

RECORD

October 20, 2007

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The ASA Vanuatu leadership team includes (from left to right) Richard Meto, Anne Ulvenal, Jaelsen Shem, Pastor Fred Kaman, Kibeon Melnaim, Jean Pierre Niptik and Dick Maserei.

ASA established in Vanuatu

PORT VILA, VANUATU

The newest chapter of the Adventist Students Association (ASA) was established in Port Vila, Vanuatu, on September 22 by Pastor Nick Kross, associate director of Adventist Youth Ministries for the South Pacific Division. This is the first time a formalised student leadership group has been established in the country.

Pastor Kross met with around 150 students at a Sabbath seminar. After working in small groups, the students presented reports on the effect of entering the university campuses in Port Villa. Some of the issues they encountered were overt sexuality,

cross-dressing and drug usage.

During the meeting, an executive committee was appointed to coordinate ministry within the three campuses in Port Villa, including University of the South Pacific law faculty, Vanuatu Institute of Technology and Vanuatu Institute of Teaching Education. The Vanuatu ASA committee includes representatives from each campus and a university chaplain.

"It was great to witness history in the making," says Pastor Kross, who believes this initiative will empower the Adventist students to make Christ real to their friends.—*RECORD* staff/Nick Kross



Children today don't realise that they are in spiritual danger.

A need for discipleship

MY MOTHER RAN FULLY CLOTHED into the water and grabbed me. She had seen my head disappear under the water and not reappear. I was disobediently swimming in a sandy swimming hole, preferring it to the rocky bottom of the creek's shallow parts. The sandy bank was steep and as I tried to climb it to get out of the deep water, it kept crumbling beneath me.

The experience taught me a few lessons. The immediate ones were that I should be obedient, and that my mother loved me enough to spoil her clothes to save me. But more recently, I have realised that many children are in the same situation. They may not be physically drowning but are in the equally serious predicament of drowning spiritually.

I didn't even call out for help. I didn't know I was in danger. I just kept trying to climb the bank and kept sinking under the water.

Children today don't realise that they are in spiritual danger. Life is mostly fun and they are not aware of the spiritual battle for their hearts and minds. They don't know whether the program you have organised will help them build a solid faith, or whether it will simply entertain them or keep them occupied. And they don't have a voice at board meetings and executive committees to ask for help or complain about their lack of solid discipleship and nurture.

I had been drowning in front of about 15 people sitting on the sand two metres

away. Not one of them noticed or tried to help. I was just a young child and I wasn't their responsibility. They were engrossed in their own world and discussions.

Many of us are guilty of not noticing children. We don't see their spiritual needs as important. We don't see the joy on Satan's face as we allow them to be influenced and shaped by the values of the world. We are prepared to pour money into ministries to reclaim them as adults but forget that beliefs, values and attitudes are formed before the age of 12.

I don't believe that we don't care. It's just that we have become so influenced by the values of the world that we cannot see our children's spiritual poverty. We need a greater intimacy with God. As church members and parents, the first step to discipling children is to spend our own time with God and allow Him to transform our lives. We then need to build relationships with children, showing them who Jesus is and helping them develop their own strong faith.

This strong faith develops when we are intentional about developing the four essential elements of faith:

Grace: Help children to understand the grace of God—that He has a never-ending love for them and has secured a place in heaven for them. Help them to understand that God's grace is the power behind all our "good works."

Worship: Help them respond to God by worshipping Him with all their hearts,

souls and minds. Show them the wonderful blessing it is to live a life totally committed to Him. Mentor them to renew their hearts and minds on a daily basis and to worship God with the gifts He has given them.

Community: Help them understand and experience a true community of faith. This community will purposefully involve children in its spiritual life—at home and at church. It will enable them to contribute to building a community who loves and supports each other.

Service: Help them understand that God loves all people, and wants them to serve others and tell them about His love. It is our responsibility to give them opportunities to serve their community and attend to the physical and spiritual needs of others.

We—you and I—have a responsibility to save children. The time to provide a place of acceptance, intentional discipleship and opportunities for participation in every arena of ministry is now. Matthew 25:40 encourages us that what we do for the least of people, we do for Jesus.

I pray that you enjoy your work with children but that you work with urgency, before they are fully submerged and resuscitation is difficult.

Today is Children's Day in Adventist churches in the South Pacific Division.

Julie Weslake
Director of Children's Ministries
South Pacific Division



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

Web-based financial reporting increases

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

As many as 100 Seventh-day Adventist churches in the South Pacific now report their financial information using a standard web-based program.

The “Electronic tithes and offerings reporting system” was introduced in April 2005 to replace the paper-based method, which has been used by local church treasurers for more than 65 years. This manual method differed from church to church and sometimes meant reports were not promptly made available to conferences.

The new program allows local church treasurers to input their church’s financial reports—including tithes and offerings—to a standardised web-based data entry system. The information is immediately available to the conference, union, division and General Conference.

John Schulz, who trains local church treasurers to use the system, says about 90 churches in 10 Australian and New Zealand conferences have adopted the new reporting system over the past two years.

Mr Schulz was appointed a year ago to provide personalised training, meeting requests for training throughout Aus-

tralia and New Zealand. The existing helpdesk facility will be scaled back as the training becomes more effective.

Mr Schulz visits the home of the local church treasurer as part of the training package. “We work at the computer they work with when doing the church’s financial reports,” he says. “This is to ensure they get the correct access and work through any security or firewalls that may have been set up.”

Grafton Adventist church started using the new reporting system in November last year. “Learning the new system was a little daunting for me, who hadn’t done anything on a computer before,” says Glenda Hamilton, the church’s treasurer. “But you get used to it. I like that I don’t have to sit there and add up with a calculator anymore. It is also helpful that I can just phone John whenever I have a problem.”

Mr Schulz says that the reporting system covers all basic needs but its implementation will also depend on individual church situations and high-speed internet availability. “People also need to remember this is only a two-year-old program, which is still evolving and being refined,” says Mr Schulz. “We are very interested in feedback and in improv-



The paper-based method of reporting tithe may be a thing of the past as web-based financial reporting increases in popularity.

ing it regularly. Most treasurers will be surprised at how comprehensive and user-friendly the program is.”

The reporting system is currently available to all the churches in Australia and New Zealand with access to a high-speed broadband connection. The service will be extended to include the union missions and missions in the South Pacific Division in early 2008.

Additional modules will also be added to the service in 2008. These will integrate electronic giving (e-giving) with the system and enable church treasurers to pay local church expenses by electronic transfer of funds. As the reporting system is web-based, there is no software to download or install.

—Melody Tan



◆ **Paintings** in a Sydney gallery by an **Avondale College** staff member were the subject of a **review**, published by the city’s broadsheet newspaper last month. Visual arts lecturer **Richard Morris** doorknocked galleries but the size of his paintings proved problematic. He had to carry them on his roof-rack rather

than under his arm. Eventually, he found the Robin Gibson Gallery in Darlinghurst, as well as an admiring critic. The review by **Kerry Coleman** of the **Sydney Morning Herald** read as follows: “Richard Morris’s paintings in wild bright colours or more sombre muted hues are cut into smaller pieces and reassembled. The result is a contrasting collage of shapes and colours . . . best viewed from afar, where the viewer can appreciate the interaction between the fragments. Observing them, it’s tempting to restore the jigsaw puzzle. . . . This

is impossible but you soon find yourself admiring the pleasing fit of the new configuration.” Mr Morris hopes the exhibition will inspire his students.—**Brenton Stacey**

◆ **Armadale Adventist Primary School, WA**, has demonstrated that though they are small in number, they are “huge in heart.” The 19 children have worked tirelessly throughout the school term to decorate **100 shoeboxes**, to be used for Christmas gifts in **Botswana**. These boxes were then filled with an array of toys,

stationery, clothing and toiletry items. “A huge thank you to those few people that donated so many lovely things for our Botswana neighbours,” says school principal, **Tanya Hort**. The boxes are now on their way to Botswana, where they will be distributed to children for Christmas.

—Tanya Hort



Signs website awarded

WARBURTON, VICTORIA

The *Signs of the Times* website received a highly commended award for the “Best website having religious connotations” at the Australasian Religious Press Association (ARPA) awards on September 22.

According to the ARPA judges, the “site appealed because it was addressed to the viewer/reader, rather than coming across as self-focused.”

Scott Wegener is the manager of the *Signs* website, which he developed while working as part of the *Signs* editorial team more than three years ago. He says he designed the website believing the articles produced in the magazine were too good to be lost after their issue month. “They should be accessible to anyone at any time,” he says.

In the short time the website has been running, a growing community of readers has responded in a favourable and supportive manner. The website has now archived 1030 articles and attracts almost 10,000 visitors per month.

According to Mr Wegener, the site is a “good fishing net” and incorporates many useful research tools and links that help direct people to God.

The awards were presented at the conclusion of the annual ARPA conference,



The *Signs of the Times* website was recently commended by ARPA.

held at the Copthorne Hotel in Auckland, New Zealand. Signs Publishing Company was represented by associate editor, Pastor David Edgren, who was pleased to return home with the award. Pastor Edgren says he enjoyed meeting editors and publishers from different denominations and felt “a real sense of common ground and acceptance of each other’s beliefs and differences.”

The *Signs* website offers contents from the *Signs of the Times* magazine, which is released on a monthly basis. It contains a weekly podcast, featuring editors talking about and reading from the printed magazine.—*Sarah Grecea*

More @ www.signsofthetimes.org.au

Kim Beazley visits Carmel College

CARMEL, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Former Australian federal opposition leader Kim Beazley visited Carmel College recently and spoke with senior students about this year’s election and politics in general.

He impressed the students with his inside knowledge of what really happens in Canberra. His willingness to answer the student’s questions for almost an hour was also appreciated. According to the students, Mr Beazley, who will retire from politics after the next election, was down-to-earth and friendly.

He commented when leaving the school that he thought “the students were excellent; I really have enjoyed being here.”

—*NewsWest*



Kim Beazley with Year 11 and 12 history/political and legal students and their teacher, John Elsegood.



◆ Three north New Zealand churches held an annual **badminton tournament** on August 11 and 12. **Auckland, Hamilton and Whangarei churches** have held the friendly competition for **more than 20 years**. It included people of all ages, ranging from 10 to 60+ years. Whangarei church hosted this year’s tournament, with Hamilton victorious in the A grade

division and Whangarei winning B Grade. Members reported a fun weekend but more importantly, it was a weekend of fellowship and community building.—*Rochelle Luke*

◆ A country housewife has developed a new form of evangelism—**selling Adventist books** using the “**Tupperware**” party plan. **Angela May** (Sunshine Coast, Qld) sold Tupperware for many years. She then decided to use her spare time for God as a literature evangelist. Combining the two, Mrs May proved that selling

Adventist books to women gathered for a party can be incredibly successful.—*Phil Ward*

◆ Play a pipe organ with a thong? Can it be done? On September 8, **Glynn Rence** expertly played an 18-pipe instrument made from old paper rolls as part of a variety night at the **Warwick church hall**, Qld. Mr Rence accompanied a group of young singers, **Michaela, Amarina, Jessica and Shane**, to the song “Heaven on my mind”. Full of local talent, the night included 11-year-old **Cassandra Stidolph**, who performed



items on the flute, violin and bass guitar. Members report it was a great night.—*Mary Fedorow*

◆ The **Esperance Christian Primary School, WA**, participated in their local area’s **annual music festival**, competing against all the small schools in the area—and won first prize again. The

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ OCTOBER 20—CHILDREN’S DAY

Training encourages “Disciples under construction”

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

More than 200 church members and leaders of the Australian Union Conference (AUC) gathered in venues in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney, to attend specialised training workshops designed to inspire and encourage people to discipleship through Sabbath school.

Led by Gary Swanson, associate director of Sabbath school and personal ministries for the General Conference, “Disciples under construction” consisted of motivational presentations based on topics including spiritual nature through Bible study and new methods on how to better conduct Bible-study lessons—moving from information to application and spiritual transformation.

Participants were given advanced knowledge on how to gather information, how to apply that information and how to spiritually transform others through their evangelistic practices.

Personal ministries and Sabbath school director for the AUC, Pastor Roger Govender, says, “Our Sabbath schools can ex-



Attendees of the Sabbath school leadership summit in Queensland.

perience renewal if we set out to encourage participation through the four objectives of Sabbath school: fellowship, Bible study, outreach and missions.”

Pastor Govender praised those who attended the workshop in order to benefit their church and suggested developing an implementation strategy by sharing what they had learned at the “Disciples under construction” training workshop with their congregation.

Already hailed a success in participating areas, it is hoped the workshops will aid in the further development of the Adventist Church in Australia.—*Ellesha Knight*

Prescott Southern in Wakikirri finals

ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Around 50 students from Prescott Southern Primary School, under the direction of Suzie Crowe, spent weeks rehearsing for their performance at the Wakikirri National Story Festival—with great results.

They competed against other South Australian schools in August and won the heat for their division. Then in the State Finals on September 25, the group took out first place for Division 2—meaning Prescott Southern will represent South Australia in the national finals.

Their performance, titled “Flood the drought,” had a timely message about preserving the environment and resources, and helped students understand how important it is to support others in the community by working together to make a difference and achieve a common goal.

Mrs Crowe says of the performance, “You couldn’t have asked for more energy, hard work or enthusiasm from the kids. They really did a great job.”

The Wakikirri National Story Festival is Australia’s largest multi-arts event. Performances involve telling a story live on stage, using a blend of movement, acting and music.—*Mitsy Bullas*



adjudicator commented on their smart uniforms, two-part harmonising, the visuals, splendid arrangements and excellent choice of music. The school has won nearly every year since the competition started. **Rochelle Knopper** is the music coordinator and said she was pleased with the results on the day.—*Rhonda Morcombe*

◆ **The Dorcas Society at Wahroonga church, NSW,** aims to send **three shipping containers** a year, filled with supplies to help communities in the Pacific. In July, a 12-metre container was sent to **Fiji**. It contained hospital blankets, an operating table and lots of clothing. Communities in the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea (PNG) have also benefited from the program. “The benefits to individuals and communities in PNG cannot be estimated,” coordinators **Geoff** and **Jo Hansen** say. “The public hospitals in Lae and Port Moresby

have received uniforms, theatre instruments, beds, consumables and many other items that are of benefit to them. The appreciation of the people can only be estimated by the many letters of thanks we have received and the stories that come to us from PNG.”—*Tracy Bridcutt*

◆ The Seventh-day Adventist Church’s support for **HIV/AIDS victims** has received royal recognition. The **queen of Lesotho** commended the church’s support network for **grandmothers** living with HIV/AIDS in the southern

African nation, during a September 9 visit to a training seminar. The queen, **Masenate Mohato Seeiso**, praised the elderly for their dedication, service and sacrifice, and urged children to honour their grandparents. Nearly 100 grandmothers were trained in home-based care, nutrition, care for orphans and vulnerable children, and psychosocial support. The training prepares grandmothers to form support groups in their communities, sponsored by the **Adventist AIDS International Ministry**, based in **Johannesburg, South Africa**.—*AAIM/ANN Staff*

“Cupcake Girls” enjoy Variety Bash

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Two Seventh-day Adventist teachers are the first-time Variety Bash participants to receive a nomination for the New South Wales “Spirit of the Bash” award. Only three cars out of the 110 involved are nominated.

Brenda Lambert, from the Central Coast, and Robyn Cockburn, from Bonnells Bay, drove from Sydney to Darwin in “Candy the Cupcake Car.” The ladies entered the NSW Variety Bash as the “Cupcake Girls” and drove more than 5000 kilometres with a giant cupcake on the roof of the car in August.

They raised almost \$A40,000 through organised concerts, cupcake drives and donations from the public and businesses.

“It was worth it just to see people’s faces light up and get excited,” Ms Lambert and Ms Cockburn say.

The “Cupcake Girls” popularity grew as they continued to fundraise along the way, selling fresh cupcakes on remote stretches of road hundreds of kilometres from towns. The cupcakes had been pre-ordered and generously donated by bakeries along the way.

The two ladies stood out from more than 400 other “Bashers,” not only because of

their pink, green and white overalls but because of their attitude and religion.

“It was such an opportunity for us to let actions speak for us—so many people were shocked that we could have so much fun and not drink,” says Ms Cockburn.

They are amazed at the many ways God used them to reach others. A middle-aged man introduced them to his Seventh-day Adventist-raised wife in Darwin and two friends were in search of something more, since both their young daughters had died from leukemia. The “Cupcake Girls” were also surprised at the respect and positive response they received from the other “Bashers.”

Ms Cockburn believes that the Variety Bash is a fantastic opportunity for the church to get involved. “We can reach people who have no connection to the church but are in search of something better,” she says.

Both women are “immensely grateful” to those who supported them through prayer and donations, and they hope their experience encourages others to join in fundraising endeavours.



The “Cupcake Girls,” Brenda Lambert and Robyn Cockburn, with “Candy the Cupcake Car” on the way to Darwin from Sydney.

The women hope to participate in the Bash next year. “We want to do it again, because we made so many new friends and we want to see them all again,” says Ms Cockburn.

The “Cupcake Girls” visited many schools and communities, bringing much needed equipment, products, kitchen appliances, books and encouragement to disadvantaged children and country Australians. Money raised was used by Variety to improve children’s quality of life and to buy equipment and supplies for more than 15 schools.

—*Kristina Malarek*

◆ A Dutch priest has been fined 5000 euros (\$A6800) for ringing his church bells too loudly in the morning. The Catholic priest began ringing the bells just after 7 am, soon after arriving in Tilburg about six months ago, prompting dozens of complaints from residents.

—*The Age*

◆ A new service in Britain will allow Christians to download the Bible to their mobile phones. The service, Ecumen, can deliver daily prayers and the whole Bible can be downloaded to a mobile for \$A13.75, marketed

with the phrase “the only Bible you can read in the dark.” Popular wallpapers available through the Ecumen website include pictures of angels, Noah’s Ark, Jesus walking on water and religious messages and symbols.—*MX*

◆ To prove that anyone can sue anybody, Nebraska senator Ernie Chambers is suing God. He claims God has inflicted natural disasters and unleashed “widespread death, destruction and terror on millions.” He is also seeking a permanent injunction against God.

—*The Age*

◆ While excavating below first-century Jerusalem’s main road, Israeli archaeologists unintentionally discovered an ancient drainage tunnel, used as a Jewish escape route during Rome’s destruction of the city 2000 years ago. Among the discoveries were pieces of pottery and ancient coins, which helped the diggers work out the tunnel’s age. The find demonstrates the city’s rulers’ care for its residents through a unique drainage system, as well as how desperate Jews could escape the Roman conquerors.—*New Life*

◆ An ancient cuneiform inscription dating to Jerusalem’s deliverance from Assyrian assault is returning from Turkey. During the siege, King Hezekiah ordered a tunnel dug through bedrock to connect it to the Gihon Spring. The inscription commemorates the moment the workers at each end converged. It was taken to Istanbul during the Ottoman rule. The artifact will be returned on a temporary loan, although Turkish authorities say the status could be changed to long-term loan if Israel reciprocated in a similar fashion.—*New Life*

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

Ordinations affirm pastors' work in WA and Tasmania

PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA
ULVERSTONE, TASMANIA

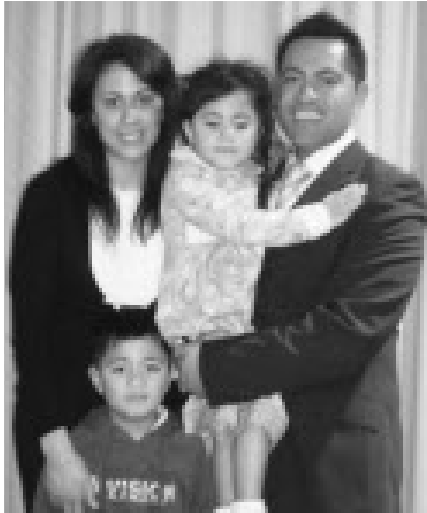
Two pastors were recently ordained in the Australian Union Conference, recognising their calling to ministry

On September 8, ministers and their partners, fellow workers from the Western Australian Conference office, friends from churches in Perth and members of the Clarkson church gathered for the ordination of Daniel Hanbury. Pastor Hanbury is the minister of the Clarkson Adventist church, as well as the communication director for the Western Australian Conference.

Pastor Graeme Christian, ministerial association secretary for the Australian Union Conference (AUC), delivered a message about the appointment of the disciples from Mark 3:13, 14 and the implications of this special status as outlined in John 15.

Following the charge from Pastor Glen Townend, president of the Western Australian Conference, the seven ordained ministers present gathered around Pastor Hanbury and his wife, Carol, for the prayer of ordination. Pam Townend extended a special welcome to Mrs Hanbury into the fellowship of pastors' wives with the promise of support.

Pastor Hanbury responded with a brief sermon centred around the motto "The



Pastor Francis Pule and his wife, Jennifer, with their children following his ordination on August 18.

love of Christ compelled me," from David Livingston's last diary entry.

On the afternoon of August 18, family and friends filled the Ulverstone church for the ordination of Pastor Francis Pule.

Pastor Pule and his wife, Jennifer, came to the Tasmanian Conference six years ago and have ministered in the Launceston and north-west region.

Pastor Graeme Christian led out in the ordination service and was supported by Pastor Kevin Amos, the Tasmanian Conference president, and Pastor Karl Winchcombe, the conference's ministerial secretary.

The day was made special by the presence of family members who had travelled from Canada, New Zealand and Queensland to be present for the ordination.

Following the ordination service, the Ulverstone church hosted a fellowship tea to celebrate the occasion.

Pastor Amos says, "The ministry of Pastor Pule and Jennifer has been greatly appreciated, as they have cared for and developed members into ministry." —**RECORD staff/Werner Tubbe/Kevin Amos**



Pastor Daniel Hanbury and his wife, Carol, following his ordination on September 8.

ADRA runs for fun fundraising

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia received more than \$A10,000 in donations, raised by runners in this year's City2Surf in Sydney.

Approximately 30 runners—including ADRA Australia chief executive officer, David Jack—participated in the event, raising the money for ADRA via sponsorship. The ADRA Australia running team was also the fourth top-fundraising team on the day.

"It was a great day to get together and do something for those in need," says David Jack. "We only had to do the 14 kilometre run once and then we could go home to rest. And our 'Heartbreak Hill' only lasted two kilometres. People in poverty face hardship and heartbreak every day, all day, with no rest."

He adds, "Participating in this run is a small price to pay to actually make a difference in someone's life. Our thanks goes to all the ADRA runners and those who sponsored them."

Participants and spectators on the day also learnt more about the work of ADRA, with ADRA runners wearing ADRA T-shirts and specially made back bibs that said "I huffed, I puffed, I changed the world." Three ADRA supporters also carried a three-metre long banner throughout the run.

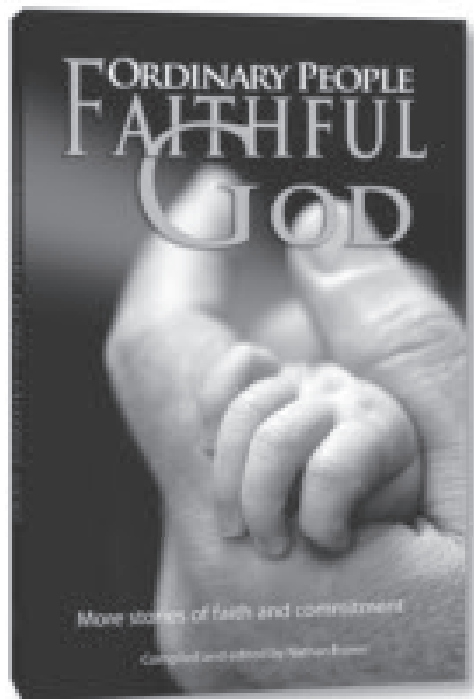
The City2Surf was run on August 12, from Sydney's Hyde Park to Bondi Beach. More than 64,000 people participated, with more than \$A1,000,000 in total raised for charity.—**Candice Jaques**

More @ www.adra.org.au



ADRA Australia's chief executive officer, David Jack (fourth from right), joined fellow ADRA supporters to run 14 kilometres to raise money for those in need.

Ordinary People— Faithful God



REVIEW BY JULENE DUERKSEN-KAPAO

HOW DO WE DEMONSTRATE THAT OUR relationship with God has gone to the next level? Moments of faith, episodes where we must depend on God, and those incredible times when we realise we have put our life in God's hands and He has come through, blessing us more abundantly than we could ever imagine.

Ordinary People—Faithful God is the sequel to *Ordinary People—Extraordinary God* (2005) and came about partly because many people realised they had similar stories to share after the first book was published. *Ordinary People—Faithful God* overflows with inspiring stories of God's faithfulness when people serve Him.

There is no denying that we have busy lives today. Our lives are filled with work, family, assignments and life as we attempt to arrange things to make room for God. Stewardship is most commonly associated with our money, our possessions, the things with which we are blessed—but this collection of stories reminds us that our life is the most precious thing we can give God.

Ordinary People has numerous examples of how our God loves to take our day-to-day, ordinary lives and demonstrate His faithfulness. From assistance in buying furniture to emotional guidance through difficult times, God's faithfulness is unmistakable.

Each chapter and story invites you to

take a few minutes to experience someone's journey with God, through the good and the bad. *Ordinary People—Faithful God* reminds us that each individual is on a walk with God, experiencing God in unique and amazing ways. Our needs are always important to God—yet stewardship of what He has given us is even more so.

When we depend on Him, we are reminded that “When God's children are in need, be the one to help them out. And get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner, or, if they need lodging, for the night” (Romans 12:13*) and “This same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

It's incredible how the small things spark our interest and faith in God. Sue Edwards saw the hand of God in \$A30,000 for an orphanage in the Philippines, Danuta Grabecka found a lost jumper and Jill Macgillivray found faith through sewing Pathfinder uniforms in Vanuatu! Through the stories of ordinary people, we discover that God is available, eager to be “faithful” in every aspect of our lives. We are the ones that must open our eyes and hearts to His leading where we can be stewards.

Patricia Hunt tells of teaching her young son the value of money and returning 10 per cent to God; Joy Guy shares lessons learned from depending fully on God; and

Elizabeth Yap remembers a life-changing summer sale at Esprit for her girls. Time, creation, talent and wealth, God asks that we give back to Him all we have and possess.

It becomes increasingly clear that stewardship is exciting and rewarding—as we depend on God through our most difficult times, He is overjoyed to return to us more than we give to Him. That is faithfulness. Bianca McArthur says it well, “Stewardship is about seizing the opportunities, even the extremities, we are given for God.”

It is refreshing to read a book overflowing with reminders of God's involvement in our lives; in the lives of Christians just like us, going through the same struggles and spiritual battles that we do.

Books like *Ordinary People* are necessary to revive our spirits, and keep us tuned in to the Lord's leading and His desire for our stewardship in all aspects of our lives. **R**

Ordinary People—Faithful God: More stories of faith and commitment, compiled and edited by Nathan Brown, Signs Publishing Company, 2007, paperback, 136 pages. Available from Adventist Book Centres, price \$A14.95; \$NZ18.50.

**Bible quotations are from the New Living Translation.*

Julene Duerksen-Kapao is head of Bible at Longburn Adventist College, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Coveting another man's life

BY STEPHANE MILLIEN

RECENTLY MY WIFE AND I WENT on a well-deserved dinner date. We planned the event a week in advance, to ensure nothing would prevent us from going. As the week wore on, we could hardly wait for the opportunity to eat and drink together, without having to worry about cleaning up after ourselves. Eventually, date night arrived. We squeezed into our finest clothes and made a break for town.

At the restaurant we sat opposite each other, enjoying every last bit of our meal and conversation, vowing that we should “get out of the house more often.” Then a funny thing happened. As we continued to talk, my mind began wandering back home to the couch, where a football game awaited me on the video recorder. I couldn't believe it. Only moments after agreeing that we should “get out of the house more often,” all I wanted was to be home, watching the game.

The more I entertained thoughts of the game, the harder it became to maintain the conversation. My wife probably didn't realise it at the time but somewhere between nodding my head to affirm what she was saying, I was completely lost in my own thoughts.

All my thinking had suddenly become, *I wonder who won the game? I bet it was a really close one*—and the thought that always drags me in too deep: *Wouldn't it be great if I was one of the footballers playing tonight?*

I entertained this last thought a little longer than the others. As my wife kept talking, I imagined myself running through a heap of players, diving on a loose ball and kicking the winning goal. I imagined 90,000 screaming fans anticipating every move I made and that one individual in the crowd suggesting to a friend, “Wow, this guy can sure play.”

As I entertained my “new life,” I could see the packed media conference, where everyone wanted a piece of football's latest hero. Lastly, I foresaw the large bank



account and luxurious home that awaited me once the cameras were all gone.

I let my fantasy run wild and, for a brief moment, felt a great sense of achievement and purpose take control of my inner pride. It felt good to be considered a “somebody” but, in an instant, it was snatched away. The fantasy stopped short and reality settled in.

As I slowly regained all levels of consciousness, I could see the face of my wife reappearing on the other side of the table. Back on planet earth, I felt purposeless. All that sense of achievement and happiness brought by public recognition as a sporting star had vanished. But I also began to feel upset for entertaining a life that could never be mine, while somehow allowing myself to feel bad about my own. Somewhere between the dreaming and fantasy, I had forgotten how much I was already blessed. How could I ever feel good about my own circumstances if I was too busy looking at

the things others possessed?

The Bible warns that “when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise” (2 Corinthians 10:12*). And sure enough, I didn't feel wise that night. What I did feel was real dissatisfaction for comparing my success against someone else's and coming up short. How selfish can we be, coveting the blessings God has given another, while neglecting the portion that God has given us?

What chance of happiness did I hope to gain by measuring my life against that of an elite sportsman? I was entertaining a warped view of success. On a deeper level, I guess my football fantasy represented a desire for public praise, to have my skills glorified and the chance to reap the financial comforts of fame.

Where did humility and contentment fit into the equation? The things I coveted jar against God's notion of happiness and success. Jesus said, “Do not store up your treasures on earth . . . but store up for yourself treasures in heaven. . . . For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21). True happiness will always prove elusive if we're continually looking longingly at the “treasures” other people enjoy.

We need to re-evaluate our definition of success and self-worth. As Romans 12:2 suggests, “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Real purpose and achievement can only be found in accepting and allowing God's best into our lives. **R**

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

Stephane Millien is a communications student at Avondale College and writes from Cooranbong, New South Wales.

Helping children find grace in Communion

BY STUART TYNER

THE CHURCH BECAME UNUSUALLY quiet as members took their seats, bowed their heads and listened to the solemn music. The pastor appeared more serious than ever as he stepped forward and began to read from his Bible. Even the children sensed that something different was about to happen.

It was Communion Sabbath. The foot-washing service had already taken place in separate rooms. The sharing of the emblems representing Christ's body and His blood was about to take place.

In the fourth row back from the front of the church, six-year-old Monique sat next to her mother in wide-eyed wonder.

For some time now, Monique had been aware of this unusual church service. She had watched quietly as the pastor broke the unleavened bread onto a plate and uncovered the little glasses of grape juice. Her eyes had stayed focused on the movements of the deacons as they passed the emblems to the adults in the congregation. And when the deacon had offered the communion emblems to people on her left and her right, she had wondered about not being included in this obviously important ceremony.

Trying to understand

On the drive home after church, Monique questioned her mother.

"Why was everybody so serious in church today, Mum?"

"It's a very serious ceremony, Monique."

"Were the people unhappy?"

"Not at all, Sweetheart. It's one of the happiest ceremonies we have."

"They sure didn't look happy."

"That's just because it's so . . . so sacred."

"What does 'sacred' mean?"

"It means something that's very special."

"What's the special part?" Monique began to think she'd never understand.

"The special part is Jesus died for us and wants us to remember what He did." Mum was struggling to make the most important act in the history of the universe understandable to and appreciated by her darling daughter.

Monique sat quietly for a moment, trying to apply Mum's explanation. "Mum, did Jesus die for me?"

"Of course He did, Monique. In fact, if you had been the only one in the whole wide world who needed Jesus to rescue you, He would have died just for you."

"Like the story of the little lamb and the Good Shepherd?"

"That's right! Jesus is the Good Shepherd and you're His little lamb."

Monique thought quietly again. "Mum, does Jesus want me to remember what He did for me?"

"Absolutely. That's why He gave us ceremonies like the one we had this morning."

"Then why did the man passing out the juice and crackers not give me anything? Why did he pass me by? Why can't I be a part of the ceremony?"

Wait for "full" membership

I'm sure you've heard the question as well. And maybe even asked it yourself.

"Why can't I take part?"

The answers we receive to this question usually go something like this: because the

Communion service is a solemn reminder of the crucifixion of Jesus; because the solemnity is conveyed through the symbols of His body and His blood, and the New Testament warns us that taking part "in an unworthy manner" makes us guilty of sinning and calls judgment upon us (1 Corinthians 11:27, 29, NIV); because children are too young to understand the full significance of the atonement or too immature to "examine" their hearts, we generally advise that they not take part in the Communion service until they are baptised.

Perhaps such an explanation has served to satisfy our need to be proper and orderly in our worship. Perhaps it was meant to emphasise the importance we place on baptism. And perhaps it was even intended to give children something to look forward to, as a reward for full membership in the church.

Unfortunately, however, the Communion prohibition against including them has also served as a confusing message to children, making them feel they are not full members of the church family. Even more unfortunately, such a message also carries with it the tragic suggestion that their place in God's family—their membership in His kingdom—is not assured, not complete and is, in fact, conditioned by their age, their comprehension of doctrine and their baptismal status.

Communion demonstrates God's grace

How much better to seize the opportunity to demonstrate God's full acceptance of us all—including our children (see Matthew 19:14 and Acts 15:8)—and illustrate the unqualified membership in the king-

dom of heaven that has been provided by Christ's death on our behalf, on the basis of His grace alone (see Ephesians 2:17-20 and Philippians 3:20), accomplished before any of us were born—before the foundation of the world (see 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 1:1; and Ephesians 1:4).

Seen in this perspective, the issue of offering Communion to children becomes an issue of community, rather than an issue of age. As such, it presents us with one more vital opportunity to establish children in the life of the Adventist church family, rather than becoming one more piece of evidence that we don't understand the developing spiritual needs of our children.

If parents would explore with their children their desire to be a part of God's family and explain the significance of the Good Shepherd seeking His lost little lamb, they would find children are eager recipients of God's love for them. If pastors would take the time to prepare children for their first Communion, they could share in the joy of Communion and help build the anticipation of baptism at the same time, increasing the significance of the baptismal ceremony.

Communion as a picture of spiritual life

In preparing children for their first Communion, pastors encounter a unique opportunity to lead children—and their family—to a dynamic involvement in the spiritual life: to a better understanding of God's grace, a deeper commitment to a lifestyle of worship, an active appreciation for belonging to a community of faith and an involvement in a life of service.

Here's a look at Communion from each of those four perspectives on faith:

- a. The Communion service dramatically illustrates the gift of grace from our Heavenly Father to us. Communion demonstrates that our faith is about how Jesus has done for us what we could never do for ourselves.
- b. Communion invites us to worship God with all the activities of our lives. We take His grace into our very beings. He becomes part of all we do—more than just an external object we praise during Sabbath school and church.
- c. Communion reminds us that each one of us—each individual taking part—is a vital part of the family. We are breaking



bread together, reflecting God's grace to each other around the family table in a joyous celebration of our Lord.

- d. Communion retells that Jesus lived a life of service. It inspires us to live for others—to reveal the Father's grace, just as Jesus did.

Ideas for preparation

Here are three ways to talk to children about Communion:

1. Use the Good Shepherd/lost lamb story. Talk about how we get lost and how we can't find our way back home. Tell the story outside after the sun has set. Listen to the night sounds. Talk about the dark. Then ask mum or dad to carry the child inside. Ask the child how being carried feels. Then talk about Jesus as our Good Shepherd. When we take part in Communion, we remember how it feels to be carried home by Jesus.
2. Bake a loaf of bread together. Talk about all the ingredients. Where did the flour come from? What was it before that? Smell the pleasing aromas of the baking bread. Watch the bread rise in the oven. When the bread is ready, bring it out of the oven and place it on a plate in front of you. Slice the bread and spread butter and honey on one slice. Then discuss how delicious the bread is—if you take a bite. Why doesn't everyone want

to experience the delicious taste of the love of Jesus? Communion reminds us to take the gift of God's love and enjoy the delicious taste.

3. Purchase a cluster of large, dark grapes. Wash them and take a few off the stems. Offer them to the child and ask him or her to *drink* the grapes. Can it be done? Do you drink grapes or eat them? What is it about grapes that you can drink? Ask the child to crush several grapes and collect the juice in a small glass. Now can you drink the juice? Enjoy the taste. To give heaven to each of us, Jesus had to give His life, just like the grape has to be crushed to produce the juice. Communion reminds us that Jesus did what had to be done so we can live with Him in heaven, forever.

Make Communion understandable to your children. Then, make participation in Communion a cherished moment in the early church life of each child. Call attention to the fact that this Sabbath, Monique is celebrating her first Communion. Invite the church to show Monique how happy we are that she knows that Jesus loves her and that she is remembering His love. **R**

Stuart Tyner is pastor for family ministries at the La Sierra University Church in California, United States.

Making web statistics count



BY SCOTT WEGENER

THE ABILITY TO ANALYSE THE USAGE STATISTICS OF YOUR church's website has several practical benefits. So what are your web statistics saying about your site?

Visitor numbers

Being aware of the growing number of site visitors is great motivation to keep developing your site. But your statistics may show that your site is not receiving much traffic. This may mean some creativity is needed to promote your website. Make sure your web address is printed boldly on all church communication material. You may need to review your content so visitors will tell others about it.

Campaign success

Having your website listed on letterbox leaflets, your church sign, and radio or newspaper advertisements gives the community a chance to find your site. It also allows you to see whether your campaign caught the community's attention. A sudden jump in the number of unique visitors will show a successful campaign.

Visitor types

The best measure of a website's traffic is "unique visitors." This shows a reasonably accurate figure of how many individuals have visited your site. Statistics about "hits" refers to the number of files downloaded by all visitors. While there are usually an impressive number of hits, it is not a meaningful measure.

Visitor origins

Seeing how visitors come to visit your site is helpful. Viewing which websites have "referred" people to you is a good way to see who else in the world is interested in your church. A look at the "keywords" people use to find your site will show you what people were searching for when they came to your site. Keep developing the content of pages generating interest so visitors will return.

Content popularity

Knowing which content has been most accessed is a good indicator of where you should be putting your effort. If a particular area of your site is being utilised many times, developing that area will satisfy your visitors. This may also be a good place to advertise upcoming events or key information.

Reporting


Share how the website's going. Provide a report to your church board, up the front of church or in your bulletin. Keep people informed on how their church is evangelising 24 hours per day, seven day per week. **R**

A substantial statistics package has been installed on all websites in the South Pacific Web Network. How to access and interpret these statistics can be found at <web.adventistconnect.org>.

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

Record Roo's

Kids corner




Hi kids,
last week we learnt that Jesus is our shepherd. That means He cares for us, wants to protect us and will always be watching over us!
RR

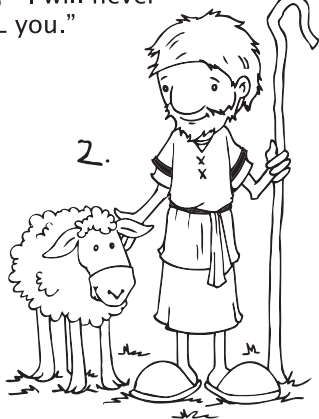
Fill in the Blanks

... For He Himself has said, "I will never _____ you nor _____ you."
Hebrews 13:5, NKJV

1.




2.




Spot the Difference

Can you find two pictures of the sheep and his shepherd that are exactly the same?


3.



4.



5.



Colour in
Colour in all the pictures.

Answer: pictures 2 and 4.

Peta Taylor

Cool and cooler

JERZY NURZYNSKI, QLD

I have difficulty understanding “Our church is cool but I reckon we could be cooler” (Feature, September 29). I thought I knew the meaning of the word *cool* in English but somehow I was not able to apply it to our church. Is it because “we aren’t a teachable denomination,” as the author says? So what would happen when we become “cooler”?

It would be good if the author of the article was more specific about the changes she would like to see in our church, because certain changes advocated by some people may change our identity.

By the way, speaking about changes, someone explained to me that the expression *cool* is not used so much anymore. Apparently, it has been replaced by the word *wicked* or even *sick*.

Cool and warmer

PAUL GEELAN, NSW

There have been a couple of articles recently that touch on a similar issue. “Loss of members a major issue for Adventist church” (News, July 28) makes the comment “Warm, friendly churches are so important and we need to touch people’s hearts. This is not a time for theological dissertations.”

“Our church is cool but I reckon we could be cooler” (Feature, September 29) says, “I think every church should be more loving and accepting” and also says “I am reluctant to even use the word ‘doctrine’ because we have never claimed to have a concrete, immovable set of answers.”

I completely agree with the sentiment that more love, acceptance and hearts touched is the Christlike approach to church growth. However, it is important to remind ourselves that this approach and our unique, God-given doctrines are not mutually exclusive, although we often speak of them in those terms.

The reason we can and should be more loving and accepting is that God has blessed us with a set of doctrines that give us a fuller, richer understanding of many aspects of the love of God. The more you know about someone, the more capable you are of loving them, and being motivated to acts of

love and kindness for their honour. That’s the function of doctrine. Neither author was advocating the ditching of doctrine but some could be left with doubt about its proper use.

Blessing or luck?

JOHN SALMOND, QLD

Our South Queensland Conference camp-meeting has just finished and once again, we have received a rich spiritual blessing. It saddens me, however, to hear so many of our members conversing together

and recounting how “lucky” they have been in so many things that have happened over the past year.

Have our minds become so permeated with the “lucky country” syndrome that we credit to luck the blessings of God? It seems to me that the devil has successfully tainted the thinking of many of us, for I hear this “luck” word being used all the time in all areas of our church life—from homes to the pulpit—and have even seen it in RECORD headlines.

The Scriptures promise that God shall supply all our needs (see Philippians 4:19) but He also asks us, “In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:6, NKJV).

Am I wrong in my thinking? Or should I just consider myself “lucky” that we have such wonderful promises in God’s Word?

Otherwise ordained

JAN SHIPTON, THAILAND

In light of the continuing discussion regarding ordination of women, it was with great interest that I recently read the following quote in *The Lonely Years: 1876-1891* by Arthur L White, page 377:

“The last meeting (of the General Conference session of 1887) took action recommending those who should receive ministerial credentials. Ellen White’s name was among those voted to receive the papers

of the ordained ministers, although her ordination was not by the laying on of hands by men.”

Positive Sabbath

MAVIS MATHER, WA

I felt compelled to write and say thank you for the inspiring editorial “Off” (September 22). I found it uplifting to read such a positive article on the Sabbath, with not a word of “don’ts”—just full of the good things of Sabbath keeping.

Thank you for the great editorials.

The vast majority of churches have gone out of their way to make us feel welcome.

Welcome found

DARRELL BOTTIN, VIC

My heart went out to the writer of “Reach out at church” (Letters, September 29) when I read of her daughter’s disappointing experiences at city churches—particularly as my experience has been quite the opposite.

My family and I have been travelling around Australia for the past eight months, and have visited many Adventist churches in many towns and cities in four states. I am pleased to say that the receptions described by the writer have been the exception. The vast majority of churches have gone out of their way to make us feel welcome.

Admittedly, we have not attended any churches in capital cities, so maybe we are looking at the difference between city and country here. But the social culture is no excuse for Christians not to reflect Christ’s love. Indeed, a candle has its greatest effect in the darkest place.

My experience has challenged me to be more welcoming to strangers and I look forward to receiving a warm welcome in your church some Sabbath morning.

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.

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Weddings

Derrick—Bolinger. Jordan Douglas Derrick, son of Bryan and Juliane Derrick (Murwillumbah, NSW), and Candace Nicole Bolinger, daughter of Rusty and Gale Bolinger (Fresno, California, USA), were married on 1.7.07 in an outdoor ceremony on Candace's Uncle Donny's property, Fresno. *Dennis Ray*

Fletcher—Landall. David Fletcher, son of Graham and Winifred (stepmother, mother deceased) Fletcher (Cairns, Qld), and Joanne Landall, daughter of Wayne and Rhonda Landall (Stanthorpe, Qld), were married on 1.4.07 at Stanthorpe. *Kevin Broum*

Kent—La Versa. Graeme Kent, son of Ian and Margaret Kent (Narromine, NSW), and Suzanne La Versa, daughter of Cateno La Versa (Albury, NSW) and Patricia La Versa (deceased), were married on 9.9.07 at Narromine. *Wayne Boehm*

Lee—Clarke. Andrew Milton Lee, son of Pak and Wilma Lee (Mission College, Muak Lek, Thailand), and Linley Shere Clarke, daughter of Peter and Cheryl Clarke (Brisbane, Qld), were married on 11.6.07 in Hillview church, Morisset, NSW. *Bruce Manners*

Mudri—Taylor. Daniel Mudri, son of Miroslav and Brenda Mudri (Maleny, Qld), and Jessica Taylor (Sunshine Coast), daughter of Paul and Belinda Taylor, were married on 9.9.07 in the Nambour church. *Peter Stojanovic*

Sheedy—Broum. Paul Timothy Sheedy, son of Bevin and Rhonda Sheedy (Toowoomba, Qld), and Angela Sharlene Broum, daughter of Peter and Jillian Brown (Bray Park, NSW), were married on 16.9.07 at Yandina, Qld. They met and fell in love five years earlier, when Angela moved to Toowoomba to work. *Neil Tyler*

Taylor—Royce. Colin Taylor, son of Gordon Taylor (Sunshine Coast, Qld) and Lyn Anderson (Cooranbong, NSW), and Janette Marita Royce, daughter of Pastor Ian and Mary Royce (Melbourne, Vic), were married on 23.9.07 at "Forest Hill" farm, Wyong Creek, NSW. Colin and

Janette will be living at Pearl Beach.

Ian Royce, Ray Roennfeldt

Obituaries

Austin, Thomas, born 7.2.1908 at Bradford, Yorkshire, England, the youngest of four children; died 3.8.07 at Maitland, NSW. On 7.1.1937, he married Sybil Pratt, who predeceased him in 1987. He was also predeceased by his son, David. He is survived by his children, Gilbert, Janita, Margriet, Norelle and Thomas; his 18 grandchildren; and his 11 great-grandchildren. Tom was a man of the Book and of faith. One day, the Lord will change his lowly body to be like His glorious body (Philippians 3:21). *Norman Young*

Dixon, Dennis, born 15.11.1947 at Christchurch, NZ; died unexpectedly 1.9.07 at Auckland. He married his wife, Pauline, 37 years ago in Christchurch. He is survived by Pauline; his two children and their spouses, Justine and Daniel Michel and Sherridan and Corrine; and his grandchildren, Lilly, Rohn, Laughlin and Michaela. Dennis enjoyed preparing and facilitating the Sabbath-school lesson study time. He will be remembered as a devoted family man and a capable and respected leader, who was always full of fun. Awaiting Jesus' return. *Stephen and Leanne Davies*

Derrick, Madge Mavis (nee Flight), born 14.2.1920 at Bendigo, Vic; died 17.8.07 in Alstonville Aged Care facility, NSW. On 12.2.1940, she married Charles Alison Derrick in West Melbourne, who predeceased her in 1970. She was also predeceased by her daughter, Leonie, in 1964. She is survived by her sons, Peter (Ferry Creek), and Bryan (Dungay, NSW); her five grandchildren, Lynden, Jaki, Daniel, Levi and Jordan; and her two great-grandchildren, Julia and Ryan. Madge spent most of her life in Swan Hill, Vic, and was heavily involved in her community, serving the Swan Hill church, St John's Ambulance, Red Cross and the SES, and was awarded a 25 year service plaque from the SES. Her daily question was "Why hasn't Jesus come yet?" Her question will be answered in the morning. Till then Madge, Mum, Nannie—rest in peace. *Morrie Krieg, Beth McMurtry*

Jeremic, Nina, born 3.10.1948 in Nis, Yugoslavia; died in St John of God Hospital, Ballarat, Vic, after a long illness. She was married in 1969. She is survived by her brother, John Jeremic (Melbourne); and her son, Nicholas (Ararat). Nina was a committed Christian woman who will be remembered for her passion about the goodness of God and her love of Sabbath worship services. She will be sadly missed by family and friends. *Mike Browning*

Manuel, Betty Abbotsford, born 24.2.1928 at Gisborne, NZ; died 29.7.07 at Orewa, NZ, after a long illness. She is survived by her husband, Geoffrey; her children, Andrea and David; and her grandson, Henry. Betty served as a teacher in church schools in NZ and Australia, and later in various state and private schools. Always dedicated to her church, she took many leadership and teaching roles and also used her musical and drama talents. A faithful, cherished daughter of God, Betty is asleep in Christ. *Hugh Heenan*

Ridgeway, Mary Strang, born 3.12.1920 at Ryde, NSW; died 21.8.07 in the Yarra View Retirement Village, Warburton, Vic. On 2.7.1940, she married Edward William Ridgeway, who predeceased her on 3.3.2001. She was also predeceased by her daughter, Carolyn, in 1967. She is survived by her sisters, Euphemia McKirdy (Brisbane, Qld), and Jean Godfrey (Tenterfield, NSW); her daughters and their spouses, Ann and John Norris (USA), Marie Allen (Tas), Jane and Terry Dold (Healsville, Vic); her sons, Peter Ridgeway (Leeton, NSW), and Ian and his wife Estelle (Boonah, Qld). Mary will be remembered for her persistent faith, her gentle manners and her great artistic ability. She patiently endured a life of isolation and hardship in both outback Australia and Papua New Guinea. *Keith Godfrey, Eric and Joy Kingdon*

Smith, Thomas Mitchell, born 19.3.1942 at Lochore Fife, Scotland; died 22.8.07 in Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide, SA, of motor neurone disease. On 23.3.1963, he married Jean Graham. He is survived by his wife (Adelaide); his children and their partners, Andrew and Patricia (Adelaide), Jennifer and Ross Tanimu (Adelaide), Tom and Janene (Melbourne, Vic), and Glenn and Linda (Melbourne); and his seven grandchildren. Thomas was a man who loved life, his family and the Lord. He bravely and patiently endured the debilitating effect of motor neurone until he slipped into the sleep of death and now awaits the call of the Lord on Resurrection morning. *Allan Croft, Ross Simon*

Wind, Barbara (nee Smith), born 11.11.1924 at Taihape, NZ; died 28.8.07 at Auckland after a period of declining health. She is predeceased by her husband, Dave, by nine years. She is survived by her four sons, Mike, Matthew, Aaron (all of Auckland) and Raphael (Darwin); her siblings, Beryl Higgie, Cecily Hay, Helen Amprimo and Brian Smith; her nine grandchildren; and

two great-grandchildren. Barbara was a part of the Papatoetoe church family for many years. She loved her family and her Lord and enjoyed studying the Bible. Barbara was generous with what she had and prayed daily for many people. Peacefully awaiting Jesus' return. *Leanne and Stephen Davies*

Windus, Lawrence Raymond, born 1.1.1915 at Molong, NSW; died 14.8.07 in Cherrywood Grove Nursing Home, Orange. On 8.1.1936, he married Millie McLachlan, who predeceased him in 2000. He was also predeceased by his son, Ray, in 1994. He is survived by his sons, Donald, Allen (both Brisbane, Qld), Adrian and Leslie (both Orange, NSW); his daughter, Shirley Johnston (Brisbane, Qld); his 15 grandchildren; his 18 great-grandchildren; and his two great-great-grandchildren. Lorry was a loving husband, a special dad, and a wonderful grandfather and great-grandfather. He loved life and his God, and was truly a practical Christian. He loved his church and was a very active member. We look forward to the day of Resurrection. *Bogdan Petrovic*

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Grafton church 25th anniversary, November 17, 10 am. Inviting all former ministers, members and friends to a day of worship, praise, fellowship and reminiscing. Includes luncheon. Bring any memorabilia. Inquiries—Glenda (02) 6649 3375.

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

Motorbikes for district directors in island missions. Eleven delivered in 2006. Thirty to be delivered this September. Organ-

iser, David Lawson, offers his popular books, *He Was There All the Time* and *Bible-study guide*—\$A20 including postage, proceeds to motorbike project. Order from Pastor Lawson, 16 Grosvenor Close, Sunnybank Hills, Qld 4109. Also available from some Adventist Book Centres.

Giant Booksale. New stock. Bargain buys as 70% is \$A3. 5000 books priced to sell. Religion, EG White, Christian novels (adult, youth), music, Bibles, biography etc. Nunawading church, Central Rd, Vic. Sun November 4, 11 am to 3 pm. Make a calendar/diary note now. (Proceeds to church building fund.)

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.

Finally

We need to learn to love people and use things, rather than love things and use people.

Robert and Noreen Cole: Fair dinkum Christians

Then—He had run away from an orphanage at four years of age and lay dying in an alleyway when the Salvos found him. Her childhood memories were more tranquil, growing up near Cooranbong, NSW, and then moving to be surrounded by the majestic hills of Warburton, Victoria.

A dream and a maxim brought them together in their mid-30s. In a dream, God showed him his future wife, standing in a kitchen bottling fruit. Her mother had told her, "Have nothing to do with a man with dirty shoes." Remarkably, three days later he had reason to visit her family home while she was in the kitchen—you guessed it—bottling fruit. His vision materialised before his eyes, while she stole a quick look under the kitchen table to see his squeaky clean shoes. You can't stop God when He is on a roll. Six months later Robert Cole and Noreen Pringle were married.

For the next 46 years home was at Silvan in the Dandenong Ranges on an acre block surrounded by orchards and berry farms. Their faith was central to their lives and they were much loved and respected members of the Lilydale congregation. However, as it happens, the years passed, the block became steeper and somehow larger.

Now—Three years ago they made the decision to settle in the Alawara Retirement Village in Bendigo, Victoria. They were determined to move while they could still carry their own bags. They were also determined not to be a burden on family in their old age.

Alawara is very much their home. It is compact, convenient and close to the amenities of a large provincial city. Both are actively involved in the life of the nearby local church and are surrounded by a close community of friends in the village.

The Coles are the Christian version of the quintessential "Aussie battler." Humble, down to earth and always grateful for the continual leading of God.



Adventist Retirement Villages are located in:

South Queensland Conference (07) 3218 7777:

Caloundra, Capricorn, Melody Park and Victoria Point

North New South Wales Conference (02) 4951 8088:

Alstonville and Cooranbong

Greater Sydney Conference (02) 9487 0600:

Hornsby, Kings Langley and Wahroonga

Victorian Conference (03) 9259 2100:

Bendigo, Nunawading and Warburton

South Australian Conference (08) 8269 2177:

Morphett Vale

Western Australian Conference (08) 9398 7222:

Busselton, Nollamara and Rossmoyne

