

RECORD

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CARMEL, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Renewing the Adventist movement by creating significant lives and transforming communities was the theme of Life Renewal 2009, a training seminar organised by the Western Australian Conference (WAC).

Close to 240 people attended the event, which ran from July 3 to 5 and was designed to train church members in different aspects of ministry. The event was held at Carmel Adventist College.

WAC president Pastor Glenn Townend says, "It was a great weekend. To see so many people come and learn how to be better disciples for Jesus was very gratifying."

Participants signed up for workshops in leadership, mentoring, personal evangelism, women's ministry, health and a number of other topics. Marilyn Overheu, an elder at Esperance church, says, "The classes I attended were really well run. We learnt a lot in a short time."

Several teachers found the time to attend Life Renewal 2009 with the commencement of school holidays. Rhonda Belson, principal at Landsdale Gardens Adventist School, admits she felt tired before the weekend's seminar. "I came ready for sleep," she says, "[but] am leaving feeling

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Many people have met God through words on pages.

Just writers

ONE OF MY COLLEAGUES RECENTLY overheard someone say of he and I, “What would they know? They’re just writers.” Which just goes to show that if you overhear things others say, there’s no guarantee you’ll hear something nice.

It would seem the person making this comment was dismissing our opinions because we were just people who come up with combinations of words, push them around a page and make sentences which ultimately may or may not add up to much.

And yet, I think we have been privileged and blessed to be part of something much bigger by being “just writers.” By this, I mean being part of the Adventist Church’s publishing work. Many years ago, Ellen White wrote, “The publications sent forth from our printing houses are to prepare a people to meet God” (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol 7, page 139). To be part of that is a huge honour, as well as a big responsibility.

Many people have met God through words on pages, whether they’re ones contained within the cover of a Bible or other Christian texts. The importance and power of the written word cannot be underestimated—the Bible still has power thousands of years after its chapters were first transcribed. Works by writers such as Ellen White, C S Lewis, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Adrian Plass and Philip Yancey continue to make a difference for God in the lives of people every day.

Without God, we are *just* writers. But

He gives us more than that and hopefully makes us writers who are just.

Ellen White also says, “Our publishing institutions are to exalt the claims of God’s downtrodden law. Standing before the world as reformers, they are to show that the law of God is the foundation of all enduring reform” (*Testimonies*, Vol 7, page 139). If God’s will is to be done on earth as it is in heaven, we can’t sit around waiting for the reform to happen on its own. We have to get our hands dirty by doing justly—while loving mercy and walking humbly with our God (see Micah 6:8).

But in his excellent book *Swimming Against the Current*, Chris Blake asks, “How in the world can Adventists ‘do justly’ when we do not communicate justly?” (page 96). As much as we like to pretend the church gets it right all the time, there are definitely times when it does not communicate justly. Integrity, excellence and relevance doesn’t involve ignoring realities in the world or in the church. We can’t help people “in the world” with specks in their eyes when we’ve got diving-board sized planks in our own eyes.

As Christians, we sometimes misdirect our calling by getting concerned about organising who will do the bulletin for the week or arguing about updating the church decor, including multiple board meetings on the subject of moving the piano five feet from where it’s been located for the past 300 years.

This can mean we miss the issues crying out for our attention. There are social, po-

litical and spiritual issues begging for comment and response, especially from those who claim to be Christian—regardless of whether or not they’re writers.

Silence may be golden but not when it comes to matters of injustice—as Martin Luther King Jr said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” Adventist writers are encouraged in *Testimonies*, Vol 7, to cooperate with Christ in building faith and following divine principle. Justice is part of divine principle, tempered with mercy, grace and love.

Isaiah 1:17 tells us to seek justice, correct oppression, defend the fatherless and plead for the widows. Early Adventists were far from silent on issues of social justice. Now days, we suffer from socio-political issue fear, meaning we miss opportunities to promote justice and ethical behaviour.

Communicating justly is only part of what we can do to translate the word of God into actions that mean something in the lives of others. As we have less time to share God’s word with people, the importance of how and what we communicate becomes greater. We cannot end up as an outdated, useless pile of “verbiage.” It doesn’t help us, it doesn’t help others and it doesn’t help God.

The work we do isn’t ours but God’s. And that’s not “just” we writers—it’s all of us as Christians. After all, the time is always right to do the right thing.

Adele Nash



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

ADRA starts new project in Solomon Islands

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

On August 1, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia commenced an \$A3 million project in the Solomon Islands to improve the livelihood opportunities, resiliency and community engagement of young people in North Malaita and East Guadalcanal.

Having successfully completed the design phase for the five-year project, ADRA has begun the implementation of activities that will help communities better understand the needs of young people and how to address them. The project, which is being funded by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), will specifically address the areas of income and employment, connectedness to community and resiliency to at-risk behaviours.

“The commencement of this project is exciting for ADRA, coming after many months of preparation by staff in both Australia and the Solomon Islands,” says Jonathan Duffy, ADRA Australia’s Chief Executive Officer. “This is one of several large grants we have successfully bid for and reveals the confidence that AusAID has in ADRA’s ability to appropriately and sustainably meet people’s needs, and really make a difference in their lives.”

Approximately 33 per cent of the Solomon Island population is under the age of 29, with

this figure set to rise. Many young people are increasingly looking for ways to participate in the cash economy, pushing large numbers to migrate to urban areas. In a country where 80 per cent of the population is engaged in subsistence farming in rural areas, the movement of young people from the country to urban areas is placing great strain on employment and education opportunities. There are large populations of underemployed and undereducated youth in city areas.

ADRA’s Youth Engagement and Livelihood Project will work with organisations such as youth groups, sporting clubs, community learning centres and church leadership groups to address these issues. The early phase of the project will focus on consulting with young people and community members about the needs of each village, and how the community can meet those needs.

Rebecca Reye, ADRA Australia’s program coordinator for the Solomon Islands, says the project will use the community’s own strengths to provide the solutions.

“Instead of telling a community what it needs and then providing the materials to do that, this project is asking communities to identify their own barriers to development and also their own areas of strength,” she says. “This approach acknowledges that there are positive aspects to every community, no matter how underdeveloped they currently are,

and they have something to offer in building a better future for themselves and generations to come.”

Once communities have identified their needs and strengths in relation to youth, ADRA will facilitate opportunities for livelihood training, supply of materials and improved access to markets. The training will include areas such as how to run a small business, being financially literate and how to handle personal finances. Vocational training will be in areas of interest, such as sewing and textiles, furniture making, weaving, crafts, carpentry, and agriculture production.

ADRA’s project also aims to increase youth resiliency by educating them and other community members and providing information on the effects of at-risk behaviours. In addition, the project aims to encourage greater acceptance of, appreciation for and participation of young people in the wider community.

The project is a partnership between ADRA Australia and ADRA Solomon Islands. It is part of AusAID’s Solomon Islands NGO Partnership Agreement, which has provided \$A20 million dollars to Australian non-government organisations (NGOs) to improve the health and livelihood opportunities of Solomon Islanders, particularly women and young people, over the next five years.—*Candice Jaques*

More @ www.adra.org.au



◆ Over the weekend of July 24 to 25, Nambour church on the Sunshine Coast, Qld, had the privilege of listening to visiting speaker **Dr Allan Lindsay** (pictured right, with Pastor Joe Webb, left). Nambour church, which has a capacity of around 200, was full to overflowing. On the Friday night, Dr Lindsay spoke on “**The Left Behind**”

deception, which laid the basis for the two Sabbath afternoon meetings. The topics of the meetings were “**The Secret Rapture of God’s people and the seven years of tribulation that follow—fact or fiction?**” and “**The appearance of the Antichrist—a future solitary figure or a present reality?**” These meetings were a real “feast” of Bible-based facts. All who attended were richly informed, blessed, and went away with a revived, living faith in the word of God.—*Elsie Scott*



◆ In the second week of the July school holidays, **Clarkson Seventh-day Adventist Community church, WA**, ran a kids’ club “**Kool Kids Korner**,” with many of the **39 children** who attended coming for the third year in a row. **Pastor Steve Goods** and **Brad Thomas**, along with **puppets Screech** and **Rover**, led out with enthusiastic Bible Heroes stories. The children

helped tell the stories and had fun dressing up and acting them out. Guest presenters included **James the Cartoonist**, **Whitfords Sea Rescue Unit**, **Sharing the Dreaming** from the **Aboriginal Heritage Unit** and the **RSPCA** on caring for your pets. Seven gift Bibles were distributed to children who didn’t have one of their own. Five Pathfinders had fun with the puppets and crafts as they helped out and gained some community service time as part of their Pathfinder requirements. The Friday concert was enjoyed by quite a few mums and dads.—*Janet Cavilla*

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Men fellowship at Mount Hutt

METHVEN, NEW ZEALAND

Around 100 men gathered at the Mount Hutt Retreat for the South New Zealand Conference's men's fellowship weekend from June 26 to 28. Many attendees had been to previous retreats but a number of men were experiencing the fellowship weekend for the first time.

Pastor Paul Gredig, who leads the Blenheim church, attended the weekend retreat and says, "The annual weekend event is a great time to renew friendships and meet new friends. This weekend proved to be of the same high standard that has characterised previous fellowship weekends, and Mount Hutt Retreat was a fitting venue for another spiritually-filled smorgasbord."

The weekend began for the men with a hike at the nearby Sharplin Falls. It was followed by a weekend of worship and fellowship, which included Warwick Pascoe, presenter for DC Communications, giving a talk on "The miracle of life," which Pastor Gredig says was "a fascinating learning experience, which upheld God's incredible power and love."

A group of men from Vanuatu who are



A group of men from Vanuatu sang at the men's fellowship weekend, held at Mount Hutt Retreat.

currently working in Blenheim attended the retreat and presented a number of musical items.

Team members of It Is Written Oceania (IIWO) attended the weekend, and Daniel Livingston, manager for IIWO, shared his testimony with the men.

Pastor Gary Kent, director and speaker for IIWO, shared stories about God's working in the lives of people who he has met through his work. Pastor Kent also gave presentations on the importance of Bible study and a closer walk with Jesus.

Pastor Gredig says, "All those in attendance were indebted to Mark Sowerby and his committee for the planning, organising and running of another wonderful weekend that left participants desiring to come again next year."—*RECORD staff/Paul Gredig*

Pathfinders gather in Oshkosh

OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN, US

Adventists from the South Pacific Division played a big part at the international Pathfinder camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, US, from August 11 to 15.

Not only did 150 Pathfinders from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific islands join their international counterparts at the event, Pastor Murray Hunter, senior chaplain at Northpine Christian College in Queensland, was the keynote speaker.

The camporee's theme was "Courage to stand," and approximately 35,000 Pathfinders attended the event, which is held every five years. They represented more than 100 countries.

Camporee attendees took part in daily activities, which included service projects, such as work at the Little Oshkosh playground, the Paine Art Center and Gardens and the Heckrodt Wetland Reserve in Menasha.

Night programs consisted of the stage program, which featured a nightly presentation of a play based on the Bible character Esther. A nightly two-hour broadcast from the camporee was shown on Hope Channel.—*Melody Tan*

More @ <http://www.adventistyouth.org/cts/gallery.php>



◆ Looking for a way for the **Mildura church, Vic**, to be active in its community, four **stay-at-home mums** decided to start a **playgroup** in the church hall. With the support of the local church, the team set about purchasing play equipment and getting the word out to their friends in the community that a new playgroup was about to

begin. **Little Fish Community Playgroup** opened the doors of the Mildura church hall to the community on May 11. Coordinators were surprised as **19 children and 10 parents** turned up to have fun and play together on the opening day. More than half of the group were not church members. By the start of July, 14 families were officially registered with the playgroup and 23 families registered with the group's Facebook site. "It is exciting to hear the mums talk about how much they and their kids

look forward to coming to playgroup each week," says coordinator **Juanita McGrath**. It is hoped that this outreach program will be a springboard for other evangelistic programs in the church, such as parenting and healthy living seminars.—*Di Obst*

◆ A small group of church members from **Bairnsdale and Rowville-Lysterfield churches, Vic**, recently travelled to the **Philippines**, where they conducted an **evangelistic program** in a rural village on the



island of **Mindoro**. Held in a tent constructed of bamboo on the grounds of the local school, the series ran from April 28 to May 9. With help from the local Filipinos, **Diana Auld** ran a vacation Bible school program each morning and a Children's Hour each evening. **Rose Hamulczyk**, originally from Mindoro, presented in the

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ AUGUST—SIGNS MONTH

Betty's Clinic opens for Pacific Island children

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The South Pacific Division's (SPD) Adventist Health Ministries department has released a new DVD, designed to educate children in the Pacific islands on the dangers of smoking and alcohol.

The 30-minute *Betty's Clinic—Smoking and Alcohol* is a collaboration between the SPD's Adventist Health Ministries and Adventist Children's Ministries, as well as Abide Family Ministries, the team behind the Hope TV children's series *Arnie's Shack*.

"Smoking and alcohol are huge problems in the islands and we have never had appropriate resources for children there," says Dr Chester Kuma, associate director of Adventist Health Ministries for the SPD. "The DVD will meet a huge need. Research has shown that if we educate children when they are primary aged, problem behaviours can be more successfully addressed."

Betty's Clinic is a puppet-based production and includes action songs for children to follow along. It features Tevita and Luci, two young children struggling with questions regarding smoking and alcohol, who visit Nurse Betty for more information.

The two-disc pack also includes teaching



Nurse Betty with Tevita and Luci, who feature in the DVD *Betty's Clinic—Smoking and Alcohol*.

notes and worksheets, as well as a PowerPoint presentation. It will be available for use by every Adventist primary school in the Pacific islands but Dr Kuma has bigger plans for it.

"We want to see *Betty's Clinic* used as part of every school's curriculum in the Pacific," says Dr Kuma.

According to Kevin Price, director of Adventist Health Ministries for the SPD, the Adventist Church in Africa—as well as many non-Christian communities in the Pacific—have already requested copies of *Betty's Clinic*.

There are plans to release two more DVDs in the *Betty's Clinic* series, addressing nutrition, physical activity and personal hygiene.—*Melody Tan*

"2020 vision" focus of Life Renewal 2009

(Continued from page 1)

very blessed and refreshed."

Combined meetings over the weekend allowed participants to gain inspiration through testimonies. During these sessions, keynote speakers emphasised the "2020" vision of the conference: 20000 Adventists, 2000 small groups and 200 churches by the year 2020.

Participants and presenters were "inspired" by the conference's vision. Guest education workshop presenter Kevin Petrie said he felt a sense of "purpose" in the conference "to attempt great things for God."

Dr Harold Waldrip from Victoria, who ran the health training sessions at Life Renewal 2009, said he too picked up the enthusiasm and vitality of WAC.

The Life Renewal training seminars began in 2006 for WAC. Attendance has grown each year.

"Life Renewal started four years ago with 50 people," says Pastor Townend. "I hope it continues to grow and develop our people to better serve Jesus."—*Calvin Chuang*

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

evenings, while her husband, **Leo**, and **Matthew Tiscia** took care of technical details. Unfortunately, the tent collapsed after three days of heavy rain and the meetings had to be continued in a classroom. Up to **120 children** and **30 adults** attended and on the final Sabbath, **19 people** were baptised.—*Intraviv*

◆ **Gantcho Taskov**, a member of the **Macedonian church, Vic**, has an interesting hobby, which he recently put to use on behalf of Victoria's **bush-**

fire survivors. Mr Taskov entered a display in the **Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show** in April this year. Based on the devastation caused by the bushfires, with a focus on regeneration, Mr Taskov used this theme to raise money for those who survived. After five days, he had



collected more than **\$A1000**.—*Intraviv*

◆ Thousands of **Seventh-day Adventist young people** travelled to Germany for the **Pan-European Youth Congress** earlier this month, a five-day event that included a forum for young adults to discuss church issues with regional leadership. The second Pan-Europe Adventist Youth Conference brought together more than **4000 attendees** from **40 countries**. The August 5 to 9 congress featured inspirational speakers and activities, as well

as outreach and learning opportunities. "This [forum] is a unique opportunity to find out about how the Adventist Church works, and how we as young people can help change and reshape it," said **Victor Marley**, youth director for the **Norwegian Union Conference**. More than 300 congress attendees raced in the "Help for Kids" fun run, raising a total of €10,000. The "Help for Kids" initiative provides free lunches, homework assistance, education and health assistance, and holiday trips for underprivileged youth living in Munich.—*ANN*

It Is Written Oceania extends broadcast reach

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

It Is Written Oceania (IIWO) programs are set to begin weekly broadcasts across Papua New Guinea (PNG) from September 6. The program will be shown on the national free-to-air station EmTV.

September 6 will also see the show begin a “new and improved” second timeslot on TV2 in New Zealand at 5.30 am, according to Dr Daniel Livingston, manager of IIWO.

IIWO has also extended its agreement with Channel 7 in Australia to continue throughout 2010 and the program reportedly consistently rates at the top of all weekly religious teaching programs on Australian television. The program features Shawn Boonstra, speaker and director of It Is Written International, and Pastor Gary Kent, speaker and director of IIWO.

A Brisbane community channel—QCTV—began screening IIWO at the end of July. The program screens at midday. Dr Livingston reports a prison inmate in that area is “excited that he no longer needs to get up at 3.30 am to watch the program and has a better opportunity to get other inmates to watch it with him.”

Pastor Kent says, “I’m in awe of what God has done with this television ministry. We started off with no airtime, no money and no possibility of getting the program

on free-to-air television in Australia and New Zealand but just look at what God’s done. I believe it’s part of God’s plan to get the gospel to all the world before Jesus comes.”

Between 50 and 100 requests for free offers of Bible studies and DVDs come through to the Adventist Media Network’s (AMN) Discovery Centre from viewers of the program weekly. Viewers often report sharing the DVDs with others.

IIWO has recently launched a project to make the Bible available on hand-held, solar-powered MP3 players to millions of people in PNG who are illiterate. The “Pidgin Godpod Project” is something Papua New Guinea Union Mission president Pastor Thomas Davai sees as having “great potential.” He says, “The people are so excited about it and those who cannot read or write will greatly benefit from the project.”

AMN CEO Neale Schofield says, “We attribute much of the success [of IIWO] to the wonderful support we receive from Sanitarium, which helps us with media negotiations. Both in Australia and New Zealand, Sanitarium is helping the work of media ministry.”

Dr Livingston says God has continued to lead IIWO. “Recently, one of IIWO’s major broadcasters told the team that the chan-



Shawn Boonstra and Pastor Gary Kent.

nel was going to put all religious preaching programs off prime time and into the early hours of the morning—including IIWO,” he says. “After much prayer, the team gave a presentation on current and planned programs to the head of broadcasting. He was impressed. But even more significantly, just before he arrived to meet with IIWO, he received a call from one of his producers who had just watched an episode and said it was the ‘best program he’d ever seen.’

“At the end of the meeting, the broadcaster promised that IIWO would have a good timeslot. The great news is that from the beginning of August, IIWO has not only maintained its prime-time status but also received improved timeslots. God has truly blessed!”—**RECORD staff/Daniel Livingston**

More @ www.itiswrittenoceania.tv

Program guides are available @ www.itiswrittenoceania.tv/airtimes.

◆ A **Seventh-day Adventist TV series** produced in **Arabic** that addresses women’s issues recently completed the recording of 54 half-hour shows in Beirut, Lebanon. The show, *Maa Umm Salaam (With the Mother of Peace)*, was taped at the newly-renovated, Adventist-owned **Al Waad Media Centre (WMC)** in Beirut. “Having completed the inaugural series in our brand new studio, our team feels a great sense of accomplishment,” said **Amir Ghali**, WMC director and executive producer for the *Umm Salaam* series. Crews worked through the eight

to 10 power outages a day, which are common in Lebanon. The Al Waad “The Promise” Media Centre was established in January 2008 and is located on the campus of the **Middle East University**, an Adventist institution in Beirut. Church leaders say they are now realising their goal of providing culturally-relevant Arabic programming for a new channel to reach the **330 million Arabic speakers** around the world. The channel will be part of the **Hope TV Network**, the official satellite television ministry of the Adventist Church.—**ANN**

◆ The director of Women’s Ministries at the General Conference, **Heather Dawn Small**, has stressed the need to empower and revive **African women** from the shackles of poverty, ignorance, illiteracy and discrimination, which, according to her, has remained a stumbling block to the development of society. She said this during the **Adventist Women’s Ministries International Congress** to mark the **50th Golden Jubilee** of **Babcock University** as an educational institution and 10 years as an accredited private Nigerian uni-

versity, owned and operated by the Adventist Church in Nigeria. “**Touch A Heart, Tell The World**,” the theme of this year’s congress for West-Central Africa in Nigeria, according to Ms Small, is a loud statement to identify with the efforts of the Adventist schools in the ministry. She said that the ministry is reaching out as a voice for the voiceless and hope for the hopeless. She noted that Babcock University is partnering with Adventist Women’s Ministries to bring relief, support and solidarity to women internationally.—**Australian Christian Channel**

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

ASANZ holds fourth convention

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

Students and supporters from around New Zealand gathered for the fourth annual Adventist Student Association of New Zealand (ASANZ) convention, held in Wellington from June 30 to July 5.

The theme of the convention was “Be ye also ready!” and featured a mix of international and local speakers, including Pastor Ed Gallagher, spiritual growth director for the North New Zealand Conference; Pastor Dan Augsburg from the Michigan Conference in the United States; and Dan Vis, founder and director of FAST missions, a training ministry for church members based in the US.

Seminars covering topics such as the Holy Spirit, living an abundant life, evangelism and outreach, Bible memorisation and spiritual development were held.

Reno Paotonu, marketing and communications manager for ASANZ, who coordinated the conference, says, “During the week, delegates were also blessed by a special presentation by Owen Ellis, education director for the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference, which focused on the importance of Adventist education,

with an emphasis on encouraging students to consider teaching as a potential career opportunity.”

One of the key outreach activities was a visit to the New Zealand Parliament, where ASANZ delegates met with Labour Party member Luamunuvao Winnie Laban, spokesperson for the interfaith portfolio. The delegates were given the opportunity to share about the purpose, mission and activities of ASANZ, as well as provide an overview of the Adventist Church.

National president Dianne Sika-Paotonu says, “The meeting was significant in that it provided an opportunity to highlight to an influential leader within the New Zealand Government the important role the Adventist Church plays, both within New Zealand and internationally.”

More than 300 food parcels were delivered to needy families within the Wellington region. Mr Paotonu says, “We have run the food parcel activity every year as part of the convention outreach program but this year has been more significant. We have noticed that families and communities are really struggling to cope with the economic recession. It was definitely a blessing to have an opportunity to help those who are

most in need within the local community.”

Attendees also took part in street witnessing in the Wellington central business district.

A special Sabbath program was held on July 4, involving a panel discussion where delegates were given the opportunity to ask the convention speakers questions on a number of key issues.

ASANZ convention attendee Roy Reyes says, “As a result of the messages from the speakers, warm fellowship and prayers during the convention, I have a new-found love for Jesus and want to dedicate my life to serving Him. For the first time, I’ve felt peace in my heart and owe it all to Him.”

Ms Sika-Paotonu says the significant role of prayer at the convention was a significant highlight. “The emphasis on prayer has been a factor at all ASANZ conventions. As a result, we’ve seen lives transformed, funding for service projects made available and renewed dedication by students and supporters to the work of the church.”

At the end of this year, ASANZ will return to the Philippines to conduct mission work and connect with the Adventist Student Association equivalent in the Philippines.—**RECORD staff/Reno Paotonu**

More @ www.asanz.co.na

Northpoint church finalises property purchase

TULLAMARINE, VICTORIA

After hours of prayer, research and meetings, Northpoint church, with the help of the South Pacific Division (SPD) and the Victorian Conference, have purchased a new church facility, situated a few minutes from the Melbourne International Airport in the heart of Tullamarine.

The church plant began meeting in 2003 and membership has grown steadily. At the beginning of 2007, there was an average of 40 people attending. This year, the number rose to 95 following an evangelistic program. There are also a number of people who attend small groups run by the church.

Northpoint church made a submission for a grant from the SPD, administered by



Northpoint church has purchased a new facility in the heart of Tullamarine.

the Funding Urban Churches Committee. They were successful and obtained a grant of \$A830,000, although the church was still searching for a suitable site at the time of the grant being approved. The Victorian Conference also contributed \$A100,000 toward the purchase of the building.

As the year progressed, attendance

reached maximum capacity and the need for a new church building became “urgent.” The property in Tullamarine becoming available was an “unanticipated miracle,” according to church members.

Pastor Greg Pratt, associate pastor at Northpoint church, says, “Although the site had everything we needed, we had dismissed it as unsuitable because the asking price exceeded what we could afford. We were at a dead end. Properties we were interested in were bought by others or we were unable to get council approval for our plans. It seemed God was leading us back to this one that was way out of our league.”

Following all-night prayer vigils by church members and leadership, they were able to purchase the property at a lower price.—**Intraviv**

The magnificent obsession

BY PETER RAYMER

FOR 24 CONSECUTIVE DAYS, HE HAD been shut up in his room, totally obsessed with his task of capturing in music the inspiration of Christ and His cross. And when the deeply-moved King of England rose to his feet during the presentation of the “Hallelujah Chorus,” he was doing more than setting a precedent. He was paying tribute to the inspired genius of Frederick Handel—a man who had been driven by a magnificent obsession to produce a work which would live forever as a tribute to God, the creator of music.

One of Handel’s biographers wrote: “It was the achievement of a giant inspired—the work of one who, by some extraordinary mental feat, had drawn himself so completely out of the world so that he dwelt—or believed he dwelt—in the pastures of God. . . . He was unconscious of the world during that time, unconscious of its press and call; his whole mind was in a trance. . . . When he had completed Part II, with the ‘Hallelujah Chorus,’ his servant found him at the table, tears streaming from his eyes. ‘I did think I did see all heaven before me, and the great God Himself,’ he exclaimed. . . . Never in his life had he experienced the same emotional sense and he never experienced it in the same measure again. For twenty-four days he knew those uplands reached only by the higher qualities of the soul.”

What cannot be achieved by someone with a “magnificent obsession”? Our world owes a great debt to men and women who have been driven by magnificent obsessions through the centuries.

There was another brilliant man—one of the most brilliant of his time—who also had a magnificent obsession and who subsequently, like Handel, changed the world forever. He described his experience himself: “About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, ‘Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?’” (Acts 22:6, 7*).

This was Saul’s encounter with Jesus



Christ, whose followers he had been relentlessly persecuting. “‘Who are you, Lord?’ I asked. ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,’ he replied” (Acts 22:8).

Saul caught a glimpse of the glory of heaven and heard his great God speaking to him. From that moment, he was driven by an absolutely magnificent obsession: the world for Jesus Christ! His battle cry: “For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2). He repeated the same explosive commitment to the Galatian Christians: “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Galatians 6:14).

This magnificent obsession drove him over hill and valley, along torturous trails, across swirling seas, through the horrific heat of the day and the chilling cold of the night, among wild beasts and even wilder men, until, bleeding and exhausted, he planted the flag of Jesus Christ in the very heart of the Roman Empire—Rome itself! To Saul—now Paul—the preaching of the cross was not an option, it was an obsession: “Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!” he exclaimed (1 Corinthians 9:16).

The salvation of all men was now his great desire. To acquaint them with Jesus

Christ was his only thought. The cross became his food and drink, the dynamic of his inner life until he went to his death, having turned the pagan world upside down. What an achievement!

As we think more deeply, it becomes even more amazing. Today, anything that happens in our world can be brought right into our living rooms—but not in Paul’s day. Anyway, who was interested in anything that happened in Palestine? There were far more important matters to occupy the attention of a Roman-dominated world: wars to fight, fortunes to make, politics to play and sensual pleasures to enjoy.

The trial and subsequent crucifixion of an unknown Galilean was not an issue for the world of the time. Most of the world knew nothing about it and could not have cared less if it did. It was totally insignificant. But seemingly insignificant events have changed the course of history!

On Calvary, as Jesus was hanging naked, bleeding and dying, suspended between heaven and earth, “a holy nation” was being born, comprising all who believe in Jesus as Lord and Saviour, destined to envelop the whole world. The cross was the greatest event in the history of the world: “Christ’s death proves God’s great love for man. It is the pledge of our salvation. To remove the cross from the Christian would be like blotting the sun from the sky. The cross brings us near to God, reconciling us to Him. . . . Without the cross, man could have no connection with the Father. On it hangs our every hope” (Ellen White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, page 209).

Is it any wonder then that Paul should make the exclamations he does about the cross of Christ? He had found it to be the answer to life and was determined to reveal to everyone how it could be the answer in their lives as well.

But did the Greco-Roman world need the cross? They had a plethora of gods—why did they need another one? Their civilisation afforded them everything their hearts desired. It was a great culture. The Greek

poets are still read today, as are Roman writers like Plutarch, Virgil and Tacitus. Herodotus was known as the father of history. Thucydides was the first scientific historian. Their culture was famous for its philosophers, doctors, soldiers, athletes, economic system and international trade. Did they really need the cross?

The answer came vividly to Paul in a dream while he was in Troas. He and Silas were about to conduct an evangelistic campaign in Asia Minor when God stepped in and stopped them. Paul could not understand why until he heard and saw, in a dream, a man from Macedonia pleading with him, "Please Paul, come over into Macedonia and help us" (see Acts 16:9).

Obviously, the greatness of their society was not sufficient to bring them the satisfaction they were seeking. They had plenty of gods but their gods could not help them. These gods gave no hope, no comfort, no joy and no satisfaction. But Paul's God offered all these things. Christ's death and resurrection, which Paul had witnessed in vision, was the answer to all their needs.

The most vital answer they needed was how to resolve the problem of sin and guilt in their lives. Conscience—that inbuilt watchdog of the soul—testifies continuously that we fall far short of even our own expectations. It was true of the Greeks and Romans, and it is just as true today. We tend to hide the reality behind euphemisms such as feelings of inferiority or low self-esteem, which may well be so but steer away from what may be the greater underlying realities of sin and guilt. Yet an increasing number of doctors urge that a large percentage of their troubled patients could be helped if only they could be assured of forgiveness.

The apostle Paul's message to the world is that all our wrong actions can be attributed to one thing—sin, alienation from God—and that we will never be rid of the ensuing guilt until we have asked for and accepted the forgiveness God offers in Jesus Christ because of the cross. Only when we sob out our confessions at the foot of the cross are we assured of the peace of mind we are seeking so desperately.

A well-known scientist at a prominent university asked to see a pastor in his office at the university. Before he could say anything, the scientist broke down. When he had regained his composure, he told his story: "I'm at the point of ending my life.

My home is a wreck and I'm a secret alcoholic. My children don't respect me. I've never really had a guiding principle in my life, except to be recognised in my field of physics. I've come to realise that I don't know the true values of living. I've heard you speak and although I do not understand all you are trying to communicate, I have a conviction that you know what the real meaning of life is. I've come to you for help."

In response, it was the pastor's pleasure and privilege to tell him about the cross of Calvary and kneel there with him.

This is what Paul did for the people of his day. He preached, argued, pleaded, implored, wept and encouraged, and his central theme was always the cross and what it stood for—forgiveness. Sin and guilt were dealt with on that cross. People were freed from the shackles of their sinful nature on that cross. Jesus took all humanity's sins on the cross and nailed them there forever. As the apostle John said: "If our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart" (1 John 3:20, KJV). He forgives.

The cross solved the problem of guilt. But it did even more: it solved the problem of humanity's loneliness. The cross event reconciled human beings to God. It spanned the great gulf that had been fixed by humanity's sin. This was another important reason for Paul's magnificent obsession. The gods of the pagans did not fellowship with their devotees but the Christian God did! Jesus himself said, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).

The cross event also met humanity's need for love: "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:10).

This was Paul's driving force and the reason for his magnificent obsession: humanity's sin and guilt, loneliness and need for love are all met by the cross event. And Paul himself had surrendered to the power of Christ's cross and had humbly avowed: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). Paul spoke from personal experience.

The world of the Greeks and Romans seemed to be doing quite well in Paul's

day but, inwardly, their world was falling apart. They were "without God and without hope"—and Paul sought to change that.

Our world today mirrors that first-century reality. Like the 2000 Gadarene swine, it is racing headlong into its drowning act. What is needed now, what was needed then and what has always been needed is the powerful, lifesaving, life-changing, inimitable message of the cross.

No-one has ever been made truly happy by sensual indulgence, drugs, possessions or position. Our world screams that message to us today. People have tried everything possible to squeeze any and every drop of satisfaction and meaning from their sensate existence. But they are dropping, enervated and exhausted, along the pot-holed roads of their useless endeavours.

They have failed to discover that life really only comes alive at the death of self in humble submission at the foot of the cross. They have chopped the cross into kindling and used it to fuel the fires of their own self-indulgence. But instead of receiving warmth, they have been left shivering in the cold of reality. Yet the cross refuses to be destroyed. It still challenges every man and woman to surrender to its power.

The power of the cross has not only changed the lives of countless thousands of devotees in the time of Paul and thereafter, it also became the impetus for the most widespread and powerful influence in the Western world to this time: Christianity. Sadly today, Christianity has lost much of its influence and power. Not that the power has gone but it is sadly quiescent.

Paul's mission is over but it is clearly not finished. His magnificent obsession is timeless. God is waiting patiently for thousands of Pauls to catch the vision of a crucified Lord and translate that experience into a magnificent obsession of a world for Christ. The power of the cross is just waiting to be unleashed—only the vision is lacking! **R**

**Unless otherwise indicated, Bible quotations are from the New International Version.*

The author wishes to acknowledge a number of teachers, preachers and authors whose thoughts and influence have contributed to the development of this material—in particular, the late Pastor Alfred Jorgensen, whose teaching provided the inspiration, and Lloyd Douglas, who provided the title.

Peter Raymer writes from Brisbane, Queensland.

Love takes the time

BY BRUCE MANNERS

THE FILM *CAST AWAY* (RELEASED IN 2000) begins with Chuck Noland (played by Tom Hanks), a FedEx employee, training Russian staff. Through an interpreter, he gives his spin on time: “Time rules over us without mercy. . . . It’s like a fire, it can either destroy us or keep us warm. . . . We live or die by the clock. We never turn our back on it. And we never, ever allow ourselves the *sin* of losing track of time” (emphasis his).

It’s a reflection of the business philosophy that keeps FedEx, the international parcel delivery system, competitive.¹ A great way to run a business, this is a sad way to live life.

Noland’s life is bound up in time until he’s involved in a plane crash and washes up on a deserted island. After four years, he thinks in months, not seconds. Years, not minutes. A lifetime, not hours.

Time and life. Life and time. Both are bound together. How we use time brings meaning to life. The apostle Paul’s approach is this: “Live a life filled with love for others, following the example of Christ, who loved you and gave himself as a sacrifice to take away your sins” (Ephesians 5:2, NLT).

Love takes the time.

When you “fall” in love you certainly don’t live a FedEx-style life with every second counting, every moment working and every action achieving. Building a love relationship takes time in just being together. Maintaining a relationship takes time, too.

For too many of us, there aren’t enough hours in a day to cram in everything we want to get done. Leon Kreitzman sees a 24-hour society developing simply because people are so busy they need to find time outside regular hours to do things like go shopping.

He reckons he’s found two easy solutions and one hard one to the problem: “First, we could stop watching television. This would free up three to four hours a day. Easy. Second, we could stop buying so many goods and more especially services. Easy again. . . . Third, if we purchased less we would not need to earn as much and so we could work fewer hours.”² That’s the hard one.



Remember Paul’s approach? “Live a life filled with love for others, following the example of Christ. . . .”

Jesus took the time.

The ruler of the universe, the King of kings and Lord of lords, took 30-something years to be with us. He took the time to be a baby, a child, a teenager, a young man and a mature man. Time enough to show how much He loves us. Time enough to show that God really is love.

Jesus took the time. It’s what love does.

Contrast this with the tragedy surrounding David Sharp’s death. Sharp died on the slopes of Mount Everest in May, 2006. He’d run out of oxygen. The greater tragedy was that some 40 mountaineers had to step around him as they climbed toward the summit.

Nobody helped him, nobody even stayed with him. He crawled into an ice cave and died alone.

Sir Edmund Hillary, the first to successfully climb Everest, was appalled. He wrote to newspapers saying the whole attitude to climbing Mount Everest has become “rather horrifying. The people just want to get to the top.”³ And they plan to get there no matter who or what suffers on the way.

It’s true that if those who had pushed by David Sharp had taken the time and effort to help him down the mountain, they may have never achieved their dream. But in saving a life, they would have achieved something far more significant.

Love takes the time. Love makes the effort.

Meanwhile, back from his deserted island, Chuck Noland returns home to find things have changed. His girl is married to his orthodontist. He has to let her go—and does. He would have had difficulty with that before.

When his plane went down, a friend’s wife was dying. He didn’t know how to handle it. When he returns, the wife is long dead but he now has something meaningful to say. He even takes the time to visit an isolated ranch to thank a woman who had drawn two wings on her FedEx package. On the island, they became a symbol of hope.

At film’s end he stands at a country crossroad deciding which way to go. Now that he’s stepped away from a FedEx lifestyle, he’s ready for life.

Love and life take time. “Live a life filled with love.” Take the time. **R**

1. Monte Face of FedEx–Europe says, “[FedEx] is a business that never stops. Seconds count here more than in any other. In order for the planes to hit their time slots, everything has to happen on time. We have to hit the ramp on time, hit the hub on time, hit the courier system on time.” Cited in Leon Kreitzman, *The 24 Hour Society*, pages 126, 7.

2. *ibid*, page 46.

3. Shelley Gare, *The Triumph of the Airheads*, page 245.

Bruce Manners pastors Avondale College church, Cooranbong, New South Wales.

Repentance (Psalm 38)

BY LEESA FLETCHER

O H LORD, PLEASE DON'T DISTANCE OR REBUKE ME IN YOUR anger.
Please don't tell me off or chasten me in Your displeasure.
Your arrows pierce deep into my heart. I cannot fight the pain.

I cannot move or breathe, as Your hand presses me down.

I cannot find any soundness anywhere on my skin
And no health inside my bones—because of my sin.
My sin, a raging river, reaching over my head;
I cannot stand or carry them, heavier than lead.

My wounds are infected, festering and foul.
Because of my foolishness, my head is bowed.
I mourn all through the day. My loins are inflamed.
I am broken and feeble, groaning, turmoil deep within.

All my feelings are before You, Lord. I know You hear me sigh.
My heart runs out of breath. Strength and light fade from my eyes.

My loved ones and friends distant, keeping well away from me,
And those seeking my life lay traps to catch my feet.
They want to hurt me and plan destruction, deception all day.
But I'm unhearing—deaf—I have nothing to say.

I didn't listen to Your word; I didn't speak what was right.
Open my ears and mouth to do what's right in Your sight.
In You, Lord, I hope. You will hear, O Lord my God.
Because of Your great mercy, because of Jesus' blood.

Please hear, unless over me my enemies gleefully rejoice.
Please stop my feet from sliding or my enemies will dance with joy.

Feeling I'm about to fall, I'm teetering unsteadily.
My sorrow constantly here—I will declare my iniquity.

I will anguish over my sin but, Lord, my enemies are strong.
Those wrongful haters multiply, giving evil for good all along.
They fight against my effort to follow what is good.
Oh, my God, be not far from me! Do not forsake me, O Lord!

Lord Jesus, You carried all the anguish of my sin.
Please forgive me and make haste to help me, O Lord,

My Salvation. **R**

Leesa Fletcher writes from Melbourne, Victoria.

Record Roo



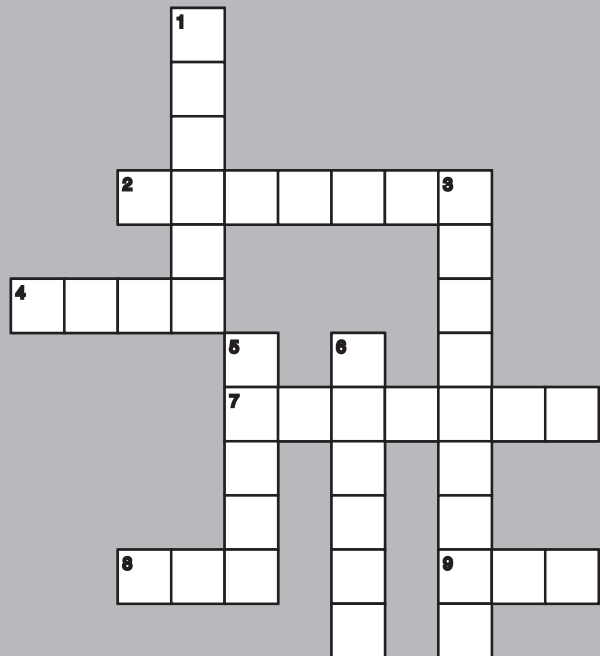
Hi kids!
Moses had already told Joshua to be strong and courageous when leading the Israelites. God knew that Joshua would need all the strength and courage he could get.


Bible Text

The Lord gave this _____ to _____ son of Nun: "Be _____ and _____, for you will bring the _____ into the land I promised them on _____, and I _____ will be with you. Deuteronomy 31:23 NIV

Crossword

Answer the clues below. If you need help, read the story in Deuteronomy 31:14-29.





CLUES..... ACROSS

- 2. An order
- 4. A piece of music
- 7. An oath
- 8. This housed the 10 commandments
- 9. A rule

DOWN

- 1. Opposite of weak
- 3. Opposite of easy
- 5. To talk
- 6. Son of Nun

Answers: 2. Command, 4. Song, 7. Promise, 8. Ark, 9. Law
1. Strong, 3. Difficult, 5. Speak, 6. Joshua

Support Sir Patrick

DAVID MCCLINTOCK, NSW

“Changing masters?” (Letters, August 8) begs several questions. Did the writer read the *Adventist World* article “New Man at Jamaica’s Helm,” which was essentially an inspiring testimony of how God has led in Sir Patrick Allen’s life to enable him to be selected for this role? On what basis does he then assert that Sir Patrick Allen has now quit serving God?

It does seem the writer perceives that only paid pastors can now serve God. I am wondering just how the writer would then view people like Joseph, Daniel and Esther, or the many active church members who make a significant contribution to God’s work?

I had the privilege of sitting in class with Sir Patrick Allen at Andrews University for two years. My family also had the privilege of being graciously hosted in his home in early 2007 in Jamaica. He and his wife are deeply spiritual, totally committed to sharing the gospel and passionate about living their lives under the direction of God.

As Proverbs 22:29 says, “Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men” (NIV).

LOUDON LUKA, VIC

I cannot help but be baffled by the myopic view of “Changing masters?” regarding the story of Sir Patrick Allen. His appointment to that position serves as an inspiration to all Seventh-day Adventists who aspire to do good and make a difference in society.

I am extremely proud that one of our number has earned such recognition. I am also thrilled to be associated with an institution which, on the face of it, was responsible for shaping those attributes and values which led to his appointment.

I can’t see how serving in such a position can be equated to serving two masters (see Matthew 6:24). This is biblical interpretation gone awfully wrong. Does it not occur to the writer that Jamaica and the world is better served by a good man in such a high office than a crook?

I’m grateful that, despite such protestations, *RECORD* and *Adventist World*

have still seen fit to publish the story of Sir Patrick’s recent knighting at Buckingham Palace. This is encouraging.

BERYL CARPENTER, WA

What makes the writer of “Changing masters?” consider that the new Governor-general of Jamaica has not followed God’s leading in accepting this new position? What proof does he have that Patrick Allen is not just where God wants him to be?

God has placed suitable people in high positions throughout history if He sees that it will profit His work—and they have honoured the cause of God. Consider Moses, Daniel, Nehemiah and the list could go on.

Let us uphold Patrick Allen in prayer, rather than criticising him.

While we do not believe in “once saved, always saved,” we practice ordination where “once ordained, always ordained.”

PETER MARKS, SOUTH KOREA

Having followed this story with great interest for many months now, I can say that Sir Patrick Allen has taken this step only after prayerful consideration. It was not an easy decision. Being a minister of the church is a sacred calling. But so is being a minister of state.

He is not a politician, however noble a calling that is. He wishes to be an agent of community reconciliation and healing, above the political fray. In the Jamaican society, where about one in 13 of the population is Seventh-day Adventist and where Adventists are active in many phases of national life, Sir Patrick was a natural choice for his present post.

However, Sir Patrick’s term of service as Governor-general does raise interesting questions concerning ordination to gospel ministry, since he has elected to depart from lifelong service in the church and, in a sense, from his ordination vows.

While we do not believe in “once saved, always saved,” we practice ordination where “once ordained, always ordained,” thus creating a clergy class. Perhaps changing to a system of commissioning for servant-leadership, where church leadership is commissioned for each and every role to which they are called, would be more biblical.

Sharing creativity

MICHAEL KNIGHT, NSW

I was happy to read about the issue of copyright in “Christians and copyright” (Feature, July 25). It is important for musicians, composers and other artists to be aware that they can licence their work under a licence that does not automatically prohibit its use—non-commercial or otherwise—while still giving them the recognition and control they deserve.

As a software developer who writes free software, I can say that giving back to the community in this way is very fulfilling. Seeing my software used by others is flattering because it’s an acknowledgment of the quality and usefulness of my work.

And, more importantly, I am helping meet the needs of people all over the world.

Licences tailored for Australian law can be found at <<http://creativecommons.org.au/licences>>.

Important emphasis

REBECCA REYE, NSW

It was with sadness that I read of the impending change of editor of *RECORD* (“New *RECORD* editor appointed,” News, July 18) as I have really enjoyed and been blessed by the current editor’s writing. It has been so refreshing and often surprising to hear social justice issues, advocacy for the poor and the importance of service being “taught” through the Adventist church.

I pray that these topics—so frequently seen in the Bible and life of Christ but so rarely heard from the pulpit or seen in action—will be continually discussed and brought to our attention in *RECORD*.

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

▲ **International Development Internship—Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia** is seeking expressions of interest from recent international development or social/human science graduates considering a career in international development. ADRA Australia supports community development programs in a number of African, Asian and Pacific countries, and wishes to place an intern in a partner ADRA office for two years (2010–11). Applicants should have previous experience in a cross-cultural environment and/or significant volunteer experience, and a demonstrable commitment to ADRA's mission, values and goals. Applicants must hold, or be eligible for, an Australian or New Zealand passport. For more information and application forms, visit <www.adra.org.au/getinvolved/careers.htm> (click on Internship Opportunities). Applications close noon **September 11, 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>.

▲ **Caretaker—Kingscliff church (NSW)**. Dream job for a retired Adventist couple. Live on premises in a new, self-contained, one-bedroom unit. Salary will be negotiated with the successful applicant. Role includes gardening, cleaning and general duties in relation to the smooth operation of church facilities. Come and be involved with a young, vibrant church family. Send expressions of interest to Kingscliff SDA Management Committee, Jenny Land on (02) 6672 6099 or email <brasy@bigpond.com>. Applications close **September 16, 2009**.

▲ **Accountant—Karlundi Aboriginal Education Community Inc (Meekatharra, WA)** available from December 2009.

▲ **Male and Female Dorm Supervisors—Karlundi Aboriginal Education Community Inc (Meekatharra, WA)**. One immediate start.

▲ **Primary Teachers—Karlundi Aboriginal Education Community Inc (Meekatharra, WA)** including early childhood. Several positions available. One immediate start. Karlundi Aboriginal Education Community Inc is an independent Adventist-affiliated boarding facility, catering for Indigenous students from Kindergarten to Year 12. It is situated 55 km north of Meekatharra in central Western Australia. Karlundi is an oasis in the desert and includes a swimming pool, staff gymnasium and other recreational activities. Salary package includes subsidised housing with salary sacrifice available. Contact the CEO or Principal on (08) 9981 2000, email <ceo@karalundi.wa.edu.au> or <principal@karalundi.wa.edu.au>. Your CV, with three work-related references, should be sent to The CEO, PMB 6, Meekatharra WA 6642. Positions available in 2009/2010.

▲ **Communication Assistant—Greater Sydney Conference (Epping, NSW)** is seeking an enthusiastic and dedicated communication assistant. This part-time position (24 hours per week) requires the successful candidate to facilitate the communication ministry through collating, writing and editing materials for promotions and marketing within the Greater Sydney Conference and its publications. For more information, a full job description, or written applications including your CV (including the contact details of your church pastor), please contact Pastor Michael Worker on (02) 9868 6522 or email <michaelworker@adventist.org.au>. The appointing body reserves the right to fill this position at its discretion. Applications close **September 18, 2009**.

▲ **Assistant Editor—Print, Broadcast and Web—Adventist Media Network (Wahroonga, NSW)** is seeking a full-time assistant editor who will be based at Wahroonga, working as part of a team to produce the print, web and broadcast editions of RECORD (the official news and editorial media of the South Pacific Division (SPD)). The position involves working with dedicated professionals to communicate key messages that will inform, educate and nurture church members across the SPD. The successful applicant will ideally have training and experience in: researching and writing effective news and interesting, encouraging, challenging and faith-building articles for print, web and/or broadcast, creating video and still photography images, meeting deadlines, and journalistic subediting and proofing copy. The successful applicant needs to be committed to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. For further information, contact Calvin Dever on (02) 9847 2222 or email <kalvin@adventistmedia.org.au>. Applications in writing: Calvin Dever, Operations Manager, Adventist Media Network, PO Box 1115 Wahroonga NSW 2076. Applications close **September 22, 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>.

Email:

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

+61 2 9847 3275



of Alan and Ruth Heading, were married on 1.8.09 at Palm Point, Gladstone, Qld.

Andy Krause

Obituaries

Ashmore, Glenice Valma Jean, born 8.7.1915 at Wellington Mill, WA; died 6.7.09 in Bunbury Regional Hospital. On 16.6.1943, she married Joe in the old South Perth church. Joe predeceased her at Meelup in 1973, after being taken by a freak wave. She is survived by her children, Marilyn Findlay, Rosalie Hardy, John, Leslie Colette, Terrence and David. Glen was a devoted Christian wife and mother, grand and great-grandmother. She was practical, energetic, loved cooking and had a great sense of humour. She had a key role in establishing the Narrembeen church. She faithfully loved and served her Saviour and now rests, awaiting His return.
Keith Godfrey

Blewer, Laurence Charles, born 24.6.1923 in England; died 28.6.09 in Gosford Public Hospital, NSW. On 13.4.1960, he married Daphne Lock in Avondale Village church. He was predeceased by his son, Adrian. He is survived by his wife; and children, Allan, Beverly Corbett, Gary, Wayne, Dallas, Nigel and Joanne Holman. At the age of 17, he joined the Royal Australian Navy and saw active service during World War II. While living in Balmain, Laurie and his mother were introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist faith by Elsie Moran and became faithful members of Stanmore church. Laurie was a valued elder and teacher in the Junior Sabbath school. For more than 30 years, Laurie gave valued service to the Sanitarium Health Food Company. His ever-present sense of humour and love of life was infectious. The poignant words "We love you, Dad!" written above his bed in the Gosford Hospital are a true expression of the depth of love and respect for this man of God. He will be sadly missed.
W N Lock

Brown, Thomas Harold (Tom), born 14.4.1917 in Adelaide, SA; died 18.6.09 at Strathalbyn. The eldest of four boys, they lived in the Peake, Cooke Plains and Waitpinga areas during childhood. On 28.6.1941, he married Mavis Watson, at the Nangkita Methodist church. Three daughters were born to this couple, Rhonda (deceased), Valda and Thelma. Tom and Mavis were dairy and beef cattle farmers in Medows. A gentle and kind father, adored by his grandchildren, he now rests until he is called to life eternal. The graveside funeral was conducted by Pastor Will Grobler at Strathalbyn.
Will Grobler

Brunner, Linda Kaye, born 17.4.1952; died 27.11.08 at home with her family by her side. Linda was diagnosed with cancer late in 2005, and faced the challenge head-on with courage and much faith. She truly believed in the love of God and eternal life. She leaves behind her partner, Dave Brown; and children, Jason, Alicia and Paul with partners, Tanya, Mote and Marcia. Linda was

Appreciation

Driscoll, William (Bill) Jerome. Linda Driscoll Snr, family (Colin and Linda, Jenny and John Vaughan, Lyndon and Susanne, and Wendy and Steven Williams) and extended family wish to express their sincere and heartfelt gratitude for the warmth and care so freely given during the illness and passing of husband and father "WJD." The family continue to appreciate the love and friendship demonstrated personally and by cards, flowers, phone calls and emails. We are so grateful to have inherited such a precious legacy from Bill's personal dedication to his God, his family, his colleagues and his students.

Anniversary

Sutton, Ian and Marion (nee Ormsby) of Cambridge, NZ, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 26.4.09. They were married by Pastor Tolhurst Snr in the old Hamilton church on 14.4.1959. Ian and Marion have both worked for the Sanitarium Health Food Company. Ian started working in the old Auckland Factory in 1952, making Weet-Bix with two sticks, a hand press and a revolving oven. He later worked in sales for many years in both the North and South Islands. Marion worked in wholesale, in the factory and in the retail shops until their retirement in 1996. They have two daughters, Loretta (Sydney, NSW) and Clarewyn (Brisbane, Qld); a son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Kerry, and two grandchildren (Brisbane). They enjoyed an evening of food and friendship with family and friends in the Cambridge church hall, NZ. Ian and Marion are both active members of the Cambridge church in their retirement.

Weddings

Bedor—Heading. Matthew Alan Bedor, son of Jeffrey and Denise Bedor, and Susan Anita Heading, daughter

a proud grandma to Annika, Imogen, Allira, Kynan, Malakai, Amani, Sky, Phebe and Sofie. Sadly missed but entrusted to God's hands.

Marcia Brunner, S Malarek

Collard, Kavitha Sarah, born 26.4.1980 at Simla, India; died 10.7.09 at Reedy Creek, Qld. Kavitha is survived by her mother, Pamela Collard, and father, Leigh Glasspell (Port Macquarie, NSW). Her life was celebrated with many family and friends at a memorial service in Darlington Park Resort at Arrawarra Beach on 26.7.09. Kavitha trained as a nurse at the Sydney Adventist Hospital and worked for six years at Westmead Hospital in Sydney. Kavitha touched many lives with her bright smile, warm and vibrant personality and professionalism in the workplace. She will be greatly missed. She rests in the arms of the Faithful Witness and the Righteous Judge.

Paul Geelan

Fowler, Leslie Newlands, born 1.2.1906 at Alexandria, NSW; died 13.6.09 in Coffs Harbour Health Campus. He is predeceased by his first wife, Olive, and his second wife, Pat. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, John and Rosa. Living to 103 years, Les was regarded as a local legend in Coffs Harbour. In 1946, he became the first permanent secretary (now known as CEO) of the Coffs Harbour Hospital, a position he held for 24 years until his retirement in 1970. In his own words, Les Fowler had "a life of good health for which I am most grateful to the Lord." He was a man of strong faith and love for his Lord, and was a true gentleman who will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Eric Greenwell

Johnston, Elma Adelaide, born 26.10.1918; died 24.6.09 in Brisbane Adventist Retirement village, Qld. She is survived by her children, Elwyn and Aldyth; her two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Elma was baptised at the age of 15, after attending a tent mission with her mother and older sister. They became charter members of the Bairnsdale church, Vic. She met Howard Phillips, a plant engineer in the SHF. They married in 1940. Elma spent her life reaching out to others. She was actively involved in many church offices, particularly Dorcas and welfare work. She also worked as a colporteur, sharing the message of the gospel with those who bought the books. She moved to Brisbane ARV in 1987, where she met and married Charles Johnston who predeceased her in 2001. She is remembered as a gracious Christian by the Hostel staff who cared for her. She believed God's promises and trusted His word. She now sleeps peacefully, waiting for the Resurrection morning.

Judy Fua, Neil Tyler

Loughland, Jessica Lealasa, born 9.10.1979 in Auckland, NZ; died 10.7.09 in Adelaide, SA. She is survived by her husband, Timothy, and son, Tavita (Adelaide); her parents, Setu and Amy Tuimaulaga (Newcastle, NSW); her brothers, Billy, Bobby and Junior; and

her sisters, Laofa, Joy and their families. A memorial service was conducted in Hamilton church, Newcastle, on Wednesday evening, 15.7.09. Jessica invested her short life in caring for her family, her friends and those who she worked with and for. She will be missed.

Kevin Amos, Robert Collins, Susan Magaitis

McGillivray, Hector Alexander, born 1.6.1919 at Lithgow, NSW; died 27.6.09 in Redland Hospital, Redland Bay, Qld. On 1.1.1941, he married Greta. He is survived by his wife; and children, Malcolm, and wife, Roslyn (Bundaberg, Qld), Rhonda and Wayne Landall (Stanthorpe), Douglass (Logan), Carol and Ken Warn, Lachlan, and wife, Jocelyn (Gold Coast), and Tania (Mt Cotton). Hector was head elder in the Taree, NSW, and Bundaberg, Qld, churches. The last move that Hector and Greta made was to the Adventist Retirement Village at Victoria Point in 1991, where Hector was an elder in the village church for a time. He will be remembered most for his brilliance in computer skills. Since illness affected him a little over a year ago, he has been sadly missed. He was a good friend to all.

Barry Crabtree, Selwyn Bartlett

Rampton, Cecil Milton, born 12.8.1928 in the San, NSW; died 11.7.09 at Goulburn. He married Merle Overend in 1950, and they enjoyed almost 59 years together. He was predeceased by his sister, Beryl; and his brothers, Ron, Howard and Lewis. He is survived by his wife; his children, Robert and Wendy, and their spouses; his grandchildren, Harley, Josh, Brad, Breanna and Brent; and his sisters, Ruby, Olivine and Coral. Cec was the sixth child of Pastor Frank and Florence Rampton. Cec was a loyal, supportive member of the Adventist Church. He served in a number of positions in the Goulburn church. His buoyant disposition, sense of fair play and consistent work ethic were a source of encouragement to all who came in contact with him. All of the people who have been members of the Goulburn church over the years remember him with great fondness and respect. He was especially loved by his wife, his children and grandchildren, who will greatly miss him but look forward with faith and hope to the great day of the return of Jesus.

Barry Oliver, Tony Moala

Read, Frederick James, born 9.1.1921 in Wellington, NZ; died 13.6.09 at Drury, South Auckland, after a long illness. In 1947, he married Ethne Long. He was baptised by Pastor C Potter in 1952 at Whanganui. He is survived by his wife; his three children, Jan, Bruce and Dr Chris Read (San Diego, US); his five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. In 1939, Fred joined the airforce and was in the first group of New Zealanders to join the bomber command in England. After four years of war, two crashlandings and more than 60 flights over enemy territory, he returned to New Zealand, awarded the DFC and Polish Wings. Moving to Napier, he spent many years as a Pathfinder leader and elder. On

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his retirement, he served as a volunteer minister at Taupo for nine years. The Seventh-day Adventist Church was a big part of Fred's life and the Sabbath was always a special day of rest. He was dearly loved.

Grant Burton

love of God's word and her confidence in the blessed hope of her Saviour's return.

Bill Sleight, Wal Taylor

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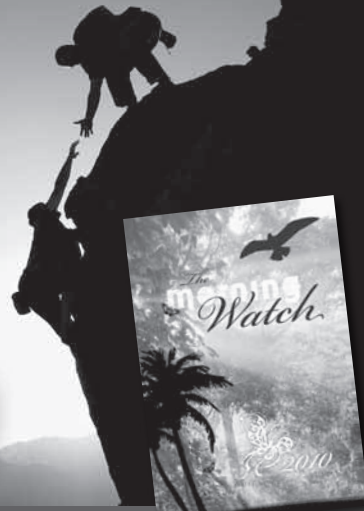
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