

RECORD

July 5, 2008

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Some of the women at the women's spiritual retreat conducted by the Greater Sydney Conference, where \$A12,000 was raised to help Indian women.



Church reaches out to seniors

Sydney women help Indian women

SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES

Adventist women from the Greater Sydney Conference have raised more than \$A12,000 for women in India in the second weekend in June. The money was raised from the offering collected during the conference's annual women's spiritual retreat.

The money raised by participants will be used to teach Indian women to read and write, to make and sell baskets and help them become self-sufficient. Women from Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands also contributed to the donation, even though they were not at the retreat.

More than 350 women attended the re-

retreat, themed "My King and I," that was held at the Merroo Christian Centre in Kurrajong, NSW.

Main speaker Julene Duerksen-Kapao, Bible teacher from Longburn Adventist College, NZ, encouraged and revitalised retreat participants through talks on God's grace, remembering God in times of trouble, the talents God gives us, and how women can and should serve their community.

Delegates also attended workshops focused on relationships, lifestyle, leadership and the role of women.

—Melody Tan



It's always nice to have others recognise our doctrinal treasures.

More than right

THEOLOGIAN N T WRIGHT MADE headlines—at least on the websites of *Time** and *Christianity Today* magazines, among others—in February this year with comments associated with the launch of his book, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*.

Described by *Time* as “one of the most formidable figures in the world of Christian thought,” Wright is Bishop of Durham (UK) and, as such, the fourth most senior clergyman in the Anglican Church. Writing from his Anglican tradition, some of the assumptions around the edges of Wright’s book may challenge us but his core thesis is something to catch our Adventist attention.

According to Wright, most Christians have misunderstood and misrepresented the Bible’s portrayals of resurrection, the afterlife and heaven. Building on his previous strident arguments for the actual, physical resurrection of Christ, Wright urges that the focus of the New Testament is on our physical, bodily resurrection, to live in a recreated, restored and renewed world. He describes this as contrasting starkly with the traditional Christian imagination of disembodied souls floating off to live eternally in some dreamy, cloud-like existence.

Reflecting on the post-resurrection physicality of Jesus, Wright urges a wholistic understanding of human being. And working with the exuberant descriptions in Paul’s writings, he argues for a larger, more hopeful and joyous understanding of the Chris-

tian hope of redemption and re-creation: “How we thank God, who gives us victory over sin and death through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (1 Corinthians 15:57, NLT).

It’s always nice to have others recognise our doctrinal treasures. Despite his vagueness on the intermediate state after death but before resurrection and the nature of the Second Coming, there is much in *Surprised by Hope* to gladden an Adventist heart. But rather than an excuse for “I told you so,” perhaps books such as this should be cause for a moment of reflection and humility. When “non-Adventists” do “Adventist” theology better than Adventists, we need to ask ourselves some questions.

For years, it seems Adventists have argued the doctrine of the “state of the dead” without doing much thinking on what this means for how we understand life, hope and salvation, and how we care for others and our world. Instead we have borrowed the same shallow view of salvation assumed by most of Christianity—that it’s all about “getting to heaven when we die.”

We need to do better, to think deeper, to imagine and reimagine doctrine—and theologians like N T Wright challenge us to do that. As the subtitle of his book suggests, Wright is not content to merely correct an error of doctrinal understanding: “The promise of new creation—the promise we have been studying throughout this book—is not and cannot be simply about straightening out ideas about life and death.

... Once we get the resurrection straight,

we can and must get mission straight.”

As we move our understanding of salvation from “going to heaven” to “being raised to life in God’s new heaven and new earth,” we begin to work with a significantly different picture of what salvation is. With the realisation that in the resurrection of Jesus a new kind of life has broken into our world, we see this as a reality in which we can participate—and even contribute to—today.

Wright suggests three areas of focus for the church working in this world in the light of the hope of resurrection: justice, beauty and evangelism. Indeed, he argues that “[a church] is actively involved in seeking justice in the world, both globally and locally, and if it’s cheerfully celebrating God’s good creation and its rescue from corruption in art and music, ... suddenly the announcement [evangelism] makes a lot of sense.”

Of course, resurrection and the ultimate redemption of creation is the work of God but Paul assures us that somehow acts of justice, beauty and evangelism done in this life matter and even somehow contribute to building God’s kingdom in our world, now and in God’s future: “So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and steady, always enthusiastic about the Lord’s work, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless” (1 Corinthians 15:58, NLT).

* <www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1710844,00.html>.

Nathan Brown



Official Paper of the South Pacific Division Seventh-day Adventist Church
 ABN 59 093 117 689
www.adventistconnect.org

Vol 113 No 25
 Cover: Melody Tan

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 Email Letters: editor@signspublishing.com.au
 Email Newsfront: record@signspublishing.com.au
 Email Noticeboard: editorsec@signspublishing.com.au
 Subscriptions: South Pacific Division mailed within Australia and to New Zealand, \$A43.80 \$NZ73.00.
 Other prices on application. Printed weekly.

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

Signs website reaches 250,000 unique visits

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

In early June, the *Signs of the Times* website, <www.signsofthetimes.org.au>, clicked over 250,000 “unique” visitors since its creation in 2004, with the average daily unique visitor numbers rising from 21 to 569.

Scott Wegener, the *Signs* webmaster, says, “Every month, we tally how many unique visitors visit the website. By ‘unique,’ I mean if a person uses the same computer to visit the website several times in a month, we only count them as one ‘unique’ visitor. While this isn’t 100 per cent accurate, we’re comparing apples with apples, so we can see there is significant growth.”

In the month of May alone, there were 17,648 unique visitors, 28,881 visitors and 714,061 hits on the website. This year has seen 82,000 unique visitors—with 132,000 visitors all up—so far.

Mr Wegener says, “Since its launch in August 2004, with a mere handful of articles, the number of visitors to the site has grown in direct relation to the number of articles online. We found that as we added new content each month, the number of visitors would also grow. More articles meant more ‘keywords,’ which meant more appearances in Google searches.”

The site is now coming up to its fourth

“birthday” and has more than 1100 articles from more than 60 *Signs* issues available for viewing. The podcasting of *Signs* articles is also proving to be very popular. “Each new sound file is being downloaded hundreds of times each month,” says Mr Wegener. “Some audio articles have been listened to nearly 1000 times so far.”

The Sanatarium recipes still remain one of the most consistently popular features, and the the personality featured in the magazine receives a “spike” of visitors to their article each time they appear in the media.

From the *Signs* website, thousands of the visitors have clicked through to other ministries linked throughout the site, including the Discovery Bible School, Hope TV, Adventist Book Centre and free offers, which include a *Steps to Christ* giveaway.

Mr Wegener says, “We see this as a real ‘front line’ website, sharing our positive lifestyle and beliefs with those who are searching. While thousands of people are now stumbling across our articles every month, it’s our goal to help those who are truly seeking to ‘find.’”

David Edgren, associate editor of *Signs*, says, “The website is a great way to interact with *Signs*. It has much of what’s in the magazine and then some! The podcast feature is one of my favourite parts of the site. The website also allows the reader to give instant

feedback to the editors. I receive numerous comments and even forward some to authors. The website creates a sense of community and connection with our readership that a physical magazine alone could never do.”

Regular *Signs* contributor Dr Arthur Patrick, honorary senior research fellow at Avondale College, says, “The advent of the Information Age is transforming our ability to speak economically and effectively ‘to every nation, tribe, language and people.’ I thank God for the quiet witness of *Signs* and its current availability in cyberspace. We must tell the Good News about Jesus to everyone, everywhere, by every possible means.”

Pastor Rodney Woods, trust services director for the North New South Wales and Greater Sydney Conferences, also writes for *Signs* and says, “Writing for *Signs* has been an exciting opportunity. To think that the words of Scripture and one’s own thoughts and ideas about God and His relationship with the world can be read by many thousands is both staggering and humbling.

“The US version of *Signs* have also picked up my articles as a result of writing for *Signs* in the South Pacific and so many more people have been able to access the fundamental teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist church from a contemporary perspective, which is my mandate.”—**Adele Nash**



◆ The children entered the assembly hall at **Noosa Christian College, Qld**, by crawling through a purpose-built tunnel, complete with spider’s webs and bats. This was the setting for the college’s **Week of Spiritual Emphasis**. Teachers, volunteers and chaplains worked together in the planning and implementation of the week. Each day,

the students watched footage of Christians who participate in extreme sports and heard how knowing God makes a difference in their lives. **Pastor Lorenzo Berry** shared stories from the Bible, showing how people lived out “extreme faith” in their lifetime. Each student received a carabina, with a different text or positive saying to add each day. At the end of the week, students were challenged to make Jesus their “ultimate superhero.” Many students responded positively to the invitation and 23 out of the 66 senior students

asked to receive Bible studies. —**David Reilly**

◆ **TV advertising** for a free viewing of the *Search 6* videos will screen in Sydney, NSW, on Channel 7, **July 12-20**.

◆ On June 2, **Avondale Schools, Cooranbong, NSW**, acknowledged as a school some of the wrongs experienced by the **Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders**. The participation in national **Sorry Day** involved a chapel program that was orientated toward awareness and recognition of the

pain experienced by the stolen generations. **Dana Garlett** and **Pastor Leighton Heise** raised the Indigenous and Australian flags, then together offered a prayer of reconciliation. A traditional didgeridoo welcome, played by **Nathanael Garlett**, followed the flag raising and invited the young people of Avondale School into the Awabakal land. Principal **Dr David Faull’s** official apology speech was called “Walk the Talk.” It encouraged students to value the unique cultures at Avondale Schools and within Australia. —**Susan Rogers**

Prison outreach results in baptisms in Lae

LAE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

On May 3, 11 inmates of the Buimo Jail in Lae, Papua New Guinea, were baptised at the end of a two-week outreach program conducted by Pastor Matupit Darius, communication director for the Papua New Guinea Union Mission.

Each evening, inmates were allowed out of their cells to attend the outdoor meetings—including the inmates classified as “high risk.” Pastor Darius says, “I was scared on the first night when there was a power blackout and the standby generator failed to come on. There were only four guards on duty and the 500 inmates could have easily overwhelmed them. But the same God who prevented the inmates from breaking out during the earthquake in Philippi in Acts 16 prevented the inmates in Lae from bolting.”

On the final night of the program, Jochabed Pomaleu, from the local Discover Bible school, gave out 48 certificates and diplomas to inmates who completed Bible



The inmates following their baptism.

courses—a further 150 inmates are currently working on Discover Bible courses. She also presented a carton of Bibles to the prison.

On the day after the baptisms, Adventist Community Services from Lae came to the prison and fed all the inmates, who were grateful for the food.

Jail commander Samson Jaro, who is also an Adventist, was full of praise for the church members who came to feed the inmates, as the food provided was a break from the usual prison fare of rice and fish.

Another program and baptism is planned for the prison in September this year.—*Priscilla Elwin*

New mentality needed to tackle AIDS, says church VP

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, USA

Pastor Pardon Mwansa, the youngest of the nine General Conference (GC) vice-presidents, wants to change people’s thinking about AIDS—both people who care for AIDS patients and those who could contract the disease.

In a recent interview with the Adventist News Network (ANN), Pastor Mwansa said the church could alter its views on AIDS patients and how to prevent the disease. Although it’s not the first time he’s called for “practical involvement” in the fight against AIDS, Pastor Mwansa says other preventative methods, along with a shift in thinking, would complement the church’s outreach through its AIDS International Ministry, launched in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2003.

The GC had scheduled a meeting about AIDS for February this year in Kenya, which had to be cancelled due to the political unrest the country underwent.

Pastor Mwansa believes the church needs to shift its focus on AIDS-prevention teaching to cover the issue rather than the moral element alone.—*Ansel Oliver/ANN*

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



◆ On April 20, **Wanganui Adventist church, NZ**, took part in the “Our City/Our World” expo. Much planning went into the event, which featured 41 displays from **29 local churches** and 12 from other Christian outreach organisations. At least **1000 people** attended and refreshments were provided throughout the day,

which was followed by a combined evening church service. The service, taken by **Pastor Tak Bhana**, was on the topic of faith. The Wanganui church gave away around 500 gift bags, which all included **Steps to Christ**, a diary, pencil, leaflets and a booklet on hope, giving details on the growth and work of the Adventist Church. **Desire of Ages** and **Signs of the Times** were also available, with many taking advantage of the offer. Pictured with the stand are Joan Marshall and Pastor Errol Singer.—*Gloria Greenfield*

◆ **Correction:** The Hamilton church mentioned in News, June 21, is not in New Zealand as reported but in Victoria. In the South Pacific Division, there are three Hamilton churches, as well as two other congregations in Hamilton, NZ. RECORD apologises for any confusion and reminds submitters to clearly mark their location, as well as people’s full names and positions.

◆ Some senior **Fulton College, Fiji**, staff members recently met with the High Chief of

Dawasamu Area on Viti Levu, Fiji’s main island, to request permission for Fulton College theology students to enter the area to conduct **evangelistic meetings**, and meet with the people in their homes in the predominantly Methodist area. “It is important that we observe the proper protocol,” says **Pastor Kenneth Fuliese**. “In the past, Fulton students have been chased away from areas they did not have proper permission to enter.” In accordance with custom, the High Chief was presented with a

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ JULY 5—WORLD MISSION BUDGET OFFERING

Tweed Valley College celebrates 50 years

MURWILLUMBAH, NEW SOUTH WALES

Twweed Valley College (TVC) celebrated 50 years of education on the weekend of May 31. Former staff and students gathered at the school's church on the Friday evening to share stories and catch up.

Loma Brown, whose family was involved in raising funds for the establishment of the school, reflected on the school's early years, saying, "My mum, Lonas Burke, didn't cash her cleaning wages cheques. Instead, each month she handed them in to the church treasurer to add to the funds for the church school. And we were just an ordinary-income family."

Mrs Brown saw her mother's vision come to reality and was one of the foundation students of 1958, who commenced at the Murwillumbah Adventist church. The school needed to clear a North New South Wales Conference debt of £275 before they could commence. David North says, "We were told of the debt at a meeting and within 10 minutes, the amount was pledged and things got under way."

The Sabbath morning saw the church



The children's story during the Sabbath program at Tweed Valley College.

filled with people and again, God's leading was highlighted. When the school moved from the church to its current location, God's guidance was evidenced again, according to Mr North. He says, "We received a cheque in the mail from the conference for \$A24,000 on a Friday. I spoke to Bill Campbell over the weekend and the initial price of a \$A1000-per acre for the 32 acre block for the school was miraculously stated at \$A24,000—the exact amount of the cheque we received."

The Sabbath program also featured a display, with photos and other items from the college's history, and a sacred concert.

—**David McClintock**



Pictured left to right: Principal, Joseph Pita; Adventist Chief Sevanaia; Dr Khamsay Phetchareun, Head of Theology; and Pastor Fuliese.

—**Bruce Potter**

'Tabua' (tambua, a traditional gift), along with the request to enter his area. Permission was granted and **44 students** will spend three weeks running an evangelistic program and visiting homes in the area. After the initial evangelistic effort, the students will continue to visit on a weekly basis to maintain contacts made.

◆ On May 17, **55 teens** under the leadership of **Danijela Schubert**, theology lecturer at Pacific Adventist University, Papua New Guinea, went on a "mission trip" to Mt Diamond Adventist Secondary School. The teens took the preliminary Sabbath school program at the school, and

featured a choir, skit and special song in the program. At the end of Sabbath school, the group hiked to Jacob's Hill.

—**Harina**

◆ On the weekend of April 5, the **Gisborne church, NZ**, celebrated a high weekend as a visiting compliment of Tongan pastoral guests, **Pastors Taufaa, Uilon and Teti** arrived on Friday night in time for evening worship. Afterward, dinner was shared in the home of **Pastor Allan and Peniana Brown**. On Sabbath morning, both Tongan

Vision Tracks launch in Melbourne

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

On June 21, a Botswana-filmed documentary was launched in Melbourne at the Preston Seventh-day Adventist church. *Vision Tracks* is a film about the experience of a bushman who travelled for a distance of more than 300 kilometres in search of a religious home.

Kagiso Booysen and Sinka Matengu, the makers of *Vision Tracks*, were at the Preston Adventist church to screen and promote their documentary.

Vision Tracks shows how Adventism entered a minority tribe in Botswana and the power of God changed lives. Miss Booysen and Mr Matengu shared their experiences on the making of *Vision Tracks* and how Adventist youth can use their talents in the church through media.

Miss Booysen says, "Media studies can help our minds capture hidden treasures from different aspects. This does not always have to be fictional or nature related. We can share true stories with the world."

Miss Booysen and Mr Matengu are former students of Melbourne University and La Trobe University. They were active members of the Preston Seventh-day Adventist church while studying in Melbourne.

—**Ursula Borgas**

and English Sabbath schools and worship services were celebrated simultaneously. During the morning service, **Graeme Whibley**, the baptismal candidate for the day, gave testimony to his caring mother, now in her 90s, who took her family to church for a "good start in life." Mr Whibley shared how after a massive heart attack, he had chosen to complete his studies and stop just warming pews. April 5 was his birthday and he wanted to celebrate a "total rebirth."

—**Marylyn Nalder**

Church reaches seniors through friendship club

PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Livingston Adventist church in Western Australia has established the Livingston Friendship Club as a way to reach out to seniors in the community.

In a meeting in February, church board members discussed the lack of activities available for senior citizens and Betty Turner was chosen to explore ways of meeting this need. This resulted in the idea for the friendship club.

On the first Tuesday of each month, the club meets at the church for lunch, which is catered by Mrs Turner and some helpers. The first get-together was attended by 40 people, and numbers have increased ever since. The lunches are followed by a presentation from a guest speaker.

The church also operates a craft group, and many of the women who attend have also started bringing their husbands along to attend the friendship club.

Church member Lynn Hulls says, "The club is something to which people can invite neighbours and friends. Now these friends are inviting along other friends. One of Betty's neighbours wasn't interested in



Some of the members of the Livingston Friendship Club at one of the lunches run by the club.

anything to do with the church but came along to the first meeting to help out—now she's helping with the cooking and is on the committee."

A Muslim couple have also been attending the friendship club meetings and are "thrilled" with the low-fat vegetarian meals provided. Many visitors also take the free *Signs of the Times* magazines from the rack in the church foyer.

Mrs Hulls says, "The number of non-Adventists outweighs the number of Adventists attending. It's a great outreach program, and a time of joy and encouragement for everyone."—**RECORD staff/Lynn Hulls**

More @ www.livingstonsda.org.au

PAU's first spiritual retreat of the year a success

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

At the end of May, students and staff at Pacific Adventist University (PAU) organised their first spiritual retreat program for 2008.

The retreat started on May 30, with a consecration service in the evening. This was followed by a prayer breakfast early on the Sabbath morning and ended with lunch after the worship service.

PAU's vice-chancellor, Dr Branimir Schubert, spoke at the consecration service and pointed out to students that success comes by leaning on God, not on material things. Dr Schubert said that things, although they make life comfortable, can fail or change but God never fails or changes.

A candle-lighting ceremony took place during the service, which saw deans, lecturers and student leaders lighting candles and passing them out to those in the congregation, symbolising the sharing of the gospel with the rest of the world.

Students were blessed by the testimonies shared at the prayer breakfast on the Sabbath morning, and enjoyed the Sabbath-school program led by students from the southern region.—**Heather Sam**

◆ Seventh-day Adventist teams from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden met May 22-25 for the first ever **Nordic Kids In Discipleship (KID)** training event, held in Lillehammer, Norway. Helping families make God central to family life was the aim as the church in Norway sent two teams to England, in 2006, to learn about the KID program. During the past year and a half, these teams successfully implemented the program in their home churches, which caught the interest of other Adventist churches in Nordic countries. **Victor Marley**, director of Children's, Family

and Youth Ministries departments in Norway, says, "KID has the potential to revolutionise our churches. Families are central if we are to pass on the faith to our children and young people, and, without a meaningful children's ministry, our youth work is amputated. KID involves children in service and equips parents for the responsibility they have." Already, leaders from seven churches in Norway have been trained.—**TED news bulletin**

◆ The president of the **Dominican Republic** has donated 12.5 hec-

tares of public land to the Adventist Church. While presenting the gift, he praised local Adventists for their natural kindness, saying it is clearly God guiding their attitudes and behaviour. The property had already been used by young people during annual retreats and will now be renovated to include additional service facilities.—**ANN**

◆ Three **pastors' wives** from the **Florida Hospital Seventh-day Adventist church** in Orlando, USA, decided they were tired of having their latest household fiasco show up in **sermon illus-**

trations, so the women made a parody video to get their point across, revamping **Carrie Underwood's** popular "Before He Cheats" with their rendition of "Before He Speaks." **Vickie McDonald**, married to senior pastor **Andy, Tami Cinquemani**, married to associate pastor **Jeff**, and **Amy Achata**, married to youth pastor **David**, creatively vented their frustrations in the video, which was featured on **CNN Headline News** as an internet phenomenon, after almost **75,000 views**.—**Spectrum**

Watch @ www.youtube.com/watch?v=iY4khRpG8O8&eurl

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

Three ordained in NNZ Conference

ROTORUA, NEW ZEALAND

The North New Zealand Conference celebrated their new campmeeting location at Tui Ridge in early January with the ordination of two ministers, Pastors Mark Turner and Aokuso Vaimoli. Due to a health crisis in the family at the time, Pastor Pelikani Esau was ordained a month later.

Pastor Vaimoli accepted the invitation to ministry as an elder in his church at Porirua in 1987. In his role as elder, he became aware that there was never enough time to fulfil all that was needed in that position. This inspired him to study for full-time ministry. His uncle, Paulo Aiolupotea, was also an influence in his life, and enabled him to move to New Zealand, where his spiritual journey with God was sparked. To study for ministry, he and his family moved to Fulton College and then to ministry work in Samoa. He and his family returned to Wellington in New Zealand in 2005, and he took up ministry at the Lower Hutt Adventist church in 2006.

His wife, Rosa, and children are a “support team” to Pastor Vaimoli. He feels his father’s blessing when he left to study at Fulton College—“may God bless you in whatever you are going to do”—has been highlighted repeatedly in his life and ministry.

Pastor Turner’s earlier practical work as a farmhand and horse trainer no doubt stood him in good stead when he later came to know the Lord, and sensed a call to the ministry. Although brought up a Seventh-day Adventist in primary school, he changed direction with the approach of adulthood.



Pastor Pelikani and Fiona Esau with their children, Amelia and Eliakim.



(From left to right) Pastor Aokuso Vaimoli and his wife, Rosa, and Aprille and Pastor Mark Turner.

However, Pastor Turner was reminded of his upbringing when he attended a seminar on life principles and felt convicted that God had a purpose for his life. Initially, he pursued a degree in psychology, while he was an active church member at Palmerston North.

With time spent studying the Bible, he felt further impressed that God was calling him to full-time ministry. Pastor Turner took a leap of faith and moved to Australia to study at Avondale College, where he met his wife, Aprille. Upon completing his studies, Pastor Turner and his family commenced ministry on New Zealand’s south island, at the Oxford and Rangiora churches. With the support of his family, Pastor Turner is now ministering in the South New South Wales Conference in Australia.

Pastor Esau felt the call to ministry early in life growing up in Tonga, where he would go to various churches with his grandfather. His grandfather would preach and Pastor Esau wanted to be like him when he grew up. This dream was reinforced in Year 12 by his teacher Haniu Vea at Beulah College, who inspired him to attend Fulton College and pursue ministerial training. Pastor Esau also received training at Pacific Adventist University before he returned to Tonga to minister on the island of Tungua. He later moved to New Zealand to continue ministry and met his wife, Fiona.

Pastor Esau has continued to develop his commitment to the work of God by completing a Master of Arts degree in youth ministry. He is currently serving at the Mizpah and Otahuhu churches, NZ.

—Kendell Cobbin

Tasmanian Conference youth director ordained

ROSNY, TASMANIA

The Tasmanian Conference’s director of Adventist Youth Ministries, Pastor Tharren Hutchinson, was ordained on May 10 at the Rosny Adventist church. More than 150 guests, including family, friends and church members, surrounded him on the special occasion.

“It’s both humbling and an honour to serve as a minister of the church, and I know the best is yet to come,” he said.

Pastor Hutchinson graduated from Avondale College in 2002, and spent two years as an assistant pastor at Wahroonga church in Sydney before receiving a call to be the Youth Ministries, and Adventist Development and Relief Agency director in Tasmania.

Pastor Kevin Amos, former Tasmanian Conference president, was the pastor at Ballarat church, where Pastor Hutchinson attended prior to his call to ministry, and led in the ordination sermon.

Current conference president Pastor Wayne Boehm gave the ordination charge, and challenged Pastor Hutchinson and his wife, Marcia, to be faithful to the call God has put on their lives.

The ordination was attended by a number of other pastors, including Pastor Graeme Christian, ministerial association secretary for the Australian Union Conference, and Pastor Karl Winchcombe, ministerial association secretary for the Tasmanian Conference.—*Felicity Knight*



Pastors Karl Winchcombe and Kevin Amos (left) with the Hutchinson family.

God's geography

BY ROY NADEN

RECENTLY, I WATCHED TWO EMAILS drop into my inbox in quick succession. Each time, I imagined a good friend pressing the send icon seconds before. Then with the press of a key on my computer, their letters were on my screen! What pleasure it brought to read those messages and open the attached pictures of their families.

I sent messages right back. It all happened faster than the time it once took to walk down the hall to their offices in the same building where we worked together in Australia 40 years ago. Both John and Russ didn't seem so far away after all.

Over the years, the geography of my community has radically changed. In fact, I have more contact with friends far away than with most of the neighbours who live on the same street in Seattle. I used to think that "real relationships" happened with people you can look in the eye and give a hug in greeting. But my world has been transformed.

Doomsayers dismiss the new technologies and chant a mantra about the good old days. Well, in my eighth decade of life, I've known lots of those "good ol' times," and agree with my friend George Knight that some of those good old times were nothing short of terrible! So instead of bemoaning the distance of faraway places where some very special friends live, I appreciate new ways to keep in touch, with electronic bridges that span land and sea.

In *The World Is Flat*, Thomas Friedman summarises it well: we can now communicate "from anywhere to anywhere." Distance is not what it used to be. The definition of *neighbour* is now more connected with intentionality than distance. We no longer connect just informationally—we do it emotionally, spontaneously in the white heat of a moment as we share the excitement of a dream, the memories of an anniversary, the sadness of a time of loss.

I heard the other day of a new website where you can select a person who needs help to start a business. You loan them the small amount they need. Twenty-five dollars is a fortune in a distant village in a developing country. The website sends the money and you watch it help a woman—usually a woman—in a faraway place take the first determined steps in a new life.

And interestingly, in a time of shaky mortgages and loans, virtually all of these micro loans are paid back. As soon as this happens, the website invites you to choose another person and give them a lift in their difficult lives. It happens with a few digits on a piece of plastic without leaving your computer. This is such a fabulous development.

The escalating pace of change is being facilitated by the free flow of ideas from inception to fruition. They move via new communication tools as effortlessly, powerfully, unpredictably as the wind, reminding

us of a conversation Jesus had with the rabbi Nicodemus, in which He likened the all-powerful Holy Spirit to wind. Nothing can stop it. And how instructive that when Jesus defined *neighbour*, He didn't describe people living on the twisted, step-filled streets of old Jerusalem. He identified a "neighbour" as a person some distance away, in real need, on a lonely road going downhill on the trail to distant Jericho. Some important concepts never change.

We don't live in separate, distant communities the way we used to. We can now create communication networks across streets, states, countries, anywhere! The reality came home to me again recently, as I wrote cheques to my favourite charities, some close to home, others in faraway places.

Distance doesn't have to matter anymore! To ignore this, to deny this, is to limit our influence and participation in support of our dreams for God's work. What some ancient religions have taught for millennia becomes more and more evident—we are one world, one community. Our prayers, our means, our letters of encouragement can go to anyone, anywhere. This is God's geography. **R**



Roy Naden is an emeritus professor of Andrews University. Originally from Australia, he now lives in retirement in Seattle, Washington, USA.

God's Great Missionaries

REVIEW BY NATHAN BROWN

Return*

BY MALCOLM FORD

THERE HAS TO BE
Some kind of
Astigmatic correction
In the mind's eye—
Looking at that family
Gazing at the sky,
Watching the Return.

There, the joyous family,
Once laid to rest,
Untombed from “dust to dust,”
Well dressed in Sabbath best:
They watch wide-eyed
The angel-circling sky
Escorting the Return.

Cut! Let the scene dissolve!
The ripping thunder of
The unreeling scroll of sky—
The blinded disc of sun
And supersonic trumpet blast—
The brilliance and the glory
Bleaching the sky.

It is the Second Coming!
The weary earth is reeling;
Everyone is kneeling
Or has
Fallen. **R**

**After reading “End” (Editorial, May 24) and recalling memories of an artistic interpretation of the Second Coming.*

Malcolm Ford writes from Whangarei, New Zealand.

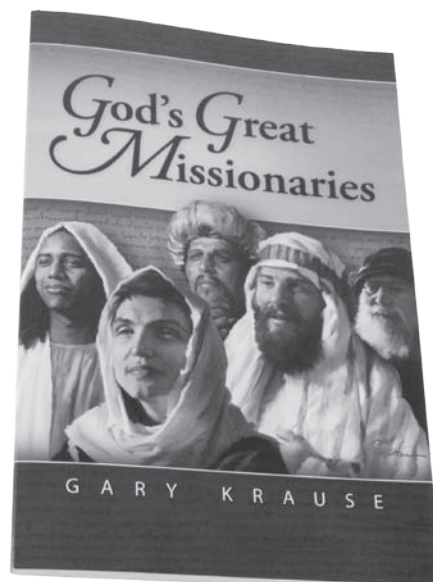
SO MUCH IS WRITTEN ABOUT EVANGELISM and mission these days that it's refreshing to take these many discussions back to the source. Beginning with the stories of Jesus, the early church and other assorted Bible characters, *God's Great Missionaries* takes a fresh and credible look at what it means to be part of the mission of God in the world today.

Born in Fiji to missionary parents, first-time author Gary Krause is a former editor of RECORD and creative director for the Adventist Media Centre in Australia, now serving as director of Adventist Mission for the General Conference. He brings this extensive experience of the Adventist church's mission activities around the world to his reading of familiar Bible stories.

God's Great Missionaries is the companion book to the current adult Bible-study guide (aka, this quarter's Sabbath school lesson). This relatively recent initiative by the church's publishing houses provides a useful addition to the week-by-week lessons, an alternative way to access the material that forms the basis of the lesson quarterly and an opportunity for the author to expand some of their thinking beyond the confines of the Bible-study guide format.

In just a couple of places, *God's Great Missionaries* slips and shows its Sabbath-school-lesson origins, taking angles that do not strictly fit with the Bible-story sources or the flow of the book. But on the whole, the book gains strength from its solid Bible-study foundations. The Bible stories are treated with respect and depth, and the book is at its best when focused on the practical ministries of Jesus and Paul. At the same time, this is not merely a head-in-the-book Bible study—indeed, the subject matter demands it not be.

A book on engaging meaningfully with the world must itself engage with the realities of that world. *God's Great Missionaries* is poignantly aware of the need for God and



the hope He offers to our world—a world that simply can't save itself—but also of the need for the message and presentation of the gospel to be adapted to the language, culture and obvious needs of the people with whom it is being shared.

Krause draws on stories of mission from around the world, Adventist history and personal experience, as well as citing contemporary events, voices and trends, to demonstrate that gaining a hearing for a message is as much about listening and responding as it is about preaching.

Easy reading but significant thinking, *God's Great Missionaries'* vision is active, global, inclusive, faithful, urgent and transformative. The book passionately challenges the church to think bigger in imagining how God can use us as His people to build His kingdom in our world. And it must also challenge us individually as to the role we play in our lives, churches and communities. **R**

God's Great Missionaries by Gary Krause, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2008, paperback, 128 pages. Available from Adventist Book Centres, price \$A19.95; \$NZ25.20.

Nathan Brown is editor of RECORD.

Local church: Gateway Adventist Centre, Vic

BY JARROD STACKELROTH

THE CITY OF MELBOURNE ROSE around us as we walked toward Federation Hall, the facility hired by Gateway Adventist Centre (GAC) from the Victoria College of Arts. It may only be a temporary accommodation for this young church but it is a good location for a church aimed at university students and inner city residents. We were welcomed inside with genuine warmth by the greeters and given a tour of the Sabbath-school class options. Rather than being divided by age or social groups, the classes are aimed at spiritual maturity. There's an Explorer class for seekers straight off the street, a Discovery class going through foundational biblical knowledge, a class for long-term members and a Mandarin speakers class, among others.

GAC is a young church with a remarkable story. Just five years old, it has already given birth to a new congregation, with another "due" soon. The church is full of driven young professionals—lay people who are highly educated, successful in business and well qualified, yet give freely of their time in this most important of tasks, "growing the kingdom" in the Melbourne metropolis.

A new sprout

A few weeks later, I found myself in another lecture theatre at Swinburne University's Hawthorn campus for the official

launch of GAC's first church plant, Gateway Hawthorn. There was excitement as about 40 people filled the seats. It felt like a family reunion, with a sense of community and acceptance, and a smile on everyone's face. With a baptism that afternoon, the buzz seemed to be underscored with a determination to win people for God's kingdom. There is a feeling that with God, anything is possible and the musical item of the day was the old song that says, "Little is much, when God is in it."

The president of the Victorian Conference, Dr Denis Hankinson, echoed these sentiments, reminding GAC of the call to spread the gospel, and that finding meaning with God as the main thing is to find happiness and direction. The dedication service was simple yet beautiful and Pastor Wee Fong Choo challenged the congregation with the question, "What is the good life?"

The numbers in this new group are about the same as those with which GAC began. GAC grew from being a church plant itself, with only 35 people, to a church of more than 140. It is this passion to grow God's kingdom that is causing these churches to multiply.

First steps

There are often few Adventist churches in or around our city centres—real estate costs are high and undeveloped land is hard to find, so connecting with people is difficult. Melbourne had none, meaning a whole demographic of people had little chance to hear the gospel. GAC is a Global Mission church plant. It targets anyone interested in becoming Christians but is well placed to reach the 100,000 university students and staff from the three universities in the city, and the 70,000 people who live and work in the inner city.

In 1999, a group of 22 young people from the Forest Hill Asian church,



most aged between 19 and 25, decided they needed to reach their friends in the city. They realised the need for a church in the city of Melbourne. However, they felt they needed to be equipped for this work, so they began training in personal revival and preparation, Adventist identity and message, and CARE group-leaders training. These young people started activities and Sabbath afternoon worships in the city, while running two 16-person small groups. After worship services, there would be a lifestyle program, with topics like stress management, how to write a resume and health. In August each year, they would run an evangelistic campaign.

Johnny Wong, elder and foundation member of GAC, describes these early days using the biblical phrase "the Lord added to the church daily." He says the young people were motivated to come to the city because "this is where their friends were and there was a growing urban community in the city."

After two years of preparation, on March 22, 2003, GAC began meeting every Sabbath morning with 42 people in a rented lecture theatre in the city. GAC received support from the General Conference through the Global Mission program, which allowed GAC to begin as a member-led church plant. Now, through commitment and training, their weekly worship has grown to 170 and they have begun their own plant.

Vision

Gateway's vision statement is "To be a soul-winning, Bible-based training centre that multiplies churches in three years." "We have adopted an outreach model based on the New Testament church and Spirit of Prophecy," says Mr Wong. "Many have observed that we have taken a 'back to basics' model—home groups, personal work and public proclamation."

While church planting is important, it



Small groups—in members' homes and in focused Sabbath-school groups—are a key element of Gateway's ministry model.

is more of a by-product of hard work. “In my opinion, church planting is just another Christian buzz word,” says Mr Wong. “It is all about soul winning. When we win souls for the kingdom, we naturally need to set up a congregation to meet them. That should be the focus.”

Due to property prices in the city, GAC has yet to own its own church. But they are working toward this as rent of university property is increasing. They have received a grant of \$A820,000 as part of the South Pacific Division’s strategy to increase the focus on local churches.

University student clubs sponsored by the church mean GAC can hire venues for less. GAC currently sponsors three clubs, because many of the new seekers are contacts from university. Since 1999, 84 young people have been baptised, 44 per cent of these have been university students, 12 per cent high school students and 35 per cent young working adults. They are attracted through the clubs and the health, language and prophecy classes run by the GAC training centre.

Once seekers come into contact with members, the members have been trained to know how to grow their interest. GAC members are perhaps some of the most trained in the country, making contacts at university, business places and in the course of whatever profession they are working in. Such is their commitment that since General Conference vice-president Pastor Mark Finley challenged young people to become full-time Bible workers for six months, many GAC members have taken time off from being doctors, professionals or successful businesspeople to answer the call.



Gateway provides many opportunities for building community, such as a recent soccer match.

Because we CARE

CARE groups are a key component of GAC’s ministry and outreach. CARE stands for “Christ’s Attitude Reflected in Everybody.” In 2002, GAC began their CARE group system with 16 people. Currently, more than 160 people meet in homes each week. Each small group must have at least one “seeker”—someone not baptised—to be allowed to operate.

There is a strong sense of outreach in these groups, with an emphasis on creating a sense of community, a sense of direction and leadership, accountability, and training leaders to create their own groups.

In 2006, every CARE group at GAC experienced at least one baptism. “CARE groups and public evangelistic meetings go hand-in-hand,” says Mr Wong. “We run yearly evangelistic meetings, while the small groups provide the groundwork and bring people to the evangelistic meetings. In the Bible, there is a model of public proclamation and home ministry. This is what we model.” Gateway still uses public evangelism but as an end call, rather than a hook.

Growing the kingdom

So where does the Gateway journey lead? “Our vision is to continue to plant churches and win souls,” says Edmund Yeoh, who is project leader of the Hawthorn plant and runs the GAC training centre, as well as working as a young business manager for Orica. “Success is to plant new churches. No doubt, we will begin another church plant as we address new ministry areas, such as young families. These new ministry areas not only address our changing demographic at Gateway Hawthorn as well as Gateway City, they also create further outreach opportunities with young families.”

While many members are of Asian origin, GAC welcomes everyone and is a very multicultural church. But the next church plant being planned is a Chinese Mandarin church. “Our young people who are Chinese-speaking have a burden to reach their friends, thus we are planning and praying for the work among this community,” says Mr Wong.

Meanwhile, GAC measures its growth on a baptism ratio, rather than sheer numbers, as they believe the critical mass is only



The next Gateway: The launch of Gateway Hawthorn at Swinburne University’s Hawthorn campus on May 24.

120-150 people. In 2007, the ratio was 5.6, meaning it takes 5.6 members to find one baptism in the year. This compares with the baptism ratio in Australia over this period of about 50.

But GAC’s ministry and programs are also having an impact around the world, with many GAC alumni returning to their home countries and starting up CARE groups there. Last year, GAC supported a project called Mission Indonesia and worked with several churches there for revival, CARE groups and discipleship training. They have had members conduct training throughout Australia and in New Zealand, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Indonesia.

The Gateway question

As I stand among the young people of Gateway, singing the final hymn, I realise this is what heaven will be like. People of different shades and language but who are one family, sharing and singing and smiling together, praising God and honouring His sacrifice. The question is, how many of the people we know, work with and study with will be there to share it with us on that glorious day? Gateway is driven by this urgency.

“We are to ask ourselves in every level of church ministry—board, to committees, to programs, to people ministries—are the things we are doing for the purpose of finishing the work?” says Mr Wong. “Is it part of fulfilling the gospel commission? Will it win souls? We are to question everything we do at church.” **R**

For more information, visit <www.gatewayadventist.org>.

Jarrold Stackelroth is an editorial assistant for RECORD.

Working with Jesus

BY PAM SHELL

ONE DAY WHILE SPENDING TIME IN THE CITY, I MET AN OLD gentleman who ministers prostitutes and drug addicts in Kings Cross. He said they needed someone who cared for them, loved and helped them. And his focus got me thinking about Jesus and His ministry.

Remember the day the woman caught in adultery was brought to Jesus for the purpose of entrapment, either Him or the woman? But the accusers went away ashamed and the woman went away saved.

Jesus didn't miss much: blind Bartimaeus received his sight, the centurion's faith, the widow and her son, the boy with an evil spirit, the crippled woman, the lepers, the widow's gift, healing a paralytic, the bleeding woman, healing the blind and the dumb, blessing the children and calming a storm.

He was working for His Heavenly Father and blessing the lives of people around Him through healing and teaching. Jesus did not stay with the rich and famous but went out of His way to minister to the outcasts, foreigners, and the poor and needy. And His command to us is to go and minister similarly for Him.

Do you ask yourself what you can do for Jesus? Jesus' words echo back to us to care for the outcasts and the needy. God says to us, "Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God, I will help you, I will strengthen you and help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10, NIV).

Maybe you could find a child or young person who needs a mentor—a special friend who pays attention to them and someone to talk to about things that are important to them. Some of us can minister to the abused in the community. They may need food, shelter, comfort and care. Get involved with an organisation doing this. Even within our own church, you will find the poor and needy, often neglected by the church.

Could your church serve the community by having a healing service for those who are sick? A simple service where people are led to trust in Jesus, prayed for and, if requested, anointed with oil. Sometimes, I think we have made things too complicated.

But you may have to leave some of your own boundaries to meet these needs or work with community organisations. Don't be afraid to meet and mix—"You are the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world" (see Matthew 5:13, 14). When we commit our lives to Jesus, He will put you in the places you need to be. You will be astonished at your new life.

It's time to cease using "shyness" as an excuse not to serve God. Once you make your commitment to be used by God wherever you go, your shyness will be overcome, and you will be filled with peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. **R**

Pam Shell writes from Tumbi Umbi, New South Wales.

Record Roo



Hi kids!

It is always sad when someone dies. Abraham was very upset when his wife, Sarah, passed away.

Bible Text

Sarah lived to be a _____ and _____ years old. She _____ at Kiriath Arba in the land of _____, and Abraham went to _____ for Sarah and to _____ over her.
Genesis 23:1 NKJV

Spot the Difference



Maybe Abraham liked to look back on all the happy times his family would have had...

Can you find 10 differences between these two pictures of Sarah helping Isaac learn to walk?

Colour In

Colour in the picture of Sarah and with her son, Isaac.

Read

You can read more about this story in Genesis Chapter 23.



Taken for granted

HOWARD F RAMPTON, USA

Thank you for the interesting and enlightening “From here to there” (*Adventist World*, June 14), which, though focusing largely on the South Pacific Division, represents the problems facing many other areas of the world. Those of us in the more developed countries, especially in the English-speaking world, often take for granted the regular quarterly adult Bible-study guides, as well as the guides for other age groups, reaching down even to the toddlers.

This article helps us appreciate the care and attention given to the selection of writers, topics and review committees, for it is doubtful if there is any book or publication provided by the Adventist church that is more widely read and studied than these Bible guides. One can only imagine the unifying effect they have on a church that includes so many languages, nationalities and cultures. Christ’s great burden for the church, as expressed in John 17, was that the church remain unified in its presentation of truth. The explanation of the process and distribution was very helpful.

Seeking and finding

NAME SUPPLIED

The “Where to seek?” letters (May 31) were very interesting reading for someone who, in 1941, was a “non-Adventist boyfriend.” Three years later, my wife and I were married in an Adventist church ceremony, even though my wife married “outside the church.”

More than 60 years later, we are still together, we have raised three children—two of whom are well-regarded Adventists, and I have accepted some but not all Adventist beliefs.

NAME SUPPLIED

I am newly married to a wonderful Adventist man. But I can relate to the question, “where are all the Adventist young men?” Prior to meeting my husband, I struggled to find young Adventist men who fitted my criteria. They were either too conservative, or not interested in God or church at all. I found this frustrating at times because I wanted a man who had similar values and

beliefs to myself, so as to minimise conflict within our marriage.

I dated non-Christian young men and found it did draw me away from God and even though we were only dating, I can imagine marriage would be even more difficult. I attended Avondale College, which is where I met my husband, although we did not date straight away. While there, I found there to be a mix of young men who were either rebelling against the church or God,

and/or were there because their parents had sent them there to be “Christianised.” But, on the other hand, there were young men really committed to following God who were involved with the church.

I encourage single Adventist women to not give up on Adventist men. But most importantly, don’t give up on God finding you that special man, as He has plans for everyone. I also urge you not to rush out looking for just any Adventist man—or other man, for that matter—to marry, although it is tempting. Only time and God will tell.

Suffering and Grace

PETER HOWARD, QLD

In response to “Church of ungrace?” (Letters, June 7), I recall that Jesus told His disciples, and those who follow Him, that we would be treated as He was treated. In the Beatitudes, persecution for doing what was right was a reason to be happy, as a great reward awaits in heaven.

Paul tells us in Colossians 1:24 that we, too, need to participate in suffering for Christ. Ellen White tells us in *This Day With God* that “those who share in Christ’s glory must share also in His suffering” (page 49).

In *My Utmost for His Highest*, Oswald Chambers suggests that God desires to make us into bread and wine but we object to being crushed. Not that we don’t want to be bread and wine but we object that those who are crushing us are the very people whom we object to. We can never choose the scene of our martyrdom.

I came across this statement that seems

relevant to all of us, in whatever situation we find ourselves: “He in whom Christ dwells has within himself the fountain of blessing. . . . From this source he may draw strength and grace sufficient for all his needs” (Ellen White, *God’s Amazing Grace*).

In my experience, the church has opened avenues to an awareness of grace but we are only learning to experience and share it among ourselves and others. We let each other down but Jesus never will.

We are only learning to experience and share [grace] among ourselves and others.

NAME SUPPLIED

Unfortunately, I must concur with the writer of “Church of ungrace?” I, too, believed the talk about the church being a “place of grace” but, disappointingly, discovered otherwise.

My reality check has been a prolonged and painful “deconversion” experience and I wonder how often this sad story is repeated. When wounded people really need support, nurture and acceptance by the church, all they receive is a cold shoulder, a judgmental distance or even an outright rejection. If only church administrators would choose to learn from such regrettable instances, it could save much pain for others. I’m just so glad that when on earth, Jesus didn’t treat people in the same way the church treats some of its members.

NAME SUPPLIED

I can empathise with the writer of “Church of ungrace?” In the decades when I was a church member, I twice really needed the love and support of “Adventist family,” only to find it almost completely lacking.

Sickened by these experiences, I ceased church attendance for some years and have only recently begun attending worship services again, having found a small company whose love and fellowship is helping me return.

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

▲ **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; 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**.

▲ **Children's Pastor—Kingscliff Adventist Church (NNSW Conference)** is seeking a children's pastor to assist with children's ministry and resource development within the church and local community. This full-time position is for an initial period of 2 years. The successful applicant will have some tertiary training in the primary age and/or preschool area, and have a passion for children and ministry. For further information and job description, contact Adrian Raethel on (02) 6674 5558 or email <adrianr@kingscliffworship.com>. Applications close **July 25, 2008**.

▲ **Pilot—Adventist Aviation Service (Goroka, PNG)**. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is seeking a professional pilot for the Adventist Aviation Service based in Goroka, Papua New Guinea. For more information, please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website at <<http://hr.adventistconnect.org>>. All written applications, including your CV, 3 work related referees and the contact details of your church pastor, must be forwarded to Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Limited, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076, Australia; email <hr@adventist.org.au>; fax: (02) 9489 0943. Applications close **July 23, 2008**.

For more employment options go to
hr.adventistconnect.org



Appreciations

Standish, Dr Russell. Mrs Glenice Standish, Dr Colin Standish and their families wish to convey their deep appreciation for the concern shown after the devastating loss of their husband, twin brother and loved one. We thank each one of you for the cards, flowers, phone calls and messages of love and support shown to us, and ask that you accept this as our personal and most grateful thanks. Awaiting the call of the Lifegiver.

Stone, Carl Leonard. Helen Stone, Lyndal, Nigel and Felicity, and our families wish to sincerely thank all the wonderful people who supported us through the period of Carl's illness and death. Your phone calls, cards, flowers, emails, messages and other acts of kindness helped to ease our pain, distress and deep sorrow. Thank you each one and may God bless you.

Weddings

Major—Topperwien. Justin Luke Major, son of Peter and Karen Major (Carmel, WA), and Tanya Maree Topperwien, daughter of Dieter Topperwien (Bunbury) and Carol Davies (Success), were married on 8.6.08 in the Swan Valley church, Stratton.

Lynn Burton

Nyitrai—Higgins. Isiran Nyitrai, son of Blaga and Erzebet Nyitrai (Brisbane, Qld), and Esther Beryl Higgins, daughter of Hugh and Laura Higgins (Hervey

Bay), were married on 24.5.08 in Hervey Bay church. The couple grew up together and are studying for baptism.

Frank Williams

Obituaries

Birchall, Colin Edward, born 31.1.1946 at Liverpool, England; died 27.4.08 at Nelson, NZ. Colin emigrated with his late parents to New Zealand in the 1950s. He suffered with very severe arthritis but never complained about his illness. A quiet, gentle man, Colin awaits the day the Great Healer returns.

Carl Landall

Blades, Alice Gwendoline (Gwen) (nee Thomson), born 8.4.1926 at Cooranbong, NSW; died 20.4.08 in Gosford Hospital, after having a stroke and never recovering. On 3.3.1949, she married James Stopford Blades. She is survived by her daughters, Julie, Debra and Fiona; her grandsons, Shannon and Thomas; and her great-grandson, Jaxon. Gwen was well known in the community, being part of an historic pioneering Adventist family in Cooranbong. She loved music, and was generous, caring and hard working. She was buried in the Avondale Cemetery.

G Rappell, L Hawkes

Fisher, Harley Reuben, born 26.5.1980 at Waikerie, SA; died 3.5.08 at Broome, WA. He is survived by his father, Gary (Waikerie, SA); his mother, Elizabeth Fisher (Perth, WA); his sisters, Megan,

Volunteers!

Teachers needed immediately—China.

Language teachers are needed in China for 5-24 months to teach conversational English. Volunteer must have a Bachelors degree and be able to pay for their return airfare. For more information, please contact Lyn Price on (02) 9847 3275.

Email:

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

+61 2 9847 3275



Sharni and Rachel (all of Perth); his brothers, Jordan and Mitchell (Waikerie, SA); his grandparents, Rueben and Laurel Matthews (Bendigo, Vic); and his grandmother, Beryl Otley (Kellerberrin, WA). Harley was a landscape gardener who enjoyed hard work in the outdoors. He loved his family and friends dearly. He was tender toward those he loved. Harley could be both fragile and assertive when it came to facing the issues of life.

Steven Goods

Howard, Nelda Francis, born 1931 at Victor Harbor, SA; died 13.5.08 in Masonic Homes, Somerton Park. On 4.10.1952, she married Phil Howard. She was baptised in Adelaide in 1962. She is survived by her husband; her sons, Gregg (Yankalilla) and Scott, and his wife, Marianne; and her daughters, Cassie and Tracey (Adelaide). A special person who touched all she met, Nelda was a mother who put family first and never complained of her pain or needs. We will see her again.

Robert Porter

Kilgour, William Hamilton Maclean, born 19.8.1920 at Marrickville, NSW; died 29.5.08 in the Koombahla Nursing Home, Wallsend. On 23.2.1952, he married Shirley Newland at Burwood. He is survived by his wife (Newcastle); and his children and their spouses, Robynne and Nick Roussos (Newcastle), Peter and Sherrylee (Sydney), Andrew and Brigid (Sydney); and seven grandsons. Bill and his family joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1965 and were baptised in the Dundas church by Pastor Fred Taylor. Will worked for a year as an LE and joined the Sanitarium before retiring from ESDA, where he loved working with those in mission service. He was leading elder for many years at Toongabbie. After a serious illness, he went to sleep in Jesus at Koombahla, where a staff member rightly observed "there was something special about him."

Tui Rosevear, Ray Eaton

McDougall, David, born 15.2.1932 in Sydney, NSW; died 8.6.08 in Salvin House, Brisbane, Qld. He is survived by his children, David, Sandy and Krissy. Despite his hard and long fight with illness, David had a wonderful awareness

of the presence of Christ. He will be sadly missed by his children and those who accepted him as family, including Helen Marlet and her family, who lovingly cared for him until he closed his eyes for the last time.

Merv Kennaway, Jorge Munoz,
Bob Possingham, Zeny Vidacaj

Standish, Dr Russell Roland, born 27.10.1933 at Newcastle, NSW; died 2.5.08 at Mildura, Vic, in a car accident. He is survived by his wife, Glenice (Melbourne); his three sons, Stephen (Sydney), James (Washington DC, USA), and Timothy (Loma Linda); his twin brother, Colin; his brother, Lyndon; and his sister, Del Pennington. At the age of 17, Russell joined the church after an evangelistic program in Newcastle, NSW. Russell initially trained as a teacher and taught for a number of years in denominational schools in NSW. Following this, he completed a degree in psychology and graduated from medicine in 1965. Russell served with distinction as president of both Bangkok Adventist Hospital and Penang Adventist Hospital, then as director of Adventist Health Services in the South-East Asian Union. He is remembered as a much-loved leader, pastor, medical administrator and physician. In later years, he devoted himself to writing and administering the Highwood Health Centre, Vic. Russell had a great love for God and a deep compassion for his fellow man. He had strong convictions and was deeply loved as a kind, caring husband and father. He was laid to rest in the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection.

Chester Stanley, Ron Evans

Trappett, Victor James, born 29.8.1923 in Brisbane, Qld; died 28.5.08 in the SDA Retirement Village, Redland Bay Rd, Victoria Point. On 14.5.1949, he married Vera. He is survived by his wife; and his sons and their wives, Jim and Ros Trappett (Carseldine), and Peter and Roselyn Trappett (Birkdale); his five grandchildren; and his three great-grandchildren. Vic passed away peacefully in his sleep. He was a loving husband to Vera and lived for others. He will be greatly missed.

Bob Possingham

Turnham, Alan John, born 26.4.1950 at Glenn Innes, NSW; died 26.5.08 at Armidale. On 28.4.1973, he married Lynda (Lyn). He is survived by his wife (Guyra); his children and their spouses, Loretta and Eddie Beard (Armidale), Fiona and Darren Martin (Sydney), Kylie and Wade Beard (Ipswich, Qld), Melissa and Kimberly (Cooranbong, NSW), and Alena (Sydney); his brothers, Eric and Helen, with their children (Guyra); and Ronald and Dianne with their children (Armidale); and his sister, Robyn and Graeme Waldron (Bonabro); his sister-in-law, Alice and Brian Ferris and children (Armidale); and his three grandchildren. Alan loved his Lord, his family and his life as a farmer. Although cut down in his prime, he looked forward to the great Resurrection day. He rests in the Guyra Lawn Cemetery.

Frank Cantrill, Keith Jackson



THE EDUCATION MEDAL AUSTRALIAN UNION CONFERENCE

Nominations are invited for a recipient of the Education Medal to be awarded by the Australian Union Conference Board of Education.

The Education Medal is intended to give due recognition to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to Adventist education in Australia. It may be given to a professional educator or to any individual whose outstanding interest and involvement in Adventist education is worthy of special acknowledgment.

Nominations of potential recipients to receive the Education Medal must be received by 30 July 2008 and will be studied by a sub-committee of the National Board of Education. The sub-committee will then make recommendations to the Australian Union Conference Board of Education. Please refer to our website to view the criteria that shall be taken into account when awarding the Education Medal – <http://asa.adventist.edu.au>.

All correspondence should be directed to Dr John Hammond, Director of Education, Australian Union Conference, PO Box 4368, Ringwood Vic 3134.

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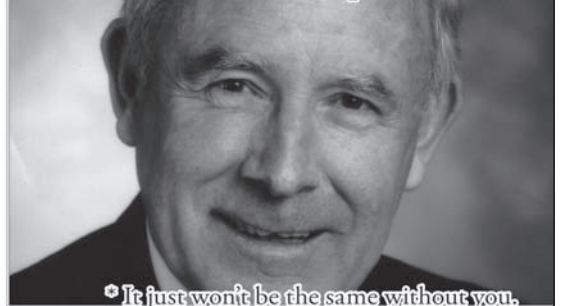
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