

RECORD

June 20, 2009

In this issue

New Australian programs on Hope

ADRA Australia calls for donations

Jesus and young adult ministry



Pastor Ivor Jones, his wife, Yvonne, and Pastor Gary Kent (left to right) during the filming of "The Day it Rained Fire" for It Is Written.



Alumna issues faith challenge

First Australian-made show airs for IIW

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

For the first time, It Is Written (IIW) Oceania will be screening an Australian filmed and produced episode on free-to-air television.

"'The Day it Rained Fire' is unique because it is an Australian-made episode about a major Australian event and will be screened to the Australian public," says Matthew Butler, special projects manager of IIW Oceania. "But this will not be the last. We praise God for the opportunities before us to screen more Australian-produced episodes in future."

Although anchored by Pastor Gary Kent in Australia, stories produced by IIW In-

ternational feature strongly in current IIW Oceania episodes.

It is anticipated that future IIW Oceania episodes will be filmed and produced by the Adventist Media Network, either on location or in the new IIW Oceania studio in western Sydney.

Upcoming series include "The Big Five," co-presented by Pastor Kent and IIW International speaker Shaun Boonstra that answers the five big questions faced by people today, and "The Touch of Freedom," a show currently being shot on location in Israel that highlights the impact of Jesus on

(Continued on page 7)



We must have a questioning, probing, growing faith.

The God excuse

RECENTLY, ABC TV IN AUSTRALIA broadcast a documentary by filmmaker Ben Anthony entitled “Inside a Cult: Messiah on Trial.” The documentary focused on the trial of a Michael Travesser, who claims to be the Son of God and was being prosecuted for charges of sexual misconduct with minors.

Travesser gathered a following of believers who lived with him in “Strong City,” a compound where they would prepare for the end of the world. In a previous documentary, Anthony had been allowed access to the compound and viewers were shocked by the absolute power wielded by Travesser. People had signed over possessions to the man they believed to be “divine” and if anyone complained about things that went on, they were encouraged to leave. Apparently, prior to setting up the “cult,” Travesser had been “told” by God he was the Messiah.

For centuries, people have used the “God excuse” to get others to do what they want. The example of Travesser is an extreme one, reminiscent of Jim Jones and David Koresh. These are blatant examples of people who have manipulated others by using God’s name in pressing their own agendas.

However, it doesn’t stop at cult leaders or people with delusions of being the Messiah. There are plenty of others who have tried to push people into doing what they want or condemned individuals through the use of “God” and what He “told” them.

I believe there are many people and organisations who perform tasks and actions

that are clearly led by God. You can usually tell these by the way they let God shine through what they do.

Equally, I believe there are many people who tell others they’re doing something “God led” or taking a particular course of action that’s “ordained by God” purely to cover up the reality of personal greed, pride or ill will that’s motivating them. Or they might simply be attempting to deflect criticism of themselves or their work. In these cases, “God led” is simply allowing them a frame for whatever has been hammered on their own anvil.

People tend to not question those who say things about being led by God unless it’s something obviously crazy, such as feeling the strong sense God is calling you and your church to establish a rollerskating evangelism team to skate across the Grand Canyon to somehow save souls.

Otherwise, we tend to agree politely, even when we harbour private misgivings about the matters. After all, people who questioned the prophets in the Bible or Ellen White were often soundly rebuked—or eaten by bears if it entered the realms of teasing—and 1 Thessalonians 5:20 tells us we shouldn’t despise prophecy.

So what are we to do? How can we tell when it really is the guiding of God?

First, we have a responsibility to develop our own relationship with God to the point where we have the understanding, guidance and knowledge to allow us greater access to “truth.” But this can be easier

said than done.

We need to approach the issue with the right attitude, even when questioning. God doesn’t want us to be misled or blindly accept things without examining them first. 1 Thessalonians 5:21 says we must test everything and hold onto the good. We must have a questioning, probing, growing faith—and be aware of our own agendas and failings within that.

In 1 Corinthians 14:29-32, Paul tells congregations he expects them to weigh and test the words of prophecy. If people are claiming to be doing things in the name of God, why not hold them to these standards?

Prophecy must build up the body (see 1 Corinthians 14:4), agree with Scripture (see 2 Timothy 3:16), exalt Jesus (see John 16:13,14), come true (see Deuteronomy 18:21,22), lead to God and obedience of Him (see Deuteronomy 13:1-5), produce liberty (see Romans 3:15), produce and encourage life (see 2 Corinthians 3:6) and be attested to the Holy Spirit by believers (see 1 John 2:27). We should always test what others tell us is “God’s leading” against these criteria.

Finally, in Matthew 7:16-20, Jesus talks about knowing them by their fruits and how bad trees cannot yield good fruit. If the “God told me to . . .” is not connected to anything useful or results in harm or malice, can it truly be said to be of God?

Adele Nash



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

New Australian programs air on Hope

RINGWOOD, VICTORIA

A number of programs filmed last year as part of “Project Hope—Australia” (“TV ‘Project’ shares Hope with the world,” News, August 30, 2008) are now screening on the Hope Channel.

These programs include “Outback Adventures” with Pastor Don Fehlberg, associate director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries for the Australian Union Conference (AUC); “Youth ICU” with Pastor Tony Knight, director of Adventist Youth Ministries for the AUC; and “Smart from the Start,” with Dr John Hammond, director of Adventist Education for the AUC.

Pastor Fehlberg says of “Outback Adventures,” “It’s a program about the Indigenous work around Australia—really sharing the stories of my trips around the country, working with people in different communities—although it’s not just for Indigenous people to enjoy.

“A number of folk in remote places have rung me to say, ‘We’ve seen your program!’ It’s thrilling to know that people are watching Hope Channel and are happening to come across the program. We’ve had them from Arnhem Land and Port Augusta and the centre of Australia.”

Pastor Fehlberg adds, “I’ve had the privi-

lege of working with many Indigenous folk across Australia and people get really excited to see what’s taking place for them. ‘Outback Adventures’ gives people a realistic appreciation for what God’s doing.”

“Youth ICU” is a series of 12 half-hour programs aimed at opening a window to the world of 21st-century teenagers. Pastor Knight says, “It gives a glimpse into the lives of kids, and really grapples with the struggles and dangers they face. Topics we’ve dealt with include eating disorders, at-risk behaviours, building resilience and how the church connects or fails to with young people.”

Youth leaders from around the AUC were featured on the program, with other special guests including school counsellors, nutritionists, teachers, doctors and teens themselves.

“The series also offered good common-sense, down-to-earth suggestions on how adults can help kids through some of these issues, nurturing them in their lives and growth in Christianity,” says Pastor Knight. “Each episode also has music segments featuring various artists sharing their gifts.

“We’ve noticed the addition of the Australian content on Hope Channel—especially that aimed at young people—has increased the youth and teen audience. We’re getting comments from kids most days who have

seen the shows, saying how much they like it and appreciate having issues talked about.”

Dr Hammond says, “Smart from the Start’ represents just 13 of 220 episodes dealing with church and family issues that have been produced through ‘Project Hope.’

“The topics range from parenting issues, choosing the right school, dealing with Generation Y and even an episode about the questions you would really like to ask teachers—but are too scared to ask. We brought in a number of experienced teachers, parents and education administrators to act as panellists. Don’t miss the episode on parenting—we brought in four young mothers and their babies. The tight filming schedule did not allow for many ‘out-takes,’ so you will be treated to babies crawling off the set and at least one infant who suffers a complete emotional meltdown on top of a lapel mike.”

Dr Hammond believes the series is “very relevant” and “the series is vivid and engaging. The panellists have amazing insights and were very professional.”

Kandus Thorp, co-director of Hope Channel international, says, “We’re still in the final process of post-production on ‘Praise Down Under’ and ‘Fishbowl’ [two more ‘Project Hope—Australia’ programs]. And ‘Happiness by Design’ will commence on the network in July.”—*Adele Nash*



◆ A group from the **teen Sabbath school** at Pacific Adventist University (PAU) will remember May 30 for a long time. They visited **Bisiatabu**, the **first Adventist church** in Papua New Guinea, to experience some of the journey early missionaries had to make. It was an all-day event that started at 7 am and finished just before 7 pm. Two PAU buses and two

private vehicles drove about **60 people** to **Sogeri**, from which they walked for half an hour to **Bisiatabu**. During the worship service, the teens sang special items. They learned about the start of the Adventist work in the area. **Ben Thomas’s** sermon “**God needs youth**” delivered a challenge to all but especially the young people. Following the footsteps of the pioneers meant three hours walk on the ridge and another hour and a half down the mountain. The last obstacle was also a source of joy: refreshing river water.—*Danijela Schubert*

◆ **Ballarat church (Vic)** member **Merrilyn Hastings** was inducted as president of her local **Probus club** of 101 members on March 26. She has been involved with the club since 2000 and has held various roles within the club. She has also been, and continues to be, actively involved with the **Queen Elizabeth Centre (QCE)**, particularly as a member of the Ladies Auxiliary, having served three terms as president and as honorary secretary since 1995. Last August, she was presented with a certificate of recognition for her 20 years of service to the QCE. In December,



she was further acknowledged by being awarded **Life Governorship** of **Ballarat Health Services**, not only for her involvement with the QCE but also the voluntary assistance she contributes to the **Base Hospital Foundation**. It is an unusual occurrence to receive a second Life Governorship—but she did, this being in addition to the Life Governorship she was given of the QCE in 1997.

13th Sabbath Offering to help Africa

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

When the world is in financial meltdown and governments are struggling to boost the economy with “stimulus packages” and “temporary deficits,” when Australia is just pulling out of years of drought and recovering from devastating bushfires and floods; when people are losing employment and facing mortgage default, its hardly a time to make a plea for Africa!” says Pastor Ray Coombe, director of Adventist Mission for the South Pacific Division. “And yet, the conditions of our sin-weary world shriek at us that now is the time to let go of material wealth and invest our treasures in extending the kingdom of God.”

Pastor Coombe is referring to the June 27 13th Sabbath Offering for the second quarter of this year, which is another opportunity to

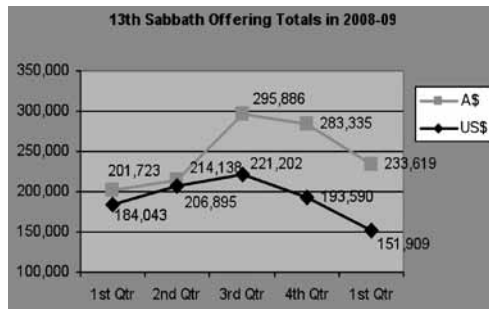
support the worldwide mission of the Adventist Church.

This quarter’s offering goes to the Southern Africa–Indian Ocean Division, where the funds will be used on projects including rebuilding two elementary schools in Angola, and renovating and rebuilding buildings at Bongo Mission for Bongo Adventist University in Angola. “The global financial crisis is affecting the mission budget of the General Conference,” says Pastor Coombe. “Now is not the time to reduce our giving and hope God will somehow ‘keep the show going.’ The finishing of God’s work on earth has been committed to us. If we want to get the job done, we’d better get serious.”

The financial crisis has affected the total of Sabbath-school offerings being passed on to the General Conference, according to Pastor Coombe.

“From a high of almost \$US900,000 in the third quarter of 2008, our Sabbath-school offerings dropped to under \$US650,000 in the first quarter of 2009,” says Pastor Coombe. “The 13th Sabbath Offering total dropped from \$US221,202 in September last year to \$US151,909 in March. This represents a 31 per cent reduction in the funds available for mission projects.

“What a tragedy it would be if this



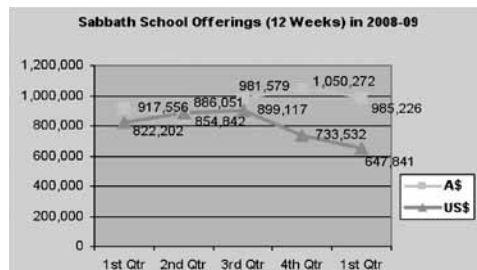
13th Sabbath Offerings have declined significantly since the third quarter in 2008.

trend continues and negatively affects the projects listed for the Southern Africa–Indian Ocean Division this quarter. The rebuilding of the primary schools damaged and destroyed by war in Angola, and all other proposed projects, are urgent needs that deserve our support.”

Pastor Coombe is hoping Adventist churches in this division will “defy trends of this recession and give sacrificially next week to help these important mission projects.”

He adds, “Next quarter will be our turn to receive 25 per cent of the 13th Sabbath Offering, which will help with the relocation of Fulton College and the Sabbath school flip charts for children. It’d be good if the South Pacific could set a new trend in giving next Sabbath and reverse the downward trend!”—*RECORD staff/Ray Coombe*

More @ www.record.net.au



General Sabbath-school offerings have declined slightly.



◆ **Avondale school (NSW) students Alyce and Tim Bradstreet** were both recently selected as representatives of Australia in the upcoming waterskiing world titles. Their latest achievements took place at the **state and national titles for Tournament Waterskiing**. Alyce won gold in Slalom, Trick, Jump and overall in Under 17 girls. Tim competed

in the Open Men category and also won gold for each separate event, and overall gold after a run off for the Slalom. They also both won all their events and respectively won the titles **Australian Under 17 Girl and Boy Champion**. This is the second year in a row they have won these titles but is the first time they have attained them with a clean sweep of firsts. Tim broke the Australian records for the Under 17 boys’ and Under 21 men’s overall score. He equalled the record for boys’ Slalom and Jump, and was chosen as high-

est-ranked male for the **Under 21 World Titles**, which will be held during October in Chapala, Mexico. Alyce was chosen as reserve for this team but will instead be sitting her HSC exams.—*Susan Rogers*

◆ **Elizabeth Lodge Adventist Retirement Village, NSW, residents** gathered for a morning tea to celebrate the achievements of one of their residents on May 13. **Penrith church member Robert Beech** has been awarded a **Doctorate in Mathematics** from the Univer-



sity of Western Sydney. Although suffering from Parkinson’s disease and osteoporosis for

a number of years, Mr Beech spent four years typing the 254 pages of his thesis “Extensions of the non-linear Schrodinger Equation using Mathematica” with one finger. In 2007, he was nominated for the Nobel Prize in physics by the **University of Beijing** for his work in solving

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ JUNE 20—PACIFIC ISLANDS ADVANCEMENT OFFERING

SPD dismisses “missing link” claims

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The South Pacific Division (SPD) has dismissed as “insignificant” claims that the “missing link” that “proves” evolutionary theory has been found.

“So many ‘missing links’ have been found or claimed to have been found and figured in headlines in public media,” says Dr Paul Petersen, field secretary for the SPD. “One more claim in itself really does not make that much difference.”

In May, a fossil believed to be 47 million years old was unveiled at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Some claim that *Darwinius masillae*, given the name of Ida, was the “missing link”—the earliest ancestor of all living monkeys.

The fossil specimen, which is a nearly-complete fossil primate, appears superficially similar to lemurs and is believed to be a “transitional fossil”—fossils that are

believed to indicate “intemdiary” forms of life, apparently indicating evolutionary transitions.

However, researchers and scientists are split into two camps about the claim of Ida being a “missing link.” A number of scientists have also questioned the media hype surrounding the revelation and reporting of the fossil. Its unveiling coincided with the release of a book and documentary about it.

“In the end, we base our belief on God’s revelation in the Bible and on its significance for our choices on how to live,” says Dr Petersen. “What are the values we find in evolution and in Creation? How do they affect our way of living and our choices in life?

That is the most important thing.”

In this year of anniversaries of Charles Darwin’s life and work, the Adventist church is planning a number of responses to these issues, including a “Creation Sabbath” on October 24.—*Melody Tan*



Dr Paul Petersen believes the recently-unveiled Darwinius masillae fossil doesn't make much difference to the claims of evolution.

Schrodinger’s equation. Schrodinger’s equation shows the wave properties in matter and Mr Beech’s solution has enabled wider application. Mr Beech’s thesis starts with Daniel 2:20-23 and he dedicates his thesis to God, saying the solution to the problem “came to him” at 4 am one morning, after many seasons of prayer.—*Leonie Duff*

◆ The last day of Term One was filled with **pirate activities** for the Kindy–Grade One class of **North-West Christian School, Tas**. The students and



staff came dressed in pirate costumes. Under the guidance of teacher **Miss Coralde**, they participated in a treasure hunt, a scavenger hunt, created their own pirate boat and threw water-balloon bombs. This day was based on the classroom theme of “**The Best Treasure Map is the Bible.**” —*Natalie Wincombe*

◆ Not only was April 25 **ANZAC** day, it was also a special day for the **Springwood Samoan church** in Brisbane, Qld. A visitors’ day was held where **Pastor Samuelu Afamasaga** delivered a message of God’s love to the congregation, which included **88 non-Adventist visitors**. The church hired two buses, driven by church bus drivers **Unasa Hunt** and **Teleiai Matau’aina**, to pick up the visitors from various areas of Brisbane. Following the worship service, lunch provided opportunity for Christian fellowship. Many blessings were received and continue

to be received at Springwood Samoan church. Several visitors expressed their interest in attending the next visitors’ day in June.—*SQld Focus*

◆ **Longburn Adventist College, NZ**, has investigated the success rates of its past students, finding out where they are now and what they are doing. A quick investigation into the graduating class of 2004 found that **19 of the 32 graduates** now have degrees, while four are close to completing degrees.—*Julene Deurksen-Kapao*

Sanitarium Nutrition Services partners with *Women’s Weekly*

BERKELEY VALE, NEW SOUTH WALES

The *Australian Women’s Weekly*—one of Australia’s best known lifestyle magazines—has invited Sanitarium Nutrition Services (SNS) to provide weekly nutrition and health articles for their newly-revamped website.

“Their website currently attracts approximately 3.5 million hits each month, so this represents a significant opportunity for SNS to reach large numbers of Australians with practical information to help people enjoy healthy eating,” says Trish Guy, SNS manager for Australia.

Articles will include a link back to Sanitarium’s homepage, providing further opportunities for SNS to share messages of health and wellbeing.—*Sharyn Brady*

More @ <http://aww.ninemsn.com.au>



The Sanitarium Nutrition Services team.

ADRA Australia calls for donations

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Aid agencies are facing the same struggles as many other organisations, thanks to the global financial crisis, with unfavourable exchange rates and extremely low interest rates meaning the agencies cannot do as much as they used to.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia is not immune to this. To continue reaching out to people facing financial hardship or poverty, ADRA Australia needs to raise \$A500,000 before June 30, according to the agency.

While ADRA Australia has had to “tighten its belt,” there are no plans to cut its programming and ADRA Australia is continuing with its plans for the coming financial year in order to continue supporting those already affected by the financial crisis.

ADRA Australia is asking Adventists in Australia to support this commitment by making a donation before the end of the financial year.

According to Candice Jaques, communication coordinator for ADRA Australia, most discussions on the impact of the global financial crisis are largely about developed countries—places like Australia and New

Zealand. This crisis has hit many Australians and New Zealanders hard—some have lost jobs, others have lost superannuation and most are trying to hold on to the family holiday.

But the impact of the global economic downturn also includes those most vulnerable to changing world markets, and those with the least power to do anything about it. For the extremely poor, this crisis can be life threatening.

Before Christmas 2009, this crisis will push 46 million more people to live on less than \$A1 a day.

In addition, research by the Institute of Development Studies in the United Kingdom on the impact of the crisis on developing countries has already discovered these disturbing truths:

- People are adapting livelihoods in order to cope but often into illegal or dangerous activities. In Indonesia, Kalimantan men are travelling to another island to pan for gold. In several poor countries, children are reported to be leaving school and entering work. In Kenya and Zambia, there are unconfirmed reports of growing numbers of children and young girls selling sex.
- People are eating less frequently, and eating less diverse and nutrient-rich foods. In Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kenya, Jamaica

and Zambia, people are coping by changing their diets. In Nairobi, Kenya, mothers are recognising signs of malnutrition in their children.

- There are signs of rising domestic violence, tensions between groups, crime, and drug and alcohol abuse. In Nairobi, Muslims and Asians have been accused of running exclusionary feeding programs or taking advantage of the crisis. In Jakarta, local police statistics show a rise in crime over the past three months.

- Major global buyers are forcing developing country suppliers to absorb the bulk of the effects.

Some buyers are delaying making new orders and pushing for lower prices, according to the Institute of Development Studies (<www.ids.ac.uk>).

These effects can have a detrimental impact on families, and cost the lives of mothers, fathers and ultimately, children. On top of this, the very crisis that is pushing them further into poverty is also making it harder to help them.

—ADRA Australia

More @ www.adra.org.au

Those wishing to donate to ADRA Australia can do so through their website <www.adra.org.au> or by calling 1800 242 372 within Australia during business hours.

◆ Catholics have been denied one of the church’s sacraments for fear of spreading swine flu. Parishioners across **Melbourne, Vic**, were advised the **sacrament of wine** would be withheld during services. The sacramental wine, which Catholics believe changes into the blood of Christ, is offered to parishioners alongside the host at many churches. Other church recommendations include: encouraging parishioners to avoid bodily contact during the sign of peace, placing the consecrated hosts into parishioners’ hands, not directly

into their mouths, and avoiding holding hands during the Lord’s Prayer. Catholic Bishop-elect **Les Tomlinson** said parishioners would still receive Christ in whole through the Eucharist. “Whether you receive only the host or only drink from the chalice, or whether you do both, sacramentally, there’s no difference,” he said. Catholic **Carmen Bajona**, 85, said the changes were for parishioners’ protection, “But I don’t think I would catch something from drinking the blood of God. I don’t know anyone who ever has.” —heraldsun.com.au

◆ Celebrations around the **500th birthday of 16th century Protestant Reformer John Calvin** include plans to merge **two global Reformed church organisations** into one worldwide communion. “This move toward unity is a fitting tribute to Calvin by his modern-day heirs,” said **Peter Borgdorff**, president of the US-based **Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC)** in a statement. The week-long meeting of the executive committees of the Geneva-based **World Alliance of Reformed Churches** and REC marks the first time the

two groups have met, in the city where Calvin promoted the Protestant Reformation. A group of 40 leaders from 37 churches met at Geneva’s **John Knox Centre** from May 21 to 31 with plans to lay the foundations of an organisation that will unite 75 million Reformed church members around the world. Discussions focused on plans for the merger of the two organisations to form the **World Communion of Reformed Churches**. The merger is scheduled to take place at Grand Rapids, Michigan, in June 2010.—*Religion News Service*

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

Victorian churches fund diabetes equipment for Mongolian hospitals

ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA

Churches in the Victorian Conference raised \$A14,000 in eight weeks to fund diabetes-related equipment for hospitals in the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaatar.

The funds paid for 85 blood glucose monitors and a year's supply of testing strips for each. The monitors were given to the Bayanzurkh and Chingeltei hospitals, with 20 other monitors left over to give to church members. The monitors for church members came with two month's worth of strips.

Pastor Harold Waldrip, who ministers to the Yarra Valley Adventist church, spent time in Mongolia from March 29 to April 4 to "deliver" the monitors and train medical students. He conducted six hours of lectures on diabetes for 45 medical students over two days. He says, "We covered types, causes, treatment and complications of diabetes. I also presented information about hypoglycemia, which they didn't know much about."

Pastor Waldrip also presented four nights of healthy cooking and diabetes information seminars to the community, with around 30 people attending each night.

Pastor Waldrip took a further \$A2800 with him in "late donations" and had the money with him on the train on his first day in Mongolia. He was targeted by pick-pockets, who stole the money but dropped



Pastor Harold Waldrip (front row centre) went to Mongolia to educate people about the use of the diabetes-monitoring equipment.

it when he chased them. "The \$A2800 was enough money to buy 14 machines and testing strips for them all," says Pastor Waldrip.

According to Pastor Waldrip, the incidence of diabetes has tripled in the past five years in Mongolia to around 10 per cent of the population. "This higher rate of diagnosis is mostly due to the raised awareness of the condition," he says.

He credits the high level of the disease to the food people have access to. "They can't afford anything else but fat," he says. "People can mainly only afford meat and what's available at the markets is mostly fat. It's almost all white, with just a little strip of red down the middle. They couldn't even afford a banana. They were \$US3 per kilo, and that was a horrendous amount of money when you're earning \$US70 a week at the most."—*Adele Nash/Dave Edgren*

First Australian-made show airs for IIW

(Continued from page 1)

the lives of five Bible characters.

"The Day it Rained Fire" is a program about the Black Saturday bushfires and their impact from a Christian perspective. It features Pastor Ivor Jones and Rod Leisfield, a Marysville Baptist pastor and one of his church members, both victims of the bushfires that claimed over 170 lives in February this year.

"Mr Leisfield was previously approached by some 60 different media outlets to share his story but he declined all of them," says Mr Butler. "However, he chose to share it

with IIW Oceania because he knew it would accurately portray his journey of faith."

Pastor Kent says, "'The Day it Rained Fire' will answer questions such as 'Where is God during such terrible tragedies?' and 'Can we still believe in God when bad things happen to us?' We will be sharing a message of hope with the viewers and pray that many hearts will be turned to Jesus as a result."

—*Melody Tan/Matthew Butler*

More @ www.itiswritenoceania.tv

"The Day it Rained Fire" will air on the Seven Network in Australia on June 21, Hope Channel on June 26 and July 3, and Australian Christian Channel on June 22, 26 and 27.

Young alumna's challenge: make faith relevant

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

Avondale College's "Young Alumni of the Year" for 2009 came with a message: what good is faith if it does not encourage us to live better lives today?

Rebecca Lyngdoh Reye raised the question during a graduation-themed forum on the Lake Macquarie campus on May 20.

"Do you spend most of your time living in the past, the future or the present?" she asked during her speech, which encouraged staff members and students to live in the present and allow God to realise His intentions in each one of them. "I'm learning I can plan just as much as I need, and look forward to possibilities but not live and hold my happiness off until those possibilities eventuate."

Ms Reye graduated from Avondale with a Bachelor of Arts in international development studies and communication in 2003. She continued her studies at the Hunter Institute of TAFE, earning a diploma in frontline management before obtaining her Master of Arts in international and community development from Deakin University. She is currently coordinator at Effective Development Group.

Ms Reye spoke candidly during forum about her feelings of self-doubt. She told of helping review an aid program in Papua New Guinea. "I was supposed to be the methodological expert. Not only can I hardly say the word 'methodological' but expert? ... I was freaking out." She described worrying about the future as "futile," "self-focused" and "not what God intends."

John Venegas, a member of the Avondale College Alumni Association Committee, introduced Ms Reye and stated the criteria for the award: outstanding professional achievement and excellence; innovative or inspirational leadership; or notable contribution to a humanitarian cause or commitment to service.

Alumni aged 30 and under who graduated in the past five years are eligible for the award.—*Lyndelle Lawrence*

More @ www.avondale.edu.au

New treatment for peanut allergies

THE HEALTH FOOD COMPANY



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EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT IN 80 PER cent of children who have a peanut allergy, it's likely to be a lifelong problem. But new research from the United Kingdom has found that over a period of six months, a child may be desensitised to peanut protein.

The researchers studied a small number of children under close medical supervision and introduced a tiny amount of peanut flour to their diet, increasing the amount slowly to build tolerance. In the beginning, they were only able to eat the equivalent of one-40th to a quarter of a peanut. But after the intervention was complete, some children were able to eat 10 whole peanuts without any adverse effects.

Is this a cure?

In severe cases of peanut allergy, it can

be life threatening to be exposed to even a small amount of peanut, so **it's important not to try this at home.**

Australian allergy specialists have some reservation about the results, pointing out the study was conducted on 33 children, of which only five succeeded and four dropped out of the study because of adverse reactions.

It is also not known whether the tolerance built up will last long term and specialists would still advise carrying an EpiPen in case of an unexpected reaction. Until more conclusive research is conducted, they don't see this as a cure for peanut allergies.

Our advice:

If you suspect your child may be experiencing a food allergy or intolerance, it

is important to seek treatment from an allergy specialist who can provide the individual care each child needs. **R**

If you would like to speak to a qualified dietitian for credible and practical advice about health and nutrition, or would like a free copy of our Healthy Eating for Kids brochure, you can call us at the Sanitarium Nutrition Service on 1800 673 392 (in Australia) or 0800 100 257 (in New Zealand).

Alternatively, you can email us at <nutrition@sanitarium.com.au> (Australia) or <nutrition@sanitarium.co.nz> (New Zealand).

Also, call us for a free copy of our latest cookbook, Food for Health and Happiness. It is full of great recipes that nourish and care for your body. You can order a copy online by visiting <www.sanitarium.com.au> (allow 28 days for postage).

**Sanitarium Nutrition Service,
Berkeley Vale, New South Wales.**

Mexican bean burritos

8 burrito tortillas
420g can corn kernels, drained
1 tablespoon sunflower oil
1 brown onion, finely chopped
1 clove garlic, crushed
½ tsp ground chilli (optional)
1 red capsicum, deseeded and chopped
420g can red kidney beans, drained and rinsed
420g can cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
420g can diced tomatoes
¼ cup fresh coriander, chopped
½ cup fresh mint, chopped
1 avocado
½ lemon, juice only
1 butter lettuce, leaves separated
1 carrot, grated
1 Lebanese cucumber, halved and sliced
1 cup low-fat grated cheese
¼ cup salsa
¼ cup low-fat sour cream

1. Prepare vegetables.
2. Heat oil in a large non-stick frying pan over medium-high heat. Add onion, garlic, chilli and capsicum and cook, stirring occasionally, for 3–4 minutes or until heated through. Add corn, kidney beans, cannellini beans and canned tomatoes. Cook for a further 5 minutes, stirring until texture is soft and mixture is heated through. Fold through coriander and mint.
3. Preheat oven to 180°C. Spoon mixture, carrot and cucumber into tortillas. Roll up to enclose filling. Place seam-side down, in a prepared dish. Sprinkle with cheese.
4. Bake burritos for 15–20 minutes or until cheese is golden. Serve with guacamole, salsa, sour cream and salad leaves. Serves 6 to 8.

Per Serve: 1605kJ (385cal); Protein 16g; Total Fat 18g; Saturated Fat 5g; Carbohydrate 36g; Total Sugars 9g; Sodium 480mg; Potassium 935mg; Calcium 365mg; Iron 2.8mg; Fibre 10g.



Recipe for success?

BY CRAIG SHIPTON

Ingredients

50 heaped teaspoons of climbing the corporate ladder
 1 pinch of Bible reading and prayer
 500 ml of decaffeinated latte
 2 tablespoons of exercise
 8–10 drops of gossip
 2 kilograms of saving for that holiday
 1 teaspoon of church
 20 litres of television
 ½ pinch of listening to the partner
 3½ drops of quality time with kids
 85 kilos of stress.

Method

1. Mix all ingredients in a large bowl.
2. Preheat a warm oven.
3. Bake for 45 years.
4. Remove from the mould and allow it to retire in the cool.

Serves 1.

This recipe is guaranteed to taste great.

Unfortunately, you better enjoy it quick as it only has a shelf life of around 70 years.



Research has recently proved that which God's Word proclaimed all along: people are happier when they are giving. Bill Gates, the creator of Microsoft, is renowned for having already given away more than 30 per cent of all the money he has ever earned. He has pledged to give away the vast majority of his fortune before he dies, so he is happily and busily spending his money to benefit our world.

When Bill Gates was asked why he is giving away his billions, he responded, "We have an opportunity to change the world. The programs we have in place today will save over a million children's lives per year. . . . Resources should go back to the people in society who haven't been as lucky."

If you have been blessed with resources, you have an abundance of opportunities to bless others. "Give as freely as you have received!" (Matthew 10:8). Every day, you can find an opportunity to show your love for God by reaching out to one of His children in need. **R**

**All Bible quotations are from the New Living Translation.*

Next month, Craig is leading a group of young professionals cycling from London to Paris, and then onto Athens to raise awareness of the 25,000 children who die daily from preventable diseases. Funds raised will be channelled through ADRA, Compassion and UNICEF to help children in need. For more information, visit <www.25000spins.com>.

Craig Shipton is an Australian, currently living in London, UK.

AT TIMES, WE HAVE ALL BEEN GUILTY of living our lives according to this recipe. However, as creatures made in the image of a loving and selfless God, we can never find fulfilment in living a self-orientated life. God has a much broader and wonderful future planned for us. His recipe for success is a little different than what the world offers.

Acts 20:35 says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."* God knows our hearts are inclined to cling to our possessions and, despairing that we will trade eternity for the cheap tinsel this life offers us, Jesus urged, "Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. Wherever your treasure is, there the desire of your heart will also be" (Luke 12:33, 34).

God wants us to build up treasure in heaven. So how can we do that? How do we invest in the heavenly bank account? What currency would we use? What does God consider valuable? We find the answer

in Malachi 3:17: "'They will be my people,' says the Lord of heaven's armies. 'On the day when I act in judgment, they will be my own special treasure.'" According to God, every member of the human family is His treasure, bought with His own blood. He longs for the day when the work of redemption will be completed; He will behold the fruit of His suffering and be satisfied.

If we want to follow our Creator's recipe for life, we too will invest our resources in bettering the lives of our brothers and sisters in the world. Ellen White was a compassionate humanitarian and campaigner for human rights. Her house was often filled with those who were sick or needy. She pleaded with God's followers to realise that "money has great value, because it can do great good. In the hands of God's children it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, and clothing for the naked. It is a defence for the oppressed, and a means of help to the sick. But money is of no more value than sand, only as it is put to use in providing for the necessities of life, in blessing others, and advancing the cause of Christ" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 351).

What Jesus said about young adult ministry

BY GARY L HOPKINS, DUANE MCBRIDE, STUART TYNER, RENEW DRUMM AND WENDI KANNENBERG

AS A CHURCH, WE STRUGGLE WITH how to protect our young people from high-risk behaviours while keeping them in the church. It seems the things that kept former generations of Adventist young people involved and engaged in the church are no longer effective. And a growing number of young people are notable for their absence. Although the exact percentage of our young people leaving the church is unknown, the number is unacceptably high. In addition, a substantial proportion of our youth engage in high-risk behaviours.¹ It's essential that we address and successfully correct these two problems.

But who knows how to do this? Who has the most effective strategy to make this happen? Surprisingly to some, the answer to that question is found in the Bible, in one of Jesus' most oft-repeated and dramatic sayings. Maybe it's time to revisit His instructions and get busy with His strategy.

What did He say?

First, let's review what Jesus taught us. This isn't a subtle suggestion but a direct description of what God's people must do. Adopting this strategy has eternal consequences. This isn't a "maybe you should do this," but rather an imperative: "Get busy and do it—now!"

In one of His last conversations with His disciples, Jesus told them what to expect as they looked forward to His return (see Matthew 24 and 25). He ended His discourse with a parable about how the righteous and the unrighteous would be separated at the last judgment, as a shepherd separates sheep from goats (see Matthew 25:31-46).

In no uncertain terms, Jesus asserted that His people—the righteous—serve others by meeting their needs: caring for the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and visiting those imprisoned. Not only are the sick, the poor and the imprisoned minis-

tered to, the bottom line is that we serve Jesus Himself by serving the unfortunate in our communities.

This story both describes our Christian responsibility as we await Jesus' return and provides us with a strategy for protecting our kids from high-risk behaviours. It also encourages their continued involvement in, and engagement with, the church.

Serving others isn't just about financially supporting projects that aid others; serving others is about rolling up our sleeves and, together with our young people, changing the social climate in our communities.

God's imperative is to feed, clothe and protect those in need. We can safely expand on this to say that we should support, visit, help and comfort others who are in a position of need for any reason. But some might ask, "What does service have to do with kids and high-risk behaviours or church retention?"

High-risk behaviours

Our research and the research of others overwhelmingly confirms that when young people become involved in service to others, it changes their lives. As a result of serving others, youth are much more likely to engage in healthy pro-social behaviours. In the *Harvard Education Letter*, former US Senator John Glenn, chairman of the US National Commission on Service Learning, revealed that more than 80 per cent of schools with active service-learning programs—service as part of the school curriculum—report that a majority of participating students improve their grades. Glenn additionally stated: "A study of a Springfield, Massachusetts, high school found the dropout rate plunged from 12 per cent to 1 per cent after service-learning was incorporated into the curriculum. The number of students going on to college increased by 22 per cent."² Isn't it interesting that by following Jesus' Matthew 25 direc-

tive, young people benefit academically, as well as socially and spiritually?

Involvement in service is also strongly related to a lower rate of those who engage in high-risk behaviours. Douglas Kirby, a highly-respected researcher, is at the forefront of reviewing programs for effectiveness in delaying the initiation of premarital sex, as well as identifying features related to successful and unsuccessful interventions. Kirby reported that service-learning programs among youth are effective in reducing adolescent pregnancy and early childbearing.³

Research conducted at an Adventist college has documented that those engaged in community service are significantly less likely to engage in a wide variety of substance use and other high-risk behaviours. For example, young people involved in community service for four hours or more per month were 40 per cent less likely to have used alcohol in the past year.⁴

Church retention

In addition to promoting positive behaviours and protecting young people from high-risk behaviours, service is also highly associated with young people being attracted to the church, getting involved in the church and staying in the church.

In Roger Dudley's initial analysis of the "Valuegenesis" research, he reported "a value of service to others proved to be the most important predictor of a mature faith in this study."⁵ The investigation that laid the foundation for the "Valuegenesis" project, presented in the North American Division's "Risk and Promise" report, stated: "If faith is to grow, greater involvement in service and outreach activities needs to be fostered."

There are three evident reasons for this clear correlation:

First, young people tend to be drawn to organisations that make clear and positive



demands on their membership. Sociologist Tony Campolo says it like this: “Young people are not going to be attracted to a church that tries to entertain them, but they will be attracted to a church that calls them in a ministry to others.”⁶ We can’t hope to involve our youth in the church unless they are first attracted to the church.

Service activities provide an active, winning picture of the church that is new to many young people. Wayne French, chaplain of Avondale College, talks about “memory events”—life-changing activities that “dominate an adolescent’s horizon, so that he or she is fully immersed in the event and will never forget it or its message.”

French emphasises that “memory events are most powerful when they are combined with service.”⁷ Such events, French maintains, connect young people to the church. Up to 80 per cent of the adolescents French surveyed commented that the events changed their perspective on the church and provided a sense of belonging.

Second, service activities furnish the immediate opportunity to be involved in the church. Service skills are sharpened, leadership abilities are developed and an environment is created in which young people receive permission to explore their ministry gifts, even with the possibility of failure.⁸ No better way exists for this involvement to be deepened. “We get to experience the joy of discovering the gifts God has given us to build up the body of Christ through service.”⁹

Finally, service is highly correlated with lasting commitment to the church, because service constitutes one of those bedrock reference points to which we may always return when uncertainties assail us. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Robert Coles reminds us that “an idealism exerted at one moment in life” can ground our faithfulness

in later times of crisis. It’s at those moments, Coles contends, that “courage [is] affirmed, a moral life [is] lived to the fullest, compromises [are] shunned, and utterly unassailable principles [are] constantly upheld.”¹⁰

Developing relationships

One of the special benefits emerging from service is the development of relationships. Being helpful to others allows a young person the opportunity to develop relationships with those being served. Our research demonstrates that excellent relationships lead to effective communication and positive behaviours. Forming a great relationship enhances the believability of what we have to say and the impact of what we say.

A study among Caribbean adolescents that measured sexual behaviour and substance use confirmed the link between relationships, effective communication and risk reduction.¹¹ When parents have an “excellent” relationship with their children and these same parents talk with their kids about sex and drugs, their children were found to be at lower risk of engaging in high-risk behaviours, as compared to young people who don’t rate their relationship with their parents as excellent when these same parents talk to their kids about sex and drugs.

Actually, Christ’s method was precisely the same. First, He formed relationships with people, then He said, “Follow me.” Ellen White wrote: “Christ’s method alone

will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men [women, and children] as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow me’” (*The Ministry of Healing*, page 143).

Nuts and bolts

Note these three important steps in youth service.

First, church leaders have to meet with youth and discuss possible service programs with them; get the young people involved in looking for service opportunities and developing the program. Identify ways to get young people involved in service to the community, not just to those in your church.

Second, go with them to perform the service. Simply sending your young people out alone to serve isn’t a good strategy. Experience the service together; this gives the additional opportunity to develop a trusting relationship with the kids. We know from research that when kids have a trusting relationship with a key adult, they are at lower risk of dangerous behaviours.¹²

Third, spend time in reflecting on the service activity. Talk about the experience, ask open-ended questions: “What went well?” “What improvements can we make?” “How did this experience make you feel?”

Ideas for service

First, pray something like: “Lord, please give us vision and perception to identify Your children in need and recognise opportunities to serve others; give us clarity to see opportunities for service.”

Service activities should be regular, perhaps once or twice each week. They should be fairly brief and change often enough to maintain interest. Don’t plan to pick up the garbage on the highway for six hours each Sunday. While it’s a good thing to pick up garbage, kids will lose interest in this quickly.

Where possible and allowed, consider identifying people in the hospital and visiting them with the intent of cheering them up. Get involved with the parks and recreation department in your community. Help your local food bank distribute clothing and food to those in need. Stand at the entrance of a supermarket with a list of foods needed at the food bank. Pass

out these lists to shoppers as they enter the store and collect what they have purchased from the list as they leave. Do yard chores for those who are sick.

Set a goal of spending at least a half hour, once or twice each week, in service with young people. Youth Sabbath-school classes, Pathfinders and church youth groups are ready-made service organisations.

What are we waiting for?

We Adventists have often struggled with ideas about how to keep our young people involved in and committed to our church. But Jesus' words in Matthew 25 provide the best program for youth retention, and scientific research provides strong support for activities based on these words of Jesus. Young people who are engaged in service are significantly more likely to engage in positive behaviours, avoid high-risk behaviours and develop a mature Christian faith that keeps them committed to the church.

Yet service isn't just something we send our young people to do. We must clearly understand what service is and what it can mean for our young people. Then, if we want to encourage our youth in the never-ending battle with high-risk behaviours, if we want them to discover an active role in the church, if we want them to remain vigorous contributors to our family of faith, we have to lead them into a life of service by our example.

If we are willing to make this commitment and work with our young people in developing service programs, we can make a difference in their lives, in our communities and, based on Matthew 25, for eternity. **R**

1. Gary L Hopkins, et al, "An AIDS Risk Assessment of Students Attending Christian High Schools in the United States of America: A Practical Application of the Theory of Planned Behavior," *Journal of Research on Christian Education* 7, No 2 (1998), pages 91-120.

2. John Glenn, "The Benefits of Service-Learning," *Harvard Education Letter* (Jan/Feb, 2001), <www.edletter.org/past/issues/2001-jf/glenn.shtml>.

3. Douglas Kirby, "Effective Approaches in Reducing Adolescent Unprotected Sex, Pregnancy, and Childbearing," *Journal of Sex Research* 39, No 1 (2002), pages 51-57.

4. Gary L Hopkins, et al, "Service as a Protective Factor for High-Risk Behaviors," under revision for the *Journal of Adventist Education*.

5. Roger L Dudley and V Bailey Gillespie, "Which Way to the Future?" Faith in the Balance, *La Sierra University Press*, 1992, page 279.

6. Tony Campolo, *Ideas for Social Action*, Zondervan, 1984.

7. Wayne French, *Creating Memories for Teens*, Signs Publishing Company, 2005, page 82.

8. Barry Gane, *Building Youth Ministry: A Foundational Guide*, Hancock Center Publications, 1997, page 230.

9. Steve Case and Fred Cornforth, *Hands-On Service Ideas for Youth Groups*, Group, 1995, page 15.

10. Robert Coles, *The Call of Service*, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1993, page 256.

11. Duane McBride, et al, "Quality of Parent-Child Relationship and Adolescent HIV Risk Behavior in St Maarten," *AIDS Care* 17, Supp 1 (2005), pages S45-S54.

12. Gary L Hopkins, et al, "Developing Healthy Kids in Healthy Communities: Eight Evidence-Based Strategies for Preventing High-Risk Behaviour," *Medical Journal of Australia* 186, No 10 (2007): pages S70-S73.

Adapted, with permission, from *Adventist Review*.

The authors are all researchers based at Adventist tertiary institutions in the United States.

Record Roo

Hi kids!

God told Moses to make a Tabernacle. He instructed the people to bring offerings and to make everything that would be needed for the new place of worship. One special man amongst the people had an important job to do...



Bible Text

Then Moses said to the Israelites, "See, the Lord has chosen _____ son of _____, the son of Hur, of the tribe of _____, and he has _____ him with the _____ of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of _____ - to make _____ designs for work in _____, _____ and _____, to cut and set stones, to work in _____ and all kinds of artistic _____. Exodus 35:30-33 NIV

Read

Bezalel would have needed all kinds of tools. Draw a line from the name of each tool in the list to its correct picture.

Anvil

Chisel

Drill

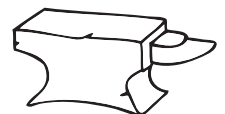
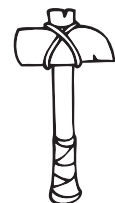
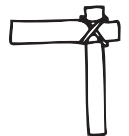
Hammer

Set Square

Needle & Thread

Saw

Scissors



Colour In

Colour in the picture of Bezalel the craftsman.

More about meek

JOHN HAMMOND, VIC

Having read the excellent editorial on humility and meekness (“Humility,” May 23), I suspect the original meaning of “meek” has changed since the translators chose to use the word as an accurate translation from the Greek word, *proates*. William Barkley defines meekness as describing a person possessing the right kind of temper, who demonstrates self-control and is responsive to God.

When the early translators of the English Bible used the word “meek,” it was in common usage in relation to the training of a horse for battle. A good horse would be utterly predictable on the battlefield and was able to anticipate what its owner wanted. Such a horse was highly prized and was said to have been “meeked.”

Hundreds of years later, there are still many of us who remember the baker or milkman’s horse that knew the route and when to stop and start by being entirely in tune with his master. If a milk cart and horse had been trotting past the hillside when Christ was delivering the Beatitudes, I would like to think He may have used it as an illustration.

Property priorities

PAUL GEELAN, NSW

On May 9, RECORD carried an article entitled “Seven clinics complete under ‘Adopt-A-Clinic’” (News). The report stated that “rural health clinics played a significant role in the spread of the gospel in the early days of our church.” “Adopt-A-Clinic” gives an opportunity for churches to fund the refurbishment and equipping of these run-down clinics in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea for the use of Jesus’ method (see *The Ministry of Healing*, page 143) to reach people in the South Pacific.

On May 23, RECORD carried an article titled “Plans for Wahroonga redevelopment released” (News). Nothing in that article or the development website outlines how the \$A780 million redevelopment is being funded, or what commitment of money is being made from the South Pacific Division for this development. But it does say

that ownership of parts of the land currently owned by the South Pacific Division will be “transferred to a public authority or community-based organisation” and that “components of the commercial, retail and residential development will be made available for private investment/purchase.”

First, it would be concerning to think the South Pacific Division cannot find the

money to appropriately maintain and equip vital lifesaving clinics in the South Pacific, requiring local church members to meet that cost, while able to find an abundance of money to redevelop what is already one of the most spectacular pieces of real estate in Australia.

Second, are we diluting the church’s ability to promote its aims, culture and mission by allowing private ownership of this piece of real estate?

JEFF CROMBIE, NSW

I was amazed when I read the South Pacific Division (SPD) is planning to spend \$A780 million on its Wahroonga redevelopment program. Although there are some good aspects of the SPD plan, such as the provision of more affordable housing, I think we need to heed God’s call to decentralisation: “Enlarge ye; spread ye; yes, but not in one place only. Go out and establish centres of influence in places where nothing, or next to nothing, has been done” (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol 8, page 150).

With \$780 million in our coffers or accessible by bank loan, let’s look at where we can set up other hospitals and diffuse the rays of light throughout Australia.

The Sydney “San” was established in 1903, just 37 years after the first Adventist hospital in the US began. Yet 106 years later, we still only have one Adventist hospital in the whole of Australia. The Adventist church in the US now operates a total of 55 hospitals. If our growth rate had kept up with that of the US, we should have at least four Adventist hospitals operating in Australia at the moment.

We certainly seem to have the money but do we have the vision? Our church

already operates the largest private hospital in Australia. Isn’t it time we started making plans to build another hospital in another capital city or population centre in Australia?

Let’s not consolidate all our resources in the one place. Let’s expand our borders, diffuse the light and spread the healing message throughout Australia.

Let’s expand our borders, diffuse the light and spread the healing message throughout Australia.

RESPONSE: DAVID GIBBONS,
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS,
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

The development of the Wahroonga Estate over the next 20 years is an important strategy to ensure the future of the Sydney Adventist Hospital (SAH), and preserve the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s ability to utilise the site.

SAH currently operates to capacity, and conservative estimates indicate that between now and 2026, there will be a 70 per cent increase in demand for the services provided by SAH. This is due to the ageing population in the northern Sydney region, and advances in health and medical services.

The cost to develop the hospital will be met from the increased revenue from expanding its services over the life of the development. No tithe or offering income from church members will be used.

The New South Wales government expects the church to develop a master plan for the Wahroonga estate, taking into account the long-term needs of the other church users of the estate. The church currently spends hundreds of thousands of dollars, annually, managing the weed problem, preserving bushfire access, and upgrading traffic accessibility on the estate. The proposed development will resolve this problem and free up funds for other church projects.

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

▲ **Administrative Assistant—Seventh-day Adventist Church (Greater Sydney Conference) Ltd (Epping, NSW)**, is seeking an enthusiastic, dedicated and experienced administrative assistant. This full-time position requires the successful candidate to facilitate a productive administration through efficient processing of inquiries, documents, scheduling appointments, secretarial work and administrative functions. For more information, a full job description or to send written applications, including CV (with contact details of your church pastor), please contact Pastor Michael Worker on (02) 9868 6522 or email <michaelworker@adventist.org.au>. The appointing body reserves the right to fill this position at its discretion.

▲ **Principal—Heritage College (Victoria)**. Adventist Schools Victoria invites expressions of interest from experienced educational leaders for the position of principal in 2010 at Heritage College, a multi-campus 400 student P-12 school situated in south-east Melbourne. The school, with campuses in Narre Warren and Officer, anticipates growth to a least 800 students in the next 5-10 years. The person we are looking for will be an excellent education leader, able to promote the school to the local community and participate in the physical development of both campuses. We invite inspiring, visionary educational leaders who are excited by the prospect of being part of Heritage College to apply to: Mr Brian Mercer, Director of Education, Adventist Schools Victoria, PO Box 215, Nunawading, Victoria, 3140 or by email to <bmercer@adventist.org.au>.

For more employment options go to
hr.adventistconnect.org



Weddings

Barton—Zydeveld. Michael Barton, son of Brent and Jenny Barton (Christchurch, NZ), and Corrie Zydeveld, daughter of Jim and Kaye Zydeveld (Adelaide, SA), were married 5.4.09 in St Patrick's Chapel, Nulkaba, NSW. Friends and family travelled from London, New Zealand and across Australia.

Jim Zydeveld

Gooderson—Rahman. Brent Philip Richard Gooderson, son of Philip and Margaret Gooderson (Marangaroo, WA), and Nashana Sharalee Rahman, daughter of Michael and Sharlyn Rahman (Marangaroo), were married 14.2.09 in Morley church, Noranda.

Abby Aviles

Obituaries

Dawson, Stanley Gordon, born 20.7.1915 at Guyra, NSW; died 5.5.09 at Guyra. On 5.9.1940, he married Marjorie (Marg) Marshall at Armidale. He is survived by his wife (Guyra); his children and their spouses, Priscilla and Phillip Williams (Manilla), Frances and Kelvin Johnson (Cooanbong), Peter and Judy (Cooanbong), James and Janine (Cooanbong), and John and Sophie (Guyra); his 12 grandchildren; and his 20 great-grandchildren. Stan was enlisted in the Australian Army in 1942, and was sent to Papua New Guinea. He spent most of his time serving in the Ambulance Corp, caring for wounded soldiers. Stan loved his family and his God. His love and understanding of God's word was inspirational. He was a foundational member of the church in Guyra and made an enormous contribution to its ongoing witness in the community, particularly when numbers were small. He was laid to rest in Guyra NSW lawn cemetery to wait for the great Resurrection morning.

Frank Cantrill

Hall, Frederick James, born 18.9.1922 at Newcastle, NSW; died 28.4.09 in Toronto Private Hospital. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Joyce; his three daughters, Debra, Stacy and Kelly; his sons-in-law, Ken and Tony; and his grandchildren, Heath, Erin, Kamryn, Ashley, Brook and Reece. Fred was a carpenter by trade and he served during WWII in Darwin as an engineer. He worked on the Snowy Mountain Scheme in the 60s and later worked for the Department of Main Works. One of the projects he oversaw was the building of the bridge near Taree. When he retired, he became a volunteer for Meals on Wheels and served them for 20 years. Fred was baptised in 1974, serving as an elder in both the Charlestown and Swansea churches. Fred will long be remembered as a godly and helpful man, a good friend and devoted family man. He loved his Lord and worked faithfully to spread the message of the gospel. He is sadly missed by his family and all who knew him.

Jan Jankiewicz

Martens, Colin William, born 22.12.1944 at Grenfell, NSW; died 17.5.09 at Healesville, Vic. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl; their two children, Raelene and Dean; his seven grandchildren; his two brothers, Bruce and Geoff; and his sister, Janice. Colin started work in 1960 and, unknown to him, was exposed to asbestos over the next 30 years, which resulted in his untimely death. In 1979, Colin and Cheryl felt a very strong call to full-time ministry. God opened the way to pioneer a new TV/video ministry. They sold their home in order to provide funds for cameras and all that was necessary for this type of ministry. In Lilydale church, testimonies were given by people changed as a result of his ministry. Colin's greatest desire was to see people won to Jesus. He died in the full confidence of his Saviour and now sleeps peacefully, free from the pain of the last few months, until that day dawns.

Geoffrey Youlden, Daryl Croft, Harold Waldrip

Volunteers!

Volunteer Team Leader or Small Team—Solomon Islands, to oversee the construction of the Form 7 Building, Kukudu Adventist College in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands. Foundation dug and building materials already supplied. Just needs constructing with locals willing to assist. For more information, contact Lyn at <volunteers@adventist.org.au>.

Volunteer Teachers—Tonga. Teachers required for Tonga in 2010 for 12 months. Mizpah School needs an English, Science and Maths teacher for Form 5. Beulah College needs an English teacher for Forms 5 and 6, and a computer teacher. For more information, please email Sio-saia Vaihola, <svaihola@adventist.org.to>.

Email:

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

+61 2 9847 3275



Sullivan, Kathleen Nell, born 29.1.1929 at Seaton Park, Adelaide, SA; died 7.5.09 in Pindara Private Hospital, Gold Coast, Qld. Her husband predeceased her in 1968. She is survived by her children, Sandra, Gail, Kym and Tony; her 12 grandchildren; and her two great-grandchildren. Kath lived many years in Wisteria Lodge at Melody Park, owing to her poor health. Her Christianity was very evident among staff and residents. Kath was actively involved in the hostel and was looked on as a leader and spokesperson. Her beautiful smile and warm, friendly way of life will always be remembered here at Melody Park Retirement Resort. She will be sadly missed.

Ken Martin, Nick Brightman

Van Itallie, John Hermann, born 14.8.1926 at Rockhampton, Qld; died 22.5.09 peacefully in the Royal Brisbane Hospital. John was predeceased by his former wife, Margaret Rose, and his brothers, Ben and Bert. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Helen; his brothers, Alex, Dorus and Phillip; his sister, Dorothy; his children, Fran, Wayne, Stephen, Leonard and Verona; his stepchildren, Helen, Michael, Gregory, Julie and Donald; his 20 grandchildren; and his five great-grandchildren. John was well known and respected by his local community of Biloela and surrounding rural districts. He loved the Lord and was not ashamed to share with others whenever the opportunity presented itself. A dedicated and committed member of the Biloela church, John will be sadly missed but never forgotten. Thank you, John, for being such a special part of our lives. Sleep

soundly until the Lord's return.

Andy Krause, Heather Medhurst

Vogel, Lindsay Robert, born 27.1.1927 at Boonah, Qld; died 6.5.09 in Perth, WA. Lindsay married Joyce Chapman on 14.4.1952. They served God together for over 57 years, raising four children. He is predeceased by his son, Leonard. He is survived by his wife; his children, Meryl Pocock, Ken, and Karyn Stanton; his sister, Effie Hunt; his two brothers, Clifford and Stan; his six grandchildren; and his eight great-grandchildren. Lindsay's life leaves a wonderful legacy to celebrate and remember—a man of deep Christian conviction, centred on the love of Jesus and God's Word; a man of stirring character, hard work and good humour; and a great friend to so many, both in the church and in the wider community. Family, church and neighbours will miss this man, who loved to live and lived to love. Come, Lord Jesus!

Steve Hebbard, Andrew Skeggs

Waldren, Melvie May (nee Richardson), born 9.3.1914 at Deloraine, Tas; died 23.4.09 at Deloraine. On 16.4.1977, she married John Waldren, in Launceston. She was baptised in Deloraine church in 1979. She was predeceased by her husband; and her daughter, Maletta Miles. She is survived by her daughters, Kay Wilcox and Cynthia How; her brother, Ross Richardson; and her sister, Keitha Green. Melvie loved her family, her stepfamily and God. She was a champion knitter and embroiderer, and a great help with Dorcas (ADRA), providing many clothes for the needy.

Bruce Grosse

Wolfenden, Henry Clough (Harry); born 3.12.1920 at Newcastle, NSW; died 30.4.09 at home. He is survived by his wife of over 50 years, Daphne; his children, Garry and partner, Carol, Gai and her husband, Graeme, Phillip and his wife, Thirza, Lyn, the wife of David (deceased), and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A service for Harry was held at Swansea church, led by Pastors Jankiewicz, D'Costa, Jerrard and Rosevear, and he was laid to rest at Cooranbong. Harry followed in the tradition of his grandfather and father by working in the coalmines. He served in the army in WWII. Harry was a founding member of the Swansea church in 1959, and he helped to construct the buildings. He had been a highly respected elder and later, senior elder at Swansea for many years, only retiring last year. He was a devoted leader in weekly prayer meetings. He studied with many new believers and witnessed many baptisms in his 50 years of service for the Lord. He loved his Lord and allowed Him to direct and guide his life. Harry now rests from his labours in the certain hope of the Lord's call at the Resurrection. He is sadly missed by both his family and the church.

Jan Jankiewicz, Owen D'Costa, Ray Jerrard, Tui Rosevear



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September 28th to October 4th 2009

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Central Coast Adventist School is celebrating its 40th anniversary. **Reunite, Remember, Celebrate.** October 30–November 1, 2009. For further details and to RSVP, email <40th_anniversary@ccas.nsw.edu.au> or call (02) 4367 1800.

Finally

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—Robert Louis Stevenson



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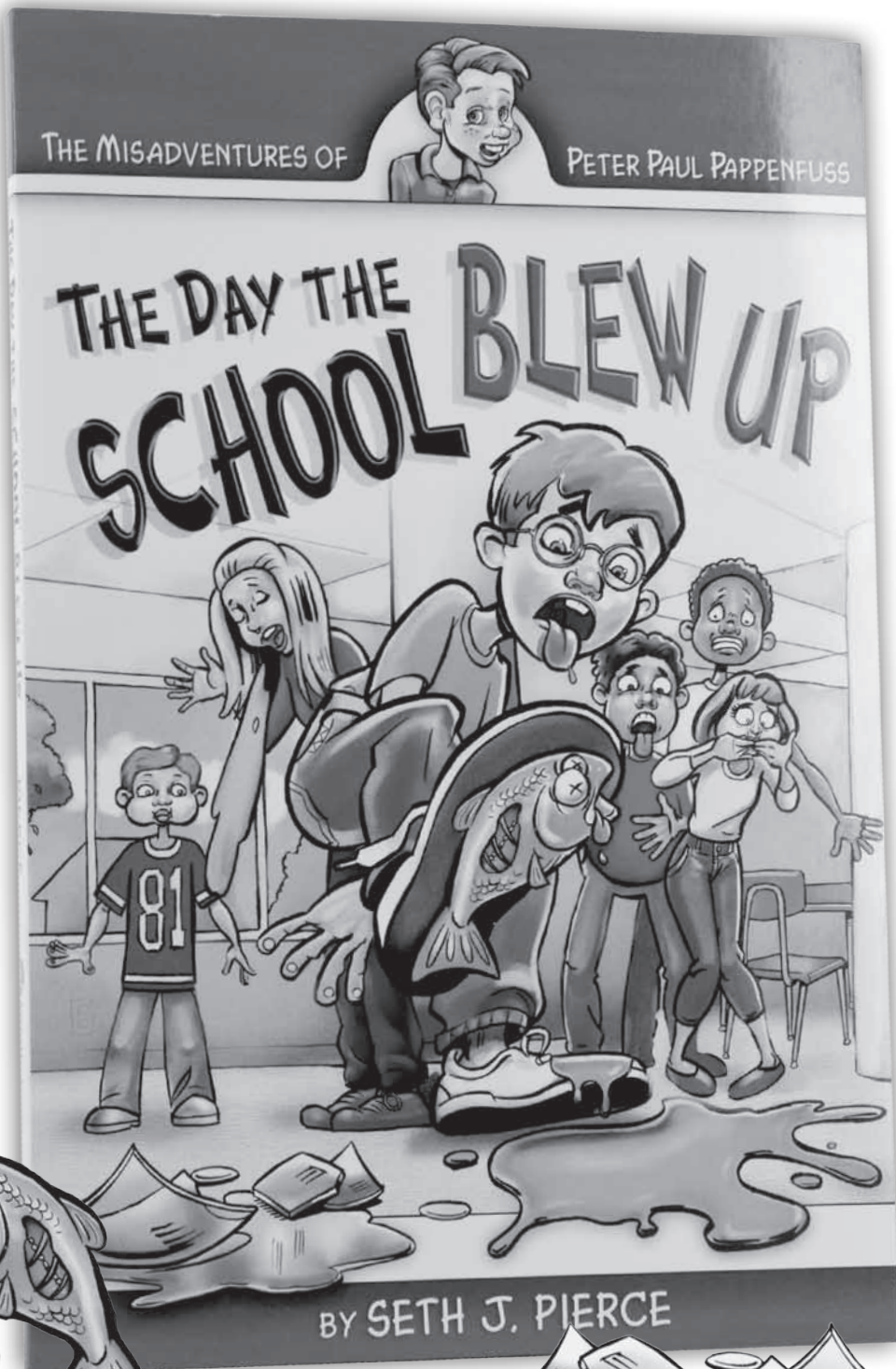
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