

RECORD

August 15, 2009

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The touch of the Master Teacher



Special issue: Adventist Education



A group of Year 11 students, staff and parents from Tweed Valley College conducted a service project at Navesau Junior Secondary School recently.

TVC students serve school in Fiji

WAINIBUKA, FIJI

A group of 14 students, parents and staff from Tweed Valley College (TVC), New South Wales (NSW), recently spent time in Fiji during the July school holidays as part of the annual Year 11 service trip to Navesau Junior Secondary School (NJSS).

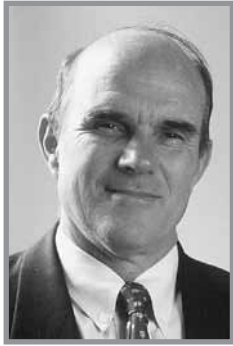
The group had expected to complete a basketball court for the students of the school. TVC principal David McClintock says, "Being a very wet climate, a cement court was seen as very helpful to outdoor activities. But the best-laid plans are easily changed! Owing to an ongoing dispute over the pricing of cement, the supplier

had stopped supplying cement, so there was none to be had."

Instead, Colin Louwen, an experienced painter, led the group in repainting the entire main building of the school. Ocean Shores church (NSW) also gave the group money to install water tanks at the school.

A container, sponsored by Phil and Gail Slade and packed at TVC, was sent after the school's first trip to NJSS in 2008. It arrived on the group's first night at the school and NJSS principal Samuela Ligabalavu told Mr McClintock, "This is like having Christmas in July—but for real."

(Continued on page 4)



This school felt like a lighthouse to me.

What matters most

IF I WAS LOOKING FOR A SCHOOL FOR my child, I would ask hard questions. Would this school teach my child self-management, inner direction, to learn how to learn, to think long-term, to evaluate a moral argument, to be a citizen of the world, to serve others? Is this a place that is spiritual and develops character, emotional competence and a clear world view? And is it a place with heart and soul, where teachers really care about you? The list could go on.

So as an education leader, how do I know when an Adventist school is “ticking the boxes”? In May and June, I visited five Adventist schools in New South Wales, five in the Solomon Islands, two in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and two in Tahiti. As I entered each school, I asked myself these questions—and a string of others. I usually sense a school’s climate in minutes, and I gradually begin to grasp its issues and feel its impact. While occasionally a school disappoints me, the subtle aspects of good education are easily spotted.

The deepest qualities of a good school come from student interactions and life experiences beyond formal classes, marketing hype, parent nights, academic record, sporting history, examination success and career promise. An Adventist school’s best shows when its teachers love their students and love teaching. Their concern is for the spiritual and moral dimensions of discipleship, empathy, nurturing relationships, student service activities, practising God’s presence, genuinely caring and showing a clear vis-

ible Adventist world view. This “character” shows in a school’s social–emotional climate—something no brochure, handbook or curriculum can ever portray. And it correlates with good academic learning.

Ragiampun Adventist Primary school—150 kilometres from Lae, PNG—is a poor school. Its walls are mostly bare and its resources scant. A teacher begged me for readers and one room had no desks or seats. Yet students from the nearby government school are flooding to it. Its caring social–emotional climate and extra teacher commitment are enough to bring on an enrolment crisis. You know that even a poor school cares and serves its students when it is attracting them from competitors.

The same effect is seen at the better-equipped Gabensis Adventist School, closer to Lae. The caring and concern central to a school’s social–emotional climate leads it to embrace the difficulties and pain of its students and wider community. The same holds for our Solomon Island and Tahiti schools.

Similarly when I visited some of our NSW schools, I felt their needy students bringing their struggles, home issues and brokenness into every classroom, and teachers were responding. In Kempsey, our growing Adventist school was a melting pot of issues, a place that buzzed with energy. I heard how the school was a place for students to hang around after hours, a place of refuge from home problems. I watched teachers struggling with loud behaviour and discussing life issues with adolescents

at intervals. And I heard their concern for students, and felt their compassion and commitment everywhere in their classes. This school felt like a lighthouse to me.

At our Avondale Schools, I noted a program run after school for teenage girls to help them discover their uniqueness and value, and learn the impact of feelings, friendships and respect. I felt the vibrancy of the chaplaincy program, and saw how both primary and secondary students learn genuine spiritual leadership through connection with God and serving others. I felt His touch daily in Bible–faith stories and weekly classroom worships. I saw evidence of the school-wide systematic values-teaching strategies and noted high school leavers planning to go to Cambodia to serve others for “schoolies week.”

Teachers know this scant account is only a glimpse of what really goes on. With their crowded curriculums and many demands, today’s schools are charged with attempting the “near impossible.” Given their complexity, they sometimes promise too much and deliver too little. But many of our schools are delivering what really matters. Not all Adventist schools have an equally-brilliant vision but when a school is well led, when it cares about students and is committed to best practice, the reality generally matches the rhetoric.

Barry Hill
 Director of Adventist Education
 South Pacific Division



Official Paper of the South Pacific Division Seventh-day Adventist Church
 ABN 59 093 117 689
 www.adventistconnect.org

Vol 114 No 31
 Cover: Tweed Valley College

Editor Nathan Brown
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www.record.net.au

Mail: Signs Publishing Company
 3485 Warburton Highway
 Warburton, Vic 3799, Australia
 Phone: (03) 5965 6300 Fax: (03) 5966 9019
 Email Letters: editor@signspublishing.com.au
 Email Newsfront: record@signspublishing.com.au
 Email Noticeboard: editorsec@signspublishing.com.au
 Subscriptions: South Pacific Division mailed within Australia and to New Zealand, \$A43.80 NZ\$73.00.
 Other prices on application. Printed weekly.

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

Heroes in tents at Henderson College

MILDURA, VICTORIA

What do an old, musty camp tent, 140 students and Dr John Hammond, director of the Australian Union Conference's Adventist Schools Australia, have in common? They were the key "ingredients" of Henderson College's Week of Spiritual Emphasis (WoSE), held from June 1 to 5.

After finding that the school chapel area wouldn't accommodate the Kindergarten to Year 10 group, even when divided into a senior and junior group, organisers of the week decided to bring in a "big tent" and pitch it on the school oval. Their innovative approach provided students with a "new and special space," according to Di Obst, a teacher at the school.

The tent was decorated in a similar way to a youth tent at camp-meetings, with lights, staging and backdrops. "It was a great space for creating memories and spiritual moments," says Ms Obst.

The theme of the week was "God's Heroes," and Dr Hammond was the guest speaker. "He held students—young and old—mesmerised with his stories and object lessons that encouraged them to encounter God in a real and memorable way," says Ms Obst, "and to be a hero for God."

Dr Hammond's stories encouraged stu-

dents to grow their understanding of who Jesus is and their importance to Him. A number of students expressed the desire to form a small group to further their spiritual knowledge during the week.

Many students were involved in the WoSE worship band, audio-visual team, and choir and drama items, as well as setting up and pulling down the tent. Students were also able to make use of a prayer tent during the week to spend more time encountering God for themselves.

On the Friday morning, 48 of the 80 senior students requested further Bible studies, with 20 requesting baptism. Nine of these were non-Adventist students. Local Mildura church pastors Darren Slade and Luis Bermudez have started Bible studies with students at the school and are "excited" about the impact the small church is having on the students.

"Praise God for the ministry of our schools and the opportunity it gives us to introduce these kids to Jesus in a real and meaningful way," says Pastor Slade.

Henderson College is planning to construct a new complex to enhance the school's programs, thanks to the Australian



Dr John Hammond (right, back row) with Henderson College students at the prayer tent, which was a feature of the school's Week of Spiritual Emphasis.

government's economic stimulus package ("Adventist schools benefit from stimulus," News, June 27). The \$A850,000 auditorium will have a general assembly room, which will also double as a gymnasium and concert hall, complete with stage area. A commercial kitchen, music room and storage spaces for equipment will be integrated into the plans.

A further \$A75,000 will go toward needed maintenance projects around the school, with money to be spent on new gutters and downpipe replacement, completion of the eating area for the high school, additional interactive boards for classrooms, and new seats and desks for the Years 1 and 2 classrooms.—RECORD staff/Di Obst

More @ <http://henderson.adventist.edu.au>



◆ Pupils of Rotorua Seventh-day Adventist School (RSDAS), NZ, received a "double blessing" in Term Two. The whole school studied a unit on bread making. To apply their knowledge, the students undertook a community service project. Students from the Rotorua School for Young Parents were invited to RSDAS for lunch. The RSDAS

students dressed in black and white and prepared bread rolls, fried bread and gift boxes. On the day, each pupil welcomed the guest they had invited through personalised invitations, then served them lunch that included soup and bread. At the end, all joined in with basketball and other games. When the students from the School for Young Parents sent a note of appreciation, they invited RSDAS pupils back to their school for a lunch two weeks later. The Young Parents took RSDAS on a tour of their

school, showing their classrooms, the day-care centre and other facilities.—Elmer Breedt

◆ The North West Christian School, Tas, recently received a visit from "the Balloon Man." Pastor Daron Pratt, the Balloon Man from the popular children's program *Arnie's Shack*, which appears on *Hope Channel*, visited the school on a tour of Northwest Tasmania in late June. While there, Pastor Pratt also ministered to about 180 children at a local primary school, a nursing home



and children in the children's ward at the Burnie Hospital. On the Saturday, 120 children and parents came to the local showgrounds to see Pastor Pratt. They took part in balloon and puppet workshops. On Sunday, Pastor Pratt was invited to visit with the children at the Christian Reformed Church in Wynyard.—Helen Borg

CAS students tackle All Blacks star

CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

July 21 was a day most Christchurch Adventist School (CAS) students won't forget, as Daniel Carter, a player for the All Blacks New Zealand (NZ) rugby team, and CanTeen officials visited CAS to speak at the Tuesday chapel program.

The school won the visit through the bandana challenge, which was run in 2008 by CanTeen, a NZ organisation that supports young people with cancer. CAS became involved in CanTeen after Year 10 student Bridget O'Grady developed leukaemia in 2007, and wanted to support her and others dealing with cancer.

Mr Carter was greeted by student leaders, school principal Danny Carrasco and board of trustees chairman Pastor Neil Thompson. During the chapel program, Mr Carter was interviewed by Miss O'Grady and her older sister, Millie, with questions students had written. He revealed he probably would have become a personal trainer if not an All Black and missing easy kicks from in front of the goal posts were his most embarrassing moments.

He also spoke to the student group, encouraging them to do their best in school and achieve their goals.

Students then had an opportunity to get signatures and have photos with the rugby player. The visit has since featured on TV3 news and *Sports Tonight*, *The Press* and *Christchurch Mail*.

"CanTeen has been inspirational and so supportive in helping me through this time in my life," says Miss O'Grady. "It was a privilege to have Dan Carter come to our school and was lots of fun! I have also had huge support from our school and church communities, for which I am so grateful! God continues to help me get through my leukaemia, and most of all I am thankful to Him."

Mr Carter also cut the hair of Logan Ngatai, a student who had been growing his hair for two years so it could be made into wigs for cancer patients.

Mr Carter became a CanTeen supporter after meeting two young cancer patients at rugby practice during his early years as a Crusader. Although both later passed away, their positive outlook led to Mr Carter dedicating time to support the organisation.—*Tracey Ling/www.stuff.co.nz*

TVC students serve school in Fiji

(Continued from page 1)

The group took part in the NJSS promotion of Adventist education in local villages by visiting eight local churches. They also participated in student worships

"The week at Navesau was a life-changing experience for our students," says Mr McClintock. "Adventist education is more than just passing on information. It's even more than talking about God. As our mission statement at Tweed Valley College says, it's 'to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God.' Michah 6:8 shows the active compassion of God. The best way I can describe this is in our recent service trip.

"Adventist Education is practical Christianity, lived and shared. It makes a difference in the lives of our students, parents and the communities we touch."—*RECORD staff/*

David McClintock



NJSS students Ricky and Samsoni in front of a water tank installed by the group.



◆ **Five Pathfinders**, one three year old and five leaders from the **Penrith Pathfinder club, NSW**, collected a "huge" amount of **tinned and non-perishable food** from members of the community in their annual Pathfinder Tin Food Collection on July 12 for the **Wesley Mission**. The Pathfinders **letterboxed** the area a week before and many people had bags of tins

ready for collection. One man tried to give them money. When they told him they were not collecting money just food, he told them he was in the middle of rehab and working with the **Salvation Army**. He tried to give them most of the food in his cupboard. Another young boy and girl told of a family they met who had previously been Adventists and were in Pathfinders themselves, who were more than happy to help out. When they reassembled at the church and emptied the car boots of the tins, the large amount collected by so few young people was amazing

but the young people themselves were most excited by the positive feedback they had received.—*Leonie Duff*

◆ A team of students and a professor from **Queensland University of Technology (QUT)** travelled to **Botswana** recently on an **Orphan Centre building project**. Adventist **Mervyn Stilinovic**, who is studying construction management, approached his course coordinator two years ago, describing the tragic numbers of **AIDS orphans** and how he would love QUT to help with the



project. The course coordinator decided to create a unit within the course where students were each asked to design their own orphan centre. The best designs would be chosen and combined to create a facility for the children in Botswana. Now eight students and one professor from QUT have travelled over to begin construction.—*Sue Jankovic*

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ AUGUST—SIGNS MONTH

ADRA thanks supporters for donations

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia has thanked supporters for raising \$A724,000—surpassing the organisation’s target of \$A500,000—for its End of Financial Year Appeal (“ADRA Australia calls for donations,” News, June 20).

“This is an amazing total and we are so grateful for the generosity of our supporters,” said ADRA Australia’s chief executive officer, Jonathan Duffy. “Each of our supporters means so much to us because they make it possible for us to continue much of our work in reaching those who are in need.”

The funds raised by the appeal will contribute to ADRA’s work in a number of ways. First, these gifts will prevent ADRA Australia from having to cancel, shorten or downsize any of its existing projects.

In addition, the funds will assist ADRA to begin new food and nutrition projects in Myanmar (Burma), Malawi and Indonesia, as well as help start new literacy projects in Papua New Guinea and Vietnam.

The donations will also be used to strengthen ADRA Australia’s National Program through the development of in-

novative new projects to be implemented across Australia.

These are just some of the plans envisioned by ADRA Australia for this financial year, which have now been strengthened through the support of ADRA’s End of Financial Year Appeal.

As a result of the global financial crisis, many aid agencies, including ADRA Australia, are struggling. Unfavourable exchange rates and low interest rates mean agencies cannot provide as much support to people in developing countries as they have in the past.

In Australia, individuals and families are also affected by the economic downturn and this has led to an increased need for services provided by ADRA.

“We are so thankful that even in these uncertain times, people are willing to help us share God’s love and care through this ministry of compassion,” said Mr Duffy. “We rely heavily on our supporters for a great deal of our work, and will only be able to assist people facing hardship and poverty if this continues. Again, we thank our supporters and ask for their ongoing prayers and commitment to ensure we continue reaching out to people in need.”—*Christel Price*

More @ www.adra.org.au

Adventurers raise funds for orphanage

GOSFORD, NEW SOUTH WALES

Gosford church’s Adventurer club held an “African Night Market” on June 13 at Central Coast Adventist School hall to raise funds for a Kenyan orphanage. The African-themed event was attended by hundreds of people and raised \$A6349.15.

Children from the Adventurer club operated stalls selling a variety of African-themed items, as well as food and drinks made by the club. Live music, crafts, face painting and other activities made the night “memorable,” according to the Adventurers and their families.

The money will go to the Nakura Baby Orphanage in Kenya to purchase much-needed school supplies. “I know the orphanage will be really blessed by our efforts,” says Adventurer club leader Sharon Bolst.—*Sharyn Brady*



Adventurers enjoy the African-themed fundraising night.

Lakeside church celebrates 40 years

BONNELLS BAY, NEW SOUTH WALES

Lakeside Adventist church celebrated its 40th anniversary on July 11, with past and present members gathering for the day. The church was founded by the late Pastor H J Halliday in July, 1969, and the group met for the first three years in the Brightwaters Progress Hall.

In July 1973, the church group moved into their recently-completed church hall and plans were laid for building the church. In November 1981, the church was opened by Pastor David Currie, then-president of the North New South Wales Conference (NNSWC). March 2001 saw the name changed from “Brightwaters” to “Lakeside.”



Glen Coombs and Zaria Ashton cut the cake.

On the Friday evening, Peter Dixon and his band led out in a worship program. The Sabbath service highlighted the anniversary, with Pastor Graeme Christian, Ministerial Association secretary for the Australian Union Conference, as the guest speaker. His

sermon was titled “Matters of the heart—faith, certainty and hope.”

During the lunch on the Sabbath afternoon, an anniversary cake was cut by the church’s oldest member, 93-year-old Glen Coombs, assisted by youngest member, 11-week-old Zaria Ashton. Following the lunch, there was a program featuring memories and photos shared by members. During the program, a plaque was unveiled by Pastor John Lang, president of NNSWC.

“When I first raised the idea of an anniversary celebration, I couldn’t conceive it’d turn out so well,” says church pastor Clive Nash. “I was gratified to see so many at Lakeside, working together to create a successful day.”—*Pam Hill*

Touching Jesus

BY DAVID FAULL

IN RECENT TIMES, QUESTIONS HAVE been raised concerning the viability of Adventist education and whether investment in our schools continues to be justified. As principal of Avondale School, home to some 950 vibrant students, I feel compelled to answer this question directly on their behalf. As I watch the outstanding student leadership around our campus and witness staff sharing their own spiritual journeys, I see our students truly touching and being touched by Jesus on a daily basis.

They begin school life as expectant but tentative children, entering the Avondale campus holding tightly to Mum or Dad's hand, and walk out hand in hand with Jesus, as positive and productive young men and women 13 years later. The support, guidance and care students find as part of any Adventist school community allows them to view the world through the eyes of faith, and provides a solid foundation for their spiritual development.

Our teachers strive to bring God into the lives of students in ways they can understand—to make Him real and tangible. Kindly classroom teachers might ask our littlest students to consider what kindness would look like if a woman's grocery bags split open at the shop and the groceries went everywhere, or what honesty and trustworthiness would look like if they saw money on the teacher's desk and wanted to spend it at the canteen. While in the Senior years, students are encouraged to talk about the values of the week and consider how Jesus used these values in His daily life. Teachers make the time, commitment and effort to structure lessons that not only talk about faith but connect it at a level where it is alive, real and practised in each child's life.

Outside the classroom, the connection with the minds and hearts of our young people on a moment-by-moment basis has lasting impact. A teacher has a unique opportunity to interact on a daily basis with young minds struggling with some big issues. At such times, students don't want instruction but are searching for acceptance, security and someone to recognise they are

struggling. It may take effort to encourage and affirm the smallest achievements, to demonstrate compassion and care but the results are often astounding. Sharing ourselves as teachers opens the doors for deep and meaningful discussion that no amount of sermonising would ever open, providing us the opportunity to be the support base in times of need and to represent Jesus in daily interactions across our campus.

Former Avondale School student Chris Starrett sums this up when he says, "My experience at Avondale showed me that teachers who are passionate about Christ are an immensely positive influence on their students. The respect and relationships that develop between the teacher and students has an impact far beyond any content that can be taught in a classroom. This realisation inspired me to pursue a career in teaching."

We feel privileged when students find clarity in our teaching. It intensifies our appreciation for the importance and place of Christian education, even more so when our students express their new-found or deepening belief in God. Take the example of Zoe from Year 11. She came from a non-religious background and had never been to church on Sabbath. "I meet with Christ every week at chapel now and also every Sabbath. When the singing starts, you can definitely tell the spirit of God is in that room," Zoe says. "The speakers are inspirational and they encourage us to dive deeper with God and spend more time with Him. I am a changed person from when I first came to Avondale School."

Our school exists for two reasons: to provide students with high-quality values-based education and to give each student the opportunity to experience Christ. A well-run chaplaincy program is not an optional extra. It is core.

School chaplain Pastor Mel Lemke says Avondale School is a place where whole-of-life support is offered. "With a strong chaplaincy program, not only do students receive a great education in a safe environ-



ment but they and their families also have access to a range of support services in times of life transition or trauma, and in their personal growth," he explains.

As a school, we have invested in a church on campus that extends the opportunity for non-churched families to have a safe place to discover what being part of a community of faith adds to life. Pastor Lemke says that through joining school, church and family, we build strong "communities of hope." "Such a campus community forms our most effective means of building bridges of hope to families who don't know Christ," he says.

How succinctly this sums up our vision. Teachers make their own daily walk with Jesus paramount and are open to the Spirit's leading. They use God's gift of enthusiasm to communicate God's word and offer direction to our students. As a school body, our collective souls leap when we see members of our school community—child, teenager or parent—realise the depth of God's love for them, when their eyes light up and their shoulders lift.

When we look around each day, the thing that stands out most is that we are surrounded by energetic, eager, open-minded young people full of potential who, if given the right opportunities, could carry our church into a new era of witnessing and impacting this world for Christ. In Adventist schools, teachers meet daily to ask God to bless and for the Holy Spirit to touch lives.

Is it worth the tireless hours? And is it viable? Absolutely! **R**

David Faull is principal of Avondale Schools in Cooranbong, New South Wales.



The touch of the Master Teacher

BY CELIA MONCRIEFF

YOU COULD HEAR A PIN DROP IN THE classroom. The only sound is the soft rustle of fine paper as pages are turned. Hands shoot up as discoveries are made. Excitement bubbles around the group as one student after another shares what they have found.

Twenty-six bright pairs of eyes look up at me. There is not a wriggle or a squirm as I also share my discovery. Twenty-six Bibles are open on 26 laps and, with gratitude, I notice some of my students who didn't know Matthew from Malachi have also been eagerly immersed in our epiphany.

Not one child's name had to be spoken in order to refocus their attention. There were no fancy frills to the lesson—no visual aids, no PowerPoint presentations, no stories with which I can so easily capture the interest of my class—only a group of students sitting on the floor with their Bibles, but what a powerful lesson was woven.

A feature of our recent week of spiritual emphasis was a question box and we decided we would install one in our classroom. However, we added a little twist. Instead of having a guru up the front, the whole class searched the Bible for answers themselves.

One hundred per cent engagement is what all teachers strive for but I cannot take credit for it this time. There was another, far more skilled Teacher present. He has had more practice than me. He has the advantage of knowing each of my students intimately. He knows each pain and fear and joy. He loves them more dearly than I could ever hope to. His name is Holy Spirit and He is the Master Teacher.

I have taught Bible classes for many

years. I love telling stories and what a mine of exciting tales lies between the covers of the Bible. How I enjoyed watching my students' eyes grow wide. How I loved to hold the class in the palm of my hand, to build them up to the climax and then punch home the pithy lesson. However, after my Academy Award performances, I was frequently asked a similar question: "Miss Moncrieff, was that a true story?"

It slowly dawned on me that some students were probably cataloguing these stories along with the fairy tales and ridiculous fancies already filed in their brains. It took a while for me to find a practical answer to this problem but the Holy Spirit is patient and persistent.

I will never forget the day that the box arrived. I opened it in front of my class and began to hand out the Bibles with their shiny red covers. "This is the most precious thing you will ever own," I told my students. "It is a letter to you from God."

One mischievous little blonde-haired girl couldn't quite believe her ears and had to question me to make sure the Bible was really hers to keep. Her sentiments were echoed around the class.

I was thanked profusely over and over again. I was overwhelmed by their response. They treasured those Bibles. We coloured in promises, we read stories from its pages and this most awesome work of literature formed the basis of many of our English classes.

I have seen how powerfully God can use personal testimonies and when God answers your prayers, it is almost impossible to keep the incredible things He does

locked up in a vault inside you. I share with my class the amazing God I serve. I find that when I relate personal experiences, students find it easier to take God out of the picture frame on the wall and put out their hand to clasp His.

When we read the story of Jesus' trial and crucifixion from the Book of Matthew, my class sat in stunned silence. The magnitude of His sacrifice was etched into their faces. They responded with letters that would melt your heart.

Jesus is in the business of changing lives and when I notice a boy, who was on the verge of expulsion the previous year, revealing his beautiful nature, I recognise His hand. When a small brown-eyed boy who took delight in harassing others and tearing around like a whirlwind begins to settle, soften and take pride in his work, I know the Master is at work again. I can see the bridge of trust under construction when a tall and boisterous third grader insists the class stop what they are doing to get down on their knees and pray about a problem that has arisen in the class.

Jesus said "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." I may run the most brilliant classroom. My students may top the state in their academic scores but if I am not connected to Jesus, it is all for nothing. **R**

Celia Moncrieff is a primary teacher at Avondale School, Cooranbong, New South Wales.

Being a seven-day school

BY JILL PEARCE

THERE ARE PLACES IN THIS WORLD where life is tough and challenges are great. But they are the places where we often see God move radically and dramatically. Macquarie Fields in south-western Sydney is one of those places. As principal of Macarthur Adventist College, I was introduced to the suburb of Macquarie Fields in 2004.

In the early 1970s, the population of state housing in the Rocks area in central Sydney was relocated to this new suburb of Macquarie Fields. Unfortunately, this didn't come with a great deal of infrastructure and support mechanisms. A social experiment was about to take place. For more than three decades, this area had been forgotten by the politicians and councils of the area.

However, God was not sleeping! He was at work in His most incredible way, in His timing. At the same time as the Glenquarie Estate—the “Estate,” as it is known—was being developed, a small primary school had also begun. Macarthur Adventist Primary School commenced on the grounds at Victoria Road, Macquarie Fields, in 1974, with only a handful of students but a willing heart and mind to serve God. Elwyn Cherry was the first principal of this school.

The story continues to unfold with various principals and school councils wholeheartedly supporting the notion of introducing the gospel to the area of Macquarie Fields. However, it wasn't until much later that the idea of evangelism in our schools was encouraged in an overt way to those who were not Adventists.

There were many reasons why the timing was right for a school–church combination to begin on the grounds of Macarthur Adventist College in 2006. The area became prominent in 2005, when riots occurred just down the road from the school and lasted for four days. Some of our families were affected by these riots but even before this tragic series of events, God was already impressing hearts that this was where He wanted to plant a church.

In late 2004, I met with leaders of the Greater Sydney Conference to discuss the possibility of commencing a church on the grounds. At this meeting, I was informed that if a group of interested people got together and began to worship at a set location, they could then inform the conference that a church had begun and a pastor would be assigned to care for the group. This was the beginning of the journey for all involved with the school.

After discussions with Dr Peter Kilgour, director of Adventist education for the Greater Sydney Conference, and with his unwavering support, Andre Afamasaga was approached to be the chaplain of the school, with the intention that he would spearhead the development of a church on the grounds. Both Dr Kilgour and I had known Andre in New Zealand some years before this church plant idea was to come about or before any of us were living in Sydney—just another of God's most amazing ways!

We needed a dedicated and willing person. Someone who would work in conjunction with the school and would have the school community (students and families), the local Macquarie Fields area and further to the south-western parts of Sydney as its target audience. Andre was just the man for the job! This was a bold step at the time. A step that was led by the Holy Spirit, as Andre was not trained in pastoral work but had shown great ability in being able to touch people, especially young people, in a special way with the message of a hope and future in Jesus Christ!

I have never ceased to be amazed by how God works simultaneously with people—even when they don't know it—to bring about His will for His people. Unbeknownst to me, at the same time that God was impressing hearts—Dr Kilgour's, Andre's, mine, and the staff, students and families of Macarthur Adventist College—He was also working through the Greater Sydney Conference administration and executive committee to bring about the “Future

Directions” document for Greater Sydney Conference for the next three years. This document encourages the development of new churches across Sydney. We realised we had responded through the instruction of the Holy Spirit even as the “Future Directions” paper was being formulated!

On July 8, 2006, we had our first Sabbath worship service at the school, with about 30 people attending. It had followed a special STORM Co by Avondale College to the community of Macquarie Fields. The group brought in some of the people who had been blessed by their service during the week. It was a small but exciting beginning.

The church has grown to more than 120 attendees since that small beginning. The students of the school and their families have an open invitation to attend the church and the other activities run by the chaplaincy department. The amazing part of this is that students come on their own to the church. Parents drop their children off, knowing and trusting that the same level of care and nurturing that is demonstrated at the school for five days of the week will be delivered at the church on Sabbath. This is a true testimony of faith. It is also an amazing testimony of how great God is as He uses a school and a conference administration team willing to take an important step forward in believing that the church and the school systems are one.

It is our desire to continue to build a vibrant and active church on the grounds of the Macarthur Adventist College, not just one day a week but seven days of the week! In this way, we are contributing to fulfilling the gospel commission to preach and teach Jesus to those who believe they have no hope and no future. Through God's amazing intervention on our behalf, we are doing just that. **R**

Jill Pearce is principal of Macarthur College in Macquarie Fields, New South Wales.

School for the community

BY JOSHUA YAIWAN

GABENSIS ADVENTIST SCHOOL—near Lae, Papua New Guinea (PNG)—is established in a predominantly Lutheran area, where it has had a strong influence for many years. The school was established in the 1960s, when most of the children who attended the school came from areas Adventists had influenced earlier, including Markham, Menyamy, Kaintiba and Marawaka, with only a few from the communities around the school.

The local community did not allow students and teachers to talk about Adventism in the area. But as the years went by, things started to change. The surrounding communities noted some things were different. The students were not taught only the mental aspect of education but were taught to work, develop skills, be respectful and associate well with the local people, despite the negative perception of Adventism.

The visitation and outreach programs conducted by the teachers and students won the respect of the community leaders. After observing the difference from their previous belief, some parents opposite the school started enrolling their children at Gabensis to find out what it was like to be in an Adventist school. The general perception of the people changed after seeing the first group of students. More parents were keen to send their children to the school but the high school fees charged became a barrier because many could not afford it.

When the current education reform in PNG was introduced by the government in 1993, the Seventh-day Adventist school system took the reform on board. Two years later, Gabensis became one of the first Adventist schools in PNG to take on grades 7 and 8. But the high school fees remained a burden, with many students not able to enrol at the school.

Between 1998 and 2000, Gabensis Adventist School made a breakthrough with the school adopting a school uniform and forming the school choir. A singing ministry was started by the school to market Christian education, telling others about

Jesus through the singing ministry. The choir took part in ACTS 2000 and Mark Finley's evangelistic program in Lae. The choir also participated in special programs, such as funerals and other occasions. At times, the whole school would be invited to sing whenever deaths occurred. The school gained popularity, establishing good relationships in the local community.

From time to time, the local community has been invited to support school fundraising activities and other programs. Because of the relationship the school has had with the local community over the years, even though law and order is a major concern in PNG, Gabensis has maintained a high level of respect among the community, providing an environment conducive to work and study.

In 2006, the Adventist school system in PNG joined the Unified National Education System. Teachers in primary and secondary schools started receiving their salary from the Teaching Service Commission. This allowed school fees to drop considerably and alleviated the burden parents have had for many years. Because of this, Adventist schools have seen remarkable increases in enrolments during the past couple of years. Since 2007, Gabensis experienced increasing enrolment as the behaviour and discipline of students, and spiritual programs, attracted more students from the local community to attend.

In 2008, the school took on board the elementary sector with support from the local community because many of the community parents preferred to send their children to an Adventist school. The elementary school had an intake of 47, mainly non-Adventist students. This is a challenge and a huge task, because many parents can see the value of Adventist education and what it can offer for their children.

In 2009, Gabensis Adventist School experienced their largest increase in enrolment



yet. The school enrolled nearly 350 students, which contributed to the intake of grade 3 and 4 meeting national Department of Education requirements to have primary schools from grades 3 to 8. The majority of these students are non-Adventists but they are enjoying the programs the school offers.

Last year, Gabensis Adventist School started a Sabbath school at Gabensis Primary School, a state school seven kilometres away from the school. The headmaster is an Adventist, so he invited the staff and students of Gabensis Adventist School to lead out in singing and Sabbath school. On Sundays, the local Lutheran church congregation frequently invite the staff and students to lead out in singing and preach in their Sunday services. The congregation has been thrilled and blessed with the singing and messages shared. Please pray for us, so that we can continue to share the love of Jesus with others.

We firmly believe the school has set the foundation. In the years to come, we will see many of these non-Adventist children making their stand for the Lord as seeds are being sown. In 2010, we again anticipate record enrolment as the school moves forward to share the love of Jesus with the Gabensis community. **R**

Joshua Yaiwan is principal of Gabensis Adventist School, near Lae, Papua New Guinea.

Changing the world

BY PETER BEAMISH AND JASON HINZE

IF YOU COULD CHANGE THE world in some way, where would you begin? Would you stop people trafficking drugs? Would you address the Western world's consumerist obsession? Would you try and eradicate AIDS from Africa? Would you try to provide clean water for everyone throughout the world? Would you provide shelter for the homeless? Would you feed the hungry? Would you educate the masses?

Many of us start our lives with grand expectations of what we would like to achieve. Kids want to save the world. They often want to be firefighters, police officers and nurses. These are high-profile professions who make a difference. But a bit like the free expression and creativity that we exhibit in kindergarten, life has a way of diluting our personal goals and expectations. Somewhere, it can all get lost. Yet deep inside each one of us is the nagging thought that we should be doing more. Just as children want to be like their dad, we should aspire to be like our heavenly Father. Matthew 25 leaves us in no doubt that we should be ministering to the "least of these."

But what gets in the way? Many young people are egocentric and as they pursue personal happiness, it becomes all about them. They engage with the world through school and university studies but rarely focus outside themselves. They chase pleasure and are seduced by the quick fix offered by chemical and social stimulants. Yet if we want our lives to be happy and fulfilling, we need to look outside of ourselves. We need the long-term fix provided by developing relationships, especially with those less fortunate than ourselves. The young people who fill our schools and colleges are up to the task, and the armies of them involved in STORM Co programs bear witness that they can do something to make a difference.



here from Australia, it feels more like we have been transported to a different world. This world is full of children, with more than 160 orphans, 35 additional boarding students, and more than 150 other kids from the local villages. This world is tough. If the mosquito nets

At Avondale College, we aspire to a "greater vision of world needs." Many young people—and some not so young—are called to teaching because they want to make a difference. Research into why people choose to become teachers has identified that teaching is perceived as more than a job. More than a career, it is a calling. People want to be involved in a profession that is transformative. Lives can be changed and futures secured.

While there are many teacher-education courses around the country, Avondale has always had a different focus. Avondale's courses present a Christ-centred approach to teaching and learning. They encourage young people to fully embrace the idea of ministry and service in the classroom and wider community. But this does not always happen within the confines of the college. Earlier this year, 19 Avondale College students joined 70 Gilson College students in exploring the wilderness in Tasmania. A few months later, 10 Avondale students travelled to India. And as we are writing this, we are sitting on a verandah in Cambodia, surrounded by children. We are here with 20 Avondale teacher-education students who are teaching at the Wat Preah Yesu orphanage and school.

While it only took us nine hours to fly

at night that keep out malaria, or the never-ending sweat dripping from your face, or the lack of electricity and running water are not enough reminder of the harshness of this world, we are sure we will never forget the faces of the 35 children living at the school who are HIV-positive. But this world is also great—in some aspects, better than our own. Girls hold hands while riding bikes. Year 10 boys love to sing. Laughter is the immediate reaction to almost all situations. The people in this world definitely understand the value of real community and a relationship with God, and they exhibit love in everything they do.

It's why we are here that goes to the core of Avondale's courses. We feel as if we are following in Jesus' footsteps. Jesus was passionate about service. While He spoke often of the need to help others, His daily life was the greatest testimony to the happiness that can be found in serving others. The 20 Avondale student teachers have taken over the school and are currently teaching the 350 Khmer children. This frees the local teachers to attend the professional development courses we run. In the afternoons, the local teachers are able to observe our student teachers in action, and this promotes the transfer of creative pedagogical ideas and quality teaching practices.

In addition to their teaching responsibilities, each of our student teachers has selected to be involved in a project where they interact with the local school community. With so many children, at the end of each school day the Avondale students are instantly absorbed into the multitude. Some can be found teaching the older children to play guitar; others can be found in the orphanages and dormitories reading, talking and playing; while others are working on buildings and playgrounds that need fixing. One of our students, after identifying the love that a visually-impaired orphan has for music, has chosen to spend some time each day teaching him piano.

These projects are important as they immerse the student teachers in the lives of the local community. Jesus understood clearly the importance of building relationships with people as the first step in discipleship. If we are to be effective teachers, lecturers or evangelists, we must also demonstrate a commitment to forming real relationships with any communities we are hoping to impact.

While service learning greatly assists the communities we visit, it is transformational for the Avondale students involved. It helps our students become better teachers. Avondale students improve their pedagogical skills as they push through the language barrier using innovation and creativity. Though it is hard work, student teachers recognise the fundamental importance of education and return from service trips with an increased commitment to teaching.

Service learning also helps Avondale students become better people. They return with an expanded world view, and become more resilient as they learn to endure hardship in a positive and uplifting way. The words of Paul in Romans 5 ring true and become the motto of the trip: "We gladly suffer, because we know that suffering helps us to endure. And endurance builds character, which gives us a hope that will never disappoint us" (verses 3-5, CEV).

Research also tells us that students who take part in service activities are less likely to engage in high-risk behaviours. As a result of helping others, they are more likely to engage in healthy behaviours and even do better in their course of study. What is really encouraging is that students are also more likely to stay in church and contribute to their church community. In an era when many young people are becoming disillusioned with church participation, it is great to know that service activities are helping them to stay where they are needed.

But why are we really here? Our students grow a lot during the experience and certainly the schools, teachers and students have few material possessions. They certainly qualify as the "least of these." By being here and serving in this place, we know we are doing and not just talking about it. We are making a difference. Young people in classrooms around the world are waiting for teachers to come and impact their lives. But don't just sit there reading this and think it's great that young people are rising to the challenge. Do something yourself. Answer God's call to go. Think about the words of a student teacher here with us: "This trip has shown me the great value of Christian education to the world. The world needs me." **R**

Peter Beamish and Jason Hinze are lecturers in the Faculty of Education at Avondale College, based in Cooranbong, New South Wales.

Record Roo



Hi kids!
The Israelites had done their fair share of complaining since they left Egypt but now they were at it again! What was wrong this time?

Bible Text

... But the _____ grew _____ along the way; they spoke against _____ and against _____, and said, "Why have you _____ us up out of _____ to _____ in the _____? There is no _____! There is no _____! And we _____ this miserable _____!" Numbers 21:5, NIV.

Unscramble

The Bible tells us that God sent venomous snakes among the people. Many of the Israelites died from being bitten. Below are the names of some types of snakes found in the Bible lands. See if you can unscramble the names.

1. RACBO _____
2. PREVI _____
3. LASKCANBEK _____

Read

Read the rest of the story (in Numbers 21:4-9) to find out what happened to some of the other Israelites who were bitten by the snakes.

Word Search



PEOPLE, IMPATIENT, COMPLAIN, DESERT, BREAD, WATER, FOOD, VENEMOUS, SNAKES, BITTEN.

Answers: 1. Cobra, 2. Viper, 3. Blacksnake.

It's stealing!

ELISSA MILNE, NSW

What excellent news—the gospel commission has eradicated the need to keep the commandments! At last, Christianity has entered the “real” world where the ends—conversion—justify the means—theft (“Christians and copyright,” Perspective, July 25).

I share this article's approach to my life, and thus have been driving a Maserati for the past six months that I nicked from the local car dealer. He was a bit peeved but I explained to him that he wasn't losing a sale as I could never have afforded the vehicle in the first place. That seemed completely reasonable to him, as it would to anyone who doesn't find themselves in a financial position to buy whatever they want.

I have also found some other great reasons to not bother paying for the things I use. Lettuces come to mind. When I lived alone, I could never get through a lettuce before it went off, so I took to just taking the leaves I required off the lettuce head at my local greengrocer. She wasn't too impressed until I explained that I didn't want the whole lettuce, so it was unfair to expect me to pay for it.

Many Christians use these same rationales when they approach intellectual property, so I know I'm in great company! But perhaps Christians don't understand that the *only* way creators of intellectual property get paid is via royalties. The suggestion that composers of songs can find other ways to make a living is a great one—if you want those composers of songs to start working at supermarkets or as labourers and stop writing Jesus songs.

I suspect that the writer is representing exactly what Christians are doing every single day, both with intellectual property that might convert people and intellectual property they simply want the benefit of on a personal level. By their actions, didn't someone state, ye shall know them?

DANIEL MATTEO, NSW

It would be nice if independent Christian authors, publishers and musicians allowed us more freedom to use their material for evangelistic purposes. But we have no right to presume on this charity.

Recording an album is expensive and the artists deserve remuneration, not to men-

tion translating and publishing the entire biblical canon. After all, it was Jesus who said in Luke 10:7, “The worker deserves his wages” (NIV). This principle is endorsed by Ellen White in *The Publishing Ministry* (page 231).

It is not up to us who do not produce Christian media to judge what artists, authors and publishers should or shouldn't do with their royalties and copyrights. That is a stewardship matter between them and God. We need to follow the laws of the land (see Romans 13:2), which includes stringent copyright laws.

It is not up to us . . . what artists, authors and publishers should or shouldn't do with their royalties and copyrights.

A prophetic flyswat?

GEOFF BEISSNER, NZ

When reading “Sporting temptation” (Letters, July 18), I was distressed to note that the letter, in selectively isolating a real concern of Ellen White, failed to present any of the many affirming statements she made regarding the value of activity and exercise. All too frequently, when quotes of this kind are used in such a way as to portray Ellen White as a stern Victorian spinster, we risk losing another young person—not because of the allure of sports (which is real) but by negating and minimising their experiences in the name of God.

Some years ago, while I was working with emotionally-disturbed children, I was approached by a psychologist who was most concerned about a young patient who was terrified by “Mrs White.” The psychologist's concern related to the fact that to this nine-year-old child, “Mrs White” had become so equated with condemnation, negative statements and restrictions that her name was sufficient to trigger nightmares, and feelings of guilt and inadequacy.

I do not wish in any way to minimise the right of a prophet to reprove, rebuke or advise caution but the tenor of the communication is as important as the content, and to use a prophet selectively as a flyswatter is abusive and potentially damaging to those most vulnerable—our young people.

Avoiding extremes

NAME SUPPLIED

It was interesting to read “Sporting temptation,” expressing the idea that Ellen White speaks “against involvement in sports.” References supporting this notion are cited and one is quoted. However, it is ironic that only one of these references hints at such a presupposition.

Ellen White certainly did condemn football and boxing, which she described as “schools of brutality” (*Education*, page

210), and so would we all if we knew the historical context. In those early days, people would die in brawls on the playing field and boxing was largely a bare-knuckled, knock-out business.

However, in almost every other case where Ellen White mentions sports and recreation, she speaks against the way in which it is often conducted, not so much the activity itself. This is made clear in such statements as the following in a letter to a student in New Zealand: “I do not condemn the simple exercise of playing ball; but this, even in its simplicity, may be overdone” (*The Adventist Home*, page 499).

She always encouraged physical exercise, which would naturally include sporting and other recreational activities. Her caution regarding such usually revolved around the temptation of excessiveness, obsession and over-competitiveness. She was concerned that sports would distract some people from the more important things of life.

The underlying principle we find here can be applied not only to sports but to every aspect of life. Whatever gets your attention, gets you!

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

▲ **Country Director—ADRA Papua New Guinea (Lae, PNG).** The Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Ltd is seeking to appoint a country director to provide visionary and strategic leadership to ADRA PNG, so it fulfils its mission as the humanitarian development agency of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in PNG. For more information, please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website on <<http://adventistemployment.org.au>>. All written applications, including your CV, three work-related referees and the contact details of your church pastor, must be forwarded to Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Ltd, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076 Australia; email <hr@adventist.org.au>; fax (02) 9489 0943. Applications close **August 21, 2009.**

▲ **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 Brian Mercer, Director of Education, Adventist Schools Victoria, PO Box 215, Nunawading, Victoria, 3140 or by email to <bmercer@adventist.org.au>.

▲ **Cashier—Seventh-day Adventist Church (North NSW Conference) Ltd (Newcastle, NSW),** is seeking the services of a cashier. This is an integral role involving the receipting and banking of all funds coming into the office, and processing tithe and offering reports from local churches. The successful applicant will have excellent oral and written communication skills, be well organised and able to work to deadlines, display a sound understanding of basic accounting practices, procedures and GST compliance, and be committed to the teaching, values and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The successful applicant will be proficient in Microsoft Excel and competency in Sun Systems will be highly regarded. For further information, contact the Assistant Chief Financial Officer, Greg Fowler, PO Box 7, WallSEND NSW 2287; email <gregfowler@adventist.org.au>; or phone (02) 4951 8088. Applications close **August 24, 2009.**

For more employment options go to adventistemployment.org.au



Volunteers!

Volunteer teachers—Tonga. Volunteer teachers required for Tonga 2010 for 12 months. Mizpah school needs an English teacher for forms 5 and 6. Beulah College needs English and Maths/Science teachers. Beulah Primary School needs a Primary schoolteacher. For more information, please contact Siosaia Vaihola <svaihola@adventist.org.to>.

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>.

Email:

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

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Auckland. All their married life they have supported the church in whichever district they were living and held various church offices, including deacon, deaconess, SS teacher and JMV teacher positions. Hugh and Nell have spent a lifetime loving and serving their Heavenly Father. They are wonderful Christian role models who support their family and others who share their lives.

Weddings

Blunt—Padillo. Daniel Blunt (Casino, NSW) and Rhysma Padillo (Philippines) were married 28.6.09 in Lismore.

Paul Von Bratt

Cameron—Archer. Stuart Benjamin Cameron, son of Hugh and Suzanne Cameron (Palmwoods, Qld), and Natasha Kay Archer, daughter of Steven and Kay Archer (Gympie), were married on 17.5.09 at the Lake McDonald Botanical Gardens, Cooroy.

David Reilly

Europa—Truscott. Edward Allan Europa, son of Ricardo Europa (Philippines) and Yolanda Norico (Esk, Qld) and Julia Anne Truscott, daughter of William and Barbara Truscott (Sydney, NSW), were married 23.5.09 at Ballarat St, Mt Gravatt, Qld. The evening ceremony was beautiful despite the rain.

William Strickland

Jenkins—Patton. Christopher Jenkins, son of Denis and Jillian Jenkins (Berowra, NSW), and Kathryn Patton, daughter of Robert and Carol Patton

(Tauranga, NZ), were married 17.3.09 in The Elms Historic church, Tauranga. The day was blessed with 160 mm of rain. The couple are now travelling in China.

Lloyd Grolimund, Pat Downey

Lutubutu—Ramo. Laitia (Lai) Lutubutu and Unaisi (Una) Ramoa were married 14.6.09 in traditional Fijian costume at the Blenheim church. Friends and Church family shared the happy occasion.

Paul Gredig

Thew—Walker. Phillip Melvin Charles Thew, son of Richard and Carolyn Thew (Gympie, Qld), and Anita Joy Walker, daughter of Kenneth and Robyn Walker (Brisbane), were married 12.7.09 in Broadway Chapel, Woolloongabba. Family and friends gathered from around Australia for this joyous occasion.

William Strickland

Obituaries

Baskey, Lena Alice Caroline, born 15.12.1914 in Perth, WA; died 5.7.09 in Bethshan Aged Care, Wye, NSW. Aunty Lena devoted her time and life to the wellbeing of her close relatives. Lena was, in her younger days, a sought-after fashion seamstress. Her love of life and the beauties of nature gave her inspiration and exuberance in being God's unserving servant. Lena will be sadly missed by her two nieces and their families.

Alan Saunders

Devonshire, Raita (nee Reihana), born 17.5.1924 at Foxton, NZ; died 17.4.09 in Bethesda Rest Home, Manukau City, NNZ. She is survived by her children and their families, Ted and Marilyn, Lorraine and Peter Bell, Libby Lance, Linda and Roger Marshall, Elizabeth and Colin Buckland, Robyn Devonshire, Jacqui and Tony Wall, Karyn Devonshire, and Toni and Fraser Langbein; her 18 grandchildren and her 26 great-grandchildren. Raita was a member of the Wanganui church for many years and was actively involved in leadership roles. When she became a resident at Bethesda Rest Home, she also took an active role in worship services and Bible studies. She was devoted to her family, and a committed and dedicated member of the church. She will be sadly missed by all. Raita had a strong faith and trust in the Lord, and now rests in peace awaiting His return.

Ben Timothy, Clive Newson

Fitzclarence, David, born 14.12.1937 at Orbost, Vic; died 21.1.09 in the Mercy Hospice, Waratah, NSW. On 5.4.1959, he married Eunice Hope McMahon. He was survived by his wife; and children, Sandra Davis (McMaster's Beach), Rodney (Belmont), Gaye Southon (Rosedale, Qld) and Cindy Geelan (Dural, NSW); his 11 grandchildren and his one great-grandchild. David, a retired ambulance officer, enriched the lives of everyone he met. He received four commendations for bravery during his working life in ambu-

Anniversaries

Ford, Malcolm and Marney (nee Halkett), celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 23 with three generations of their family. They met at Longburn College, NZ, in 1947, and



were married in the first Whangarei Adventist church (Norfolk Street) on May 26, 1949. They thank the Lord for His many blessings through the years.

Marter, Leo and Enid, were married April 18, 1949, at Hawera Anglican church, NZ. Leo was raised Presbyterian and Enid, Anglican. It was Leo's sister that led them to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They celebrated with an open home for friends at Omokoroa and a celebration meal with their family the next day. Family from Sydney, NSW, Helen and Phil Larsen and Judith and Martin Long, along with granddaughter, Brooke Larsen,



celebrated the occasion at Mills Reef, Tauranga.

Tooley, Hugh and Nellie (nee Hannam) were married in the Palmerston North church, NNZ, on 22 February 1949. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with family and friends in the Retirement Village in Manukau City, NNZ. They met at the Timaru SDA church, SNZ, while Nell was teaching in the local area and Hugh was working on the family farm. Their two sons, Bruce and Pastor Cranville and their wives, Judi and Rona, along with their six grandchildren, two granddaughters-in-law and three great-grandchildren were all able to be present for the celebration. Congratulatory messages were received from the Queen, the Governor-general and other dignitaries. Hugh and Nell spent much of their working life and early retirement years in the Taranaki/Wanganui areas, before shifting to Bethesda Retirement Village in

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REMINISCEWORSHIPRELAX

lance rescue work. David was a quiet and unassuming man. He served his family with multiple handyman skills and his church family as a faithful deacon for most of his adult life. Now, he rests from his labours. We miss him and wait for the Resurrection morning, when we'll all be united again.

AJ Grant

Howell, Robert William, born 10.11.1941 at Hamilton, Vic; died 1.7.09 in Tweed Heads Hospital, NSW. He is survived by his wife, Laurel (nee Parmenter) (Tweed Heads), Craig (Vic), Donna (Vic) and Kim (WA). Bob loved his Lord and family. He now rests in peace, waiting for the Master's call.

Ken Martin, Warren Price

Ingram, Gladys (nee Middleton), born 8.3.1911; died 22.6.09 in Bethesda Rest Home, Manukau City, North NZ. She was predeceased by her husband, Ernie, and her daughter, Pauline McGuinness. She is survived by her children, Les, Colin and Sylvia; her nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She is now resting in the Lord, awaiting the Resurrection. Sadly missed by family and friends.

Clive Newson

Nelson, Stella Irene (nee Wiggins), born 2.8.1917 in Hobart, Tas; died 28.6.09 in Vic. After her mother's death when she was five, Irene was raised by extended family in NSW and WA. She met her future husband, Eric, at Busselton, WA, when both were students at Carmel College. In 1940, they were the first couple married in the new Warburton church.

They shared 53 years together until Eric's death in 1993. Much of her working life was spent between Victoria and Perth, WA, working for Signs Publishing, Sanitarium and Betta Health Foods. Her daughters, Narelle (Perth) and Roslyn Currey (Singapore), and grandsons, Rohan (NZ) and Dane (Shanghai, China) along with an extensive Adventist family network farewell a grand lady who loved generously. Irene's ashes will be buried with her husband in Victoria at a later family gathering.

Peter Fowler

O'Connor, Thomas Henry, born 25.8.1925; died 1.7.09. Thomas was the eighth of thirteen children born to Joseph and Rose, railway workers at Mingenew, WA. He married Gloria Wilson (deceased) in 1948, after serving three years in the RAAF. He is survived by his daughter, Margaret (Narrogin), and two special foster children, Roz (Allanson) and Ray (Collie) and their families. Uncomplaining even in great pain, Tom served his Lord diligently and went to his rest after a prolonged illness, hoping to hear his Lord pronounce, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Jann Laver

Ormsby, Gladys Grace (nee Miles), born 27.6.1915 at Kihikihi, NZ; died 20.4.09 in Bethesda Rest Home, Manukau City, NNZ. She was married to Albert Ormsby (deceased). She is survived by her children, Kay, Reo, Marion, Wren and Stafford; her 10 grandchildren; and her eight great-grandchildren. Gladys was baptised by Pastor Parker in the old Hamilton

church in 1951. She was a devoted mother to her children and a faithful worker for the Lord. She is now resting in Jesus and waiting for the Resurrection morning. She is sadly missed by her family and many friends.

Clive Newson

Southwell, Pastor George Ernest John, born 5.6.1914; died 14.5.09 at Coorabong, NSW. George was survived by his wife, Norma, (now deceased), his daughter, Pam, and her husband, Max; his son, Bob, and wife, Rosalie; his six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. George felt called to the ministry and graduated from Avondale College in 1942. He was first appointed to the Victorian conference, where he was later ordained. In 1952, he was appointed assistant Youth director under the leadership of Pastor Claude Judd and, later, Pastor Ken Mead. Together, they introduced the new Pathfinder program and developed a strong Guide and Master Guide program. George was a specialist in nature study and held the youth spellbound with his intimate knowledge of bird and animal life. He was an expert at mimicking the sounds of scores of birds. In retirement, he spent seven years caring for Yarrhapinni Youth and Ecology Centre. He helped to establish the first Spanish church in Sydney and learned their language. He regularly preached at the Spanish church in Newcastle. Pastor Ricardo Olivares preached the funeral service and the large number of Spanish people present showed their love and respect. He died cherishing the blessed hope.

Ricardo Olivares, Claude D Judd

Southwell, Carre Norma (nee Stafford), born 8.9.1919; died 13.7.09 at Coorabong, NSW. She was predeceased by her husband, Pastor George Southwell. She is survived by her children—her daughter, Pam, and husband, Max; her son, Bob, and wife, Rosalie; and her six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Norma loyally supported her husband in pastoring churches in the Victorian Conference Youth Department and at Carmel College. Both were lovers of nature and gave seven years of their retirement looking after Yarrhapinni Youth and Ecology Centre in NSW. Norma was an accomplished artist, as her paintings testify. She had a firm faith in Jesus and now sleeps as she waits for our Lord's return.

Claude D Judd.

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reunite remember celebrate

Friday, 30 October - Sunday, 1 November



Friday, 30 October

Enjoy a School Family Breakfast with past, present and future students, staff and families.

Gather together for a memorable evening program as we reflect on the past.

Saturday, 31 October

Celebrate and remember as we give thanks to God for His leading and look towards the future in a special worship service.

Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the school grounds and take some time to explore the campus and classrooms.

Reunite for an evening full of fun and games at an 'old school' games night.

Sunday, 1 November

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