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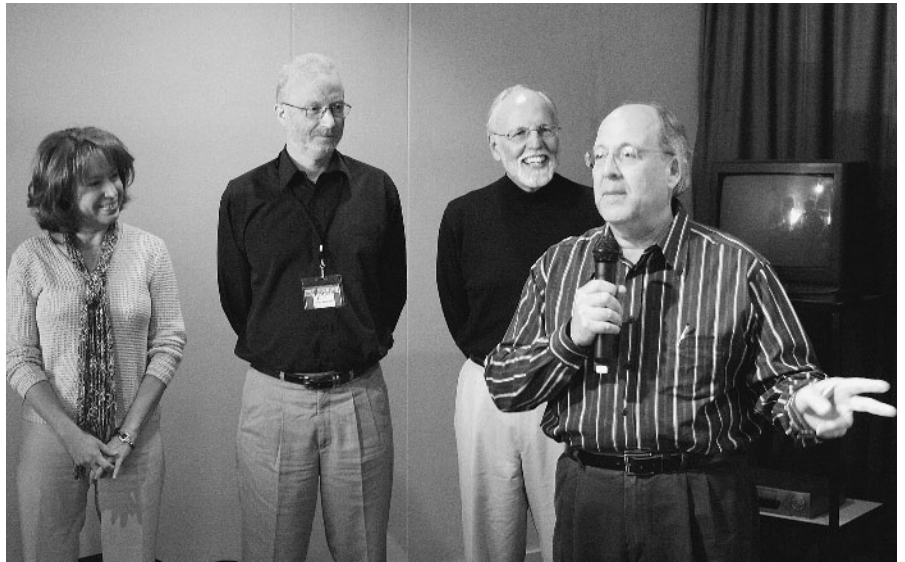
September 22, 2007

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Ella Simmons, church leader



(From L-R) Carla Gober, Paul Petersen, Gerald Winslow and Peter Landless—presenters at the Adventist Health Professionals Conference, held in Adelaide over the last weekend in August.



Surprise honours for alumni

Health professionals help shape future

ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adventist health professionals were encouraged to further integrate their practice with a spiritual dimension at the fourth annual Adventist Health Professionals Conference.

Delegates gained a further understanding about the interwoven relationship between spirituality and health under the theme “Shaping an adventurous future—Adventist health and hope.”

The keynote speaker for the conference was Carla Gober, director of the Center for Spiritual Life and Wholeness at Loma Linda University, California, USA. According to Ms Gober, the future is something

that takes place now and affects tomorrow, and health and faith are elements that cannot be separated.

“When we touch people with something related to health,” she says, “we touch them with the hand of God.”

Ms Gober also encouraged health professionals and church members to work together as a community. She spoke about the “middle space” of living and dying at the same time that people are in. “This is an exciting and dynamic space for health-care ministries, because people are open to change when you touch them at their most

(Continued on page 5)



Off

Sabbath is the space God creates for us to shut the gates and turn off the noise.

IT IS REMARKABLE HOW SMALL THINGS can make a big difference. One of the things I appreciate about working at Signs Publishing Company—the church’s publishing house—is driving past the building on Friday evening and seeing the gates locked. It might be only a small thing but it is a visible symbol that we live and work by a different set of priorities.

And perhaps it is such a powerful symbol because it is so out of step with our society. We are increasingly pushed toward 24/7 work, communications and connectivity—and, at the same time as we begrudge such demands made on us, we expect it from others. And then there is the ceaseless chatter of media and news, the wash of information that sweeps over our consciousness.

In a recently published survey, researchers asked how many hours each day were spent on activities ranging from sleeping, working and spending time with friends to time spent online, talking on the mobile phone and listening to music. In Australia, respondents’ answers added up to an average of 37.5 hours a day (Lia Timson, “Home Alone,” *Livewire*). That means we are filling each day with a day-and-a-half of content. And that’s measuring only what we *are* doing, without factoring in what we feel we should be doing, what we know is most important and what we wish we could fit into our days.

No wonder so many of us are over-

stimulated, stressed and tired. Even if not physically tired, our minds are stretched to capacity. While we may think it possible to fit so much activity in an average day by working on a variety of tasks at once while listening or watching various forms of media and communicating with our assorted gadgets, our heads still need space to catch up, process, organise and rest.

That’s why we need places that shut their gates—and why I so appreciate working at such a place. That’s also why we need to make spaces in our lives when we turn off the gadgets and appliances, when we disconnect and choose not to feel guilty about it, when we are not defined merely by a job description, title or “to do” list, when we are determinedly not available, not working and not consuming.

And that’s why we need Sabbath. Sabbath is the space God creates for us to shut the gates and turn off the noise. “The old, wise Sabbath says, *Stop now*. As the sun touches the horizon take the hand off the plough, put down the phone, let the pen rest on the paper, turn off the computer, leave the mop in the bucket and the car in the drive. There is no room for negotiation, no time to be seduced by the urgency of our responsibilities. We stop because there are forces larger than we that take care of the universe, and while our efforts are important, necessary and useful, they are not (nor are we) indispensable. . . . [S]o we are invited—nay, commanded—to relax and enjoy our relative unimpor-

tance, our humble place at a table in a very large world. The deep wisdom embedded in creation will take care of things for a while” (Wayne Muller, *Sabbath*).

At Signs—as with other church institutions—for at least one day, all the deadlines are unimportant and, belying business wisdom, the demands of customers and relationships with suppliers take second place. Yes, the business might operate more cost-effectively if we chose to work seven days per week. But this reflects our alternative priorities—a business that counts more than the bottom line and is not solely governed by supposed business imperatives.

And the alternative is one of rest and joy: “Keep the Sabbath day holy. Don’t pursue your own interests on that day, but enjoy the Sabbath and speak of it with delight as the Lord’s holy day” (Isaiah 58:13, NLT). Rather than an imposition on our already busy lives, Sabbath means we don’t have to be busy for at least one day each week—and that reordering of our priorities, our realisation of a larger view of life and the delight of God, will spill over into how we live and work the other days of our week.

So, beginning with Sabbath, let’s celebrate, seek first and find rest in the kingdom-life of God.

Nathan Brown



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

Surprise Homecoming honours for alumni

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

The Avondale College Alumni Association surprised the recipients of its highest award by keeping their names secret until the official presentation at Homecoming (August 24-26).

Members of the association's committee voted in April to present the Outstanding Alumni award to Dr Barry and Desmryna Taylor. However, they revealed the names only during the Sabbath worship service in the Avondale College church. The award recognises the couple's contribution to medical research—in physical therapy and biochemistry; their dedication to Adventist tertiary education at Loma Linda University (California, USA); and their contribution to the local community.

Dr Taylor reviewed the history of Loma Linda during the inaugural Alumni Lecture on the Friday of Homecoming. The institution's reorganisation as a health sciences university brought focus to its mission and research has a greater emphasis. Loma Linda formalised this new mission in 2000, appointing Dr Taylor as the first vice-president for research affairs. The next six years saw a doubling—to \$US40 million a year—of external funding for research. "Research is no longer a luxury of privileged faculty but an affirmed mission for all," said Dr Taylor.

Mrs Taylor attended Homecoming as a member of the 1957 honour year. She spoke during the association's luncheon on Friday about the 100,000 kilograms of food she has collected and distributed over the past two decades for people who are homeless, and for victims of domestic violence.

Nine other alumni joined the Taylors as award recipients. Eight were members of each honour year. Receiving citations from their classmates were: retired minister, Pastor Wal Hammond (1937); caretaker and custodian of "Sunnyside" and South Sea Islands Museum, Keith Frauenfelder (1947); retired lecturer and teacher, Beverley Reye (1957); director of choirs and chair of the music department at Columbia Union College, James Bingham (1967); minister and president of Rivers Community church and Rock Community Care, Jenny Spyve (1977); minister of Southside Community church and president and executive director of The Spot Community Services, Ken Houliston (1982); creative director of Rocfish, Karyn Fua (1987); and businesswoman, Charmaine Bazley (1997).

Drs Arthur Patrick and Tom Ludowici presented a posthumous award to the ninth, Dr Alwyn Salom, an honorary senior re-



Ann Stafford

Dr Barry and Desmryna Taylor were presented with the Alumni Association's Outstanding Alumni award by the association's recently elected president, Roger Nixon.

search fellow at Avondale. Dr Salom died in February this year. The award recognised the "initial impulse and continuing guidance" of the "quiet, scholarly little man" when the class of 1957 "envisioned *Jacaranda* as the first Avondale annual."

Jean Carter and Pastor David Lawson, members of the 1982 and 1957 honour years, preached the vespers and the worship service sermons.

Three others returned to Avondale to perform during vespers on Friday evening. Pastor Harry Halliday, Karen Thrift (1977) and Heather Ferguson (1977) formed the folk trio sitting around a fire on a secondary teachers' club camp while studying at college.—**Brenton Stacey**



◆ Recently, qualified nutritionist **Margaret Barons** has been visiting **Ballarat, Vic**, to train a number of women from the area. As part of their course, they studied and researched various aspects of a healthful diet, completed assignments and then underwent a written examination. In recent months, they have also been involved in healthful cooking demonstra-

tions for the community. The entire group successfully completed their course and earlier this month received their **Certificate IV in Presenting Community Health Education Programs**, in recognition of—and reward for—the many hours of work and study. Pictured are (left to right), **Caroline Swanton; Daniella Walton; Margaret Barons; Laurinda Hasting** and **Carolynn Carnegie**. Absent is **Rebecca Stanford** from Stawell.—**Merrilyn Hastings**

◆ **Mountain View Adventist College students** (Sydney, NSW)



raised about **\$A7000** for literacy programs, walking and running against each other in the school's late August walkathon. "We had about 200 children sponsored for the walkathon," says Mountain View's head of primary, **Megan Sketchley**. "It was also a fitness program we linked to Book Week, since the money raised will go to the school's literacy resources"

Some students were in casual dress while many came as their favourite story characters, in keeping with the Book Week theme. Teachers also promoted reading by choosing a book and working on it with their students.—**Roderick Shaw/Blacktown Sun**

◆ **Rosa Galindo** from the Newcastle Spanish church, NSW, collected more than **\$A1000** for Adventist Development Relief Agency this year, using the traditional method of doorknocking around her neighbourhood and her workplace.—**Oscar Sande**

Tauranga school finds greener pastures

TAURANGA, NEW ZEALAND

The new home of Tauranga Seventh-day Adventist School is on target for completion by the end of this year. The opening of the new campus will mark the end of a remarkable two-year journey for the small New Zealand school.

"It has been amazing to see God at work in making the seemingly impossible possible," says principal Ross Bishop. Just two years ago, he would have dismissed the suggestion of being able to relocate to their "ideal" site, beside the Tauranga church.

"This site has great road frontage and safer access for parents," he explains. "The current site is situated on Highway 2, surrounded originally by kiwifruit orchards but now with a large supermarket and further retail development planned."

Inquiries were made regarding the availability of the land next to the church but it

was held by Transit New Zealand for a motorway exit ramp.

Tauranga school had been exploring other possibilities for expansion but with only slow progress. "There was a pressing need for a fourth classroom but Ministry of Education approval was needed before the school could accept additional students," reports Owen Ellis, director of Adventist education for the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference. "An application was made in September 2004 but approval never came. Numerous phone calls and emails to the Ministry of Education finally led to the discovery that the application had been received and subsequently lost. Ten months after submitting the application, notification was received that the roll increase had been approved."

But this delay allowed for progress to be made in a different way. In September 2005, the school was approached by someone who had a conditional contract to purchase the Transit land next to the Tauranga church but no longer wanted to do so. "He was wondering whether our church might be interested," says Mr Ellis. "With just one week to sign the deal, committees have never worked faster!"

The price received for the old school site



Ross Bishop, principal of Tauranga school, at the new school site, with the new building in the background.

Photos by Julie-Maree Southern

will cover the cost of the new land and most of the new buildings. Building work began in April this year.

"The students are excited about moving to the new school," reports Mr Bishop. "They have been involved in praying for the project and are taking an active role in designing the new playground."

Tauranga church members have supported the project in a hands-on way, dealing with local council applications, completing significant earthmoving work, constructing retaining walls and building the new school itself. "It has been awesome to see the level of support from the local church and school community," says Mr Bishop.

"We praise God for the generosity of His people," says Mr Ellis. "God has provided a way for us beyond anything we could have hoped for or dreamed of." —**Hannah Hogg/Owen Ellis**



Building contractor Colin McMillan (left) and Chris Watts at work on the new school building.



◆ For the third year in a row, a team from the **Hawera Adventist church, NZ**, has won the **Bible Society Bible Quiz**. Members **Tania Meyer, Colleen Waters** (pictured with trophy) and **Dorothy Barron** made the church proud. Colleen Waters accepted the trophy on behalf of the church during the Bible Society Hymn-fest, held at Hawera's St Joseph's Cath-

olic church. The trio were equal with the Salvation Army team but managed to take the lead with their answers from Revelation.—

Marilyn Passione

◆ *Reader's Digest's* seventh annual **trust poll** has rated Sanitarium as the **third most trusted brand in New Zealand**, following Cadbury and Tip Top for the fourth year running. This reflects results from a similar *Reader's Digest* survey in Australia, in which Sanitarium was voted the 20th most trusted company.—**SANCO News**



◆ The small church in **Dareton**, just 20 minutes out of Mildura, Vic, recently ran a jungle-themed kids club in the second week of the school holidays. **Melody Lister** and **Ellen Praestiin**, with the help of a community liaison officer from the local school and other church members from Dareton and Mildura, organised the event. The theme "Who's the King of the Jungle?"

shared Jesus with the local children. Dareton senior citizens were also treated to a jungle theme, as their clubroom was transformed into a jungle world for the week. Around 40 children turned up each day to sing, listen to stories, play games and make crafts. They were also treated to vegetarian snacks, catered by the church members.—**Nadine de Groot**

◆ On August 12, an excited group of students and adults gathered at **Noosa Christian College, Cooroy, Qld**, for the annual **Weet-Bix Billy Cart Grand Prix**. Twenty-six teams

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ OCTOBER 13—APPEAL EXPENSE OFFERING

Health professionals help shape future

(Continued from page 1)

vulnerable—when they are sick,” she says.

More than 50 Adventist health professionals from around Australia and New Zealand attended the weekend conference, held in late August at the Hotel Rockford in Adelaide. The conference was organised by Adventist Health Ministries of the South Pacific Division (SPD).

“The conference has given me a heightened awareness and the confidence to step out and mention something of a spiritual nature [to my patients],” says Mr Paul Kochanski, a pharmacist based in Sydney. “There are opportunities to do so if you let God orchestrate. If God prompts you to say something, do it.”

Other speakers for the conference included Dr Gerald Winslow, vice-president for Spiritual Life at the Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center, and Dr Peter Landless, associate director of Adventist Health Ministries for the General Conference.

Dr Winslow explored the fact that healthfulness is not just about diet and exercise, and elements like faith and religion were also contributors. “Adventists have the hope that [everything] will end well and exhibit dimensions of genuine hope,” he says. “And there have been theological and scientific



Delegates at the conference share time in prayer.

health benefits that come with hope.”

He also reminded delegates that health care is a ministry of healing and not an industry or business. “As Adventists, we need to return to the language of the healing ministry,” he said

Dr Paul Petersen, field secretary for the SPD, said about the conference: “We need health experts for health evangelism but church members should get excited as they can participate and benefit too.”

According to Deanna Pitchford, a Brisbane psychologist, the conference has provided a broader view of health and health evangelism. “This is a conference that anybody can participate in and benefit from,” she says. “It has given me new thoughts to think and new ways to think about health.”—*Melody Tan*

Women’s ministries congress held in Vanuatu

SOLA, VANUATU

More than 200 women recently gathered at Sola to attend a women’s ministries congress. It was organised by Dorolyn Laloer, women’s and children’s ministries director for the Vanuatu Mission. Only a quarter of the women who attended were Adventists.

In his opening remarks at the conference, the president of the Torba Province noted that it was the first time such a meeting had been held in the province.

The women learned about self-esteem, time management, HIV/AIDS, parenting, sewing and various other hands-on work. Around 100 girls also learned about how “true love waits.”

Dr Mark Turnbull from Pacific Yacht Ministries helped the women see the danger of HIV/AIDS in his presentation to them. His wife, Naomi, and daughter, Kay, assisted in the workshops.

The women who attended expressed their gratitude for the programs and the way in which God made it possible for them to attend.—*Marica Tokelau/Pacific Waves*

of students from Grades 1 to 8, and adult teams, competed for trophies and race caps sponsored by local businesses. The day consisted of three events. The Brytin Homes Dash is a timed event to see who can push their billycart around the circuit in the fastest time. The Bendigo Bank sponsors the trophies for the Down Hill Derby, an event where the billycarts are given a push and coast down the hill. The Weet-Bix Grand Prix consists of two to four laps of the circuit. Other attractions were a variety of rides including a jumping castle, a giant slide, the cup-and-saucer and the

chair-o-plane.—*Ross Reid*

◆ Nothing is going to waste at the **Ipswich Adventist School**. Re-using most waste onsite at school is the heart of its new **recycling** project, recently unveiled. Plant physiologist and project assistant **Tess Stafford** said an Ipswich City Council donation of four recycling bins, a compost farm and a worm farm has helped kick-start the project. “The kids are so excited,” Ms Stafford says. “Basically, recycling can be made fun but it is a thrilling project for the school too, because it is quite innovative.”

Ms Stafford said each class at the school would receive seven lessons on recycling, starting in October. The students and staff will re-use the by-products of the school’s waste in their gardens, both at school and at the Redbank Westfalen Community Gardens.—*The Queensland Times*

◆ An estimated **300 people** attended a concert at the **Washington Spanish church** in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA, August 26, to support families whose lives have been shattered by the recent **earthquake in Peru**. Con-

cert proceeds, including matching funds, totalled more than **\$US13,000** and were donated to the **Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) International** for its continuing relief efforts in the earthquake-affected area. The four-hour benefit event “**ADRATON pro Perú**” (ADRATHON for Peru) featured a car wash, food booths and musical performances by several local Christian artists. To date, the ADRA team has distributed more than 40 tons of supplies, including food, medicine, water, tents, blankets and clothing.—*ADRA*

New ADRA shop opens in Queensland

CURRUMBIN, QUEENSLAND

On August 13, a new Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) shop, supplying clothing, furniture and homewares, was officially opened in Currumbin on Queensland's Gold Coast.

Pastor Geoff Donovan, chairman of the local ADRA committee, welcomed distinguished guests to the ceremony, including Jann Stuckey, MP for Currumbin; Geoff Provest, MP for Tweed; and Gary Christian, ADRA's national program director.

Mrs Stuckey expressed her appreciation for the work of ADRA in the local com-



Pastor Geoff Donovan, Geoff Provest and Jann Stuckey at the opening of the new ADRA shop in Currumbin.

munity. She noted that ADRA provides support for families in need. This support includes women's refuges (one of which is in the Currumbin area), youth in crisis centres and refugee assistance.

The manager of the Currumbin shop, Martha Beard, is excited by the modern layout of the store and is already receiving strong local support.

The ADRA shop in Currumbin brings the number of such shops in Australia to 28. These are mainly operated by volunteers and the profits are used for charity work by ADRA.—**Reg Brown**

More @ www.adra.org.au



The new ADRA shop in Currumbin.

Larsen, Herb: Agent for God

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

He graduated as a biochemist, owns an engineering firm and preaches as an agent of God. Herb Larsen is from British Columbia, Canada, but he visited Avondale College's Lake Macquarie campus at the end of August to speak at Festival of Faith.

He encouraged staff members and students attending the meetings to make God their first choice. "There is only one thing that will give you a sense of relevance in this world and that is God, and in my presentations I have tried to encourage each one to be an agent for God," he said.

Mr Larsen may be a successful businessperson—he is president and owner of TASH Industrial Design Engineering—but he says his God-given talents are his ability to meet and influence people in high places for Jesus Christ.

Isabelle Millien, a fourth-year primary education student, found Herb inspiring because he "talked about bringing people to Jesus and not a church."

Students responded to Mr Larsen's call on Friday evening, with 20 requesting Bible studies with chaplain Dr Wayne French and 60 committing to spend at least one hour per day with Jesus.—**Andrew Opis**

◆ In one of history's more absurd acts of totalitarianism, China has banned **Buddhist monks in Tibet** from **reincarnating** without government permission. According to a statement issued by the State Administration for Religious Affairs, the law strictly stipulates the procedures by which one is to reincarnate. But beyond the irony lies China's true motive: to cut off the influence of the **Dalai Lama**, Tibet's exiled spiritual and political leader, more than 50 years after China invaded the

small Himalayan country. By barring any Buddhist monk living outside China from seeking reincarnation, the law effectively gives Chinese authorities the power to choose the next Dalai Lama, whose soul, by tradition, is reborn as a new person to continue the work of relieving suffering.—**Matthew Philips/Newsweek**

◆ Officials at Nepal's state-run airline have **sacrificed two goats** to appease **Akash Bhairab**, the **Hindu sky god**, follow-

ing technical problems with one of its Boeing 757 aircraft. **Nepal Airlines**, which has two Boeing aircraft, has suspended some services in recent weeks due to the problem. "The snag in the plane has now been fixed and the aircraft has resumed its flights," said **Raju K C**, a senior airline official. Local media last week blamed the company's woes on an electrical fault.—**Reuters**

◆ **Archaeologists** digging in **northern Israel** have discovered evidence of a **3000-year-old**

beekeeping industry, including remnants of ancient honeycombs, beeswax and what they believe are the oldest intact beehives ever found. The findings in the ruins of the city of **Rehov** include **30 intact hives**, dating back to about **900 BC**. The find offers unique evidence that an advanced honey industry existed in the "**land of milk and honey**" during Bible times. While portrayals of bees and beekeeping were known in ancient artwork, nothing similar to the Rehov hives has previously been found.—**AP**

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

Youth teams take countryside by STORM

WARBURTON, VICTORIA

In recent months, a number of STORM (Service To Others Really Matters) Co teams have gone to various towns around Australia to run kids clubs, work on service projects and share God with others through different forms of outreach.

From July 5 to 13, a group of 23 students from Macquarie College in Wallsend, New South Wales, went to Walgett. The students and teachers from the college got involved with outreach, kids clubs and service projects. The trip was coordinated by Pastor Brad Rae, the college's senior chaplain, with two former students, Marc Hinten and Stephanie Jamieson, as co-leaders.

An average of 45 local children attended the kids club program each day, coming from Walgett, Namoi Aboriginal village and Gingi Aboriginal mission. The programs featured clowning, ballooning, puppetry, drama, face painting and stories, all conducted by STORM Co team members.

The STORM Co team also took part in gardening work at the local hospital, visited other churches in the area, helped paint the Collarenebri Anglican church, visited elderly people in a retirement home and provided Sanitarium breakfasts for two Aboriginal communities.

Pastor Rae says, "The outreach, kids clubs and service projects to the community were successful. However, the team members themselves also grew in their own spiritually, personal character and leadership ability through the experience."

For the seventh year in a row, a STORM Co team from Nunawading church visited Camperdown, a small rural community in

western Victoria, to conduct a kids club and provide community assistance. With an age range of 15 to 44 years, this year's youth group ran a children's holiday program in the Camperdown Uniting church. They also visited two local nursing homes, armed with gifts of Freddo frogs and attractive Bible-text cards, and assisted the small local Adventist congregation with church maintenance.

Team leader Carlie Dunne estimates that around 75 per cent of the children return each year. According to Ms Dunne, "One of the benefits of visiting the same location each year is that the local children look forward to our visit, and keep on coming back and bringing new friends."

Nunawading church's senior pastor, Trevor Rowe, says he is extremely proud



Macquarie College STORM Co team members Breanna Lewis, Jenny Hosken and Nicole Wilson ballooning in the main street of Walgett.

of Ms Dunne and her team. Pastor Rowe says that "while it is true that the program is primarily geared to serve others, the real benefits are evident in the lives of the kids who participate. This is a team of young people totally united in their cause, their friendships with other team members and their service to God. I have seen the benefits of STORM Co firsthand. This program builds lifetime friendships and at the same time proves service to others really does matter."

Avondale College also got into the STORM Co spirit, with a 17-member team led by first-year nursing student Angie Butcher spending time in Coonabarabran (NSW). According to the local church's pastor, Eddie Mackie, children in Coonabarabran "recognise Avondale College students make a difference and stand out



The Nunawading STORM Co group.

from the world."

The team fixed houses, cleaned up the town and ran a kids club—more than 100 children arrived on the first day. "It was overwhelming to start with," says Pastor Mackie, "but indicative of the warm response from the community.

"The theme of giving and not expecting anything in return is refreshing," he says. "To offer service with no strings breaks down barriers. By God's grace, some of those kids will come into the kingdom because of the work of these students."

"Avondale students have been going to Coonabarabran for years, so the kids remember you and tell you they want to be in STORM Co when they grow up," says Ms Butcher.

Jessica Blake, a second-year arts and teaching student, had a similar experience in Gwabegar, where she led a team of 16. "The kids got really involved and would often organise the afternoon program themselves," she says.

Four other STORM Co teams, led by Jeanine Bougaardt, Katie Brown, Bridgette Judge and Ashley Penz, served in Wallaga Lake, Goodooga, Macquarie Fields and Moree respectively.

Ms Brown found that although not everything went to plan, her team members were still able to mix with a range of community members. "Our bus driver dropped out, some of our team couldn't come and the school didn't want us," she says. Yet she and her team members were able to meet the town's Aboriginal elders. "It was our third year in Goodooga and it felt like our relationship with the town got a lot better," she says.—**RECORD staff with Brad Rae/Bronwyn Rowe/Trudy Adams**



Avondale College students went to a variety of towns to conduct STORM Co.

Ella Simmons, church leader

BY MELODY TAN

THE FIRST FEMALE VICE-PRESIDENT of the General Conference (GC), Dr Ella Simmons, visited Australia in August. On behalf of RECORD, Melody Tan caught up with her at the “Women at the Centre” conference at Yulara, Northern Territory.

You have been serving in the role of a vice-president for the General Conference for two years now. How are you finding it?

It has been a comfortable role because I know for certain that the Lord has called me to this position. It has never been on my radar but I can look back and see how the Lord has prepared me for the role.

I grew up as the only sister to five brothers and I only have sons, so I feel a kinship with my other colleagues. It feels like home. I can appreciate the sisterhood of being among other women but I am also comfortable among my brothers.

When you accepted the role, you had a certain expectation of what it would be like. How has that differed?

I did not have any expectations because [the events leading to my being voted for the role] all happened so quickly. I did not have faith that the church would elect a woman to the position. I thought there would be all kinds of things said, some of which would not be so kind. So I was shocked that there was no negative debate when my name was presented. Instead, there has been a groundswell of support and approval.

I have been received around the world with open arms. I have been getting genuine invitations from people and groups to participate and share in their part of the world, to be involved and share my expertise and knowledge. As a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, I am really proud of it.

What have you enjoyed the most about your role?

Being able to meet wonderful people. To meet God’s people where they live and serve all over the world. The church has

lots of growth to do still but I am proud to be a Seventh-day Adventist. I enjoy ministering to people.

How has your life changed?

The administrative part of my role is not new but I used to be more directly involved in education. I travel more now and am spending a lot of time overseas. I am also always on duty now, where before I was on call. I feel that I don’t have as much time for myself as before.

People wonder how it works because I am a married woman. But Nord and I see this as our joint ministry. He supports me and is comfortable with sitting in the background while I’m in the limelight.

The only thing that I don’t like is being away from my grandchildren. But I have no regrets. God has called me to do this. It can be taxing and energy draining but I am enjoying it so much.

How does being a woman enhance your role?

I believe in the complete equality of opportunity and access for men and women, and that a woman can do anything a man can do. But I also recognise and celebrate our differences.

I bring a female perspective within the group of vice-presidents, who have never had things presented to them in that way. I cannot speak for all females but I certainly have the boldness to speak out and give a different perspective.

Are you treated any differently by your colleagues?

No. I am treated as one of the team members who brings a particular perspective. They treat me both as a professional and a person. I have been received as an equal colleague. My opinions are valued and sought out. I don’t feel I have to prove myself and can simply go in and concentrate on the work at hand.

If there is any difference, it’s that my brothers, the other vice-presidents, look out for me a little bit. But most of the time



General Conference vice-president Dr Ella Simmons.

they realise I can hold my own.

My being in this role at this time is not only history-making—it is pioneering. I am paving the way for other women. I don’t feel this is about me at all. God has someone special who is to come after me to do something He has planned. So I’m opening doors, making connections and demonstrating women can do these kinds of things.

What do you hope to achieve?

First, to demonstrate that women are called to be—and have the capability to be—full partners with men in ministry and service for the world.

In specific areas, I would like to initiate some fundamental change in our education system. I also want to support the rather new entity of women’s ministries, to the full achievement of current goals and objectives for the church and women in the world.

Where do you think the church is heading in terms of women in ministry or leadership positions?

People around the world press me when I visit them, asking when women will receive full recognition. I think the church is ready for full recognition of God’s call to service

and ministry for the lives of women.

I see a change. I feel a change. I hear a change, not only among the administrative entities and its operations but among the people. I'm sure there's some resistance out there but I see our church changing. And I believe, not only through my appointment but that of other women in the GC, that the presence of women is stronger at this time. It has happened by design because we see we have to make a determined effort.

I believe the church is ready and is accepting of all the contributions women can make, and all of the appointments to which women can be called and should be called over time. The church is ready for women at all levels and in all roles to fully accept God's call in their lives and function in those roles, officially sanctioned by the church.

What would you say to women who are thinking of either going into ministry or leadership?

I would tell them what I say to all people, male or female. First, hear what God calls you to do—it may be different at different times. Second, you need to open yourself up for God to prepare you completely. Then you need to have the courage to step up.

We should hear the call from God and allow ourselves to be prepared. But we should never get ahead of God, and should not manipulate or play political games to get into a position.

What Bible verse encourages you?

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no-one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:28-31, NIV).

There is power in God and we are strengthened through Him. **R**

Melody Tan is public relations coordinator for Adventist Media Network.



Overlooking the city

BY CLIVE NASH

JESUS STANDS OVERLOOKING JERUSALEM. He sees the gleaming city reflecting the intense sunlight and He weeps. "Sometimes," He thinks, "this so-called 'holy city' can seem so unholy."

Jesus looks at the temple buildings, recently rebuilt and considered one of the architectural wonders of the world. As He stands there, He casts His mind back to earlier times, before He became an embryo, a baby and a man. "So many of my messengers have suffered in this city!" He reflects.

"Seven hundred years ago," He thinks, "Hezekiah ruled here and heard my prophet, Isaiah. But his son wouldn't listen. Fancy sawing faithful Isaiah in two. How could Manasseh be so depraved?" (See Hebrews 11:37.)

His mind rolls forward about 80 years. He thinks of Jeremiah—put into stocks beside the temple, just for telling the people what they needed to hear (see Jeremiah 20:1-3). "To think that a son of a priest should hit my servant on the face," He muses. "And it's going to happen again—to Me."

As He ponders, He recalls that even after Babylon had destroyed the city and Ezra and Nehemiah had organised its renaissance, the people of Jerusalem still hadn't learned. "I remember how they went back to their old ways once Nehemiah returned to Susa." He sees in His mind's eye how they needed reform when Nehemiah came back for a second term as governor (see Nehemiah 13:6, 7). "Sometimes, I wonder if anything has changed in the past 400 years."

"And yet, I love them," He murmurs. Gazing through tears, Jesus says to the

city, "If only you had known, on this great day, the way that leads to peace! But no; it is hidden from your sight. For a time will come upon you, when your enemies will set up siege-works against you; they will encircle you and hem you in at every point; they will bring you to the ground, you and your children within your walls, and not leave you one stone standing on another, because you did not recognise God's moment when it came" (Luke 19:42-44, NEB)

He pauses a little longer, looking sadly across the city. But then Jesus looks forward and sees the faithful few, who will believe in Him, listen to what He says, escape the Roman slaughter almost 40 years later, and accept His invitation to come to Him and find rest (see Matthew 11:29, 30).

He looks further into the future and visualises you and me, our time and our place. He sees people of the community around our homes, and He knows that some are waiting to hear about Him and His plans for "a better country, that is, a heavenly one" (Hebrews 11:16, ESV).

So, for the time being, Jesus dries His tears. He will weep again—and more than salty tears. But for now, His spirit soars. He knows He will soon be put to death. But He lifts His eyes above Herod's temple to another city and to those who choose to live there. He realises that His death will be worth it. His tears for that community of grace will someday evaporate in heavenly joy. **R**

Clive Nash writes from Cooranbong, New South Wales, and pastors the Lakeside church.

Local church: Riverland, SA

BY DAVID EDGREN

IN THE EARLY 1900S, SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S Riverland region was in its heyday—paddleboats steamed up and down the Murray, work was plentiful and people came to Berri and the surrounding towns in droves. Seventh-day Adventists came into the area and began holding tent meetings.

"It all started in a tent with Pastor Archie Hefren," says church treasurer Warren May. "Then they bought a place on McIntosh Street. Back then, it was called the Berri Seventh-day Adventist church."

In the early 1960s, the Barmera Council gave some land to the Adventist Church on which the members built the "Barmera Youth Hall." The church used it for events until the 1980s when it was sold. The funds from the sale contributed to the purchase of a fruit property, which has since been developed into the current facility.

"In the 1980s the church on McIntosh Street was bursting at its seams," says children's Sabbath-school leader Sheree Arnold. "There were 50 kids in the little room out the back. I remember because I was one of them!"

During the 20 years, while hiring churches and halls to facilitate their growing membership, a search for property was patiently undertaken until the ideal site was found. "In the mid-80s this block was bought at an auction," says Mr May, of the land where today's church resides. "We decided to buy a place that could accommodate all our

needs—possible school building, aged-care facility, oval, community centre and church—all on the one piece of land. That's why we bought 16 acres."

The church building was dedicated in 1997, an old school building has been placed on site and is currently undergoing renovations to accommodate the growing needs of the church. While many churches and conferences are selling off land, the Riverland church is looking forward to expansion in the future.

The secret of support

If any one thing could serve as reason for the growth and health of the Riverland church, it would have to be that the people of the Riverland support each other. "Probably the best way to describe our church," says Mrs Arnold, "is 'supportive'—supportive in relationships, supportive to the community and supportive to the church's mission as a whole."

Supporting the church

They have modelled this supportive nature on many levels. Personal, local, conference, division and global initiatives have all been embraced. Riverland head elder Deseree May explains: "Our church has always embraced whatever evangelism method was going around at the time. We



bought the satellite and ran Net 98 and Net 99. We've participated in the *Search* video ministry, letterboxing and invited David Down here to present archaeology. The members support the programs financially and with attendance. It's quite an evangelistically minded church."

"We have been very blessed and are able to return a high percentage of tithe to the conference," says Mr May. "When people are happy with their church, they are also happy to give. Giving, receiving and sharing are all part of healthy spirituality."

Supporting the young people

The supportive nature of the church leaders is also felt by their young people. "I remember friends of mine walking down the middle of the church with their father's gumboots on as part of a drama!" says worship director Jenny Boyd. "We were always supported, involved and active. And it didn't seem to matter that it might have gone against their conservative nature at times. They just made us feel wanted and we were involved."

"We were the host church for the 2003 Waikereke Pathfinder Camporee," says Mr May. The story continues from Mrs May, "We ran the shop at the Camporee—'Rahab's Red Cord Store'—and we raised \$A12,000 for our new church building! The local suppliers gave us really good deals. We put only 20 per cent on the price and the Pathfinders were happy to pay a fair price for things!"

Supporting the worship service

"I really do believe that our worship is a big part of evangelism in the way it creates

Pieter's testimony:

A literature evangelist visited us when we lived in Berri—Ron Earl. He handed over to Kerry Barrett and, when she left, she put me onto Robert Porter. I thought he was another bookseller but he was useless at it. He never came with any books!

Kerry had given us videos by Geoff Youlden. They ran a program in the Berri Hotel and I was interested in the topics but wasn't able to go along. On a Tuesday, Robert and Geoff Youlden rocked up at my place. I knew who Geoff was from watching the videos. It was only later that night I realised Robert was a pastor!

I decided to go to the program. I got a glass of port and came in to listen. I thought the meetings would go for a couple of nights but it was 16 weeks!

I had been a Christian all my life but had a lot of questions about prophecy. I said to my wife, "They're not going to brainwash me. I'm just going to go along and hear what they have to say." And even though the program was "archaic"—the images were shockingly old and poor quality—along with the pictures were words from the Bible that I started to read. And it all came together like a jigsaw puzzle.

Left: The Berri church on McIntosh Street with church family in the 1970s.

Right: The new Riverland church with current church family.

an atmosphere that brings people to God and to each other,” says Ms Boyd. “We need to meet everyone’s needs, no matter who they are.”

“During the past few years the style of music changed,” says Mr May.

“The church has always supported new music,” says Mrs Arnold. “Whether it was hymns, scripture songs or the new style. Rarely will you get a service with music solely from any one style.

“When we were in Pathfinders, two of my friends and I basically ran the music for church—three 15-year-olds in charge of the music for church! Because of that respect from the oldies, I have always been mindful that they love their hymns and are important too!”

Supporting the community

Over the past 80 years, Riverland Adventists have been involved in numerous ministries. “You have to try new things—experiment—to keep the church vibrant,” says Mr May.

“The church supports anything anyone is willing to do,” adds Mrs Arnold. There’s always support. We’ve had fly-n-builds. When the tsunami hit on Boxing Day, 2004, we organised a fundraiser and ran it in one day. We raised \$7000 in 10 minutes!”

“We’ve got an ‘out focus,’” says adult Sabbath-school assistant leader, Pieter Raams, “If you haven’t got an ‘out focus,’ then you’ll just be self-serving.” Their outreach focus is demonstrated as they host the blood bank twice a year and Christmas wrapping sessions for the poor each December.

“Because of all the things in our church, every one of our neighbours have been to church for one reason or another,” says Mr May, “One neighbour, who is an atheist, came to a visitors day for Sabbath school—he stayed for lunch, then the afternoon and didn’t leave until 5 pm. A few days ago, he said, ‘That was a great day. Let me know when something else is happening.’”

Supporting the faithful

“One of the things Pastor Robert Porter taught us was to have evangelism for the



church as well,” says Mr May. “So for the past few years we’ve booked top speakers—like Allan Lindsay, Ray Roennfeldt and Brian Craig. They come across for weekends of spiritual emphasis. While we have advertised it in the local paper, it has primarily been for the growth of the church. We’ve also had speakers for the young people, like Tony Knight and Andy Litchfield.”

And when issues have arisen in the life of the church, people have been put first. Mrs May explains that on one occasion when a theological issue confronted many churches, “Pastor Gilbert visited every church family, explaining the truth. He really strengthened everybody and confirmed their confidence in the beliefs of the church.”

At Riverland church, there’s more to Sabbaths than a morning worship service. Ms Boyd explains: “Because we come from all areas, when you come to church, you come for the day. You bring a change of clothes and your lunch. We have a potluck lunch every week. And then in the evening, you stay for the social. And when there isn’t a social, everyone ends up at someone’s place anyway.”

“The social aspect is one of the most important things,” says Mr Raams. “When we first joined, we had church cookouts. If you were here last week, you would have seen the games night.”

Supporting the needy

“Every year we have a huge Harvest Thanksgiving auction,” says Mrs May. “We raise more money every year.” Mr May pitches in, “We raised \$A5000 in

two hours to build a church in India last year! By the time we sent the money it was \$A11,000. One year, we raised \$A4000 for a school bus for the local Christian school—it’s not an Adventist school but we helped anyway. We gave one year’s Harvest Thanksgiving to the women’s shelter in town. The Harvest Festival money has rarely gone to our own use.” The Riverland Harvest Thanksgiving auction is held on the third Sabbath of each February and is attended by people from Mildura, Adelaide and beyond.

Supporting all who come

“People come to our church for a variety of reasons,” says Mr May. “They come because they feel welcome here. They come because they are accepted here. They come because there is a meal available for them here. They come because they are not threatened here. And the responsibility that comes with that is intense.”

“There is a cross-section of social cultures in the church,” says Mr Raams. “There are people from all walks of life and everyone feels comfortable.”

Ms Boyd encapsulates the spirit of the Riverland church beautifully: “When we model a God who is loving and forgiving by being loving and forgiving ourselves, it connects to people.” **R**

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

David Edgren is associate editor of RECORD.

Has your website been Googled?

BY JEANELLE ISAACS



IF YOUR CHURCH WEBSITE CANNOT be found in Google, you may as well not have a website. Well, not exactly—but it is important to do everything you can to ensure your website will be indexed by the search engines. Here are some tips to help your website get into Google and give you higher-ranking search results:

1. Search-friendly content

Brainstorm keywords people might use to search for your website, such as your suburb name and “Adventist.” Then make sure these keywords are in the first paragraph of your home page. Do the same thing on your other pages. For example, you may have a web page on Bible study. In the first paragraph, write the name of your church and the key words “Bible study.”

2. A new domain versus a sub-domain

When you register a new domain, your site is indexed much quicker than a sub-domain or a host record, such as <http://[sitename].adventist.org.au>. In most cases, because the search engine has already indexed the top level domain, it will not automatically index the sub-domains. This means you will have to submit it to the search engines and wait for them to list your website. If you want to register your own domain and connect it to your netAdventist website, email <webmaster@adventist.org.au>.

3. Submit your website to the major search engines

If your site is not indexed automatically, submit your site to them. Popular search engines include Google <google.com/add url>, Yahoo <docs.yahoo.com/info/suggest>, Dmoz <dmoz.org> and MSN <search.msn.com/docs/submit.aspx>.

4. Cross-linking

To increase your ranking in search results, get as many other sites to link to you as you can. For example, partner with other Adventist churches in your area and create a section titled “Other local Adventist churches” and link to their websites. We have also created a website directory of every website in the South Pacific.

Submit your site to online directories. Look up the “Search Engine” PDF on <web.adventistconnect.org> for a list of recommended online directories.

5. Add your site to Google maps


This is an easy way to get listed on the Google search engine. And if anyone is looking for an Adventist church in their area on Google maps, your church will be identified. To add your church, go to <http://maps.google.com.au> and click on “Add or edit your business.” **R**

If you need more information or help submitting your site to search engines, go to <http://web.adventistconnect.org>.

Jeanelle Isaacs is electronic media officer for Adventist Media Network.

Record Roo's

Kids Corner



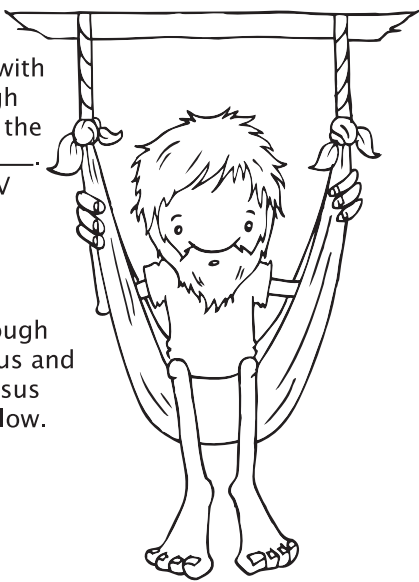
Hi Kids,
Wherever Jesus went large crowds followed Him. A paralysed man was desperate to be healed by Jesus but couldn't get through the crowds. Read how his friends helped out in Luke 5:17-26
RR

Fill in the Blanks

...men brought on a _____ a man who was paralysed, whom they sought to bring in and _____ before Him. And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the _____, they went up on the _____ and let him down with his _____ through the _____ into the midst of _____.
Luke 5:18, 19 NKJV

Draw

This man is being lowered down through the roof to see Jesus and be healed. Draw Jesus and the crowds below.



Census consensus?

JOHN RUSSELL, QLD

The census-based article (“Loss of members a ‘major issue’ for Adventist Church,” News, July 28) drawing attention to a meagre 2500 increase of Australian Church membership in the past 10 years should be of concern to all church leaders and members. We should all be asking questions as to why.

Do these figures prove that despite our skills and programs, our raising and educating young people and our evangelism that the nature of our organisation, our attitude and influences outside are eroding our progress? To what extent do our young people leave because the cultural context given to them prepares them better for life in the world rather than in the church?

Is the internet presenting the church as trapped in the errors of its pioneers rather than engaging in continuing their reformatory process of “restoring the paths to dwell in”? Is the centralised structure and planning producing the unity and genuine involvement, motivated by the Holy Spirit, needed by all members or is it isolating and dividing?

Has “progressive Adventism” some of the keys to truth and revival? Has “historic Adventism” essential values and standards to contribute? Would fewer corporate doctrines, associate membership and mutual respect for separate entities help?

When will “Moses” become so distressed over the church-growth issue that he will listen to “Jethro,” so more people will want to join the church, more people will want to stay in the church and more members will want to recommend the church to others?

Ministry in women

COLIN RICHARDSON, NSW

The writer of “A ‘Berean’ quest” (Letters, August 18) should know better than to compare eggs and apples! The letter equates Old Testament priests and New Testament apostles with present-day ministers, then argues that only men could fill such roles. But ministers today have no equivalence with either priests or apostles. The role of the priest was intercession—and that is not

the minister’s role. The priesthood finds its fulfilment in Christ. And because of this, the New Testament teaches the priesthood of all believers, male or female.

Apostles were not necessarily the 12 disciples either. They were called to that

Has “progressive Adventism” some of the keys to truth and revival? Has “historic Adventism” essential values to contribute?

role and set aside as such by the church. And there is nothing to suggest women could not have been called to apostleship, except an argument from silence. Again, the modern minister has no parallel to the apostleship either.

While this in no way proves women can serve as ministers, neither does it prove they can’t. Even New Testament elders have no exact equivalent to our present role of minister. Ministers today have no exact biblical equivalent; rather they are a composite of a number of biblical roles and a variable mix of gifts, adapted through the leading of the Holy Spirit to our present needs. The same Holy Spirit can call whomever He chooses to that function.

MARGARET HALE, WA

The writer of “WIM ‘answers’” has great news for women (Letters, August 25). We no longer need to feel guilty about shirking Sabbath-school duties. In 1 Timothy 2:12, the Bible says, “I do not permit a woman to teach or have authority over a man.” Isn’t that clear enough? I’m quoting the Bible. Don’t complain to me, complain to the Author of the Bible. Come to think of it, why go to church at all? It sounds so boring and chauvinistic.

A school suggestion

PETER ROBERTS, NSW

I read with interest the letter “A school question” (Letters, August 25) and the excellent response from John Hammond.

As the former head (now retired) of one of our larger primary schools, and with nearly 35 years of experience in Adventist education, I can understand the writer’s concern. Over the years I have come across many parents, both Adventist and non-Adventist,

who have children with various disabilities. Some of the children were siblings of students already in the school.

Schools need to look at a number of issues, one of which is the costs involved with a support program. Other issues include the

effect some children may have on a class and on the staff, and whether there is a viable alternative at another school.

On some occasions, we directed parents to specialist schools where children have the advantage of small classes, specialist teachers with teacher aids and the satisfaction of progressing at a comfortable pace. This is something most Adventist schools cannot even consider at this stage.

Why not try—as we have at times—having your child attend an Adventist school for one day or part of a couple of days? This can always be arranged with most special schools, which may also be able to send along an aid for this shorter period of time.

Absence alternatives

GRAHAM STARK, QLD

In response to “An absent voice” (Letters, August 18), I feel great sympathy for any person who finds themselves in a church that is uncaring, legalistic and fanatical.

Faced with such a situation, there are three alternatives: you can stay put and be unhappy; forsake church attendance altogether; or find another Adventist church where you feel at home.

I would suggest the third choice. The majority of our churches are not like the self-righteous, pharisaical church described but are havens where anyone can feel the love of Jesus, and be accepted as a member of the family of God.

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.

Positions vacant

▲ **Teachers—Gilson College (Victoria).** Want to be part of a dynamic team in the teaching ministry? Gilson College is seeking talented and experienced teachers who enjoy working in an environment where quality and excellence are valued. Due to retirements and the growth of the College, opportunities exist for career advancement. Positions are available in the following areas: experienced lower primary teacher; experienced upper primary teacher; senior secondary IT teacher; senior secondary Maths teacher; and senior secondary Art teacher. Gilson College is a Prep–Year 12 school set on 30 acres, west of Melbourne. If you wish to be part of a dynamic team, kindly forward your CV, with referees, to the principal, Gilson College, 450 Taylors Rd, Taylors Hill, Vic 3037 or email <admin@gilsoncollege.vic.edu.au>. A job description will be forwarded to all applicants.

▲ **International Development Internships—Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia** is seeking expressions of interest from recent International Development or Social/Human Science graduates considering a career in international development. ADRA Australia supports community development programs in a number of African, Asian and Pacific countries and wishes to place up to three interns in partner ADRA offices for 2008-09. Applicants should have previous experience in a cross-cultural environment and/or significant volunteer experience and demonstrate a commitment to ADRA's mission. Applicants must be eligible for an Australian passport. For more information, visit <www.adra.org.au/getinvolved/careers.htm>. Applications close **October 9, 2007**.

▲ **Program Manager—Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia** is seeking development-qualified professionals for a program manager role, to support a range of community development and relief programs mainly in the South Pacific. The successful applicant will have a commitment to ADRA and the church, academic qualifications, 5 yrs field or relevant experience and a passion for social justice. They will need strong communication skills and to be up-to-date with industry trends. For further information, visit the 'careers at ADRA' website at <www.adra.org.au/getinvolved/careers.htm> or contact Cindy Cox on (02) 9489 5488. **Applications in writing** to Human Resources, ADRA Australia, PO Box 129 Wahroonga NSW 2076; or email <ccox@adra.org.au>. Applications close **October 16, 2007**.

Volunteers!

Mission Opportunity—Korea. Korea needs native English-speaking volunteer Adventist missionaries to teach English and Bible. Excellent benefits, monthly stipend, health insurance, round-trip airfare, free housing and more. Training provided. Bachelor's degree required. Call mobile 0418 980 443.

Email:

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

+61 2 9847 3275



Weddings

Dawson—Nielsen. Duane Dawson, son of Tod and Joy Dawson (Charters Towers, Qld) and Rebecca Nielsen, daughter of Ken and Louise Nielsen (Malanda), were married on 29.7.07, in the Yungaburra Chapel, Atherton Tablelands, north Queensland.
John Wells

Konovaleiko—Kovac. Bosko Konovaleiko (Gold Coast, Qld) and Nada Kovac (Stanthorpe) were married on 5.8.07 in the Garden City Adventist church.
Peter Stojanovic, Dusan Milosavljevic

Selent—Flores de la o. Adam Martin Selent, son of Stan and Hilda Selent (War-

ragul, Vic) and Soraya Yamileth Flores de la o (Warragul), daughter of Gloria de la o Portillo (El Salvador), were married 5.8.07 in Bram Leigh Receptions, Croydon, Vic.
Kevin Amos

Whitefoot—Kortessis. Gerald Francis Whitefoot, son of Gerald George Whitefoot (unknown) and June Ellen Whitefoot (Maryborough, Qld) and Fiona Anastasia Kortessis, daughter of Jim and Dimitria Kortessis (Port Pirie, SA), were married on 26.8.07 at Memorial Park, Port Pirie.
Glynn Slade, Allan Croft

Obituaries

Buscher, Kenneth George, born 29.10.1927 at Geelong, Vic; died 29.5.07 at Cooranbong, NSW. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor; his children, Adrian, Jennifer Schur, Peter and Jonathan, and their spouses; his grandchildren; his great-grandchildren; his brothers, Jack and Clive; and his sister, Melva Powell. Ken was much loved and respected in the Cooranbong community and the surrounding areas. He awaits the certainty of the Resurrection morning.
Adrian Craig, Horrie Watts

Earles, Alice Elizabeth (nee Roffe), born 7.4.1912 at Parramatta, NSW; died 20.4.07 in Fremantle Hospital, WA. On 22.4.1935, she married Ronald Earles, who predeceased her in 1987. She is survived by her daughter, Valerie Hill (Perth); and her son, Graeme (Melbourne, Vic). She was a deeply loved wife, mother and grandmother. She was an extraordi-

nary carer and source of hospitality, who loved God. We'll see you again when Jesus comes.
Clem van Ballegooyen

Eisma, Eufelina (Fely), born 25.3.1919 at Cavite, Philippines; died 25.6.07 in the Mt Olivet Hospital, Kangaroo Point, Qld. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Fe Mojica and Michael Murphy, (Brisbane); her son and his wife, David and Marilyn (Philippines); and grandchildren, Arvine, Aldwin and Precious. Fely was a long-time member of Eight Mile Plains church (Qld) and will be sadly missed by the church family. One of Fely's favourite Bible passages was Psalm 23, and we look forward to the time when we will dwell together with Fely in the house of the Lord forever.
Jorge Munoz

Findlay, Mavis Emma (nee Wakelin), born 17.11.1933 at Bundaberg, Qld; died 12.8.07 at her home in Gin Gin. On 16.5.1959, she married David Findlay. She was predeceased by her son, Lance, in 2003. She is survived by her husband (Gin Gin); her children and their spouses, Alfred and Debbie (Cooranbong, NSW), Leanne and Les Jensen (Bundaberg, Qld), Rosalie and Malcolm Cherry (Gin Gin), Michelle (Gin Gin), Janine and Bill (Brisbane), and Karinda and Meetal (Brisbane); her 12 grandchildren; her sister, Coralie; and her brother, Douglas, both of Gin Gin. Mavis loved her Lord, her church and her family. She actively supported her church and was devoted to her family. Mavis will be affectionately remembered and sadly missed by all. We look forward to seeing her on Resurrection day.
Bob Possingham

Hopkins, Jack Turner, born 2.7.1921 at Rockhampton, Qld; died 23.8.07 in Yeppoon Hospital. Jack is predeceased by his wife, Audrey, in 2003; his brothers, William, Edmund and Cecil; and his sisters, Helen and Joyce. He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Kaye and John Cass (Yeppoon); his two granddaughters, Kristie (Perth), and Angela (Rockhampton); his brother, George; and his sister, Vera. Jack joined the church in 1957, with his wife, Audrey. Since then, he has served the church faithfully and has been actively involved in the business and growth of the church. Jack realised the need for an Adventist retirement village and in the early 90s, Jack and Pastor Frank Tassonne began looking for land to build a retirement village on. Thanks to Jack's vision, central Queensland and the Capricorn Coast is now served by the Adventist Capricorn Retirement Village at Yeppoon. A down-to-earth and God-loving man, Jack will be sadly missed by all. Thank you, Jack, for your vision, persistence and commitment to God, your family, your church and the broader community.
Andy Krause

Killgour, Gladys Marie, born 8.2.1943 at Carlton, Vic; died 28.7.07 in Melbourne after a prolonged illness. She is survived by her husband, Brian (Melbourne); her daughter, Kristen (Melbourne); and her sons, Matthew (Sydney, NSW) and Joshua (Melbourne, Vic). Long-time member of the North Fitzroy church, Gladys loved God's creation, especially animals, astronomy and geology.
Greg Evans, Itimi Rimoni

Lowe, Alice Jeannie, born 18.1.1919 at Atherton, Qld; died 2.8.07 in the Wyong Hospital, NSW. Alice went to Avondale and trained as a Lady Bible Worker, before working as a foreman for the Sanitarium Health Food Company. After this, she became increasingly interested in working with children and worked for the North New South Wales Conference and the Victorian Conference in the Sabbath school departments. Word of her work reached America and in 1973, she was called to the General Conference as assistant secretary of the Sabbath school department. She worked around the world until her retirement in 1985. She was a commissioned minister who developed programs and evangelism for children. She was never married but considered all the children of the world her children. She continued to take an interest in children and the elderly in the Cooranbong community until her death. Her extended family and friends will miss her and wait to joyfully greet her on the Resurrection morning.
Ross Goldstone

McLane, Hilda Ruth (nee Blyden), born 10.4.1915 at Scone, NSW; died 11.5.07 in Brisbane, Qld. Ruth became an Adventist in 1929 and married Edmund McLane in 1939, who predeceased her in 1998. She is survived by her son and his wife, Glen and Suzanne; her daughter, Coralea Bardon; her four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. A teacher by profession, Hilda was involved for many years at Inverell church, in children's Sabbath school and Dorcas work. She was church clerk for 25 years and remained active after retirement as a 'pink lady' at Brisbane Adventist Retirement Village. Goodbye, dear Ruth. Sleep well until morning.
Judy Fua, Selwyn Bartlett

Roberts, Carolyn Deborah, born 24.9.1957 at Dubbo, NSW; died peacefully on 16.8.07 at Narromine, in the loving presence of her mother, Elaine Roberts, after a long struggle with multiple sclerosis. She is survived by her brothers, Graham (Hervey Bay, Qld) and Greg (Narromine, NSW); her sisters, Sharon Roberts (Ipswich, Qld) and Christine Roberts (Brisbane). Memories of Carol's ready smile and endearing sense of humour warm our hearts. Carol loved the Lord and we look forward to meeting Carol, restored to radiant, eternal health at the Resurrection morning. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.
Mark Roberts, Graham Wynniatt

Reeves, Sidney Harold Mervyn, born 29.9.1935 in Liverpool, Sydney, NSW; died 20.8.07 in the Hornsby Hospital. He is survived by his four brothers, Stan, Bill, Jim and Rusty; his sister, Enid Dodd; his daughters, Zahira and Toshen Maku; and his two grandchildren, Cara and Hopi. Sid accepted the Adventist message three years ago and became an active member of the Thornleigh church. His life since that time has become intimately bound around his faith in Jesus Christ and the blessed hope of union with Him on that Resurrection morning. He was a quiet, gentle and caring person, who was respected by all and will be sadly missed by his family and friends.
Barry Wright

Smith, Gwendoline May (nee Green), born 17.6.1936 at South Casino, NSW; died 21.8.07 at Greenslopes, Qld. In February 1964, she married Peter Smith. She is survived by her husband (Alexandra Hills, Qld); and her daughters, Janelle Lee McKenna (Coopers Plains) and Carolyn Joy Bartlett (Carseldine). Gwen was extremely dedicated to her family and friends. She was a kind, loving person, a strong advocate for the Lord who has brought joy to many people during her 71 years. She is sadly missed.

Neil Tyler

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Thornleigh Pathfinder reunion. November 3, 2007, Thornleigh Seventh-day Adventist church, for the church service. You are most welcome to come for Sabbath school also. We would love to see you all there. If you have any questions, please call Karina Simpson on 0404 686 734 or (02) 9484 7497.

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