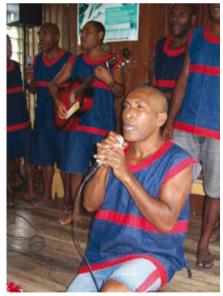
RECORDO Winter, 2008

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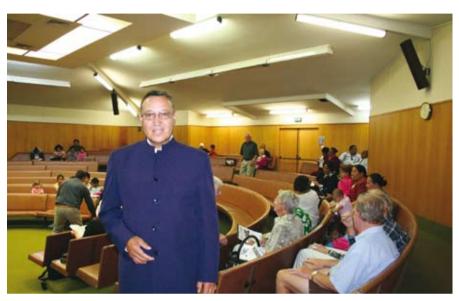
Teacher training in Vanuatu

Samoan outreach brings growth

Animism to Christianity



Prisoners attend Lae church



Pastor Allan Brown inside the new church building in Gisborne, home to one of New Zealand's oldest Adventist congregations.

Historic NZ church dedicates new building

GISBORNE, NEW ZEALAND

the evening.

Ellen White, one of the Adventist Church's founding pioneers, conducted open-air evangelistic meetings on Sunday afternoons in Gisborne in the 1890s. Her meetings were successful in breaking down prejudices and increasing attendance at church.

"There is a lot of history in the Gisborne church, which is very signification to Adventist history in New Zealand," says Allan Brown, pastor of the church. "We not only want to share our Adventist faith in our city but also up and down the coastal areas for almost 250 kilometres."—*Melody Tan*

isborne Adventist church, one of

the first four Adventist churches

established in New Zealand, dedi-

cated its new church building on

May 17. Pastor Jerry Matthews, president

of the New Zealand Pacific Union Con-

ference, conducted the dedication service.

The mayor of Gisborne, Meng Foon, was

Some 300 people from the local commu-

nity, nearby Napier and Hastings Advent-

ist churches, musicians and the choir from

the Pakuranga Adventist church attended

the church's celebrations, which included

a ribbon-cutting ceremony and concert in

among the special guests.

editorial



We need Bible study and worship focused on the principles of salvation.

Animism to Christianity

Y PARENTS LEFT THE HEATHEN practices of worshipping the spirits of our ancestors to become Adventist Christians. They were part of an animist society, so when anything happened in the village, it was seen as the work of the spirits.

My parents had inherited the attitudes of praying to the spirits, such as mumbling words at night and burning the bark of certain trees near sacred waters to intercede for sick children. But these practices changed when they accepted Adventist Christian beliefs.

I remember, before leaving home at the age of seven to pursue education, my mother would sit up at night praying for us children. My father died from a snake bite while we were still small, and she became a mother and father to us. She totally committed her life to God. She became a model in our lives as a praying mother, yet she was illiterate. She would quote passages of Scripture she had heard, and paraphrase them into her language as she prayed and conducted worship for us.

Worshipping the unknown gods of the ancestors had somewhat prepared my mother's attitude toward prayer, dependence on and faithfulness to the God of the universe. The fear and respect she had for the spirits of the ancestors was replaced by reverence and awe for the God of heaven. She continued her role of praying mother until her death in 2004, aged 84. I believe she outlived many people in our village because of her faith in God and her time spent in prayer.

But this transition from traditional worship system to Christianity can be quite painful and these changes are possible only by God's grace. The devil uses these schemes to keep many people alienated from God without hope. The traditional animistic lifestyle has blinded many people, so they are unable to see His power and grace.

But we thank God through Jesus Christ that we are reconciled to God, no longer strangers and enemies to Him. Instead, we are His friends: "Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household" (Ephesians 2:19, NIV).

It is not who or what we are that counts. It was God who loved us first (see Romans 5:8). He died for us—and the death of Christ makes the difference. Our salvation is assured.

My people's lifestyle and belief systems have affected their behaviours, which were dominated by tribalism, fear and superstition. All these behaviours were reinforced by their traditional, ancestral systems of worship. But worshipping the spirits of ancestors is only temporary, like building our lives on wood, hay and stubble. According to Paul, these kind of things will be burned up (see 1 Corinthians 3:10-15).

But when we recognise what God has done for us and accept His offer of grace, there comes a change of character and attitude. We put off old sinful habits in order to put on Christ (see Colossians 3:8, 9). A changed life through Christ—a life of faith in God—is like building with permanent materials, like silver and gold, on a firm foundation. And we need durable Christians today, when secularism is even creeping into the Adventist community.

But another major problem beginning to creep into our society today—particularly in Papua New Guinea—is cult practices. Many young people in our schools are practising cult worship—turning back to ancestral ideologies and spirit worship. These young people are reading books on occult and other spirit practices. The traditional spirit worship deserted by our older people is being picked up by children. This is a big challenge in our church today—a mixture of modern occultism and the ancient worship of the spirits of ancestors.

For this reason, we need Bible study and worship focused on the principles of salvation. We need them presented powerfully yet simply, so the temporary belief systems of our people can be diverted to more durable belief systems based on the Word of God, with Christ as the centre of our lives.

When the Word of God settles in our minds and hearts, tithe paying, Sabbath keeping, commitment to working for God, good behaviour and remaining faithful in the church will be the natural results of our being saved by God's wonderful grace.

> Thomas Davai President Papua New Guinea Union Mission



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Program helps untrained teachers in Vanuatu

PORT VILA, VANUATU

uring the first week of May, a Pacific Bible in-service program was run for teachers in Vanuatu. At Santo, 98 teachers arrived for the program, 85 of whom were untrained. These untrained teachers were mainly high school leavers, although some had left school in Year 6.

Ken Weslake, associate director of Adventist Education for the South Pacific Division, says, "Their villages have recognised the value of education, though the Vanuatu Administrative Office is unable to fund the teachers or the school in any way. This does not deter these folk, who simply choose a high school student to teach their schoolchildren."

Tomara Fred was one of the teachers who attended the program, travelling by canoe and ute in order to be there. Aged 16, she completed schooling up to the first half of Year 11. Her village in Malau, in the Sanma Province, needed her to teach their Year 2 class of nine students, so she put her education on hold. She says she wants to be a teacher and will eventually go to the Vanuatu Teachers College in



Tomara Fred, one of the teachers who attended the program.

Port Vila.

Prior to the Pacific Bible program, Ms Fred had only one book to teach reading lessons to the class for the year. Having a new text was "overwhelming."

Peter and Glenda Roberts and their team are working to train 60 teachers in Vanuatu, with financial help from the Adventist Development and Relief Agency.

"They work in difficult situations with little or no pay, often isolated from main centres," says Mr Weslake. "Their level of commitment and sacrifice to enable young students to obtain an education is quite humbling—a lesson to us all." —*RECORD staff/Ken Weslake*

Samoan outreach brings growth

BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND

baptism at the conclusion of an outreach series, conducted in April by two Samoan churches in the northern suburbs of Brisbane—Scarborough and Deception Bay—included drama and celebration. Speaker for the series was Pastor Uili Solofa, president of the Samoas— Tokelau Mission.

On the final night of the meetings, Pastor Solofa made an appeal for those wanting to be baptised. Peniamina and Tofamamao Iakopo, a couple who have been active in their church, responded and requested that they be able to participate in the baptism the following morning with 13 others, but asked that they first be married that night. So after the Friday night program, Pastor Solofa and local pastor Andrew Feavea'i led a service of commitment.

While waiting to be baptised the next morning, Mrs Iakopo, who was nearing the end of her pregnancy, began to feel pains and was rushed to hospital. A doctor examined her and told the expectant parents it was a false alarm, after which the Iakopos returned to the church. A second baptismal service was quickly arranged that afternoon. The Iakopos' son was born the following week. —*Taimamao Siope*



♦ Women's Ministry and Family Life director for the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM), Agnes Kola (pictured left with her husband), will do her Doctorate in Ministry in the Philippines, after being sponsored by ADRA through the Church Partnership Program (CPP) with AusAid. Her studies will focus on family issues. CPP through ADRA is also

sponsoring Judith Nagamisovo, Children's Ministries director for PNGUM, to do her Masters in Family Life through Avondale College. Intern program co-ordinator Darren Yorio said the women would "be better equipped to support the needs of women and children in the community." Violence against these groups is a prominent development problem in the country. Mrs Kola's husband, Pastor Benjamin Kola, is currently doing his Masters at Avondale College but will also transfer his studies to the Philippines. -Nancy Lagdom



◆ The Bay City Company, Hervey Bay, Qld, has met for the past five years in the local Urangan Salvation Army complex. As a gesture of appreciation, they collect each year for the Red Shield Appeal. Their star collector, Warren Bradford (pictured), collected more than \$A1700 this year.—Bruce Price

A memorable day of reminisc-

ing and fellowship was held at the Harrisville church reunion (Qld) on May 17. More than 150 people were in attendance for the worship service, led by Pastor Alec Gazsik as he related many experiences of his time in ministry. The day's programs were filled with music, photos and stories of yesterday and today. Six present and past ministers told of their experiences at Harrisville in the afternoon program. The reunion cake was cut by sisters Rose Salomon and Hazel Jones, two original members.—Gavin and Loretta Uprichard

Prisoners attend Adventist church in Lae

LAE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Seven inmates from the Buimo Prison in Lae, Papua New Guinea, recently led out in the Sabbath-school program held at Lae's Two Mile Adventist church. The inmates used drama and songs to share their message.

The drama centred

around the story of how the neglect of one of the inmates led him to criminal activities and conviction, then to his subsequent conversion while in prison. One of the inmates also led out in the Biblestudy discussion.

Many church members were moved to tears by the presentations from the prisoners. Kenneth Kavon, senior church elder of Two Mile, said the presentations by the inmates should help church members value their children and how they bring them up.

The church members mingled with the inmates after church during a pot-



The inmates who led out at Lae's Two Mile Adventist church's Sabbath-school program recently.

luck lunch.

All seven inmates are serving longterm prison sentences and are classified as "high risk" but have been allowed to worship with the community due to their conversion and good example to other prisoners.

This is the second time the inmates have worshipped with an Adventist congregation outside prison. Earlier this year, the group worshipped with the Four Mile Adventist church, also in Lae. They plan to make at least four congregational visits this year.—*Matupit Darius/RECORD staff*

More @ www.adventist.org.au

Website launch for Enga church association

KANDEP, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

n May 2, the Warakamb Adventist Elite and Clergyman Association Inc (WAECA Inc) launched an official website, <www.waeca.com>.

This development is possibly the first of its kind in Papua New Guinea. WAECA Inc is an association of the Warakamb Adventist church in Kandep, Enga Province. It is made up of pastors, church members and students from the local area and, since its creation in 1998, WAECA Inc has been actively involved in planting new churches, holding evangelistic outreach meetings, conducting health seminars, promoting law and order, and supporting education and literacy efforts.

The website explains the association's core activities, as well as its founding principles and values. The website is expected to help connect the association and local church with other Adventist organisations in the country and world.

Some of WAECA Inc's founding members include Pastor Kep Karte, Dick Eyoki Vep, Daniel Kop, Dr Kelly Kep and Pastor Kembol Kep.—*Priscilla Elwin*

More @ www.waeca.com



◆ Students on Avondale College's Lake Macquarie, NSW, campus have received 2500 biscuits from the president's wife to help them through the "mad month of May," when students are completing assignments and preparing for their exams. Wendy Cox shared her idea with the deaconesses at Avondale College church, who

agreed to help organise the drive. Each student in the residences received a pack of six biscuits, baked specially for them, with individual dietary needs taken into consideration. More than 50 students showed their appreciation by signing a large card displayed in the foyer of the church on May 24. About the same number (43) of church members volunteered. Some baked 100 or more biscuits.—*Bruce Manners/Kristin Thiele*

Young people of Kukum

church, Solomon Islands, concluded their "Voice of Youth" program on May 18. The four main youth groups of the church—Honik, Topaz, Vay and Vakay—organised the programs to target young people and encourage them to come back to God. The program started Friday, with various youth members leading out and preaching the sermons. —Jeremy Inifiri/Solomon Star

◆ Heritage College's Year 5-6 classes continued their annual tradition of taking Mother's



Day gifts—this year it was "promise boxes"—to neighbouring homes. One local resident rang the school and said she was "blown away" by the student's courtesy and the school's generosity for this special day. Another mother broke down and cried tears of joy, such was her appreciation. —*Mike Dye*

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Positions vacant

▲ Receptionist/Administrative Assistant Contract Position—Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia (Wahroonga, NSW), is seeking a receptionist/ administrative professional to provide a welcoming environment for guests and staff, care for incoming and outgoing communications, and provide administrative support to the agency for 28 hours a week. This four-month contract position requires excellent telephone skills, strong organisational ability, initiative and the ability to provide quality customer service. For further information, please visit the "positions vacant" section of the SPD website at <htp://hr.adventistconnect.org/> or contact Cindy Cox on (02) 9489 5488. Applications in writing should be forwarded to Human Resources, ADRA Australia, PO Box 129, Wahroonga NSW 2076; or email <cox@adra.org.au>. Applications close June 17, 2008.

▲ Bursar—Heritage College (Narre Warren South, Victoria), is seeking to fill a bursar's position on a nine-month maternity leave contract. Excellent computer skills are a necessity and experience with Maze software would be a great asset. On-the-job training will be provided, commencing August 2008. This position will then revert to a secretary/receptionist role from mid 2009, at our new secondary campus at Officer, ten kilometres away. For further information, contact Principal Stuart Barons on (03) 9796 0100 or email cprincipal@heritagecollege.com.au>. Applications close July 4, 2008.

▲ Payroll Clerk (full time)—Avondale College (Cooranbong, NSW), with relevant experience to commence July 28, 2008. The payroll clerk is required to provide payroll and personnel services, as well as assistance to staff and management as required, including processing fortnightly payroll, management reports, wage and salary administration, award policy and legislative advice. They will report to the financial controller. For the selection criteria of the above position, please visit <www.avondale.edu.au>. Applications addressing the selection criteria with contact details of at least three referees should be emailed to <employment@avondale.edu.au> or write to HR Officer, Avondale College, PO Box 19, Cooranbong NSW 2265, (02) 4980 2284. Applications close June 26, 2008.

▲ Scholars—Avondale College (Cooranbong, NSW). Persons interested in contributing to the scholarly activity of Avondale in either a full-time, part-time or temporary capacity as conjoint staff, post doctoral fellows, visiting scholars, sessional staff, Level D or E research leaders, or in any other capacity are invited to forward their CV to Dr Vivienne Watts (vice-president for Administration and Research) at <vivienne.watts@avondale.edu.au>.Further information is available at <htp:// www.avondale.edu.au/staff::Jobs_@_Avondale/> or by calling (02) 4980 2120.

▲ Research Higher Degree Students—Avondale College (Cooranbong, NSW). Persons interested in pursuing a PhD or research masters degree at Avondale in education, theology, health or history are invited to apply. A limited number of scholarships are available. For further information, contact Vivienne Watts (vicepresident for Administration and Research) at <vivienne.watts@avondale.edu. au>. Further information is available at <http://www.avondale.edu.au/courses/ Postgraduate/> or by calling (02) 4980 2120.

▲ Administrative Assistant/Receptionist—Avondale Adventist Aged Care Facility (Cooranbong, NSW) is seeking applications for the full-time position of administrative assistant to the Director of Nursing and front desk receptionist on Level I of their new state-of-the-art aged care facility. Commencing June 23. The successful applicant will be an enthusiastic, experienced personal assistant/receptionist who enjoys meeting people and working in a busy environment. They will possess highly-developed organisational, time-management and communication skills and will have previous experience, preferably with a Certificate IV in Business Administration or higher. Applicants should address how they meet the criteria in a cover letter, and forward this with their resume, references and any relevant certificates. For further enquiries, phone (02) 4977 0148. Send applications to Beverly Moss, Director of Nursing; fax (02) 49770146 or email <don@aacnnsw.com.au>. Applications close June 18, 2008.

Appreciation

Cresswell, John. Barbara and family wish to thank all those who sent flowers and cards, and for all the support given through calls and prayers at the time of John's passing. He is now resting in Jesus, till He comes. Please accept our heartfelt thanks to all.

Weddings

Butler—Judge. Dean Butler, son of Colin and Mary Butler (Central Coast, NSW), and Lynda Michelle Judge, daughter of Walter Stocken and Joan Judge (Cooranbong), were married on 17.5.08 at "The Pines," Avoca Beach, Central Coast. The couple met at a camp.

Wayne French

Dykes—Sequerah. Trevor Andrew Dykes, son of Rodney and Elizabeth Dykes (WA), and Kylie Renee Sequerah, daughter of Desmond and Cheryl Sequerah (WA), were married on 4.5.08 in the Carmel church, Carmel.

Gervais Cangy

Volunteers!

Builder—Fiji. Builders are needed for a fly'n'build trip to Fiji, from December 3 to 23, 2008. For more information, please call Hayley on (02) 9847 3275.



Jacobson—Olujic. Martin (Ross) Jacobson, son of Arthur (deceased) and Lois Jacobson (Widgee via Gympie, Qld), and Jane Olujic, daughter of Joseph Olujic (deceased) and Maria Radmacher (Hervey Bay), were married on 18.5.08 in the Queens Park Gardens, Maryborough.

Phil Downing

Ramsdale—Allen. Marc Ramsdale, son of David and Lorraine Ramsdale (Croydon, Vic), and Natalie Allen. daughter of Len and Nola Allen (Mount Eliza), were married on 25.5.08 at "Elizabeth Lodge," Blackburn North. Morrie Krieg

Obituaries

Jackson, Robert Mitchell, born 15.9.1934 in Adelaide, SA; died 1.5.08 at Port Pirie. In May 1991, he married Kamala Wati. He is survived by his wife (Adelaide); and his two sisters, Marjorie Fribbins (Adelaide), and John and Ruth Bates (Adelaide). Robert joined the church on 13.12.03, being baptised by Pastor Angus McPhee. He was a wellknown personality in Port Pirie.

Rev G Vawser, Glynn Slade

Leatuavao, Malo, born 5.6.1923; died peacefully 20.4.08 in the Malietoa Tanumafili Hospital, Apia, Samoa. She is survived by nine of her 10 children; her 59 grandchildren; her 50 greatgrandchildren; and one great-greatgrandchild; her brother; and her four sisters. She was much loved and will be sadly missed. She died in the hope of the Resurrection. We shall see you in the morning.

Asofitu Leatuavao

Horton, Nadia, born 29.4.1924 at Rostov, Russia; died 14.4.08 at Hervey Bay, Qld. On 5.1.1958, she was married to Alex Desmond Horton. She is survived by her husband (Maryborough, Qld).

John Rabbas Graeme Bergen, Phil Bergen

Advertisements

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Finally

I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it but because by it, I see everything else.—*C S Lewis*

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