

# RECORD

May 24, 2008

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*Attendees of the meetings that saw the Adventist Students' Association established in Samoa.*

## Samoa's first ASA begins operations

APIA, SAMOA

The first Adventist Students' Association (ASA) was established recently in Samoa. Pastor Nick Kross, associate director of Youth Ministries for the South Pacific Division, and Dr Philip Rodionoff, Australia's ASA graduate advisor, coordinated the setting up of the new group, hosting meetings from March 28 to 30.

The meetings, hosted by the Samoas-Tokelau Mission's Adventist Youth and Pathfinder Ministries director, Pastor Fenika Ma'alo, were conducted at the church's headquarters in Apia, where Pastor Kross and Dr Rodionoff presented the aims and goals of ASA. The meetings were attended by

around 40 students, professors, pastors and mission administrators. They embraced the idea of a formal ministry to students in Apia, which has more than four tertiary institutions, including two university campuses.

Pastor Kross drafted a proposal to start ASA work to the mission's executive committee, which was accepted. He also committed \$A1000 to assist in ASA programming for the first year of operations.

"It is estimated that there are more than 60 Adventist post-high school students studying in Apia who would benefit from a tertiary ministry," says Pastor Kross.

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# End

There will be something so essentially right in that moment.

WHEN I AM MOST HONEST WITH myself, the idea of the Second Coming simply freaks me out. While Paul describes looking forward to “that wonderful event when the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, will be revealed” (Titus 2:13\*)—the “blessed hope” of the King James Version—there is at least a part of me that often struggles to join in his joyous expectation.

The concept of Jesus Himself—God of the universe—tearing a hole in the sky and stepping into our world, stamping out everything evil and bringing history as we know it to a crashing end demands some attention—and some courage. Even in the Bible stories, glory, angels, trumpets and earthquakes are not the most comforting things with which to be confronted. It seems the thought of coming face to face with God—whatever that means exactly—*should* scare us.

And, of course, it just seems all so foreign to the day-by-day, physical reality in which we live—the only reality we have ever really known. Throw in the strange and frightening things that many of our readings of Bible prophecy suggest will form the prelude to this shattering event and I can understand why many people might fail to appreciate the blessedness of our “hope.”

But what are the alternatives? As one of Douglas Coupland’s characters in his novel of last year, *The Gum Thief*, puts it:

“How could you possibly be alive and on earth and have a set of eyes and ears and a brain and not figure out that some kind of end is near?”

Left to ourselves, it seems apparent our world will eventually and inevitably succumb to any number or combination of doomsday scenarios, of which the world never seems to be in short supply. And even truly facing the inevitability of our own death and the death of those we love should be enough to bring us at least occasional shudders of panic. Factor in all the injustice, brutality and tragedy in the world as we see and experience it, and it’s a bleak picture.

In these times of dark honesty, the only thing more frightening than the Second Coming is the “risk”—that raises its spectre in moments of doubt—that it might not happen, there is no real hope and, as a result, we and our world are ultimately meaningless.

And so we turn back to the promise of the Second Coming, as frightening as it might seem at times—not because it’s the better of two fearful options but because it is the only source of true hope.

The recurring theme of the Bible is that one day, God will return to our planet. He will remake our broken world, He will set wrongs right and He will live with His people. This is offered repeatedly as God’s final answer to our temptations to despair in the face of our global and personal tragedies and crises.

And the most significant element in any discussion of the second coming of Jesus must always be *Jesus*. When He left the earth, the central promise given by the angels to the newly-alone disciples was that He who would return would be “this same Jesus” (Acts 1:11, KJV). Becoming confident in the hope of the Second Coming means allowing our fears to be swamped by the assurance of who Jesus is, His eternal love, His unquestionable goodness and what He has done for us.

Jesus isn’t the one who will be changed—it’s us, whatever that means. “Yes, dear friends, we are already God’s children, and we can’t even imagine what we will be like when Christ returns. But we do know that when he comes we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is” (1 John 3:2).

However daunting the prospect of Jesus’ return is in so many ways, we will recognise the *same* Jesus we have come to know in the gospel stories and through the life experiences we have already shared with Him. There will be something so essentially right in that moment—an overwhelmingly holy awe that may well feel a lot like terror, as well as an indescribable joy.

We can’t imagine, we can’t help but be unnerved but—knowing the God we do—we can hope and we can trust.

*\*Unless otherwise indicated, Bible quotations are from the New Living Translation.*

Nathan Brown



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

# NZ TRY-athlon series sets world record

## AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

The 2008 New Zealand Weet-Bix TRY-athlon series, which began in February and concluded in April, has set the world record for the largest children's triathlon event in the world.

With 17,129 children involved across the 11 events around New Zealand this year, the International Triathlon Union (ITU) in Canada confirmed the record. Sanitarium aimed to make this series the largest in the world and were pleased with the result.

ITU executive director, Loreen Barnett, says, "We applaud the success of the Weet-Bix TRY-athlon. Today's youth



*A participant in the swimming leg of a TRY-athlon event.*

are the future of our sport, and for triathlon to continue to grow at its current rapid pace, engaging our young athletes is essential."

Tanne Andrews, Weet-Bix senior brand manager for New Zealand, says, "At Sanitarium, we're incredibly proud of the

TRY-athlon. Staff are committed to the event, volunteering at many of the events to make it the success it is today. This event has reached iconic status and is now an integral part of the sporting landscape for Kiwi children.

"The TRY-athlon is for children of all skill levels and we believe this is the key to its phenomenal success. Getting out there, giving it a go and having fun is what it's all about."

New elements were added to the series this year, including the "Weet-Bix Breakfast Challenge," which served participants and their families a healthy breakfast of Weet-Bix Fruity and Weet-Bix Crunch. Also added was the "All Blacks TRY-alist Stadium."

This was set-up in partnership with the New Zealand Rugby Union, encouraging children at the TRY-athlons to learn more about rugby. This event included short videos, educating children on different rugby skills and the importance of good nutrition, as well as a 26-metre long inflatable field where they could hone their rugby skills.

Olympic gold medal-winner Hamish Carter and the All Blacks attended many events. Debbie Tanner and Andrea Hewitt, who both started their triathlon careers in the Weet-Bix series and will be



*Everyone's a winner—children at the end of a TRY-athlon event.*

competing at the Beijing Olympics, were also there to inspire the children.

The Weet-Bix TRY-athlon began as a single event in 1992, with only 500 participants. Throughout its 16-year history, the event has attracted more than 150,000 New Zealand children to participate in the series.

Claire Richardson, assistant Weet-Bix product manager in New Zealand, says, "A huge thank you must go to all our staff and church volunteers, who supported the 2008 series by helping out at the different events."—**RECORD staff/**

**Claire Richardson**

*More @ <http://tryathlon.weetbix.co.nz>*



◆ Students at Brookdale Adventist School, Armadale, WA, packed 110 shoeboxes for shipment to Botswana. Each box contained donated items from parents and friends of the school and the Armadale church. Children in the Lower Primary Division at Easter Camp this year decorated the shoeboxes as one of their craft activities and gave the boxes to the school to

fill. Another shoebox shipment is scheduled for October.—**Tanya Hort**

◆ Two Vietnam War Veterans, John Pollock and Phil Winney, recently came to Macquarie College, NSW, to share their experiences with the Year 10 History class. As part of the School Certificate History course, students are required to study the impact of war on soldiers. These were first-hand accounts from men who had experienced it. Mr Pollock, a regular soldier and artillery specialist, and Mr Winney, a conscript who became

a section scout, began by discussing their life in the war zone and the unique pressures specific to the Vietnam War. They went on to discuss the effect war has on many soldiers, facing problems including alcoholism, post-traumatic stress disorder and mistreatment by civilians when they arrived home.—**Eva Foster**

◆ The Coffs Harbour Memorial church recently witnessed the dedication of a seventh-generation Australian Adventist. **Harrison Miguel Romero**, the first child of **Chris and Ruby Romero**, was dedi-



cated by **Pastor Eric Greenwell**. Harrison is the fourth generation Romero (all pictured) presently worshipping in the church. He is also a direct seventh-generation Adventist in Australia, as his great-great-great-grandmother was a founding member of the first organised Seventh-day Adventist church in North Fitzroy, Melbourne.—**Kevin Romero**

# Samoa's first ASA begins operations

(Continued from page 1)

"These students now have an organised team, who will lead them into a closer relationship with Christ and His church."

Pastor Kross believes the purpose for establishing a university executive is two-fold, saying, "First, university students have particular needs within the tertiary context. These needs may be simple things, like finding accommodation when they arrive in Apia from other Pacific islands or finding a church family to belong to."

He adds, "There are, however, other needs related more to the social and intellectual setting they confront when they enter a tertiary setting. There are intellectual challenges: they face reading required texts and certain lectures that are in conflict with our faith traditions. These and other social influences have a huge impact on the lives of Adventist students in transition from home to the campus setting."

"Second, if students on campus were organised with resources and funding, there are opportunities for on-campus evangelism through camps, small group meetings, Bible studies and Friday-night programs. Many other Christians attend university without



The Samoa ASA executive team members.

any support from their own churches. ASA provides an opportunity for students to be involved in our Christian events and fellowship groups."

He concludes, "The benefits to the students and the church at large are great. Any new group will take time to mature and develop into a functional part of the fabric of youth ministry but in time, we will see the outcomes."

An executive committee was appointed for the Samoan ASA, with Henry Tari as president; Philana Iene as vice-president, Marie-Louise Masianini as treasurer; Ackie Veruman as secretary; Steven Pelenato as chaplain; I'o Tuakeu-Lindsay and Aaron Kania as graduate advisors; Filiki Vaisigano as the representative for the National University of Samoa and Pastor Ma'alo as the ex officio.—**RECORD staff/Nick Kross**

# Sydney Adventist Hospital invests in new technology

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The Sydney Adventist Hospital (SAH) has invested in a CT scanner, which can diagnose blocked arteries in nine seconds and has the potential to save the lives of thousands of people at risk of heart disease.

The \$A3-million, 128-slice dual source scanner arrived at the hospital in January and chief radiologist Dr Martin Davis said an average of five patients per day were undergoing the test.

Dr Davis said about two-thirds of patients had no history or symptoms of heart disease but wanted to eliminate or confirm the possibility of it.

The scan works by capturing a series of cross-sectional images, which the computer compiles into a detailed 3-D model. Doctors can then identify the extent of atherosclerosis—the hardening and narrowing of the arteries—which is the cause of almost all cardiovascular disease.

Health-conscious baby boomers and even people in their 30s and 40s are signing up but, without Medicare rebates, the scan costs \$A825.—**Sydney Morning Herald**



◆ An Adventist from **South Korea** graduated on April 14 from Newcastle University, NSW, with a PhD in Music. **Sohyun Eastham** (pictured third from right) is a graduate of **Sam Yook Adventist University** in Korea. She came to Australia in 1994 to study English but was attracted to the possibilities of music at Newcastle Conservatorium. Her thesis

is titled "The Role of the Violin in Expressing the Musical Ideas of the Romantic Period and the Development of Violin Techniques in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries." Mrs Eastham also produced five live recordings as the creative component of her doctoral study. She has taught violin at Avondale College and serves as leader of orchestras for the Institute of Worship at camp-meetings, regional meetings, and at the annual Hymns and Songs of Praise concert. She is a member of Hamilton church.—**Lyell Heise**



◆ **Nerang church**, Gold Coast, Qld, really believes their children are valuable and have employed **Shona Clarke** as a dedicated children's pastor for 15 hours a week. "Our church is growing, with lots of young families and we want each of the children to choose Jesus—they are our future," says **Pastor Wes Tolhurst**. Each week, the children at Nerang receive a "Kid's Bul-

letin" with activities relating to the sermon topic of the day.—**Nerang church/RECORD staff**

◆ **Avondale School students** (Cooranbong, NSW) were involved with an international film production on May 2. As prepared by **John Smith** of the BBC, "Opening the Door" aims to reach American audiences and possibly be distributed on **Hope Channel**. It follows the form of a narrative and is designed to function as a user-friendly introduction to Seventh-day Adventism. Several students, as well as the school grounds, fea-

# “KidsSpot” outreach breaks church’s drought

TAMWORTH, NEW SOUTH WALES

When Pastor Frank Cantrill and his wife, Marlene, realised their church in Tamworth was experiencing a drought of children, they decided it was time the church did something about the problem.

For the past 12 months, they have been running a free weekly “KidsSpot” for children aged between five and 12, from 9 am until 10.30 am every Sabbath morning.

The “KidsSpot” program is held in an old Scout hall, which has been redecorated. They also prepared billboards and advertising for the program.

According to the Cantrills, their purpose

is to nurture self-esteem, teach positive values, help children reach their full potential, demonstrate how to be responsible citizens and teach life skills in a “fun” manner.

They have used the theme from the “Serengeti Trek” Vacation Bible School program, introducing children to African animals.

“KidsSpot” involves the children through games, crafts, drama, puppets, clowns, face-painting and stories, some of which are Bible stories and the others from the GraceLink curriculum.

According to the Cantrills, they are “overwhelmed” by the response and are building strong friendships with people in the community. Invitations to church

for the families of the children attending “KidsSpot” have been positively received. This had led to children attending church, as it flows on from the “KidsSpot” timeslot on Sabbath mornings.—*Julie Weslake/Litiana Qiosese*



Marlene and Pastor Frank Cantrill.

tured in the second shoot. Despite a day spent rehearsing, applying make-up, travelling to different locations and adjusting to the many directional changes, Year 11 student **Emma Maidment** says she “thoroughly enjoyed the experience.” Students received helpful tips from director **Jim Lounsbury**, learning what it is like to work in a professional film production team.—*Susan Rogers*

◆ The **North West Christian School, Penguin, Tas**, has taken part in a Relay for Life, with 24 people walking on March 16/17



for 16 hours. In four weeks, the team raised \$A1803. They hope to participate again next year, forming a team this July to make the event more successful.—*Natalie Winchcombe*

◆ Several church administrators have made visits to their “partners in mission” over recent months. **Pastor David Blanch** and **Graeme**

# Bougainville students receive scholarships

WAHROONGA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Representatives from the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) recently attended Pacific Adventist University (PAU) to present a cheque to cover part of the school fees for students from Bougainville who attend PAU.

Dorothy Kenneth, the executive officer of the Bougainville Education Board, made the presentation on behalf of the group. Addressing the students, she said “The ABG recognises the need for education in its young people and wants to invest their money in the right place—the future human resources of Bougainville.”

This scheme has been in place since 2004. The allocation is divided into three categories: ABG pays 10 per cent to students who are on HECAS, 20 per cent for students who are on HECAS with parents who are taxpayers, and 40 per cent to students whose parents are unemployed, church workers or subsistence farmers.

Nigel Taniung, a second-year education student, says, “The assistance is a big relief and helps reduce the burden on the parents.”—*Vagi Vele/Harina*

**Drinkall**, from the Greater Sydney Conference, visited their colleagues in Central Papua Mission in February, meeting with pastors and elders and preaching a number of times. **Pastor Kove Tau**, Morobe Mission President, was a guest speaker for the WA Conference campmeeting at Easter, staying to work with local pastors. Meanwhile, three officers of Fiji Mission, **Pastors Aseri Suka, Wame Sausau** and CFO **John Turner** recently visited their partners at the North NSW Conference at Wallsend, exchanging plans for the future.—*Expat Exchange*

◆ The **Whakatane Seventh-day Adventist Primary School, NZ**, recently saw 20 students from Years 4 to 8 go on a flying trip around town. “We wanted to show our students learning does not stop outside the classrooms,” says **Olepa Ki-Korenhof**, principal of the school. The flying trip was sponsored by aviation enthusiast **Jack Schulte**. The students were briefed like pilots and learned all about the navigational equipment. Students 10 years and older were also given opportunities to co-pilot the aircraft and use its controls.—*Melody Tan*

# Grace the focus of faith festival at Avondale

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

Salvation is based on what Jesus did, not on what humans do.” This statement formed the core of Pastor Stuart Tyner’s message in a “Festival of Faith” week that encouraged staff members and students on Avondale College’s Lake Macquarie campus to “discover” grace.

Pastor Tyner, minister of family ministries at the La Sierra University Seventh-day Adventist church (Riverside, California, USA), spoke from March 25 to 29 about the biblical principle of salvation through God’s grace alone. “[Grace] is rejoicing about what God has already done, instead of stressing about what we have to do,” he said.

Three students—William Iererua, Gabriel Hernandez and Harry Atuatika—composed the theme song for the week. The song, entitled “Discovered grace,” encouraged those attending to remember “Death is defeated, and through Jesus [we are] saved by grace.”

“Festival of Faith” reached a climax on Friday evening, with more than 150 students completing response forms and placing them at the foot of a cross on the stage. Nine students requested baptism and 63



*Nine students have requested baptism following Pastor Stuart Tyner’s presentations.*

asked to have Bible studies. “It was exciting to see a traffic jam at the cross,” says college chaplain Dr Wayne French. “There were just so many people trying to give their responses. It took time to catch on to what [Pastor Tyner] was saying. He introduced many different aspects of grace—more than we’d normally hear.”

The worship service also impressed the Avondale Student and Faculty Association president, Imogen Menzies. She described the service as “powerful.”

Student Services distributed free copies of Pastor Tyner’s book, *Searching for the God of Grace*, on the condition students commit to reading it.—*Linden Chuang*

*More @ [www.avondale.edu.au](http://www.avondale.edu.au)*

# Adventist Review wins awards for website, cover story

WESTLAKE, TEXAS, USA

**A**dventist Review won four of the American Associated Church Press (ACP) awards during the group’s annual convention, held April 20 to 23 in Westlake, Texas, USA. ACP is the oldest religious interdenominational press association in North America.

The October 11, 2007, cover story, “Abuse in the Adventist Church?” by René Drumm, with Marciana Popescu, Gary Hopkins and Linda Spady, garnered top prize in the “Personally Useful” category. Judge James Scotton stated, “[This is] a courageous effort. . . . The article shows the reader the problem and that there are steps to be taken to deal with it.”

In the “Publication Website” category, the *Review* received top honours for its online version of the magazine. Edited by Carlos Medley and designed by Clayton Kinney, the website was described as being “very clean and professional. . . . The writing is intelligent and reflects the mission statement.”—*Kimberly Luste Maran*

*More @ [www.adventistreview.org/article.php?id=1831](http://www.adventistreview.org/article.php?id=1831)*

◆ Members of the **Seventh-day Adventist Church** in the **Philippines** are teaming up with **Globe Telecom Inc** to create a **SIM card** unique to Adventists. **Jonathan Catolico**, communication director for the Southern-Asia Pacific Division, is hoping the card will be used by some **250,000 Adventists**, or about a quarter of the church’s membership in the Philippines, the text capital of the world. Part of a church project called “Committed to Tell God’s Love,” Advent SIM card users can minister to others by using the unique features of the card—Bible verses, daily prayer,

prayer requests, Bible trivia, news, a directory of Adventist churches in metropolitan cities and towns, and abbreviated versions of the church’s core doctrines. A percentage of each text message charge will be donated to special church projects. The first 14,000 cards will be available May 22. Mr Catolico estimates that 100,000 cards will be distributed by 2009.—*Taashi Rowe/ANN*

◆ **Americans** are more likely than **Europeans** to own and read a Bible but **Poles** are most likely to have a basic knowledge of Scripture, the

**Vatican** reported on April 28. These are among preliminary findings of an Italian market research firm, who studied Bible-reading habits in the US and eight European countries. More than **90 per cent** of American households contain at least one copy of the Bible, the highest level among the countries studied. The firm interviewed **13,000 people**. Three out of four Americans had read the Bible over the previous year, compared to only one out of four Spaniards, who ranked last in this respect. When asked seven basic questions about the Bible’s contents and authorship, 17 per

cent of Americans were able to answer all correctly, compared to an average of 15 per cent in all the countries studied.—*Religious News Service*

◆ A **religious beekeeper** in Serbia has started making beehives shaped like tiny monasteries and churches “because bees have a soul too.” **Slobodan Jeftic**, 58, says “by doing this, I am bringing together the two great loves of my life—beekeeping and my religion.” He has built all his hives in the shape of Orthodox churches and monasteries in Serbia.—*Ananova*

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

# Adventist Sunday breakfast show to air in Christchurch

CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

A Sunday breakfast show, hosted by Seventh-day Adventist church pastor James Toogood, has started airing on Christchurch's free-to-air TV channel this month.

Called "Toogood on Sundays," the half-hour program will air for 48 Sundays at 9 am.

"I will be interviewing people like pastors, church members and anybody connected with public life," says Pastor Toogood, from the Bishopdale church in Christchurch. "I will be asking hard questions to find out how God fits into people's lives."

The show will also feature advertisements for Bible correspondence classes, local Adventist church seminars and local Adventist schools. "People will become familiar with the pastors and guests on the show," says Pastor Toogood.

The program, with a related worksheet package, will become part of a resource

small groups from churches can use.

Some 520,000 people live in the Christchurch region and up to 45,000 people from the area watch television at 9 am on Sundays, according to Nielsen research. The "Toogood" team hope to have an audience share of five per cent by December.

The format will be magazine-lifestyle program, featuring studio and street interviews with people of all ages, music and involvement from school children—all related to the day's theme.

Although Pastor Toogood will anchor the program, it will also feature other pastors and members prior to commencement of outreach programs, to help build their credibility and boost attendance. There is also opportunity to feature Adventist schools and other aspects of Adventist life relevant to the daily theme.

"Toogood on Sundays" will lead up to the "The Carter Report," a major evangelism series in Christchurch, early next year.

—Melody Tan

More @ <http://adventist.org.au>

# SPD president responds to Burma crisis

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Pastor Barry Oliver, as president of the South Pacific Division, has responded to the crisis in Burma following Cyclone Nargis, which killed tens of thousands of people and destroyed homes and infrastructure on the first weekend in May.

"I have been extremely saddened to hear of Cyclone Nargis. My heart goes out to the people of Burma and particularly to the families of those killed or injured in the cyclone," says Pastor Oliver.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has responded to the Burmese Foreign Minister Nyan Win's call for international aid. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) will be providing food, water, medical supplies, shelter and clothing for hundreds of thousands of displaced people. In some villages, officials

have estimated 95 per cent of homes have been destroyed by the 240 kilometre-per hour winds.

ADRA officials say their relief efforts are likely to be expanded in the coming weeks, as emergency-response personnel based in ADRA's Rangoon office evaluate the damage and determine the most urgent needs in affected areas.

The delta region of Burma has been particularly badly affected by the cyclone, with 12-foot storm surges altering the country's coastline.

Pastor Oliver says, "I encourage our church members to pray for the people of Burma that God will comfort them and fill their hearts with peace."—RECORD staff/  
Melody Tan/ADRA International

More @ [www.adra.org](http://www.adra.org) and  
[http://www.adra.org/site/PageServer?pagename=need\\_appeal\\_myanmar](http://www.adra.org/site/PageServer?pagename=need_appeal_myanmar)

# College graduate's Christian novel to be published

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

A 21-year-old Avondale arts graduate and staff member has become a published author. Trudy Adams, of the Enquiry and Enrolment Centre, was informed by Christian book publisher Ark House that her manuscript had been accepted on April 3.

Her book, *Desolate Beauty*, is an Australian-based fictional story about a young girl who finds the place of God in her life. The "mediocre" nature of young adult Christian literature served as Ms Adams's inspiration. The book will be published in early 2009.

"The books frustrated me because they were mostly American and they always seemed to dance around hard issues," she says. "As a student at a Christian school, I saw and knew



Trudy Adams.

being a Christian teenager didn't make things perfect. So this story began to brew in my mind—it was as if I had to set it free."

Ms Adams began writing the story at age 17, completing the first 105,000-word draft a year later. "I didn't see any point in waiting to be a writer," she says. "I have been a storyteller ever since I can remember and my kindergarten report says so, too."

"I've always loved the way stories inspire, comfort and educate," says Ms Adams. "Relationships, experiences and faith are the most complicated things, and sometimes the only way to appreciate, understand or heal them is to see them on paper—something tangible. It's the process of trying to capture imagery and feeling in words, then letting others adapt it to something they can relate to."

—Brenton Stacey

More @ [www.avondale.edu.au](http://www.avondale.edu.au)

# Re:framing conversation

BY NATHAN BROWN

ON THE WEEKEND OF APRIL 26, THE South Queensland Conference hosted the first Re:frame training event to be held in Australia (see “South Qld ‘re:frames’ faith sharing,” News, May 17). Dr Miroslav Pujic was the featured presenter at this event. He is director of the Centre for Secular and Postmodern Studies, study centre of the General Conference’s Office of Adventist Mission. Dr Pujic answered some questions for RECORD after his recent visit to Australia.

## What is Re:frame?

Re:frame is about helping Adventist pastors and church members be aware of the shifts happening in society, more fully understand the mindset of people and learn how to connect in order to tell the story of Jesus Christ. Re:frame is a training event provided by the Centre for Secular and Postmodern Studies (CSPS) to serve the church around the world.

## How are ministry and evangelism to secular and postmodern people different from what the church has done previously?

First of all, seculars and postmoderns are not the same group of people. Secularism is the baby of modernism, and typically stands against God and all faith or religion. Postmoderns, however, are more open to faith and the divine—they’re just sceptical of labelling one specific path as the final answer to reach one God. They typically consider themselves spiritual, although perhaps are uncomfortable with institutional religion.

As a centre, CSPS focuses on reaching the postmodern mindset. Postmoderns don’t respond well to traditional modern methods of evangelism but this doesn’t mean they aren’t interested in God. Actually, postmoderns respond best to the apostolic approach from the early Christian church. Effective ministry to today’s postmodern culture really calls us back to the basics—back to the simple, relational methods of the New Testament. It is kind of coming

full circle to our roots of evangelism.

This means instead of isolating our evangelistic attempts to large events, we choose to live a lifestyle of daily sharing Jesus with those around us. We unashamedly testify of His power to bring change in our lives. We reach out incarnationally (living alongside those we wish to reach, as one of them), rather than transformationally (waiting until they transform to become just like us). If Jesus had implemented transformational ministry, none of us would be saved until we could become perfect and be like Him. Instead, He came and lived among us, to show us the way.

So we focus on process evangelism—getting connected with people through friendship, with a commitment to nurturing them into Christian maturity, instead of dropping them as soon as they are baptised. It isn’t any different from what the apostles did centuries ago but it looks a lot different from how we typically do things now.

## The Re:frame training event in Brisbane was the first in Australia. How did it connect with Australians and Australian culture?

Only 7.5 per cent of Australians attend church—that means 92.5 per cent of Australians are unchurched—and the Australian culture is deeply postmodern. If the Adventist church in Australia is going to succeed in evangelising their communities, they are going to have to adjust for the cultural trends of their society.

Training members and pastors how to reach out through friendship will give them a new perspective on sharing the gospel with people, and allow Australian Adventists to remain positive throughout the journey. It lets them accept that evangelism is truly a long-term process, instead of being discouraged when single evangelistic events don’t get a wild response.

## What positives did you see at the weekend program in Brisbane?

I’m happy to see pastors and members in Australia who are open to learning more



Dr Miroslav Pujic, director of the Centre for Secular and Postmodern Studies.

about their neighbours, and see opportunities for evangelism, rather than blaming ungodly people for being uninterested. It’s positive to see conference and union leadership is determined to provide this ministry in addition to the others that already exist. Also, it’s great to see a commitment to follow-through, rather than saying “we had a great time” and going on with business as usual.

## What do you hope those who attended will do as a result of being part of this training program?

I hope they will go home and realise every part of life is evangelism—not just the church part. I hope they’ll go home with a fresh understanding of how amazing it is to share Jesus, and with a knowledge that it isn’t going to happen overnight. I also hope they’ll start getting active in their communities, sharing time with people, meeting local needs, and doing other things that may not result in immediate baptisms but will definitely build relationships with people where they can share Jesus.

And I hope those who have been discouraged will be excited to know their church does understand: the Adventist church is moving forward and is working to be relevant. **R**

For more information, visit <[www.reframe.info](http://www.reframe.info)>.

Nathan Brown is editor of RECORD.



# I can't help but smile

BY BRAD WATSON

I CAN'T HELP BUT SMILE. AS I WRITE, I am sitting at my desk at Avondale College, where I try to lecture. It is 11.48 am and I have been attempting to work. A new semester is about to begin, there is much to do and I am stressed. Apart from my own procrastinating, there is one small problem that is driving me crazy—phone calls!

In the past hour, I have had about 10 calls and they go something like this:

*Ring ring. Ring Ring.*

"Hello. Brad speaking."

At this point, I'm hoping to hear the adult voice of a colleague, calling to congratulate me for my dedication in coming in to work while on annual leave. Instead I get this:

"Hello Daddy. The boys are teasing me!"

"Alright Zoey, put Caleb on."

Caleb speaks after a pause. "Hello Dad."

"Caleb. Are you teasing Zoey?"

There is a pregnant pause, followed by, "A bit . . ."

"Have you cleaned your room yet?"

"Uhhh, no."

"Why?"

"I'm watching the tennis."

"Caleb, if I come home in 15 minutes and your room is not tidy you will not be allowed to watch anymore TV today. And stop teasing. Get it?"

"OK, Dad."

There is giggling at the other end of the phone before my eight year old hangs up. He "gets it" alright, and we both know who's boss. At the moment, it is certainly not me!

At other times in the past hour, I have heard other things coming out of my phone:

"Daddy," Zachy said in his wounded, five-year-old voice. "Caleb broke my cup."

"Daddy," Zoey said cutely. "The tap was dripping in the shower. I tried to turn it off, and now the handle is broken and it fell in the bathtub."

"Dad," Caleb had called to say about 10 minutes earlier, "Zoey won't decide what video to watch. Can you tell her to make her mind up?"

"Dad," Zoey countered, "Zachy won't help clean the room."

"Daddy," one of them complained just one hour after breakfast. "We're hungry. Can you come home and get us something to eat?"

Why is it when I wrote my number down this morning, I thought it was only for emergencies? Even now, I'm watching the phone out of the corner of my eye, waiting for it to ring. The call will probably go like this:

"Hello."

"Daddy, when are you coming home?"

"Soon, Darling."

"But Daddy, you said you would only be 15 minutes. We're hungry."

At this point, I have to remind myself I'm in my office, the kids are 500 meters away at home, my wife is at work and I'm supposed to be on duty. The plan has failed and I have been ambushed by my own children.

I had hoped to feed them breakfast, let them watch TV, sneak off to work for a few hours and ride home to prepare lunch, returning to find clean rooms and well-dressed children. Instead, there is this!

The day is not even half over. There will be another five hours before my wife gets back from work. This evening, when she asks how the day went, I'll remember her comment last night—something about looking forward to going to work, I think, and coming home to a cooked dinner and bathed children. Why had I ignored that knowing look in her eye? I can almost imagine the conversation tonight.

"How was your day, Darling?"

"Great. I got lots of work done and the kids were fantastic."

"Really?"

"Sure. Here, sit down, dinner is almost ready."

It occurs to me, as I write this paragraph,



I'm a failed optimist. My children are like an army of ants, nibbling and tickling the toes of an elephant, and I can't even make it into the jungle to do my day's work. I said this to my oldest son on the phone awhile ago but he just laughed. I also said he had called so many times, I would have to take it out of pocket money. He just giggled at that, too. So I'm packing up and heading off. My children need me!

I wonder if God feels the same way sometimes? Imagine juggling the calls of six-and-a-half billion children. How does God have time? Is it even possible?

Until recently, I thought it was ridiculous that God could know billions of people intimately. But numbers aren't important to him. Scientists now know each person is so complex that our DNA contains 3 billion base pairs. And God, as Creator, made it that way. Wow!

In Mark's story of Jesus, well-meaning followers of Jesus tried to keep children away, so they would not bother Jesus and His listeners. Unlike some politicians, who cynically pose with children for photo opportunity, Mark says Jesus became outraged and took a real interest.

He wrote, "When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these'" (Mark 10:14, NIV)

In fact, Jesus went on to say we need to be more like children in order to enter heaven. Perhaps He meant we need to be more reliant, curious and non-judgmental. Perhaps the faith of the saved is a simple one, like the faith of children in their parents (see Matthew 18:1-3).

Would you believe it? The phone just rang. I wonder who that could be? **R**

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*Brad Watson is a lecturer in international development studies at Avondale College, Cooranbong, New South Wales.*

# A solution to social disintegration

BY ERROL WEBSTER

**T**HE NEWS HEADLINES WERE DISTURBING! *This can't be happening in Australia*, I thought. "Terror as gang of five rampage through school." "Machetes in classroom." "Rampage exposes brazen teen gang culture."<sup>1</sup>

On April 7, a gang of five teenagers—aged 14 to 16—brandishing baseball bats, machetes and a samurai sword, invaded Merrylands High School, Sydney. They smashed windows and terrorised students. The rampage left two students and a teacher in hospital, 16 other students injured, thousands of dollars worth of damage and a school community shaken.<sup>2</sup> Police arrested some of the gang at gunpoint.

These teenagers showed no remorse. They even planned more crimes while in custody and gestured obscenely to the media on the way to court.<sup>3</sup> It is suspected they could be part of an armed gang linked to a string of robberies and violent assaults. One of the gang, when asked why he breached his bail (over two armed robberies) said, "I want to be inside with my mates."<sup>4</sup>

What's gone wrong in our society that it creates such violent and destructive attitudes?

## Media affects

The Columbine High School massacre in the United States in April, 1999, was a wake-up call about violence in society. Two students went on a shooting spree that left 15 dead and 23 students wounded. Survivors said the gunmen treated it like a video game.

One year later, a joint statement by The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Paediatrics, the American Psychological Association and the Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry stated: "At this time, well over 1000 studies . . . point overwhelmingly to a causal connection between media violence and aggressive behaviour in some children. The conclusion of the public health community, based on over 30 years of research, is that viewing entertainment violence can lead to increases

in aggressive attitudes, values and behaviour, particularly in children.

"Its effects are measurable and long lasting. Moreover, prolonged viewing of media violence can lead to emotional desensitisation toward violence in real life."<sup>5</sup>

Despite these findings, there has been no lessening of violence in entertainment media. Referring to television, one study says that by the time a child reaches the age of 18, he or she will have seen 200,000 dramatised acts of violence and 40,000 dramatised murders.<sup>6</sup>

Music often glorifies violence. The same week as the Sydney school violence, rapper 50 Cent and his record company were sued for promoting a violent "gangsta" lifestyle by a 14-year-old boy who was assaulted by friends of the rapper. Songs from 50 Cent's latest album speak for themselves: "I'll still kill"; "My gun go off"; "Fully loaded clip."

Many video games are particularly violent. The perpetrator of the Virginia Tech tragedy, which left 33 dead a year ago, is said by high school classmates to have been a fanatical player of "shooter" video games, especially one called *Counterstrike*.<sup>7</sup>

In a report released last December, researchers at Columbia University, using Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging, found that watching violent programs can cause parts of the brain that suppress aggressive behaviours to become less active. Repeated exposure to violence diminishes the brain's ability to inhibit violent behaviour.<sup>8</sup>

In the light of this research, should we be surprised at an increase in violence in society? But there are other factors, highlighted by two reports released during the same week.

## Drug and alcohol abuse

On April 9, Australia's federal health minister, Nicola Roxon, released a report on the social costs of drugs and alcohol to the Australian society for the year 2004–2005. She described the figures as "staggering"—totalling \$A56.1 billion (tobacco: \$A31.5



billion; alcohol: \$A15.3 billion; illicit drugs: \$A8.2 billion; and alcohol and illicit drugs consumed together: \$A1.1 billion).<sup>9</sup>

While tobacco accounts for 56.2 per cent of the costs, alcohol and drugs contribute more to the breakdown in relationships, and are a major factor in domestic and street violence. Most robberies and home invasions are committed to support drug habits. A current Morgan poll found one in five people either were or knew someone who had been a victim of alcohol-related violence.<sup>10</sup>

## Homeless youth

On April 8, the National Youth Commission (NYC) released a report on youth homelessness in Australia. Despite increased prosperity, low unemployment and large budget surpluses, youth homelessness has doubled over the past two decades to 36,000 young people aged under 25, with 22,000 teenagers under 18.

Salvation Army Major David Eldridge, chair of the NYC, asks: "Why has this happened?"

The NYC report says: "Young people become homeless because their family support breaks down, leading to a detachment from

family and transience. The breakdown of family relations may be the result of violent abuse, including sexual abuse, neglect and lack of adequate love and care, or superheated adolescent conflict between parents and teenagers.”<sup>11</sup>

On April 10, ABC TV aired a documentary, *The Oasis*, on homeless youth that gave a human face to this problem. Two years in the making, it featured the Salvation Army’s Sydney youth refuge, run by Captain Paul Moulds and his wife, Robbin. Their dedication and commitment are incredible.

It was heartbreaking to see the broken lives of young people. It brought tears to my eyes to hear their stories, highlighting the problem of family breakdown. Haley said, “I didn’t get on with my mother’s boyfriend. I got bashed every day. My mother was into drugs in a bad way. I left home when I was 12.”

She came to “The Oasis” nine years ago, when she was 15. She wanted to be a nurse, get married and have kids. Now she’s on a \$A600-a-day heroin habit and she hasn’t turned up for rehab.

Owen said, “I spent my childhood watching my mother get bashed up by my stepfather. I also got bashed regularly. I never knew my real father. I was kicked out of home at 13, then spent two years in the lockup over stealing cars.”

Captain Moulds found Darren, aged 8, sleeping in a “hole in the wall.” Darren said, “You come home . . . to find your mother has packed up all her stuff and left you and your brother. . . . That’s abandonment . . . an 8-year-old boy, that’s me, and an older brother, who was 14. We had to start selling drugs to support our food.” Darren battled heroin for the next 14 years.

It’s not all bad news. Owen is now attending a film and TV training program, and wants to be a camera man. Darren is off drugs, lives in his own apartment and does volunteer work at “The Oasis.”

## Family breakdown

Should we be surprised at what’s happening to young people in society? Over recent decades, we have seen an undermining of the importance of marriage commitment and the family, and a disempowering of parents. Boundaries that were clear in the past have become blurred. According to social researcher Hugh Mackay, par-

ents are finding it increasingly difficult to establish a basis for moral instruction of their children.<sup>12</sup>

A line from an old Rolling Stones song says: “I’m free, to do what I want, any old time.” Many in our society have tried to live this way—but it hasn’t worked!

As well as violence, each year teenagers are exposed to more than 15,000 sexual references on TV, with less than 170 references having any discussion of consequences.<sup>13</sup> Ninety-nine per cent of sexual references are between unmarried persons.<sup>14</sup> Research shows the earlier children are exposed to explicit sexual material in the media—music, TV and movies—the earlier they tend to become sexually active.<sup>15</sup>

Mackay reports that 76 per cent of couples live together before marriage and 45 per cent of contemporary marriages end in divorce. There are one million children affected by divorce and 500,000 migrate between the custodial and non-custodial parent.<sup>16</sup> One in five children under 15 are in one-parent families.

Published in April, an *Australian Women’s Weekly* survey of 15,000 women older than 20, found that one in five women (18 per cent) have experienced physical abuse and one in three (35 per cent), emotional abuse. Fifteen per cent had cheated on their husband or partner. Thirteen per cent indicated they had been raped and four in five did not report it to the authorities.

Child abuse is increasing, with one case occurring, on average, every 13 minutes.<sup>17</sup>

So the sexual liberation experiment that began in the 1960s has not resulted in better relationships. When media violence, alcohol and drugs are coupled with unstable family relations, is it any wonder we have youth problems in Australia?

## A family with hope

What is really highlighted in all of the above is the importance of the family. All our efforts to deal with violence, crime, youth homelessness and drugs in our society will be bandaid solutions if we do not provide healthy families that nurture children in their developing years.

As Adventists, we believe we’re called to preach the gospel to a dying world. Could it be that one of the best ways we can do this, for a large section of our community, is to help those in dysfunctional families to

develop better relationships?

We need to model healthy families that stand against the flow of secular culture. Our churches need to be safe, healthy communities where people can find acceptance and a sense of belonging. We need to be involved in our community and care for lost people, like Jesus does.

If the church doesn’t do this, who will? **R**

1. <theage.com.au>, April 8, 2008; <smh.com.au>, April 8-9, 2008.

2. Arjun Ramachandran and Jordan Baker. <smh.com.au>, April 8, 2008.

3. “Defiant five on 101 charges,” <smh.com.au>, April 9, 2008.

4. Dylan Welch and Jordan Baker, “Rampage exposes brazen teenage gang culture,” <smh.com.au>, April 9, 2008.

5. American Academy of Pediatrics, <www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/jstmtevc.htm>.

6. Katherine Ramsland, “The unthinkable: Children who kill,” <www.crimeslibrary.com>.

7. Michele Steinberg and Anton Chaitkin, “Virginia Tech Killer Was Another Video-Game Fanatic,” Executive Intelligence Review, April 27, 2007.

8. Christopher R Kelly, et al, “This is your brain on violent media,” Columbia University Medical Center, Press Release, December 4, 2007.

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12. “Right & Wrong: How to Decide for Yourself,” Speakers Corner National Archives, July 25, 2004

13. Alvin Powell. “Omnipresent media hurts, helps children,” Harvard Gazette, October 11, 2001.

14. W Mueller, Understanding Today’s Youth Culture, 1994, page 131.

15. K.L L’Engle, et al, “The mass media are an important context for adolescents’ sexual behaviour,” Journal of Adolescent Health, March 2006, pages 186-192; J D Brown, et al, “Mass media as a sexual super peer for early maturing girls,” Journal of Adolescent Health, May 2005, pages 420-427; Jane D Brown, et al, “Sexy Media Matter: Exposure to Sexual Content in Music, Movies, Television, and Magazines Predicts Black and White Adolescents’ Sexual Behavior,” Pediatrics, April 2006, pages 1018-1027.

16. “Social Disengagement: A Breeding Ground for Fundamentalism,” Annual Manning Clarke Lecture, Australian National Library, March 3, 2005.

17. <smh.com.au>, April 11, 2005.

**Errol Webster is a retired pastor who writes from Bathurst, New South Wales.**

# No more pain

BY KITTY TOMS

SOMETIME DURING OUR NURSING COURSE, MY FELLOW NURSING students and I attended a lecture about pain management. I still have the medical dictionary I used then and it gives this definition of pain: "A feeling of distress, suffering or agony, caused by stimulation of specialised nerve endings."<sup>1</sup>

According to the experts, there are different types of pain—acute (sudden), chronic (long lasting) or breakthrough pain. Breakthrough pain is when someone is having medication for chronic pain and the pain suddenly "breaks through" the medication they are taking.

But is pain just physical? What about emotional pain? What about the pain we feel when abuse happens, a loved one dies, a relationship breaks down, unemployment happens or we struggle to make ends meet? Aren't there feelings of suffering and agony then, too?

**He is the only one who really knows what it's like to be me.**

Life is painful—it is full of pain. The natural response is to turn away from what is causing the pain but sometimes, this is impossible—especially within the immediate future.

My dictionary goes on to say in its definition of pain: "Its purpose is chiefly protective; it acts as a warning that tissues are being damaged and induces the sufferer to remove or withdraw from the source."

But what happens when we can't remove ourselves from the source and the pain seems unbearable? I don't know the answer to that, except to suggest it takes a psychological toll on the mind and the body. This is cold comfort, though. What really helps me is to know that Jesus feels my pain. He is the only one who really knows what it's like to be me.

Does He remove the pain? Not always. Does He make it more tolerable? Not always. But I believe He endures it with us and He gives us hope for a future without pain.

The Bible says "He will remove all of their sorrows, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. For the old world and its evils are gone forever" (Revelation 21:4, NLT).

Imagine that! No more pain! How glorious and wonderful that will be. **R**

1. Miller-Keane Encyclopedia & Dictionary of Medicine, Nursing & Allied Health, 1983.

*Kitty Toms is a pseudonym.*

## Record Roo



Hi kids!  
Have you ever tried to count the stars? It's impossible! What does counting the stars have to do with Abram and God's promise to him? Complete the text below to find out.

### Bible Text

Then he brought him outside and said, "Look now toward \_\_\_\_\_, and count the \_\_\_\_\_ if you are able to \_\_\_\_\_ them." And he said to him, "So shall your \_\_\_\_\_ be."  
Genesis 15:5 NKJV

### Count and Colour

How many stars can you count?



### Word Search

Can you find the word **STARS** 30 times in the puzzle below?

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

## Beyond sexism

JOHN WATTS, NSW

“Supporting women in ministry” (Feature, April 19) is to be commended for its encouragement of church members to support and uplift all women in ministry. This desired support, however, can only occur in a more wholistic framework, inclusive of the following facets:

First, one set of ordination credentials is equally given to men and women in ministry, and qualified men and women have an equal chance of being placed in the work.

Second, a more intelligent and research-based educational program concerning women in church leadership needs to be implemented for our church leadership and membership.

Third, the benign sexism that is prevalent at all levels within the church needs to be addressed. Even a cursory count of leading positions within the South Pacific Division and Australian Union Conference institutions is indicative of the overwhelming gender differentiation and imbalance within church leadership positions and vocations.

Instead of lagging far behind most government and secular institutions in advancing equitable rights and opportunities for women, the church should be leading in this field of endeavour.

Finally, until a broad spectrum of leaders demonstrate—by their attitudes and actions—their commitment beyond tokenism to (a) equal rights, equitable opportunities and outcomes through due process, and (b) enabling affirmative action policies and practices to embrace meritorious (rather than male) appointments to leading positions, any call for supporting women in ministry or, for that matter, any leadership position, will remain unconvincing and simply maintain the status quo.

## Beyond words

JOHN RALSTON, SA

To support women’s pastoral ministry “Supporting women in ministry” ignores two important principles:

1. Inspired truth should always be “rightly divided” (2 Timothy 2:15). The phrase “in

Christ” that Paul uses so frequently always points to the equality of men and women in relation to Jesus and redemption. It should not be used to support the idea that this equality extends to all circumstances and positions, because the same Paul shows there

## All who desire or feel called for ministry should first be concerned about the great responsibility of such a position.

are differences even among Christians (see 1 Corinthians 12:13, 14, 27-31, 1 Timothy 2:11-15 and 3:14, 15).

2. The whole context of an article always points to the primary meaning of any of its parts. A couple of sentences from an article that stress the importance and value of literature ministry should not be used for a different purpose, just because they contain some suitable words.

All who desire or feel called to ministry should first be concerned about the great responsibility of such a position. The Chief Shepherd will hold them strictly accountable for how they have enhanced or diminished the welfare of the flock under their care (see Ezekiel 34:1-10; 1 Corinthians 3:17; 4:1, 2).

## Some health trends

DAVID BIRD, VIC

I am a medical doctor who works with many Adventists. I have noticed some worrying trends among our people, some of whom may be suffering unnecessarily.

First, iodine deficiency is of alarming prevalence among our people. Iodine is essential for the normal function of the thyroid gland. But normal thyroid function tests do not exclude iodine deficiency. If our people are not using iodised salt—many of our health-conscious people are using “healthy salts” instead of iodine-fortified salt—not taking an iodine supplement or not eating seaweed dishes, I assume they are deficient until proven otherwise.

Some of the symptoms of low iodine may include (although these may also be related to other conditions): heart palpitations, dry skin, dry hair, hair falling out, feeling unusually cold, problems with temperature regulation, problems losing weight, depression, lack of motivation,

sleep disturbance, constipation, slowness of the mind and neck swelling. If any readers suspect they are low, I advise them to discuss the matter with their family doctor and request their opinion on getting a urine test for low iodine.

A second issue is vitamin D deficiency. For years, I have been trying to understand why so many health-conscious Adventist women have such bad bones. I now believe it is due to low vitamin D levels. Many people are not getting adequate sunshine and it appears the “slip, slop, slap” anti-sun campaign has been too successful among us. If you want to check your vitamin D levels, discuss it with your family doctor.

## A refreshing change

MALCOLM FORD, NZ

Thanks to *Signs* magazine for bringing Herbert Blomstedt “in from the cold” (see “Eighty years and still going softly,” *Signs of the Times*, May issue). It’s been almost 10 years since I first read about him in a major New Zealand newspaper. As I remember the feature article, describing his official public welcome in Leipzig when he was inducted as director of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, it identified him as a Seventh-day Adventist.

Young aspiring pop musicians—usually Christians—get good coverage on front pages and articles in the *Signs*, such as Matt Corby in the same issue. But it was refreshing to read about Blomstedt’s professional musical attainments in the international orchestral world. More public recognition of distinguished Christian high-achievers in the classical world could help redress the imbalance of pop musicians who seem to dominate our Christian culture.

**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.



## First Australia/New Zealand Summits for CHIP Training & Lifestyle Medicine

- Hear presentations by North America's leading exponents of preventive medicine on diet & lifestyle as it affects the Western diseases (diabetes (T2), heart disease & cancer) & longevity.
- Learn about food cravings as contributors to Western diseases.
- Train to become a CHIP leader for your Church.
- Be spiritually enriched as you learn about health as a platform for community service.
- Discover 8 principles necessary to lead people to Christ from CHIP from the Pastor who baptized 10% of the attending public at his programs.

### Lectures by:

**Dr Neil Barnard**, President, Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, Washington Centre for Clinical Research and the Cancer Project.  
**Dr Gary Fraser**, Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology, Loma Linda University and Director, Adventist Health Studies.  
**Dr Hans Diehl**, cardiovascular epidemiologist and CHIP founder and presenter.  
**Dr Don Mackintosh**, Director, The Amazing Facts Centre of Evangelism and Health Ministry.  
**Plus speakers and training leaders** from the Lifestyle Medicine Institute (Australia) Inc, Adventist CHIP Association, Adventist Health and others.

**Australian Summit**—November 28-December 1, 2008, Caloundra, Qld.  
**New Zealand Summit**—December 4-7, 2008, Rotorua.

### For further information contact

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- Paul Rankin + 649 262 5620, e-mail paul@adventisthealth.org.nz OR
- Go to the websites [www.chiphhealth.org.au](http://www.chiphhealth.org.au) or [www.chip.org.nz](http://www.chip.org.nz)

## Weddings

**Baker—Dunstan.** Myles Baker, son of Graham and Suzanne Baker (Brisbane, Qld), and Nadine Claire Dunstan, daughter of Syd and Nola Dunstan (Yeppoon), were married on 4.5.08 at the Kingfisher Bay Resort, Fraser Island. *Neil Tyler*

**Brooks—Trinder.** Tim Brooks, son of Robert (Yarra Junction, Vic) and Susan Brooks (Berwick), and Joanne Trinder, daughter of Sonny and Rhonda Trinder (Cranbourne South), were married on 3.5.08 at Cranbourne South. *Morrie Krieg*

**Hildebrand—Berkeley.** Michael Morgan Hildebrand, son of Gary and Dorothy Hildebrand (Coffs Harbour, NSW), and Aletia Kim Berkeley, daughter of David and Nerice Berkeley (Brightwaters), were married on 20.4.08 in Coffs Harbour church. *Sean Berkeley, Gordon Smith*

**Keft—King.** Nayden Eric Keft, son of Wayne and Bernice Keft (Karuah, NSW), and Michelle Renee King, daughter of Glen and Charmaine King (Eleebana, NSW), were married on 2.3.08 in Morisset Hospital Chapel, Morisset. *Mike Faber*

**Kochanski—Rayner.** Andrew Kochanski, son of Brunon (deceased) and Krystyna Kochanski (Pendle Hill, NSW), and Angela Rayner, daughter of Ernest Rayner (Rockhampton, Qld) and Luberta Truscott (Warwick), were married on 27.4.08 in the Pendle Hill church, Sydney, NSW. *Daniel Przybylko*

## Obituaries

**Coulston,** Alan Chapman, born 1.1.1921 at Yackandandah, Vic; died 2.3.08 at Upper Beaconsfield. In 1945, he married Sylvia, who predeceased him. In 1996, he married Helen. He is survived by his wife (Berwick); his children and their spouses, Lynette and Milton Gray (Perth, WA), Heather and Ken Wade (Park Orchards, Vic), Rosslyn and John Cook (Sydney, NSW), Murray and Julie Coulston (Pakenham, Vic); his stepchildren, Susan, Merelyn and Wendy; his eight grandchildren; and his four great-grandchildren. Alan spent a number of years as a literature evangelist and was a quiet Christian gentleman. A talented artist and musician, much loved by family and friends, he loved his Saviour and longed for his return. *Barry Whelan*

**Denne,** Iris Alma (nee Thomsen), born 4.9.1914 at Hawkes Bay, NZ; died 22.4.08 at home in Waipawa. On 9.6.1943, she married Tom, who died 25 years ago. She is survived by her children and their spouses, Robin (Sydney, NSW), John and Lyn (Melbourne, Vic) and Yvonne and Keith Sutton (Waipawa, NZ); and her six grandchildren. She was baptised by Pastor House in September 1953, in Napier. Iris was a devoted wife, fabulous mother, loving nanna and loyal friend. She lived as an enthusiastic witness for Christ. Her joy and ours will be complete when Christ returns. *John Denne*

**Mendoza,** Katherine Mary, born 1.9.1930 at Napier, NZ; died 3.4.08 in the Oakdale Rest Home, Cambridge. She is survived

## Positions vacant

▲ **Manager—Adventist Retirement Villages, Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care Limited (Greater Sydney)** is looking to appoint a manager for Adventist Retirement Villages, Sydney (incorporating the Wahroonga, Kings Langley and Hornsby campuses). Please send your application (including your CV) to the General Secretary, Greater Sydney Conference, 4 Cambridge Street, Epping 2121, NSW or email <mworker@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **May 27, 2008**.

▲ **Lecturer in Mathematics—Avondale College (Lake Macquarie campus, NSW)** is looking to appoint a full-time lecturer in Mathematics (applied Mathematics specialty). The successful applicant should have at least a Masters degree (or equivalent qualification in Mathematics). For a full job description and selection criteria, visit our website <[www.avondale.edu.au](http://www.avondale.edu.au)>. Applications should include a CV, applicant's contact details, the names of three referees, and be sent to Gabrielle Spalding, Human Resource Office, <employment@avondale.edu.au>. Applications close **June 4, 2008**.

▲ **Shift Industrial Electrician—Sanitarium Health Food Company (Berkeley Vale, NSW)**, invites applications for the full-time position of electrician for our Berkeley Vale Manufacturing Unit. This position requires an individual who can demonstrate an understanding of and strong commitment to OH&S within the workplace, possesses a current Electrical Licence, is able to work a permanent Sunday shift and is able to meet the physical requirements of the role. Previous experience within the food industry would be advantageous. Apply online at <[www.sanitarium.com.au/company/employment.html](http://www.sanitarium.com.au/company/employment.html)> or write to Group Human Resources, SHF Company, Locked Bag 7, Central Coast Mail Centre, NSW 2252. Applications close **May 28, 2008**.

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by three of her four children, Barbara, Janis, Fay and Mark. She was predeceased by her daughter, Marion. Kath had only been a Christian for the last few years of her life but she died in the certain promise of the Resurrection, looking forward to meeting her family and friends when she receives the call of the Lifegiver and all is made new.

*Ian Sutton, Stephen Atkinson*

**Stehn,** Marie Margaret (nee Woodall), born 25.3.1926 in SA; died 22.4.08 in Brisbane, Qld. Following a service in the Wynnum church, Qld, Marie was laid to rest beside her husband, Edwin. She is survived by her children, John, Nerida and Glenda; her eight grandchildren; and her two great-grandchildren. She spent the last four years of her life in the high care section of the Aged Care Facility at Victoria Point. Marie and her husband became Adventists after attending the Kent Mission in Brisbane. Since then, their faith has held fast to the blessed hope.

*Keith Miller*

**Wilmoth,** Ian Erle, born 5.3.1918 at Maffra, Vic; died 24.4.08 at Lismore, NSW. He is survived by his wife, Iris May Wilmoth (nee Cleverdon) (Lismore); his sons, David (Swansea), Laurie (Lismore) and Terry (Mudgeeraba, Qld); his grandchildren, Robert, Gary, Atalie, Kaelya and Charlie; and his six great-grandchildren. Ian was predeceased by his brothers, Alan (1978) and Peter (1998). Ian was a true gentleman. Gifted with perfect pitch, he used this ability to serve his God with musical composition, performance and conducting in Sydney (NSW), Avondale, Longburn (NZ) and Dubbo (NSW), and will be remembered very fondly by many. *Paul Geelan*

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**Retirement with meaning.** Are you retired or about to retire? Do you still have more to give? Impact the world as a paid travelling missionary or volunteer. Join the International Children's Care "Just Go" challenge today. Phone 1300 881 846.

**Landsborough church, Qld,** is turning 50. All past ministers, members and friends are invited to celebrate with us on June 14, 2008. The program starts at 10 am and will be followed by a combined lunch. RSVP by June 1, 2008, to P Lewis on (07) 5494 6496 or email <[pinkielewis@bigpond.com](mailto:pinkielewis@bigpond.com)>.

## Advertisements

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**Closure of all Central Coast churches,** NNSW Conference on May 31 for a combined worship program at the Central Coast Adventist School, Penroes Crescent, Erina. The closure will effect the following churches: The Entrance, Gosford, Erina, The Haven, Kanwal, Ourimbah, Woy Woy, Wyong Community.

**Avondale College Homecoming, August 29-31, 2008.** Reminisce! Meet classmates from the 1938, 1948, 1958, 1968, 1978, 1983, 1988 and 1998 honour years. Register by June 30 for a discount. <www.avondale.edu.au/alumni>.

**The Central Papua Conference** is holding a Centennial Celebration, June 13-24, 2008. If anyone has contact information for the following pioneer missionaries to Papua or their families, please contact Pr Gilbert Egu on <gilbertegu@yahoo.com>; phone (675) 321 5376/321 1022; fax (675) 321 2730; Pr Septimus and Edith Carr (1908); Gordon and Mrs Smith (1909); Mr F L Chaney (1910); Mr A N Lawson (1911); Pr G F Jones (1921); Gerald Peacock (1923); Pr William N Lock (1924); Pr Englebrecht (1927); Mr C J Howell (1928); Pr Mitchell (1930); Pr Ross James and Mrs Alma Wiles (1931); Mr L I Howell (1931); Mr S C Pennington (1934); Pr Ken Gray (1936); Pr R F Frame (1936); Mr Boehm, Pr Pascore, Pr Judd, Mr Nolan, Mr Fred, Mr Burke, Mr Stanley and Mabel, Mr Jack Radly (captain of Diari), Pr Campbell, Pr Lester Lock, Pr and Mrs Stocken, Pr Lemekie; Dick and Jessie Richardson

(1931); Willie and Minnie Shepherd (1933); Stanley Shepherd; Beni and Aliti Tavodi (1908-1918); Mr and Mrs Fika Mitieli (1913); Naphtali Navara (1924); Ratu Tevita Daivalu (1925); Maika and Tokasa Daunika (1917); Tereti and Kelera Nigara (1930); Semeti and Aliti Gade (1930); Mr Solomona (1910); Tutuo (1940); Ngodoro Sogavare Loka (1938); Tauku and Jesi (1936); Ngava (1942).

**Nowra Cottage dedication.** All past and present members and friends of the Nowra church, NSW, are invited to our cottage dedication on June 21, 2008. This will be a fun day of fellowship, food (lunch provided) and a great time to catch up with old friends. Program starts 9.15 am. Enquiries and RSVP Rosalie Cook by June 7, at <robjcook@internode.on.net>.

**For sale.** 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom brick home. 108 acres, quiet secluded property backing onto Border Ranges National Park, 35 km Kyogle, NNSW. \$A565,000. Permanent creek. Phone (02) 6636 4275.

## Finally

The way to overcome the angry man is with gentleness, the evil man with goodness, the miser with generosity and the liar with truth.

## The Methuselah Files: Ageing gracefully

You ask me many questions about my age. Why am I so old? What does it feel like to be old, to have outlived all others and be venerated as the oldest person in history? I would rather be remembered for greater things. Alas, I am old simply because I have lived for so long. Becoming old is not a choice, and not necessarily an achievement. It is just one of those things that happen if you live for a long time.

You see, Noar, I am more than 900 years old and you are nearly 400. Yet no-one would describe you as old. You are in your prime and a new world of challenge lies before you. We are truly old only when we think we are old. My body may be weakened by time, but my mind is still sound and my heart still sings. I have little or no choice in becoming old, but I have chosen to celebrate my longevity and relish the quality of extended life. To be close to friends and family, to have my simple needs met, to be comfortable and secure—I am blessed, content and happy.

Some see old age as the beginning of death. I choose to see it as the grand finale of life. For me, these years are for living and not for dying. A time to relish and savour. Like repose after a splendid meal it is a time to contemplate and enjoy the company of fine people.

For me, this is the glorious splendour of the setting sun, painting the finishing touches to the perfect day of my long life.



(COFFEE)

Mef-Uz-Alla speaks to young Noar about deep and meaningful things

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