

# RECORD

July 25, 2009

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*The ACA Health team received the "Improvement in customer satisfaction" award from the Health Insurance Restricted Membership Association of Australia.*

## Customer satisfaction for ACA Health

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

**A**CA Health Benefits Fund, a not-for-profit private health insurer for Australian employees of the Adventist Church, has been awarded runner-up for the gold award at the recent annual Health Insurance Restricted Membership Association of Australia's (HIRMAA) Customer Satisfaction Awards evening.

HIRMAA, the peak industry body for 16 Australian restricted access and regional private health funds, gives recognition to the funds that have shown outstanding results in their annual customer satisfaction research.

Each fund allows customers to have their say by taking part in a survey, which is then compiled and compared with the results of other funds by Discovery Research. More than 97 per cent of respondents were satisfied with ACA Health's products and services, with many also providing positive suggestions for the future. The fund's calculated satisfaction index was rated at 83.7 per cent.

Manager of the fund Jody Burgoyne was "very pleased" with the results, and encouraged customers to use the survey to make suggestions for the future and

*(Continued on page 4)*



Their circumstances failed to impact their generosity.

# Above and beyond

**A**UGUST IS ALMOST UPON US, BRINGING with it *Signs* Rally Day—as it used to be called. These days it's more usually *Signs* emphasis day or something similar. But whatever you call it in your church, the annual *Signs of the Times* promotion campaign is really about building outreach awareness and providing a tool that anyone can use for soul-winning, not just a magazine. At the heart of it, *Signs* is simply a means to fulfilling the great commission (see Matthew 28:18-20), and has been for some 125 years.

Currently, we print some 55,000 *Signs* magazines 11 times a year. Of these, some 37,000 are subscribed, with the remainder paid for under the “Go *Signs*, Go Gospel” initiative to place a *Signs* magazine in every letterbox in Australia and New Zealand (we've almost reached the 1 million mark). It is difficult to tell how many personal subscribers there are, as a church bulk order can be made up of 30 or more donors. What we do know is that many people don't receive *Signs* for themselves, nor do they sponsor any. But why should they?

In the days of the early church, the apostle Paul was the “big thing” in soul-winning. He crisscrossed Asia Minor, evangelising the territory while carrying the message of the risen Christ to both Jew and Gentile. I know it's a bit of a stretch but that's how I see *Signs* fitting into the contemporary scene—having value for both Christian and non-Christian.

But how did Paul do this? After all, there were numerous boat passages to make and

his living expenses to pay for. So, for the sake of the kingdom, the early church paid many of his expenses. Paul was always appreciative of the hospitality and generosity of believers to the wider cause.

And thus Paul wrote to the Corinthian church—a church not unlike our own in many ways—highlighting the generosity of the little Macedonian church he'd gone over to help. They appreciated what he'd done for them. Take a moment to read the passage in 2 Corinthians 8:1-13.

Paul commends them for their generosity, saying they went above and beyond the call of duty—“beyond their ability” (verse 3\*). It's that spirit I'd love to see in your church as you consider *Signs* evangelism this year. That's this year's campaign theme: “Above and beyond.”

We live in a wealthy society: our churches are comfortable and representative. We can afford to be generous to a range of calls over the course of a year—and I know many are. However, I also know we're in a time of financial downturn and uncertainty, and we need to be prudent in how we spend.

But note something else about the Macedonian church Paul describes. He says that at the time, they were experiencing the “most severe trial,” living in “extreme poverty” (verse 2). So they gave not out of wealth but out of their poverty! Their circumstances failed to impact their generosity.

There's almost infinite need for *Signs*, with constant calls from workers, like Paul, in mission situations across the South Pa-

cific and around the world. Local churches want them for their community situations, as do conferences for the support of evangelism; likewise individual members.

Right now, I have unfulfilled requests from a Papua New Guinea mission wanting 1000 four times a year; from George Musalama, a layman in Zimbabwe, who wants another 50 for his personal outreach; and Dr Shee Soon Chiew, chaplain of Penang Hospital, Malaysia, who is developing TV and literature ministries.

In addition to such ad hoc requests, *Signs* Ministry also cares for the disbursement of your sponsored *Signs* across six principal outreach forms—the *Signs* “Five-star Projects” outlined in the insert in this RECORD.

I'm asking you to give generously to *Signs* Ministry this year, because the grim times tell us Jesus is soon to come. That's the message embodied in our name. We have a warning message to tell the world, which is the reason *Signs* exists.

But don't sponsor *Signs* because I've asked you to. Rather, as Paul says a little further along in his missive, “give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7). And, when you think about it, that is the only—and best—way to give.

\*Bible quotations are from the New International Version.

**Lee Dunstan**  
Ministry Manager  
**Signs of the Times**



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

# “Uprising” challenges Vic teens to lead

HOWQUA, VICTORIA

A group of 45 teens from Adventist churches and schools in Victoria have been challenged to take leadership in the church and use their passion to make a difference. The young people, aged between 14 and 16, were delegates at the “Uprising” Teen Convention at Camp Howqua from July 5 to 9.

“We usually wait until people are older to train them as leaders but the energy and enthusiasm of teens provides a great opportunity for us to begin investing in them now,” explains Moe Ioane, director of youth ministries for the Victorian Conference. “We can encourage and empower their passion at this stage, and help them fulfil the potential they have.”

“Uprising” follows on from last year’s “Chosen” Australia-wide teen leadership convention, conducted by the Australian Union Conference (AUC) youth department. “I saw the enthusiasm at ‘Chosen’ last year and I wanted the Victorian kids to also be able to benefit from this kind of experience,” says Ms Ioane.

“‘Uprising’ has been born with the same goals as ‘Chosen’ but it allows the Victorian Conference to have five times the number of young people they had at ‘Chosen,’” says Pastor Tony Knight, director of youth min-

istries for the AUC, who presented daily on topics of leadership and evangelism at “Uprising.”

“The growth, bonding and increasing awareness of their potential is really obvious,” he adds. “In a few days of inspiration, spiritual nurture, leadership, healthful living and being challenged, you can see the lights coming on. These young people are using their school holidays here to prepare to serve the church and reach out to their friends.”

The “Uprising” convention also included 12 young adults as trainee mentors, as well as a number of chaplains and youth pastors. “I hope the mentors can go back and start creating a culture within their church of people who look out for young people, pray for them and bring out the best in them,” says Ms Ioane. “We also hope to get the teens together again toward the end of the year, with their parents, leaders, pastors and teachers, which will be an opportunity to extend the influence of these few days back into their homes, churches and schools.”

Ms Ioane says the convention program allowed teens to interact with a variety of quality presenters and leaders, and to explore a range of perspectives and options as to where they can channel their energy



Fred Zinggi

*The “Uprising” program included physical challenges, and inspiration to lead a healthful and balanced life.*

and passion. “I want the teens to head home knowing that nothing is impossible—that they have been challenged to step up and believe they can make a difference,” she says. “It’s almost like they have been given permission to be the young men and women God has designed them to be. There are so many things they can do without necessarily being given an official title.”

“Young people today are no longer prepared to be spectators,” Pastor Knight adds. “They want to be active and involved, and we need to find them opportunities to do that. I’m absolutely enthusiastic about the potential for these young people to take the church into the future. We can have confidence in them and in God working in their lives.”—**Nathan Brown**



◆ On July 3, Riverside Adventist Christian School, Townsville, Qld, held a sod-turning ceremony for a new building project. The school will begin building two new classrooms, an administration area and a library with an outdoor learning area overlooking the Ross River. It is expected the project will be completed in Term One, 2010. The library is being

built with the help of \$A850,000 received from the Australian Government’s stimulus package and the rest from a previous project, partially funded by both the Queensland and Australian governments. The total project will cost \$A2 million. The three people turning the sod (left to right) are David Crisafulli, Townsville councillor and Deputy Mayor, Lindy Nelson-Carr, the State Member of Parliament, and Peter Lindsay, Federal Member of Parliament. A number of church personnel also participated in the ceremony. —**Sharon Littlewood**

◆ More than 100 Pathfinders from Honiara Central Regional district, Solomon Islands, attended a week-long camp in June. Honcenreg Camporee was held at the Betikama Riverside campground. “This would be a first for Honcenreg district, to host a camp that forms the three districts within Honiara,” says subcamp director Nancy Sarue. “We want to try and make this an annual event.” Pastor Mave-ni Kaufononga, Trans-Pacific Union Mission director of youth ministries, said the camp provides the opportunity for Path-

finders to share and learn from each other. Pastor Kaufononga said the camp was held to help Pathfinders achieve their mission of becoming better citizens. He told the Pathfinders that life is under threat because of economic crises, failing moral values, health crises, relationship breakdowns and so forth. “We hope and believe the camp brought hope and healing to the Pathfinders,” he said. The Pathfinders were separated into three zones that represent the camp theme “Mission of hope for eternity.”—**Solomon Star**



# Changes in the future for Signs Ministry

WARBURTON, VICTORIA

Signs Ministry is moving to the Wahroonga campus of Adventist Media Network (AMN) from September 1, where it will join a suite of related communication ministries in the first of a number of steps to enhance Signs Ministry, and make it “more relevant and useful in soul-winning,” according to *Signs* editor Lee Dunstan.

The move is part of a general restructuring of functions on the twin AMN campuses (“Long-term future for Signs secured,” News, July 18).

Signs Ministry is now a stand-alone ministry within AMN, and separate from Signs Publishing Company (SPC), although *Signs of the Times* will continue to be printed in Warburton.

Mr Dunstan says, “The change in physical location means better and immediate access to associated AMN resources—audio and video, Discovery Centre correspondence school and web development.”

According to Mr Dunstan, initiatives to be undertaken once the transfer to Wahroonga is complete include a *Signs*-branded, Discovery Centre-based

Bible correspondence course, further enhancement of the *Signs* website <www.signsofthetimes.com.au>, TV and radio programs, the compiling of an online library of outreach tools, and integration with the new *Search* series currently in development.

To date, most of the ministry focus has been on producing *Signs* for the South Pacific and North American Divisions, along with the raising of sponsorship and coordinating distribution of corporately- and privately-sponsored *Signs* magazines. Currently, some 55,000 *Signs* are distributed monthly. Some of these are part of the “Go *Signs*, Go Gospel” project, which aims to letterbox nine million Australian and New Zealand homes with at least one copy of *Signs*.

Mr Dunstan says, “*Signs* continues to be the soul-winning tool it has been for 125 years and the magazine of choice for evangelistically-minded members in their efforts to reach out to others, as well as for churches wishing to build goodwill and connections in their community.”

Mr Dunstan also reports that requests for additional copies of *Signs* are “constant.”—**RECORD staff**

# Customer satisfaction for ACA Health

(Continued from page 1)

provide feedback on service experiences when they next have the opportunity.

“Our customer’s feedback means everything to us,” she says. “I actually read each member’s comments, and incorporate possible changes to products and customer service based on what I hear through the survey.”

She adds, “Having it run in conjunction with other funds is valuable for us to compare results and areas to work on, so we can improve our business and offer the best service we can to customers. As the only church-run fund in Australia, it’s also a great opportunity to show the other funds what makes us different.”

ACA Health also won the “Year-on-year improvement in overall member satisfaction” award, having risen from third to second place in the past 12 months.

ACA Health has consistently ranked highly in previous HIRMAA surveys.

The fund was established by the South Pacific Division more than 50 years ago to benefit those employed by the church. It offers a wide range of benefits for treatments and introduced “Ancillary Lite” in 2006 to offer a cheaper ancillary option.

—**Alexandra Davison**



◆ Everyone knows that school is about sums and spelling—but the students of Avondale School, Cooranbong, NSW, got more than just a head full of facts. The Year 5 class is taking their learning to a global level, having recently lobbied the Japanese Government concerning whaling. The students produced information reports on the humpback whale and also

made individual origami whales. These were labelled with the message “We Love Japan But Whaling Breaks Our Hearts” and posted through Greenpeace to the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo. The students have been studying Antarctica and the fragility of the Southern Ocean ecosystem. The importance of looking after resources and not disturbing the food web was a major focus of the study. While the Year 5 students have added their voice to the global campaign to save whales, they have also discovered that Australia plays a role in keep-

ing our oceans healthy. Overfishing has caused 90 per cent of the big fish in the ocean to disappear in the past 50 years and awareness of this topical issue is essential to minimise further damage.

—**Susan Rogers**

◆ The first dedicated iPhone application for a Christian inspirational program has been released for Voice of Prophecy, founded in 1929 and now the second-oldest gospel radio broadcast still on the air. The VOP Radio application has an easy-to-use user interface. Users

can listen to recent broadcasts in a streaming format 24/7, or they may select from a list of specific programs and listen on-demand. The Voice of Prophecy already offers Bible studies formatted for mobile phones. The application was developed by Kyle Borg, president and co-founder of BiggyTV, who also created the platforms for The Adventist Channel for online video distribution and for SDALink, an online social networking site for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.—**PR Web**

More @ <www.vop.com>

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ AUGUST—SIGNS MONTH

# TVC hosts Billy Cart Grand Prix

MURWILLUMBAH, NEW SOUTH WALES

**T**weed Valley College (TVC) held its second annual Billy Cart Grand Prix on May 31, with more than 600 people in attendance and more than a 50 per cent increase in the number of competitors from last year's event.

This year's event saw 20 teams take part—totalling 140 people involved in the various billycart teams—an increase from 13 teams in 2008. The event was coordinated by Colin Louwen.

Phil Rouge, director of nursing from the Murwillumbah Hospital where \$A2300 raised by the Billy Cart Grand Prix has been donated for their emergency department, opened the event. Last year's event raised \$A1000 for the local State Emergency Service (SES) and the Murwillumbah Rural Fire Service.

A number of businesses and four different schools from the area—TVC, Blue Hills College, Gold Coast Christian College and King's College—put in teams for the grand prix.

According to David McClintock, principal of TVC, there were some “fascinating” entries, including the White Dove Funeral's coffin and the Weekly Warrior's

“machines,” which held up well under the speed. Records were broken by “The Torpedos,” “Cheese Wheels” and “Flower Power” in the grand prix event.

The most contested series was the one involving senior students, business and teaching staff, and “made for an interesting spectacle for all onlookers,” according to Mr McClintock. Mr Louwen reported that participants thought this year's event was more fun than last year's.

When Mr Louwen was handing out trophies for the “Best box cart,” he says he “couldn't believe the creativity and time parents and students had put into making their cardboard boxes so spectacular. It was a tribute to all involved.”

Mr McClintock says, “Congratulations to all those who took part, as well as a huge thank you to Colin and his family, who were heavily involved in organising and coordinating our very successful Billy Cart Grand Prix. We couldn't run the day without the help of a huge army of volunteers and I would like to thank the parents, teachers and community members,



*The winning staff team from Tweed Valley College.*

including the SES and fire brigade, who helped out on the day.”

Pathfinders from the local church provided food and service for the Billy Cart Grand Prix.

Mr Louwen says, “The event went better than last year. We had more participants, a bigger crowd and, in turn, were able to help the local community in a greater way—overall, a real winner. Without the help of all the volunteers and sponsors, the event wouldn't have been as successful. Plans are already being put in place to improve the event even more next year.”—**RECORD staff/**

**David McClintock/Colin Louwen**

*More @ <http://tvc.nsw.edu.au>*

◆ In a project meant to sharpen the Bible's message, **Scottish Seventh-day Adventists** are following in the footsteps—more accurately, the pen strokes—of **Matthew, Mark, Luke and John**. Church members recently submitted **handwritten passages of Scripture** to the Scottish Mission headquarters, where they were compiled into what's being called the Scottish Adventist Bible. Organisers say the project is a response to the world church's “Follow the Bible” initiative, in which a 66-language Bible is “travelling” to each of the

church's 13 divisions, leading up to next year's General Conference session in Atlanta, Georgia, US. Keeping with the initiative's global theme, some contributors submitted Bible passages written in the Scottish vernacular. “When Jesus saw his mither an' the disciple 'at he loved staundin' aside her, he said tae her, ‘This is yir son,’” wrote **Arthur Gall**, who put John 19 in his own words for the project. Writing out New Testament passages “really brought it home to me,” said Mr Gall, who joined the Adventist Church in January.—**BUC News staff/ANN**

◆ Norway's primary Bible translation, production and distribution society recently elected a **Seventh-day Adventist pastor** to serve as chair of the **nearly 200-year-old institution**. **Pastor Tor Tjeransen** is the first **non-Norwegian State Church member** to hold the position. The historically state-church led Norwegian Bible Society was founded within the **Church of Norway** in 1816, and is supported by many Christian denominations. Previously, bishops of the Norwegian State Church held the position. The society promotes Bible reading at home and raises funds

for Bible work abroad. Pastor Tjeransen said some of his responsibilities include overseeing a new translation of the Bible into Norwegian. The new translation aims to “preserve as much as possible of the original imagery of the biblical languages” and is scheduled for publication at the end of 2011. “The Bible is the source of our faith and one of the major foundations of Western culture,” says Pastor Tjeransen. “If people stop reading the Bible, we are in danger of losing our culture. And, more importantly, the Bible teaches us the way to salvation.”—**TED News/ANN**

# Adventist Aviation Association takes to the skies

MOREE, NEW SOUTH WALES

Adventist Aviation Association (AAA) has once again taken to the skies after being grounded for some time. Pilot Gary Fraser, Avondale education students Shona Clarke and Amy Thompson, and AAA president Pastor John Kosmeier visited Moree on May 16 aboard a Cessna 182.

A twin-engine Cessna 310 once owned by AAA carried out its last mission in May 2001, when it visited Lightning Ridge and Bourke. It was then flown to Victoria and sold in February 2002.

In answer to a medical need in Bourke, Pastor Sid Griffith borrowed a single-engine Beechcraft Musketeer from Cessnock in September 2004. All subsequent ministry trips until this year were made on the road and took the form of *Signs of the Times* distribution in Scone and Merriwa, as well as health screenings at annual agricultural shows in Coonabarabran, Bourke, Dorriggo, Gunnedah and Merriwa.

Financial assessment showed it was more cost effective to own and maintain a plane, rather than hire a bus or plane, this year.



(From left to right) Garry Fraser, Shona Clarke, Amy Thompson and Pastor John Kosmeier after disembarking at the Moree airfield.

This came as AAA heard of their help being needed at Moree, where Eti Luapene is caring for a number of children, many of whom are Indigenous. On the visit to Moree, the plane crew joined in Sabbath school study and Pastor Kosmeier preached the sermon. After a group lunch, discussions were held to discover the needs of the church members and how AAA could help.

This has led to AAA planning more regular trips to Moree and other towns in the western part of the state. They will offer assistance and maintain a presence there once a month, with possible plans to increase visits to a weekly basis.—*Beth Miller*

## Sanitarium to open Sanctuary in 2010

BERKELEY VALE, NEW SOUTH WALES

Sanitarium is branching out further into the health and wellness arena with the decision to establish the Sanctuary Health and Wellbeing Centre, which will be located in the Sydney CBD at 5-11 Harris Street, Pyrmont, the current location of Sanitarium's wellbeing consultancy service, Cultivate.

"Sanitarium is committed to being a leader in health and wellbeing—and after several years of research and planning, it is exciting to see this vision becoming a reality as we extend our company beyond our traditional spheres of food manufacturing," says Kevin Jackson, CEO of Sanitarium.

Although the model has been downsized from the original plan, Sanitarium Sanctuary will still offer a comprehensive range of holistic healthcare services and a lifestyle studio with a range of life-enhancing programs. Currently, the plans are being finalised and council approval is being sought, with an aim to start renovation work in August or September of this year.

It is anticipated that the Sanctuary Health and Wellbeing Centre will be operational by March 2010.—*Sharyn Brady*

More @ [www.sanitarium.com.au](http://www.sanitarium.com.au)

◆ Shopkeepers in Poland have outraged job seekers by insisting they'll only employ **Jehovah's Witnesses**. Bosses of the **Occasion clothes store** in Lodz say they're less likely to steal stock and cash, always turn up on time and work hard. "They are honest, reliable and hardworking," said a spokesman. But the store—a partner of Tesco—has been given a dressing down by employment experts. "This is discrimination," says **Izabela Pilzys** from recruitment agency HR Partners.—*Ananova*

◆ **Bottles of beer** will be given to

fathers who attend church in an alternative "blessing" for **Father's Day**. A senior bishop has backed the move, which is part of a **Church of England** initiative to put a **Christian emphasis** on the annual celebration of fatherhood. Concerns over the lack of men attending services year-round has led clergy to offer a range of incentives, including **free beer, bacon rolls and chocolate bars**. It is the first time that the Church has attempted to treat **Fathers' Day** in the same way as **Mothering Sunday**, which has traditionally formed part of its calendar.—*Telegraph.co.uk*

◆ About **800 pages** of the **world's oldest surviving Bible** have been pieced together and published on the internet for the first time. The **Codex Sinaiticus**, written in **Greek on parchment** leaves in the fourth century, is available online in a project involving institutions in **Britain, Germany, Egypt and Russia**, which each held different parts of the ancient book. As part of the four-year joint project, digital photographs have been taken of the reunited manuscript, allowing scholars worldwide to research the Greek text in depth, said the **British Library** in

London. The library, which holds a large chunk of the Bible, also opened an exhibit that includes artefacts linked to the manuscript to coincide with its online launch. Originally **1460 pages** long, the manuscript was handwritten by a number of scribes around the time of **Constantine the Great**, who died in 337AD, experts said. **Professor David Parker**, whose team made the electronic transcription of the manuscript, said the internet project proved challenging with some of the pages in poor condition.—*AFP/ABC News*

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# Renovations underway for PAU library

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Library renovations have begun at Pacific Adventist University's (PAU) Koiari Park campus near Port Moresby—renovations that have been two years in the planning ("PAU library gets replacement roof," News, October 6, 2007). The renovations, which are expected to cost approximately K400,000, are anticipated to be complete early in Semester Two, 2009.

The library renovations will result in new study areas, additional shelving, an upgraded postgraduate and research facility, increased computer space and new staff offices.

The expansion will also include updated computer facilities, which will result in a significant increase in the number of computers provided, along with wireless access to internet and related services.

To increase the space available, a number of internal walls will be removed,

as they are no longer needed to divide space previously used by the administration team. In 2008, the administration team moved into a building dedicated for their use.

Another key part of the renovations will be the removal of the large ramp that takes up most of the library's downstairs floor. In its place, a redesigned ramp will be installed to continue to provide access for those with physical impairments.

The K400,000 needed for the library renovations and repairs was made possible through generous donations from members of the Adventist Church across Papua New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand and other countries in the South Pacific.

Renovation work is being completed and managed by PAU's internal supportive services team during the semester break.—*Vagi Vele*

More @ [www.pau.ac.pg](http://www.pau.ac.pg)



Renovation work underway at Pacific Adventist University's library.

## Year 12 hosts "Week of Spiritual Emphasis"

MURWILLUMBAH, NEW SOUTH WALES

Tweed Valley College's (TVC) Year 12 students hosted the college's annual "Week of Spiritual Emphasis" (WOSE) and "inspired their peers," according to chaplain Marty Benard. WOSE ran from June 22 to 26, and had the theme of "The difference."

Year 12 students encouraged other students to make a difference in the lives of others and understand that Christ is "The Difference" in their own lives.

The Year 12 class organised the entire week's program, including writing a drama, facilitating the worship music, painting a backdrop, and organising and presenting talks.

"All aspects of the program were absolutely amazing," says Mr Benard. "The students at TVC caught a real vibe of God's love. The speakers were passionate, and shared honestly about their journey with God and how they came to discover He makes the difference in their lives. The Year 12 group also acknowledged that it's so easy to flow along the same as everyone else in society, without ever making a stand or owning our uniqueness. This year, they encouraged us to make a stand for Christ, be different and be counted for His call and purpose in life."

Mr Benard added that it was "awesome" to see young people standing for God and sharing His love with their peers. "The impact of a student-led WOSE is phenomenal and something we look forward to," he says.—*RECORD staff/Marty Benard*

## Students issue schoolies "dare"

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

The end of this school year will see 27 Avondale School Year 12 students travel to the Wat Preah Yesu Orphanage in Cambodia during November for a "schoolies experience with a difference." The group has also challenged every other Year 12 student in the Hunter Valley and Central Coast region to do something out of the ordinary, instead of taking part in the typical schoolies week activities of drinking and partying.

Blair Lemke, high school captain at Avondale School, says, "We're a Year 12 class creating a schoolies adventure of a lifetime. We want to have a good time, experience new things and, most of all, make a difference in our world."

The project, which is known as "Rokforce," is focused on helping others and the team will spend two weeks building a media room, running interactive children's programs and assisting around the orphanage.

Tanya Lawrence, one of the "Rokforce" coordinators and mother of a participant in the team, says, "As thousands of graduating Year 12 'schoolies' prepare to go to the Gold Coast in November, we're really proud of what our students are doing to create an adventure that will have a positive impact on their lives and the lives of others."

"We're also excited by their desire to inspire other 'schoolies' to do something positive to help others."

School captain Emma Thomson says the "Rokforce" team, which also includes six teachers and parents, is fundraising to pay for their airfares and costs in return for the opportunity to serve.—*Karen Zeuschner*



The students who will be going to Cambodia at the end of the year.

# Christians and copyright

BY JARED HENLEY

**E**VERY SO OFTEN AS I READ OUR church publications, the topic of copyright infringement appears. The author—who often seems to be a musician—decries the immorality of those downloaders, rippers, burners and file-sharers who are stealing their income. These statements make me cringe. Not because I’m guilty. Not because I can’t believe the insensitivity of those people who copy like there’s no tomorrow. I cringe because there’s so much more to be said about copying and copyright but I’m not hearing it.

I’m a computer guy. However, I’ve only ever bought one piece of software—the one I couldn’t copy, because I couldn’t find an original. I didn’t really have the money to buy software anyway, so the companies weren’t losing anything. But after a period in the jungles of Thailand without a computer, I decided that when I next owned one, it would have only legally-acquired software on it. I managed to keep my promise, this time thanks to Free Software.<sup>1</sup>

What I discovered in Free Software was a large and active community of programmers going in the opposite direction to the rest of the computer industry. Instead of creating increasingly annoying technical features to enforce increasingly restrictive licences to use software, these people were giving away software—source code and all—for anyone to use, study, modify and copy to all their friends! Software is always licenced under certain terms: all other rights belong to the copyright holder. Free Software is also copyright but its licence enforces freedom, rather than restrictions:

“The licences for most software and other practical works are designed to take away your freedom to share and change the works. By contrast, the GNU General Public Licence is intended to guarantee your freedom to share and change all versions of a program—to make sure it remains free software for all its users.”<sup>2</sup>

Having become accustomed to the freedoms of Free Software—in par-

ticular, the freedom from worrying whether I’m breaking the terms of a licence I didn’t even read, couldn’t remember and probably wouldn’t really comprehend—it came as a surprise to realise I’ve been inadvertently breaking copyright law on a regular basis. For example: displaying the words of a song on a screen; singing songs for school worship; reading aloud sections of the Bible that are too long to be covered by the allowed use. It’s possible to pay someone to be allowed to do these things but there’s always the worry that you missed something.

It bothers me that I could unintentionally break the law but what bothers me more is the way our worship of God and study of the Bible—or even worse, the proclamation of the gospel—can be inhibited by the laws of the land.

Consider the following examples:<sup>3</sup>

- “I’ve just finished listening to Band X’s new album. A friend of mine could really do with hearing one of the songs, it would help her out with current problems and enrich her walk with Christ. Unfortunately, the copyright on the album prevents me from taking an MP3 copy of the song and emailing it to her, or even lending her the CD.”
- “I’m a busker, and like to sprinkle some worship songs into my repertoire. Before I can do so, I need to jump through hoops getting permission from the copyright holder. This kind of performance should



be automatically allowed, since it communicates the gospel to the public and also exposes them to music they would never otherwise hear.”

- “I’m compiling Bible-study notes for an outreach we’re running in a deprived area. The people don’t have their own Bibles, so we’re reproducing whole chapters in the notes. Unfortunately, we are forced to use the King James Version (which the unchurched may find difficult) because copyright prevents us from reproducing such large passages from modern translations.”

Mike Sheeran goes as far as to say, “I have had the impression that when a Christian singer, songwriter, etc, uses the copyright law to make money for himself, he is in effect saying something like this: ‘Before you can use my song to pay tribute to God (from Whom I got the song to start with), you must first pay tribute to me in the form of royalties. Failure to do this will cause me to make your life miserable. The law is on my side.’”

“In my humble opinion, when someone gets in line ahead of God for tribute, that is nothing short of blasphemy. Chris-



tian artists can exempt churches from the stringent requirements of copyright if they so choose—but they stand to lose a lot of money so they usually don't. 'You cannot serve God and mammon.'

I'm not going to say that musicians and other artists need to give away everything for free. But I believe Christians especially need to try to remove any barriers that hinder the spread of the gospel. But sure-

## Resources

**Creative Commons:** Provides a variety of licences that you can use when publishing your creative work that allow you to retain copyright but grant to others the rights that you choose. <<http://creativecommons.org/>>.

**The SWORD Project:** Bible-study software for a variety of computers. Various translations, commentaries, devotionals and other books are available. Copyright and licencing status is clearly stated for each book. <<http://www.crosswire.org/sword/index.jsp>>.

**E-Sword:** If you use Windows, you can benefit from this Bible-study software. There are many translations available, and also commentaries, maps and devotionals. This site is not very clear about what you may do with any given translation, so it's inferior to the SWORD Project if you want to reproduce anything. <<http://www.e-sword.net/>>.

**Google:** Google's advanced search allows you to specify the usage rights of the results it shows. <[http://www.google.com.au/advanced\\_search?hl=en](http://www.google.com.au/advanced_search?hl=en)>.

**ShareSong.org:** This site has a growing collection of music that is free for non-commercial use. How exactly you are able to use the music is not entirely clear, however. <<http://sharesong.org/>>.

**Christians Against Copyright:** This site maintains a list of resources that are free for non-commercial use. It also has a good explanation of the copyright issue. <<http://www.christiansagainst-copyright.org/>>.

ly it's possible for a band to make a living on their recordings, and allow their sheet music, lyrics, and performances of these by others to be made free?

I don't imagine that the Bible can be translated for free but I do believe the cost of the New International Version, for example, has been more than recovered since the 1970s. Why not allow the text to be copied non-commercially?

Around the world, there's a revolt against the excesses of copyright restriction. We can see it in Free Software, Creative Commons licencing and the increasing number of projects like Project Gutenberg that are attempting to make works that have passed into the public domain accessible over the internet.

Right now, it's a little difficult to find music and other resources that are "safe" to use. These resources aren't highly popular, are spread across the internet and can be difficult to distinguish from sites offering illegal downloads. I imagine a time when there are plenty of places to find Christian music, videos, sermons, clip art and other resources that are licenced in a way that lets us use them freely. I imagine a community of Christians who always thought they had nothing to offer, discovering they have something to contribute.

The internet is making it possible to distribute creative work in ways that were either impossible or expensive before. From <[ShareSong.org](http://ShareSong.org)>: "Often a ministry can get caught up in producing CDs and books, and other things that cost money. Pretty soon, the emphasis is on selling stuff to cover costs. The internet provides a free distribution method so the artists can just get on with the ministry."<sup>4</sup> **R**

1. <<http://www.fsf.org/>>.

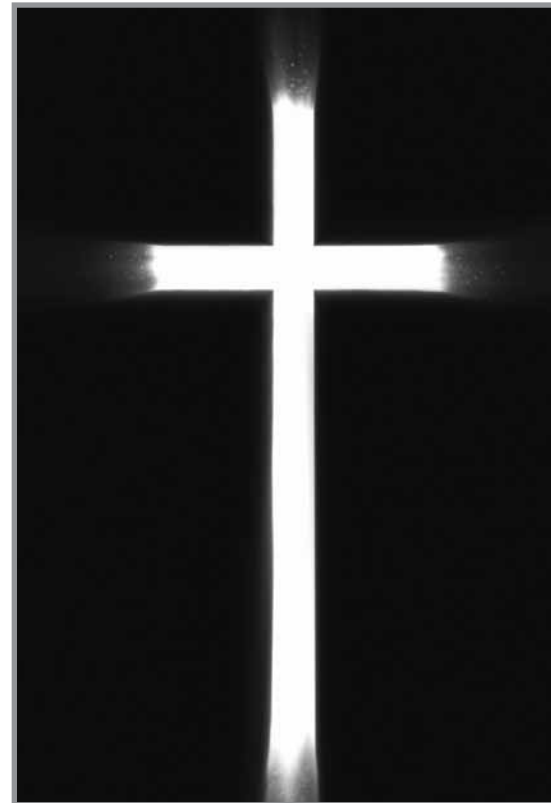
2. <<http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html>>. *I'm quite aware that there's more to Free Software than the FSF and GPL but there's no need to complicate the issue unnecessarily.*

3. <<http://www.serviceplanner.force9.co.uk/music/trwl/copyright.html>>.

4. <<http://sharesong.org/manifesto.htm>>.

*The views expressed in Perspective articles are not necessarily those of the editors or the church. Readers may wish to respond.*

**Jared Henley "exists" online at**  
<<http://jared.henley.id.au/>>.



# Crusade

BY MALCOLM FORD

**T**HE PROPHET'S VISION  
Unmasks the mysteries  
Of symbols and signs  
That see past tomorrow,  
To the frontiers of time.

The leisured gait  
Of history's footprints  
Meander from the past  
Now! Suddenly! The long-limbed  
Lunging strides  
Of some unleashed Beast  
Imprints the landscape;  
Racing toward the Lamb—  
To the final destiny.

On the far horizon,  
Jesus the Lionheart,  
Armed with the Cross-bow,  
Prepares the prophetic  
Intercept! **R**

*Malcolm Ford writes from Whangerei,  
New Zealand.*

# A dangerous faith

BY KAREN COLLUM

**B**ELEIVE JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND I'm saved by grace alone. I believe in Creation and Jesus' death and resurrection. I believe the Bible is God's eternal message to us. But let's say I'm wrong. Let's say it's just a myth. What have I lost? Nothing. I've lived a life of meaning and purpose. I wouldn't want to live my life any other way."

These words were spoken during a conversation between two believers. Although the statements contain elements of truth, there is something unsettling in the monologue. And I am more than a little embarrassed to admit I am the author and speaker of these words.

I can't remember the first time I used this argument but I suspect it was sometime during my teenage years. It seemed to make a lot of sense to me then. I couldn't prove God existed to my sceptic friends but this argument seemed to appease their perceptions about the futility of my faith. As an adult in my 30s, however, it now strikes me as a feeble explanation at best and evidence of a half-hearted, shallow faith at worst.

When I heard myself speak these words recently, something inside me cringed. I just couldn't stop thinking about it. Is my faith really only ankle deep? Am I just hedging my bets, hoping for the best? Or do I honestly believe in Jesus Christ with all my heart, soul and mind? And then it struck me. I possess a hazardous faith. A middleclass, armchair-comfortable faith. A dangerous faith.

The worst part of my epiphany is having to answer my own question: What have I lost because of my faith? Honestly: very little. Apart from a few rejections from would-be boyfriends who objected to my moral stance, or missing out on a couple of part-time jobs that wouldn't accommodate my Sabbathkeeping, my faith has cost me little. I have not been disowned by my family or harassed by my neighbours. I have not been physically assaulted. In a country where I am free to worship whomever and



whenever I like, I have not experienced persecution, marginalisation or ridicule because of my beliefs. I have had the freedom to live my middleclass, armchair-comfortable faith. What a contrast to believers in other parts of the world.

In India, an elderly pastor was recently falsely imprisoned and beaten by police for allegedly paying Hindus to convert to Christianity. His faith has cost him his health.

Dmitry Shestakov, a pastor in Uzbekistan, was arrested in 2007 for organising a religious group and distributing materials. He is still being held in a closed labour camp away from his wife and three young daughters. His faith has cost him his family.

In Sudan, a woman who converted from Islam to Christianity was set upon by her husband and left beaten, homeless and in jail. Her faith has cost her everything.

And in Pakistan, Christians who had gathered to protest pro-Taliban graffiti on their churches were attacked by a group of militants. Two adults were executed and one child was killed in the attack. Their faith cost them their lives.

These Christians possess a truly-dangerous faith. Their faith comes with a high

price tag. Like Jesus, these loyal followers of Christ are giving up everything for His glory. Jesus and all of heaven honour people with that kind of faith. And the Bible makes it clear that this is exactly the sort of dangerous faith that Jesus wants us to have:

- The rich young ruler lived by the commandments. He lived a good life, a moral life. When he asked Jesus what he needed to do to be saved, Jesus' answer was straightforward: "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me" (Matthew 19:21\*). A dangerous faith is prepared to give up everything for Jesus.
- A would-be disciple wanted to follow Jesus. Before he set off in the Master's footsteps on the dusty roads, he wanted to do just one thing—bury his father. It seemed a reasonable request but Jesus' answer was unequivocal: "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead" (Matthew 8:22). A dangerous faith is prepared to lose loved ones for Jesus.

- And in all the gospels, the message is the same: "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it" (Luke 9:24). A dangerous faith is prepared to die for Jesus.

In my middleclass, armchair-comfortable life, it's easy to have a dangerous faith of entirely the wrong kind. But by remembering the suffering of fellow Christians around the world, I am reminded of another sort of dangerous faith—one that is refined in suffering and purified in persecution. These brave souls possess a faith that has the power to move heaven and earth. It is my hope and prayer that my faith can grow into a dangerous faith of the best possible kind. **R**

*\*Bible quotations are from the New International Version.*

**Karen Collum writes from Munruben, Queensland.**



# Peter's bonus catch

BY LYMAN RITCHIE

**F**ISHING HAD BEEN PETER'S BUSINESS, probably from childhood. He had apparently been reasonably successful at it. An experienced fisherman, Peter thought his knowledge of fishing superior to that of Christ's, who had been a carpenter. But in confidence based on what he had seen Jesus do of recent times, Peter and his companions complied with Jesus' advice.

Conscious of his fruitless efforts the night before, he was doubtless somewhat downhearted. Nevertheless, the discouraging experience of the previous night was about to be followed by conclusive evidence that would prove Christ's divinity to Peter, the fisherman:

"When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break" (Luke 5:4-6\*).

There are times when God may interfere with our plans and efforts in order to make the need to cooperate with Him more apparent and meaningful. Efforts put forth in our own strength sometimes prove completely fruitless, because the desired results can be secured only through cooperation with Him.

Earlier, the disciples had been unable to catch anything; now they were cooperating with Jesus and their success exceeded their fondest expectations. Those who would be successful "fishers of men" must learn that without Christ, they can do nothing. When divine power is combined with human effort, particularly in the work of fishing for people, results can be effective and permanent.

Peter thought he knew the habits of the fish of Galilee but even the fish of his own lake were apparently subject to Jesus. Now he himself was ready to obey the summons of the Master Fisherman. Peter, Andrew, James and John were caught alive in the "net" of the Master Fisherman.

Centuries earlier, the prophet Jeremiah wrote "'But now I will send for many fishermen,' declares the Lord, 'and they will catch them. After that I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt them down on every mountain and hill and from the crevices of the rocks'" (Jeremiah 16:16).

All their lives Peter, Andrew, James and John had caught fish, which had died as a result of capture; from now on, they would catch men "that they might have life, and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). At the moment of their greatest success, they paradoxically abandoned all to follow Jesus. Unhesitatingly, they dissolved their successful partnership as

fishermen for a partnership with Jesus as "fishers of men." They had launched out into the deep as fishermen. Now, they were prepared to launch out by faith in the service of Christ.

They were ready to follow Jesus—not because their physical labour had not been successful but because of their profound conviction that Jesus was the Son of God. They were just humble and unlearned men but when they came after their period of training, they were changed. Now others—even their enemies—"took note that these men had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13).

Our heavenly Father alone sees what He can make of men. A glorious future awaits all who commit their lives to serve Christ.

Addressing His disciples, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life" (Matthew 19:28, 29). **R**

*\*Bible quotations are from the New International Version.*

**Lyman Ritchie is a retired pastor, who writes from Echuca, Victoria.**



# Peace

BY FIONA BEAMS

SIT OUTSIDE ON A COLD MELBOURNE MORNING. THERE'S A HOT drink in hand, warming me, and a woollen rug around my shoulders. The sun is pushing its way through the trees and I can hear a symphony of birds. The stillness of this glorious day bids me to find peace in my life.

What a morning it has been! My car has broken down—again. The waiting game of roadside assistance and tow trucks are enough for me to lose my peace. But even after such an eventful morning, God has been quietly speaking to my heart: "I know it's been a frantic morning, dear daughter, but I want to show you My gift of peace and joy—especially during hectic moments."

So I sit outside in the fresh air, looking up at the tall gum trees, hearing God's voice in nature.

I feel so small among the trees, yet so precious. The branches are strong, smooth and clean. Each leaf is responding to its environment, moving quietly in the breeze.

The birds in my backyard make me laugh. Each variety seems to represent our own personalities.

It is amazing that in the colourless season of winter, rosellas still find winter berries and flowers to eat. They fly together—it seems rosellas value companionship. The magpies are so clumsy in the air. They dart from tree to tree with rough landings—what awkward birds! Suddenly,

## Remaining still in nature gives me perspective.

a wattlebird arrives on the protea bush. Immediately, all other bird varieties leave the area. He is very much aware

of his presence in my backyard and enjoys being the "top bird." Bossy personalities certainly affect everybody!

Remaining still in nature gives me perspective. When watching the birds, I am reminded of God's power and creativity. Birds are stunning and Jesus says that I am so much more valuable than they are (see Matthew 6:26).

My God placed beauty around me; He placed me among beauty!

This chilly, hectic morning could have been a struggle. However, by enjoying the birds, sunshine and trees in my backyard, I have seen God's glory and received peace and joy again.

I leave my cosy chair, feeling privileged to be a child of God. I am reminded of the intense love God has for me. If I just stop for a moment, leaving the busy life behind, I see Him everywhere and feel Him near me.

With God in my heart and peace in this moment, I have been given a needed gift. A gift that Jesus gives to all: "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid" (John 14:27, NLT). **R**

*Fiona Beams writes from Mooroolbark, Victoria.*

## Record Roo



Hi kids!

The Israelites were not too keen to move into Canaan and fight for it. Joshua, on the other hand, was much more positive and spoke to the people about it...

### Bible Text

..."The land we \_\_\_\_\_ through and \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ good. If the Lord is \_\_\_\_\_ with us, He will \_\_\_\_\_ us into that land, a land flowing with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and will give it to us." Numbers 14:7, 8 NIV

### Word Puzzle

What else did Joshua say to the people to try and convince them that they could take the land of Canaan? Use the secret code chart below to decipher the message.

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### Read

What happened next? You can read more of the story in Numbers Chapter 14.

## Being watchful

JIM BEYERS, QLD

I feel rather strongly about the letters that tend to write off the climate change phenomenon as political propaganda or scaremongering (“Another belief,” Letters, July 4). In a way, I hope they are correct. I dread the prospect of our planet becoming largely unliveable.

At the same time, we need to heed the warnings of Scripture. Jesus tell us that one of the last-day signs is the sea and the waves roaring (see Luke 21:25). When the second great plague of Revelation strikes, every living thing in the sea will die.

Our learned men of science scoff at such prophecies and claim these things come in cycles, as part of earth’s revolutionary process. But we have an insight they deny (see 2 Peter 3:4), which warns of scoffers who say all things continue as they were from the beginning.

Humanity, driven by greed, can be very destructive. North Africa was very fertile until the early Greeks and Romans colonised it, cut down the trees to raise crops and livestock, and changed the weather patterns permanently. European settlers did likewise in Australia. And the devastation of the Amazon Basin is scandalous.

It isn’t wise to be dogmatic. I’d rather wait and watch.

## More “probables”

STEVE CINZIO, QLD

“Only ‘probable’?” (Letters, July 4) is right! The word “probable” comes to us from the Latin *probare*, meaning “prove,” but in modern English the word carries the notion of likely, feasible or plausible—words that hardly convince such a correspondent that “women in the time of Paul were ordained by the laying on of hands.”

In the *Review and Herald* of July 9, 1895, there is a report of a meeting at the Ashfield church (in Sydney) presided over by the son of Ellen White, W C White. The church clerk wrote the following in the minutes: “The previous Sabbath officers had been nominated and accepted for the current year, and today Elder White ordained and laid hands on the elders, deacons and deaconesses.”

Ellen White was living in Australia at the time. It would seem *probable* that her son would have known his mother’s views on these matters. And he *probably* told his mother of the Ashfield meeting where he laid hands of ordination on the two women. But I have searched extensively and I cannot find any record indicating that Ellen White reprimanded her son for what he did. Is her silence on this issue loud enough for us to hear in the 21st century?

It seems women involved in valuable

## Could it be that the ongoing discussion has more to do with culture than theology?

ministry were ordained “as we understand it” and this practice was carried on for a number of years.

Perhaps a more important question in the ongoing discussion is to ask ourselves why ordaining women by the laying on of hands—women who minister to us in so many ways—is no longer practiced? Could it be that the ongoing discussion has more to do with culture than theology?

## Put it in context

DAVID POTTER, NSW

In Romans 16:7, Paul does not use expressions like *probable* or *most likely* in praising Junia for being “outstanding among the apostles” (compare “Only ‘probable’?”). It’s a ringing endorsement that can’t possibly be missed.

Understanding Paul’s advice to Timothy on ministering to the Ephesian church requires some attention to context. Some of the problems in this church are clearly identified in 1 Timothy 1. But one particular problem is not explicitly identified.

Acts 19 records a riot in Ephesus, inspired by craftsmen who saw the gospel as a threat to their livelihood. Making silver shrines of the goddess Artemis was a profitable business. The fertility religions of Asia Minor encouraged a kind of radical feminism, which gave pre-eminence to women and devalued men, an attitude that must have impacted church members. Paul’s comments can be seen as an attempt to redress this imbalance, not tip it the other way.

Are women the only ones advised to learn “in quietness and full submission”? No, this is an appropriate attitude for anyone entering God’s presence (see Habakkuk 2:20; Zechariah 2:13).

It would be strange for Paul to advise Timothy to forbid women to teach, given that Timothy had been taught by two women, his mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois (see 2 Timothy 1:5). It would be doubly strange, given Paul’s endorsement of Priscilla, a woman who helped

instruct Apollos (Acts 18:26). Not only was Apollos a man, he was well educated and a powerful evangelist in the early church.

Those who love as Jesus loved will know how to accept and affirm the ministry of women in His church. Quibbling over the semantics of ordination and commissioning is profitless. We have female pastors, we pay them, we acknowledge them, we need them, yet we continue to put impediments in their way. Thank God for sustaining the vision of these called women!

## No/what difference?

KAYLA SLEIGHT, NSW

If Paul said there is no difference—“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28, NIV)—why do we make a difference?

I am gratified and inspired by “Victorian youth leader commissioned” (News, July 4) but questions arise in my 14-year-old mind. What’s in a name? What is the difference between ordination and being commissioned? Isn’t it all the same job? Could somebody please explain the difference—and why there is one?

**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.

## Anniversaries

**Brinsmead**, Laurence and Verna (nee Emmitt), celebrated 60 years of marriage on 8.3.09. Laurie and Verna were united in the original Murwillumbah church by the late Pastor George Parker on 7.3.1949. They enjoyed a lively and enjoyable celebratory lunch, hosted by their four children and spouses, Calvin and Joy (Dubbo, NSW), Nereda and Mo (USA), David and Jenifer (Murwillumbah, NSW), Jenny and Timothy (Durambah), 13 of their



14 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and many friends. Laurie and Verna have led an eventful life together, and are faithful and much appreciated members of the Bray Park church.

**Jackson**, Dave and Margaret. Upon the beautiful setting of a winter's sun radiating through an avenue of poignant trees, Dave and Margaret Jackson renewed their wedding vows after 50 years of marital blessings. The ceremony was held in the chapel at Mellow Manor on the outskirts of Cambridge, NZ. The couple were accompanied by their second daughter, Carolyn, and son-in-law, Steve Atkinson, who had married on Dave and Margaret's 25th wedding anniversary in 1984. The double celebration was held over Australia's Queen's Birthday weekend, in order that all the grandchildren living in Australia could be present along with the rest of the family and friends, some of whom had attended the wedding 50 years ago. Their eldest daughter, Dianne, son-in-law, Gary Caveney, youngest daughter, Joanne, and son-in-law, Stephen Petrie, also shared in the grand celebration.

**Marta**, Leo and Enid, were married on April 18, 1949, at Hawera Anglican Church. They celebrated with an open home for friends and had a celebration meal with their family the next day.

## Weddings

**Calderon—Hayman**. Peter Gregory Calderon (Brightwaters, NSW) and Fiona Merle Hayman were married 24.5.09 in a beautiful garden setting in Brightwaters, with friends.

*Leigh Rice*

**Howard—Carlson**. David Howard, son of Ross and Angela Howard (Charlestown, NSW), and Amy Carlson, daughter of Pastor Ron and Sue Carlson (Topeka, Kansas, US), were married 5.7.09 in New Haven church, Overland Park, Kansas.

*Ron Carlson*

**Neale—Hayman**. Joel Andrew Neale, son of Greg and Sharon Neale (Bonnells

## 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 Siosaia Vaihola, <svaihola@adventist.org.to>.

**Volunteer Property Inspector—SPD Island Territory (excl PNG)**. Risk Management Service is seeking to appoint a volunteer to inspect, assess and update records relating to church owned properties in the SPD Island Field and to provide training on property cover to local church leaders. For more details please contact Lyn Price <volunteers@adventist.org.au> or phone (02) 9847 3275.

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

+61 2 9847 3275



Bay, NSW), and Emma Merle Hayman, daughter of Fiona Hayman (Brightwaters), were married 17.5.09 in Hillview church.

*Leigh Rice*

## Obituaries

**Ahjopalo**, Anna-Liisa, born 6.7.1916 at Lohja, Finland; died 29.5.09 at Caloundra, Qld. On 30.4.1950, she married Oiva Ahjopalo at Pori, Finland, who predeceased her in 2001. She is survived by her daughters, Kristiina and Warren Somerville (Caloundra, Qld) and Benita Hamalainen (Finland); her seven grandchildren; and her four great-grandchildren. She was baptised in 1947, at Lohja, Finland. The family first came to Australia in 1969 but returned to live in Finland twice before finally settling in Australia. Anna-Liisa was a strong believer in Christian Education and was instrumental in establishing the Adventist Education system in Finland. She was a positive and patient woman of high principles who defended the rights of the less fortunate. During her lifetime, she managed to read her Bible through 60 times, committing large passages to memory. She

## Positions vacant

▲ **Secretary to the youth department—North NSW Conference** is seeking the services of a secretary to the youth department. This is a busy department involving planning for Summer camps, Pathfinder and Adventurer events, STORM Co, and youth rallies. The successful applicant will: be well organised and self-motivated, willing to participate in youth events, with well-developed people skills, particularly with young people, and be committed to the teaching, values and mission of the SDA Church. The successful applicant will be proficient in Microsoft Office and preferably have a knowledge of InDesign. For further information, contact the Youth Director, Pastor Jeff Parker, PO Box 7, Wallsend NSW 2287; email <jeffparker@adventist.org.au>; or phone (02) 4951 8088. Applications close **July 31, 2009**.

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



will be greatly missed by all her life has touched.

*David Lamb, John Rabbas,  
Cyril Pascoe*

**Close**, Ralph, born 28.3.1942 at Stoney Gully, NSW; died 4.5.09. He is survived by his brothers, George, Richard, David and Merrick; his sister, Bonnie; along with his children, Lynette, Tom, Ralph and Sandra; his grandchildren, Kathy, Myressa, Misty, Jyal and Minnie; and his three great-grandchildren. He made his decision to place his life back into God's hands in the last couple of months before he died. He now rests in the sure hope of the Resurrection.

*Paul Geelan, Paul Von Bratt*

**Gibson**, Dr Geoffrey Wynstan, born 13.3.1930 in Sydney Sanitarium and Hospital (now Sydney Adventist Hospital), Wahroonga, NSW; died 14.5.09 at Avondale Aged Care, Cooranbong. He was predeceased by his younger brother, Warren Neville, in June 2007. He is survived by his older brother, Col. Geof completed his BA and MA by 1949. He spent a year at Avondale, before being appointed to Warburton school. By 1953, he had taken further studies at Melbourne University to complete his B Ed. Geof then turned his attention to what would become his life's work—teaching in Papua New Guinea (PNG). A position with the church was not available because he was unmarried, so he applied with the PNG administration. On retirement from Government service in PNG, Geof taught at the University of PNG, then, became Head of Education at Pacific Adventist College (now PAU), in 1985. When he finally left PNG to return to Australia following a health scare, he settled at Nambour, Qld, before moving to Avondale Aged Care. The Governor-general of PNG, Sir Paulias Matane, prepared a eulogy on DVD that was played at Geof's funeral. He thanked Geof for his committed service to the people of PNG. As an educator, Geof spread the good news by teaching, studying and above all, practicing what had been taught. He helped many become what they are today—honest, hardworking, committed, caring, loving, transparent, accountable men and women.

*John R Lee, Ray Wilkinson  
Joseph Talipuan*

**Graham**, Janet (nee Mitchell-Miller), born 8.4.1921 at Lochgelly, Scotland;

died 18.6.09 in Flinders Medical Centre, SA. On 16.5.1939, she married David Graham, who predeceased her 30.1.1989. She is survived by her two daughters, Jean Smith and Barbara Masson (Adelaide); her six grandchildren and their partners; and her 14 great-grandchildren (one deceased). Janet was a loving and loyal mother, grandmother, great-gran and friend. She took a keen interest in and faithfully supported each of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren's various interests and activities. She loved the Lord with all her heart and now awaits His Resurrection call.

*Allan Croft*

**Jaskowiak**, Danuta Natalia, born 15.8.1951 at Opole, Poland; daughter of Jan and Melania Jaskowiak (Gold Coast Central church), fell asleep in the arms of the Saviour on 12.6.09 in Robina, Qld. Danuta was a long-time member of the Mackay Seventh-day Adventist church. We will be reunited with her again on the Resurrection day.

*Slawomir Malarek*

**Lun**, Julian Chua Chung, born 4.6.1915; died 11.6.09 in Leisure Lea Gardens, Eastwood, NSW, at the age of 94. She is survived by her sisters, Linda, Louisa, Lillian and their families. The service took place at Castlebrook Lawn Cemetery Chapel on 18.6.09. The funeral was directed by Albert & Meyer.

*Daniel Chong*

**Marshall**, Cyril, born 18.4.1914 at Wanganui, NZ; died 14.5.09 at Galleon Gardens Rest Home, Currumbin Valley, Gold Coast, Qld. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Agnes; his two sons and their spouses, Roger and Linda, and Colin and Gill; his seven grandchildren; and his 13 great-grandchildren. A mechanic by trade, he gave service in the RNZAF during WWII in New Britain and Green Island, servicing aircraft. In 1952, Cyril and Agnes were invited to attend some public meetings conducted by the late Pastor C T Potter. They accepted the message, fully committed their lives and were baptised in the Wanganui church on August 16 that year. Cyril took an active role in the Wanganui church and gave faithful service in many positions, including elder, Sabbath school superintendent and treasurer. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed being able to do



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many things around the large property where he lived with his sons' families. He will be greatly missed by all his family, who look forward to the soon return of Jesus when they will be reunited with him again.

*Marcus Mundall*

**Martin**, James Hamilton, born 19.2.1947 at Lismore, NSW; died 15.3.09 in the Mater Hospital, Newcastle. He is survived by his wife, Diana (Cooranbong); his siblings and their spouses, David (Sydney), Geoff (Burlleigh Waters, Qld), Elizabeth Baines (Sunshine Coast), Marilyn Stafford (Perth, WA); his four children, Lee-ann Heise (Wagga Wagga, NSW), Melissa Tinworth (Cooranbong), Belinda Waters (Dora Creek), Steven (Cooranbong); and his seven grandchildren. James spent his early years in the Mullumbimby district, where he first worked on the family plantation and developed his lifelong love of cars and anything mechanical. He worked for a number of years with the Sanitarium Health Food Company in Cooranbong and Sydney, where his practical skills were put to good use. He later became involved in marketing for the company and this eventually led to setting up his own business. James had the ability to relate well to people from all walks of life and his generous nature was to have a positive impact on all those he came in contact with. While enduring health issues in the last year of his life, he continued to live his faith and now looks forward to that glorious Resurrection day, awaiting the call of the Life-giver. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

*John Skrzypasek, Barry Wright*

**Penman**, Elaine Ruth, born 29.5.1928; died 17.6.09 in the Lawrence Har- graves Hospital, Thirroul, NSW. On 30.4.1953, she married William Penman, who predeceased her 14.10.07. She is survived by her nieces, Robyn Tew and Bronwyn Meese; and nephews, John and Ross Penman, Jodie and Todd Meese, as well as brother-in-law, Pastor Alex Penman and his wife, Raynor. Elaine was a member of

the Wollongong church, where the funeral was conducted. She died earnestly looking for the Lord to come.

*Alex Penman*

**Peterson**, Pastor Maurice Edmond, born 19.8.1924 at Mokau, NZ; died 28.11.08 in Perth, WA. On 2.5.1953, he married May Hutchison, who predeceased him 12.4.1991. On 25.8.1991, he married May Curley. He is survived by Edith May (Harrow, Vic). Maurie was a practical man who worked in the trade as a fitter and turner. After attending Avondale College, he worked as a Literature Evangelist for five years in North New Zealand and Victoria. He received a call to ministry while in Victoria and, after his ordination, served in Tasmania and finally Western Australia, where he retired after 19 years of pastoral ministry. His ministry was marked by his down-to-Earth style and a strong determination to see the gospel work done so Jesus' second coming would be a reality.

*Daniel Hanbury*

**Russell**, Noela Anna born 4.1.1930 at Southport, Qld; died 15.6.09 at Southport. Noela was baptised and married in Southport by Pastor Oliver Knight. Mourned in hope by Noel, her husband of 58 years; their children, Craig, Roslyn and Anita; and their children-in-law; grandchildren and numerous relatives and friends. Noela was an esteemed member of the Gold Coast Central church and formerly a number of other Adventist church families. She awaits her Redeemer in the Southport Lawn Cemetery.

*Noel Russell, Slawomir Malarek*

**Trevethan**, Graeme, born 1.7.1943 in Australia; died 14.6.09 in Clermont Nursing Home, NSW. He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Paul and Rosemary (Melbourne, Vic). Graeme was the beloved son of Howard and Edith. He became a day pupil at Crowle Home in 1962 and gradually became a resident. Graeme had a passion for books and loved reading. He was also a very competent and committed worker at Crowle Industries. He will be missed by his friends in Crowle House.

*Gilberto Dias*

**Weith**, Valerie (Wally), born 5.8.1923 at Rudelzav, Germany; died 6.6.09 in Brisbane, Qld. She was married in December, 1947. She is survived by her son and her daughter-in-law, Horst and Ingrid. After retiring from her position as a telephonist in Bremen, Germany, Valerie came to live with her son and daughter-in-law, who had immigrated to Australia. Valerie attended the Beenleigh/Edens Landing church with them and became interested in their faith. She started having Bible lessons with Willie Wetzel in the German language and was baptised in 1996. She enjoyed the German-speaking Sabbath school group at the time. Her health deteriorated until she died of a severe stroke in hospital. She loved her Lord and her kindly life reflected her faith in her

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Saviour, whom she will meet on that great homecoming morning.

*Steven Cinzio*

**Wong**, Jean Grace, born 13.9.1937 in China; died 14.5.09 in Readleaf Manor Nursing Home, NSW. She is survived by her daughter, Christine. The funeral service was held at the Sydney Chinese church at 10.30 am on 19.5.09. Jean is buried in the Rookwood Cemetery. The funeral was directed by White Lady Funerals.

*Daniel Chong*

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