

RECORD

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SIGNS for life*

*Abundant (John 10:10) *Eternal (John 3:16)



I've just made a marketing misstep:
I stayed with the product.

Signs for life

I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU ABOUT *SIGNS* for the past 16 years—at camps and regional meetings, and in *RECORD* and *SignsTalk*. I'm more excited about *Signs* now than when I first began in this ministry. Here's why.

First, I get to share something of great value that has made a major contribution to the growth and spirituality of our church. It is a privilege to work in such proximity to something as significant as *Signs of the Times*.

And second, in my role, I get to associate with generous, spiritual people, who believe in the magazine and its mission. Each year, their sponsorships and donations amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars, allowing me the privilege of sharing thousands of *Signs* with people around the globe.

Just a couple of months ago, under the auspices of the "Go *Signs*, Go Gospel!" project—an initiative to place a *Signs* in every home in Australia and New Zealand—the half-millionth *Signs* was delivered. Next month, more than 18,000 magazines will be distributed in suburbs around Lilydale Adventist Academy (Victoria), promoting its annual Billy Cart Grand Prix.

Because of its proximity to Warburton, Lilydale has a strong relationship with and awareness of *Signs*. A number of years ago, members of the Lilydale Academy church began sponsoring *Signs* for the families of non-Adventist students. They were the first to do this—and continue to sponsor more than 120 magazines each month.

These families are the most fertile ground there is for *Signs* seed sowing. After all, there's no prejudice, the families respect the school and its values, and they want to know more of what we believe and teach. What better way to find out than through *Signs*?

With this in mind, along with requests for *Signs* from three more schools, I formalised a plan to provide *Signs* to schools for this purpose—at the lowest possible price. It's called SOS—"Signs for Our Schools."

A number of schools have taken up the offer, with more planning to. But with some schools including up to 75 per cent non-Adventist students, your help supplying magazines is desperately needed.

SOS is but one of six such Five-star Projects, providing *Signs* to literature evangelists, Pacific Islands outreach, and racks in bus and train stations, truck stops, ferries and airports in Australia and New Zealand, and outback homesteads and townships in rural and remote areas of Australia through mail and "airdrops" by the aviation societies.

There are also scores of needy informal outlets, like June and Lindsay Laws, who send *Signs* to Russia, three English language schools in Thailand and South Korea, and large *Signs* rounds run by individuals in Victoria, Queensland and New Zealand.

Then there's your local church's *Signs* outlets, of course. For example, through someone's generous sponsorship, *Signs* Ministry was able to support a successful outreach at the annual show in Chinchilla,

Qld. This was followed up with a "Go *Signs*, Go Gospel!" distribution and visitation campaign, and the church pastor reports people have responded to invitations to attend church.

There are many worthy calls on your giving. But please consider *Signs* in your outreach plans, particularly as it works in cooperation with your local conference, school and church. Remember that every *Signs* delivered is paid for by someone. So, if you're able, sponsor project *Signs*, include *Signs* in your bequest, or make a direct donation. Remember, *Signs* carries a message of hope and a better life, both now and eternally.

In a marketing journal, I came across an article entitled "Make me an offer." It pointed out that in order to make a sale—*Signs* subscriptions, in my case—"sell the offer, not the product." So I should be "selling" you Darren Morton's *Seven Secrets of Feeling Fantastic*, the free book on offer in this year's campaign to those who increase their subscription or sponsorship.

But as *Signs* marketer, according to that advice, I've just made a marketing misstep: I stayed with the product. I couldn't help myself!

And why should you stay with it? Because it's more than a mere product or service, it's a means to salvation.

Lee Dunstan
Signs Ministry coordinator



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

Signs connects with communities

WARBURTON, VICTORIA

Adventist school communities are using *Signs of the Times* magazines to reach out and connect with those around them in an increasing variety of ways this year.

Signs of the Times has teamed up with Lilydale Adventist Academy (LAA) in a community outreach and marketing exercise. LAA is using *Signs* to advertise its 10th Billy Cart Grand Prix, while *Signs* is including a health-related feature built around an interview with Australian 800-metre Olympic athlete Tamsyn Lewis, who will attend the Billy Cart Grand Prix on August 31.

Signs Ministry coordinator Lee Dunstan says, “Homes in surrounding suburbs will each receive a free *Signs*, compliments of the ‘Go *Signs*, Go Gospel!’ initiative to place a piece of Adventist literature into every home in the country.”

LAA’s event coordinator David Jones says the cooperative effort proved successful previously, and more schools should try using *Signs* to their same advantage.

Mr Dunstan says there is another option for using *Signs* in schools this year. Working through chaplaincy and parent-school networks, schools are finding local

sponsorship for sending the magazine to the families of non-Adventist students. Called the “*Signs* for Our Schools” (SOS) project, it aims to give such readers a view through the *Signs* “window” into the church.

Mr Dunstan says, “*Signs* functions as it has for the past 120 years—talking to people where they are—laying out biblical truths relating to their salvation, promoting a healthful, happy lifestyle now, giving insights into the church’s culture and beliefs, and providing means of connecting with the church.”

The South Pacific Division has given \$A5000 to support SOS for 2009, when, according to Mr Dunstan, he anticipates the project will undergo some refinement, with a shorter—and cheaper—subscription geared to the school year. At present, seven schools in three states are participating.

Mr Dunstan describes the schools as being “fertile soil awaiting *Signs* seeds.”

Theology students at Avondale College are also each receiving a copy of *Signs* every month to help with their ministry and outreach. A bequest was made by Pastor W Austin Townend in his will to fund this, and the idea has been presented to pastors



Tamsyn Lewis with some of the participants in the Lilydale Adventist Academy’s Billy Cart Grand Prix.

to help sponsor the students to make up the balance. Pastor Townend wrote for *Signs* and was a lecturer at the college. The project commenced this year.

In New Zealand, sponsorship for “Go *Signs*, Go Gospel!” has picked up in the past month, and the airport at Wanganui now has a *Signs* stand. This is the 14th airport in New Zealand to have such a stand.—Adele Nash

You can subscribe to *Signs of the Times* @ www.signsofthetimes.org.au



◆ More than 300 primary students from Macquarie College (Wallsend, NSW) recently took part in a community health initiative to educate fellow students about the dangers of smoking. Macquarie College principal Dr Bruce Youlden said the college joined forces with Australia Post to send more than 600 copies of *Siggy and Flori*, authored by Brad Watson, to other primary

schools throughout the Hunter region. “We want our children to understand the importance of not smoking. This initiative also teaches the children the importance of giving their time to help others, as well as familiarising them with the fundamentals of the postal system,” Dr Youlden says. Students packaged the books, addressed them and helped an Australia Post representative load the van. Recipient schools can keep the book in return for a small donation. So far, they have raised \$A4190. All funds raised will help publish the next book in the series, about healthy

eating habits for children.—Karyn Asher

◆ The Samoa Adventist College (SAC) in Lalovaea, Samoa, recently hosted a team of 14 teachers and students from Carrum Downs College, Melbourne, Vic. Laitini Mata’utia, team leader of the visiting group and member of Carrum Downs Samoan church, said they were in Samoa to observe the influence of culture in local schools. Because of students’ different cultures and backgrounds in Melbourne, Ms Mata’utia said they sometimes

face difficulties in approaching students about issues. Some students misbehave, while others have stopped attending classes. Many of them are Pacific islanders, she said. Ms Mata’utia said they hope to return with new ideas about how they can use culture to reach out to these students. The group has been impressed with the behaviour and academic success of some schools they have visited. As a token of appreciation, they have been donating educational materials to each school they visit.—Samu Risatisone

Tauranga Adventist School reopens

TAURANGA, NEW ZEALAND

More than 300 people gathered to celebrate the reopening of the Tauranga Adventist School on the afternoon of June 22.

Students were on hand to guide visitors through the new facility on Moffat Road, next door to the Adventist church. Church members, school parents, and past and present students, teachers and principals were in attendance, along with special guests, including Tony Ryall, MP for the Bay of Plenty; Stuart Crosby, mayor of Tauranga; and Pastor Jerry Matthews, president of the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC).

Pastor Eddie Tupai, president of the North New Zealand Conference, gave the main address and a short devotional talk was presented by Owen Ellis, director of Adventist Education for NZPUC, who explored the ways in which Adventist schools have developed technologically and pedagogically, yet have remained focused on showing Jesus to children.

The mayor cut a ribbon to officially reopen the school in its new location, and a plaque was unveiled by Pastor Tupai to commemorate the reopening and dedication of the school.

Tauranga Adventist School first opened in 1970. The new location is almost twice



Mayor of Tauranga Stuart Crosby cuts the ribbon at the school's reopening.

the size of the previous school grounds and will comfortably house the growing number of students. The buildings were completed in nine months by Colin McMillan and his team, and have already received three awards in a recent Master Builders Competition, and won the Superior Award for Commercial Buildings in Tauranga.

Current school principal Ross Bishop says he's "delighted" with the modernity and spacious nature of the buildings.

Ken Weslake, associate director of Adventist Education for the South Pacific Division and a former principal of the school (1978-79), says, "I would say that not only is it the most modern of any of our schools in the division but within the whole of New Zealand as well."—*Adele Nash*

More @ www.taurangasda.school.nz

New mission offices opened in Papua New Guinea

LAE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The new Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) offices were officially opened in Lae recently. Special guests included Sir Paulias Matane, Governor General of Papua New Guinea; Dr Barry Oliver, president of the South Pacific Division; and Luther Wenge, the Morobe province governor.

In his official address at the opening, Sir Matane said the office complex represented "the blood, sweat, tears and prayers of those who have gone before. We are all aware that 100 years ago, the first Seventh-day Adventist missionary set foot on the central coast of Papua. Since then, the Adventist Church has grown to become one of the main churches in our country."

He added that the church had contributed to the development of the country through its educational and health programs, and many other humanitarian deeds.

The two-level building was constructed in 14 months. It has 32 offices, a conference room and two work stations. It was designed by David Stafford, head of architecture at Newcastle University.—*Doreen Poloh Waim/The National*



◆ Two overseas projects are being supported by the members of the **Warwick church (Qld)**. A group of women, meeting each fortnight for a couple of months to sew **rugs and bags for newborns in Africa**, have been so enthusiastic with their venture their excitement has spread to the community. Ladies from **Country Women's Association** and nurs-

ing home residents are also taking part in the project, recently donating **200 knitted jumpers**. Group leader **Karen Steinhardt** says the response has been overwhelming. A group of 14 people from the **Stanthorpe church** are planning to take these baby parcels to Kenya at the end of the year. The church is now working on a second project by assisting sister church **Toowoomba Central** collect goods to send in a container to the Solomon Islands. Warwick church members are eager to contribute, bringing along items each Sabbath,

such as lesson pamphlets (new and used), books for schools and church libraries, and gardening tools.—*Mary Fedorow*

◆ Registrar of **Avondale College, NSW**, **Gwen Wilkinson** will receive her **PhD** in October, disproving the low academic potential rating the Avondale College registrar gave herself when beginning her tertiary education. Examiners at the **University of Newcastle** approved her thesis "Protecting client autonomy: a grounded theory of the processes nurses use to deal with challenges to personal values

and beliefs." The research on which Mrs Wilkinson based the thesis seems self-contradictory. "I found nurses value autonomy, but they are prepared to give up their own to give priority to their patients and their autonomous decisions," she says. Completing the PhD over eight years, Mrs Wilkinson presented findings from the thesis at the International Council of Nurses Conference in **Yokohama, Japan**, in May last year. In doing so, she became the first Avondale lecturer to present a paper at the conference.—*Brenton Stacey/Bruce Manners*

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ AUGUST—SIGNS MONTH

New CEOs appointed for ADRA and AMN

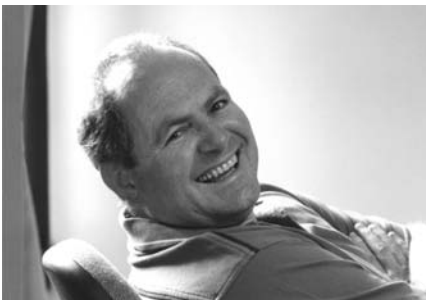
WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Two new leaders have been appointed as CEOs of the Adventist Media Network (AMN), and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia.

Following action by the South Pacific Division (SPD) executive committee, Jonathan Duffy will commence work with ADRA Australia on August 18.

Mr Duffy is currently the director of Adventist Health for the SPD, and has extensive experience in health promotion and community health development. He also has a Masters of Public Health (MPH) from Deakin University.

“Mr Duffy’s professional and educational background has provided him with the right skills and knowledge to direct ADRA Aus-



Jonathan Duffy, the new CEO of ADRA Australia.

tralia’s work, here in Australia and overseas,” said ADRA Australia’s board chair, Peter Brewin. “We are pleased he has been appointed to this role and welcome him to the ADRA family.”

“My work has always been based on a wholistic approach,” said Mr Duffy. “I’m interested in empowering people through education, then providing the support they need to make good choices. And this is what ADRA is all about—it equips people with the knowledge and resources they need, so they have the power to choose a better life.”

Mr Duffy has had an association with ADRA Australia for several years, including participation on a panel to appraise and review proposals for some of ADRA Australia’s major international development projects.

Dr Allen Steele has been AMN’s CEO and SPD communication director jointly until he was called to Andrews University to teach. His former role has been given to two persons—Neale Schofield has been appointed as CEO and David Gibbons, who is currently the associate communication director for the SPD, will become the SPD’s

communication director.

In his role as CEO, Mr Schofield will oversee work at the Signs Publishing Company, Adventist Discovery Centre, and the communication and television production departments at the SPD.

Previously, Mr Schofield has worked as a marketing executive with the church-owned Sanitarium Health Food Company, as a corporate advertising executive and as a director of a church plant in Sydney—the Fountain in the City Church.

He says of his new role, “For so long, we have been busy talking to ourselves—

and we do a good job at all of that—but I want to see us use the media to share the gospel with the wider community.”

Mr Gibbons has a broad spectrum of experience in communication and business, along with having taught for a number of years in Adventist schools.

He commenced work in his role as associate communication director in mid 2007 and hosts the weekly InFocus news program on Hope Channel.—*AMN staff/Candice Jaques*

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



Neale Schofield, AMN's new CEO.

◆ In 2002, a certificate course in family ministry commenced in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Fiji. This course was specifically designed to assist family ministry directors, pastors, teachers, and chaplains minister more effectively to the growing number of Adventist families in the Pacific. More than **40 students** from Fulton and **30** from PNG graduated in 2006. A new class commenced the same program in 2007, with plans to graduate in 2010. Classes have just concluded at Pacific Adventist University with 34 in attendance. **Pastor Trafford**



Fischer, director of Family Ministries for the South Pacific Division, taught “Family life education” and **Dr Alex Currie** taught “Human growth and development.” These same subjects will be taught at Fulton in December for the Trans-Pacific Union students. “They are very keen students, and have a

real commitment to assist both their church members and their communities enrich family life and discover new skills to strengthen their marriages and family ties,” says Pastor Fischer.

◆ **Two Avondale School, NSW**, students, **Alyce** and **Timothy**

Bradstreet, have been selected to represent Australia in the **Asian/Australian Tournament Waterski Championships**. The competition is to be held during the first week of September in **South Korea**. Their selection for the team means they will compete in open-age competition—not in their junior sections. It is one of the youngest teams ever to be sent to the championships. Tim and Alyce will receive support from their home and school community as they continue to train in the cold weather.—*Susan Rogers*

Outreach program results in 376 baptisms

HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

A three-week outreach program conducted in Honiara from the beginning of June has seen 376 people baptised at its conclusion. Pastor Gary Webster, Ministerial Association secretary for the South Pacific Division, conducted the series.

By the third night, 15,000 people were in attendance at the venue, with a further estimated 10,000 outside, watching the meetings on the three screens set up. Kukum Adventist church members had prayed and fasted prior to the meetings that God would bless them, and had invited many people from Honiara to attend.

President of the Solomon Islands Mission (SIM) Pastor Andrew Kingston says, "Kukum church, including the balcony, was packed. The side lawn was full, along with the car park and the vacant block across the road.

"Thousands of people heard truths they've never heard before—truths that led to conviction and decision. Several ministers from other churches attended and many are already stating they want to join Adventists in preparing the world for Jesus' coming."

Other people, who had come to attend a soccer tournament that took place in Honiara, decided to stay for the full three weeks after attending some of the first meetings.

In addition to the meetings, 25 pastors were selected to be on a team to run classes every morning and conduct visitations in the afternoons.

"Honiara will never be the same," says Pastor George Fafale, SIM ministerial secretary and organiser of the three-week program. "God's on the move, the Spirit's on the move and our church is on the move!"

The baptisms were held at the end of the series and Pastor Webster says, "We were all amazed at the power of God over lives. This was totally unexpected."

Each of the new members has been allocated to a church and will also be allocated to a "spiritual mentor," who will encourage and support them as they become integrated into their new church families.

Further seminars and outreach programs are being conducted across Honiara. "This is just the beginning," says Pastor Benjamin Asa, SIM general secretary. "Things are happening here that haven't been seen before." —*Adele Nash/Andrew Kingston/Gary Webster*

ADRA continues work in Burma

IRRAWADDY DELTA, BURMA

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is continuing its work in Burma, following Cyclone Nargis in early May ("ADRA responds to Burma's cyclone crisis," News, May 31).

With an estimated 2.4 million people made homeless by the cyclone, ADRA has continued to meet the needs of survivors in the Irrawaddy Delta region, in the southern part of the country. They are providing food aid, shelter materials, hygiene kits and medicines, and are working on improved access to water and sanitation.

Between May 28 and June 4, ADRA had provided aid to 52,153 people. ADRA also recruited additional female medical staff to help treat injured people.

"This allowed ADRA to increase our capacity to provide health assessments and basic treatment for survivors, especially for women, while remaining respectful of the local cultural practices," said Mark Castellino, programs director for ADRA's emergency response in Burma.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates only half of the population had received aid by early June. —*ADRA International*

◆ **Jamaica's National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA)** is calling **Adventist churches** to become counselling centres as the nation faces continued social problems. The NCDA suggests a three-day training session for pastors, focusing on addiction counselling. Studies reveal as many as 33 per cent of Jamaican students have used alcohol before age 10. There are more than 200,000 Adventists in Jamaica—nearly one of every 12 people in the country.—*ANN*

◆ In a move that will please some and disappoint others, the **Church**

of England's General Synod has voted to **ordain women as bishops**, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reported. The Synod also approved a code of practice aimed at reassuring opponents of the idea. However, the code falls short of safeguards demanded by traditionalists. Some **1300 clergy** threatened to leave the Church if safeguards were not agreed to reassure objectors. BBC religious affairs correspondent **Robert Piggot** said the vote had been conclusive and was accompanied by emotional scenes but traditionalists

have warned the decision could hasten the prospect of a split within the church. The first female priests were ordained in 1994. —*ASSIST News Service*

◆ **A metre-high tablet** with 87 lines of Hebrew that scholars believe date from the decades just before the birth of Jesus is causing a stir in biblical and archaeological circles, because it may speak of a messiah who will rise from the dead after three days. If such a description really is there, it will contribute to a developing re-evaluation of both

popular and scholarly views of Jesus, because it suggests the story of His death and resurrection was not unique but part of a recognised Jewish tradition at the time. The tablet, probably found near the Dead Sea in Jordan, is a rare example of a stone with ink writings from that era. It is written across two neat columns but the stone is broken and some of the text is faded, meaning much of what it says is open to debate. It will probably be some time before the tablet's contribution is fully assessed. —*The Age*

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

Centre's collection keeps memories alive

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

Veronica Flanigan earned a reputation as a walking encyclopedia. The Avondale College graduate, who completed the Bible instructors course in 1937, helped pioneer the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Missionary Volunteers (MVs) ministry, a predecessor to Pathfinders. She also fancied herself a collector, which comes as good news for a Seventh-day Adventist church in the South Pacific research centre, based at Avondale College.

The Flanigan collection, now housed in the Adventist Heritage Centre on the ground floor of Avondale Library, includes artefacts, books, certificates, honour badges, magazines and personal papers dating to the beginning of the 20th century.

Curator Rose-lee Power sorted all the material, filling 130 document boxes. "Veronica literally had a garage full of stuff,"

says Ms Power.

The Les Parkinson collection, an anthology from the church's early missionaries, is also impressive. It includes biographical details and photographs of missionaries who served between 1915 and 1949.

Researchers such as Pastor David Hay, Dr Milton Hook and Dr Arthur Patrick often donate material to the centre. Dr Hook, a student at Avondale from 1960 to 1964, wrote the book *Experiment on the Dora*, which covers the history of Avondale. The centre holds most of the material he used in his research.

Ms Power encourages church members to consider donating material they would otherwise throw away. "It all

helps to keep memories alive," she says. —**Stephane Millien**

Contact <heritage@avondale.edu.au> for more information.



Rose-lee Power examines some of the collection held at the Adventist Heritage Centre.

President encourages members in ministry

JACAREI, SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

General Conference president Pastor Jan Paulsen recently took his latest episodes of live, televised dialogues with pastors to South America, and took the time to encourage churches to include women and young people in leadership.

Pastor Paulsen spoke through a translator during two episodes with seven pastors from Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries in "Pastors: In Conversation."

When asking about challenges specific to the region, most participants spoke on issues that have resonated in other regional dialogues—intercultural ministry and training church members for leadership.

"The church will do well when the spiritually-gifted church members are activated," Pastor Paulsen said. "A church doesn't do well when it relies entirely on the pastor."

Pastor Paulsen also spoke about the importance of pastors prioritising one's own family. "Your wife, your closest partner, should also receive a sense that your care for her is not diminished by your care for the church, and that your children feel they have a high value in you setting aside quality time," he said.

Pastor Paulsen learned from the group that women make up more than 70 per cent of local congregations. He asked how they were leading out in ministry. Pastor Pablo Carbajal, from Ecuador, said women made up nearly 70 out of 80 attendees of a recent leadership workshop. Pastor Nelsen Tapia, from Chile, said many women are involved in a hospitality ministry, while Pastor David Barzola, from Argentina, said some women are preaching and offering counselling.

Pastor Paulsen's next "In Conversation" will be conducted in Africa in August.

—**Ansell Oliver/ANN**

Chinese church hosts ordination in Greater Sydney Conference

SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES

On May 31, Daniel Chong was ordained to pastoral ministry. The Chinese church in Strathfield was filled to overflowing for the first-ever ordination of a currently-serving pastor of that church.

Pastor David Blanch, president of the Greater Sydney Conference, attended the ordination, along with other senior church representatives. Elders and musicians from four Chinese groups—Strathfield, Hurstville, Epping and the "3am" church plant—participated in the service. Also present were Pastor Chong's parents, brother and sister-in-law from Malaysia.

Pastor Chong believes God gave him three calls to ministry at various points in his life but he first attempted to study medicine instead. He applied to medical school for two years running, without success. During these years, he taught in a school and worked as a literature evangelist. Finally, he responded to the urgings of a senior pastor and left Malaysia to study theology at Hong Kong Adventist College.

After graduating in 2000, he returned to Malaysia to minister in his home state of Sabah. In 2005, he married Josephin Lo and the next year, their son, Timothy, was born.

In July 2006, Pastor Chong and his family were called to minister in Australia and they now serve the Sydney Chinese Adventist church, seeking to reach the large Chinese community in Sydney.

—**Intrasyd**



Pastor Daniel Chong at his ordination.

Reconnecting

BY MIKE JONES

I LEFT THE ADVENTIST CHURCH IN 1983, following a divorce. I'd worked as an editor, served as a pastor for five years and had written three books. At the time I left, I was doing conference departmental work.

From the perspective of someone who left the church and then came back, allow me to share some ideas on how to reconnect with, and perhaps reclaim, some who have become inactive or who have left church membership completely.

In my case, I submitted a letter of resignation to my local church. I had no major doctrinal differences with the church but ministers aren't supposed to get divorces and I was embarrassed. So I decided to step aside. But I didn't expect to be gone for 16 years.

After turning in my resignation, I never heard from anyone at my local church. One of my sons called me a few months later to tell me I was no longer a member. When I asked him how he knew, he told me he'd just read about it in the church bulletin.

After returning to membership about eight years ago, I learned I hadn't been alone in leaving. Here are some recent statistics for you to mull:

- The ratio of new members who join the Adventist Church to the number who leave is 100 to 24.¹
- Worldwide, between 2002 and 2006, 1,684,303 Adventists dropped out or went "missing."² This breaks down to an average of 6478 who slipped away every week during this five-year period. Some church leaders believe the actual number could be much higher.
- Forty to 50 per cent of our teenagers become inactive by age 25.³

As you can see, we're haemorrhaging. So how do we reach those who've left? How do we stop the bleeding? Here are a few thoughts for your consideration:

1 Leave former members on your church mailing lists. I did not hear from my church once I was no longer a member. I did not receive church publications or news.

But if we want to reclaim inactive and former members, does it make sense to cut off all communication with them?

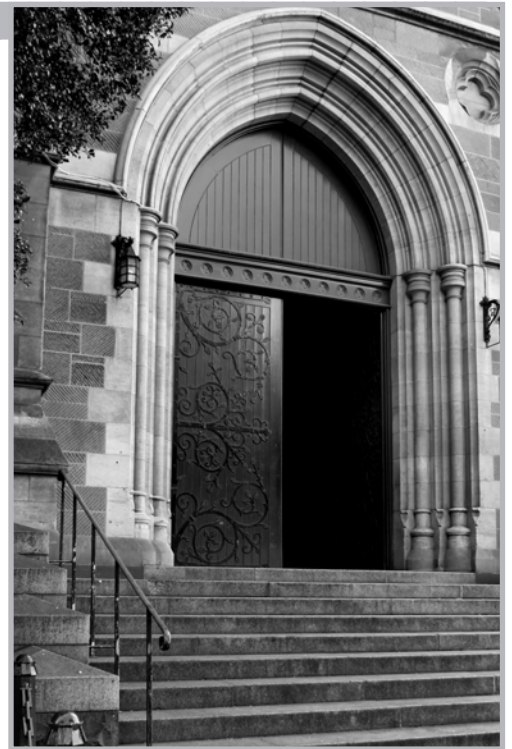
Several years ago, *Adventist Review* ran an article I wrote about my return to church membership. A few months later, I heard from someone I knew back in the 1960s, who has been out of the church for nearly 50 years. It turns out he still received the *Review*, saw the story and made contact with me. So keep inactive and former members on your mailing lists.

2 Watch for inactive members on Sabbath mornings when they visit. During my years away from church, I used to visit local churches several times a year—and so do other inactive and former members. Frankly, I was usually lost in church once I got by the greeters. I can recall only one time when a pastor encountered and spoke with me.

My wife and I were once invited to speak at a small church, whose leaders told us they had a plan in place to reach former members. After the sermon, I chatted with a man in the lobby and learned he was a former member who hadn't attended church in 23 years. I asked him how many of the members had greeted him. He said, "None." During the afternoon meeting, I told the group about him and they were shocked. They also confirmed what he had told me—not one of them had connected with him.

So let's watch for these people. We tend to think of inactive or former members as being "out in the world" when, in reality, they may be sitting in church only a few seats away from us. And keep in mind that they don't arrive wearing "backslider" signs, and they may arrive late and leave early.

A church I used to pastor reclaimed a large number of inactive and former members largely because the church leaders joined me in greeting and talking with people in the lobby. We focused on getting



acquainted with everyone who walked through our door. Did you notice I said it was the "church leaders" who were engaged in this ministry? This is an important point to remember.

3 Pray for but don't nag your family member who has dropped out. Several years ago, I discovered I was trying to do the Holy Spirit's work with my oldest son, who had been inactive for more than 20 years. How do I know I was doing that? Because I learned through a family member that he was frustrated when I'd come to visit because "all Dad can do is talk about religion." I did, in fact, give him a bad time because his boys were growing up with little spiritual nurture. But I decided to clean up my act.

The next time I visited, I didn't say a word about God or church. I mainly asked questions about his favourite hobbies, coaching basketball and football. A few weeks later, my daughter-in-law emailed my wife and told her that my son was talking about coming back to church. About a year later, he was rebaptised, along with two of his sons.

However, this doesn't mean we shouldn't encourage inactive members to consider coming back. I recently talked with a businessman in my home church about his time out of the church. "I was out for about 20 years," he told me. "I just got busy and drifted away. If anyone had invited me to

return during those years, I believe I would have,” he said.

4 Consider anointing former members who become ill. My friend Don tells the story of anointing his brother, Burt, who had been out of the church for 43 years, in part because of a drinking problem. Don stayed in touch with Burt throughout the years but was unable to reach him spiritually until Burt was in the last stages of cirrhosis of the liver.

Don’s first hospital visit found Burt in a coma, with four tubes coming out of his body and his skin the colour of a pumpkin. A few days later, when Burt was able to hold a conversation, Don asked him if he’d like to be anointed. He agreed, and the day after the anointing, Don found him sitting up and alert. Not long after this wondrous event, Don rebaptised him, and Burt rejoined the church and lived for another nine years.

Several years ago, my wife and I anointed one of my sons and his wife whose marriage was in trouble. The result was amazing. They got better right away. They still talk about that event as a time when God touched their lives.

5 Apologise for the church when a former member feels wounded. You and I never know for sure how accurate their “church-done-me-wrong” story is. But we can tell them we’re sorry for their pain. I often tell the inactive or former member, “I’m really sorry for your pain and on behalf of our church, I’d like to ask for your forgiveness.”

Most people tell me it wasn’t me, it was the church that caused their problem. And I always tell them, “I understand but I’d still like to apologise on behalf of the church for whatever happened or didn’t happen.” Then I ask if they would be willing to forgive me.

Very few turn me down. And when they say yes, I quickly pray with them, thanking God for the forgiving spirit the person has just exercised. I also pray that the Holy Spirit will make their decision a reality and bring great healing into their lives. Believe me, these are always healing moments.

6 Consider Roger Morneau’s protocol for the inactive. Morneau developed the following plan to reclaim inactive and

former members:⁴

- a. Read Matthew 27:24-54 daily, then plead the merits of Jesus’ shed blood on behalf of the inactive person and pray their sins will be blotted out.
- b. Pray for the Holy Spirit to minister the graces of redemption for them and fight their spiritual battles, even though they haven’t asked for this kind of help.
- c. Ask the Holy Spirit to re-create their spiritual faculties, looking to the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus (see Romans 8:2) to do this miraculous work.
- d. Pray this way daily, recognising that the person you’re praying for has the power

Worldwide, between 2002 and 2006, 1,684,303 Adventists dropped out or went “missing.” Some church leaders believe the actual number could be much higher.

of choice but the Holy Spirit can work with added power in the person’s life.

- e. Give thanks daily for what God is doing in the life of the person you’re praying for, whether you see any results or not.

7 Remember to claim God’s promises on behalf of the inactive or former member. Then let God do what God does best. There’s an example in Jeremiah 3:22 in which God promises: “I will heal your backslidings” (KJV). In wonderful ways, God seems to be reconnecting with inactive and former members.

One formerly-inactive member told me that several years ago, as she was sitting alone on her couch, a voice said to her, “Vickie, you must go back to church. Take your family and go.” She did, and today she is a Sabbath-school leader in her church.

Colin McClay had been out of the church for 35 years. He had gone through a divorce, and had been casually thinking about God and maybe attending church sometime but had taken no immediate ac-

tion. On July 5, 2002, however, he heard a voice speak to him while he was showering. “The voice was so powerful,” he said, “that at first I thought someone was in my apartment.”

What did the voice say? Simply this: “Go to church tomorrow.” He did. Some months after his baptism, Colin wrote to me: “Since deciding to recommit my life to Jesus and follow Him, I am experiencing the greatest joy I have ever known.”

In my case, I don’t know who may have been praying for me for so many years and I never heard any voice speaking to me. But God has a thousand ways of reaching people that many of us have never thought of. For me, it was an unlikely way indeed—when I met a special woman and asked her out. She responded by telling me she dated only Christian men and asked me if I was a Christian.

I told her I was a Christian but was not active in a church. She said she wouldn’t date a guy who wouldn’t attend church with her. I told her I was willing to negotiate church attendance. This was the beginning of my return to church and a beautiful relationship that culminated in marriage.

8 Listen, listen, listen. If an inactive or former member honours you by sharing their possibly painful story, suture your mouth shut and listen. Don’t defend the church. Just listen empathetically. Remember that Job’s friends really did comfort Job—until they started to talk.

9 Never give up. Was someone praying for me during the 16 years I was away from church? I may not know the answer to that question until I reach heaven. But if there was, I will be eternally grateful.

Don’t stop praying and never give up. After all, God doesn’t. **R**

¹ Office of Archives and Statistics, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

² *ibid.*

³ Roger Dudley, *Why Our Teenagers Leave the Church*, page 35.

⁴ Roger Morneau, *When You Need Incredible Answers to Prayer*, Chapter 9.

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Mike Jones is an author, who writes from Portland, Oregon, USA.



The team

BY GLENN TOWNEND

MY COLLEAGUES AND I WERE catching up as we waited for the train at the Morisset Railway Station. The train was due in a few minutes and we were the only ones waiting.

This seemed odd, so I walked back to the other side and asked for a track timetable. “Trains are half an hour earlier because of the track work toward Sydney,” the station master told me.

I shared this information with the group, as well as additional insight from the amended timetable. The train would take us to Wyong; from there to Gosford would be on a bus; and then a train all the way to Sydney and the plane home. We had left plenty of time for all the connections and another part of our group had caught the “half an hour early” train and were already on their way. I informed the guys that we had to make changes to and from buses to get the connecting train that would get us to Sydney airport on time. All acknowledged the need to move quickly and some checked the timetable information themselves.

The group I was travelling with were all Adventist pastors, on our way home to Perth after a week of ministers meetings at Avondale College. The train ride to Wyong and bus transfer went without incident. But as the bus pulled into Gosford station, I noticed the train to Sydney already on the platform. I and some oth-

ers were running on the overpass as it left the station.

One by one, the men trudged down to the platform with their luggage. We regrouped and I re-examined the timetable. The next train would get us to Central Station at 6.25, leaving us just 25 minutes to get to the airport check-in counter 30 minutes before take off. Doable—but improbable.

The guys took the news philosophically. We were visitors to the state and travelling on public transport, what could we do?

The train arrived on time at Gosford.

People notice 13 men running through Central Station.

We all piled into the third carriage from the front at both doors. The pastors sat in various groups with baggage piled around. I had two bags; one was taking a pram back to a friend in a large cardboard box; another had a box of books to deliver. Others had extra luggage, too.

Sitting in a train, waiting to go home after a week, with no control over the progress has interesting effects on different personalities. One said, “Nothing we can do, so let’s just relax and enjoy ourselves”—

and promptly went to sleep. Another’s response was “We will never make it. I guess we’ll have to stay in a hotel and get the morning flight.” Yet another: “Why didn’t anyone tell us there was track work and the trains were earlier—we had plenty of time to get there if we had known.” Others said, “Let’s try to make it—you know we can pray.” And many of us did.

I was with the few who said, “Let’s give it a try.” I had plenty of time to kill so I phoned the airline to explain the predicament of 13 of its passengers booked on Flight 581 to Perth that evening. It took several calls as the train passed through a number of tunnels, which are not mobile friendly. The staff were understanding and thanked me for the forewarning but they were just as adamant the airline was unlikely to hold the plane, as it costs them thousands of dollars each minute to delay an aircraft. Their only suggestion was to try our best to get there.

I also phoned one of my colleagues who had made the earlier train and told him our predicament. I asked him to speak to the check-in staff and tell them of our plight. He was keen to help.

He called back after their early check-in and told me much the same story as the airline staff on the phone. The consolation was that the rest of the pastoral group knew our situation—and were praying for us.

As we got closer to Central Station, we

could see the train was going to be on time. I had travelled this route more than the others and one of them suggested I outline for the group the layout of Central Station and how to get to the airport platform. This seemed to help some.

One of the fellow pastors had phoned a friend who lived in Sydney and travelled by train each day. He discovered we had four minutes to get from the arriving platform to the airport line. This would only be possible if we ran—and climbed the stairs rather than taking the lifts.

As the train came into Central Station, suitcases, boxes and pastors crowded the carriage doorways. As soon as the doors opened, we were off.

There were bodies and bags going everywhere. The wheels of the suitcases at pace sounded like a jumbo jet taking off. The pounding of shoes on the concrete platform sounded like a herd of stampeding elephants.

People notice 13 men running through Central Station. Other passengers heard the commotion and turned, faces aghast—then just got out of the way. As we passed, their faces turned from shock to smiles, and some even cheered us on with “Go for it!” and “Hope you make it.”

I was among the leading group but my extra bag kept falling off the top of the wheeled suitcase. I stopped to fix it. Looking behind, I saw people scattering but one woman stopped and offered to carry an extra bag for a pastor who was struggling to manage his load. People can be so kind.

When I reached the top of the stairs to the airport line, the train had pulled up. The doors opened and the first pastors jumped on the last carriage. As I approached the train, heart pounding and lungs puffing, I noticed the platform guard checking those alighting. He looked in my direction but I dared not make eye contact. There were eight guys yet to board this train.

I stood on the platform with my bags in the open doors so the automatic doors could not close. One by one, like straggling cows, pastors staggered up the stairs with suitcases, boxes and bags, and jumped through the open door. Each time another approached and boarded the train, we would grab their luggage and cheer.

One pastor, needing a hip replacement, hobbled on. Another, carrying his bags

like an ox, was the last on board. The doors closed without the platform guard saying anything. I didn't look but one of the guys said he had a huge grin on his face—thankfully.

Although there were other passengers in the carriage doorway, we pastors took over. We praised each other for working together and making it this far. I reminded the guys of what was ahead of us: a flight of escalators to get out of the train station, and then another two escalators and a fair distance to travel to get to the check-in desk.

As soon as the train arrived at Sydney Domestic terminal, the stampeding elephant circus began again. It was just

As the train came into Central Station, suitcases, boxes and pastors crowded the carriage doorways. As soon as the doors opened, we were off.

the same as at Central Station minutes earlier—lots of noise, startled looks and cheers of support. The more able-bodied pastors carried luggage for those less able. We worked as a team.

We had three minutes to get to check-in. *Could we do it?!* By the time I arrived at the counter, one pastor had beaten the 6:50 deadline and was booked in. *Maybe we can all do it*, I allowed myself to hope.

I went straight to the express check-in line. No-one else was in this line. *How good is that*, I thought.

I showed the check-in attendant my membership card and blurted out—between deep breaths—why we had just arrived. I dared not use the word *late* at 6:52. I also told her we were part of a group and the others were already booked on and that we had rung ahead to inform the airline of our predicament.

“Just let me check,” said the not-so-amused but efficient check-in woman,

as she took the phone and dialled a number.

I prayed silently, *Please, God, we're so close!*

As she talked, I saw her nodding. I was more positive. But at the same time, she was seeing more and more people with big baggage stagger up, out of breath.

She held the phone mouth piece and spoke to me, “How many of you?”

“Twelve others,” I replied.

“How much luggage?”

“I think about 16 pieces.” I knew that was too many for regular passengers.

“Are you all here?”

“Almost,” I said, not even bothering to count.

Why does the wait of 30 seconds seem like forever? Her “OK” was the sweetest word I had heard in a long time. “Line up at these three counters.”

We were homeward bound. Our waiting colleagues rejoiced to see us in the line to board the flight. I didn't sleep on the plane—no-one in that group did. The adrenalin lasted for hours. We had made it.

I have pondered the many lessons from the train, bus and plane trip that day.

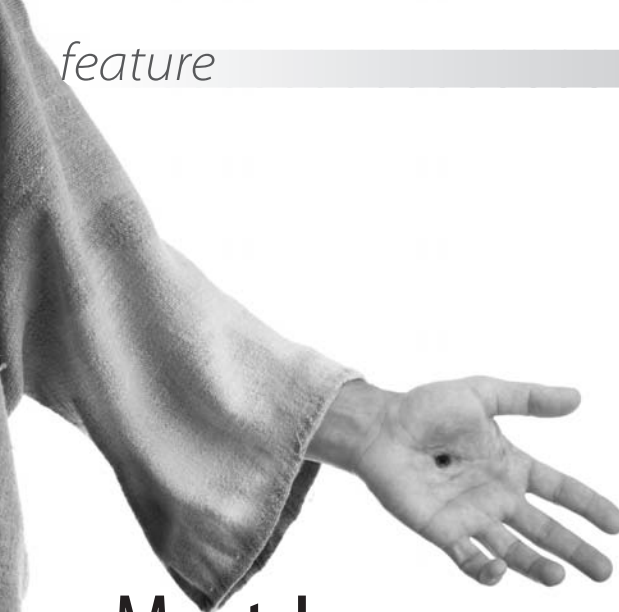
With Jesus in my life, I'm glad I don't have to scrape into eternal life in the heavenly home. We can have assurance today.

All involved believed we did the impossible—God does answer prayer.

But my strongest impressions from this experience is that while I'm on earth working with God, I have the privilege to work with a group of pastors who know what *team* means.

Of course, we are also just part of the much larger team that is the church: “Without wavering, let us hold tightly to the hope we say we have, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near” (Hebrews 10:24, 25, NLT). **R**

Glenn Townend is president of the Western Australian Conference, based in Perth, WA.



Meet Jesus

BY REUBEN HOPE

WHO IS JESUS? WHY THAT NAME?
Aren't all prophets just the same?
How then did He get such fame?
Come on, meet Jesus.

This man Jesus, God's own son,
Came to walk on earth as one
To show us life can still be won.
Come on, meet Jesus.

God sent His son, a gift to man,
To come and skittle Satan's plan.
Won't you accept Him while you can?
Come on, meet Jesus.

What profit, if we meet our goal
Upon this earth but lose our soul?
Sin will always take its toll!
Come on, meet Jesus.

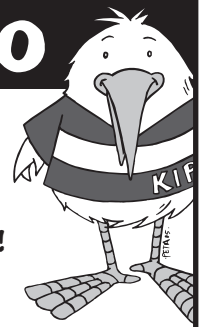
Healed the sick and raised the dead,
Multiplied the fish and bread.
Does not condemn, forgives instead.
Come on, meet Jesus.

Died for us on Calvary's tree
That from sin we may be free.
Coming back for you and me.
Come on, meet Jesus.

Jesus is my friend so true.
He wants be a friend to you.
Jesus is our Saviour, too
So come on, friend, meet Jesus. **R**

Reuben Hope writes from Auckland, New Zealand.

Record Roo



Hi kids,
Isaac had two sons. They were twins but the Bible tells us they weren't very much alike in looks or in the way they behaved! Read about the brothers in Genesis 25:19-34.

Bible Text Puzzle

What were the brother's names? Working your way around clockwise, write down every third letter to find out.

start here... → → →

KAJUTARLCKJOLDB

IMWAM

HI _____

KNKODLFEIYSBRAJ

Draw and Colour

Read the story of how one brother gave up his birthright for a pot of stew, in Genesis Chapter 25, verses 29-34.
Can you draw the two brothers on either side of the pot on the fire?



Gender and church

DANNY BELL, WA

I take issue with the statement that it is a “shame that our church continues to treat women from an entrenched patriarchal standpoint” (“Conference explores church and patriarchy,” News, June 28). This is not true. The falsehood is that the Adventist church is still somehow restricting women with its patriarchal, unfair employment practices and opportunities for women.

There have been many advances for women over the past 20 years, with the establishment of full-time Women’s Ministries departments all the way to the General Conference. Women now feature highly in policy making at all levels, with gender equality built into election procedures from top to bottom. Committees and boards now have mandates to recognise gender balance when electing officers and nominating leadership positions within the system. This is all without even mentioning denominational figures at a local level, where women outnumber men in positions by an average of 3 to 1 in favour of women.

Let’s be realistic. Men are the less represented gender at a local level—the true powerhouse of the church. Women’s attendance is around 70 per cent, while Adventist men are at an all-time low of around 30 per cent. Our women are being looked after fine, so let’s leave behind the old days of feminist male bashing and get on with finding real solutions for the decline of men’s attendance at church.

MICHELE ROBERTSON, NSW

As we keep arguing about “women in ministry,” more and more Australian women are turning to “spiritual healers.” These are (mostly) women with New Age beliefs, and though I do not endorse their points of view, they are often compassionate, sensitive, caring people. They understand the pain of women, relate to them, give them love and practical support, womanly wisdom and “spiritual wisdom.” Given a female with such sensitivities, who are women in the community going to turn to—their local Adventist male minister or to one of these spiritual healers? One may argue women don’t need to be ordained to minister to women—but how is this working for us? It isn’t: our women

continue to stay hidden in the shadows in subordinate roles.

We have to acknowledge that many of our ministers are neither by temperament nor training able to cope with emotive is-

ues. They often find it difficult to handle the needs of Adventist women in crisis, let alone those who are not of our faith. The Adventist Church is strewn with too many cases of women and children in suffering, grief and sometimes danger, whose situations have been misunderstood and mishandled by our male ministers.

The church is happy to give women leadership positions in children’s Sabbath school and in some senior teaching positions. But if a woman has serious ethical issues with a male minister, who does she turn to? There is no-one—except the male hierarchy and, like it or not, they have been known to close ranks. And no woman can be awarded a senior ministerial or even administrative position because there has been no succession planning to allow this.

We need women reaching out to women, as only they know how. Our church in Australia is predominantly composed of women and yet our leadership is almost 100 per cent male.

We need women trained to meet this phenomenal New Age movement Australian women are embracing in droves. We need women, not only ordained to the ministry but nurtured into senior ministerial positions, adding their unique talents, creativity, perspectives and emotional capacity to deal with a range of women’s issues, both within and outside the church.

NAME SUPPLIED

My church is privileged to have a woman pastor but every time she takes a sermon, there is an exit of a number of the saints before the sermon commences. As I observe this phenomenon, I realise there is no-one I can really talk to in depth about this situation and the effect it is having on me, not to mention the minister.

Lately, I find myself longing to have a lengthy discussion with Barak. Somehow

I know he could help me in this dilemma. He may say, “I will tell you about Deborah, the woman who saved Israel. She was God’s anointed, a mother to Israel, our judge, our prophet and leader” (see Judges 4 and 5).

Women don’t need to be ordained to minister to women—but how is this working for us? It isn’t.

Secular challenge

CHRIS MALAN, NSW

Reflecting on “Rediscovering church planting” (Feature, June 21), it seems to me that people interested in spirituality join churches, truly secular people don’t. Therefore, the church population will grow where there is a reasonable ratio of spiritually inclined-to-secular people not yet affiliated with a church. This situation exists in many developing countries.

In developed countries, where it is fashionable to be secular and openly deride religion, we can expect church populations to decline. It is easier to convert a satanist than a truly secular person with no interest in spirituality. Because the ratio of those spiritually inclined to the secular was previously higher and a bigger proportion of people belonged to churches, there is an oversupply of churches, most of which have been slowly emptying for years.

Significant growth of any one church in a country like Australia is only possible if that church poaches members from another church. Little or nothing is being done to convince the secular that there is a God. Mostly, it is preaching to the converted.

Due to their training, church leaders are not equipped to deal with this problem. It is a hard reality that is not being addressed. Moving closer to the secular world and accepting secular principles won’t solve anything. One might as well stay fully secular rather than join a half-secular church.

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

▲ **Human resources director—Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Ltd (Lae, Papua New Guinea)** is seeking a Human Resources director to oversee and provide support services in regards to personnel and employment matters within the Papua New Guinea Union Mission. For more information, please visit the South Pacific Division Human Resources website at <<http://hr.adventistconnect.org/>>. All 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 **August 13, 2008**.

▲ **Departmental assistant—Greater Sydney Conference (NSW, Australia)**, is seeking to fill the full-time position of departmental assistant for the Communication, Health and Children's Ministries Departments, commencing immediately. The successful applicant will be creative, well organised and self-motivated, with an eye for detail and the ability to work to deadlines. It is essential that the applicant have highly-developed communication skills, computer skills in Microsoft Office, and competence in the Adobe Creative Suite is desirable. The successful applicant needs to be able to organise and assist with events, as well as coordinate the production of *Intrasyd* and other newsletters. This position is open to Australian residents only. For further information, contact the general secretary, Pastor Michael Worker, 4 Cambridge St, Epping, NSW 2121; email <michaelworker@adventist.org.au>; or phone (02) 9868 6522. Applications close **August 11, 2008**.

▲ **Sales Representative—Sanitarium Health Food Company (Melbourne, Vic)**. Sanitarium is seeking a highly-motivated person to join our Victorian 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, and 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 **August 1, 2008**.

For more employment options go to
hr.adventistconnect.org



Weddings

Burgess—Abell. Joel David Burgess, son of Peter and Maria Burgess (Mackay, Qld), and Erin Danielle Abell, daughter of Doug and Jenny Abell (Mackay), were married on 8.6.08 in Mackay. *Tom Osborne*

Goncalves—Antas. Everton Goncalves, son of Joao Jose and Ani Rosa Goncalves (dos Santos), and Patricia De Medeiros Antas, daughter of Jose Antas de Sousa (deceased) and Maria Ines De Medeiros Lima, were married on 22.6.08 in Blacktown church, NSW. *Gilberto Dias*

Tamas—Krogdahl. Steven Tamas, son of Julian and Irena Tamas (Tamborine, Qld), and Christie Anna Krogdahl, daughter of Patrick Krogdahl (WA) and Anna Silvester (Clear Mountain, Qld), were married on 25.5.08 in St Andrew's Anglican church, South Brisbane. *Jorge Munoz*

Obituaries

Barnes, Henry William, born 15.3.1919 at Gisborne, NZ; died 8.6.08 in the Gisborne Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Maebe (Gisborne); his children, James (Gisborne), Annette (Pukekohe), and Frances (Wellington), and their families. Henry worked in the Gisborne/East Coast/Bay of Plenty areas as a colporteur for 25 years. Henry had a passion for

sharing the gospel with people and was well respected in the community. Although in much pain for the latter part of his life, he never once complained. He will be sadly missed by family and friends. Rest "Old Soldier," as you await the Lord's return. *Allan Brown*

Bull, Edith Madeline, born 2.4.1926 at Harden, NSW; died 27.6.08 in Nazareth House, Ballarat, Vic. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Kevin; her two sons, Alec and Stephen, and their spouses, Poppy and Kellie; her six grandchildren; and her five great-grandchildren. Madeline was a member of the Ballarat church for over 50 years. She was deeply loved by her church family and was never without an encouraging smile, in spite of the pain she was suffering in the final years of her life. She now awaits the return of her Lord and Saviour. *Brian Lawty*

Charles, Ronald Leonard, born 1.4.1930 in South Africa; died 3.5.08 at Whangarei, New Zealand. He married Elizabeth in Barberton, South Africa. He is survived by his wife (Auckland, NZ); his children and their spouses, Keith and Bernice Charles, Lucile and Noel Manikkam, and Corrine and Lawrence Peters; and seven grandchildren. Ron was a true gentleman, and was well liked and respected. Ron was an educator by profession and served in various capacities in the Education Department in Natal, South Africa. He immigrated to New Zealand in the 1990s to be with his children. Ron lived

a full life, enjoyed travelling and was loved by his church family in Papatotoe community church, Auckland. We will miss you Ron, see you when Jesus comes again! *Norman Hurlow*

Francis, Margaret Jean (nee Young), born 23.4.1916 at Mt Morgan, Qld; died 27.6.08 in Mater Hospital, Yeppoon. Jean was predeceased by her husband, Clarry. She is survived by her cousins, Myrtle, Nell and Narelle, and sadly missed by her Yeppoon church family, and the staff and residents of Capricorn Adventist Retirement Village. Jean joined the Rockhampton church around 1957, during Pastor Jim Cherry's evangelistic campaign. In 1993, she moved into Capricorn Adventist Retirement Village, where she was one of the first residents. Jean loved her church, was faithful in attending and was known for her friendly manner. She rests in the hope of Jesus' soon return. *Alvin Colheart*

Herbert, Esson, born 8.9.1929; died 29.3.08 at Blenheim, NZ, after illness. She is survived by her brothers, Alex and George Stoddard (Waipukurau); daughters, Shane (Christchurch), Gaewynne (and husband Jay, Brisbane), Deborah (and husband Phil, Blenheim), Beverley (and husband Jonathan, Wanganui), Rosemary (and husband Alex, Totara Flats, Greymouth), Pauline (and husband Murray, Auckland); and her eight grandchildren. Esson was long known as a modern day Dorcas. Her loving, gracious ministry touched so many lives over so many years. She played a vital role in caring for practical needs, both within the Church and in the wider community. Her funeral service was conducted by long-time friend Doug Hurley, of Rangiora. *Paul Gredig*

Karo, Nuupure, born 2.5.1950 at Pukapuka Island, Cook Islands; died 25.5.08 in Middlemore Hospital, South Auckland, NZ. She is survived by her husband, Ngametua; her children, Helen, Carolyn, Trevor, Nelson and Junior; her 21 grandchildren; and brother-in-law, Teina Karo. The daughter of the late Pastor Richard Carry-me Masters of Aitutaki, Nuupure was like the lilies which adorned her front garden—ever radiating love and purity. Deeply loved, she now rests, awaiting the call of her Lord on that great Resurrection morning! Ae ra, haere mai, e te Ariki, e Ihu. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. *Jaké Ormsby, Paora Teaukura Teariki Iotua*

Purdie, Douglas Weston (Doug), born 10.5.1923 at Lower Hutt, New Zealand; died 6.6.08 at Nambour, Qld. In 1956, he married Betty Bell, who predeceased him in 1977. Doug is survived by his daughter, Linda (and Peter) Ockey (Mountain Creek, Qld); his son, Grant (Wellington, NZ); his grandsons, Steven (and Alison) and Leigh; and his great-grandsons, Matthew and Andrew Ockey (all of Brisbane). In WWII, Doug was a test pilot on various RAF fighter planes, and diverted the V-1 rockets from their deadly missions over London by tipping them off

course with his plane's wings. Doug was baptised in Landsborough church, Qld, in 2003, and awaits the Resurrection.

Mike Brownhill

Smith, Mary Jean, born 24.4.1920 in Brunswick, Melbourne, Vic; died 16.6.08 in Elizabeth Gardens Nursing Home, Burwood. She is survived by her son, Guy, and his wife, Elva; and eight grandchildren from her deceased son, Roderick. Jean loved the outdoor life, working initially as a jillaroo on a sheep station, then with an orchardist on the Victorian Murray River, before developing an exceptional flair and skill in growing and lecturing on herbs. She was a member of the Herb Society of Victoria, the Chrysanthemum Society of Victoria, and Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. It was simply remarkable what Jean could do with a shovel and a bare plot of earth, and she believed she was never closer to her God than at this time. *Merv Sparrowhawk*

Tindall, Pastor Rex, born 11.4.1925 in Hobart, Tas; died 13.6.08 at Nambour, Qld. On 26.1.1950, he married Clarice Watts. He is survived by his wife (Nambour); his children and their spouses, Terry (Corranbong, NSW), Robyn and Ed Muskitta (Brisbane, Qld), Lyndon (Melbourne, Vic), Scott and Marilyn, and Bronwyn Thorley (Nambour, Qld); and his 14 grandchildren. Converted in Hobart, Rex attended Avondale College from 1946-50. He worked as a minister in Qld, before serving in PNG from 1959-1973. Pastor Rex pioneered the work in the Marawaka and Simbari regions, as well as pioneering teaching at Sonoma College, New Britain, with Pastor Alex Currie. He also held various departmental roles after returning to Australia, before volunteering in PNG again in 1987. *Alex Currie, Horrie Watts*

Wallace, James Grafton, born 4.11.1918 at Burwood, NSW; died 20.6.08 in Avondale Adventist Aged Care Facility, Corranbong, NSW. He was predeceased by his wife, Jean, in 2001. He is survived by his seven children and their families, David (California, USA), Rod and Pauline (Sydney, NSW), Geoff and Bev Miller (Coal Point), Bruce and Zel (Noosa, Qld), Phil and Bernadette (Wagga Wagga, NSW), Mike and Jennie Dye (Lilydale, Vic) and Steve and Tina (Cairns, Qld). Jim was given an RSL tribute for Navy service in WWII by Wagga Wagga Sub-branch vice-president Bede Griffith. He will be remembered as a person who gave generously of himself to his family, his church and his community. His great humour, lively interest in the work of God, and his Christian role modelling will continue to inspire his family and acquaintances. *Sid Griffith, Trafford Fischer*

Williams, Frederick, born 21.7.1928 in Hobart, Tas; died on 14.6.08 in Hornsby Hospital, NSW. On 3.12.1952, he married Bonnie Joan (nee Chugg). He later married Maisie De Moldrup Sedgman, who predeceased him. He was baptised on 18.12.1993. He is survived by his children, Linda De Chastel (Qld), Jennifer Cameron (NSW), Jim (Qld), Peter (Qld), Wendy Lazarevsky (NSW), Robert (Qld) and Sandra Mulchay (Qld). *Robert Craig*

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Winsmeid, Paul Henry, born 28.2.1918 at Toledo, Ohio, US; died 25.6.08 in Coronella Retirement Village, Nunawading, Vic. On 25.4.1946, he married Joy (Marjory Joyce), who predeceased him in 2004. He is survived by his sons and their wives, Arthur and Jillienne (Pakenham, Vic), and Noel and Georgina (Lilydale); and his grandchildren, Matthew and Andrew, and Dianna and Christopher. Paul served his country in the Pacific region during WWII, where he met and later married Joy, leading to a long and eventful life together in Australia. Although quite ill for his last few weeks, Paul's patience, trust and assurance were an inspiration to everyone.

Darrell Croft, Trevor Rowe

Wood, Ralph Austin, born 15.3.1912 at Balaklava, SA; died 2.7.08 at the Adventist Aged Care Facility, Cooranbong, NSW. His wife predeceased him in 2007. He is survived by his sons and their spouses, Alvin and Lynne (Brisbane, Qld), and Vernon and Valerie (Bonnells Bay, NSW); his five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. He will be remembered as the Boys' Preceptor at Avondale College from 1951-1954 and, also, as a faithful pastor and friend in a number of churches in Australia and New Zealand. He rests in the blessed hope.

Jim Beamish, Alan Saunders

Advertisements

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Victoria Point, Qld. Adventist church is celebrating 25 years as a member of the sisterhood of Adventist Churches in Queensland on Sabbath, September 6, 2008. A cordial invitation is extended to past members and ministers who have been a part of the fellowship during this period. Both Sabbath school at 9.15 and church service at 10.50 will include special features before a fellowship luncheon. Come and join in this birthday thanksgiving celebration.

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Tasmanian Conference Constituency Meeting. Notice is hereby given that the 51st Triennial Constituency Meeting of the Tasmanian Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be convened at the Launceston Seventh-day Adventist church, Talbot Road, Launceston, on Sunday, August 31, commencing with registration at 9.30 am. The business of the constituency meeting will be as provided for in the constitution and to consider amendments to the Constitution of the Tasmanian Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

South New South Wales Conference Triennial Constituency meeting. Notice is hereby given that the 82nd Constituency Meeting of the South New South Wales Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be held at the Seventh-day Adventist church hall, Goulburn, NSW. The business session will be held on Sunday, September 21, 2008, commencing at 10 am.

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August 29-31, 2008

Delegates will be appointed in harmony with the constitution. The business of the session will be as provided in the constitution, incorporating the presentation of reports and financial statements for the period. The officers, executive committee and other committees as provided in the constitution, will be appointed.

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