

# RECORD

June 21, 2008

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## Children's Ministries expo in TPUM



*The RECORD editorial team look over some of the hundreds of completed surveys received from readers since February.*

## RECORD helps us stay connected: survey

WARBURTON, VICTORIA

**R**ECORD readers value the community and interaction created and allowed by the weekly publication. This is one of the key conclusions drawn from the results of RECORD's reader survey, which was included in the February 2 issue of the magazine and was also available for completion online over the past few months.

"Without wanting to be too self-congratulatory, we have been pleased with the level of response to the survey, as well as being pleasantly surprised by the overall positive nature of the feedback we have received," says RECORD editor Nathan

Brown. "Whenever we invite comments in such a way, we will undoubtedly receive a wide spectrum of opinion. We are most likely to hear from those with stronger feelings—which are often negative about some aspect of what we are doing—but many people also took the opportunity to express their appreciation for RECORD and to thank our editorial team for what we do."

Among RECORD readers, the most popular single component of the magazine were letters to the editor, closely followed by Noticeboard and feature articles.

*(Continued on page 4)*



Giving is the ultimate rebuttal to an economy built on getting and having.

# Different economics

**M**OST OF THE BIGGEST NEWS STORIES so far this year have been focused on economics. From stock markets, exchange rates, interest rates, oil prices and food shortages in some parts of the world, many of the economic systems and impacts we have tended to take for granted as a society are being brought into focus and questioned, particularly with regard to sustainability. As Christians, we are asked the same questions but they offer us the opportunity to urge some different answers.

One of the first realisations is a reminder that much of the current economic systems of our world—based as they are on greed, exploitation, injustice and absurd over-consumption—is wrong. That may not be the easiest thing to say. In times of stress, people tend to stick to what they know.

But the economic theory on which we base so much of our lives is that which “inspires our pursuit of as much resource use and waste production (also known as economic growth) as possible, as fast as possible” (Brian McLaren, *Everything Must Change*). The comparative privilege enjoyed by most of us in the developed world is subsidised at the expense of the rest of the world. We need to be prepared to recognise it for the wrong it is, and use the stresses of economically difficult times to prompt us to consider how we, individually and as a society, might do things better.

As part of this process we need to ask ourselves if our lives, and even our faith, are so

entangled in the economy as it is that we are unable to imagine other ways of ordering our world. Those who promote and profit from our economic systems have powerful voices, tuned to convince us of their importance and pre-eminence. Indeed, the prevailing economic forces can be described as “a religious movement of previously unheard-of proportions. Progress is its underlying myth, unlimited economic growth its foundational faith, the shopping mall (physical or online) its place of worship, consumerism its overriding image, ‘I’ll have a Big Mac and fries’ its ritual of initiation, and global domination its ultimate goal” (Brian J Walsh and Sylvia C Keesmaat, *Colossians Remixed*).

In the face of rampant market-driven capitalism, it’s increasingly clear why Jesus said, “You cannot serve God and money” (Matthew 6:24, NLT). He went on to urge that we should not worry about what we eat, drink or wear—and the list would probably be much longer if the Sermon on the Mount had been preached to 21st-century consumers in a shopping centre, rather than to rural peasants on a hillside. Jesus reminds us to look first to God who “already knows all your needs” and “will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern” (Matthew 6:32, 33, NLT).

But even as we ask these questions of our own lives, we need to quickly realise that the poor and already disadvantaged are always first to suffer from whatever stresses impact society. We must be asking how we,

as individuals and as churches, can reach out to help those who are hurting financially, physically and emotionally, in our communities and around the world.

Giving is the ultimate rebuttal to an economy built on getting and having. We must resist the temptations uncertain times bring to try to build walls of protection around ourselves. Instead, as Jesus recommended, by our generosity and faithfulness we demonstrate that our treasure is to be found in the kingdom of heaven (see Matthew 6:20). Even in pondering various end-time scenarios—in which economic turbulence often seems to figure—we must shift the focus away from mere self-preservation, whether spiritual or physical.

Adventist writer Chris Blake offers an inspiring alternative vision of the people of God responding to potential crises: “Let God’s people transition to new models of transforming grace of Christian community. Christianity has never been about isolationism, and never will be. . . . In the midst of imminent collapse, Adventist homes open to the dispossessed and fearful. Adventist churches and schools become cities of refuge and outposts of mercy. Sanctuaries house the homeless. Playing fields plough up into gardens. As a world self-destructs, Chapter 2 of Acts emerges before our wondering eyes. . . . This is our finest hour” (*Swimming Against the Current*).

Nathan Brown



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

# TPUM leaders learn to “tell kids about Jesus”

NADI, FIJI

More than 450 participants from around the Pacific met in Nadi, Fiji, for the Trans-Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) Children’s Ministries Expo. Every mission sent delegates, with more than 100 coming from the Solomon Islands Mission.

A total of 54 workshops were offered over the three days of the expo, using the skills of 25 presenters, with the aim of training leaders in their ministry roles and empowering them to tell children about Jesus.

“It was a wonderful three days of learning and fellowship,” says Julie Weslake, director of Children’s Ministries for the South Pacific Division (SPD). “The expo com-



Children from Suvavou church preached on the Sabbath morning of the expo.

menced with a traditional welcome and a speech from Fiji’s minister of education, the Honourable Filipe Bole. Pastor Stuart Tyner was the plenary speaker and he touched many lives with his stories of grace from the Old and New Testaments.

“I know that many children’s eternal lives will be saved as a result of this expo.”

Pastor Bob Bolst, director of Adventist Volunteer Services for the SPD, led participants through a presentation on the life and sacrifice of Jesus on the Friday night of the expo.

Children from Suvavou church preached on the Sabbath morning, using the “Rock-Solid Kids” sermon from the *Kids Preach* book. Mrs Weslake says, “They led participants to a closer understanding of the plans God has for children and how we, as a church family, and parents can teach and support them.”

After the reports from each of the missions on Sabbath afternoon, awards were presented for outstanding service and commitment to the spiritual development of children. Awards were given to Wainikiti Vakamocea, Adilala Rew, Puaga Solofa, Jenny Nampon, Rusila Posala and Janet Rieger.



Pastor Stuart Tyner with delegates from the Fiji Mission.

Abide Family Ministries led out in worship for the weekend, taught new songs and showed people how to use music, puppetry and ballooning to lead children to Jesus.

“It was a very successful expo,” says Marica Tokalau, the TPUM director of Children’s Ministries. “Many people now have great ideas of what they can do in their missions to help children, not only in Sabbath school but in all areas of their spiritual development. My thanks goes to the many presenters for sharing their passion and skills, and also to the many participants who were committed to learning so they can share with their churches.”—*RECORD staff/Julie Weslake*



◆ **Southland Adventist Christian School, Invercargill, NZ**, recently received a visit from nine students and four staff members from their sister school, **Christchurch Adventist School**, 500 kilometres away. The visitors came for a week and ran the school’s week of prayer

while receiving a write up in the local **Southland Express** for their community work, as they helped sweep footpaths and clean animal pens at **Queens Park**. For many of the children, it was the first time they had been that far south. Teacher **Nicolette Botha** says it was an opportunity the students embraced. “These guys have a really positive attitude and it’s great to see the bonds forming between the younger and older students,” she says. —*RECORD Staff/Southland Express*



◆ **Ballarat church’s (Vic) augmented choir** recently featured in the region’s **13th annual Choral festival**, presenting a message of hope in song when they sang “Somebody bigger than you and I” and “Sing O Lord.” The presentation by the choir was directed and accompanied by local church member **Fran**

**Thomas** on the piano. “Coming alive with the sound of music” was how the **Ballarat Courier** headlined its report on the festival, which boasted 12 choirs from

the Ballarat district performing hymns and classical music. St Andrew’s Kirk (Uniting Church) on Sturt Street was almost filled with listeners and the event’s organiser, **Mrs Whittle**, who also directs the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints choir, said it was a great success. —*Merrilyn Hastings*

# RECORD helps us stay connected: survey

(Continued from page 1)

There was also a high level of appreciation for the monthly insert, *Adventist World*, and the connection it gives to the Adventist church beyond the South Pacific.

More than 80 per cent of survey respondents were older than 45, most read RECORD every week and two-thirds of respondents were women. "I look forward to receiving RECORD each Sabbath," commented one reader. "Otherwise there would be something missing on Sabbath."

Emphasising the role RECORD plays in connecting church members to the mission, services, events and initiatives of the church, about two-thirds of readers said they have responded to advertising in RECORD. Most readers said they had access to sufficient church news and information and—as might be expected of RECORD readers—RECORD, followed by conference newsletters, was by far their most significant church news source.

"Of course, there was some criticism of the way news is reported," reflects Mr Brown. "Comments like 'RECORD has lost its integrity—I miss the depth' do cause us to think about what we do and how we can do better."

"We want to produce a church news magazine that can be enjoyed by people

from right across the South Pacific Division," says Pastor Barry Oliver, president of the South Pacific Division and consulting editor of RECORD. "This is an impossible task in many ways but we are going to continue to do our best.

"Not every aspect of what we come up with will meet everyone's needs or expectations. But we hope there will be something for everyone each week, which will enhance their walk with the Lord and their engagement with their church family."

Of surveys received, about one-fifth were completed on the RECORD website and, while there was some interest in the potential for RECORD to have an expanded online presence, there was a strong desire for the weekly printed magazine.

One common response was the request for health information and recipes to be included regularly in RECORD. In partnership with Sanitarium Nutrition Service, RECORD has begun including such a feature on a monthly basis, since the survey was launched.

According to Mr Brown, most gratifying are the stories people took the opportunity to briefly share about how RECORD keeps them connected. "There were a number of readers from around the world for whom RECORD is a way of keeping in touch with home," he reports. "We received re-

sponses from people in the United States, Denmark, Korea, Japan and other places, as well as comments from expatriates living and working away from their homes within the South Pacific.

"I enjoy reading RECORD and would like to thank the South Pacific Division for sending it overseas to us. It's the only contact we have with what's going on back home in regards to the church' was one such comment."

Another respondent—one of a few such stories—said, "I was out of the church for 20 years and my mum sent me RECORD in bundles. RECORD kept me connected." Others told of sharing RECORD with former or non-Adventist friends.

"Thank you to everyone who completed one of these surveys," says Mr Brown. "While we do receive feedback from week to week, it is good to ask for and receive this type of honest response. Some of the suggestions are already in place and others will be considered as we continue to work with the magazine.

"We appreciate RECORD readers because they are what the magazine is about," he says. "It is a privilege to work with RECORD and not something we take lightly, but more importantly we are part of the larger body that is the church in the South Pacific."—RECORD staff



◆ The **Nunawading church youth group (Vic)** took part in the annual Victorian Bible League's **Walk4Bibles**, raising \$A700 to purchase Bibles for Christians in need of copies of the Scriptures. However, the day set aside for the walk, May 17, was the coldest and wettest May day in Melbourne for 31 years. In the

teeming rain, 19 Nunawading young people and leaders walked **seven kilometres** at Cape Schanck on the Mornington Peninsula. The \$A700 will supply **100 Bibles** for the cause. This year's Bible League project is to supply Bibles for the approximately 50 million Christians in China out of 80 million who do not have a Bible. —*Bronwyn Rowe*

◆ Last October, the **Hamilton church, NZ**, ran a four-week "**Eating for Health**" program of cooking demonstrations and

lectures that was so popular it never stopped. In is now the "Eating for Health" recipe club, and members meet once a month to learn about healthy living and watch a demonstration of **vegetarian cooking**. The group has grown, as original participants have brought along family and friends, making the club a true family night out. May 27 was the 10th program and, as a form of celebration, the format was changed to a party. Each participant brought a homemade vegetarian dish. They had to explain

to the group how it was prepared and **Chef Paul Fenech**, who has been conducting the cooking demonstrations, tasted each dish and gave constructive feedback. Everyone then had the chance to sample the sumptuous and delicious fare. They were also able to vote for their favourite dishes. —*Spectator/Lynette Tung*

◆ On May 2, the Year 6 and 7 classes of **Prescott Primary Northern, SA**, took part in the **Wheelienet Schools Program**, which uses wheelchairs as a tool

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ JUNE 21—PACIFIC ISLANDS ADVANCEMENT OFFERING

# New Pacific Bible program enjoys success

## WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Principals and teachers from Seventh-day Adventist schools in the Solomon Islands, the Cook Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu are now equipped to teach their students from a new Pacific Bible program introduced late last year.

Training for using the new textbooks concluded last month, with teachers keen to start on the program as soon as possible.

"It's the first week of term two and there is already excitement in the schools about the new Bible program," Lusiana Vuniwa, one of the authors of the program, says. "The children don't want the lessons to end and some teachers have had tears rolling down their cheeks because [the children

they taught] all raised their hands to show they want to give their hearts to Jesus."

Six Adventist educators from the Pacific Islands helped design the program, which is based on the popular *Uncle Arthur's The Bible Story*.

"The new program is dynamic enough to not just lead children to Christ but to lead others to Christ as well," says Ken Weslake, associate director of Adventist Education for the South Pacific Division. "It's a totally new way of teaching the Bible. We will have to do several more training events over the next few years."

According to Mr Weslake, a letter by a Grade 7 student in Papua New Guinea "captured the whole essence of the program."

In the letter, Foi Suke says, "I chose to do one thing my Bible teacher taught me [on] how to help the poor." Foi proceeded to do a case study on a girl living in the Eastern Highlands Province.

"I invited her several times to have dinner with my family and shared clothes with her. I also invited her to attend worship on Sabbath and now she regularly comes to church," she writes. "I love [the



*Educators in Vanuatu learning how to use the new Bible program.*

service activity my teacher gave me to do... everyone has to do the work of soul winning."

Every Adventist primary school in the Papua New Guinea Union Mission and Trans-Pacific Union Mission will receive at least one set of *Uncle Arthur's The Bible Story* in conjunction with the new Bible program.

The Bible program is also being used in Adventist schools in Taiwan and Thailand, and is about to commence in Madagascar once translation into French is completed. Training for educators in Papua New Guinea will commence later this year. —*Melody Tan*



*Lusiana Vuniwa equipping educators on how to use the new Bible program.*

to emphasise the importance of taking care in all aspects of their lives. David, from **Wheelchair Sports**, brought 12 wheelchairs for each class to spend an hour in discussion and then practice. After a few skills—360 degree turns, going backward and even rhythm to move forward—the students had the chance to play wheelchair basketball. —*SA Grape Vine*

◆ Members of **Bowral church, NSW**, are reaching out to Burmese people devastated in early May by **Cyclone Nargis**

by picking olives. Church pastor **Tony Moala** said the church members conduct the **Adventist Development and Relief Agency's (ADRA)** doorknock appeal each year, with about **\$A2000** collected in the last fundraising effort. The most recent fundraising project, conducted in May, saw about 25 church members pick olives for a day and donate their pay toward the ADRA fund. "The effort contributed more than \$1000 to people in need," says Pastor Moala. —*Southern Highland News*



◆ The **Victorian Adventist Book Centre (ABC)** has been awarded a trophy for achieving the highest sales in 2007. The trophy was presented to **Tina Gilchrist** and **Joe Tekopua** at the Signs Publishing Company's Awards dinner in April, where ABC managers from around Australia and New Zealand gathered. —*IntraVic*

◆ The **Dalby church, Qld**, had two pennant-winning stalls at the local show. The **Home Health Education Service stand** won first prize in its section and Grand Champion in the pavilion. The exhibition offered free health checks, and information on healthy living and eating. Approximately **75 people** came through the health age assessment stall and five wanted to do the **"Quit Now"** course. The church also won a second-prize pennant for the **Christian Satellite TV stand**, featuring Hope and 3ABN channels. —*Carrie Carr*

# Tithe tax rebate for New Zealand churches

## MANUKAU, NEW ZEALAND

As of April 1 in New Zealand, all tithes, local church budget donations and offerings are eligible for a rebate from the Inland Revenue Department (IRD).

The New Zealand government introduced amendments to the legislation affecting charities and donations made to charities, and this has a significant impact on the church and its members. While some changes will need to be made to processes undertaken by the church as an organisation, and its members individually, the overall impact is expected to be positive.

Changes affecting the church as an organisation are that all charities must register with the Charities Commission if they wish to continue to receive tax-exempt status with the IRD; all charities must send a copy of their annual financial statement to the commission; and all charities must open their accounts for audit by the commission.

The Adventist Church in New Zealand is registered with the Charities Commission as a group, thus each individual church doesn't need to register independently and will meet the reporting and audit requirements.

The legislative requirement gives the church some measure of protection, as from July this year, no other body will be able to solicit donations in the name of the Adventist church.

On an individual level, people who donated funds to a charity in the past could claim an exemption on the tax paid on that donation up to the limit set by the IRD. The limit for many years has been \$NZ1890 per year, thus giving a tax rebate in the vicinity of \$NZ600, depending on the individual's tax rate. The IRD has also advised that only 15 per cent of individuals ever claimed the rebate due to them by donating to a charity.

The changes in legislation remove this tax rebate and give a straight 33.33 per cent rebate on all donations to a registered charity, with the limit being set at the taxable limit of the individual. All donations made to the church will qualify for this rebate, provided a tax exempt receipt is issued, the funds are used within New Zealand and the total donations are less than the donor's taxable income.

North New Zealand Conference secretary treasurer Russell Jones will be conducting meetings for churches about the changes.

—Amy Bapty/Russell Jones

# Soup kitchen serves up Bible studies to the homeless

## BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND

Vital Connection," a non-profit volunteer/community-based soup kitchen in Brisbane, Queensland, has started providing Bible studies to the homeless and street people—known as "streeties"—of the inner city.

Volunteers Brigitta Djakovich and Ken Gale have been meeting with three men regularly over the past six months, studying the *Try Jesus* course provided by the Adventist Discovery Centre. The studies have concluded and one of the men has requested baptism, while the other two have expressed interest in further Bible studies. The group will soon be commencing a new set of studies, which are based on the parables of Jesus.

Last year, more than 500 people attended a concert held on October 14 in support of "Vital Connection" at the Brisbane City Hall, coinciding with national Anti-Poverty Week ("Brisbane concert raises awareness," News, November 17, 2007). Proceeds from the concert are helping fund the soup kitchen's work with the city's homeless people.—Rene Gale/AMN Staff

More @ [www.adventist.org.au](http://www.adventist.org.au)

◆ Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders in Northern Asia held their mid-year **executive committee meeting** in the **Democratic People's Republic of North Korea** last month, the first such meeting there since the country closed its borders in 1953. Meeting for one day in the city of Kumgangsan, church officers established Chinese theology education and examined how the General Conference funding would be used in the region. Delegates also visited the North Korea Agricultural Project, a farm run by Adventist **Pastor Kim Suk Man** of the Yang Yang Jaell

Adventist church in South Korea. For nine years, he has managed the farm in cooperation with the North Korean government and Hyundai Corporation, instructing farmers on how to produce vegetables for those in need in North Korea.—ANN

◆ The **five-year-old daughter** of contemporary Christian musician **Steven Curtis Chapman** was struck and killed by a sport utility vehicle driven by her brother, authorities said. **Maria** was hit in a driveway on the family residence. Chapman and

his wife have promoted international adoption and have three daughters from China, including **Maria**. The singer and his wife, **Mary Beth**, were persuaded by their oldest daughter to adopt a girl from China. The experience led the family to adopt two more children and create **Shaohannah's Hope**, a foundation and ministry to financially assist thousands of couples in adoption. Chapman has won five Grammy awards and 51 Dove awards from the Gospel Music Association.—ASSIST News Service

◆ United States customs officials have seized a statue of **Jesus Christ** made from plaster mixed with **cocaine**—the latest sophisticated attempt to smuggle drugs from **Mexico**. Sniffer dogs at the border crossing in Laredo, Texas, USA, alerted officials to the smell of narcotics in the three kilogram statue, which was in the boot of a car being driven by a Mexican woman. US border police arrested a 61-year-old Mexican man accused of offering the woman **\$US80** to carry the statue to the bus station in downtown Laredo.—Reuters/AFP

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

# Two ordained in WA

PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Two pastors were recently ordained in the Western Australian Conference in services led by conference president Pastor Glenn Townend.

Pastor Jameson (James) Alaggapan was ordained on April 5 at the Merriden Adventist church, during the regional day held there. His father, who is also named Pastor Jameson Alaggapan, gave the prayer of ordination during the service, which reflected the way prayer has led in Pastor Alaggapan's life.

When he was a young boy, he developed yellow fever and was close to death. His father prayed his son would be healed and dedicated James to God. His son was healed and went on to accompany his father in pastoral work. Pastor Alaggapan was baptised in Kandy, Sri Lanka, and after finishing high school, he went to study for ministry at Spicer Memorial College in India.

Pastor Alaggapan volunteered among the Karen people in Burma and undertook further study at Philippines University. He met his wife, Jean, while in Australia conducting research.

His work began in Western Australia, with the Indigenous people in Meekathara, Wiluna and the surrounding districts. In 2007, he began working in the Merredin and Narambeen areas.

Pastor Kove Tau, president of the Morobe Mission, welcomed Pastor Alaggapan to ministry. Pastor Townend's wife, Pam, welcomed Mrs Alaggapan as a partner in ministry.



Pastor Jameson Alaggapan and his wife, Jean.



Pastor Glenn Townend with Zeny and Pastor Mark Goldsmith.

Pastor Mark Goldsmith was also recently ordained in the conference. While working in the shipbuilding industry in Cairns, Queensland, Pastor Goldsmith was challenged by a fellow worker to be "fair dinkum" about his faith. The same man also unsettled Pastor Goldsmith by asking questions about his beliefs, which led him to spend 18 months studying the Bible. He discovered Jesus was the answer to faith and the Adventist church taught the most biblically-sound message.

Not long after this, he met and married his wife, Zeny. At his ordination, Pastor Goldsmith presented her with a certificate recognising her work as his partner in life and for the contribution she made to his ministry.

In 1985, the pastor of the church he attended, Pastor Maurie Woods, ran a course on preaching. Pastor Goldsmith attended and felt the call of God to enter ministry. This led to Pastor Goldsmith returning to school to complete Years 11 and 12 before taking his family to study at Avondale College in 1994.

Following his graduation, he worked at Karalundi College. He then accepted a call to work in the Mt Barker region, where he now cares for the Mt Barker, Denmark, Albany and Katanning churches.

Pastor Goldsmith is a keen fisherman and has used this passion as a way in which to connect with people in the towns.

At his ordination service, his friend Pastor Stephen Hebbard challenged Pastor Goldsmith to minister faithfully and welcomed him to the gospel ministry. Mrs Townend welcomed Mrs Goldsmith as a partner in ministry.—*Steve Goods/NewsWest*

# Guitarist wins young alumni award

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

Agifted guitarist and Avondale College graduate now has another award to add to his growing collection—the college's "Young Alumni of the Year." The award was presented on May 21 by Avondale College Alumni Association president, Pastor Roger Nixon.

Influenced by Australian guitarist Tommy Emmanuel, with whom he has played, Dale Willis has developed a technique of combining the percussive elements of slap bass notes with the thumb, and rhythm and melody with the fingers. In 2004, it earned him the title of Australian Fingerstyle Champion. He also released his first of two solo albums. The title track, "Scatterfingers," won Best Instrumental Song in the USA Songwriting Competition. It would also win an Australian Dolphin Music Award for best instrumental a year later.

Mr Willis graduated from Avondale in 2002, with a Bachelor of Arts in communication and music performance. He helped design and build the college's 32-track digital recording studio, in which he has produced or engineered a dozen albums. The Adventist Media Network has now contracted him to upgrade its audio recording facilities and to produce radio programs.

During his acceptance speech, Mr Willis shared four "P" words that have shaped his "post-Avondale experience"—professionalism, persistence, perseverance and perspective.—*Brenton Stacey*

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



Dale Willis.

Ann Stafford

# Supplements do grow on trees

**T**HE AMERICAN DIETETIC ASSOCIATION, in their highly respected position paper, state that we can obtain all the nutrients we require to meet our nutritional needs, live longer and have less chance of developing chronic disease when we follow a plant-based style of eating. By plant-based eating, they mean a style of eating that emphasises fruits and vegetables, wholegrain breads and cereals, legumes, nuts and seeds.

Red meat is promoted by some organisations for the protein, iron, zinc and vitamin B12 it provides, yet an eating style based on plant foods, soy, dairy and eggs is not only able to deliver the required amount of these nutrients, it can also protect against chronic disease, and help manage weight and blood pressure.

In fact, the potential for red meat to increase the risk of colorectal cancer and other diseases may well outweigh the few nutrients meat provides, especially since these nutrients can be gained from other sources.

So how can we meet our nutrient needs with plant foods? Let's take a look.

**Protein**—Legumes such as chickpeas, baked beans and lentils are great sources of protein. Nuts, seeds, tofu, soy or dairy milk, and wholegrains such as wheat, millet and brown rice also contribute protein for growth and repair.

**Iron**—Legumes, tofu, green leafy vegetables like spinach and bok choy, dried apricots, nuts and seeds are all sources of iron. Including a vitamin C-rich food with meals in the form of citrus, berries, capsicum or tomato will enhance the absorption of iron from these foods.

**Zinc**—This is important for our immune system and supports healing and growth in the body. Beans, nuts, wholegrain breads and cereals, wheat germ and tofu will all help in meeting zinc requirements.

**Vitamin B12**—Milk, including fortified soy milk, as well as eggs provide vitamin B12, which is needed by the body to pro-

duce red blood cells and DNA, and maintain a healthy nervous system.

And one of the most important benefits of consuming plant foods is the impact it has on the environment. We are taking a significant step toward protecting our planet when we discourage the intake of meat. It reduces the amount of methane emitted by animals and decreases the amount of land cleared for grazing. **R**

*If you would like recipes to help you include more plant foods, a free copy of our Everyday Essentials cookbook can now be ordered online at <[www.sanitarium.com.au](http://www.sanitarium.com.au)> (Australia only), freecall Sanitarium in Australia on 1800 HEALTH (1800 432 584) or email us with your nutrition question at <[nutrition@sanitarium.com.au](mailto:nutrition@sanitarium.com.au)>.*

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## Stir-fry greens with tofu

¼ cup salt-reduced vegetable stock  
2 tablespoons sweet chilli sauce  
2 tablespoons mushroom oyster sauce  
1 teaspoon sesame oil  
1 teaspoon olive oil  
½ cup raw cashews  
1 red onion, cut in thin wedges  
2 garlic cloves, crushed  
2–3 cm piece ginger, peeled and finely chopped  
1 bunch asparagus, trimmed and cut into 5 cm pieces  
1 bunch baby bok choy, trimmed, stems chopped and leaves separated  
100g snow peas, trimmed  
200g firm tofu, drained and cut into 1 cm cubes  
Steamed brown rice, to serve

1. Combine stock, sauces and sesame oil

in a jug. Set aside.

2. Heat a wok over high heat. Swirl 1 teaspoon oil around wok. Add cashews and stir-fry until golden. Transfer to a plate. Set aside.

3. Heat remaining oil in wok. Add onion. Stir-fry for 2 minutes or until tender. Add garlic, ginger, asparagus and bok choy stems. Stir-fry for 1–2 minutes until just tender.

4. Add bok choy leaves, snow peas and sauce mixture. Toss to combine. Cover and cook for 1 minute. Add tofu and stir-fry until hot. Toss through cashews and serve with steamed brown rice.

Serves 4.

*PER SERVE: 946kJ (226 Cal); Protein 11g; Total Fat 15g; Saturated Fat 2g; Carbohydrate 12g; Total Sugars 7g; Sodium 610mg; Potassium 485mg Calcium 205mg; Iron 6mg; Fibre 4g.*





# Introducing SPD Festival of Mission, 2009

BY BARRY OLIVER

**N**EVER BEFORE HAS A DIVISION-WIDE event quite like this been conducted in the South Pacific Division (SPD). Members of our church family from Tahiti to Taree, from Port Moresby to Papanui will be able to meet together for a time of spiritual renewal, mission focus, praise and worship. This has to be one of the most exciting events in our history. At the same time, it will be a time of challenge, intended to motivate us to be participants in extending the kingdom of God.

At the last SPD session, a number of significant initiatives were voted by those who attended. One of these was the convening of a major division-wide event to be conducted every five years or so, focused on the mission of the church in the world. After much prayer and planning, the Festival of Mission has been conceived. The program has been planned to include presentations to inspire and encourage us. It will include opportunity for participation and interaction by those present. The music and worship will be something I do not think we will ever forget. Having caught a few glimpses of the plans for this festival, all I can say is “bring it on.”

## What is the theme of the festival?

The theme of the festival is “Rescue, Retain, Reclaim”:

**Rescue:** Reaching out to those who need the good news;

**Retain:** Building church health and nurturing one another;

**Reclaim:** Inviting those who have left the church family to return.

Each day the speakers and the times of interaction will focus on one of these aspects of the theme.

## Where will the festival be held?

The festival is planned for September

8-13, 2009, at Watson Park Convention Centre, about 30 minutes drive north of the Brisbane International Airport. Watson Park is the convention centre of the South Queensland Conference.

## Who should attend?

The festival will provide opportunity for us to share time together as members of the South Pacific church family. In one sense, it celebrates the success of our mission in this division because, for the first time, we are bringing people together from across the SPD for a major mission-focused celebration. We have division-wide events for special groups, such as Pathfinders, youth, youth leaders and women, but this is a first and it will be something special.

This festival is open to church members from across the SPD. However, in order to provide adequate accommodation and resources, numbers must be limited. This has been done by placing a ceiling on the number of participants who are able to attend from each conference and mission in the SPD. It is therefore vital if you want to attend, you should do two things: access the information available on the SPD website at <[www.adventistconnect.org](http://www.adventistconnect.org)> and contact your local conference or mission as soon as possible. **R**

## Featured guests

There will be scores of people involved in the preparation and presentation of the Festival of Mission. Principal speakers will include:

- **Dr Jan Paulsen**, president of the worldwide General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
- **Dr Hyveth Williams**, Senior Pastor, Loma Linda Village Church, California.
- **Pastor Jose Rojas**, Director of Volunteer Ministries, North American Division.
- **Dr Lyell Heise**, Director of the Institute of Worship, Avondale College and SPD.



*Barry Oliver is president of the South Pacific Division.*

# Rediscovering church planting

BY WAYNE KRAUSE

IT SEEMS HARD TO IMAGINE THERE WAS a time in Adventist church history when an individual was refused ordination because he had never planted a church. It seems hard to imagine a time in our history when a pastor with 20 years experience was sacked because he had not planted a church. But church planting was *that* important in our early history.

Immediately prior to becoming General Conference president, A G Daniells served in New Zealand and led the church in Australia from 1892 to 1900. During his time in Australia, he oversaw church planting that saw the number of churches grow from seven to 33. Immediately after his Australian church-planting experience, he became General Conference president and watched the number of churches planted in Australia continue to grow from 33 to 137—an increase of 315 per cent in 22 years.

A G Daniells believed in church planting so passionately that while sitting on an ordination committee examining the ministry of a young man, he asked a simple question: “Brethren, what is the record of this young man? Has he brought in a company or church this year?” “No.” “Did he bring in any last year?” “No.” . . . “What do you want to ordain him for? Why are you going to establish him in this thing for all time to come when, so far, you have not any real fruit of his labour?” I said: “I sha’l (sic) object. I do not think it is right.”<sup>1</sup>

Because he had not planted a church, the young man was not ordained. To Daniells, the “fruit” of a person wanting to be ordained was in planting a church. If a person did not bear this fruit he should not be ordained. The reality is, if Daniells’ criteria for ordination was a prerequisite today, there would be few people ordained to gospel ministry in Australia or anywhere else in the Western world.

In 1912, Daniells addressed pastors at a minister’s meeting held in Los Angeles. He spoke about a “man that had been over twenty years in the ministry, . . . and yet had never presented one church to the conference for acceptance in the entire time.

The brethren said, in considering the case, ‘We do not believe this man is called to this work,’ and they relieved him. . . . Something must be done with cases like this kind. They must bring some fruit. They must bring some churches to the cause of God. The man who gives evidence before his ordination must continue to give the evidence while he draws support.”<sup>2</sup>

Daniells urged that if someone wants to be ordained to ministry that person “must bring some churches to the cause of God.” The next point is also important: once they have been ordained they “must continue to give the evidence.” Church planting was evidence of one’s fruit both before and after ordination. Under Daniells’ leading, people were sacked, even after 20 years of ministry, for not planting churches.

Daniells hoped the role of pastors as evangelistic church planters would “never cease to be the order of affairs in this denomination; for when we cease our forward movement work, and begin to settle over our churches, to stay by them, and do their thinking and their praying and their work that is to be done, then our churches will begin to weaken, and to lose their life and spirit, and become paralysed and fossilised, and our work will be on a retreat.”<sup>3</sup>

Today some people believe Daniells was wrong. They don’t want to plant new churches. They don’t seem to want “forward movement work.” They want to hold onto the churches we have—not plant new ones. Maybe this attitude was reflected in Daniells’ fear that in the future we would “cease our forward movement,” and the church would become “paralysed and fossilised, and our work will be on a retreat.”

But it wasn’t just pastors our early pioneers expected to plant churches. Ellen White also expected church members to plant churches: “As churches are established, it should be set before them that it is even from among them that men must be taken to carry the truth to others, and raise new churches.”<sup>4</sup> Church planting was, and is, the responsibility of all who are part of God’s church: “Upon all who believe, God has placed the

burden of raising up churches.”<sup>5</sup>

Today’s reality shows we have forgotten our forbears’ counsel and warning. Between 1984 and 2004, the Australian population grew by approximately 5 million. At the same time, the church in Australia grew by 4540; that is, less than 1000 joined the church for every million in population growth.<sup>6</sup>

We are losing ground. Our mission to make disciples within the context of the Three Angels’ Messages is a bigger challenge today than it was yesterday—and it will be a still bigger challenge tomorrow. When it comes to church planting, the Adventist church in Australia had the same number of churches in 2006 as it did in 1996.

It should not surprise you that current Adventist leaders are not happy with the lack of growth in disciples, nor in the fact that as a movement called by God, we seem to have forgotten our church-planting roots. This is not true in many of the South Pacific islands—the so-called mission fields—where they have little trouble planting churches. More than 100 church plants in the South Pacific received funding from Global Mission during the past four years, and it seems there were hundreds more that didn’t request funding.

But to address the challenges of church planting, particularly in Australia, New Zealand and the more secular parts of our region, the South Pacific Division has set up the Centre for Church Planting. The aim of this centre is to help re-emphasise church planting as an effective evangelistic method to make disciples. Through the unions, local conferences have been equipped to facilitate church planting.

Today, any pastor or church member can approach his or her local conference and express an interest in starting new churches. Conferences are resourced to assess potential church planters and provide coaching, along with team training, to assist in mission-minded church plants.

We will probably never get back to the stage where every pastor is a church planter. In fact, it would probably be best not to think that every church plant should have a

paid pastor. We do not have the resources to pay for new budgets, or the personnel to have full-time pastors lead the churches we will need if we are to reach Australia and New Zealand for Christ.

We need to change our thinking about church planting if we are to return to our church-planting roots. One is the belief that we need a paid pastor to plant churches. The early Christian church and the early Adventist church didn't rely on paid pastors. It was a mixture of paid pastors and unpaid church members. For church planting to again become a feature of Adventist evangelism, church members must lead the way in planting churches.

The second idea to reject is that we need church buildings to plant a church. For the first few centuries after Christ, there were no church buildings. With the cost of land and materials around Australia and New Zealand, particularly in our cities, there is no way—humanly speaking—we will ever be able to own or even rent enough buildings to house the churches needed to reach our nations. Maybe now is the time to plant new churches as the apostles and our pioneers did, in people's homes or community meeting places, such as coffee shops. As one house is filled, plant a new church in a new home.

In China, when the Communist revolution destroyed the institutional Adventist church, the church was forced to go underground and meet in people's homes. Instead of dying, the church flourished. Today, the largest Adventist church in the world is in China. This church has a membership of more than 5000, and is led by a single Adventist woman in her 30s. Most of the members don't meet together corporately in a church building; church for them is in each other's homes. What they have done through necessity, we need to do intentionally in the Western world.

During my time as an Adventist pastor, my denomination has lost ground both in Australia and the rest of Western society. I do not want a future generation to reach my friends and loved ones—I want to be part of God's advance now. I want to see the church continue its "forward movement."

Let's revitalise existing churches, where possible. But let us not forget our pioneering focus on planting churches.

It is not all gloom. Things are happening. Since the formation of the SPD Centre for Church Planting, and with the passion of key church leaders, more than 30 new church-planting initiatives have been started in Australia and New Zealand in the past four years.

Church leaders from around Australia and New Zealand are today equipped to strategically plant churches across our countries and are starting to do so.

Is this something you want to be part of? **R**

1. A G Daniells, *The Church and Ministry: Address before the Los Angeles, California Ministerial Institute, The Watchman Press, 1912, page 24.*

2. *ibid.*

3. *ibid, page 25.*

4. *Ellen White, Testimonies for the Church, Vol 3, page 205.*

5. *Ellen White, Medical Ministry, page 315.*

6. *The figures for the growth of the church in Australia are the baptisms and professions of faith minus deaths, apostasies and missing. Transfers are ignored because they only indicate the movement of those already Adventists.*

**Wayne Krause is director of the South Pacific Division's Centre of Church Planting.**

# Record Roo



Hi kids,  
Abraham and his wife, Sarah,  
were getting old and still hadn't  
had any children. One day three  
visitors stopped by and gave them a  
special message...

## Bible Text Puzzle

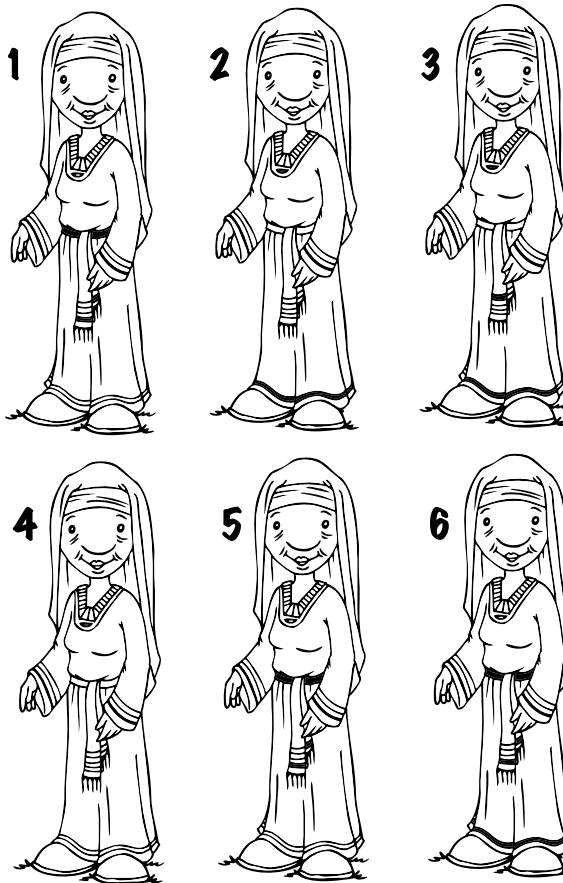
Genesis Chapter 18 tells the story of three men coming to give Abraham and Sarah a message. What did Abraham and Sarah's visitors have to say? Write down every second letter on the line to find out.

SOAURJAKHNYBOZUIRNW  
 → → →  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 SBHMAOLKLBHZADVGJAMS

VOHN (left side)  
 KISFPEJ (right side)

## Spot 2 the Same

Find two pictures of Sarah that are exactly the same, then colour in the pictures.



Answers: pictures 1 and 5 are exactly the same

## Holy food questions

HAMLEY PERRY, TAS

I read “Inconsistent health” (Letters, May 17) with interest. I share the sentiment that our salvation is not gained through what we eat or drink. Indeed, Ellen White warned against “taking the light in the testimonies in health reform and making it a test” (*Selected Messages*, Book 3, pages 285, 286).

However, I do believe what I eat and drink, among other things I do, affects the way I am able to relate to God, and how effective I am in working for Him in terms of clear thinking, general energy and zest for life. And while the ceremonial Levitical laws were done away with at the cross, the health and hygiene laws of Scripture retain their importance. George Knight points out in his book *Walking With Paul Through The Book of Romans*, “Of course, since the cross no foods have been ceremonially unclean. But that does not mean that all foods are healthy. Those foods that were unhealthy before the cross are still unhealthy today” (page 329).

We would do well to consume a largely plant-based diet, avoiding hygienically unclean foods, which our bodies were designed to be fuelled by. The apostle Paul provides balanced advice: “Do not, because of food, destroy what God has done” (Romans 14:20, GNB).

GREG KLEINIG, WA

As Adventists, we are in a difficult position theologically with the stand we take on dietary practices before allowing somebody to be baptised. The Jews had elevated dietary restrictions to a point where they were being used to prevent people from becoming children of God. Instead of being a blessing to bring people closer to God once a belief in God had been attained, they were used as a means to exclude people from being part of God’s kingdom.

I believe this is why Jesus removed the distinction between clean and unclean, as He does in Mark 7:20, as expressed in most modern translations. That the disciples and the early church clearly understood this to be the case is evident by the conclusion presented after the Jerusalem Council, where the only dietary restrictions placed on the gentiles was “to abstain from meat of strangled animals and blood.”

Are we blessed if we live healthfully? Science has confirmed that. Should we use diet to prevent people from being baptised? God forbid—and He did. Rather than be like so many other denominations that refuse to grow with better understandings of the Scriptures, let us embrace this issue—and others—and develop more mature positions. Or at the very least, no longer sing “Just as I am.”

## Should we use diet to prevent people from being baptised? God forbid—and He did.

LARRY LAREDO, QLD

I appreciated “Inconsistent health.” I also agree that “adopting a healthy lifestyle is admirable” but would like to remind the writer that the distinction between clean and unclean foods was well known before the time of the wilderness wanderings. For example, God told Noah to take onto the ark seven of every kind of clean animal and two of every unclean animal (see Genesis 7:1, 2).

Diet was certainly a salvation issue from the beginning, and it is good that it remains a core component of our faith. Nothing needs to change.

## More or less equal

DAVID POTTER, NSW

As “Beyond sexism” (Letters, May 24) ably points out, it’s time the church moved beyond sexism and tokenism in its treatment of women. We’ve dragged our feet on gender issues for too long. We also need to move beyond words to the message. There is no reason to conclude that Ellen White meant to restrict the pastoral ministry of women to literature work, based on a comment in volume 6 of *Testimonies to the Church*.

George Orwell captured it nicely in *Animal Farm*: “All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.” Despite Galatians 3:28, it’s the same in the church: “Both genders are equal but one is more equal than the other.” Women fill most of the pews and men fill most of the positions of power—including all positions that require ordination.

To use 1 Corinthians 12 to perpetuate this is to ignore the context. Paul’s subject

is spiritual gifts, not gender roles. It’s interesting to compare his parenthetical comment in verse 13, “whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free,” with Galatians 3:28, where he adds a third contrasting pair, “male [and] female.” Had Paul intended to argue for a gender division in spiritual gifts, he could have nailed it in 1 Corinthians 12.

Not only does Paul not mention such a gender division, he implies the opposite by

explicitly stating: “There should be no division in the body, but . . . its parts should have equal concern for each other” (verse 25, NIV). It doesn’t say “no division except the natural gender division.” The words—and the meaning—are plain enough.

Clearly, some in the church are committed to maintaining a gender division. But they do so on the basis of tradition and preference, not sound biblical exegesis. A proper understanding of such passages, including 1 Timothy 2:11-15, does not support such a division.

## Why advertise?

JOHN KOSMEIER, NSW

The call for expressions of interest for the position of president of the Northern Australian Conference (Noticeboard, May 17) caught my attention.

Of course, women need not apply. Young people need not apply. Non-members need not apply. Male Adventist members under 40 years of age need not apply. Adventist members but non-employees need not apply. Unordained male employees need not apply. Male employees ordained for less than 10 years need not apply. And certainly no Adventist seniors of any description need apply.

So, why put the ad in RECORD?

**Note:** Views in Letters do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Letters should be less than 250 words, and writers must include their name, address and phone number. All letters are edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author’s original meaning will not be changed. Not all letters received are published. See masthead (page 2) for contact details.

## Positions vacant

▲ **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>. Send applications addressing the selection criteria, with contact details of at least three referees, 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**.

▲ **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 <principal@heritagecollege.com.au>. Applications close **July 4, 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 <http://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 (vice-president 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.

▲ **Assistant Director of Women's Residences**—*Avondale College (Cooranbong, NSW)*, seeks to appoint a full-time assistant director of women's residences, commencing late July/early August, 2008. The successful applicant will be a caring person with excellent interpersonal skills, who communicates easily with young adults. Successful experience in working with young adults is essential. Experience in pastoral care, education or other caring occupations is desirable. The position involves flexible working hours with a requirement to live on campus. 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 3 referees, should be emailed to <employment@avondale.edu.au> or HR Officer, Avondale College, PO Box 19, Cooranbong NSW 2265, (02) 4980 2284. Applications close **July 3, 2008**.

▲ **President**—*Avondale College (Cooranbong, NSW)*, is seeking expressions of interest and/or nominations for the position of president. Key selection criteria for this position include: being a practising, baptised member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with a strong commitment to its mission; capacity to deliver visionary leadership; capacity for a high level of spiritual and academic leadership; and mission-focused strategic vision; the ability to develop positive relationships with internal and external stakeholders; a doctoral qualification and a background in scholarship; proven administrative capacity; sound knowledge of higher education with the ability to inspire quality teaching and research; and the ability to manage change. The job description and selection criteria are available on request. Enquiries, expressions of interest or nominations should be directed to Dr Barry Oliver, Chair—Avondale College Council Search Committee, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga, NSW 2076, Australia, email <boliver@adventist.org.au>, fax (02) 9489 1713 or phone (02) 9847 3222. Applications close **July 10, 2008**.

▲ **Sales Representative**—*Sanitarium Health Food Company (Perth, WA)*, is seeking a highly-motivated person to join our WA sales team. The position requires someone with a high level of responsibility and ownership, a focus on customer service, the ability to introduce and drive products in assigned sales areas, as well as manage and implement shelf management at store level. The successful applicant will have sound negotiation and interpersonal skills, the ability to work quickly and in detail, the ability to work individually and in a team, as well as computer literacy skills and a current drivers licence. Apply online at <www.sanitarium.com.au/company/employment.html> or send resume to Group Human Resources, Sanitarium Health Food Company, Locked Bag 7, Central Coast Mail Centre, NSW 2252. Applications close **July 12, 2008**.

▲ **Packing Machine Operators**—*Sanitarium Health Food Company (Carmel, WA)*, invites applications for the full-time and casual positions of packing machine operator for our Carmel factory. These positions require an individual who can demonstrate an understanding of and strong commitment to OH&S within the workplace, and possesses a mechanical and practical approach to work with the ability to operate machinery, be friendly, reliable, and able to work within a small team environment with good communication and people skills. All training will be provided. Apply online at <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 **July 4, 2008**.

For more employment options go to  
[hr.adventistconnect.org](http://hr.adventistconnect.org)



## Anniversaries

**Facer**, Ian and Noleen Facer (nee Hamilton) of Christchurch, NZ, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in their home with family and friends on 27.1.08, exactly 50 years after they were married. Noleen was still able to wear her original wedding dress and was accompanied by her original sister bridesmaids. Their children, Andrea Thompson (Christchurch) and Nathan (Sydney, NSW) helped them celebrate their special day.

**Irvine**, Keith and Vera, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on 21.4.08. The couple met at Avondale College in 1939, and were married on 21.4.1943 when Keith was on leave from the Army Medical Corp. After the war, he served at the Australasian Division as an accountant, and later as secretary of the WA Conference, before returning to Wahroonga and financially rebuilding the Sydney Sanitarium 1969-1970 (now Sydney

ed their 50th wedding anniversary in Tenterfield, NSW, on 20.4.08. They were joined by their children, Pastor Neil Thompson (Christchurch, NZ), Robert (Bundaberg, Qld), Kevin (Newcastle, NSW), Brian (Morisset), and Julie Higgins (formerly of Hunter Valley), and by many other friends in a joyous celebration, where the years were rolled back with tears and laughter.

## Weddings

**Bountroukas—Lilikakis**. Timothy Bountroukas and Leokardia Eleni Lilikakis were married on 24.2.08 in Dandenong Polish church, Melbourne.

*Desmond Potts*

**Esteves—Tata**. Manuel Barbosa Esteves, son of Zeferina and Rosa Esteves (Portugal), and Pokoina Tata, daughter of Ngametuakioie (deceased) and Ana Tata (Auckland, NZ), were married on 16.5.08 in the Inala church, Brisbane, Qld.

*Neil Tyler*

**Hildebrand—Berkeley**. Kenneth 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 Berkely, Gordon Smith*

**Walczak—Matuszak**. Arnold Paul Walczak (Melbourne, Vic) and Halina Matuszak (Germany) were married on 10.3.08 in Wantirna Polish church, Melbourne.

*Pawel Cieslar*

**Whittaker—Parker**. Joel Whittaker, son of Mevyn and Linda Whittaker (Bayswater, Vic), and Adele Parker, daughter of John and Marilyn Parker (Torquay), were married on 10.5.08 in St Johns church, Southbank.

*Mike Webber*

**Wilson—Blyde**. Neil Alexander Wilson, son of Neville and Margaret Wilson (Lilydale, Vic), and Mariley Lynette Blyde, daughter of Arthur Taafe (Colac) and Joyce Hansford (Lilydale), were married on 4.5.08 on the beach at Cowes, Phillip Island.

*Horrie Watts*

## Obituaries

**Collins**, Andrew Swift (Andy), born 6.12.1923 at Suffolk, England; died 10.5.08 at Christchurch, NZ. He married Margery on Good Friday, 1955. He was baptised on 12.7.1942 by Pastor JM Howard in the Stanborough Park church. He is survived by his wife; his daughter, Julie; and his two grandsons (all of Christchurch); and his brother, Claude (Ad-



Adventist Hospital). Vera served for about 20 years in the accounts office of the hospital. Their four children, Pamela Funnell (Hartley, NSW), Carol Lister (Canberra, ACT), John (Sydney, NSW) and Lesley Robinson (Brisbane, Qld) assembled to help Keith and Vera celebrate.

**McKenzie**, Brian and Meryl (nee Gibbens) were married on 14.5.1958, by the late Pastor E J Brownie in the old Selkirk Street church, Hamilton, NZ. Many friends and relatives gathered in Hamilton on April 27 to reminisce and laugh over stories, and to celebrate



the blessings of 50 years together that Meryl and Brian have been to their children, family and friends.

**Thompson**, Kevin and Nita (nee Strong, of Cooranbong and Strong's Garage) celebrat-



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Register by June 30 for 10 per cent discount.

**August 29-31, 2008**

elaide, SA). Andy led numerous choirs and vocal groups throughout his life. He formed the King's Heralds in Adelaide in the 1960s. Awaiting the day when the Lord shall wake him to sing a new song unto the Lord.

*Neil Thompson*

**Francis**, Edna Emma (nee Hall), born 12.5.1912 at "The Gables," Hawker, SA; died 21.1.08 in Quorn Hospital, Quorn. On 2.9.1942, she married William (Bill) Stephen Francis, who predeceased her on 20.4.1990. She was baptised with her husband by Pastor Harold Roberts on 20.11.1965. Edna lived a selfless life, serving the church as ADRA leader and collector clerk, and helping Bill in his position of deacon in caring for the grounds. She was deeply loved by her church family, and her many nephews and nieces.

*Nonu Maiava, Brenton Wilkinson*

**Hutchison**, James William, born 26.1.1926 at Chrystal Brook (via Port Pirie), SA; died 24.5.08 in Mt Druitt Hospital, Sydney, NSW. He is survived by his wife, Ruth (nee Buller); and his daughters, Sheryl Fehlberg (Brisbane, Qld), and Heather Geelan (Quakers Hill, Sydney, NSW); and their families. Soon after marrying, the family moved to western Sydney, where they joined the Blacktown church. Jim served as elder and in many other positions for over 57 years. A much-loved man, Jim is now awaiting the trumpet call on the Resurrection morning.

*Bill Sleight, Daniel Vasconcelos Matassoni*, Dena Louisa Juliette (nee Taylor), born 16.12.1919 at Murrum-

burrah, NSW; died 11.5.08 in Esther Sommerville Retirement Village, Wahroonga, after a prolonged illness. On 21.1.1939, she married Valerio (Jo) Matassoni at Cunningham, NSW. She is survived by her sister, Julie Grundy (Sydney); her brother, George Taylor (Corowa, Vic); her son, Les (Melbourne); her daughter and son-in-law, Juliet and Ken Grundy (Central Coast, NSW); her five grandchildren; and her two great-grandchildren. Dena was baptised around 1940 and attended Wangaratta church, cooking to help raise funds to build the church. She played the organ/piano in church for many years.

*Robert Craig, Brenda Kinkead*

**Pyman**, Marjorie, born 31.10.1924; died 6.4.08 in the Austin Hospital, Melbourne, Vic. She was predeceased by her husband, Jim. She is survived by her brother, Robert Courtney, and his family. As a long-term member of the Nunawading church and resident at Coronella Retirement Village, Marjorie is remembered for her love and concern for others, and her volunteer work at the ADRA Opshop, Mitcham.

*Trevor Rowe, Ann Gilmore*

**Rogol**, Apolonia (Pola), born 5.2.1924 in Poland; died 20.3.08 in the Box Hill Hospital, Melbourne, Vic. In 1959, she married Ferdynand. She is survived by her husband (Melbourne); her daughter, Beata, and her family. For over 44 years, she was a member of the Oakleigh and Wantirna Polish churches. We are grateful to God for allowing her to be part of our church family, and that she was given the opportunity



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to touch so many people in their time of need. We are looking forward to the time when Jesus returns and calls His children back to life.

*Marek Ignasiak,  
P Ustupski, P Cieslar*

**Smith**, Dora Louisa (nee Melvin), born 29.11.1920 in England; died 2.5.08 in Middlemore Hospital, Auckland, NZ. On 25.6.1941, she married Austin Abbotsford Smith, who predeceased her on 18.11.05. She is survived by her children, Averil, Jennifer, Leonie and Melvin, and their spouses; her eight grandchildren; and her six great-grandchildren. Dora worked tirelessly for the good of others, always acting selflessly to make their lives better. She loved the Lord, and spent much time in prayer and Bible study. She now awaits His return.

*Clive Newson*

**Thomson**, Marie Elizabeth, born 8.8.1928 at Launceston, Tas; died 22.2.08 in the Mount St Vincent Nursing Home, Ulverstone. She was predeceased by her first two husbands, Hilton Eastley and Laurie Allen, to whom she had her six children. She was also predeceased by her son, Errol Eastley. On 18.4.04, she married Trevor Thomson. She is survived by her husband; and her children, Wayne Eastley, Julie Eastley, Lexie Eastley, Donna Eastley and Leigh Allen. Marie was a dedicated Adventist Christian and a loving wife, who spent her last years in the nursing home. She loved her Saviour and is looking forward to His soon return.

*Francis Pule*

**Walker**, Geoffrey, born 13.5.1916 in Perth, WA; died 12.5.08 in the Esther Sommerville Nursing Home, Wahroonga, NSW. On 2.9.1943, he married May Tapper, who predeceased him in 1991. He is survived by his children, Philip (Carmel, WA), Russell (Berowra, NSW), and Marilyn Webster (Wyong). He was an employee at the Sanitarium Health Food Company for 33 years. In his retirement, Geoff enjoyed sharing Jesus as a literature evangelist and through annual ADRA appeal trips in northern Western Australia.

*Gary Webster*

**Wills**, Ernest Matthew (Ernie), born 12.10.1921; died 13.5.08 in Nazareth Aged Care, Brisbane, Qld. He was predeceased by his wife, Bertha (Pat) on 22.3.08. He is survived by his children, Harry and Barbara; and her granddaughter, Melissa. Family and friends travelled long distances to attend his funeral on 20.5.08. Ernie was an engineer at the Sanitarium Health Food Company for 38 years, until bad health forced him to leave his much-loved work. Ernie was a loved and respected gentleman, who was a genuinely kind and thoughtful Christian. He may be gone from this life but not from our hearts.

*Ted White*

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## Finally

To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.—**Martin Luther King, Jr**

**Luther King, Jr**

## The Methuselah Files:

### If life were the other way round.

Ah Noar! Imagine if we could begin life again and start a new world with a new order once more.

In the imaginings of my pillow I see myself born as an old man, frail and decrepit, drooling and feeble of mind. But with each passing day I grow younger, becoming stronger as the mists of confusion lift from my mind.

After many years I arrive at the peak of maturity and manhood, full of wisdom and physical endurance. I take a wife, rejoicing in life as I

continue to grow younger. Eventually I enter the dizzying years of youth. Quickly the years of fun and adventure pass till I begin the carefree years childhood and finally I become an infant to be loved by all. Eventually I enter the darkness of the womb and gradually all awareness is stilled and I am only the dream of two people in love. How painless life would be if the order of things were reversed.



Mef-Uz-Alla finally agrees with Noar's theory that humans are the endangered species

I see the look of puzzlement in your eyes. You wonder if your grandfather has eventually lost his mind. Fear not. The musings of an old man are no more than an act of acceptance. There can be no other way. I cannot reverse the order of creation. I humbly accept the ways of the Almighty.

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