

RECORD

February 14, 2009

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collects SPD stories

Youth baptism in
Madang Mission

*Adventist
World* issue



Drs Ganoune Diop, Jon Paulien, William Johnsson and Borge Schantz contribute to a panel discussion at the "Understanding Islam" conference last month.



SNSW camp sees new beginning

Sharing best helps "understanding Islam"

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

A conference hosted by Avondale College has explored the realities of Islam in the world today and the common beliefs the world religion shares with Seventh-day Adventists. Held from January 18 to 22, the "Understanding Islam" conference attracted 185 church leaders, pastors and members from Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific, as well as Thailand and the United States.

The conference was chaired by Dr William Johnsson, special assistant to the General Conference president for interfaith relations. In his opening address, he reflected

on his experience of working and talking with Muslim leaders and academics over the past two years. "I have been learning and unlearning a lot," he said. "There have been many surprises.

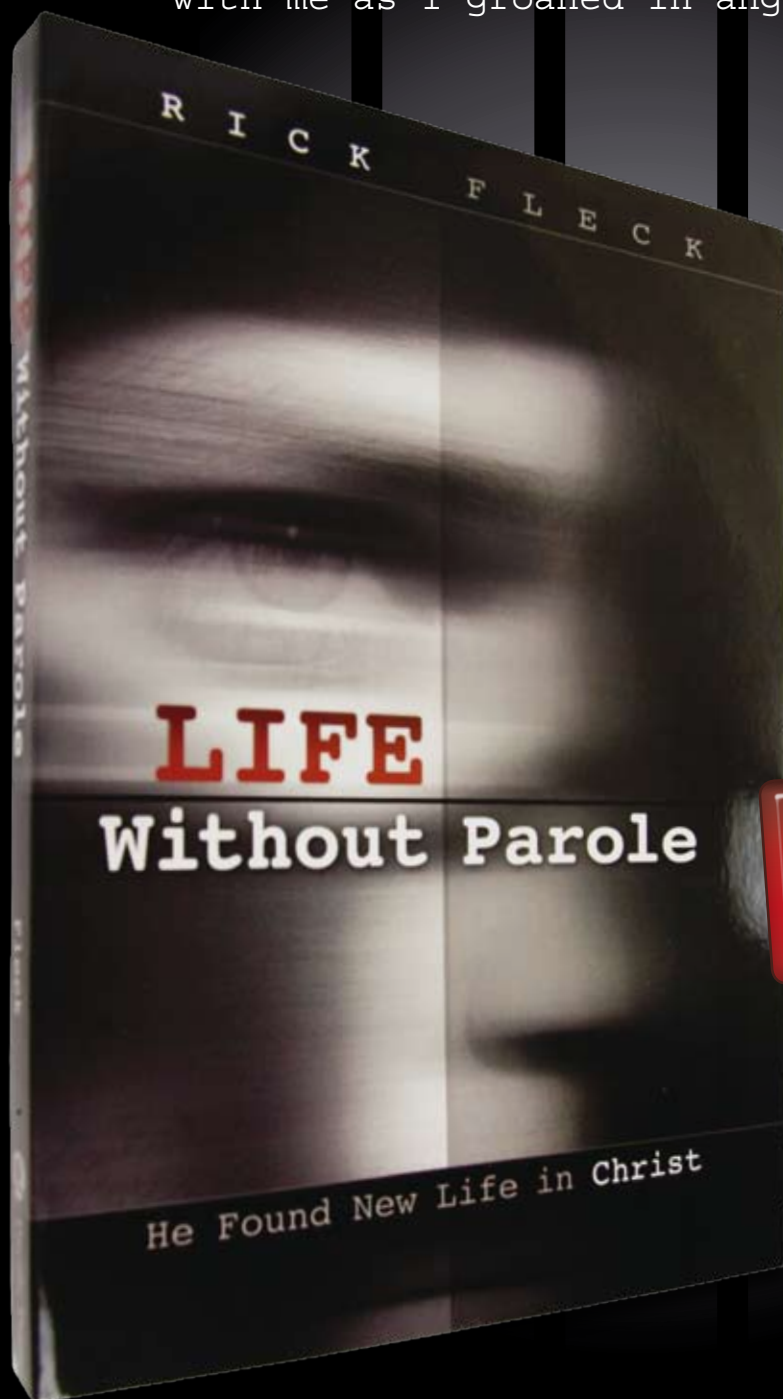
According to figures presented to the conference, about one in five people in the world are Muslims, including some 270,000 in Australia and smaller groups in other South Pacific nations.

"Islam and Adventists are everywhere in the world," said Dr Johnsson. "They are our neighbours. We need to understand them as fellow human beings—and for mission. (Continued on page 3)

Rick Fleck Autobiography

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Sharing best helps “understanding Islam”

(Continued from page 1)

“They are children of God—spiritual children of Abraham—as we are, and the everlasting gospel that God has said to take to the whole world includes them.”

Describing this as “a time of divine opportunity” to reach out to Muslim people around the world, Dr Johnsson warned of the tendency to compare the worst of another group of people with our best, urging that this is not helpful in building understanding.

This theme was picked up by fellow presenter Dr Ganoune Diop, director of the General Conference Global Mission Study Centres, who grew up in a Muslim family in his native Senegal. “Finding the best in Islam is important, because we want to take them from their best to God’s best,” he says. “Encouraging people to discover their best is the best platform possible to lead them to further light, because every religion has gems of truth here and there. Showing appreciation of what is good in others was Jesus’ method and what the apostle Paul did when he went to Greece.”

Dr Lucile Sabas, president of Cosendai Adventist University in Cameroon, spoke about the specific role women can play in reaching out to Muslim women. “Adventist women need to understand the past to know that women all over the world have had the same experiences Muslim women have today,” she explains. “With this in mind, they can understand them better and we can behave differently toward them. Adventist women need to understand how to overcome barriers with them, how to build bridges and how to present the gospel to them.”

While enthusiastic about the conference as a way of increasing the knowledge, sensitivities and ability of conference participants to connect with Muslim people, Dr Diop adds a note of caution. “In all these discussions, we should never forget the power of the Spirit



Some 185 people participated in the “Understanding Islam” conference, hosted by Avondale College.

of God,” he says. “I found Adventist faith through someone who did not know Arabic or have any knowledge of the Koran.”

The conference included a time in which a number of participants who are currently working with Muslim people in various parts of the world shared their experiences.

Dr Johnsson was enthusiastic about the sharing and progress made over the four days of the conference. “I rate the conference highly,” he reflects. “It is one of the best seminars I have been involved with, particularly in relation to the quality of presenters, quality of participation and open exchange of opinion. It has been very worthwhile.”

Organisers at Avondale College were also delighted with the success of the “Understanding Islam” conference and are planning that this will be the first in a series of summer conferences addressing cutting edge topics from an Adventist perspective.

“I was impressed with the quality of the participants,” says Lorin Bradford, director of Advancement for Avondale College. “It has been great to bring together administrators, pastors and church members. And that we could attract the best speakers in the world on this topic proves Avondale has a lot to offer to the church.

“I believe Avondale should be on the forefront of Adventism. This is a way for us to contribute to the wider church, and ensure the relevance of the college and the relevance of the church.”—**Nathan Brown**

SNSW camp sees new beginning

JINDABYNE, NEW SOUTH WALES

A new era for camp-meetings in the South New South Wales Conference (SNSWC) began last month. Adventist Alpine Village in Jindabyne played host to some 500 church members for the first time from January 16 to 24, aptly themed “A new beginning.”

Since 1967, church members have been meeting annually at a camp site in Goulburn (NSW). However, the area soon became too small, with no potential for further development.

According to Pastor Bob Manners, president of the SNSWC, attendance at this year’s camp has not been as high as that of Goulburn’s but he is still “quite happy with the success of the attendance. People who have come to camp have come for the purpose of going to camp, and they are enjoying the meetings.

“It wasn’t appropriate at Goulburn for a long-term future for camps,” he says. “Although the Adventist Alpine Village at Jindabyne isn’t as central a location, we chose this place because there is already an infrastructure here.”

A new storage shed—built by volunteers using donated materials—had been constructed to store all the camp supplies and was used as a venue for youth meetings.

“There are quite a few benefits in moving to this site,” says Pastor Manners. “It’s a much bigger area and it seems like nobody is falling over each other. It also has beautiful surroundings with the trees and the hills, and the lake is not far away.”

—**Melody Tan**

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Mission filmmaker collects SPD stories

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Daniel Weber, videographer for the General Conference's (GC) Office of Adventist Mission, and producer of the *Adventist Mission* DVD each quarter, recently completed a two-week itinerary in the South Pacific Division (SPD), collecting stories and interviews for the Office of Adventist Mission.

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects for the Fourth Quarter of 2009 are located in the SPD, so Mr Weber was here to get video stories to share with the Adventist church worldwide. His visit included a weekend in outback Australia at Jigalong, northern Western Australia; a busy day of flying in Papua New Guinea with Pastor Roger Millist in the new PAC 750 mission plane; a visit to a village in North East Papua, where a 12-year-old girl has established a church group through her witness; and a report of two Global Mission church plants in Sydney (NSW).

Mr Weber also spent time with Adventist Media Network staff, collecting video material that features the relocation of Fulton College (Fiji), which will specifically receive a percentage of proceeds from the December 26 offering. These stories and others will feature on the

Fourth Quarter DVD, which is supplied free to every Sabbath school in Australia and New Zealand, and to all missions in the South Pacific.

As well as commenting on the heat he experienced during his itinerary, Mr Weber said "it was a real blessing to see the stories of people who are sharing their faith and making a positive impact on their communities, and the lives they come in contact with every day."

While in Australia, Mr Weber also filmed 18 interviews, conducted by Pastor Gary Krause with retired missionaries living in the Cooranbong area (NSW), at the Sunnyside South Sea Island Museum. Pastor Krause is director of the GC Office of Adventist Mission, and the interviews will be used in the program *Adventist Mission*, produced for the Hope Channel.

"We were thrilled to have such a rich source of mission stories and experiences from veteran missionaries in the South Pacific," said Pastor Krause. "It was an



Adventist Mission's filmmaker Daniel Weber at work in Jigalong, Western Australia.

honour for me to interview people such as Pastors Colin Winch and Len Barnard. I remember sitting on the edge of my seat listening to their stories at camp-meetings when I was a kid."

Church members can watch the *Adventist Mission* program on Hope Channel, and *Adventist Mission* DVDs can be ordered by churches through their local conference or mission.—**Ray Coombe**

More resources are available from the Adventist Mission website <www.AdventistMission.org>, including a PowerPoint presentation with photos of people featured in the Adult/Teen quarterly and additional information about the offering projects each quarter.



◆ After a year themed "Sharing our Hope," 20 young people from the **Madang town church**, Madang Manus Mission, PNG, have been baptised. Many of them made the decision as a result of their continuous commitment to mission in their community throughout the year, after the "Voice of Youth" programs in Madang Local

Urban Hospital compound. The group also conducted three community service weekends, seven church visitations, six street/market witnessing events and two "Voice of Youth" programs, as well as the program in the hospital. The Madang youth group used the "Elijah Project" materials from the General Conference and weekly youth fellowship programs for high school students every Tuesday to connect with the young people. **Pastor Robert Isaiah** (pictured with **Kepi Namana**) conducted the

baptisms on Madang Tusbab Beach.—**Arthur Wari**

◆ **TV advertising** for a free viewing of *Who is Jesus?* videos will screen in the Wagga Wagga region on WIN Television, February 21 to March 1.

◆ **Pastor Desmond Potts** has graduated from the **University of Newcastle, NSW**, as a **Doctor of Philosophy in History**. Pastor Potts has specialised in 17th-century English history, which he believes provides the roots of the **Adventist faith**. His research has



been assessed by international scholars in the field, who have requested that a book and journal articles be published. The subject, **Dr Peter Chamberlen**, 17th-century royal physician, has provided a solid background for the study of an intensely creative and influential **Anabaptist midwife** of the period.—**Susie Potts**

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ MARCH 7—ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO OFFERING ◆ MARCH 28—ADVENTIST YOUTH

What is sin?

MAX HATTON, NSW

"A bigger picture of sin?" (Letters, January 17) is correct in reporting that Ellen White says the only definition of sin we have is that it is the transgression of the law. However, the writer is apparently not aware that after repeating the statement, she commented on it in *Signs of the Times*. March 3, 1890, reads: "The law is far-reaching in its claims, and we must bring our hearts into harmony with it. . . . The reason why iniquity prevails to such an alarming extent is that the law of God is made void in the earth. His law spoken from Sinai and exemplified in the life of Christ is perfect, converting the soul. It condemns every sin, and requires every virtue. Not only does it demand a correct outward deportment, but its principles reach even to the thoughts and affections of the heart."

The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Vol 6, page 532, is undoubtedly correct when it provides the following definition: "Sin has been in the world since the original transgression of Adam. It may be defined as a lack of conformity with the will of God whether in act, disposition, or state."

We must remember that what we do is very much influenced by what we are. We offer an inadequate view if we insist that sin is only wilful acts.

FRANK DYSON, WA

I believe "A bigger picture of sin?" ignores a powerful teaching tool of Jesus—utilising, and frequently expanding, the cultural and theological understandings of the people to whom He was speaking. It is dangerous for us to ignore this, as it often leads us to faulty conclusions.

When Jesus used the words "Go, and sin no more" (see John 5:14; 8:11), He was addressing people who believed their unfortunate condition was the direct consequence of their own or their parent's specific and identifiable sinful behaviour (see, for example, John 9:1-3). Hence, His challenge was for them to rectify that behaviour—in paraphrase, "Don't go back to your previous way of life."

This, of course, fits with another biblical definition of sin (other than 1 John 3:4), not from the lips of Jesus but from the pen of Paul: "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Romans 14:23, KJV). Rather than "Don't go back to what you were doing," Jesus was most probably saying "Go and live a life of faith in Me." And of course, if Jesus knew anything about human nature—which He most certainly did—He knew the latter was possible, while the former was not.

I also believe the words of Ellen White must be read and understood in their context. I would be most surprised if, when she wrote "Our *only* definition of sin is that given in the word of God; it is 'the transgression of the law'" (emphasis supplied), she was unaware of the other biblical definition of sin. We would not want to accuse her of being dishonest, would we?

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 3) for contact details.

Record Roo



Hi kids!
Jacob had finally been reunited with his son, Joseph, in Egypt. The Bible tells us that over many years, his descendants "multiplied greatly and became exceedingly numerous," and the new pharaoh wasn't happy about it.

Bible Text

Then a new _____, who did not know about _____, came to power in Egypt. "Look," he said to his people, "the _____ have become much too _____ for us. Come, we must deal _____ with them or they will become even more numerous and, if _____ breaks out, will join our _____, _____ against us and leave the country" Exodus 1:8-10, NIV.

Word Search

Exodus 1:11-14 tells us that Pharaoh made slaves of all the Israelites, forcing them to work in the fields and build cities in Egypt. Find all the words in the puzzle from the list.

B	R	I	C	K	S	R	G	G	P	Q	K	P	G	R
X	X	K	A	E	F	D	U	Z	Z	Y	A	J	M	I
I	Y	S	H	H	M	I	E	T	W	O	R	K	P	S
U	E	P	P	T	E	J	E	E	H	M	M	A	T	R
Y	C	G	R	P	G	B	E	L	H	L	K	F	S	A
H	C	U	Y	X	E	M	R	X	D	J	E	E	A	E
P	S	C	L	P	M	K	O	E	E	S	I	S	S	L
K	L	A	R	S	T	M	S	D	W	M	N	O	S	I
W	A	T	T	U	L	I	L	L	E	S	M	P	S	T
J	V	N	S	T	T	I	A	N	A	I	D	P	P	E
D	E	U	J	E	U	H	E	N	G	V	E	R	T	S
P	M	M	P	B	U	O	L	Z	S	D	E	E	A	R
M	A	E	L	H	F	V	M	E	E	R	V	S	O	G
O	S	R	A	D	A	Y	W	C	S	P	E	S	R	T
R	T	O	B	A	I	R	R	V	T	S	V	E	G	T
T	E	U	O	J	F	O	A	A	I	D	R	D	P	F
A	R	S	U	O	F	V	E	O	S	C	T	Y	F	A
R	L	D	R	N	W	G	I	Z	H	P	G	N	R	Q
V	B	Z	C	I	T	I	E	S	R	E	H	R	H	K
C	W	D	I	G	F	C	M	K	S	L	Q	S	T	E

ISRAELITES, HEBREWS, EGYPTIANS, EGYPT, PHARAOH, NUMEROUS, ENEMIES, SLAVES, SLAVEMASTER, FORCED, LABOUR, WORK, CITIES, BUILD, BRICKS, MORTAR, FIELDS, RUTHLESS, OPPRESSED.

Peta Taylor

Retirements

● **Ann Boyland**, Northern Australian Conference (22 years). ● **Michael Browning**, Victorian Conference (35 years). ● **John Cook**, South Queensland Conference (24 years). ● **Dr John Cox**, Avondale College (47 years). ● **Gail de Ville**, Northern Australian Conference (38 years). ● **Eric Kingdon**, Greater Sydney Conference (39 years). ● **Dr Graeme Perry**, Inter Divisional Employment—Overseas (43 years). ● **John Polain**, Sanitarium Health Food Company—Perth (38 years). ● **Kenneth Read**, Publishing Department, SPD (36 years). ● **Dr William Watts**, South Queensland Conference (24 years).

New Zealand Pacific Union Conference
● **Peter Roberts**, Sanitarium Health Food Company—Christchurch (36 years).

Trans-Pacific Union Mission
Samoa Mission
● **Leo Aket**.

Solomon Islands Mission
● **Frances Alezama**. ● **James Afununu**. ● **Norman Lulukai**. ● **Rossie Luluta**. ● **Nerelle Potatotu**. ● **Adrian Timi**. ● **Ellison Illabae**.

Tonga Mission
● **Fa'Oliu Langi**.

Papua New Guinea Union Mission
New Britain New Ireland Mission
● **Jim (Sanoma) Manele**.

Weddings

Bews—Mastromihalis. Stephen Bews, son of John and Ann Bews (Auckland, NZ), and Ruth Mastromihalis, daughter of Dinos Mastromihalis (Thessaloniki, Greece), were married on 12.10.08 in Castle Hill church, Sydney, NSW, in the presence of many of their congregation, friends and family.
Brendan Pratt

Clark—Zambo. Matthew Clark, son of David and Shirley Clark (Martinsville, NSW), and Carolyn Zambo, daughter of John Zambo and Sandra Brown (Armisteadale), were married 23.11.08 in Toronto church.
Keith Jackson

Colvin—Hogg. Mathew John Colvin, son of Gary and Karen Colvin (Wagga Wagga, NSW), and Rebekah Jane Hogg, daughter of Vernon (Max) and Beverley Hogg (Pleasant Hills), were married on 1.11.08 in Bethlehem Lutheran church, Wagga Wagga.
Laurence Landers

Eddy—Peters. Colin Eddy, son of Robert and Joy Eddy (Alexandra, Vic), and Wendy-Lee Peters, daughter of Reuben and Mandy Peters (Vermont), were married on 18.1.09 in the Chateau Wyuna, Lilydale.
Morrie Krieg

Moroney—Hankins. Craig Allan Moroney, son of Reginald and Lillian Moroney, and Marian Joy Hankins, daughter of Victor and Joy Hankins, were married on 6.1.09 in Charlestown church, NSW.
Mike Faber

Steen—Rusterholz. Andrew Steen, son of John and Rosalie Steen (Toowoomba, Qld),

and Nicole Rusterholz, daughter of Heinrich and Gayle Rusterholz (Gladstone), were married on 14.12.08 at the Golden Ox, Margate.
Heinrich Rusterholz

Wishart—McMurray. Reyce Greaves-Nathan Wishart, son of James (deceased) and Edith Wishart (Cooranbong, NSW), and Amanda Joy McMurray, daughter of Derek and Maureen Hughes (Yarra Junction, Vic), were married on 21.12.08 in a garden setting at Cooranbong, NSW.
George Drinkall

Obituaries

Box, Ronnie Gerald Eliab, born 22.2.1928 at Balacava, Vic; died 2.1.09 in Benalla Hospital. On 2.4.1949, he married Patricia Mabel Burns. He is survived by his wife; and children, Gary (Merricks North), Alan (Benalla), Rhonda Bennetts (Greta), Dianne Chuprinov (Guys Hill), and Cheryle Robertson (Guys Hill). We are all the richer from our association with Ron. He was a quiet, unassuming, yet radiant Christian gentleman, who impacted lives. Sleep peacefully, Ron.
Peter Hughes

Bullock, Allan Geoffrey, born 28.7.1926 at Launceston, Tas; died 6.11.08 at Jindera, NSW. In December 1941, he married Bronwen Davis in the old village church at Cooranbong. He was predeceased by his wife in October, 2006. He is survived by his children, Paul and Kerrallyn (Jindera), and John and Jullienne (Albury); his six grandchildren; and his five great-grandchildren. Allan was a deeply committed Christian and dependable leader in the Albury church, who believed in helping the poor. His gentle smile and delightful humour will be missed by all. He rests from his burdens awaiting the "well done" from his Master.
Lawrence Landers

Cousens, Marjorie Beryl, born 2.10.1917 at Summer Hill, NSW; died 15.1.09 at Cooranbong, NSW. She is survived by her four children, Jenny, Bill, Brian and Robert; also her two sisters, June and Norma. She attended the Kanwal church for two decades, and was notable for her faithfulness and diligence in assisting in church duties. She had a close relationship with her Lord and longed for His coming. She was a gracious lady and caring mother, dearly loved by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Sleep in peace, Marjorie, see you in the morning.
Len Barnard, David Hay

Horn, Kathleen Maud (nee Revell), born 26.8.1921 at Ulverstone, Tas; died 1.11.08 at Penguin. She was predeceased by her husband, Ivan James Horn. She is survived by her children, Warren; her daughters, Marlene (Penguin) and Kim (Melbourne, Vic). Kath was a loving mother and friend. She loved her Saviour and now awaits the Master's call to life, when He returns.
Francis Pule

Hornblow, Joan Ester, born 22.8.1931 at Mackay, Qld; died 25.11.08 in Rockhampton Hospital, after a brief illness.

She is survived by her children, Richard (Hervey Bay), David (Gladstone), and Jeffrey (Mackay); and a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. For the past one-and-a-half years, she has been attending the Gladstone church. She is missed by all who knew her.
Heinrich Rusterholz

Smith, Dorothy Mavis, born at Gwalia, WA; died 29.12.08 at 89 years of age. On 23.6.1942, she married Albert Vernon Smith at Prahlan, Vic. She is survived by her children, Howard (Albury, NSW), Bryan (Melbourne, Vic) and Jullienne Bullock (Albury, NSW). Dorothy was dearly loved by her family, church family and community. She will be sadly missed until we meet again on the wonderful Resurrection morning.
Nicu Dumbraua

Stiles, Alan Awbery Canning, born 12.5.1913 at Curdridge, England, UK; died 28.8.08 at Matamata, NZ. On 29.3.1938, he married Edith Mary Woods, who predeceased him on 29.10.1993. He is survived by his children and their partners, Don and Elizabeth (Hamilton), Alan and Carolyn (Glenrowan, NSW), John and Lorraine (Matamata, NZ), Paul and Prue (Master-ton), Mary and Basil Fregard (Matamata), and Ethel Currie; his 16 grandchildren; and his 10 great-grandchildren. Faithful servant to the Lord and prominent colporteur for approximately 28 years, he strongly supported Te Awamutu church after retirement.
Ian Sutton, Michael Falzarano

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Dentist—Pacific Yacht Ministries, Vanuatu, is seeking volunteer dentists for its 2009 season in Vanuatu.

Health educators—Pacific Yacht Ministries, Vanuatu, is seeking volunteer health educators for its 2009 season in Vanuatu. The season will run from July 1 to October 31, 2009. Interested applicants should be trained health educators or registered nurses, with an understanding of health education. More information and applications can be found on our website <www.pym.org.au>.

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<www.adventistvolunteers.org>.

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For sale. Kohlor and Campbell piano with 15 year warranty. Bought in 2005 for \$A3495; sale price \$A2500 or nearest offer. Melbourne. Contact Robyn on 0421 773 997.

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