

# RECORD

December 6, 2008

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*Members of the South Pacific Division's executive committee spent time in working groups, discussing the challenges and opportunities for mission.*

## SPD focuses on resources for mission

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Church leaders from across the South Pacific Division (SPD) have spent time wrestling with the needs and opportunities for mission across the region, and how to best employ the resources of the church to meet these challenges. This discussion was a major focus of the SPD's annual executive committee meetings, held from November 11 to 13.

SPD chief financial officer Rod Brady began the discussion with an overview of the resources and challenges facing the Adventist Church in the South Pacific region, highlighting the disparities between the conference and mission territories. This

presentation led into a period of discussion of specific issues in smaller working groups, with reports back to the meetings and specific recommendations delivered to the SPD administration.

"We are taking this process very seriously," commented Pastor Barry Oliver, president of the SPD. "As an administrative team, we have set aside a block of time to work through these recommendations as we work toward the development of a comprehensive strategic plan for the next quinquennium to be adopted at next year's annual meetings.

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Prayer on call in Australia



It is our story and our willingness to share it that will change the world.

# Most important sermon

I STOOD AT THE DOOR, SHAKING HANDS after preaching a sermon. One of the congregation, Australian Union Conference president Pastor Chester Stanley, extended his hand. “I am organising a series for Hope TV called ‘Your Most Important Sermon.’ Would you be one of our preachers?” he asked.

I agreed and told him, on the spot, the sermon I would be presenting—“God’s Storytellers.” I knew it was the right sermon for me to preach because it is a theme that has captivated my heart since I was a boy. My first sermon, at 12, was a dramatic re-enactment—dressed in a Bible costume.

This past Sabbath, my most recent worship service was a communion service in which we explored the “complete covenant” by re-enacting the story of God’s people—past, present and future. The unique thing about the service was there was no sermon. There was music and a rich biblical dialogue participated in through responsive reading by the pastor, elders and congregation. We were the sermon.

The more pulpits I preach from, the more I realise our most important sermon is not the one given in an hour on Sabbath morning. It is the one we live the other 167 hours each week. Your life is your most important sermon.

In a recent interview for *Re:Frame\** (the newsletter of the General Conference’s Centre for Secular and Postmodern Studies), I was asked, “What, in your mind, is the biggest difference between storytelling

and preaching?”

I replied: “This might get me in trouble. Preaching is a traditional form of communication, while storytelling is an effective form of communication.”

I believe this with all my heart. It is our story and our willingness to share it that will change the world. The last thing the world needs is another preacher with another homily. What the lost, dying world around us needs is you and I—honest, caring, connecting—preaching with actions rather than sound bites. When we embrace, we speak volumes.

An embrace, by its very nature, causes both parties to pause. You can’t hug on the run. And when we slow down enough to truly care, we touch and are touched. Jesus always met people’s emotional and physical needs before speaking change into their hearts. Empathy leads people to the foot of the cross. And witnessed at a standstill, the cross causes change.

You are a storyteller. And so am I. We tell our story with every laugh, cry, word and silence. Your story is the most powerful instrument you have for change in your life and influence in the lives of those around you. Nothing touches the heart like a story.

It is not the preacher in the pulpit or the Christian in the pew that leads people to Jesus. It is, instead, the preacher’s heart for people and the Christian’s compassion in the community. Inevitably, when we care, we are invited to share. And an invitation

to speak usually comes with a willingness to listen and a desire to hear.

We are not merely the hands and feet of Jesus, we are his voice as well. But we must remember to live the story before we tell it. Shouting from the rooftops does little to ease the suffering in the streets. Likewise, serving in the street without a willingness to share your story denies the lost the opportunity to hear a lifesaving message.

I have had a number of people tell me about seeing me on Hope TV. “Great sermon,” they say. And I can only hope that it has become more than that for them. If it has remained merely a media monologue, my message has failed.

We each have an epic story to tell. It started in a garden, was enticed and imprisoned, escaped through a desert, forgot about God, was chastened by prophets, wept at a cross, rejoiced at a tomb, and continues in hope and assurance of glory to come.

We also have a personal story to tell. A story of our individual uniqueness in Christ. It started the day we were born, grew as we watched and listened to our parents, changed when we met Jesus, impacts those around us through our Spirit-given gifts and continues being told each day as we live our most important sermon.

\*The interview is available at <<http://www.reframe.info/resources/341/>>.

David Edgren



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

# President talks “church”

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

South Pacific Division (SPD) president Pastor Barry Oliver focused on the role and identity of the church in his opening address to the annual meeting of the SPD executive committee on November 11. Drawing on his own experience and commitment to the Adventist Church, Pastor Oliver acknowledged the foibles and failings of a human organisation but emphasised the continuing love God has for the church and the church’s need for the loyalty of its members.

“Much more needs to be done to revitalise our commitment, not only to Christ but also to the church as the body of Christ,” he said. “These twin commitments should not be separated. The New Testament knows nothing of unattached Christians.”

Pastor Oliver said that “a spirit of uninformed criticism has no place in the church,” and called on the church as a whole “to build up the levels of trust and trustworthiness within our ranks.”

He also emphasised the identity of the church as a core to the church’s mission and a key focus area of the SPD’s strategic plan. “There is an increasing emphasis on the mission of the church as the focus of our existence,” he commented. “I am seeing in all of our institutions a strong emphasis on the ethos and mission of the church, and the unique heritage that is ours.”

Pastor Oliver congratulated leaders for this focus, and cited the progress and plans of the Adventist Media Network, as well as the new Revelation seminar project, as examples of this direction led by the SPD. “But there is much more to do,” he said. “There are still too many within and without who do not know and value the uniqueness of being Seventh-day Adventist.”

Focusing on the church’s role in God’s mission in the world, Pastor Oliver praised the development of a culture of strategic



The South Pacific Division executive committee is made up of 81 church leaders and members, from 13 countries across the region.

planning in the church. While recognising the unique nature of the church as a spiritual organisation guided by the Holy Spirit, he referenced biblical examples of the call to spread the gospel in a strategic way. “But there is still quite some work to do in accomplishing appropriate integration of our strategic intent,” he said.

Pastor Oliver challenged executive committee members to take their role in the meetings seriously, contributing to the strategic planning process and, ultimately, the mission of the church.—**Nathan Brown**

## SPD membership tops 400,000

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

In early 2008, the membership of the Adventist Church in the South Pacific Division (SPD) passed 400,000 but, according to SPD general secretary Pastor Lawrence Tanabose, the ratio of church members in proportion to the population of this region has been going backward in recent years. In his report to the SPD executive committee on November 12, Pastor Tanabose also noted that while the church is continuing to grow, the rate of baptisms has declined since 2003 and the number of losses is a cause for continuing concern.

“There are a few issues we need to address from these statistics,” said Pastor Tanabose. “The greatest challenge for the church when considering its growth is apostasy and missing members. While we see a huge number of baptisms, a high percentage of those coming into the church

also leave through the ‘back door.’

“Through its strategic plans for this quinquennium, the SPD has focused on discipleship and nurture in order to reduce the number who are going ‘missing,’ and to grow the church through its entire mission endeavour.

“We should also note the anomalies of statistical reporting that may have given the leadership of the church incorrect figures of apostasy and missing membership,” he added.

Pastor Tanabose highlighted one aspect of nurture in the Pacific regions as the large number of company churches that have not yet matured into congregations or fully-operating churches. “If we can nurture these companies, this may be a way to retain more members in these congregations,” he reflected.

According to the report presented by SPD statistician Les Relihan, the SPD

added 10,586 members in 2007 but this figure was offset by a total of 6,807 losses. Mr Relihan also raised questions about the accuracy of some of the figures available, especially relating to the recording of deaths among members in some parts of the SPD.

As part of the discussion of these figures and issues, Peter Brewin, special assistant to the SPD president, announced the allocation of a special payment of tithe from the General Conference to the SPD to fund initiatives to address issues of nurture and reconnecting with missing members.

“We have asked for submissions from our union conferences and mission for specific projects or initiatives to address this,” he said. “We also have funds available for new outreach initiatives in a number of regions in the South Pacific, which we hope will add a new focus to evangelism.”

—**Nathan Brown**

# SPD focuses on resources for mission

(Continued from page 1)

“This kind of process does not take the place of our acknowledgment that God is in charge of His work but this does not excuse us from careful and intentional planning.”

Mr Brady reported that the total gross income of all aspects of church functions throughout the South Pacific area exceeds \$A1 billion annually. Tithes amount to just more than \$A80 million of this with the rest coming from education, aged care, ADRA, services, offerings and a large portion from institutions. “However,” he added, “nearly every cent of that billion dollars has expenses directly associated with generating the income. Less than 10 per cent is available for supporting ministers, evangelism, nurture and the administration of the church.”

“The SPD itself has very high ongoing commitments as a proportion of its income and we have a relatively small amount available for discretionary projects that can be considered each year. One of our frustrations is not having sufficient discretionary funds available to take advantage of new opportunities that become available.”

“As we look at available resources, we need to consider strategically how we best support our local churches, missions, tertiary education, use of tithes for pastoral staffing and evangelism, capital projects, and at the

same time cope with growing compliance requirements and funding the sustentation liability,” Mr Brady reflected.

Mr Brady commented on issues like the growing costs of employment and the ageing workforce, which are continuing challenges for the church’s work. “Tithes are growing well in Australia and New Zealand—our tithes are higher today in real terms than it has been in 50 years—but is static on a per member basis in real terms in our island territories,” he reported. “For every person we are adding in our union conferences, we are adding 10 in our union missions. The Pacific is where our membership is increasing fastest but we are not growing in income there to support the increasing membership base.”

There was some discussion about the role of the church’s institutions in contributing to the resources of the church. With around 80 per cent of the SPD’s own income coming from institutional earnings and investments, and the remaining 20 per cent from the General Conference, tithes and offerings, Mr Brady described this reliance as both a strength and a potential weakness. “We have been fortunate as a division to have a strong institutional base,” he commented. “SHF makes an important

contribution to our division both financially and in other ways. We need to keep its management in our prayers because it operates in a fiercely competitive marketplace.”

Mr Brady’s report concluded with acknowledgment of the different church institutions that contribute financially to the SPD and the church’s mission.

“On behalf of the SPD membership, we are so thankful we have these institutions that have supported and are still supporting our work,” said Pastor Lawrence Tanabose, general secretary of the SPD. He presented representatives of SHF, Sydney Adventist Hospital, Risk Management Service and Adventist Media Network with invitations for 13 people from these institutions, to visit areas that benefit from the work of these institutions.

“We are planning a special trip next year when these leaders can see and experience for themselves some of what is happening in our island territories,” said Pastor Tanabose.—*Nathan Brown*



Pastors Barry Oliver, Lawrence Tanabose and Brad Kemp leading discussion at the SPD executive committee meetings.

## ◆ Pastor Kevin Price

(pictured) was appointed as the director of **Adventist Health Ministries** for the South Pacific Division (SPD) by the SPD executive committee on **November 11**. This appointment fills the vacancy left by Jonathan Duffy’s appointment as chief executive officer of ADRA Australia. Pastor Price has previously worked for the church in Australia, Vanuatu, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, as well as serving as a chaplain and health management director at **Sydney Advent-**



**ist Hospital**. In recent years, he has worked as a consultant on health issues—particularly related to health promotion and education—in private employment.

◆ Previously granted provisional status, the **Medical Missionary Training Institute**, based near Townsville (Qld), is now fully recognised as a **supportive ministry of the SPD**. After submissions meeting the guidelines of the SPD were provided, provisional supportive ministry status has

also been granted for two years to **Sonship**—based in North New South Wales and working to assist with medical work in the Pacific islands—and **Pacific Yacht Ministries**, which is based in South Queensland and provides mobile medical services in Vanuatu.

◆ Eighteen months from the next **General Conference (GC) session**, the SPD executive committee has begun the process of appointing delegates to the quinquennial meeting in **Atlanta, Georgia, USA**, in mid-2010. The GC Constitution sets out the formula by

which appointments are made. Of **94 delegates** assigned to the SPD, only 20 are appointed by the SPD executive committee. The rest of the delegates, comprising primarily laypeople and non-administrative church employees, are appointed by unions and the conferences according to the formula. The initial appointments include eight SPD departmental directors, four SPD associate administrators, five representatives from church institutions, two other SPD employees and three lay members of the SPD executive committee.

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# Church finances “in good shape”

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The finances of the church in the South Pacific Division (SPD) are “generally in good shape to face an economic downturn, but the church may have to make changes to cope,” according to Rod Brady, chief financial officer for the SPD. In his report to the SPD executive committee on November 12, Mr Brady reported another year of strong tithe growth but noted the current broader economic conditions and concerns that may arise.

In 2007, tithe grew by 6.82 per cent across the South Pacific, with an increase of a similar percentage reported up to August this year, compared to the same period of the previous year. Offerings collected in 2007 also increased by 4.27 per cent, compared to the previous year. “It is good to note the strong growth in Sabbath school and mission offerings,” said Mr Brady. “The department of Adventist Mission has been very active in communicating what the church is doing in promoting mission and raising awareness about why every member needs to support the world mission program.”

Mr Brady mentioned a large donation that had been made to the church in the

past year, which have allowed the church to undertake some special projects. “This offering has been significant on a global scale and the divisions have sent messages of appreciation and feedback on what work will be made possible because of these funds,” he said. “This again serves as evidence that the Spirit of God is motivating people to focus on mission and finishing the work.”

The financial report also gave committee members an overview of the potential impacts of global economic issues on the different areas of church’s operations. “A report like this looks at history but the issues we have to assess carefully is the uncertainty arising from the economic outlook,” commented Mr Brady. “Logic says that with the state of the investment markets and rising unemployment, it is probable that tithe growth could slow or even reduce. But I recall at another time economic upheaval served as a wake-up call to our members and tithe may even lift.

“The thing accountants don’t factor in is what God has planned for this church,” he said. “We should not be fearful. Instead, be confident that we serve a God who knows what lies ahead and will guide His church through to the end.”—*Nathan Brown*

# Adventist Health says thank you for adopting clinics

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The South Pacific Division’s (SPD) Adventist Health Ministries has thanked members of the more than 70 churches in Australia and New Zealand who have participated in the “Adopt-a-clinic” program to revitalise the church’s medical work in a number of Pacific nations.

Dr Chester Kuma, associate director of Adventist Health, reported the progress of this initiative to the SPD executive committee, including “before” and “after” photos from clinics in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

“We are beyond the stage of just linking churches with clinics and we are beginning to see things happen,” said Dr Kuma. “This is making a real difference and opening new areas to the witness of the gospel.

“I just want to thank church members for the contributions they have made. And we plan for these relationships to be ongoing.”

Church leaders from the Pacific added their voice to Dr Kuma’s thanks and confirmed the benefits they are seeing in their regions.—*Nathan Brown*



◆ As part of their end of year celebrations, Year 12 students from **Gilson College, Vic**, donated blood. Initiated by the **Year 12 Biology class** and their teacher, **Tim Pope**, 14 students journeyed into the city to give blood at the **Red Cross**. It was the first time donating blood for all the students and many said they would donate again.

So many students wished to participate in the initiative that **Gilson College** plans on giving students the opportunity to donate blood each term.—*Wendy Pope*

◆ **Gold Coast Christian College (GCCC), Qld**, has just held its **annual vision evening**. Four local churches support GCCC and 45 per cent of students come from this community. The evening was an opportunity for the pastors, elders and teachers to get together for a formal meal, and work

on the future goals and directions for the College. **Principal Guy Lawson** states, “This evening is one of the most valuable evenings for the college each year. It is from our teachers and the local church leadership that our school gains its directions and vision to move into the future.” The highlight of the event was the presentation of the future high school, to commence in **2010** at the present college location.—*Sean Berkeley*

◆ On November 12, residents



and staff of the **Elizabeth Lodge Adventist Retirement Village (Sydney, NSW)** low-care facility celebrated an amazing life as resident **Lucy Birtles** turned 100 this year. **Pastor David Blanch**, president of the Greater Sydney Conference, presented her with a certificate, congratulating her on this outstanding achievement.—*Suzi Swanepoel*

# Prayer on call in Australia

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Local churches in Australia will soon be able to connect with their community in a personal way, with only the help of a telephone.

As part of the South Pacific Division's (SPD) focus on prayer, the prayer ministries department has launched Dial-a-prayer in Australia. Callers to Dial-a-prayer are able to listen to a new prayer every day and can make a request for personal prayer at the end of the call.

"Dial-a-prayer is both a service and a ministry," says Erna Johnson, prayer ministries coordinator for the SPD. "It offers the public the opportunity to listen to a daily prayer using their telephone but it also gives local church members the chance to minister to those who ask for personal prayer."

Dial-a-prayer's success hinges on the local church, as church members are needed to be prayer supporters and contact those who make personal prayer requests.

When someone from the local area phones Dial-a-prayer and requests a personal prayer, the local prayer supporter receives an email with the caller's contact name and number. The prayer supporter is then expected to pick up the phone, and get in contact with the person to pray with and for them.

"This form of ministry will probably appeal to those who are wanting to share Jesus with others but are too shy or afraid to do so with people who may be hostile toward them," says Pastor John Gate, media ministries director of Adventist Media Network. "With Dial-a-prayer, they will know every contact they receive is from someone who has specifically asked for prayer and is therefore amiable to Christian contact."

Pastor Gate sees prayer supporters developing a relationship with their contacts through follow-up calls and daily prayer, and says such relationships may eventually lead to contacts getting to know Jesus and becoming prayer partners, too.

Due to the need for local church support, Dial-a-prayer will only be available in areas with existing prayer supporters. Callers are charged \$A0.99 per call, which is what the phone carrier charges for the service. The Seventh-day Adventist Church does not earn any revenue from the service.

"We would like to see Dial-a-prayer available Australia-wide but it will depend on how many prayer supporters we have," says Mrs Johnson. "Church members interested in becoming a local prayer supporter are more than welcome to contact us."

—Melody Tan

More @ <[www.prayeronline.org.au](http://www.prayeronline.org.au)> or <[DAP@adventistmedia.org.au](mailto:DAP@adventistmedia.org.au)>.

# Avondale icon killed in road accident

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

Charles Pointon, long-time Avondale College student and general secretary of the college's COSMOS aid organisation, died on November 9, after a traffic accident in which he was knocked from his motorised scooter on Freemans Drive in Cooranbong.

Mr Pointon, aged 98, had been working to raise money for COSMOS in the hours before his death through sales of his autobiography, *A Friend in High Places*. In its 30 year history, COSMOS has raised more than \$A150,000 for mission work. "Helping others is important," Mr Pointon said in 2006. "The world is full of those in need and it gives me great joy to spend the money for their good, rather than for mine."

Mr Pointon's funeral was held on November 16, and was attended by hundreds of people from college and the community. "We're proud of Charles's commitment to helping needy people," says Avondale president Dr John Cox.—Brenton Stacey

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



Charles Pointon.

Kent Marcus Photography



◆ Every year, a group of Japanese students becomes part of Longburn Adventist College (LAC) life. Coming from Saniku Gaikuan, LAC's sister school in Japan, 16 to 20 senior students spend two terms living in the dormitories and experiencing life in New Zealand. These students have become a key part of LAC culture, contributing to school and church life. Every year,

they attend a play—this year was "Beauty and the Beast"—as well as trips to Wellington and a cultural tour of the North Island between school terms. The Saniku students take ESOL classes, are part of mainstream classes of their choice and continue Saniku classes via email. Teacher Wendy Parker says, "Having Saniku students here enriches our school, as well as their experience. It helps these students to appreciate their own culture after experiencing another." This year, Elizabeth Thomas (LAC Year 12 student) spent four weeks at Saniku.

—Julene Deurksen-Kapao

◆ On November 16, a major fire, which began during maintenance work at the British Union Conference (BUC) administrative office, spread across the roof to engulf a major part of the building. Fire services were called to the scene at approximately 2.10 pm and 10 firefighters battled the blaze throughout the afternoon and into the evening. Much of the main part of the building was destroyed. "This will obviously prove a major disruption to our work," stated communication director Vic-

tor Hulbert. "However, we are relieved that nobody was hurt and are already making plans as to how best to deal with the aftermath." Pastor Don McFarlane, president of the BUC, states that "the fire at our church headquarters has surely affected operations. However, it is a comfort to know the work of the church is not primarily done in an office building but by our many thousands of members, through the UK and Ireland, in towns, villages and cities where they live." —BUC News/ TED News Staff

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# Mission News editor gathers stories from SPD

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Charlotte Ishkanian, editor of the *Mission News* magazine from the General Conference's Office of Adventist Mission, visited the South Pacific Division (SPD) in November to collect stories for *Mission News* in 2009.

As the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects for the fourth quarter of 2009 are located in the SPD, Mrs Ishkanian visited New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea (PNG) to collect stories and pictures to share with the worldwide church.

Mrs Ishkanian has previously visited the South Pacific on three occasions, gathering stories and information about churches in PNG, Aboriginal outreach in Perth, resulting in the purchase of land for Mamarapha College, a new mission plane for PNG and the University church in Suva.

"It's always new, never boring, usually a challenge and always has some fun moments," says Mrs Ishkanian, of her visits to more than 100 countries in her role as editor. "People are amazing all over the world but this has to be one of my favourite divisions—there's so much variety!"

The *Mission News* magazine aims to remind people that mission is the "core business" of the Adventist Church.



*Charlotte Ishkanian receiving a Maori welcome from Pastor Jake Ormsby on her arrival at the South Auckland School in New Zealand.*

Pastor Ray Coombe, director of Adventist Mission for the SPD, says, "The *Mission News* reminds us we belong to a worldwide church that is still sending missionaries to every corner of the globe. Without the world mission offerings received in Sabbath school every week, the Adventist Church could never fund its extensive global operations."

Pastor Coombe adds, "Projects that will benefit from the offering on December 26, 2009, include the relocation of Fulton College to its new campus at Sabeto, and 3000 'Flip for Jesus' charts for child evangelism in the South Pacific."  
—Ray Coombe/RECORD staff

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

# Springwood church focuses on family

SPRINGWOOD, QUEENSLAND

Springwood Adventist church used November 8 as a day to celebrate family. Pastor Trafford Fischer, family ministries director for the South Pacific Division, spoke to the young people of the church and challenged them to "Take a risk: love someone!" He also spoke to the adults and focused his message on the words of Paul in Ephesians 5:22–6:9.

Jonathan Duffy, CEO of Adventist Development and Relief Agency Australia, was the second guest speaker for the day.

He spoke about the need to connect with young people in the church and community as a means of preventing at-risk behaviours.

Mr Duffy, who has promoted the "Circle of courage" model to equip young people to meet the challenges of life, taught attendees the four essential building blocks for resilience: a sense of belonging; encouraging the development of talents and skills; developing responsibility through opportunities to lead; and creating opportunities to make positive contributions to the lives of others.—Deanna Pitchford

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

# Karalundi students gain career, industry awareness

MEEKATHARRA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

High school students at Karalundi Aboriginal Education Centre (KAEC) attended a career and industry awareness camp program at Geraldton from November 3 to 7.

The series of activities aimed to advance the career aspirations of students and offered learning opportunities in the fields of business, construction and industry, with specific information about apprenticeships and traineeships.

KAEC principal Anne Tonkin told the students, "This will get you a glimpse of the adult world, where work will be the 'real thing.'"

Students visited Batavia Coast Maritime Institute and learned how fish are handled and processed before being bought by supermarkets. This led to an understanding of clean and safe workplaces.

Volunteer tour guide Doug Hicks took the students on an orientation tour of the sea search and rescue headquarters, where students spoke with volunteer commodore Barry Lapham.

Students also visited the Geraldton newspaper and met with chief reporter Gary Warner for an introduction to photo-journalism. The airport, sports and recreation centre, Geraldton Port, and the meteorological centre were also visited.—R A Sanggalan



*Karalundi Aboriginal Education Centre high school students and teachers with Geraldton Port staff, during the career and industry awareness program.*

# Think global, act Adventist

BY WON K YOON



I WAS INTRODUCED TO THE ADVENTIST Church in the late 1950s in Seoul, South Korea. At that time, I was attending a church of another denomination. One of the things I heard from those who introduced me to the church has stayed with me. They said the Seventh-day Adventist Church is one of the three best organised worldwide entities. The other two are the Roman Catholic Church and the Communist Party.

The Korean Adventist church in the 1950s was small and unimpressive, with a membership and organisational strength that were hardly recognisable. Perhaps my introducer was trying to get me to see the Adventist world church beyond the meagre national church in a poor, war-devastated country—as Korea was at the time.

In the course of learning more about the Adventist faith and the organisational structure of the church, I came to agree with this early assessment—though the part about the Communist Party now seems very dated, given world events since that time. To me, the Adventist Church looked like a tightly-interwoven worldwide web.

Further, I discovered that the scope of the Adventist theological concern was global. The three angels' messages were about the final destiny of all peoples in all nations. This was reflected in the then-current denominational logo with three angels flying over the globe. The Adventist Church seemed to support a global mission in every region of the world. I still remember the world mission reports every week, and the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for various projects around the world.

Moreover, I noticed that the educational and healthcare systems were another aspect of the worldwide network of the church.

Considering the size of the denominational membership, I thought this was indeed an impressive organisational accomplishment. I came to see I had joined a global church.

## My first exposure

All of the above notwithstanding, the Adventist faith I was first exposed to seemed obsessed with less important subjects, as I saw it. There seemed to be an overemphasis on things such as country living, dietary reform, the mark of the beast and the time of trouble. As a new member, it all made me quite uneasy, since I did not yet understand the full implications of Adventist teachings. The sense of imminent apocalyptic events overwhelmed me and, at one point, I thought about living like a hermit in a deep mountain cave to escape the upcoming troubles and persecutions. Keep in mind, I was only a high school student at the time, still in my teens. For me, there didn't seem to be any joy in discovering these new truths and joining the remnant.

Undoubtedly, the particular local church I was attending was somewhat different from other churches. But this experience led me to form the overall impression that most Adventists were uptight about the end-time signs. I felt I was becoming self-centred, trying to protect myself from the prophesied crisis, and my spiritual outlook became very narrow. It was like seeing a flickering light at the end of a long, dark tunnel. I found myself cutting relations with others and becoming a member of an exclusive, other-world-oriented religious "sect."

As I look back on those early days of my Adventist faith, I realise there was a wide gap between the church's global organisational structure and the attitude of

some of its local members; and between the church's broad theological outlook and the everyday life of individual members. In other words—as I saw it—the church operated as a global organisation, while the prevailing attitude of some of its members was far from global.

## Developing a global outlook

How global is the global church? In a 21st-century global community, do we as Adventists think globally? Do we live with a global outlook and concern? Has the Adventist faith increased our global awareness and citizenship? The mere global organisational structure and activities of the church do not necessarily instil a global perspective in its members.

The idea of a global attitude is not a new concept. But it has become more prevalent and prominent in our time, and it's going to be in demand as the process of globalisation continues.

In response to global changes, certain attitudes are emphasised more than others. For instance, the feudal society in the Middle Ages valued patience and obedience, as most people followed the rhythm of nature for food production. The industrial society, on the other hand, required of its workers coordination and efficiency for mass production. But the 21st-century global society puts certain other traits at the forefront. Among these are openness, inclusiveness and creativity.

### 1. Openness

Perhaps no other attribute is more prominent in the global age than increasing openness. All kinds of barriers are coming down. People, ideas, goods and services are flowing freely across the world.



Political boundaries, economic restrictions, cultural differences, social classifications and even physical barriers are yielding to the force of free-flowing globalisation. The telephone—especially global-roaming wireless cellular services—the Internet, fax, satellite, air travel, ocean-going cargo ships and high-speed trains are the means of open flow between countries and continents. As a result, people keep coming across new ideas and things.

Do Adventists feel comfortable with the increasing openness of life in the 21st century? Are we open to new ways of doing things? New challenges? Do we feel fit or unfit in this increasingly open society?

The opposite of openness is closed-mindedness. Faced with the overwhelming reality, some of us want to shut down and be closed to the outside world. But if we fail to respond to the changing reality, the option is far more serious. Burying our heads in the sand would result in suffocation. Do we want to live like certain religious groups that rejected the coming of the industrial revolution in the name of Christian faith?

Another cause of a closed mind could be spiritual arrogance. Some of us tend to believe the spiritual gift we have inherited does not need enlightenment; that there's no reason to add to what we have and no need to learn from others. Any person or system that is not open is most likely to become stunted.

To make the Adventist faith community dynamic and relevant to people of the global age, we need to be open to new insight and information. We must be willing to learn from others, even in the area of faith life. Unless openness undermines our core foundation and beliefs, we should stay open.

## 2. Inclusiveness

Openness has inevitably led to increasing diversity in our times. Nowadays, it's hard to find a homogeneous community or society. People of different backgrounds come together and coexist. How do we respond to the increasing diversity?

One has only two options: inclusiveness or exclusiveness. There's no middle ground, unless one becomes lifeless. Either we open our arms to embrace diversity or we fold them tight and just watch. Either we engage in interaction with others or exist in

isolation. Some racists, nationalists and extreme religious fundamentalists have rejected anything they find different.

The New Testament is clear about our choice. The examples of Jesus and the early Christians are unequivocal about our option. They embraced everyone—the marginal, the outcast, the Gentile and even the enemy—with open arms.

People with whom we associate may not understand what Adventists believe. They may reject our lifestyle. Nonetheless, we must resist the temptation to be exclusive. We cannot resort to establishing an exclusive Adventist ghetto, protected by a high wall of exclusivity.

## 3. Creativity

One of the effects of globalisation is uniformity. It has become much easier for trends to spread worldwide. In many regions of the world, people can shop at the same chain store, watch the same news program, wear the same kind of clothes, read the same bestseller, eat the same fashion food, sing the same pop song and so forth. We may call it the McDonaldisation of the world. Thus, local uniqueness is facing a serious threat today.

Who wants to live in a uniform, monochrome world anymore? Who wants to be a cookie-cutter person? To make the world a more interesting and exciting place, each individual and community has to offer their uniqueness. Diversity is the creation of multiplicity. One can contribute to the enrichment of the world by being uniquely different, not conforming to the uniformity.

The Adventist Church has much to offer the world community. The Sabbath, for example, could offer a profound understanding of rest in an increasingly restless world. The healthful lifestyle we practice is another area in which Adventists can contribute to a world full of sickness, resulting from unhealthy lifestyles. Adventist Christian education could be an antidote for young people suffering from meaninglessness and rootlessness. Many people are drifting aimlessly, looking for an anchor point in their lives. Perhaps the most serious challenge facing today's Adventists is how to make the truth we hold relevant and attractive to the people of the 21st century. This would require a great deal of creativity and imagination.

Creative repackaging of Adventist truth is a critical task. The inherited truth needs to be repackaged for a global community. So I would rephrase the mantra of the global age: "Think global, act Adventist."

## The gospel in an age of globalisation

The gospel of Jesus contains a global dimension. Jesus said: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19, 20, NASB). And again: "You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8, NKJV).

One of the major obstacles in carrying out the Great Commission was the mindset of some early Jewish believers. They were closed, exclusive and tradition bound. The gospel was meant to bring down the barriers that separated Jews and Gentiles. The carriers of the message were to bridge the gaps between Judea, Samaria, Asia Minor, Greece, Rome and other faraway regions of the world. And one of the tasks of the apostles was to make the early Christians open, inclusive, and creative, so as to reach the ends of the world with the gospel message. They opened up new territories and embraced peoples of all labels—Jews, Gentiles, Greeks, Romans, the free, the slave, the barbarian, the circumcised and the uncircumcised.

The many inspiring stories Jesus told speak of openness, inclusiveness, tolerance—the story of the good Samaritan, for example. Or that of the prodigal son. Wholly relevant in the time of Jesus, they are also compelling messages for us today.

Adventists must either develop a global attitude or experience increasing difficulties in our attempt to convey our message to our contemporaries. The church has established a solid global hardware, so to speak. But it now needs to develop a global software—namely, its people. The new wine of present truth needs a new wineskin. **R**

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**Won K Yoon is a professor of Sociology at La Sierra University in Riverside, California, USA.**

# Why be vegetarian

BY SUE RADD

IN MARCH THIS YEAR, THE FIFTH International Congress of Vegetarian Nutrition (ICVN) was held at Loma Linda University in California, USA. More than 700 people attended, representing more than 40 countries.

The ICVN is considered the premier conference on plant-based diets and this year, it included 34 symposia, panels and debates, covering topics such as disease prevention, soy and dairy issues, and the impact of food choices on the environment. Findings from the congress will be published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. The science presented and the mix of delegates allows for great cross-pollination of ideas about how food interacts with our lifestyle—and genes—to make us what we eat.

Vegetarian diets provide many positive health outcomes and are considered to be more environmentally friendly than diets high in animal proteins. Besides estimating the much lighter eco-footprint created by plant-based diets, researchers are now also unravelling the mechanisms whereby plant foods can both prevent and treat chronic diseases.

The ability of food to fight cancer was a particular focus of a number of presentations at ICVN.

## Preventing cancer

The congress opened with a plenary lecture by Dr David Heber, professor of medicine and public health, and director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, who explored phytochemicals—also known as phytonutrients—which provide flavour and colour to foods, and can also reduce the risk of common cancers by “talking” to people’s genes. To date, more than 1 million phytochemicals have been identified.

It’s believed the ability of the phytochemicals to “talk” with genes may be particularly important for those who have slight changes in their genetic material—genetic polymorphisms—that predispose individuals to cancer.

Although humans are genetically 99.9

per cent identical, Dr Heber says genetic polymorphisms are common and exist in 0.1 per cent of our genes. They affect how we process nutrients, which may increase our predisposition to common types of cancer. *Deoxyribonucleic acid* (DNA) can also be damaged by environmental factors, including excessive exposure to the sun. However, a healthy diet has the potential to undo some of the damage suffered in this way by the cells in our body.

A good example of a beneficial gene-nutrient interaction is the way phytochemicals called *isothiocyanates* communicate with our genes to stimulate detoxifying pathways and reduce cancer risk. Isothiocyanates are richly present in broccoli, cabbage and other Brassica vegetables. By eating broccoli three times per week, the 50 per cent of the population missing the detoxifying enzyme *glutathione S-transferase* can reduce their cancer risk by 50 per cent.

“By eating more plant foods, such as fruits and vegetables, you have the best defence system against cancer,” says Dr Heber. “However, the modern diet is bad—there’s not enough of the ‘good stuff’ and too much of the ‘bad stuff.’”

In the early recorded history of humankind, people ate more than 800 varieties of plants, which had lower calorie density but were rich in nutrients. Modern foods often lack vegetables and fruit—or contain only small amounts of them—and are frequently excessive in their animal-product content. They also tend to be higher in fat and have less fibre.

In Australia, people are encouraged to consume seven serves of fruit and vegetables each day. Dr Heber believes that when people fill their plates for breakfast, lunch or dinner, two-thirds should be plant foods and these should represent many different colours of them.

But if you have already had cancer, will an increase in plant foods help to reduce your likelihood of having it reoccur?

Professor John Pierce, a professor at the



More than 700 people attended the International Congress on Vegetarian Nutrition, hosted by Loma Linda University earlier this year.

University of California’s Cancer Center specialising in family and preventative medicine, presented the four-year findings from the “Women’s Healthy Eating and Living” study, which was conducted to discover if additional cancer events or death can be prevented by consuming more plant-based foods and reducing fat intake. The 3000 breast cancer survivors had a goal of consuming five serves of vegetables, three serves of fruit, two cups of vegetable juice, 30 grams of fibre and limiting fat intake to 15 to 20 per cent of calories daily. For many of these US participants, this was a 50 to 60 per cent increase in the amount of plant foods they consumed.

Researchers also asked women not to increase their physical activity so as to ascertain better readings relating to diet alone. However, it is well known that weight reduction and daily exercise is beneficial for overweight women suffering from breast cancer, in addition to a high-fibre plant-based diet.

While this study did not find a generalised protective effect in reducing cancer recurrence, a strong effect was seen in postmenopausal women who had higher oestrogen levels at the start of the study. Dr Pierce suggested the increased plant food intake might have “altered the higher circulating oestrogen concentrations” in these women, thereby reducing their risk of recurrent breast cancer.

A previous study—the “Women’s Intervention Nutrition Study”—showed that a low-fat diet can influence body weight and decrease breast cancer recurrence.

## The soy-cancer controversy

Diets with high vegetable and fruit con-

tent have courted some controversy with regards to cancer-prevention potential in the past. In recent years, soy has received some bad press in association with an increase in breast cancer risk and concerns about feeding soy to infants.

A number of years ago, Dr William Helferich suggested that “women are participating in an ongoing experiment with an unknown outcome” in relation to soy food. He believed there was potential for dietary *genistein*—a phytochemical extracted from soy—to stimulate the growth of oestrogen-dependent tumours. However, these opinions were based on studies conducted using inappropriate animal models.

The tests involved the “athymic nude mouse model,” in which the ovaries of the mouse are removed, the immune system is “knocked out” and cancer is transplanted into the animal. Under those circumstances, tumour growth can be promoted by genistein.

Test tube experiments involving the injection of purified isoflavones—rather than consumption of soy foods—also led to speculation about the potential for isoflavones to cause oestrogen-like effects. Professor Thomas Badger from the Arkansas Children’s Nutrition Center says these models are not entirely appropriate to what happens in the human body.

More than 25 million infants in the United States alone have been fed soy infant formula and numerous studies on these children show they have developed and grown normally, with similar results to those who grew up on breastmilk or cow-milk formula.

Professor Badger is the principal investigator on “The Beginnings Study,” which commenced in 2002 and is studying 200 young people fed either breastmilk, cow milk or soy milk from birth. Monitoring of body composition, ultrasonography of reproductive organs, assessment of bone development, immune function, behavioural and psychological development, and many other parameters are included in the study. Early results show children fed on soy formula are developing within standardised ranges.

As for breast cancer and soy, it was first suggested 20 years ago that soy foods may decrease the risk of it occurring and the majority of current evidence supports this hypothesis. But the oestrogen-like effects

of isoflavones have had people wondering whether soy is protective or harmful for breast tissue. When it was revealed that Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) was linked to a 26 per cent increase in breast cancer risk, there was panic for the many women using HRT to treat menopause around the world.

One of the less-publicised elements of the HRT study was that women who were taking only oestrogen had a 20 per cent reduction in the risk of breast cancer. The increase in risk was associated with the use of HRT, including both oestrogen and progesterone.

The isoflavones in soy are classed as plant oestrogens, and they are different in their behaviour to the oestrogens created by the human body in a number of ways. In fact, animal studies using relevant models for breast cancer revealed early exposure to soy caused slight architectural changes to breast tissue that made it more resistant to cancer-causing substances. Dr Mark Messina, executive director of the Soy Nutrition Institute, believes early exposure to isoflavones in soy is key to optimal protection against breast cancer.

## Omega 3s, heart health and cancer

The potential for heart health to be improved with a primarily vegetable- and fruit-based diet was also explored at ICVN. Studies show vegetarians have a 25 per cent lower risk of death from cardiovascular disease, compared to the general population but the question of whether individuals should consume more omega 3 was raised.

Omega 3 is found in both plants and oily fish, and the American Heart Association currently recommends eating fish twice per week and including foods rich in *alpha linolenic acid* (ALA), such as walnuts. For those with heart conditions, the Association recommend one gram of *eicosapentaenoic acid* and *docosahexaenoic acid* per day.

The omega 3 from fish is generally believed to help prevent heart disease but there are also studies suggesting an increase in the ALA intake can reduce the risk of fatal ischaemic heart disease.

Dr Sujatha Rajaram, associate professor in the department of nutrition at Loma Linda University’s School of Public Health, conducted a crossover trial to compare plant and marine sources of omega 3. She dis-

covered it is best to obtain omega 3s from whole foods, rather than supplements, and that the different sources have varying positive impacts on components of the heart and blood, suggesting it’s best to combine a variety of whole foods known to contain omega 3. Vegetarians can do this through the consumption of walnuts and linseeds, along with certain other plant foods. Algal supplements are also an option.

There has been some question as to whether the consumption of ALAs raises the risk of prostate cancer. ALAs are contained in large amounts in soybean oil—a refined source without antioxidants and also commonly present in processed foods.

Dr Joel Simon, professor in the department of clinical medicine and epidemiology and biostatistics at the University of California, San Francisco, has reviewed the evidence from scientific literature about the issue and, based on the studies, concludes there appears to be a 20 per cent increase in the risk of prostate cancer for men with the highest intakes of ALAs. He warns, however, that the evidence is inconsistent and publication bias is highly likely. He therefore does not believe ALA consumption increases prostate cancer risk and several recent studies have supported his view.

Foods and nutrients thought to be protective against prostate cancer include vitamin A, selenium, fish, tomatoes, vitamin D, pomegranate juice, soy and cruciferous vegetables. Increased risk seems present when people consume a lot of milk or dairy calcium, zinc, omega 6 fatty acids and saturated fats, such as from grilled meats.

While it is still early days for nutrigenomics, this area of science will provide improved understanding of how genes respond to diet and lifestyle, switching on enzymes to fight oxidation, inflammation and DNA damage. Giving more careful consideration to what we consume—including more fruit, vegetables and fibre, and less processed and animal fats—can result in beneficial outcomes that can radically change the quality of our lives. **R**

*This is the first in a three-part series looking at aspects of vegetarianism. For more information, visit <[www.sue.radd.com](http://www.sue.radd.com)> or <[www.vegetariannutrition.org](http://www.vegetariannutrition.org)>.*

**Sue Radd is a nutritionist, author and speaker, based in Sydney, New South Wales.**

# Of great price

BY LEESA FLETCHER

FOUND YOU IN AN UNEXPECTED WAY

And my life would never be the same.  
I couldn't be without you—too great a loss  
I knew I had to have you whatever the cost.

How much did you cost? Everything I own  
But you're the one I want to bring home.  
More valuable than anything else on earth,  
So precious to me—a pearl of great worth.

I saw you in the market gleaming there,  
Forgotten and dull but you made me stare.  
Alongside filthy trash and dirt,  
Your potential grabbed me so much it hurt.

I asked the buyer to hold you for me.  
He laughed and said, "You'll be lucky."  
But that day I sold all, so I could pay  
And have you forever with me stay.

I found you in a long-forgotten field,  
An abandoned farm that had ceased to yield.  
I sat down my weary feet to rest  
And scuffed a buried treasure chest.

That field was no longer worthless and bare,  
When I knew that you were hidden there.  
Joyfully, I tucked you back into the earth  
Until I could find what that field was worth.

My family couldn't understand why  
I had to stay outside and sleep under the sky.  
I didn't care that it was dark and bitterly cold;  
I knew they'd see why everything I had sold.

You are my pearl, found once in a life span  
How precious to hold you in my hands.  
You, my priceless hidden treasure waiting there,  
No matter how the surface may appear.

Your price may be everything—all that I have  
To leave my home and sleep in a cold grave.  
You're worth my life's savings and even more  
To carry you with me through heaven's door. **R**

*Leesa Fletcher writes from Sydney, New South Wales.*

## Record Roo



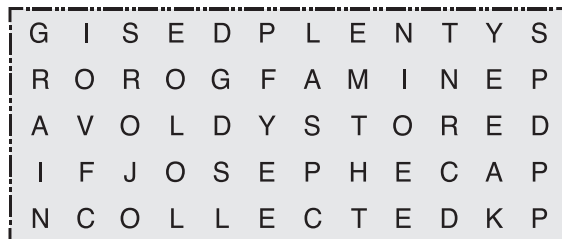
Hi kids!  
Joseph was now in charge of getting  
Egypt safely through the seven years  
of famine. How did he do it?

### Bible Text

During the \_\_\_\_\_ years of \_\_\_\_\_ the land  
produced \_\_\_\_\_. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ all the  
\_\_\_\_\_ produced in those seven years of  
abundance in Egypt and \_\_\_\_\_ it in the  
cities... Joseph stored up huge quantities of  
\_\_\_\_\_, like the sand of the sea; it was so much  
that he stopped keeping \_\_\_\_\_ because it was  
beyond \_\_\_\_\_. Genesis 41:47-49.

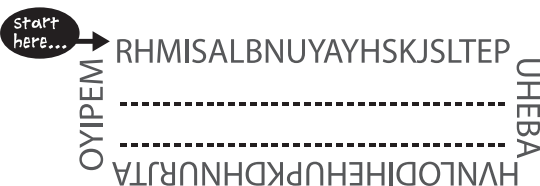
### Word Search

JOSEPH, EGYPT, PLENTY, FAMINE, FOOD,  
COLLECTED, STORED, GRAIN



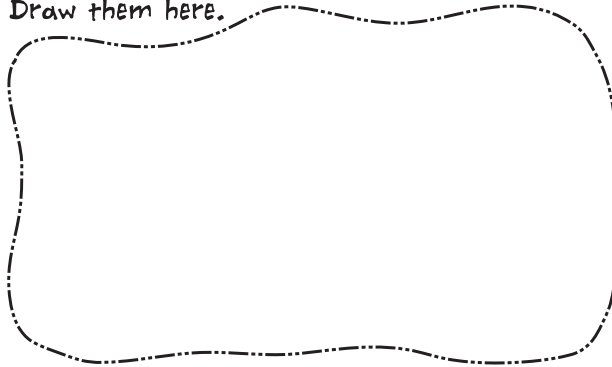
### Word Puzzle

While all this was going on, Joseph and his  
wife had two sons. What were their names?  
Follow the letters around clockwise, writing  
down every third letter on the lines below.



### Draw

What do you think Joseph's sons looked like?  
Draw them here.



## Following advice

**BILL MILLER, QLD**

“Making financial sense” (Feature, November 15) is interesting, informative and timely. How fortunate we are as a people to have the writings of the *Spirit of Prophecy* in these uncertain times. A study of the references listed in the index of Ellen White’s writings, under the headings “Debt” and “Investments,” and following the advice given, would make it unlikely that any churches, institutions or members would be caught in the present stockmarket trauma.

How thankful we should be that God gave His people the best advice to enable them to weather a financial crisis like this.

## A different focus

**MARK BAINES, QLD**

Thank you for “Crying with the angels” (Editorial, November 1) for reminding us that we’re called to be faithful, not successful. Sadly, “prosperity thinking,” focused on numbers and baptisms, still pervades much of our practice. This sees us applauding the workaholics for their results and hours invested, while quietly chiding those who have either lived a balanced life or dared to not play the numbers game. So to those who choose to serve God no matter how “unsuccessful” it may look to some—thank you.

## A healthy dimension

**MARK RYAN, NZ**

It’s tiresome reading constant criticisms of Sanitarium’s sponsorships of professional sports (“Sponsor thoughts,” Letters, October 25). These criticisms presume we live in a perfect world with perfect opportunities to perfectly promote our products. But we don’t!

The idea that we can reach the masses without touching their areas of interest is unrealistic. Instead of knocking down, why not build up? Constructive criticism, with workable, affordable ideas would be more productive and helpful. I know many employees of Sanitarium and they’re

hard-working, God-fearing members of our church family, who are also cognisant of the tension between our church ideals and the need to meet the market.

Perhaps, instead of viewing the association with say the All Blacks as an association with beer and other negatives, we should be thankful Weet-Bix brings some balance to the brand and a positive “healthy” dimension to a national sport.

## If anyone has any argument with this logic, talk to Jesus about your grievances.

**KRISTINE STAHL, SA**

I can’t understand why there have been such vigorous objections to Sanitarium sponsoring Cricket Australia.

As I understand it, when a business is contacted for sponsorship, the business is not necessarily supporting the ethics of the recipient, it’s just a form of advertising. Sanitarium’s products are in shops across Australia and they are sold on Sabbath, too! We can’t do anything about that. But, if we are to follow the arguments of some, shouldn’t we be removing the goods during Sabbath hours? How ludicrous an idea!

It’s far better for Cricket Australia to use an Australian owned and operated company that believes in promoting good health, rather than many other possible sponsors. To those who think it’s wrong for Sanitarium to advertise through a sporting organisation, can they think of something better? How are we going to be “equally yoked” in advertising?

I believe Sanitarium should be advertising much more than it does. And we should get behind Sanitarium and not bag an outstanding company we have good reason to be proud of.

## “Bread,” not cricket

**NAOMI ESAU, NSW**

What does Sanitarium joining with Australian cricket have to do with spreading the gospel? There’s no instruction in Scripture for God’s money to be used in such liaisons. God asks the question, “Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread?” (Isaiah 55:2, KJV).

Although we are saved by grace through

faith in the efficacy of the sacrifice at Calvary to blot out our sins, we will be judged on the basis of works done in the name of Jesus. No-one can be a true follower of Jesus without walking in His footsteps—especially with regard to taking care of those in less favourable circumstances. He says, “Inasmuch as ye have done it to the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me” (Matthew 25:40, KJV).

If anyone has any argument with this logic, talk to Jesus about your grievances and stop spreading diabolic nonsense that would lead the unwary from the right path. If we all took the time to read the words of Isaiah 58 and paid heed to them, we would not waste God’s resources nor spend time in conjecturing. We need to be fed the “Bread” and not be misled by something that’s said “off the top of the head.”

## No “slump” here

**H K MCNABB, NZ**

I read “Beat the afternoon slump” (Features, October 18) with interest. Why does the Sanitarium Nutrition Service say we should “make snacks count”? Don’t they know that our bodies—which are mostly water—are the temple of God (see 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; 10:31)?

It is better to drink water instead of snacking. I know it can be done. I drink one litre of water with a little lemon juice first thing in the morning, about an hour before breakfast. Then I drink half a litre midmorning and again midafternoon. I do not experience a “slump” and God’s temple is not abused.

It appears that some Adventists are embracing a worldly pattern, rejecting the divine pattern we have been given.

**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

▲ **Hope Channel Director—Adventist Media Network (Wahroonga, NSW).** This full-time position is an important part of the church structure and the applicant will work throughout the South Pacific Division (including the Pacific islands), developing programs and managing Hope Channel TV and Radio. The position also involves a two-year project as manager of the new *Search* DVD series (undertaken concurrently with the management of Hope Channel). The successful applicant will ideally be details oriented, well organised and able to meet deadlines; able to provide creative and strategic concept development; have technical skills to facilitate the development of Hope TV and Radio infrastructure; be skilled at relationship building (between a range of church entities and AMN personnel); have a passion for evangelism and sharing Jesus; have communication and leadership skills; and be able to share the vision of Hope Channel. Applications close **January 9, 2009.**

▲ **Production Manager and Senior Producer/Director—Adventist Media Network (Wahroonga, NSW)** is seeking a full-time production manager and a senior producer/director for its Video Production department. Experience in managing a production team in an environment with tight deadlines is highly desirable. The successful applicant will ideally have skills and experience in consulting with customers; management of all aspects of production; hands-on experience in video production, including camera, edit, multi camera, studio lighting, sound, studio floor management, DVD authoring, Final Cut Studio and associated hardware and software; video technical skills and fault finding, equipment specification and routine maintenance; and administration of a production department, including budgeting. Applications close **January 9, 2009.**

For further information, contact Calvin Dever on (02) 9847 2222 or email <kalvin@adventistmedia.org.au>. **Applications in writing** should be forwarded to Calvin Dever, Operations Manager, Adventist Media Network, PO Box 1115 Wahroonga NSW 2076.

▲ **Receptionist—New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (Manukau City, NZ)** is seeking applications for the position of a full-time receptionist in Manukau, starting immediately. Successful applicants should be familiar with PABX phone systems and confident with the computer. It would be an advantage to have experience with Outlook and computerised phone systems, and they should also have had secretarial or website experience, as this role provides secretarial support and is responsible for our website. For further information or to apply, please contact the Secretary-Treasurer, NZPUC, Private Bag 76 900, Manukau City, or email <plynch@adventist.org.nz>.

▲ **International Program Manager—Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA New Zealand).** This senior position is being offered to an active and dynamic person, with suitable qualifications and experience in community development or related fields. Applicant should be able to demonstrate ability to work cross culturally, while meeting reporting and monitoring requirements for government and privately funded projects. Skills include project management, project assessment and monitoring, reporting and ability to work within NZAID guidelines and develop strategic plans for international projects, along with the ability to manage staff, government and implementing partner relationships. Significant travel, as covered by ADRA's travel policy, may be required. Applications should be addressed to Clinton Rappell, ADRA NZ, Private Bag 76-900, SAMC, Manukau 2240. Applications close **December 10, 2008.**

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



## Anniversaries

**Bean,** Ron and Evelyn (nee Wrightman) were married on 14.8.1948 in Sydney. They recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in Canberra National Church, in the presence of their large family, including their 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and close friends. A special treat for the occasion was a wonderful booklet



documenting and celebrating the family life of Ron and Evelyn, produced by their granddaughter, Lyn de Klerk.

## Weddings

**Field—Butler.** Warren Field, son of Clive (deceased) and Olga Field (Brisbane, Qld), and Kristi Sheree Butler, daughter of Dean and Kerri Butler (Brisbane), were married on 20.7.08 in a beautiful outdoor setting at Benowa, Qld. *Ken Hisco*

**Luchow—Toepfer.** Brenton Ralph Luchow, son of Ralph and Naree Luchow (Cooranbong, NSW), and Lisa Gai Toepfer, daughter of Kerry and Carole Toepfer (Cooranbong), were married 28.9.08 at Linton Gardens, Somersby. *Bevan Craig*

## Volunteers!

**Volunteer teachers—Tonga.** Beulah Adventist College requires an English teacher for Forms 4 to 6 and a computing teacher for Forms 4 to 6. Mizpah Adventist High School requires a Science and Maths teacher for Form 5.

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

+61 2 9847 3275



## Obituaries

**Davis,** Margaret Jeanie, born 24.10.1936 at Lake Grace, WA; died 8.8.08. Margaret was a devoted sportswoman, who enjoyed basketball and hockey. In 1963, after she had moved to Darwin, Rodney watched her playing hockey and a friendship developed. So, without any rush, they were finally married in November 1971. In Darwin, Margaret worked for the Northern Territory Housing Commission and, after 28 years, became the longest-serving employee. Margaret and Rodney retired in 1991, and moved to Ocean Shores, NSW, and later to Denmark, WA. Her husband, family and close friends will miss Margaret deeply. As a beautiful Christian, she awaits the Resurrection morning as Jesus returns in glory. *Phil Rhodes, Mark Goldsmith*

**Deacon,** Dolcie Ellen (nee Fowler), born 7.10.1917 at Kent Town, SA; died 23.9.08 in Coronella Adventist Retirement Village, Nunawading, Vic. On 7.9.1939, she married Lionel in Adelaide. She was predeceased by her husband on 24.1.1979, and her daughter, Denise, on 1.8.02. She is survived by her children, Andrea and Warren Ferris (Melbourne), and Daryl (Oslo, Norway); her six grandchildren; and her eight great-grandchildren. Dolcie's faith was the unfeigned faith of 2 Timothy 1:5. She was greatly valued by her family and church. *Dean Giles, Roger Dawkins*

**Eden,** Mabel Elsie Ella (nee Crawford), born 22.4.1908 at Mackay, Qld; died 24.9.08 in Victoria Point Adventist Retirement Village. Mabel married twice but bore no children. Mabel's nieces and their families, who had gathered earlier this year to celebrate 100 years of blessings, both in and through her life, joined with friends at Victoria Point to lay Mabel to rest, knowing how much she loved her Lord. *Chris Foote, Mark Pearce*

**Lemmers,** Elizabeth, born 27.12.1914 at Rotterdam, Holland; died 4.5.08 in Brisbane, Qld. She emigrated to Qld from post-war Holland with her husband, Louis, and three young daughters, Emmy, Liz and Loesji. After the family became Adventists through one of Pastor Geoff Radcliffe's

## "GREY NOMADS"

The North NSW Conference is planning for a special 10-day camp for retirees at the Adventist Campground, Stuarts Point, NSW. The dates are May 22-31, 2009. Members from all Conferences welcome. Accommodation is limited to private caravans and tents. No conference tents available. There will be a limited number of motels and cabins. More details will be available in the new year. All enquiries to be directed to:

**General Secretary  
North NSW Conference  
PO Box 7  
WALLESEND NSW 2287**

**email: bobdale@adventist.org.au  
Phone: (02) 4951 8088**

evangelistic campaigns, Elizabeth used her nursing skills to set up a health centre in the heart of Brisbane. She worked there for 20 years, giving massage and therapeutic treatments. Elizabeth moved into the ARV Hostel in 2004, where she continued to give massage and helpful advice about natural treatments to the nursing staff until her health declined. Elizabeth had a strong faith and trust in God, and she spent her whole life in providing Christian care and service to others. *Judy Fua*

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