMMUNITIES such as MySpace, YouTube and Facebook. These communities do not exist in a physical place but in the realm of cyberspace. Thousands of people sign up to create networks or join existing online communities. Boundaries of time and location are surpassed. I can keep a tab on my friend's life in Canada through online messaging, videos and photo albums. And the beauty of it—it is virtually free!

So how does the Adventist Church relate to the virtual world?

The South Pacific Web Network is like MySpace for the Adventist Church. With MySpace, an individual can create a profile and invite other people on MySpace to view their profile. The South Pacific Web Network, using the netAdventist software, follows the same principle. Churches and entities can now easily create a profile, upload audio, video, photos and create web pages.

The first step of the South Pacific Web Network project is for our church to have a Web presence. A website has been created for every church in Australia and New Zealand, as well as Pacific island churches that have requested this service. Websites have also been created for schools, administration offices, book centres, retirement villages, campgrounds and other ministries around the South Pacific Division. If your church or entity has not received your new website, email <webmaster@adventistmedia.org.au>.

What's the difference between having my own website and having a website on the South Pacific Web Network?

One key difference is that your church can create a group that includes other Adventist churches, the local school and book centre or anyone else who is part of the South Pacific Web Network. I created a group for churches in Australia and found out that Elizabeth church in South Australia held a winter warm-up day for the homeless, while Rosalie at Inala, Queensland, uses her knitting skills to fundraise for ADRA. Another difference is that webmasters can insert plug-ins, such as the *Signs of the Times*, RECORD and Bible courses, which are automatically updated.


No longer is your website in isolation—it is a great way to exchange ministry ideas and connect with church members across the South Pacific. On a technical level, it's beneficial to be on the same system, as it allows the web ministry team to support you if you are having any problems with your site.

The South Pacific Web Network is about using the Web as an effective outreach tool—connecting church members in the South Pacific with each other and the world. **R**

Jeanelle Isaacs is electronic media officer for Adventist Media Network.

Record Roo's

Kids Corner



Hi kids,
 Jesus lived on Earth for more than 30 years. He preached, performed miracles, healed the sick and even raised the dead! You can read all about Jesus in the New Testament.

RR

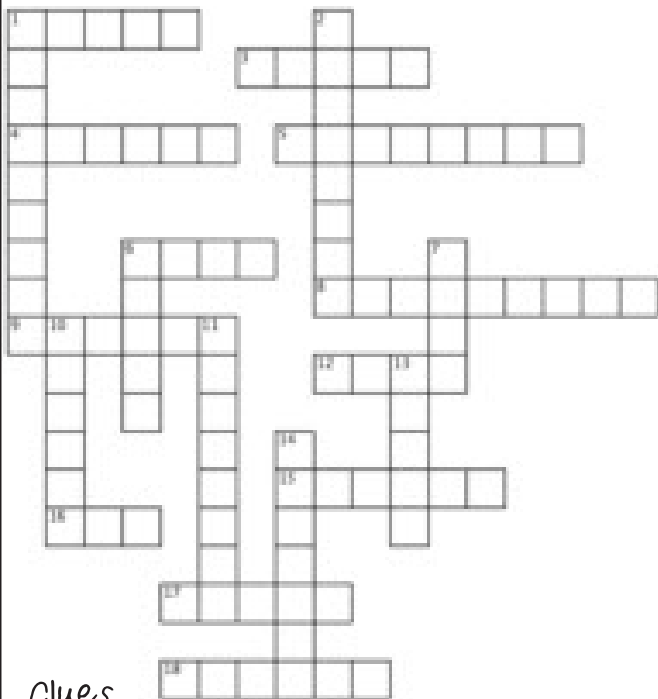
Fill in the Blanks

After Jesus resisted Satan's temptations in the wilderness He went to Galilee to begin His ministry.

From that time _____ began to _____ and to say, "_____ for the kingdom of _____ is at hand."

Matthew 4:17 NKJV

Crossword puzzle



Clues

ACROSS

1. Jesus died on the ----
3. have ---- in God
4. a talk with God
5. Jesus' stories
6. ---- the baptist
8. another word for temple

DOWN

1. Jesus' Nazareth job
2. Jesus performed these
6. our Saviour
7. Jesus' mother
10. holy messengers
11. follower of Jesus

She says, thank you

CAROLE FERCH-JOHNSON,
MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION,
AUSTRALIAN UNION CONFERENCE

Thank you, RECORD, for interviewing our resident South Pacific Division biblical scholar on the topic of women in pastoral ministry (“Women-in-ministry questions,” Feature, June 30 and July 7). Thank you, Dr Petersen, for a set of well informed, balanced, and thoroughly Christian responses to the questions relating to this topic that puzzle many.

On behalf of the 28 women currently employed by our church in pastoral ministry in Australia and New Zealand, thank you for helping to dispel ignorance among some of our members about God’s call to women to minister. Thank you for affirming our call to ministry and, as a consequence, for encouraging us in the challenges we face as ministers; and thank you for giving voice to the approval of our church, which employs and supports us. May those who have tended to make our way hard and our ministry difficult be helped by your words.

What about the GC?

R E WEBBER, WA

In response to “Women-in-ministry questions,” let’s remember that General Conference sessions have voted no to ordaining women, the most recent of which was in 1995. As Ellen White wrote, “I have been shown that no man’s judgment should be surrendered to the judgment of any one man. But when the judgment of the General Conference, which is the highest authority that God has upon the earth, is exercised, private independence and private judgment must not be maintained, but be surrendered” (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol 3, page 492).

The General Conference in session is the highest authority for appeals this church has. This structure was set by our forefathers to avoid control by any one group or person, as practised in the Catholic system. Once an appeal has reached and been decided by the highest authority, the ruling cannot be revoked or altered, in any way, by any lesser authority.

If we, as did our forefathers, accept Bible authority as it reads and the words of Ellen White, and accept the rulings of the General Conference in session—the highest church authority—why should we be expected to yield our loyalty to the assumptions and presumptions of others with less authority? That can only lead to treason.

This word has come to us from our Christian brethren, as an excuse for disobedience to God’s law.

RESPONSE: PAUL PETERSEN, FIELD SECRETARY, SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

There has been no vote regarding the theological issue of woman’s ordination *per se* at a General Conference session. The issue in 1995 was whether we would allow any division of the world field to move independently on this issue. That was not accepted by the delegates.

Let me add that the General Conference session in Indianapolis in 1990 confirmed a previously voted policy, allowing ministers who were elected as local elders to baptise and conduct weddings. This action cemented the right of female ministers, who have been ordained as elders, to function in the churches they serve, as they are still allowed to do today.

The interviews in no way support the idea that women should be ordained as ministers without an acceptance by the world body. But I do support the view expressed by the General Conference President Jan Paulsen that there is no *theological* objection hindering a General Conference session to take such a decision. Neither do I find any biblical objection when taking the Bible as it reads, looking at all the relevant texts and applying it as intended.

“Embrace” questions

BRENTON STACEY, NSW

The human right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion at the core of “A faith that embraces” (Editorial, June 30) and the call for Adventists to work with—not against—those of other faiths are so important, I call for a moratorium on letters about music.

Did you agree or disagree with the editorial, and why? Let the dialogue begin.

ROLF GERICKE, TAS

“A faith that embraces” hit a raw nerve. I know Reverend Nile has brought many people to Christ. I am as undiplomatic and straight from the heart as he appears to have been but at least there is honesty.

The issue of Islam is complex. It will become increasingly so for Australia. I believe

the Adventist Church does not pay enough attention to Islam. I therefore suggest a Muslim ministry, conducted by specially gifted people of the church, who are fluent with the Bible and the Koran. But be prepared—it is very difficult.

I am not gifted in that regard but I suggest a simple test: place a Bible and a Koran in front of you. Both claim to be from God but only one of them is.

I know that the author of the Bible is not the author of the Koran. Reverend Nile knows this, too.

Not legalism

ERIC HORT, WA

The excellent article, “Grace” (Feature, June 16), was spoiled by including a reference to legalism. There is no such word in the Bible. This word has come to us from our Christian brethren, as an excuse for disobedience to God’s law, namely the fourth commandment. Does this mean I have to commit murder to prove I am *not* a legalist?

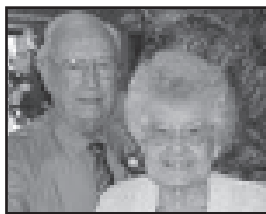
Neither Jesus nor the apostles have stated that it is an impossibility and unnecessary to keep God’s law. It is a deception and lie of Satan that we can’t obey it.

God sends the Holy Spirit to help, guide and enable us to keep His law (see Acts 5:32). But this has nothing to do with legalism or earning salvation. We have nothing to boast about—only His amazing grace.

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.

Anniversary

Thorpe. John and Doris Thorpe (nee Smyth) were married in the Albion church on 13.8.1946, by the late Pastor R A Grieve. The couple celebrated their 60th year of marriage with a large gathering of family



and friends in the Village Hall at the Adventist Retirement Village, Victoria Point, Qld, where they have resided for the last 17 years. John and Doris have three sons, David, Barry and Clive; two daughters, Glenda and Jennifer; thirteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Before retirement, John worked for Sanitarium for 32 years. Congratulatory messages were read from HRH Queen Elizabeth II, the Premier of Qld, the Prime Minister of Australia and the Governor-General. Happy birthday, John.

Weddings

Beranaliva—Smith. Simi Beranaliva, son of Pastor Filimoni and Rusila Beranaliva (Blacktown, NSW), and Diane Julie Smith, daughter of Desmond and Violet Rees (Canberra, ACT), were married on 1.7.07 at Nathania Springs, Monbulk, Vic. *Garth Bainbridge*

Fernance—Vranjes. Eric Vranjes, son of Don Fernance and Beverly Elmer, and Marianne Vranjes, daughter of Peter and Angelina Vranjes, were married on 8.7.07 in the Sheraton Hotel, Gold Coast, Qld. *Zeny Vidacak*

Roche—Hawkins. Glen Ian Roche, son of Ian and Gail Roche (Narromine, NSW), and Carla Hawkins, daughter of Calvin and Robyn Hawkins (Narromine), were married on 29.4.07 in St Aiden's church, Dubbo. *Stephen McGuire*

Shofay—Hillier. Sasha Shofay, son of Daniel and Mila Shofay, and Tamysn Hillier, daughter of Stuart and Diane Hillier, were married on 10.6.07 in Eureka Uniting church, NSW. *Zeny Vidacak*

Obituaries

Bowen, John (Jack), born 1.7.1924; died 22.6.07 in the Kularoo Gardens Nursing Home, Forster, NSW. Surrounded by family members, he was laid to rest in the Tuncurry Cemetery on 28.06.07, followed by a memorial service held in the Forster-Tuncurry church. He is predeceased by his sons, John and Glen. He is survived by his wife, Norma; his son, Neil (Scrooge) and wife, Anne; his daughters and their partners, Bev and Tom, and Kath and Steve; 19 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. Jack awaits the call of his Saviour to eternal life. *Wilfred Pascoe*

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Cockersole-Jones, Edith May (nee Martin), born 24.5.1916 at Staffordshire, England; died 25.4.07 at Rossmoyne, WA. On 1.8.1936, she married Alf Cockersole, who predeceased her in 1986. On 26.5.1996, she married John Jones, who predeceased her in 2004. She is survived by her daughters, Yvonne Whitmore (Port Stephens, NSW), and Valerie Trounson (Merredin, WA). Her life was a wonderful testimony of patience, love and happiness. Now she rests until the Resurrection morning. *Phil Rhodes*

Millett, Ronald William, born 14.03.1933 at Leongatha, Vic; died 15.5.07 at Clayton. On 4.1.1959, he married Margaret Gates, in Shepparton. He was baptised with Margaret on 7.12.1957 by Pastor Leo Rose, who also married the pair. He is survived by his wife (South Oakleigh); his son, Darren, and wife, Melissa (Ferntree Gully); his daughter, Tracey, and her husband, Warwick (Burwood); his son, Lyndon, and wife, Nadene (Ferntree Gully); his brothers, Gordon (Seymour), Allan (Shepparton) and Ross (South Oakleigh); his sister, Julie (Nunawading); and five grandchildren. Ron's life revolved around God, his family, his work as an educator and principal, his church and his local community. To those who knew him he was committed, loyal and had great attention to detail. This "little Aussie battler" will be greatly missed. See you in the morning, Ron. *Merv Sparrouhawk, Morrie Krieg*

Pinchin, Lydia May (nee McLean), born 27.1.1909 at Sea Lake, Vic; died 15.4.07 in Alawara Adventist Retirement Village, Bendigo. She was predeceased by her 11 siblings, and her husband, Athol. She is survived by her two children and their spouses, Val Brereton (Harcourt) and Wilf Pinchin (Cooanbong, NSW); and her five grandchildren. She was an active member of the Maldon Methodist church until she attended meetings in Maldon run by Os Heaton and was baptised by J B Connolly, to become a founding member of the Castlemaine church. After Athol died, she moved to Alawara Retirement Village, where she lived for 24 years. She was laid to

Convention *by the Sea*
National Singles Convention

Collaroy, Sydney - January 4 - 9, 2008

Contact Jan on 02 9847 3306 or jbookst@adventist.org.au

rest in Maldon Cemetery with Athol and there sleeps until the Resurrection.

David Butcher

Tunbridge, Leila Jean (nee Rabe), born 28.9.1909 at Glen Huon, Tas; died 4.4.07 in Imlay Nursing Home, Pambula, NSW. In 1935 she married Trevor, who predeceased her in 1995. She is also predeceased by her five siblings. She is survived by her daughter, Ailene Cook; five grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren. Leila had a great faith and loved the Lord. See you in the morning. *John Tompson*

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Youth Pastor—Charlestown church, is seeking a Youth pastor for 12 months, commencing ASAP. Duties include: being active in youth Sabbath school, some preaching, youth social events, Bible studies, visitations and involvement in Macquarie College. For more information contact Hayley.

Email:

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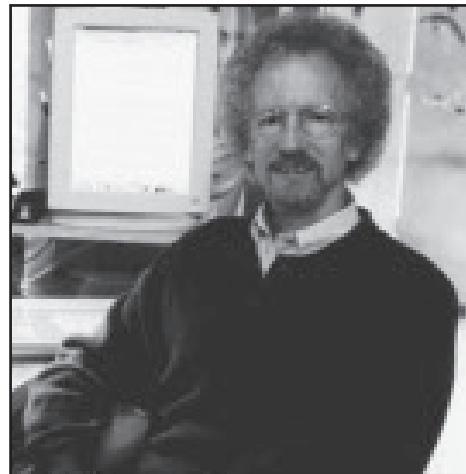
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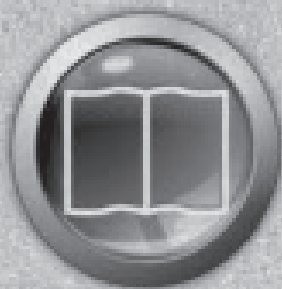


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