

RECORD

November 7, 2009

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A group of students on their way to the closing Sabbath service at the fourth Adventist Students Association convention, recently held in Fiji.

ASA Fiji “heeds call to serve”

TAVUA, FIJI

More than 80 Adventist tertiary students from several nations of the Pacific and five different tertiary institutions met in Fiji to attend the fourth national Adventist Students Association (ASA) convention, held at Lewa Adventist Primary School in the highlands of Fiji from October 9 to 12.

Pastor Nick Kross, associate director of Adventist Youth Ministries for the South Pacific Division and division-wide ASA chaplain, was a special guest at the convention. He says, “The annual Fiji ASA convention is a high point in the life of tertiary students, who come together for

inspiration, fellowship and service.”

In addition to ASA convention activities, the group also worked to clean walls, install new linoleum for classrooms and dormitories, and upgrade computers at the school. Through acts of service, the ASA students hope to inspire students at the school with the knowledge that Adventist tertiary students believe in and care for them.

The head teacher of the school, Setareki Vuniayawa, was impressed with their work and told the students, “Your coming to our school has been timely and rewarding for Lewa school, the church and the whole

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We do our best work for God when we truly repent.

Imperfect people

THE SCENE IS A BOARDROOM OVERLOOKING the golden streets and “many rooms” of heaven, midway through a meeting on another perfect day in eternity. God and the angelic senior managers of various departments in heaven have been meeting to talk about Balaam (the story’s in Numbers 22 and 23).

“It looks like he’s seriously considering those massive bribes offered to him by the Moabites to curse Israel,” says one of the managers pensively.

The Trinity smile. “We’ve got this great idea about how to fix that. And it involves a talking donkey . . .”

It’s a few centuries later (although it hardly feels any time has passed at all) and the same boardroom and senior managers are meeting. This time, the meeting is in the wake of King David’s Bathsheba breakdown, with rumours of him using high-powered binoculars to spy on her remaining unfounded (you can read the story in 2 Samuel 11).

One manager looks over some notes in front of him. “According to surveys, Sir, people’s confidence in the king is at an all-time low and some are questioning his ability to lead. Also, sales of his *Greatest Hits—Psal-morama* have declined.”

God stares silently out the window for a few moments, yet doesn’t seem to be looking at much. He turns around with a look on His face the angels find hard to interpret—something between pain and love—before saying in a soft voice, “What he’s done will

hurt him and those around him but in the end, it will be okay—David’s a man after my own heart” (see Acts 13:22).

They’re meeting again, centuries later. This time, it’s about finding someone who’ll be able to preach to the Gentiles. They need someone who’s educated and passionate about what they do—willing to throw themselves heart and soul into the work.

“I was thinking Saul,” says God.

There’s a stunned silence in the room.

After a few minutes—or maybe it’s a few hours—one of the angelic managers coughs nervously to clear her throat and asks, “Do you mean Saul the basketweaver or Saul the psychotic guy who’s been going around murdering Christians?”

“The second one,” says God with confidence. “I’m pretty sure we can touch his life in a way that will see him ready and raring to go for the gospel” (see Acts 9).

People who bring God’s message to others may not be perfect—in fact, they rarely are, as we can see from these examples from the Bible. However, God was still able to work with and through them to have a positive impact on the lives of others.

It doesn’t excuse the fact that they did wrong things but having done the wrong things didn’t negate God’s ability to use them to do something for Him.

There are many times we dismiss the positive things others say or do because of mistakes they have made. One error suddenly

means everything else they’ve done that’s positive no longer “counts,” or is coloured by the shadows of the past.

The fact that God can use imperfect people to reach out to others isn’t an excuse for us to keep on sinning with abandon (or to take the sin of pride on a test drive by looking down on others who make mistakes).

In Psalm 51:10-13, David says, “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. . . . Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will turn back to You.”

Jesus never turned away anyone who came to Him with a genuine desire to connect with Him. He would forgive them and encourage them to give up sinning. People would often go away praising God and sharing what they had experienced with others.

We do our best work for God when we truly repent. Although God loves us as we are, we need to make an effort to be better people and better Christians—we cannot remain stagnant. Not that it’s about salvation through works—just about making an effort to live a life more in line with what God wants for us.

But with all of that said, our imperfections don’t hinder God. No matter how flawed we are, God can use us. And He will do amazing things if we let Him work through us.

Adele Nash



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know
experience
 and **share**
 our hope in Jesus Christ!

Global Mission projects keep on growing

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

In spite of financial limitations, Pastor Ray Coombe, director of Adventist Mission for the South Pacific Division (SPD), says the number of Global Mission projects around the SPD that plant new churches to open up new areas is continuing to grow. Around 50 projects have been conducted this year and budget cuts threatened to limit the addition of any new ones. Pastor Coombe reports that 66 Global Mission projects out of the 75 applications received have been approved and given funding for 2010.

The SPD's Global Mission Committee met on October 20 in Wahroonga to ensure the 50 ongoing projects and 16 new projects will continue to grow church groups next year. "These range from inner and outer city church plants in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth to new island communities and isolated highland villages," says Pastor Coombe.

"We were worried the dramatic cut in budget funding this year from \$A150,000 to just \$A50,000 would prevent us from taking on any new projects," he adds. "However, the local conferences and missions have been willing to pick up a larger share of responsibility and reserves held at the General Conference have kicked in to ensure the mission of the church does not falter."

These General Conference (GC) funds

are provided from the Week of Sacrifice Offering, which is collected in churches around the world today. The total value of the projects approved for 2010 represents an all-time high of \$A1.5 million. Of this, the SPD is contributing \$A192,000, the unions are contributing more than \$A241,000 and the GC is contributing more than \$A504,000.

Pastor Lawrence Tanabose, committee chairman and SPD general secretary, says, "Global Mission projects represent the cutting edge of church growth. When so many areas are calling for us to open up new work, we must respond. The Lord is opening doors of opportunity and every new church plant represents a group of new candidates for God's kingdom."

Although reports from this year are not due yet, more than 100 baptisms have already been reported as a result of the projects and a number of new churches have been built. "It's always exciting to get photos of new church groups and baptisms of the first fruit from a new area," says Pastor Coombe.

Some of the new church plants in Australia already underway include the "Church in the Fields," based at Macarthur Adventist College, Sydney; Marrickville church plant extension of "Fountain in the City," Sydney; two new groups on the Sunshine coast, Queensland; Tabulam Indigenous church plant in northern New South Wales;

"All Nations" church and Cafe 7 in Perth; Indigenous outreach in Coober Pedy, South Australia; and a revived church group in Scottsdale, Tasmania, called "Project Hope."

In New Zealand, projects continue at Matamata with an Indian group in Auckland and a new project to plant a church among the Filipino population in Christchurch. The new group of Adventists on Wallis Island struggle against intense opposition but Dr Jude Cuniah continues to minister there.

"Projects also continue in Papua New Guinea, where funding has been missing for two years," says Pastor Coombe. "These include 10 very successful church plants in the Western Highlands Mission. Five new projects have been approved for 2010, with other church plants developing in the Sepik, Madang Manus and Central Papua areas."

Several small chapels have been constructed in the Solomon Islands. A minister is now located on Nauru and a fishing outreach program in Kiribati is "going well." In Samoa, a new church has been built, following a successful evangelistic program at Tuamasa. Church plants are also continuing in Fiji.—**RECORD staff/Ray Coombe**

The annual Sacrifice Offering today (November 7) goes to support Global Mission initiatives around the world. Each year, the General Conference allocates \$US220,000 of these funds to the South Pacific Division for entering new areas. Today's offering will go to continuing work in our area.



◆ **Adventist Heritage class students from Pacific Adventist University, PNG,** presented snippets from the history of the church to the community every evening from September 27 to October 1. The past came alive through drama, PowerPoint Presentations, video clips and songs that were researched, adapted, rehearsed and per-

formed. The **Great Disappointment**, Bible conferences, **Ellen White's visions**, church organisation, opening a school at **Battle Creek**, the **first missionary** sailing to Europe and other interesting stories were presented, and the audience was encouraged to continue the work these pioneers started. The audiences' faithful attendance in large numbers and heartening comments afterward showed their appreciation for the program. Students found the assignment challenging and empowering.—**Danijela Schubert**



◆ As the seats filled for the **first evangelistic series** in the small town of **Tirau, NZ**, the eight members of the local church were praising God. Although the church has run prophecy and health-related programs in the area, this is the first major event to happen in the town itself, thanks to the commitment of presenter **Ross Patterson**,

who has a passion for archaeological research in the Middle East and for sharing the exciting discoveries he's been able to experience firsthand. The audience was enthralled with the eye-catching visuals and convincing evidence presented for the **Red Sea Crossing** and the latest findings confirming the Bible record. Assisted by **Pastor Michael Falzarano**, Mr Patterson presented an eight-part series including topics such as **Mount Sinai**, **Noah's Ark**, **Sodom and Gomorrah**, and **Biblical prophecy**.—**Pauline Downing**

ASA Fiji “heeds call to serve”

(Continued from page 1)

Nadarivatu District. *Vinaka Vakalevu* and God bless you all!”

The theme of the convention was “Heed the Call,” with ASA students encouraged to remember they will be called to serve the church and nations in the Pacific. Pastor Kross says, “Their spiritual nurture must remain a high priority for the church if we want to help them reach their God-given potential.”

Other special guests included Pastor Maveni Kaufanonga, director of Adventist Youth Ministries for the Trans-Pacific Union Mission, and Pastor Sefania Turava, chaplain for ASA Fiji.

The election of a new executive committee is also a feature of the convention, with Kula Baravi, a medical student at Fiji School of Medicine, re-elected as the president. Paulini Turner was elected as vice-president, Sevuloni Ratumaiyale as treasurer, Nina Bigita as secretary, Suli Matavesi as public relations officer and Mosese Seru as the 2011 convention convener. Two Graduate advisors, Emosi Kainabau and Apenisa Laweloa, were also elected.

Pastor Kross praised the work done by ASA Fiji and says, “Adventist tertiary students face many challenges as they enter secular university campuses. For many stu-



The voting council who selected the new ASA executive for 2010.

dents, this means leaving their families and villages, making new friends, encountering financial pressure, confronting different cultures, resolving conflicting world views, and requesting exemption from Sabbath classes and exams. These pressures are all in addition to the stress of meeting course requirements. ASA Fiji provides Adventist students with much-needed support and spiritual nurture, as well as providing opportunities to share their faith with other students.

“Through ministries like ASA, Adventists will continue to be a force in the community as God’s kingdom continues to grow. Please pray for the students of the South Pacific as they continue their studies.”—**RECORD staff/Nick Kross**

For more information about ASA Fiji, email Kula Ba-avi at <S060298@fsm.ac.fj> or Pastor Nick Kross at <nkross@adventist.org.au>.

Sanitarium’s top quality awarded

PARRAMATTA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Nerolie Dever, quality systems manager in the head office of Sanitarium Health Food Company, received a HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point system) award at the annual HACCP conference awards night on August 25.

The award category was “Category 1: Outstanding individual nominated by an agri-food industry company.” Mrs Dever was nominated by Sanitarium’s quality assurance and environmental manager, Dr Greg Gambrill, in recognition of her dedication to the implementation of food safety initiatives at Sanitarium. Her nomination also recognised the part she has played in furthering the ideals of safe food supply.

Mrs Dever has worked for Sanitarium for more than 16 years.—**Sharyn Brady**



Nerolie Dever with Dr Greg Gambrill after receiving her HACCP award.



◆ In the past 12 months, members of **Bairnsdale church, Vic**, have raised \$A14000 for projects like **International Children’s Care’s Helem Halls project** in Thailand. For several years now, members have conducted a two-day, twice-yearly “**Stall in the Mall**” in the city centre, collecting and preparing clothing, books, flowers, fruit and vegeta-

bles for sale. They would occupy a third of the mall, with everything having to be packed up overnight and set up the next day. The stall also sold cakes, jams, pickles, biscuits and other perishable items that had to be prepared in accordance with strict health regulations. The dedicated teamwork has meant \$A6000 raised earlier in the year, and most recently, \$A8000.—**Joffre Gilchrist**

◆ Over the past 12 months, the **ADRA Sunraysia Community Bus**, based in Mildura, Victoria,



has made a day out a possibility for over 1000 **Sunraysia residents**. Many of these residents are from aged care and self-help facilities, for whom getting out and about is difficult. The bus and its team of volunteers have been busy serving the community with weekend outings and at least one trip a week. The combined blessing of the successful

business of the Mildura ADRA store, and the generous donation of time given by volunteers in the running and maintenance of the ADRA bus, have made these community services possible.—**Di Obst**

◆ The **Year 3 classes** at **Avondale School, NSW**, recently got practical in their field of study on Aboriginal Culture. The students tried hand cooking, face painting and boomerang throwing. Teachers **Carmel Ashton** and **Lyn Ashby** organised the day as part of a study unit on the Early Days

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ NOVEMBER 7—ANNUAL SACRIFICE OFFERING

Students *Encounter* Bible curriculum in trials

RINGWOOD, VICTORIA

The Australian Union Conference (AUC) and the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC) have commenced trials of their new Bible curriculum, *Encounter*.

In 2008, AUC and NZPUC started working together to further develop a Bible curriculum to be used in both countries, for students in primary and secondary schools. The curriculum is based on a transformational planning framework developed by Lanelle Cobbin, curriculum specialist for the NZPUC.

Dr Daryl Murdoch, associate director of Adventist Schools Association (ASA), says five Adventist secondary schools have been trialling *Encounter*—Northpine Christian College (Qld), Lilydale Academy (Vic), Christchurch Adventist School (NZ) and Avondale High School (NSW).

“It’s gathering momentum,” Dr Murdoch says. “We see it as being a really powerful way to reach kids and it could revolutionise the way teachers teach the Bible. There’s a strong educational focus underpinning the whole process of teaching and learning that’s espoused in the units. The students who have participated in trialling *Encounter* units have responded well to it. The teachers involved have

given positive feedback and constructive suggestions.”

Julie-Anne Truscott, a teacher at Avondale High School, says, “As one of the four teachers at Avondale School currently trialling the first unit for Year 7—‘War in Heaven’ by Nina Atcheson, AUC ASA secondary curriculum officer—it is almost overwhelming to witness what God can do in the lives of students through this unit.

“As a teacher, this unit is an absolute pleasure to facilitate, as it provides a great foundation with an abundance of ideas, activities and resources, and also leaves room for my own personal teaching approach. The students engage with each lesson on a personal level and demonstrate this in their spontaneous contributions to class discussions.”

Writing for the curriculum commenced last year and has involved teachers. Dr Murdoch says, “Both Australian and New Zealand curriculum officers ran a series of writers’ workshops, where teams of teachers came together to learn about *Encounter* and write units for it. We’ve taken what they’ve written to edit further for inclusion in the curriculum. We wanted to engender a strong feeling of ownership by doing this.”

In 2010, these first teaching units of the *Encounter* curriculum will be launched.



Primary school teachers at a writers’ workshop held in New Zealand earlier this year.

“It will probably take another four to five years to get it out in its entirety,” says Dr Murdoch. “There are more than 250 units to write and produce.”

Earlier this year, teachers from Australia and New Zealand met for the Hidden Springs Educational Leaders Conference (“Educators focused on mission and spirituality,” News, June 13). Ben Maxson was the guest speaker for the conference and Dr Murdoch says some of his work is at the heart of the *Encounter* program.

“Education directors in Australia and New Zealand have booked him to come back three times next year to talk about his spiritual formation model, which forms part of the foundational structure of *Encounter* [and focuses on how individuals develop a relationship with God],” he says.—**Adele Nash**



of Australia. It gave students a chance to gain insight into the traditional **Aboriginal lifestyle**, according to early Australian history. The classes were divided into three Aboriginal tribes, each with their own distinctive face-painted designs. In these groups, they cooked Anzac Biscuits and damper, lit fires and threw spears. The students also got creative

and painted beautiful Aboriginal designs on boomerangs. A large mural was painted collectively by the group and the students enjoyed learning in a “hands-on” way. They were particularly lucky to finish the day with an informative and entertaining didgeridoo demonstration by **Mr Kingston**.—**Susan Rogers**

◆ **Darren Anthony Postema** recently graduated from the **University of Tasmania** with a **Doctorate in Education**. He started the degree back in 2001 and received confirmation of



acceptance in October 2008. His research documented a case study of the **Symphony Australia orchestral conducting masterclass workshops**, and focused on the **pedagogical processes** involved in teaching and learning this specialised aspect of musical leadership. Dr Postema grew up in Murwillumbah, NSW, and currently works in Vietnam,

where he heads the secondary music program at the newly constructed **Renaissance International School**. He received a postgraduate certificate from the **Royal Conservatorium** in the Hague, Holland (1995), a Masters in Music from the **University of Cape Town** (1992), and a Bachelor of Music Education from the **University of Canberra** (1989). Dr Postema hopes to use his experience to encourage musicians in the early part of their musical education to learn the skills of choral and orchestral conducting.—**L Brown**

Bilingual book a health aid for kids

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

An illustrated storybook written by an Avondale College lecturer will help the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) promote health awareness among children in Laos.

Brad Watson wrote *Fat Mouse Gets Clean* after visiting ADRA projects in Laos in 2007 and 2008. He and several of his development studies students saw the need for basic resources at a remote primary school in the north of the country. “Some of the schools are so poor the children have never read a colour picture book,” says Mr Watson. “Even the teachers don’t use them.”

Fat Mouse Gets Clean, published in English and Lao, is the first book of a planned 10-part series. According to country director Grant Hillier, ADRA Laos will initially distribute the book to schools in its target districts. The aim is to reinforce the health messages of ADRA Laos’s water, sanitation and hygiene—or WASH—projects.

Bronwyn Fowler previewed the book in her role as a teacher at Macquarie College. “Its message is aptly written to convey an important health risk that is posed in these developing countries,” she says.

The launch of the book at Avondale School on September 8 showed *Fat Mouse Gets Clean* will appeal to students in developed countries, too. Mr Watson’s seven-



Brad Watson and his son, Zachary, at the launch of *Fat Mouse Gets Clean*.

year-old son, Zachary, read the book to an attentive audience—his Year 2 classmates.

Earlier, head of primary Len Farquharson reminded the students of what Edwin Paxton Hood, the late English Congregational minister and writer, referred to as the only two important things in life: the company you keep and the books you read. The launch ended with a presentation of the book to librarian Jenny Litster.

“We often give old books to those in developing countries,” says Mr Watson. “So, working with ADRA to provide beautiful, colourful books with a message to help children in Laos live healthy lives, and children in Australia learn about ADRA’s work in the country, is fantastic.”

ADRA Laos is seeking support from donors in Australia willing to sponsor the development of the second book in the series.—*Tammy Zyderveld*

Adventist Health Association holds AGM

LOGAN, QUEENSLAND

The Adventist Health Association (AHA), a network for health professionals and church members interested in health evangelism, recently held its annual general meeting (AGM). Pastor Kevin Price, director of Adventist Health for the South Pacific Division, was the keynote speaker for the AGM and gave a presentation called “How well is Adventist health?”

New members of the association’s executive committee were voted in and include: Tim Stanko (president), Doug Friend (vice-president), Jodi Brailey (secretary) and Dr Bruce Hands (treasurer). A new AHA constitution was also adopted, and will be used as the basis for the incorporation of AHA with the Queensland Government.

—*Nenad-Danny Bakaj*



Pastor Kevin Price (second left) with AHA committee members.

◆ Four influential **ultra-Orthodox rabbis** in Israel have decreed that **Jews** may not use so-called “**Shabbat elevators**,” which enable observant Jews to use elevators without breaking rules against manual labour on the Sabbath. This is the first time a group of such eminent rabbis has banned the use of Shabbat elevators, which have been in use for decades. Generally, Shabbat elevators are set to automatically stop on every floor for 20 to 30 seconds on ascent and descent, precluding the need for people to press a button, which is considered a form of labour. The

ruling, which was signed by **Rabbi Yosef Shalom Elyashiv**—arguably the most influential Torah sage in Israel—and **Rabbis Nissim Karelitz, Chaim Kanievsky and Shmuel Halevy Wosner**, could have major ramifications for hundreds of thousands of Orthodox Jews in Israel and around the world, many of whom rely on Shabbat elevators in hospitals, hotels and residential buildings. **The Knesset**, Israel’s parliament, passed a law eight years ago requiring buildings with more than one elevator to designate one for Shabbat use.—*Religion News Service*

◆ Indian officials have rejected a request by the Albanian government to return the remains of **Mother Teresa** to the country of her birth. The Albanian request came from **Prime Minister Sali Berisha**, who had said on October 10 that his government had sought the return of Mother Teresa’s remains before the **100th anniversary of her birth** next August. Mother Teresa, who died in Calcutta in 1997, was born in 1910 as **Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu** in Skopje, Macedonia. Her family was ethnic Albanian and

devoutly Catholic. A spokesman of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs told the Mumbai newspaper **DNA** that “Mother Teresa is an Indian citizen.” The newspaper added that “the fact that she was an Indian citizen is a clear indication that for New Delhi, the argument ends here.” In Calcutta, where Mother Teresa is buried at the Missionaries of Charity motherhouse, officials of the order said they had not received any request for the transfer of Mother Teresa’s mortal remains to Albania.—*Religion News Service*

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

New book for CHIP

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

The Adventist Health department of the North New Zealand Conference (NNZC) has finished compiling a new recipe book based on the Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP).

The CHIP program focuses on reducing coronary risk factor levels through the adoption of better health habits and appropriate lifestyle changes. It also promotes the adoption of a plant-based diet. Numerous churches around the South Pacific Division have run CHIPS for their local communities.

“There was no recipe book in New Zealand that presented a plant-based diet without milk, eggs and meat based on CHIP principles,” says Pastor Paul Rankin, director of Adventist Health for NNZC. “So we decided we’d put together a recipe book.”

Recipes were contributed by 12 Adventist church members and include soups, savouries, salads and desserts. All recipes use ingredients that are readily available in New Zealand. Recipes also had to “taste good,” be low in fat and salt content, and easy to cook.



Roast vegetable pasta is just one of the recipes contained in the new CHIP recipe book, which was put together by the North New Zealand Conference.

“A lot of the people receiving this recipe book will be transitioning from a meat-based diet to a plant-based one,” says Pastor Rankin. “These people usually struggle because meat has a strong taste and vegetables are usually plain. So the food in the recipe book has to taste good.”

The recipes in the book are either original or adapted from other recipe books. An initial print run of 1000 copies of the book are expected to be available by Christmas 2009.—*Melody Tan*

More @ www.record.net.au

Avondale lecturer has influence in theological research

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

An Avondale College lecturer has helped manage a \$A100,000 grant to research theological education in Australia.

Dr Rob McIver and a team selected by Council of Deans of Theology members, along with author Reverend Canon Dr Charles Sherlock managed a project called “Uncovering Theology: the depth, reach and utility of Australian theological education.”

The project “marks the emergence of theological education as a part of the mainstream of Australian higher education landscape,” write co-chairs Dr Mark Harding and Professor Neil Ormerod in



Dr Rob McIver.

the preface of the book of the same title. They say it will shape the future of the discipline.

The Australian Learning and Teaching Council funded the publication of the book based on a recommendation by the council of deans. Dr McIver has been a member of the council since becoming dean of the Faculty of Theology in January and speaks highly of the benefits of researching in a collaborative environment.

Dr McIver helped launch the book, published by ATF Press, at the annual conference of the Australia and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools in July. He is president of the association.—*Kirsten Bolinger*

More @ www.avondale.edu.au

Church adds 1 million members for sixth year in a row

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, US

More than 1 million people joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church during the year ending June 30, 2009, marking the sixth consecutive year of million-member gains, General Conference (GC) officials said.

Church leaders said an average of 2818 people joined the church daily, bringing the world membership total to 16,049,101 baptised Adventists.

Church leaders initially projected a world church membership of 17 million by 2009. However, partially due to corrected membership reports from several church regions, the membership total stayed around 16 million, said Pastor Matthew Bediako, GC secretary.

Pastor Bediako said a recently-completed audit in the South American region resulted in a decrease of more than 300,000 members. He encouraged other regions that have yet to complete audits to “gather courage and do it.”

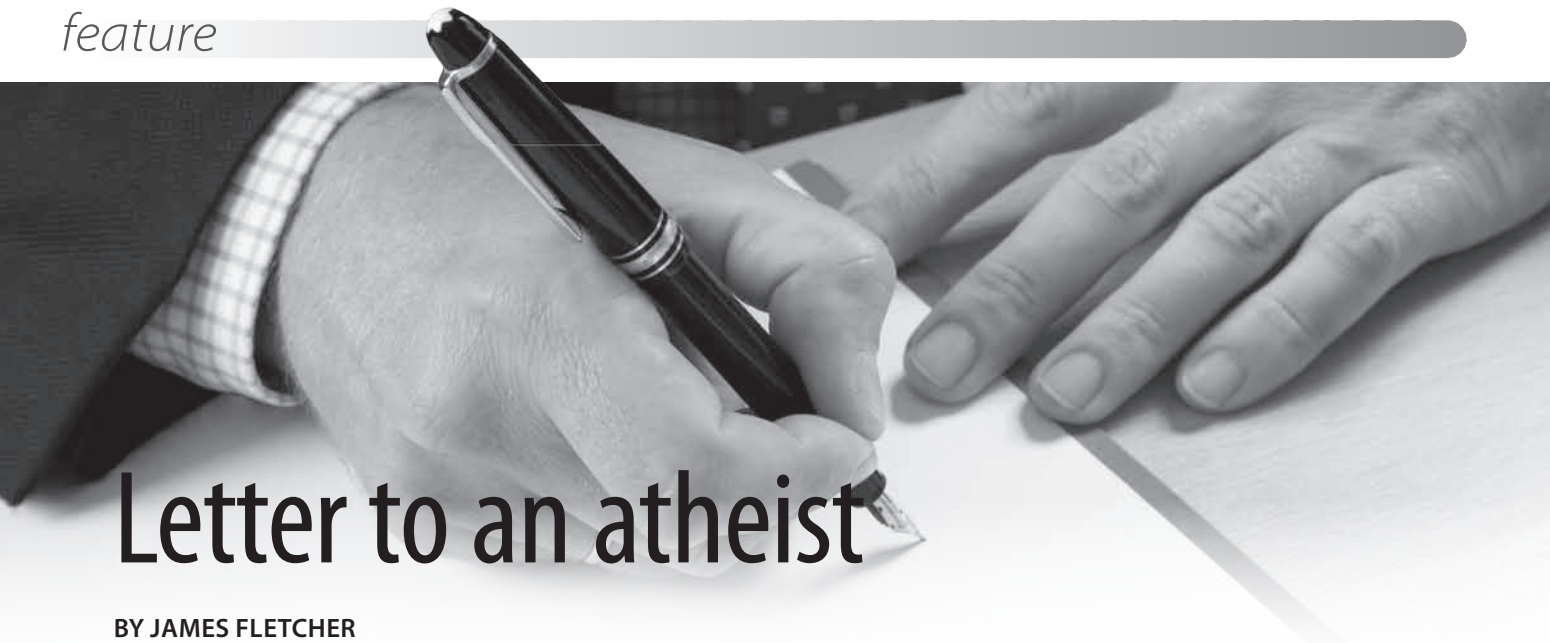
“I know something good will come out when you know the membership on your record is accurate,” he says.

Bert Haloviak, director of the GC’s Office of Archives and Statistics, said an audit is sometimes followed by a period of quick growth. He cited membership growth in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, which has increased more than 6 per cent during the past four quarters. That region underwent membership audits from 2006 to 2007, and has since increased its membership more than any other time during its history.

Church growth patterns indicate most church growth took place in non-western societies. About 71 per cent of church growth occurred in five of the church’s 13 world regions—South America, Inter-America, East-Central Africa, South Africa-Indian Ocean and Southern Asia.

Church leaders credit the growth to a variety of initiatives taken by the major regions, including evangelism and interpersonal outreach.—*Megan Brauner/ANN*

More @ <http://news.adventist.org>



Letter to an atheist

BY JAMES FLETCHER

I HAVE OFTEN LISTENED TO PHILLIP Adams, a confirmed and vocal atheist and host of “Late Night Live” on ABC radio. Awhile ago, I noticed his book *Adams Vs God* in a Borders bookstore. It presents his views on the back cover, where he describes the idea of God as a “nervous little idea.” I was puzzled, seeing as he had taken the trouble to write a whole book on this “nervous little idea.”

Imagine standing on one of our fine beaches here in Australia. You can look one way and not see the end of the sand and surf. You can look the other way and not see the end. Bend down and scoop up a handful of sand, then try to focus on one grain of sand. A single grain of sand can represent our precious sun in the grand scheme of the universe, for science tells us there are as many stars in the known universe as there are grains of sand on all the beaches in all the world. But then imagine a speck of dust—our earth—next to that tiny grain of sand. On that speck of dust, imagine a collection of atoms that we call ourselves.

My question is this: given our insignificance in the universe, even on such a simple scale as size, how can you say the entire universe is without purpose or meaning? Of course, the atheist could respond by saying, “Given our insignificance, how can you say the universe does have meaning?”

Today, we talk and think with as much self-confidence in our own importance as people did in the Dark Ages. They thought the world was the centre of the entire universe. We have lost our sense of wonder or, to put it another way, our sense of humility

in the face of the unknown. We know very little about the universe or even about life here on earth. We, speaking collectively, still don’t know how complex the chemistry of a single bacterium is, let alone any other life form.

In spite of being unable to prove or disprove the existence of God, we need to regain our sense of wonder.

Isn’t there room for wonder when you see a gorgeous sunset, watch a dragonfly or admire a newly-opened flower?

A sunset could be explained as just a group of particular spectra of different colours. The dragonfly could be reduced to a collection of complex chemicals. In the same way, the *Mona Lisa* could be catalogued by the percentage of different pigments mixed together, while a Mozart concerto could be reduced to a series of vibrations of different frequencies. But we can appreciate the talent of Leonardo daVinci and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart while experiencing a sense of wonder. In the same way, a sunset and a dragonfly can evoke a sense of wonder and appreciation for the divine Artist.

Why does it seem so hard for some to find evidence of God’s existence? Is God playing a game of hide and seek?

There is a reason for God’s apparent shyness. If there is such a thing as genuine faith in God, there must also be such a thing as genuine doubt. God stands far enough away so we are free to make a genuine choice—a choice, I believe, with eternal consequences. If God were to reveal Himself the way some demand before they are willing to believe, He would take away their freedom to trust

and love Him. There are those who believe in God and those who hate Him.

When I read Isaiah 53, it talks of God hiding His power and glory. It illustrates Adams’ comment about this “nervous little idea.” You can dismiss Him, you can speak against Him and you can even join others who have done the same. The God I read about will bend His back to carry His own cross, to remain silent when taunted. He will stretch out His hands and allow others to impale them. Adams has heard the Bible story before and chosen to reject it. But the idea of God seems to torment him and books must still be written.

Adams can speak with warmth and sympathy but for him, there is no such thing as divine compassion. He speaks out against injustice and repression but for him, there is no absolute or final justice. Adams has a strong sense of right and wrong but for him, there is no higher authority than his own opinions. He values life but for him, eternity has no appeal. He is shocked by suffering and tragedy but for him, there is no solution.

I still remember reading one of Adams’ comments in the mid 80s about a friend whose son committed suicide. He could not accept that life is without purpose in the face of such a loss and yet, that is his creed. **R**

This article is based on a letter written to Phillip Adams.

James Fletcher writes from New South Wales, Australia.



What determines Manhood matters

BY GRAHAM HOOD

WHERE HAVE ALL THE REAL MEN gone? This is a question often asked in our community today. Sadly, the qualities of good manhood have become rare in our society. Men are becoming more frustrated as they attempt to define their roles.

Words like honour, humility and honesty are often used to describe a good man but many men are unable to define the meaning of these words. They struggle to tell what is required to be a “good” man.

Author John Eldredge of *Wild at Heart: Discovering the Secrets of a Man's Soul* tells us that “the world is full of un-finished, un-initiated, brooding, sulking and fatherless men, who carry a deep wound that was almost certainly inflicted by their fathers.” Eldredge says we are all seeking validation—the answer to that big question, “do I have what it takes to be a good man?”

This question can only be answered in the company of good men of Christ.

Women are good at seeking answers to their own issues in the company of other women. But men or boys are wired differently—they use other methods to find answers to their questions.

The level of physical, mental and sexual abuse in our churches and communities is a clear indicator of the issues facing us when men do not act as God intended. Statistics indicate that over 90 per cent of reported offenders are male.¹

Women and children are the heart of

honour. We must always nourish and protect it in them. We must never mistreat a woman or child, malign a man, or stand by and see another do so.

If all the men of our churches held firm to this belief, the incidence of abuse would be all but diminished. My own life was a disaster of epic proportions before I found Christ in 2007. I was up to my neck in debt, bogged down in a pornography addiction that spiralled out of control. I was affected so deeply that I felt the only way out for me was suicide. However, God intervened and my life has exploded with relevance since then.

I now have a wonderful, love-filled marriage, and have gone from suicidal thoughts in 2006 to having the best year of my life in 2008 and 2009. I now live my life on two rails: The Ten Commandments and The Beatitudes in Matthew 5.

This keeps me centered while I build my knowledge of the Scriptures through study. I come to you from the world, not as an ambassador but as a refugee.

I already know enough to never go back to where I came from thanks to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

My wife, Michelle, and I are now running a thriving ministry called “Mission Serenity.” Our sole purpose is to bring hope to a hopeless world.

Our programs include *Celebrate Recovery*—a Christ-centered 12-step program and *The Healing Power of Grace*—a program to

restore victims of sexual abuse in the church to a loving relationship with Christ.

The *Manhood Matters* series is also designed to create a healthy men's ministry in our churches. It enhances the concept of a “healing” church, where those who return from the evil of abuse can feel safe and welcome in a place where judgment is left at the door.

Our programs were recently run over four days at the South Queensland Big Camp, with an average of 300 people attending each program each day.

On the last day of *Manhood Matters*, approximately 100 men answered the call to be knights of Christ. As a result, the South Queensland Conference has embraced a vital men's ministry and *Shed Churches* for men are springing up all over the state. **R**

1. N Richardson & L Bromfield, *Who abuses children? National Child Protection Clearinghouse. Published by the Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2005*

Visit www.missionserenity.com.au for more information.

Graham Hood is an airline captain who has spent years working in human factors and mentoring training for his international airline. He is presenter of the “Manhood Matters” series, from Queensland, Australia.



The quest for authentic Christianity

BY ELIEZER GONZALEZ

MANY RELIGIOUS GROUPS TODAY claim to represent authentic Christianity. So let's allow our thinking to be stretched and challenged, just a little. Let's imagine you have been invited to a meeting with a new group a friend has been attending.

Everyone there is affectionate with each other—even physically so. There seems to be little ritual or structure to the meetings, and the people there are really enthusiastic. Men and women all share leadership roles, and young and old all participate equally. Almost everyone appears to be involved, taking turns in sharing and leading out, whether in verbal praise, song or prayer.

The people pray with their hands lifted and there are constant loud exclamations of praise. Stories about Jesus are told, as well as an almost constant stream of testimonies. Some people share a message that God has given them for the church. In some cases, these messages are delivered in an unknown tongue with someone else translating. You even witness some amazing physical healings right there at the meeting. At the end, as at the end of every meeting, the group

has some grape juice and bread, tells stories of Jesus' final days on earth and moves straight into a full meal together.

As an Adventist, how would you respond to this? Too irreverent? Too charismatic? Perhaps you might even be mumbling a prayer for divine protection under your breath as you leave the meeting.

Actually, the meeting you just attended could well have been an early Christian church meeting—perhaps one of Paul's churches. Isn't it strange how tradition has coloured our view of church? Many of us are extremely uncomfortable coming face to face with the authentic Christianity of the New Testament, even to the extent of labelling it as being "of the devil."

What is tradition? Tradition refers to the beliefs or customs passed on from one generation to the next. They can be in writing, in the form of rules or standards, or just expectations that are passed down. In terms of "Christian tradition," I mean those things not adherently taught in the Bible that have been specifically developed by the church (Adventist or otherwise) to help regulate behaviours and standards

within the faith community. There are also traditions we have inherited through other sources that we then apply to church.

Tradition seems to have a bad name within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We are "traditionally" fond of quoting the accusation of Jesus to the scribes and Pharisees in Mark, when He says "making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered" (Mark 7:13, KJV). This is a useful text to apply to others, particularly in evangelistic campaigns.

Obviously, when we allow tradition to "nullify the word of God," then it is something to be avoided. But not all tradition is bad. All social groups need to establish norms and "rules" by which they regulate their behaviours and identify themselves as a community. Imagine a church with no organisation and no order whatsoever—sounds a bit like the completely out-of-control church at Corinth, doesn't it? Therefore, in this sense, there are many positive traditions that have developed over time.

But when we apply the traditions of the

past to the situations of the present, it becomes a problem. When church traditions no longer work in a given culture or society, they become something that makes the Word of God “of no effect.” In such cases, traditions can hinder the church in its mission, separate people from God and even repel those who would seek Him. Sadly, the “guardians of tradition” in these situations rarely understand what is going on. It is incumbent on the church to be aware of what is based on tradition and what is based on “thus saith the Lord.”

In case you were thinking your church doesn't follow many traditions, here are some I suggest have no basis in the Word of God:

- The full-time gospel ministry;
- “Ordination” to the gospel ministry;
- The laying on of hands by elders alone;
- The quarterly celebration of the Lord's supper;
- The Lord's supper consisting of a tiny piece of bread and a tiny glass of wine;
- The order of service used in church;
- The anointing of the sick only in the case of serious illnesses;
- The appointment of deaconesses;
- The “non-ministerial” role of deacons;
- Baptism only after every known sin has been overcome;
- Baptism only after all the teachings of the church have been fully studied; and
- Allowing churches to get bigger rather than planting lots of smaller churches.

I am not suggesting they are bad traditions—they may, in fact, be very good traditions we need to keep. But even then, they should never be given the same authority as Scripture. Others would be best relegated to the archives of church history. Certainly, they all need to be carefully thought through.

I have this idealistic idea that getting back to the authentic Christianity of the New Testament means a closer walk with Jesus. I'd like to think it results in the empowering of the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit.

It is much more than about what we do or don't do. It is about experiencing the reality of the risen Christ in our lives. But it does mean removing the traditions that come between us and experiencing Jesus—between formalism and authentic Christianity.

Of course, it is not just a case of slavishly imitating what the early church did. In fact, there is much about the early church we don't know. Then again, it operated in a culture that was relevant for its time and not necessarily for ours. Even so, I believe the same principles are important. We need to get back to authentic New Testament Christianity. Let our motivation be a heartfelt quest for Jesus Christ, rather than the fear of what we may actually find when we strip away the layers of tradition.

Will it mean speaking in tongues in the New Testament way? I don't know.

Will it mean miracles and healing in our churches? I hope so.

Will it mean our churches explode with power as they did in New Testament times? I know so. **R**

Eliezer Gonzalez is from Brisbane, Australia.



Thank God for pioneers

BY RAY COOMBE

RONALD KEN FROM VANUATU represents more than 40 volunteer missionaries working as front-line Bible workers and evangelists throughout the South Pacific Division, funded by Global Mission to plant a new Adventist Church. Ronald is located in southern Malekula, Vanuatu, where he is the Global Mission pioneer for the Farun Village Church Plant. He receives 12,000 vatu, which is approximately \$A240 per month as a stipend to support his work in this primitive area. The stipend is not a full wage—he has to support himself from his garden. But he is dedicated to sharing the gospel with his fellow countrymen and raising up a church.

Other pioneers in Australia and New Zealand receive more of a wage for their work as Bible workers—perhaps \$A20,000 per year plus allowances—in the Solomon Islands. Stipends are currently supporting several husband and wife teams as “pioneers.” Global Mission pioneers are usually trained in evangelistic outreach centres that focus on lay training programs. They depend on the work of the Holy Spirit and simple witnessing tools, such as Bible guides and picture rolls, as they introduce people to Jesus and His teachings. Without these pioneers, the mission of the church would not be accomplished. Thank God for Global Mission pioneers and other lay people who are supported in this soul-winning work! **R**

Ray Coombe is director of Adventist Mission for the South Pacific Division.



Opposite day

BY LEESA FLETCHER

CHARACTER MIGHT MATTER, IF YOU GET A FACELIFT, Your money, not your time, is the ultimate gift; What an upside-down, half-crazy society Everything is opposite to how it should be.

A true love is something to compete for and win
If you're charming, achieving, smart or maybe thin;
If the love God offers lavishly for free
Feels out of reach, we work to the bone—endlessly.

Thinking, "If I'm good enough to Him, or if nice
I can win real love any day, at any price;"
Not knowing the truth—God's ways are opposite to
What living here may have daily taught me and you.

But stop—there's no way we earn acceptance or love
God's own system happens to be higher above
The reward system operating around here;
God's already made up His mind as He draws near.

"With all my heart, soul and strength, I love you always,
Yes, you I'm waiting to embrace with joy and grace." **R**

Leesa Fletcher writes from
Victoria, Australia.

Record Roo



Hi kids!

The Bible tells us of many victorious battles for Joshua and the Israelites. It also gives us a long list of all the kings that Joshua defeated with God's help.

Bible Text

These are the _____ of the land that _____ and the Israelites _____ on the west side of the _____, from Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon to Mount Halak...
Joshua 12:7, NIV.

Word Search

Can you find all 31 names from the list, in the puzzle below?



JERICHO, JERUSALEM, HEBRON, JARMUTH, LACHISH, EGLON, GEZER, DEBIR, GEDER, AI, HORMAH, ARAD, LIBNAH, ADULLAM, MAKKEDAH, BETHEL, TAPPUAH, HEPHER, APHEK, LASHARON, MADON, HAZOR, SHIMRONMERON, ACSHAPH, TAANACH, MEGIDDO, KEDESH, JOKNEAM, DOR, GOYIM, TIRZAH.

Dreamstime.com

Peta Taylor

Positions vacant

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

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

▲ **Farm Manager/Horticulture Teacher and Mechanics Teacher**.

▲ **Primary Teachers**—*Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community Inc (Meekeatharra, WA)* including early childhood. Several positions available. One immediate start. Karalundi 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 Meekeatharra in central Western Australia. Karalundi 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, Meekeatharra WA 6642. Positions available in 2009/2010.

▲ **Bus Manager**—*Adventist Christian Schools (WA)*. We are looking for a full-time manager for the schools' bus system. It is envisioned that the successful applicant will have clearly demonstrated abilities in many of the following areas: driving (appropriate licence); scheduling and routing of buses; driver recruitment and rosters; communication skills; mechanical ability to cater for repair and maintenance; and the ability to obtain a Motor Vehicle Repairer's Certificate. Additionally, appointment to this position will require a police and working with children check. The bus manager holds an important role in the operation of our schools, and requires someone with vision and organisational ability. Please email your application, including CV and church membership details, to Stacey Kendall <staceykendall@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **November 30, 2009**.

▲ **Assistant Accountant**—*Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care (NNSW) Ltd* is seeking to appoint an assistant accountant to join their finance team, based in Cooranbong, NSW. The successful applicant will have a team focus and be degree qualified. For more information or a job description, contact David Knight on (02) 4977 0000 or <davidknight@aacnsw.com.au>. Applications close **November 14, 2009**.

▲ **Chief Executive Officer**—*Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care (South Queensland) Ltd*. This position involves giving leadership and representing Aged Care in South Queensland, as well as being responsible for the management of the Independent Living Units across the system. The successful applicant should have high-level management and administrative skills, tertiary qualifications in management, and preferably experience in the Health and Aged Care industries.

▲ **Executive Care Manager**—*Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care (South Queensland) Ltd*. This position involves overseeing the care needs of the system; the development and monitoring of consistent policies and procedures; working with local care managers to ensure the best possible care for residents; and compliance with Aged Care Accreditation standards. The successful applicant should have a tertiary qualification and experience in Nursing Administration, with previous experience in caring for aged and disabled persons. They should also have current registration with the Queensland Nursing Council or be able to achieve such registration. Computer literacy, and an understanding of the Commonwealth Government funding policies and procedures for residential aged care, is essential.

▲ **Group Finance Manager**—*Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care (South Queensland) Ltd*. This position involves creating, implementing and monitoring all financial and administrative policies for the company in its current and future Aged Care ministries. The successful applicant should hold Business/Management/Accounting academic qualifications at degree level and be a member, or eligible to be a member, of a recognised Professional Accounting organisation (CA/PCA). They should have a sound knowledge of financial accounting computer packages, including the use of MS Excel for spreadsheet analysis. They should also be able to demonstrate current experience in financial management and administration, preferably in the Health or Aged Care industries. Detailed "Position Profiles" are available on request and written applications for these positions, including detailed Curriculum Vitae and referees, should be forwarded to the Secretary, Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care (South Queensland) Limited, 19 Eagle Terrace Brisbane Qld 4000, facsimile (07) 3236 1305, email <mpotts@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **November 20, 2009**.

▲ **Personal assistant/Administrative professional**—*Victorian Conference (Nunawading, Vic)*. Victorian Conference Youth Ministries (Vicyouth) is seeking a full-time personal assistant/Administrative professional to provide a welcoming office environment, care for incoming and outgoing communication and provide administrative support to the Youth Department personnel. This position requires excellent communication skills, experience in office and event management, and competency in using computers, especially MS Word, MS Excel and MS Access. Knowledge and experience of Adobe Photoshop, web management and marketing will also be useful. Must be able

to work under pressure and meet deadlines! A working knowledge and experience in Pathfinders and Youth Ministry would be a decided advantage. Values and qualities we are looking for include: integrity, honesty, confidentiality, trustworthiness, self-motivation and a vibrant Christian experience. Interested applicants please contact Moe Ioane Stiles for a copy of the job description on 0423 793 466 or (03) 9264 7741, or email <moeioanestiles@adventist.org.au>. Applications must address key selection criteria. Applications close **November 30, 2009**.

▲ **Primary Coordinator**—*Tweed Valley College (NSW)*. Tweed Valley College offers pre-Kindy to Year 12 and has been operating for over 50 years. Situated in one of the most beautiful parts of Australia in the northern rivers of NSW, it is set on a beautiful, 30-acre campus with great facilities. The successful applicant will teach in the Primary school and coordinate the functioning of the Primary program. We are looking for an experienced Primary teacher, with creativity and a commitment to the growth of Christian influence within our community. The applicant must be somebody with a passion for Adventist education who loves kids and has a vision to grow the Primary school section of the college. For more information or expressions of interest, contact Ralph Luchow at <ralphluchow@adventist.org.au> or (02) 4944 3225.

For more employment options go to
adventistemployment.org.au



Volunteers!

Volunteer Manager—*Medical Boat Ministries (Solomon Islands)*. To supervise the operations and maintenance of medical clinic boats and buildings, and to provide monthly financial statements and reports to Sonship. Husband and wife team preferable. House, transport and stipend provided. Term 12 months. Commencement January 1, 2010. Captain's licence for large vessels an advantage but not essential. Contact Trevor Oliver on 0419 773 336.

Email:

<volunteers@adventist.org.au>.

For more positions, check the web on

<www.adventistvolunteers.org>.

+61 2 9847 3275



son of Steven Rowland (Landsborough, Qld) and Sue Rowland (Everton Park), and Katey May Cronk, daughter of Dr Andrew and Sally Cronk (Samford Valley), were married on 7.10.09 in the garden of Topiaries at Beaumont.

Mike Brownhill

Obituaries

Andrews, Dr Robert John (Bob), born 12.7.1932 at Te Puke, NZ; died 14.2.09 at Hope Island, Gold Coast, Qld. He was predeceased by his first wife, Jeanette (nee White), on 24.8.1994, and his second wife, Marion (nee Burgher Groom), on 11.9.06. Bob is survived by his older brother and sister-in-law, Tom and Audrey, and their sons, Geoffrey, Stephen and Craig; his sister-in-law, Shirley, and children, Lynette Ward, Greg, Sue Smith and families; Jeanette's siblings, including Maureen Ison and family; and his stepchildren (by marriage to Marion), Calvin Groom, Loanne Branster, Julie Behrens and their families. Bob's professional work and community service were recognised through the awards of MBE and OAM. He will always be remembered for his caring, generous and patient nature, along with his fervent commitment to improving the lives of others in the community.

Slawomir Malarek

Bailey, Lynton (Bunty), born 15.2.1940 at Mildura, Vic; died 27.8.09 in Tweed Hospital, Tweed Heads, NSW. On 25.4.1965, he married Judy Living. He is survived by his wife; his children, Kaylene (and Brad), Adrian, Wayne (and Pauline); and his four grandchildren. Bunty's sense of humour was contagious, even through his illness, and he had a great singing voice. He died with the blessed hope in his heart, and will be sadly missed by his family and all who knew him.

Brett Townend, Clive Butcher

Bradshaw, Jessie Lorraine (nee Potter), born 18.10.1937 at Merbein, Vic; died 16.2.09 at home in Mildura. In February 1957, she married Maxwell Bradshaw, who predeceased her on 9.9.04. She is survived by her daughters, Karolyn, and Maxine (and Paul) Grey (Adelaide, SA); and her grandson, Jeremy. The graveside funeral was held in the Mildura Monumental Cemetery, where she was laid to

Weddings

Broadway—*Lonsdale*. Christopher James Broadway, son of Trevor and Charmaine Broadway (Woori Yallock, Vic), and Kimberly Anne Lonsdale, daughter of Ian and Cathy Lonsdale (Mt Evelyn), were married 27.9.09 at Poet's Lane Receptions, Sherbrooke.

Morrie Krieg, Matt Hunter

Flamenco—*Golenia*. Peck Flamenco, son of Miguel Angel and Odenis Flamenco (Melbourne, Vic), and Jasmine Golenia, daughter of Daniel and Christine Golenia (Singleton, NSW), were married 20.9.09 in St Patrick's of Nulkaba.

Miguel Flamenco, Jan Jankiewicz

Grice—*Mimms*. Chris Grice, son of Barry and Lorraine Grice, and Christie-Lee Minns, daughter of Heather Cole, were married 6.10.09 in Wentworthville Presbyterian church, Wentworthville, NSW. Their reception was held at Parramatta Park Events Centre, Parramatta. Chris and Christie are teachers at Hills Adventist College (formerly Castle Hill Adventist College).

Ross Cole

Rowland—*Cronk*. Daniel Mark Rowland,

rest with her beloved Max. Pastor Graham Chapman referred to Jessie's Bible, where she had recorded and underlined promises for every phase of life—promises of joyful times, times of sickness, times of sadness and the glorious promise of 1 Thessalonians 4:16. "The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout . . . and the dead in Christ shall rise first." A devoted wife and mother, she endeared herself to many. Her family, friends and neighbours sadly miss her wonderful happy nature. We hold these promises near to our hearts.

Kevin Potter, Graham Chapman

Coleman, Frances William George, born 30.12.1916 at Wandsworth, England; died 29.7.09 in Brisbane, Qld. In 1947, he married Isabella Robertson at Yarraman. She predeceased him in 1959. Frank was baptised into the Adventist Church on 9.12.1961. He attended Cairns church, where he served in various positions. He emigrated to Australia with his parents in 1919. Frank served for almost four years in the Army, first in North Africa and then in New Guinea. He was fervent in his faith and held strongly to his convictions, not being backward in promoting his religious views. He awaits the Resurrection morning.

Mark Pearce

Cover, Mavis Mary (nee Myers), born 29.10.16 at Rockhampton, Qld; died 3.8.08 in Toronto Hospital, NSW. In 1937, she married Roderick at Longreach, Qld, who predeceased her in 1998. She is survived by her brothers, Tony and Colin; her son, Alan (Brisbane); her daughters, Marion Harrold (Caloundra), Robyn Burzacott (Cooranbong) and Gail Valentine (Sydney), and their spouses; her nine grandchildren; and her 15 great-grandchildren. She was introduced to the Advent hope through the preaching of George Burnside in Brisbane in 1952, and Sandgate church became her spiritual home. A woman of quiet, uncomplicated faith, she created a home girded with love and care. It provided safety and security for her cherished family and passed on a strong sense of the value of what is right and good. Her children know they've been blessed.

Gil Valentine, Percy Harrold

Davis, Edmund Lloyd, born 1939 at Cobden, Vic; died 14.8.09 at home in Campersdown. Lloyd was baptised in 1957 in Campersdown church by Pastor EB Andrews on the same occasion as his dad and younger brother. He is survived by 13 nephews and nieces. Lloyd went to school at Glenfyne and later moved to Timboon Consolidated School. Several years later, his family moved to Campersdown, where he lived until his death. Lloyd loved cooking, gardening, doing long stitch tapestries and his church, where he served as deacon. He mowed the lawns for many years until his heart attack in 1995, when he gave up all strenuous work. He will be remembered as a good Christian. He now sleeps peacefully, waiting for the Resurrection morning.

Nikola Trajkov

Fowler, Leslie Newlands, born 1.2.1906 in Sydney, NSW; died 13.6.09 at Coffs

Harbour, aged 103. He was predeceased by his first wife, Olive, and his wife, Pat. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, John and Rosa (Coffs Harbour). He began work in the banking system and later served as CEO of Coffs Harbour District Hospital for 24 years. After retirement, he managed the Coffs Harbour Legacy Nursing Home for 13 years. During the 1930s, Les studied the Scriptures in Lismore and was convinced that even during the worst of times, God would bless his family. He was professionally and materially blessed throughout his long life, maintaining a close association with the Adventist Church and his support of ADRA. A memorial service was held on 16.6.09 in Coffs Harbour church.

Franklin, Robin Leslie, born 8.7.1957 in Roma, Qld; died 1.10.09 in Chermside. In 1976, she married Richard. Robyn is survived by her husband (Samford); her son, Andrew, and his wife, Stacey (Margate); her son, Christopher (Greymouth, SNZ); her daughter, Alisha (Allora, Qld); her grandchildren, Jay, Emily and Addison Franklin (Margate); her brothers, Kevin (and Diane) Isles (Bray Park), John Isles (Scarborough), Robert (and Julie) Isles (Burpengary), Peter Isles (Chartres Towers); and her sister, Debbie Hemsall (Clontarf). Robyn was predeceased by her granddaughter, Jasmine, in 2006.

Mike Brownhill, Darrin Parker

McLaughlin, Jack (John), born 25.10.1923 at Taree, NSW; died 17.7.09 in Gosford Hospital. In 1956, John married Esther (Essie) Watson, who predeceased him in 2003. He is survived by his stepsons and their wives: Edwin (Ed) and Elena (Dural), Alan and Florrie (Cooranbong), Alfred (Alf) and Maureen (Telegraph Point); their children and grandchildren; his nieces and nephews, and their families. In 1957, John and Essie accepted the Adventist message during a mission conducted by Pastor L J Laws in Kempsey, having been introduced by Pastor Allan Maberly. They were faithful members for the rest of their lives. They moved to Sydney during the early 1960s, where John was employed by Sanitarium Health Food Company, Lewisham branch; and then by Sydney Adventist Hospital. Following retirement, John and Essie moved to Iluka, then to Cooranbong for their remaining years, most of which were spent in the Adventist Retirement Village. Everywhere they lived, they were known for their beautiful gardens and pot plants. John had a deep love for his Lord and witnessed at every opportunity. He now sleeps, awaiting the call of the Life-giver on the great Resurrection morning.

L J Laws, C D Judd, A R Watson

Piper, Nancy Fay, born 10.8.1941 at Glen Innes, NSW; died 11.9.09 in Adventist Aged Care, Cooranbong. She was predeceased by her brothers, Max (1945) and Kevin (1995). She is survived by her siblings, Roger (Morisset), Cecil (Morisset), Barbara Johnston (Sydney), Paul (Bateau Bay), Lee Horiedecke (Maitland), Steven (Morisset), Gail (Brisbane, Qld) and Mark (Morisset, NSW). Nancy was the oldest of 10 children and led a very active life until a road accident left her with restricted ca-

pabilities. Nancy loved her Country/Gospel music, as well as her Lord, and became a well-known identity in the Cooranbong/Morisset area. She was loved and appreciated by her extensive family and the staff of the resident facilities she called home. We all look forward to the Resurrection day and Nancy's restoration.

Alan Saunders

Siagian, Dr Aleri Libadia, born 19.9.1932 in the Philippines; died 10.7.09 in Wellington, NZ. She is survived by her husband, Boni; her children, Linda, Jessy, Grace, Harris, Melvin and Tabitha; and her 11 grandchildren. She began her medical career in Manila Adventist Medical Centre (formerly Manila Sanitarium), and served as medical director in various hospitals in Indonesia. She will always be remembered for her hospitality, her love for Jesus and her constant hope of His soon return. She now rests, awaiting the Resurrection.

Bob Larsen

Stevenson, Phyllis (Phyl), born 6.11.1921 at Christchurch, NZ; died 29.7.09 in Nelson Hospital. On 28.2.1940, she married Arch. She was predeceased by her daughter, Sherran Costello, in 1990. She is survived by her husband (Nelson); and her children, Garth (Wanganui), Marilyn Saunders (Cooranbong, NSW), Ainsley Brett (Nelson, NZ) and Mark (Upper Coomera, Qld). After attending an archaeology mission by Pastor George Burnside, Phyl was baptised in 1960 by Pastor Ray Howse. She was a charter member of Ilam church, NZ, and assisted with Dorcas and the health clinic. Phyl (or Mrs Stevie, as she was affectionately known) was a gentle, hospitable woman, who opened her home for many youth and social events. She was a second mum to approximately 30 boarders and was always appreciated for her meals and suppers. Phyl and Arch enjoyed almost 70 years of marriage together. She was "one incredible lady" to her five children, 12 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Alan Saunders

Strydom, Jeanne Marie, born 16.3.1952 at East London, South Africa; died 12.9.09 in Brisbane, Qld. Jeanne is survived by her daughter, Leila Smith (Adelaide, SA); her brother, Aubrey (and Elaine) (Fraser Island, Qld); her sisters, Dawn (and Mike) Brownhill (Clontarf, Qld), and Yvonne (Scarborough); and her nieces, Joanna Maberly (London, UK) and Anika Brownhill (Hornsby, NSW). She was predeceased by her brother-in-law, David Keary, in 2008.

Mike Brownhill

Stuart, Alison Loretta (nee Beament), born 4.10.1970 at Dandenong, Vic; died 23.7.09 in Monash Medical Centre, Clayton, from H1N1 pneumonitis, with complications from being pregnant and having a heart condition. On 14.1.06, she married Conway at JumBunna Lodge, Launching Place. She was predeceased by her son, Joshua Ryan, in 1997. She is survived by her husband (Yarra Junction); her daughter, Laura; her stepdaughter, Tiana; her daughter, Annalise; and her newest baby girl; her parents, John and Sue Beament

(Boronia); her sister, Simone (and Stefan and daughter, Sarah) (Boronia); her sister, Jacqui (and Steve) (Fernree Gully); and Conway's family. Alison was a deeply spiritual person and her relationship with God was the central facet of her life. She truly treasured motherhood and the care of her children, and loved supporting Conway in all his interests. Her warm, welcome smile helped many people face life with hope and joy. She will be greatly missed by family and friends alike. The Lilydale church complex was barely able to cope with the large group of people who attended the service for Alison. Farewell for now—we will see you in the morning.

Morrie Krieg

Tuma, Diana Grace (nee Henry), born 16.11.1932 in Rangoon, Burma; died 11.2.09 in Stirling Aged Care, WA. On 14.12.1960, she married Hero Tum. She was predeceased by her son, Derek, who died in infancy. She is survived by her husband; and her daughter, Rhoda (both of Perth). Diana was a sincere and faithful follower of Jesus all her life. She was a devoted wife and mother, who will be deeply missed by her loved ones till reunion at Jesus' return.

Cyrus Adams

Vano, Teau, born 7.7.1945 in Aitutaki, Cook Islands; died 12.6.09 in Middlemore Hospital, Auckland, NZ, after a short illness. On 25.10.1970, she married John. She was predeceased by her children, Vano and Norman. She is survived by her husband; her children, Annie and Temo, Peo, Puna and Eitiari; and her grandchildren, Paula, John, Teauparetea and Takaia. Teau had seven brothers and five sisters, and was the loving aunt of many in the Cook Islands, New Zealand, Australia and Fiji. Teau was a faithful member of her church, holding positions such as Women's Ministry leader, head deaconess and head elder, as well as representing the Central Pacific Union Mission at the 1995 General Conference Session. In the eulogy, her husband said "she loved her Lord more than she loved me but she was the best wife, mother and grandmother." Goodnight darling Mum, sister and auntie—we'll see you in the Morning. She is resting in the family tomb with her eldest son, Vano, in Vaimaanga, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

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Sydney campus
Faculty of Nursing and Health
Wahroonga Seventh-day Adventist Church
7.30 pm—Consecration Service

Lake Macquarie campus
Avondale College Church
7.30 pm—Consecration Service

SABBATH, DECEMBER 5

Lake Macquarie campus
Avondale College Church
8.40 am and 11.30 am—Church Valedictory Services
10 am—Sabbath School
4 pm—Sounds of Praise
5.30 pm—President's Reception, College cafeteria
(Ticket entry only)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Lake Macquarie campus
Chan Shun Auditorium
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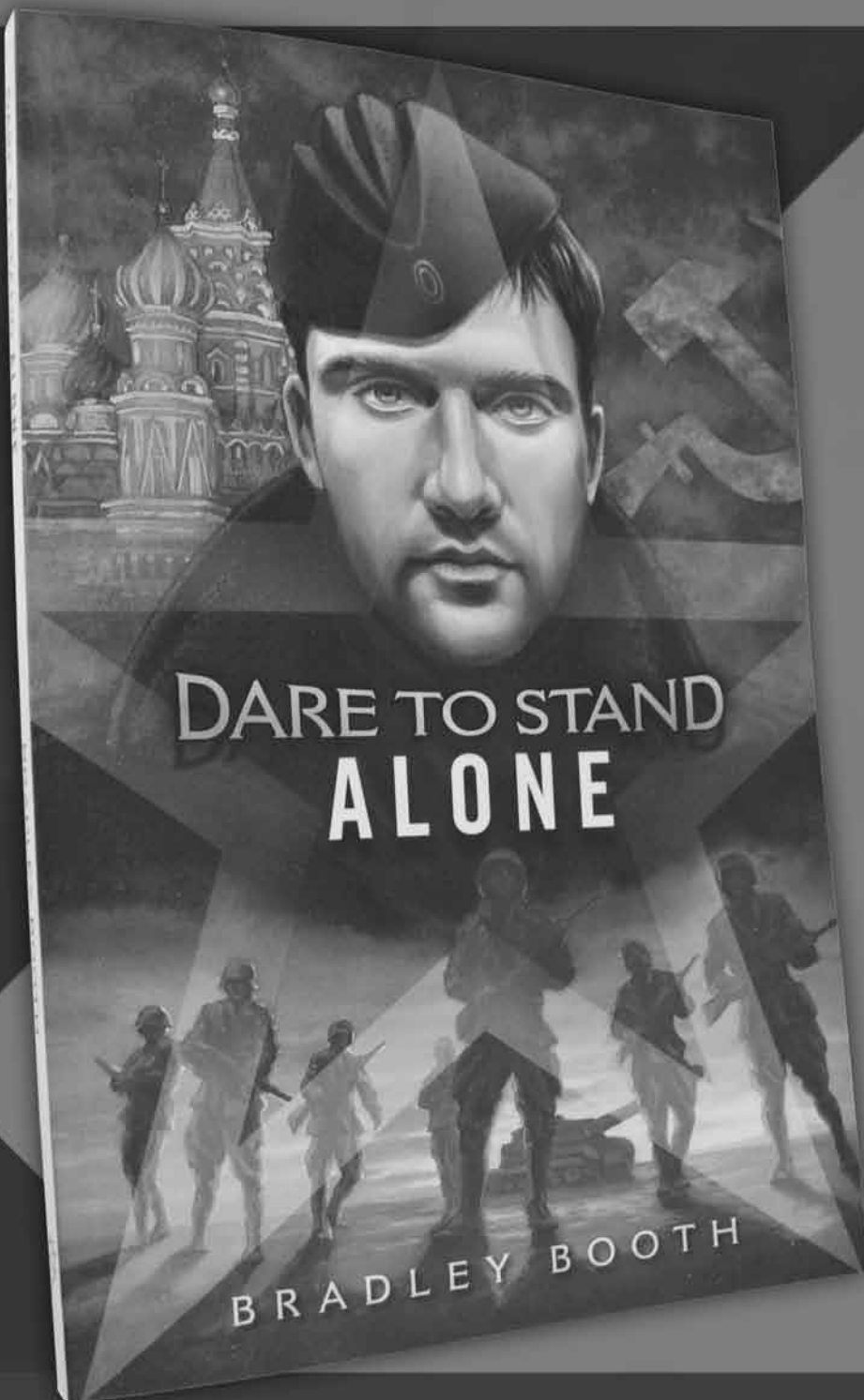
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