

RECORD

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South Pacific Division directors of children's ministries, Litiana Qiosese (left, associate director) and Julie Weslake (centre), with presenter Pastor Don MacLafferty (right) and the participants at KID University.

Children's leaders attend KID University

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

Children's ministries directors and other members from 16 churches around Australia, as well as from New Zealand, attended the first "KID University" ministry training program. More than 60 people participated in the four-day seminar, held at Avondale Memorial church, Cooranbong, from July 5 to 8.

KID University is the first phase of a ministry called "Kids in discipleship," which focuses on mentoring kids to become empowered disciples of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Don MacLafferty first began the program in Collegedale, USA, in 2003 and

it has recently been adopted by the Children's Ministries Department in the South Pacific Division (SPD).

"We hope to see churches actively support children and their families in a life-transforming journey with Jesus Christ, as a result of this ministry," says Julie Weslake, director of children's ministries in the SPD.

"We need to be intentional about discipling our children, connecting them with their families and church members, and encouraging them to use their gifts in worship, ministry and mission."

(Continued on page 4)



Am I making this life-changing, world-embracing statement of faith too common?

God loves you

AS SOMEONE WHO SENDS MANY emails and letters every working day, I have spent a little time reflecting on how to add a simple statement of faith and encouragement to these communications. I wanted something that would be the one thing I would want someone to know if I had just a few words to share with them and one chance to do it. I also wanted something that could serve to remind lifelong believers of the core of their faith and might brighten their day a little as a result of that reminder. And one final factor I was looking for was something that, no matter how many times someone read it, would always offer something to think about and be encouraged by.

Thus, many of my emails and letters are signed off with the simple sentence “God loves you.”

The statement seems to fit all the above criteria well. But I have wrestled with using it in such a way because it almost seems too glib a usage for so profound a truth. Am I making this life-changing, world-embracing statement of faith too common by tacking it to the end of some mundane form email or letter? Or is that exactly where the love of God should shine, even amid the most ordinary aspects of our life and work?

I suspect the apparently common things of life should be illuminated by the love of God and that perhaps it is in the most ordinary of settings that God’s love is most

significant. So, while I haven’t fully answered the questions in my mind, I continue to do it.

And reasonably regularly someone responds to their “God loves you”—a quick thanks, a reminder in return that He loves me too or a more detailed response.

A friend wrote to me recently, responding to an email of encouragement I had sent to him and specifically commented on this habit: “Somehow I find the phrase ‘God loves you’ almost trite after my eyes have been burned with so much injustice and the stupidity of life on earth. But never at the end of your letter. You, I believe.”

I was humbled by his response—but also challenged. It is not enough to say it; we must also—in our interactions, by our conduct and by our own life of faith—begin to make it real. And to say “God loves you,” places a remarkable responsibility on each of us to be and share some small portion of that eternal love.

Of course, we’ll never get it right. We’ll never live up to the profound reality expressed so simply in those three words, which is why the statement must always point beyond ourselves. But in the humility that marks the kingdom of God, we are entrusted with a part to play in being something of that kingdom to those we come in contact with, however fleetingly or deeply.

And the foundation for this lies in beginning to appreciate what that means for us. What does it mean to us that God loves

each of us so hugely? Can we begin to imagine what actual impact that has on the way life works in our world? How does that knowledge change our life and the choices we make?

We all—at least, at times—struggle to grasp the significance of God’s love. But one practice that helps me begin to realise the magnitude of what we so easily—even glibly—talk about is to sit in a shopping centre, park or airport and watch people going past, noting that every person who walks by is loved, uniquely and absolutely, by God. That changes the way we see others and we begin to see a world that, despite its obvious brokenness, is filled with the love of God—a present reality we can build our lives upon.

Perhaps if—like Paul—I was more verbose, “God loves you” would be expanded to something like: “May your roots go down deep into the soil of God’s marvelous love. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God” (Ephesians 3:17-19, NLT).

But, just as a reminder, here’s the simple version again: God loves you.

Nathan Brown



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

Australian conferences to partner local missions

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

A number of Australian conferences have agreed to partner with missions in Papua New Guinea or the Pacific islands, to provide additional support and mentoring for the local missions.

The “Partners in mission” program, a new initiative of the South Pacific Division’s (SPD) department of Adventist Mission, will look at ways to better assist the conferences and missions in fulfilling the gospel commission, with the aim of growing a stronger connection with the island fields.

“I believe our Pacific island members have a spiritual vitality and depth of faith, which can be an inspiration to our churches in Australia and New Zealand,” says SPD director of Adventist Mission, Pastor Ray Coombe. “And we in Australia and New Zealand also have resources and ideas that can help the missions.”

According to Pastor Coombe, the partnership will also help some missions upgrade to conference status, enhancing their overall standing in the church organisation.

As the program develops, schools and

churches will be able to share resources and ideas with partners in their chosen mission or conference.

“It is encouraging to see the enthusiasm shown by some conference administrators, as they have made first contact with their ‘partner’ administrators in the Pacific,” says Pastor Coombe. “In recent years, many local churches in Australia and New Zealand have lacked substantive contact with mission territories.”

Pastor Coombe says the “Partners in mission” program is not intended to limit or restrict existing initiatives, such as fly’n’build projects but will provide a framework where specific contacts between churches, clubs, departments and pastors can take place.

“It will take a little while for these partnerships to develop and result in practical ways of helping each other,” says Pastor Coombe. “But don’t be surprised if you see some exciting projects getting underway.”

Existing partnerships include: South Queensland Conference and Vanuatu Mission; Greater Sydney Conference and Central Papua Mission; North New South Wales Conference and Fiji Mission; South New South Wales Conference and the



Greater Sydney Conference general secretary Pastor Michael Worker holds a framed partnership agreement with the Central Papua Mission.

Solomon Islands Mission; Western Australian Conference and Morobe Mission; Tasmanian Conference and Madang Manus Mission; and the South Australian Conference and Kiribati Mission. The Victorian Conference is also negotiating with the French Polynesia Mission.

The “Partners in mission” program will provide a foundation for churches’ participation in the General Conference’s 2008 initiative “His hands,” which challenges each church to send a missionary overseas as part of their overall outreach strategy.

“The island mission executive committees have been overjoyed at the prospect of entering into such a partnership, which will provide greater opportunities for meeting the challenge of mission together,” says Pastor Coombe.—**RECORD staff/Ray Coombe**



◆ **Ryde church, NSW**, celebrated 80 years on June 30 with a special Sabbath program. The church was full, with regulars, friends and past members returning. Among them was **Violet Low**, who attended the church as a three-year-old at its beginning with her mother, **Gertrude Evans**, a charter member. Her grandfather **Charles Davies** was the first elder. **Marian McNe**

(pictured with cake) is the longest continuous member, attending the church for more than 70 years. Current pastor **Bruce Grosse** gave a brief history of the church in his welcome. Following evangelistic outreaches at Ryde and Gladesville by **Pastor E G Whittaker** in 1925 and 1926, the church was formed on October 16, 1926, with 27 charter members. Members moved into their own church building in 1952, then from 1972, they began meeting at their present church.

—**Elaine Grosse**

◆ About 85 past and present mem-



bers gathered at the **Goondiwindi** Seventh-day Adventist Community Services Hall, Qld, to celebrate a “return to Goondiwindi,” on June 30. It was likened to the leaving of the Garden of Eden and then returning there. Former members **Mary Federow** and **Sue White** commenced the homecoming program with Sabbath school. **Peter Karauria**, current church pas-

tor, took the service, titled “**Homecoming**,” on the second coming of Jesus. A celebration lunch, held in the Cultural Centre across the road, included a special cake, which was officially cut by former conference president **Pastor Rex Moe**, who was involved during the building of the church in the 1970s. The afternoon program, hosted by **Rod McInnes** and **Debbie Hall**, showed a DVD highlighting the history of the church. Laminated memorabilia, displaying the building of church hall, decorated the walls. The day ended with dinner and a concert.—**Peter Karauria**

Children's leaders attend KID University

(Continued from page 1)

"Kids in discipleship" is a three-step process, which will eventually lead young children to not only develop faith in Jesus Christ but to share it with others as well.

According to Pastor MacLafferty, who directed the training seminar, the first step is gaining the support of the church and encouraging them to pray for their families and children. "We then equip parents and mentors on what it means to be a disciple," says Pastor MacLafferty. "This is accomplished through a series of 12 small-group Bible studies. Finally, the

parents and mentors disciple their kids through 32 intergenerational small-group Bible studies.

"It challenges parents to be the spiritual mentors of their children," he explains.

Church members who attended the training see the "Kids in discipleship" program as a potential solution to the issue of young people leaving the church.

"This program will inspire families to get a deeper understanding and connection with each other," says Narelle Coyte, of the South Pine Adventist church, Queensland. "I've learnt a lot of basic, simple and fun ways to get alongside kids."

According to Mrs Weslake, some of the churches represented at the seminar are the model churches for their conference, "so when more local training happens, we will be able to use the church's experiences as practical examples."

Mrs Weslake says there are plans to implement "Kids in discipleship" in every church in the South Pacific. This will be a major focus of SPD children's ministries for the next five years.—*Melody Tan*



One of the many practical training sessions during KID University.

First leadership group graduates

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

A cohort of 14 leaders of the Adventist church in Papua New Guinea successfully completed their final session of a certificate in leadership, at Pacific Adventist University early last month.

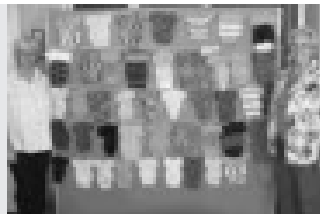
Dr Barry Gane, director of leadership and professional development for the South Pacific Division, was the lecturer for this final session.

"The group includes five mission presidents, a number of mission general secretaries, departmental leaders and district directors," he reports.—

RECORD staff



The first group to complete the South Pacific Division's certificate in leadership.



◆ **Wodonga church, Vic**, has featured in the local *Border Mail*, much to the delight of church pastor **Mike Parker** and head deaconess **Audrey Williams**. Ms Williams began a church knitters group when she discovered the need for jumpers for **AIDS babies**. She posted an advertisement in the local library, asking for contributions as part of

an international knitting drive. Originally, 26 knitters, mainly senior citizens, helped make **250 jumpers**. Among the knitters: a 90-year-old who made 50 and a woman who is blind in one eye. After the local paper ran the story on July 2, a steady stream of cars arrived at the church, with women from different denominations dropping off their contributions. A total of **550 items** have been knitted, including 122 beanies knitted by one lady alone. These items are being sent to a depot in Cranbourne for distribution to orphanages, hospi-

tals and refugee camps in Africa and Asia.—*Sue James*

◆ Late last year, a hardy team, made up of six residents of the **Avondale Retirement Village, Cooranbong (NSW)**, and three people from the surrounding district, conducted an evangelistic outreach in **Ulaanbaatar**, the capital of Mongolia. This program was the result of nearly a year's preparation and was funded by donations from the village, as well as a generous grant from **Adventist Aged Care NSW**. The group conducted a number

of programs led by **Pastor Ray Stanley**, as well as graded English classes. When the outreach concluded, more than 30 people were attending church. Since then, 12 have been **baptised**, 10 are still having studies and others are regularly attending church. Money was donated to employ an assistant for the church pastor,



DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ AUGUST—SIGNS MONTH

Baptisms answer prayers

FEILDING, NEW ZEALAND

For a church in need of young people, the recent baptism of two young women offered cause for celebration—and an answer to prayer for members of the Feilding Adventist church (NZ). The baptisms took place only hours apart, on a day that will not be soon forgotten by leaders of the church's kids club. "We had virtually no young people," says Murray Strawbridge, local elder and kids club assistant. "For a church that in the early 1900s was a young person's church, this was truly disturbing."

Initially, members joined together in prayer, with the hope that more families would attend and help build the children and youth divisions. "At first there were no results but gradually more families started to come," says Mr Strawbridge.

During this time, the church decided to start a kids club aimed at children between the ages of five and 10 in the Feilding community. "We would present the children with one-and-a-half hours of games, Bible stories, crafts and afternoon tea on a Wednesday after school," says Mr Strawbridge. "We hoped that we could then encourage these children to return to Kids Club on the Sabbath."

One of the real success stories to come



Baptism in the Rangitikei River: (left to right) Pastor Lawrence Lane, Hannah Boltin, Shelby Fuller and Murray Strawbridge.

out of the club is nine-year-old Shelby Fuller and her family. Miss Fuller has been influential in guiding her brother, younger sister and mother to the Feilding church, since initially accepting an invitation to Kids Club from a friend in 2006. "They have all been regularly attending church from the moment Miss Fuller joined us," says Mr Strawbridge.

After regular Bible studies, Miss Fuller was baptised in February this year. On that afternoon, Pastor Lawrence Lane also baptised Hannah Boltin, who had recently moved to Feilding church with her family.

"It seems God has answered our prayers in more ways than we could have ever expected," says Mr Strawbridge.—**RECORD staff/Murray Strawbridge**

Signs site reaches 1000 articles

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Signs of the Times online now includes an archive of 1000 articles, according to website manager Scott Wegener.

"These are exciting times. All the people receiving a one-off Signs magazine now have access to years of articles, instantly," he says.

In the past two years, the Signs website has seen a major increase in the number of guests accessing the site. Overall, some 300 people per day are viewing Signs, compared to just 30 per day in 2005.

"We have now received more than 100,000 unique visitors," says Mr Wegener. "However, the most positive news is that one out of 20 guests accessing the site are clicking through to other resources, such as Discovery Centre courses, Steps to Christ offers and explanations on what Adventists believe."

In addition, more than 10,000 podcast files have been downloaded since its introduction last year.

The online edition of Signs has allowed the magazine to cross borders it has never crossed before, with articles being accessed in countries like Iran, Vietnam, Kuwait and Mozambique.—**Stephane Millien**

More @ www.signsofthetimes.org.au

Pastor Bold, install a suspended ceiling in the Ulaanbaatar church, which will greatly assist in containing heating costs during the subzero winter months and install a standby generator, to provide power during the frequent extended blackouts. "It just goes to show, you are never too old to tell people about God," says **David Knight**, managing director of Adventist Aged Care NNSW.—**David Knight**

◆ A small spot on a **Caribbean island**—not much more than a post office and shops, which

overlooks a black limestone formation—is not only a tourist destination but also a potential site for a Seventh-day Adventist church. The town of **Hell**, on Grand Cayman Island, chief of the Cayman Islands, is a highly popular spot for most of the **two million tourists** who visit the holiday spot each year, says **Pastor Jeffrey Thompson**, who is wrapping up a 17-year tenure as church president there. "I'd say all of these visitors, if they don't go any place else, they go directly to Hell," Pastor Thompson says. The church's treasury

department recently received a donation for a building fund there. "We hope some day to literally build a church in Hell," he says.—**Ansel Oliver, ANN/Nigel Coke/AR Staff**

◆ Seventh-day Adventist pastor **Barry C Black**, 63rd chaplain of the United States Senate, was given entry to homes in the United States last month, when "**Religion & Ethics News-weekly**," a national program aired on the **Public Broadcasting Service**, featured a profile of the Senate's spiritual advi-

sor. It is the first such profile of an Adventist pastor on the 10-year-long public television program and helped introduce **Adventist beliefs** to viewers. "Chaplain Black is someone we've been interested in since he was first appointed [as Senate chaplain]," says **Kim Lawton**, managing editor for the weekly telecast. Through it all, Lawton notes, Black works to maintain authenticity with the people of the US Senate—senators and staff—whom he serves and in having a devoted prayer life.—**Adventist Review**

Adventists call Catholic claim nothing more than tradition

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, UNITED STATES

A statement released by the Roman Catholic Church saying Protestant denominations are not true churches has drawn criticism from other faith groups, including Seventh-day Adventists—many who say the sentiments expressed are nothing new.

A document, approved by Pope Benedict XVI on July 10, said Protestant communities “cannot, according to Catholic doctrine, be called ‘Churches’ in the proper sense because they lacked apostolic succession, or the ability to trace leadership back to Christ’s original disciples.”

Adventist Church leaders say the statement merely clarifies the Catholic Church’s traditional position.

“There’s nothing surprising here,” says Dr Kwabena Donkor, associate director of the Biblical Research Institute of the General Conference.

“Following Vatican II, the modernisation meetings of the Catholic Church in the 1960s, some people had the impression that there were some significant changes in the Catholic Church,” Dr Donkor says. “But

there hasn’t been.

“As Seventh-day Adventists, our understanding of the church is completely different. We don’t identify the church as being Christ with the pope as the head.”

“Such statements from the Vatican do not disappoint or affect Adventists,” says Dr John Graz, director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the General Conference.

Dr Graz says the Adventist Church has always been reluctant to join in the ecumenical movement but believes in “unity in spirit, unity in faithfulness to the Scriptures and unity in love.

“Adventists favour good relations and religious freedom for all,” Graz says.

Other Protestant leaders expressed disappointment regarding the Catholic Church’s use of semantics in defining their position.

The Associated Press reported Lutheran Bishop Wolfgang Huber saying the Catholic Church could have chosen phrases that would have better maintained bridges for ongoing interfaith dialogue. He suggests it would have been sufficient for the statement to refer to Protestant churches as “churches of another type.”—*Ansell Oliver/ANN*

Neo-Nazis target Adventist church, again

BELGRADE, SERBIA

A Seventh-day Adventist church in Serbia was the target of vandalism on July 10, in the posting of a message signed by a Neo-Nazi group. A poster, which read “sects are the death of the Serbian nation” and signed by the “Nacionalni Stroj” movement, was posted on the wall of the Adventist church in Belgrade.

Church officials in the country called on the government to “secure a peaceful and safe life in which the indestructible spirit of tolerance, understanding and trust will rule.”

Several young men arrived on a motorcycle to post the message, says Miodrag Zivanovic, president of the South-East European Union Conference.

The incident was caught on surveillance tape, Zivanovic says, and underlines the volatile position for religious minorities in Serbia.

Adventists and other religious communities have been targeted several times in the past year by ultranationalists and Neo-Nazi groups, Serbia’s B92 news reported.—*ANN staff*

◆ One of **South Korea’s** top banks, the state-run Industrial Bank of Korea, has rolled out an “I am Pastor” **credit card** for Protestant clergy, which will give them discounts on Bible purchases and allow them to gather points that they can turn into donations for their churches.—*The Age*

◆ A **Romanian murderer** who **sued God** for “fraud” and “betrayal of trust” for failing to answer his prayers, has had his case dismissed in court. The daily *Evenimentul Zilei* says 40-year-old **Mircea Pavel**

brought charges against “the defendant God, who lives in the heavens and is represented in Romania by the Orthodox Church” for failing to free him from evil. Mr Pavel, who is serving 20 years in jail for murder, accused God of “fraud, betrayal of trust, corruption and influence peddling.” “At my christening, I made a deal with the defendant, aimed at freeing me from evil,” he wrote. “But the latter has not respected that agreement until now, though he received from me various assets and numerous prayers.”

The court in Timisoara, western Romania, dismissed the case, ruling that “God is not subject to law and does not have an address.”—*AFP*

◆ Scientists in **Britain** believe the island became separated from mainland Europe after a **catastrophic flood**, perhaps some time before 200,000 years ago, according to a recent sonar study of the English Channel. The images reveal deep scars on the channel bed, thought to have been cut by a sudden, massive discharge of water. Sci-

entists told the journal *Nature* that the torrent probably came from a giant lake in what is now the North Sea. Some event—perhaps an earthquake—caused the lake’s rim to breach at the Dover Strait, they believe. **Dr Sanjeev Gupta**, from Imperial College, London, and colleagues say the discharge would have been one of the most significant megafloods of history, and provides an explanation for Britain’s island status. “If this hadn’t happened, Britain would always have been a peninsula of Europe.”—*Johnathan Amos/BBC News*

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

Local member thanks ADRA

BLACKTOWN, NEW SOUTH WALES

The third anniversary of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency's (ADRA) community centre in Blacktown was acknowledged in the Australian Parliament on June 12. Roger Price, member for Chifley, was reporting on his involvement in the June 6 celebration to mark the centre's milestone.

Mr Price, who also attended the opening of the centre three years earlier, paid tribute to the contribution ADRA has made to meeting the social and welfare needs of the disadvantaged people in western Sydney. "I think it is true to say that the people of western Sydney—particularly families—are under enormous financial pressure," said Mr Price.

He then commended ADRA and the Blacktown centre's staff and shared the story of one of their clients. "I would like to mention Michelle," he said. "What a heroine she is. Unfortunately, the [Department of Community Services] and other related organisations took her baby away from her, on the basis that she was diagnosed with borderline personality disorder. ADRA



Church and community leaders celebrated the third anniversary of ADRA's Blacktown community centre.

were her last port of call and, with their help, she was able to recover her baby."

Malcolm Rea, ADRA director for the Greater Sydney Conference, says the Blacktown community centre is a compassionate ministry of the highest order. Demonstrating this appreciation, 14 volunteers were honoured at the anniversary celebration for generously donating their time over the course of ADRA's operation in Blacktown.

"All of the volunteers are to be praised and thanked for the countless hours of community service they have contributed over the past three years," says Mr Rea. "Recognition is also given to the donors who continue to support ADRA's work in Blacktown through their generous donations and prayers. God has been good to us."—*Stephane Millen*

Women's conference to explore Ellen White

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Adventist Women's Ministries of the South Pacific Division (SPD) is taking steps to gain a fresh understanding of Seventh-day Adventist pioneer Ellen White.

"Ellen White made a significant impact on the Adventist Church during its early development but most people don't know who she really was," says Joy Butler, SPD director of women's ministries. "That is why we have decided to hold a conference to discover why the Adventist Church places such emphasis on her writings and whether she could be relevant today."

Themed "Truth resurrected," it will be the third Women and the Word conference, jointly organised by SPD Women's

Ministries and Avondale College.

Guest speakers at the conference include Dr Ginger Hanks-Harwood, a lecturer at La Sierra University (California, USA) and an expert in the field of understanding Ellen White, as well as Pastor John Skrzypaszek, director of the Ellen White Research Centre, based at Avondale College.

"Because she was a pioneer and lived so long ago, we sometimes forget to see her as human, as female," says Mrs Butler. "We want to be able to look at her as a woman of her time, chosen by God and find out how to relate to all of this now."—*Melody Tan*

The "Women and the Word" conference will be held at the Sydney Adventist Hospital in Wahroonga, NSW, August 31 to September 1. Contact <malbert@adventist.org.au> or <dferguson@adventist.org.au> to register.

Music festival celebrates 10th year

BOX HILL, VICTORIA

The 10th Christian Music Festival was held at the Box Hill Town Hall on the weekend of June 9. The festival is organised annually by the Polish Adventist community in Melbourne.

The festival opened on Friday night with a sacred concert, featuring musicians from Sydney, Adelaide and Newcastle. According to spokesperson Beata Szymala, a highlight was celebrating the 15-year ministry of the Joyful Singers, led by director Jolanta Mielczarek. "Special tribute was paid to Jolanta's never-failing enthusiastic approach and energy," she reports. "She was surprised with the attendance of all the children who have sung in the group over the years."

The Sabbath worship programs included a sermon from Pastor Mark Finley, a vice-president of the General Conference in Melbourne during the "Discoveries" evangelistic series, and a production by the young people of the Dandenong Polish church.

The Saturday evening gala concert has become a tradition of the festival, with more than \$A4000 raised this year going to the Make-a-wish Foundation. "During the concert, we heard the finest voices from the Polish church and many other churches from around Australia," says Ms Szymala. "It is always great for the organisers to work with representatives from the different foundations [for whom we have raised funds]. In working with us, they start knowing nothing about Adventist. They are amazed to discover what we do and who we are, and some stay in touch for years afterward."—*RECORD Staff/Beata Szymala*



Performers at the 10th Christian music festival.

Prayer keys: Personal prayer retreats

WITH JOY BUTLER

AN EXTENDED TIME OF PRAYER IS an opportunity to enjoy time with God. It is a time to recharge your batteries, to listen to God and discern His purposes for your life.

You can enjoy a personal prayer retreat in your home, with no distractions. It could be just one day or a few days, camping or spent in a place specially designed for quietness and meditation. The emphasis should be on being alone with God.

Some people do this at least once a year, to re-evaluate their life or revive after an especially stressful time.

Here are some suggestions how one might enjoy a prayer retreat with God.

- Read a short book from the Bible—for example, Mark, Ephesians, Philippians or 1 John. Talk to the Lord about what you are reading. Hear His heart through this portion of Scripture.
- Play a worship CD and sing your worship to God.
- Walk with God. Talk to Him about creation. Try to imagine what delights Him about what He has made—or better yet, ask Him.
- Pray some of the great prayers of all time. You might start with the prayers of the Bible—Psalms, Daniel's prayer, Jehoshaphat's prayer or others. Use other classic books on prayer and make them your own. Ask God to purify, strengthen, heal and help you.
- Ask the Lord to refresh you both spiritually and physically. Prayerfully select Scripture from the following list: Psalm 23:2, 3; 62:1-5; 91:1; Proverbs 11:25; Isaiah 30:15; Matthew 11:28, 29; Acts 3:19; Hebrews 4:1-11. Sit comfortably and meditate on the verses, letting each word or phrase soak in. Ask God's Spirit to let you see and experience all He has for you from these Scriptures. After you've enjoyed time pondering, talk to the Lord about what He has shown you.
- Bring a specific burden to the Lord and ask Him for wisdom, comfort, perspec-

tive, direction, correction or help with it. Tell Him exactly how you feel, even if—perhaps especially if—you feel angry, discouraged, confused or sceptical. Invite Him to speak to you about your concern. It may aid the conversation if you write down both your prayer to God and what you believe He is saying to you about it. Talk to God as you would a friend or family member. Take time with this. Heart-to-heart conversations are not to be hurried.

- Read a short portion of a devotional classic on prayer or the Christian life. *Steps to Christ* by Ellen White, writings by Andrew Murray or A W Tozer are good places to start. Use what you read as a springboard for prayer.
- Spend time in intercession for those for whom you have committed to pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to pray for them. This may lead you to intercede for their spiritual, mental, physical, emotional or relational lives. Linger over the things God shows you to pray about that seem especially significant.
- Ask God what He would like to talk to you about, and then just listen. Let Him pick the topic. Write down what you believe He is saying, so you can reflect on it and respond immediately and in the future.
- At the end of your prayer retreat, make notes or journal what was most significant or enjoyable about what you and God have shared together. Keep these notes to reflect on at future prayer retreats, or whenever you need a reminder of what God is doing in your life as you relate to Him through prayer. **R**

For additional information or resources, contact the South Pacific Division's Prayer Ministries: <jbutler@adventist.org.au>. Ask for the Meditation brochure.

Adapted from Pray, January/February, 2007.

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



Against the wind

BY CARRIE CARR

QUIET TIMES WITH MY LORD;
Early morn in His Word;
A growing time, that's for sure,
Days without I want no more.

Distractions every moment come
Stealing worship time with the Son.
Thoughts intrude, it's swept away—
Loving minutes gone astray.

Rising now, jobs to do,
Business all day through.
Winds of strife, they soon appear,
Which don't feel so hard when He is near.

Against the wind with every blow,
Tossed about, tumbled to and fro.
Turning here, twisting there,
Need to make time for prayer.

Feeling pressured, pushed around;
Cannot make it, start to frown.
Give it over, foolish pride,
Time is now to set aside.

Ask for help, He draws near.
Perfect love casts out fear.
Stop the wind and settle down,
Time to wear the victor's crown. **R**

Carrie Carr writes from Dalby, Queensland.

A walk to remember

BY ROSEMARY ANSELL

IT'S BEEN MORE THAN A YEAR SINCE Echuca church member Peter Tripovich was forced to abandon his attempt to walk around Australia. But an Australian of the Year nomination this year and his unfinished challenge—the 5500 kilometres as yet unwalked—keep the now 81-year-old motivated. And as he begins to plan the rest of his journey, he also reflects on what he has achieved.

Why?

So what would make a then 79-year-old take up a crazy, exhausting, challenging task like attempting to walk 16,000 kilometres around Australia's coastal roads? Perhaps it's just as puzzling as asking, "Why do people climb mountains?" Answer: simply because they're there. But for Peter Tripovich, it isn't about personal glory.

"If a child gets a good start in life, it can make all the difference in their lives," he says. With this in mind, Peter braced himself for the walk of a lifetime to raise money for International Children's Care (ICC).

Getting ready

"I wondered, how far could I walk? Could I walk right around Australia?" With the desire in his heart, Peter would require all the support he could get. "I needed a driver/backup man. They would have to be a special person."

Whoever was chosen would have to be the eyes of the operation, watching over Peter as he walked almost 50 kilometres each day, through all sorts of weather and conditions. Eventually, help came in the form of a man named Ray Price. Gradually, as word of the adventure continued to get around, the support and donations began flooding in.

"Sanitarium Health Food Company donated lots of savoury vegetarian canned products and, of course, cartons of Weet-Bix," he says. "I even mentioned my plan at the Athlete's Foot in Melbourne while I was trying on some shoes. They kindly gave me 14 pairs of special socks, which

would keep my feet dry and healthy and stop blisters from forming. Things like this really encouraged me, and I knew the Lord was with me and would help me."

On the road

Out on the road, the support was no different. "I met some very kind, hospitable people along the way. In fact, at one place the whole town put on a barbecue for us," he says. In most cases, bystanders would donate money toward the ICC fund, after discovering the aim of Peter's mission.

"I really wouldn't have missed it for the world," he says.

But not all aspects of Peter's journey went as planned. Even on day one, the trip did not go smoothly. "I was leaving Melbourne and I fell flat on my face," he recalls with a grin. "Fortunately, I was near a hospital and they patched me up.

"I told them what I was doing and I'm sure they must have thought I was an escapee from 'somewhere for seniors,'" he laughs. "However, the knowledge that I was helping underprivileged children to have a better life just kept me going."

An intermission

As I continue talking with Peter, it becomes clear that he's accustomed to the hard walks of life. As a retired farmer, his "big walk" was prompted by asking himself how far he walked on an average day on the farm.

In the 13 months Peter was on the road, he raised more than \$A25,000 for ICC. "I am grateful to all the churches, schools and kind people—many as I was walking along the road—who donated money to the ICC fund," he reflects.

Things seemed to be going well, albeit slowly, but a phone call received in Pemberton, Western Australia, pulled him up short and he had to return home for family reasons.

"I walked 11,000 kilometres and had about 5500 kilometres to go. That's about five months walking," he says.



Peter Tripovich.

It may be next year before Peter returns to the road, particularly as timing is important—he does not want to contend with summer heat across the Nullarbor. During his trip, he lost 24 kilograms but says he has put most of it back on now. However, a recent 25-kilometre walk was part of keeping in shape, ready to go when circumstances permit.

Thinking back

So what was the hardest part of the trip?

"Coming through Fitzroy Crossing [in northern Western Australia]," he says. "Man, it was hot. Also, there were so many ants! One night I put my bottle out to keep cool and the lid must not have been on properly. I was drinking in the dark when suddenly I stepped into the light and noticed there were ants floating in it. I wondered how many I had swallowed."

Yet it was also under the dark night sky where Peter was offered the most rewarding of experiences.

"I loved walking at night, looking up at the stars, knowing God was with me," he recalls. "I could feel God's presence and see the stars Job talked about. I would sing hymns like 'Day by day' and 'He leads me'—that's what kept me going.

"It amazes me what the human spirit is capable of when given a high and holy task." **R**

Rosemary Ansell writes from Echuca, Victoria.

The value of one

BY LIMONI MANU O'UIHA

AFATHER HAD THREE SONS. NOW ripe with years, the father called his sons to divide his possessions. All he had was 17 camels, an asset of priceless value in those times. To his youngest son, the father allocated two-thirds. To his second son, he gave one-sixth. And, to the eldest, because he was able to fend for himself, the father gave one-ninth. Shortly after their father had passed away, the three brothers gathered together to divide their possessions. But, trying to follow their father's nonsensical mathematical formula to divide the camels, they were astonished and horrified. How could they split the animals? Had their father erred in his calculation?

Then they remembered an old friend of their father who lived not far away and they decided to seek his counsel. Perhaps he could make sense of their dilemma. Being an old man with many years of experience, their father's friend possessed the wisdom they were looking for.

"Take one of my camels," he said. "Add it to your 17 camels for accounting purposes. And, when you have finished dividing your camels, return mine."

Now with 18 camels, their father's formula worked perfectly. The youngest, who was allotted two-thirds, had 12. The second son, who was given one-sixth, had three. And, the eldest, who was given one-ninth, had two. Having added up to a total of 17

camels, the one remaining camel was returned to their father's friend. Their dilemma now resolved, everyone was happy.

What made the difference in the story? It was the one "missing" camel. Without that camel, the mathematical dilemma the three sons were facing could not be resolved. In a similar way, the value of the missing one is the point taught by Jesus in Luke 15. In the kingdom of God, one missing sinner is of priceless value.

The missing sheep

Notice the parable of the shepherd and his sheep (Luke 15:4-7). Only one from the shepherd's flock went missing. The one missing sheep in the parable not only represents the lost sinner—it also represents the lost world. In God's universe, where everything was created in perfect harmony with God's divine purpose, one planet had gone astray (see Ellen White, *Highways to Heaven*, page 164).

Adversity had entered the world (see Genesis 3:6, 7), and the human race was taken hostage to sin and death (see Hebrews 2:14, 15). Like the one missing sheep, utterly lost, the earth and its inhabitants were plunged into a desperate predicament. Tainted by the sting of sin, everyone born into this earth was doomed to die (see Romans 6:23). Engulfed by sin and its con-



sequences (Romans 1:29-31; 5:12), human beings became alienated from themselves (see Genesis 3:7, 11-13), from creation (see Genesis 3:17-19, 24) and from God (see Genesis 3:10). Had it not been for divine initiative (see Luke 15:4), the sinner and the world would have been lost forever. But the good Shepherd sought out the lost sheep and when that sheep is found, there is much rejoicing (Luke 15:6). In like manner, Jesus says, there will be rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents (Luke 15:7).

Though repentance is an important aspect of salvation, salvation is a divine initiative. Helpless as sheep, the sinner knows he or she is lost but cannot find the way back to God. Like the shepherd, God takes the initiative to save the sinner.

For God, the one lost "sinner"—in contrast to the self-proclaimed "righteousness" of the Pharisees—is of greater value to Him. Here, the gospel shines into the common predicament of humanity. Like sheep, all of humanity has gone astray (see Isaiah 53:6) and needs to be sought out by the loving Shepherd. But if you were the one "sinner" in the whole universe, Jesus says the loving Shepherd would still have come down in search of your salvation.

Many souls in this world long for something better and respond to the Spirit of God as He speaks to their conscience. These individuals sense their need for God and are searching for answers to questions of salvation. Multitudes in different countries of the world and among different religious persuasions, even perhaps in our own neighbourhood, may realise their need for God but do not know what to do. For such people, the loving Shepherd left the splendours of heaven to seek and to find.

The missing coin

Like the parable of the missing sheep, Christ spoke of the missing coin in Luke 15:8-10. In contrast, those represented by the missing coin are unaware of their lost condition. Like the lost coin, the sinner is helpless and in desperate need of salvation. Again, this parable reminds us of the stark reality of the human plight. But, unlike the missing sheep, the coin is lost in the home. The very place that should have been the safest and most secure became the arena for spiritual lostness.

This parable strikes a sensitive and personal cord. Are there some among us, even within the comforts of our church, who are lost and do not realise it? Is it possible for churchgoers to be lost? Do some merely turn up to church to meet friends or to see and be seen? Are our children sincere about going to church each Sabbath or do they go simply to please us but deep in their hearts lack a vibrant connection with the Life-giver?

Like the woman in the parable, God takes the initiative to seek and save those represented by the lost coin. But the divine initiative may also represent the importance of parental guidance. As the women in the parable upturned the house to search out the missing coin, parents, pastors and teachers have a solemn responsibility toward the salvation of their children. No hindrance to the salvation of the children in the home, church or school should be left unturned. Every stumbling block to salvation must be removed. Children need an environment conducive to Christian growth and development—a place where love for God and purity is nurtured. The rejoicing over the repentant one who is saved (see Luke 15:9, 10) is again in stark contrast to the unforgiving attitude of the spiritual leader Jesus was addressing.

The missing son

The parable of the missing son is also a startling revelation of divine grace. Jesus' purpose in telling the three parables was to teach the Pharisees and teachers of the law (see Luke 15:2, 3) the contrast between themselves—unforgiving and unaccepting—and God's forgiveness and acceptance of the "sinner" as manifested in Jesus' own ministry. This man, they accused, "welcomes sinners and eats with them" (Luke 15:2*). These parables were Christ's response to their accusation. If so, the focal point of the parables is not so much the "repentance" of the sinner but rather the love and forgiveness of God toward the sinner who repents.

Unlike the first two parables, the father in the third parable did not go out in search

But God's enterprise operates on heavenly principles. And, in heaven's accounts, one person is of priceless value.

of his son. When the sheep was missing, the shepherd left the 99 in search of the one. When the coin went missing, the woman of the house sought it out earnestly until it was found. Yet in the parable of the lost son, the father simply waited—and waited.

This parable hits at a core issue in the salvation of humankind. While God seeks to save all people, He will not save individuals against their will, allowing them the freedom to choose salvation. The son had access to all the blessings and comforts of home but chose otherwise. He decided to leave and he had to choose to return. And it was not until the son was in the stench of sin that he came to his senses and decided to return to God.

This story reminds us of the dangers of taking God's grace for granted. We need not separate ourselves from God. Today, he says, "do not harden your hearts" if the spirit of God speaks to you (Hebrews 3:15). For if we do so, what excuse will we be able to give in the day of reckoning, for ignoring God's great offer of salvation (see Hebrews 2:3)?

While the love of God is the focal point

of the prodigal son parable, the story did not end with the return of the wayward son, but with the elder son, who thought he had remained faithful to the father (see Luke 15:25-32). After all, the parables were told in response to the Pharisees and the real contrast is between the Pharisees—as depicted by the older son—and the loving and forgiving Father, who embraced both the wayward and the rebellious sons.

Making it personal

The common thread in the three parables is the priceless value of one person to God. God's mission in the world stands out against modern business principles. Business leaders will shut down any project that does not have an economic gain. If one project threatens the financial stability of the organisation, it must be eliminated. Managers will not waste time on non-profitable enterprises.

In this way of reckoning, to pursue one lost sheep, one lost coin or one lost son may not make economic sense. The one that was lost may be better left alone to not drain the resources that could otherwise be diverted to more worthwhile projects. Why waste time, energy and resources looking for one when there are 99 others to care for? If you had lost a coin while doing your laundry but had nine remaining, you would probably not turn your house upside down just for that one small coin?

But God's enterprise operates on heavenly principles. And, in heaven's accounts, one person is of priceless value. The purchasing value of each life is the precious life of Jesus (see Romans 5:8). Here the gospel becomes individual: Christ died for each person. If I were the only sinner, Christ would still have come to save me. If everyone else was righteous and I was not, I am not beyond Christ's saving grace. If I were the vilest person, God's love would still yearn for my salvation. Even if the whole world hates and rejects me, Christ loves me so much He came to save me (see John 3:16). How should I respond to such amazing love? **R**

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

Limoni Manu O'uiha writers from Pacific Adventist University, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

“But we already have a website”

BY SCOTT WEGENER



APPROXIMATELY 940 websites have been created for every Adventist church, school, office and entity, to form the South Pacific Web Network. So we answer five questions from those who already have websites:

• **You’ve created a website for our church but we already have a site. Do we have to move?**

If your current site is working well, and is easily and regularly updated, keep it going. But we’d love you to consider some of the benefits of our system that could improve your current site. The new site we’ve created for you has no effect on your current site. You can trial and develop the new site and then change over at any time.

• **Can we use our existing or preferred URL with your site?**

Yes. As soon as you want your website address to point to the new site, let us know.

• **Aren’t your sites restrictive, “institutionalised” and preventing creativity?**

There is plenty of opportunity to individualise your church site. You can freely remove the various “plug-ins.” There are also several layouts and colour schemes you can change between in an instant—but you can also freely customise the layout if you know a bit of HTML and CSS.

• **Can we have more than the 500 Mb of space you’re offering? We have cheap hosting with gigabytes of space already.**

We plan on reviewing the 500 Mb limit as the network is populated. If you need more storage space, you can use your old hosting to store files and link to them from the new site on the network.

• **What does your site offer that our current site doesn’t?**

We don’t know how you have set up your site but here are a few things many websites cannot offer:

1. Different departments of your church can have access to maintain their section of the site at the same time, from their own home. This helps share the load and keep your website up to date.
2. It’s so easy to use, anyone who’s spent a few hours doing word processing on a computer should be able to update the website with little training.
3. You can have the news and events you enter into your website promoted on other websites throughout the network.
4. News and events from other sites on the network, as well as ministry features, all automatically updating on your website. **R**

If you’re interested in trialling your church’s allocated website in the South Pacific Web Network or want more information, visit <<http://web.adventistconnect.org>>.

Scott Wegener is associate electronic media officer for Adventist Media Network.

Record Roo’s kids corner



Hi kids,
Jesus chose twelve men to be His disciples, or apostles. They helped Jesus with His Earthly ministry. Do you know the disciples names? Find out by reading Luke 6:12-16.

KK

Fill in the Blanks

And when it was day, He _____ His _____ to Himself and from them He chose _____ whom He also named _____.

Luke 6:13 NKJV

Word Search

Can you find all of Jesus’ disciples in the puzzle?



JESUS
DISCIPLES
PETER
THOMAS
JAMES

SIMON
JOHN
JUDAS
PHILIP
ANDREW

JAMES
BARTHOLOMEW
MATTHEW
JUDAS ISCARIOT

More WIM questions

GRAHAM STARK, QLD

I commend the “Women-in-ministry questions” articles (Feature, June 30 and July 7). Dr Petersen makes the point that it would be impossible for women to be ordained in Australia at the present time, because the General Conference denied the right of the church’s world divisions to ordain female ministers.

I believe the General Conference should not seek to dominate and control every facet of church administration throughout the world. It is impossible to have a common denominator on this issue across a broad spectrum of cultures, from America to Africa to Australia.

It is time the General Conference granted autonomy to divisions to make their own decisions on matters relating to women in ministry and other issues where church leadership can adapt church procedures to fit local cultures.

JOHN WALLACE, NZ

In the recent articles advancing the cause of women’s ordination, I was somewhat alarmed to see our church paper resort to calling in the “scholar” to silence the “ignorant.” Jesus had strong words to say against that attitude.

Unfortunately, the articles resorted to evoking prejudice against Catholicism to win doubters to the agenda.

Will we read any articles in favour of the church’s current position? There are many supporters of it among leaders, workers, scholars and ordinary members in the church.

SHELDON VINCENT, NZ

A plain reading of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 appears quite opposed to some of the statements made in “Women-in-ministry questions.” 1 Timothy 3:1 describes a man desiring or wanting to be an elder. This sets the context for verses 2 to 7 as criteria for a man desiring to be an elder—not a historical description of current elders as claimed.

Verse 5 clearly links the headship/father role of men with elders, saying “if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?” (NASB).

We would do well to anchor our theology to the Creation account, where God ordained distinct but complementary roles for men and women, rather than to the ever-changing culture and traditions of subsequent generations—including ours.

If our pastors are going to be empowering pastors, they need to receive the same support from the church system.

Green conscience?

CORILDA GRANT, NSW

I read with interest “An inconvenient moral truth” (Feature, May 19) and the subsequent comments (“Heated discussion,” Letters, June 16). I can’t help thinking how easy it is to be confused over issues that become politicised when profits are at stake. Remember, it wasn’t until this year that our current Australian leader finally admitted there might be something to the concept of climate change and that our abuse of God’s good gift of creation might well be having an impact.

Unfortunately, the greed that feeds unchecked capitalism is as short-sighted as its investors demand it to be. We have overfished, overstripped, overpolluted and overpopulated—and still expect to be unaccountable. Where has our Christian conscience gone, when we choose to ignore the destruction going on around us? Indeed, “day and night will never cease” while the earth endures (see Genesis 8:22) but it will not endure forever.

Perhaps this issue is another wake-up call, indicating how close we are to that great judgment day

Supporting pastors

ROB STEED, VIC

I want to say how much I appreciated “Surveying Adventist pastors” (Feature, July 7). I am particularly interested in the summation of the survey findings. The article concludes that pastors have a high level of morale but lack friendship in the workplace, and lack anyone to talk with about their progress.

A lack of regular debriefing and support

will have a detrimental effect—not only on pastors’ wellbeing but also the quality of leadership they provide to their churches. According to Christian Schwarz—of “Natural church development” fame—one of the distinguishing characteristics between

pastors of healthy, growing churches and non-growing churches is whether they have an outside support person.

If our pastors are going to be empowering pastors who support and mentor their leaders, they need to receive the same support from the church system. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has one of the best church structures for offering systematic support to leaders. But for that to be achieved, the system will need to make a higher commitment to caring for its key leaders—the church pastor—and less time on programming. Often we try to do too much as a system and put the people who are there to make it happen at risk.

Chairs or church?

ROBYN STANTON, TAS

I didn’t realise changing the seats would bring people to church (“Pews or chairs,” Letters, July 7). I rather thought relationship-building with others and showing them that having Jesus as their friend was the reason people would want to come to church.

Changing the style of seating is not a substitute for nurture. In many places around the world, believers sit under trees without the comfort of chairs or pews.

Establishing a prayer group in one’s home to create a bond of friendship and then inviting participants to church will do much more than changing the style of seating.

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.

Appreciation

Salom, Alwyn. The family of Alwyn Salom, would like to express our sincere appreciation for the support and encouragement of your prayers, visits, phone calls and emails—from both Australia and overseas—and the many expressions of sympathy in the form of cards, beautiful flowers and gifts, food and so much more. Your loving concern has touched our hearts and meant so much to the family. To you all we say thank you. Audrey, Melissa, Amanda and the girls.

Weddings

Carrasco—Jakimovski. Fabian Carrasco, son of Manuel and Margarita Carrasco (Macquarie Fields, NSW), and Joanne Jakimovski, daughter of Giovanni and Filomena Messina (Mount Pritchard), were married on 24.6.07 at the Colebee Centre, Doonside.
Pablo Lillo

Lockhart—Jakes. John Lockhart, son of John and Margaret Lockhart (Perth, WA), and Peta Jakes, daughter of Sydney and Sherel Jakes (Sydney, NSW), were married on 1.4.07 in the Red Herring Restaurant, East Fremantle.
Andrew Skeggs

Mannington—Hodges. Darren Owen Mannington, son of Kevin and Valm Mannington (Macksville, NSW), and Madelyne Claire Hodges, daughter of Neil Hodges (Gympie, Qld) and Gloria Feather (Townsville), were married on 2.7.07 in St James Anglican church, Townsville.
Bob Possingham

North—Greive. Clinton North, son of Mark and Bev North (Murwillumbah, NSW), and Natalie Greive, daughter of Adrian and Kaye Greive (Warners Bay), were married on 18.3.07 at Peppers Resort, Port Stephens.
Terry Butler

Peers—Vechiata. Scott Richard Peers, son of Steve and Ros Peers (Alice Springs, NT), and Catherine Maree Vechiata, daughter of John and Lois Donnelly (Sydney, NSW), were married on 15.4.07 in Alice Springs church, NT. The couple plan to make their home at Bella Vista, Sydney.
Geoff Crabtree

Woods—Plahn. Joshua Geoffrey Woods, son of Geoffrey and Deborah Woods (Brisbane, Qld), and Jennifer Louise Plahn, daughter of Stephen and Jacqueline Plahn (Brisbane), were married on 24.6.07 in Caboolture church, Brisbane.
Mladen Krklec

Obituaries

Carroll, Annie Edna, born 20.10.1919; died 4.7.07 in Capricorn Adventist Retirement Village (ARV) Hostel, Yeppoon, Qld. In 1939, she married Stanley, who predeceased her 2.3.1983. She is survived by her brothers, Bobby and Gordon; her sister, Audrey; six of her eight children, Marjorie, Janice, Brian, Madeline, Sandra and Wendy; 23 grandchildren; 43 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grand-

children. Annie discovered the Adventist message in Rockhampton, where she lived for most of her life, through the ministry of Pastor Coates. She moved to Yeppoon in 1994, to become one of the first residents at the newly established Capricorn ARV. Annie maintained a precious hold on her Lord until she passed away peacefully in the hope of the soon-coming Jesus.
Alvin Colheart

Fagan, Mona (nee Donald), born 17.11.1911 at Crystal Cascades, Qld, to Charlie and Kitty Donald; died 9.6.07 at the Mount Kooyong Aged Care Home, Julatten. In 1913, Mona (or Ngywul "Only One," as she was known to the Djabugay tribes people) and her parents came to Mona Mona Mission. For a time, she lived in the Girls Dormitory. Later, she went to live with Mr and Mrs Mills, missionaries on Mona Mona, who cared for her and raised her as their own. While attending the Mona Mona school, she was chosen as a monitor. She later became a teacher and was able to help educate her people. Mona married Stephen Fagan (who was born on Mona Mona Mission). They had 6 children; Yvette (deceased), Cleveland, Merton, Muriel, Noel (deceased) and Verna. She will be greatly missed by her husband, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends.
Frank Gorry

Head, Rex Anthony (Tony), born 6.7.1938 at Fremantle, WA; died 25.6.07 at Armadale, after a prolonged illness. He is survived by his wife, Olwyn (Perth); his sons, Kim and Colin; his daughters, Cindy and Charmaine; and seven grandchildren. Respected in the north of WA as a capable engineer, Tony worked for many years with the WA Water Authority. He gave his heart to the Lord late in life.
Max Smith

Searle, Colin Royce, born 21.4.1920 at what is now the Sydney Adventist Hospital, NSW; died 20.6.07 at Coffs Harbour. In 1942, he married Margaret Toepfer. He is predeceased by his son, Leonard. He is survived by his wife, who is currently in a nursing home in Coffs Harbour; his daughter, Robyn Searle; his daughter-in-law, Jill Taylor and her children, Dale and Kara (Port Macquarie); grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Col volunteered for service during World War II, serving in an army hospital in Lae, Papua New Guinea, for which he received a number of citations. He will be remembered for his amazing architecture and buildings in the Coffs Harbour area, including the current church. The Coffs Harbour RSL conducted his funeral, with chaplain, Rev Dr Graham Whelan, as the main speaker.
Graham Whelan, Gordon Smith

Tocchi, Desmond, born 13.11.1925 at Maryborough, Vic; died 16.6.07 in Cyprus Gardens Nursing Home, Clear Island Waters, Qld. He is survived by his wife, Val (Surfers Paradise); his two children, Carolyn and Desi, and their respective families (Gold Coast). Des was in the entertainment industry for 46 years. He performed to audiences in Queensland and many overseas countries. Despite suffering numerous medical problems in the last few years, Des maintained his positive outlook and bubbly

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personality through prayer, his faith in God and the support of his church family. He will be sadly missed.
Adrian Raethel

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Sale church 50th—November 17. Inviting all former ministers, members and friends to Sale church for a day of worship, praise,

fellowship and reminiscing. Where: 51-53 Stawell Street, Sale (Gippsland). When: 10 am. A smorgasbord lunch will be provided. If you have any photos of your time attending Sale church, why not bring them on the day? RSVP by October 17, caterer Rene, phone (03) 5143 2192. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there.

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August 24-26, 2007

The Story Factory, freecall 1800 452 133; <www.thestoryfactory.com.au> or email <info@thestoryfactory.com.au>.

China Tour October 2007. Experience China for 16 days with fellow Adventist members. Price includes all expenses. Places are limited. Act soon. Contact Lin on (03) 9726 5817 or email <chuangs@optusnet.com.au>.

Avondale Homecoming*, August 24-26, 2007. Relax! See hundreds of artefacts in "Land of the Pharaohs" on display in the Avondale Library. *It just won't be the same without you.

Missionaries' Lunch—Avondale graduation. December 1. A combined lunch immediately after the church service, for missionaries and ex-missionaries, families and friends who attend the Avondale graduation. Please bring a plate of food, sufficient for your family and a friend. Drinks and goodies will be provided. This year will highlight the role of mission boats in spreading the Gospel in the Pacific. We encourage you all to give a short talk on one special highlight of your mission experience, involving a mission boat. Contact Ken Boehm on (02) 4365 3033; mobile 0408 072 313 or Warren Martin on (02) 9489 5907; email <warrenjmartin@hotmail.com>.

Finally

Courage is fear that has said its prayers.


Volunteers!

URGENT! Assistant Building Supervisor—Papua New Guinea. An assistant building supervisor is urgently needed for construction work in PNG. Experience in trade preferred. For more information, please contact Reg Davis on <rdavis@pngum.org.pg>.


URGENT! English Language Teachers—Thailand. English Language teachers are urgently needed in Thailand. Any length of time. For more information, contact Hayley on (02) 9847 3275 or <volunteers@adventist.org.au>.

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: <volunteers@adventist.org.au>
For more positions, check the web on <www.adventistvolunteers.org>
+61 2 9847 3275

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