

RECORD

December 5, 2009

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Dr Barry Oliver, president of the South Pacific Division, reminded attendees of the division executive committee meetings of God's leading over the past five years.

President addresses SPD leaders at DEC

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Leaders from across the Pacific met for the final division executive committee (DEC) meeting of the South Pacific Division (SPD) for this quinquennium from November 17 to 19.

Dr Barry Oliver, president of the SPD, reminded DEC delegates of their term as representatives of the church, saying, "Another five years have passed into history. As we glance back, we can see multiple evidences of the providence of God. Our confidence for the days before us is secure in the knowledge of His presence with us."

The theme for this year's DEC meetings was the mission and direction of the

church. Dr Oliver challenged delegates with recent research commissioned by the Adventist Media Network on public awareness of Adventism. Newspoll, a leading public-opinion polling company, was asked to carry out research to determine public awareness and understanding of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia and New Zealand.

The survey utilised a sophisticated sampling model that ensured all major cities and states were covered, with various demographics such as age, gender and level of education represented equally.

(Continued on page 3)



DEC report: increase in tithe in SPD



Yet once we have found God's will, there is another step—doing God's will.

The strength to do His will

SEND IN REINFORCEMENTS!"
 "OK God, no problem. With a few more men and You on our side, we can take these guys."

"I said, 'Send home the reinforcements.' You've got too many men."

"Are you sure, God? Don't You know that we're outnumbered already? Surely a few more couldn't hurt."

"Gideon, my son. Send them home."

Gideon put out the fleece, seeking God's will. Three times he sought clarification, until he was sure it was God's voice. And even though he knew it was God's will, the task was not easy. It must have been hard to see the backs of more than 30,000 men when faced with such a huge army (see Judges 6 and 7). To his credit, Gideon went ahead anyway, 300 against thousands. "But he had a clear sign from God," we can argue. "It would have been easier."

In my most recent editorial (September 26), I wrote about seeking God's will. Yet once we have found God's will, there is another step—*doing* God's will. Sometimes this is harder than the seeking. It means facing the enemy outnumbered.

God gives us the freedom to do what we want to do. This becomes difficult when we know what we should do but don't do it. How often do we catch ourselves judging others, lying to get out of trouble or doing any number of other things we know we shouldn't? "That's easy," you say, "I keep the commandments. I try not to sin and God forgives me when I ask."

But what about things that aren't direct violations? We might walk away from someone who needs our help, or an opportunity to do God's will, or push the boundaries that little bit. We are not doing anything wrong but we are not actively seeking and doing God's will either.

We should do whatever we are doing for God's kingdom in the small things—the everyday, the office, the schoolyard, the building site or the nursing home.

But what about the big things—the hard things? What about uprooting our families to move interstate or even overseas? What about that difficult church, uninspiring job or distance from loved ones that seems to fit into God's plan for our lives?

We often read the Bible thinking the heroic option is the obvious answer. We think, *if I had heard God's voice, then I would know exactly what to do*. The miraculous happens and we expect it—the impossible is asked of the characters and we don't realise how hard it would be to take that step of faith.

Queen Esther was placed on the throne to save her people. It was a dangerous mission. It might sound pleasant to be plucked from obscurity and placed on a throne but this was no Cinderella story. Haman made sure Esther couldn't just go through the motions.

Unlike us, Esther didn't know the outcome. She was afraid and reluctant. Note what Mordecai says, "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliv-

erance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:13, 14).*

Sometimes things happen for a reason, sometimes they don't—but you must be ready to act. God's will is hard to do whether we are picked especially or just happen to be in the right place at the right time. Jesus says, "Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. They will be divided, father against son and son against father. . ." (Luke 12: 51, 53).

It is not a wide, easy road. Life can leave us feeling dried up, washed out, empty, filled up, fed up or just plain tired, even when we are following God. It can also leave us fulfilled and fresh but we must remember to stop once in a while and make sure our connection with God is strong. We must not get so busy doing God's work that, like the religious leaders, we step over dying men to get to the temple on time. And most importantly, we are not alone. Paul says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13, NKJV). All we can do is join with Jesus, Who has walked in our shoes, shared our cup and cried out, "Not my will, but yours, be done." (see Luke 22:42).

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

Jarrod Stackelroth



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

Treasurer reports tithe increase

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Rod Brady, chief financial officer for the South Pacific Division (SPD), challenged leaders within the SPD to examine how they can better use the financial resources of the church, saying that although tithe has increased across the division, the church has still felt the effects of the global financial crisis.

“While financially it may seem the church has largely been unaffected by the global financial crisis, this is only part of the story,” says Mr Brady. “It has been a very difficult year for financial staff across the division as they have had to interact and cope with upheavals in the financial world, additional compliance, uncertain economies, changing regulations and the general anxiety that exists in the financial environment that has carried over into some areas of the church’s operation.”

He adds, “It would be remiss to not acknowledge the efforts of so many who have contributed to the financial management of the church in unions, conferences, missions, services and institutions.”

In spite of the global financial gloom, the “good news story” for the church is the increase in tithe. This continues a 10-year trend of tithe increases. Mr Brady says, “Church members need to be affirmed for their faithfulness in returning tithe.”

To August, 2009, reported tithe had in-

creased 8.68 per cent over the same period last year. Tithe still remains the most important single source of income to operate conferences and missions for the division, and pay the salaries of pastors. Other observations shared by Mr Brady in his report included information about the total division tithe increase in the first three years of the current quinquennium of 25 per cent, and the increase in offerings in 2008 and 2009. In the previous quinquennium, division and General Conference (GC) offerings as a percentage of tithe had experienced a downward trend.

Mr Brady says it is pleasing to see the decrease has stopped. Efforts of the Adventist Mission department appear to have been effective in making church members aware of offerings that highlight global work done by the church and the part played by mission offerings. The SPD contributes around nine per cent of the total Global Mission offerings collected, although church membership in the SPD only makes up around three per cent of the GC’s membership.

Additionally, it was noted that despite higher baptisms in union missions, the union missions’ portion of total tithe has remained at about 17 per cent of total division tithe.

In conclusion, Mr Brady says, “As we look over the past year, we cannot help but praise God for the way He has led His church through what many regard as one of the greatest financial upheavals of the past 100 years.”—**Pablo Lillo**

in the SPD where research like this would have not yielded the same results, according to Dr Oliver. He believes that if the same survey were to be conducted in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Fiji or any of the other island nations in the Pacific, results would be more positive.

“The issues of the Pacific are not so much the challenges of breaking through the veil of bias, secularism and materialism,” says Dr Oliver. “The challenge of the Pacific is more likely to be the lack of human and financial resources to adequately disciple and nurture those affiliated with the church, or those who wish to affiliate with the church.

“The needs of the Adventist Church, as we respond to the commission of Jesus to

Two new directors appointed

The Division Executive Committee has chosen John Brereton, currently associate director and island coordinator of Adventist Publishing for the South Pacific Division (SPD), to replace Pastor Terry Goltz, current director, at the end of the year when he retires from this position.



John Brereton.

Mr Brereton and his wife, Michal, became Adventists when he was 29. Following their baptisms, Mr Brereton became involved in literature evangelism in Tamworth and spent four years in outreach

there. He says of that time, “I knocked on every door in the town!”

Mr Brereton has also worked for the North New South Wales, South Queensland, North New Zealand and South New Zealand Conferences. He worked for the South East Asia Union Mission for six years.

In other appointment news, Pastor Nick Kross will become director of Adventist Youth Ministries for the SPD in 2010. Pastor Gilbert Gangy, current director, will be returning to pastoral ministry.

Pastor Kross began his ministry in 1987 in the South Queensland Conference, where he worked for 14 years before being called to the conference’s Youth Ministries department. He worked there for six years before a call to New Zealand Pacific Union Conference. In 2005, Pastor Kross was called to the SPD.

Pastor Kross says he is passionate about God and ministry to young people.

—**Adele Nash**



Pastor Nick Kross.

make disciples of all people, is diverse. The contexts in which we work are diverse. The needs in our communities are diverse. Our methods, therefore, need to be carefully adapted to the situation in which we find ourselves.”—**Pablo Lillo**

More @ www.record.net.au

President addresses SPD leaders at DEC

(Continued from page 1)

When respondents to the survey were asked how much they knew about the Adventist Church, around half knew nothing more than the name.

“It appears that for most people, the term ‘Seventh-day Adventist’ was simply an empty bucket, without either positive or negative associations,” says Dr Oliver. “It’s clear that in Australia and New Zealand there is still a great deal of ground to cover if we are to provide an opportunity for people to hear the everlasting gospel in the context of the Three Angels’ Message of Revelation 14, and become disciples of Jesus.”

There are many other areas of the church

Offering money to rebuild neglected mission

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The Mission Extension Offering collected today will help rebuild mission facilities and churches in the isolated and neglected Western Province of South West Papua in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

The South West Papua Mission (SWPM) with headquarters at Kikori, covers two large and swampy provinces, divided by hundreds of rivers and comprising huge river deltas. Road access to most of the districts is impossible. The only means of getting around the mission is either by flying, using Adventist Aviation or motor-powered banana boats.

Daru Island, separated by the Fly River from the rest of the mission, lies at the western extremity of SWPM and is the district headquarters of an isolated region, including the great West Papuan plains, the Fly River, Turama River and the borders of Australia in Torres Strait.

“Over time, the buildings and facilities at Daru have deteriorated from the intense humid conditions and heavy monsoonal rains,” says Pastor Ray Coombe, director of Adventist Mission for the South Pacific Division (SPD). “The Papua New Guinea Union Mission wants to rebuild this facility and provide stronger support for mission outreach in this neglected part of the country.”

“The new house and District Office at Daru will become the vital centre for providing better services in terms of pastoral ministry to the Western Province,” says Pastor Thomas Davai, president of Papua New Guinea Union Mission. “Although Western Province has a large land mass and population, they do not have pastors. The only full-time missionary is the district director and a Frontier Missions missionary. Most of the pastoral work is done by either Volunteer In Action workers or other church people.”

The surviving district director’s house, which was built in the 1940s, needs to be replaced and Pastor Davai says he would like to see a double-story building that incorporates an office on the ground level.

“Many of the houses in SWPM are run-down due to lack of finance to keep them maintained. Dwellings like those in the picture are typical of buildings around the mission,” says Pastor Davai. “We must do better than this!”

“I’m embarrassed by the condition of our houses in this Mission,” says Pastor Benny Soga, president of SWPM. “And I cannot expect our missionaries to work effectively in a situation like this. I wish we had more funds to build more churches!”

In addition, the Mission Extension Offering this year will hopefully provide funds



Pastor Ray Coombe says this is a typical missionary’s house in South West Papua.

for a church building in the South West Papua region.

“These are very worthwhile projects that help to extend the mission of the church,” says Pastor Coombe. “And the rebuilding of this district office and more church buildings in SWPM will provide a support base for greater outreach and evangelism in this somewhat-neglected corner of our division.”

Last year, the Mission Extension Offering collected in the SPD totalled \$A152,555 and was directed to media ministry in Fiji and Samoa. Hope Radio and Hope Channel programs will soon be available across both of these island nations.

Pastor Coombe says, “Today we have the opportunity of extending God’s kingdom in a very isolated and neglected area of PNG. Please give generously!”—**RECORD staff/Ray Coombe**



◆ **Ulverstone church (Tas)** members **Tony and Carol O’Neil** have won top awards for their olive oil, **Cradle Coast Olives**. The oil won the best of class award in the **National Olive Oil Show** for the fourth year, the best of show at the **Fine Food Awards** in Hobart, and gold awards in Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart. In 2007, it also won

the best oil of show award in the National Olive Oil Show.

—**Melody Tan**

◆ **Nic Bolto** from **Wantirna church, Vic**, has been awarded a **Churchill Fellowship** to study court-based services to people, particularly those with mental health issues. The Fellowship will be conducted in eight countries in mid-2010. “The Fellowship is a great opportunity to look into effective overseas models of assistance,” said Mr Bolto, pictured with **Governor David de Kretser** at the awards



ceremony. “I encourage other Adventists to undertake a Fellowship and extend the horizons of their mission to others.” Mr Bolto is the President of Court Assist, a not-for-profit agency that provides support to people facing court.

◆ **The New Zealand Minister of Justice, the Right Honour-**

able Simon Power, was guest speaker at **Longburn Adventist College’s 97th graduation service**. Mr Power encouraged the graduates to set high standards for themselves, to show real determination and to remember that compassion is the most important quality needed in leaders. “Think about



DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ DECEMBER 5—MISSIONS EXTENSION OFFERING

Smithton church reaches milestone

SMITHTON, TASMANIA

Opened in 1959, Smithton Adventist church has reached the “age” of 50 years, celebrating the anniversary on October 24. The Sabbath program that day was one of remembrance for past and present church members and pastors, with many people sharing stories that celebrated the achievements of the church.

Pastor Peter McCrostie, minister for the church, says, “From all around Australia, past churchgoers returned to share the day with one another. There were approximately 110 people there on the day—including the family of Pastor Ralph Smith, the church’s original pastor, who has since passed away.”

Pastor Ray Eaton, who was pastor at Smithton from 1975 to 1977, shared the sermon on the day.

Annette Baldwin also told of her early years at Smithton and her current work with the Sydney Adventist Hospital. “I have many happy memories—I grew up here,” Mrs Baldwin said. “It’s been lovely catching up with people I haven’t seen in nearly 40 years.”

Pastor McCrostie says, “One of our older members—Ivy Furphy—shared of her



Smithton church members recently celebrated the church’s 50th anniversary.

mother’s inspiring dedication to remain faithful as an Adventist although facing opposition. Each of the members still highly value Ivy and her always-smiling, blessed Christian-sharing ways.”

The original Adventist church in the area was built in Irishtown, which is approximately 15 kilometres out of Smithton. This building was opened in 1932 with 35 members. While still standing in the town, it is not in use as an Adventist church.

Pastor McCrostie says, “Smithton church promotes itself as the ‘Growing church’ threefold in vision—growing Christ, growing in our community connectedness, and sowing and growing. The future is exciting for Smithton.”—**RECORD staff/Peter McCrostie**

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

ADRA launches national survey

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

For the first time, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia has launched a national survey to gather the opinions and feedback of Adventists in Australia, and needs them to respond by December 31.

The survey is part of extensive research that aims to explore what supporters think of charities, including ADRA Australia. The survey asks supporters about their views, perceptions and attitudes toward humanitarian organisations, and their motivation for supporting them. It also explores preferred ways for individuals and churches to engage with charities.

ADRA Australia hopes the information gathered as part of the research will help ADRA be more effective as an agency, find better ways of meeting the needs of ADRA supporters, and help ADRA gain a better understanding of what supporters consider important in the vital work of alleviating poverty and growing the ministry of compassion.

The survey will be available in churches on December 12 in RECORD or can be accessed online at <www.adra.org.au>. Those wishing to take part in the survey can also call 1800 242 372 in Australia.

—**Alexandra Marek**

how your decisions will affect others, especially those more vulnerable than yourself.” The minister reminded the students, “School doesn’t leave you when you leave school,” relating how his retired English teacher, **Mrs Ward**, still rings him, “Especially when I say something grammatically incorrect on TV!” —**Bruce Sharp**

◆ **Hawera church (NZ)** ADRA representative **Larissa Gregson**, along with the Hawera church social committee, organised a fundraising night for this year’s



ADRA appeal. The evening began with a potluck tea but no dessert. How can a potluck be a success without dessert? Ms Gregson had the answer. All desserts were placed on a table ready to be auctioned. After Sabbath, the bidding began. Bidding was long and sustained with some cakes reaching over \$NZ30 each. The auction was

followed by a fun social. At the end of the night, over \$NZ823 had been raised for ADRA from the small group of 35 people. Auctioneer **Craig Bates** encouraged and cajoled the bidders, ensuring a successful evening. —**Marilyn Pasione**

◆ **Cushla Harris** (pictured with **Pastor Nick Kross**), a member of **Park Ridge (Qld) Pathfinder Club**, recently attended the **World Pathfinder Camporee at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, US**, and was invested as a **Master Guide**. Cushla worked for three



years to save enough money to go to the World Camporee for the investiture. She is a junior counsellor and has such a love for Pathfinders that her enthusiasm is contagious. At the next World Camporee, she is planning to be invested with the Pathfinder Leadership Award. There were **37,000 Pathfinders** at this camporee.—**Gwen Ward**

“Helping Hands” gets thumbs up from top student

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

No wonder Brett Carlsen is happy: the biological science major has taken \$A7000 off his living expenses by introducing seven new students to Avondale College.

Mr Carlsen registered for the new mentoring and recruitment initiative “Helping Hands,” which, according to Avondale College’s director of advancement Lorin Bradford, rewards Avondale’s best recruiters for their efforts.

Students become mentors to those they introduce to Avondale by, among other things, helping them register and introducing them to college life. Upon completion of a checklist, the student serving as the mentor can choose to receive a free subject or take \$A1000 off their living expenses.

“I recommend any student giving it a go,” says Mr Carlsen. “It benefits both you and Avondale. . . and you get your mates here!”

Mr Carlsen isn’t the only student benefiting from “Helping Hands.” Seventy-four new students enrolled in first semester this year because 52 current students regis-



Brett Carlsen, who has introduced seven new students to Avondale College.

tered to recruit them and Avondale “paid” the current students \$A46,484 to do so.

Mr Carlsen says recruiting is not difficult. “It wasn’t through constantly pressuring them into coming but giving them answers to questions and examples of fun situations I have had at Avondale. My mates just saw how I genuinely loved Avondale and were pretty curious about [coming here].”

Those interested in registering for the “Helping Hands” program can collect an information pack from the Enquiry and Enrolment Centre at Avondale College.

—Kirsten Bolinger

More @ www.avondale.edu.au

Hope for prisons in Tasmania

HOBART, TASMANIA

Hope Channel, the Adventist Church’s satellite television ministry, will be broadcasting in all six prisons in Tasmania by the end of this year.

Maurie McGuire, with assistance from Glenorchy church, has reached an agreement with the corrective services authorities and has started installing satellites on the premises, beginning with the Risdon Prison Complex.

Subsequent satellites will be installed in Ron Barwick Minimum Security Prison, Mary Hutchinson Women’s Prison, Hayes Prison Farm, Hobart Reception Centre and Launceston Reception Centre.

Along with the prisons, more than 200 television satellites and almost 40 radio stations have been established in Tasmania, having the potential to reach the entire population with the Adventist message.—Melody Tan



Risdon Prison Complex.

◆ Not-for-profit construction company **Maranatha Volunteers International** marked its **40th anniversary** of volunteer-driven school, church, clinic, orphanage and hospital projects this year. Maranatha, a supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, has worked with more than **60,000 volunteers** and completed projects in **63 countries** since the organisation began in 1969. The biggest change in 40 years has been the ability of the organisation to respond to the world church needs, says **Kyle Fless**, Maranatha vice-president

for marketing and projects. Currently, Maranatha has received over **100,000 church building requests**, a number the organisation can better handle with recent equipment purchases, leadership said. Ongoing Maranatha projects include the **One-Day Church**, a project providing quick construction solutions for thousands of Adventists around the world, and **Ultimate Workouts**, construction projects targeted at high school-aged volunteers. This summer will be the **20th Ultimate Workout**. While the number of volunteers has stead-

ily increased, the organisation has still been affected by the economic downturn. New construction methods, careful planning and “God’s leading” will move the organisation’s work ahead in the next decade, says **Don Noble**, president of Maranatha.—ANN

◆ A **US man** claims the face of **Jesus** appears every morning in the condensation on the side window of his pickup truck. **Jim Stevens**, of Jonesborough, Tennessee, says the face has appeared nearly every morning for the last two weeks. It disap-

pears when the condensation evaporates but returns the following morning, he told the *Johnson City Press*. Even rolling the window up and down has not stopped the image from reappearing. Mr Stevens admits he’s not a particularly religious person but says he has been awed by the experience. He said he had not done anything to or had anything in the Isuzu truck to explain the sudden appearance of the image. “Of course, I’m not going to wash it,” he said. “Why it happened to me, I don’t know. I have no idea.”—Ananova

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

Murwillumbah church “comes of age”

MURWILLUMBAH, NEW SOUTH WALES

November 7 was a special day for Murwillumbah church as they celebrated the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the church. It was a special day of reflection on God's guidance for the church, which was largely built with volunteer labour. It was dedicated debt free.

Many people who attended the church years ago returned to celebrate its anniversary and the church was almost full as they joined current members.

Pastor Clive Butcher reminisced on the way God protected those involved in constructing the church as “everybody” got involved. Attendees were shown photos reminding them how the building landscape has changed, with occupational health and safety regulations now so different to that era. In fact, Neville Southon observed, “It would be impossible to build this today with the regulations and building regulations eliminating many volunteers.”

God blessed in the practical skills of numerous builders and volunteers of the time, with Mr Southon supervising the construction and Kelvin Dobson costing and drawing the eclectic ideas as they poured in from observations from other churches. Malcolm Graffin said of the con-



Pastor Clive Butcher and Malcolm Graffin during sharing time at the anniversary.

struction work, “It was a great time and brought the whole church family together as we worked on the project.”

David North says, “This church was erected and completed for \$A600,000 but should have cost more than \$A2 million.” The generosity of people involved with the church made it possible to afford it—one member left the proceeds of her house sale to the church, another donated blinds, and volunteers provided time and talents.

Songs from the various eras were shared by three different singing groups during the program, with two former pastors, Craig Vanas and Jeff Poots, involved in the music groups. Pastor Brett Townend, current minister of the church, reflected on the anniversary, saying, “The focus of the day was not really on the building. It was on the fact that we are the bricks that make up God's building, His temple—where his presence dwells by the Holy Spirit, enabling the community of believers to impact others.”—*David McClintock*

Politician's visit helps promote KIDZONE

BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND

Sandgate Adventist church used a visit by the Honourable Wayne Swan, Australian federal treasurer and member for the Brisbane seat of Lilley, to promote their various children's Sabbath schools in KIDZONE, as well as their Adventurer and Pathfinders clubs.

Mr Swan was attending the 10th annual “Welcoming the babies to our community” ceremony, held on October 11 in a park in Chermside. Pastor Mike Brownhill, who ministers to Sandgate church; Desiree

Turia, director of Children's Ministries for the church; and other church members organised a display for the event.

The display featured free children's literature, face painters, a free Sanitarium breakfast, neck and back massages from Dr Vaine Paulo, and stand-up comedy from Pastor Willie Strickland, associate Youth Ministries director for the South Queensland Conference.

Pastor Brownhill says all the children's literature was labelled with the KIDZONE address and times for Sabbath school classes at the church.—*RECORD staff/Mike Brownhill*

Commit without compromise: top students tell others

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

I mogen Menzies and Charles Muirhead received large year-end bonuses at the student academic awards forum on Avondale College's Lake Macquarie campus on November 4. The two received \$A1500 each for winning Avondale's top award, the Sanitarium Health Food Company Prize of Excellence, and joined four other students as winners of multiple awards.

Ms Menzies, completing a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Business, also received the Adventist Media Network Journalism Prize, which she shared with *Connections* editorial assistant Linden Chuang (\$A500 each). Mr Muirhead also received the Bachelor of Business prize (\$A1000)—he is an accounting and management major.

Other multiple winners included Justin Bone, Michael Chapman, Katie Page and Tessa Vogel. Mr Bone shared the Clifford Anderson Bursary Prize with Stephen Ward (\$A1000 each) and the Elwin Currow Prize for New Testament Apocalyptic with Mr Chapman (\$A100 each), both fellow theology and ministry classmates. Mr Chapman also received the Bill Marr Institute of Public Evangelism Prize (\$A1000). Communication major Ms Page received the Adventist Media Network Digital Media Prize (\$A1000) and shared the top Bachelor of Arts prize with Kent Kingston (\$A500 each). Ms Vogel won the top Bachelor of Education (secondary) and Bachelor of Science prizes (\$A1600 in total).—*Brenton Stacey*

More @ www.avondale.edu.au



Emma Weslake hugs Gaylene Heise following the student academic awards forum. Emma received a \$A1000 communication prize for theology students named in honour of Edna Heise.



I am one of them

BY ANDRE MALIFA-AFAMASAGA

MY LIFE CALLING IS TO INTRODUCE people to Jesus. By the end of 2009, I will have completed my fourth year in pastoral ministry. Although I did not come through the traditional route of graduating from Avondale, my call to ministry has always been strong. I've worked in magazine publishing, youth work, community development and human resources but something was always missing. In the back of my mind, I knew it was to serve God full time. When I look back over my life, I realise God's call is not a one-off event. Rather, it is a succession of self-sacrificing invitations for my own good to hopefully benefit others.

In January 2004, I was impressed by God to leave my academic career in Wellington behind and go to Sydney to work as an office volunteer for Iron & Clay, a Christian music ministry I had never heard of. I struggled for months, putting my dreams and aspirations on hold. However, at Iron & Clay, I was slowly being transformed from a self-centred promoting individual into a follower and servant of Christ. For the first time in my life, I began to experience an unwavering sense of purpose, contentment and peace of mind. I came to Sydney for nine months and ended up staying for two years.

At the end of 2005, I was asked by Dr Peter Kilghour, of Greater Sydney Conference, if I was interested in being the chaplain at Macarthur Adventist College (MAC) in Macquarie Fields. I only knew of the area because of the news reports of the riots earlier that year. The principal of the school, Jill Pearce, has a strong commitment to mission. She pushed and prayed for my position because of the area's unique social needs. By January 2006, I commenced employment at Macarthur and I quickly fell in love with the students and wider community. We started a Friday night youth group with 40 regular attendees. Kids started asking for

a Saturday church service. It had always been the vision of previous school councils and principals but now the community wanted it, too.

When Jill Pearce asked me to start a church plant on the school grounds, I was reluctant. Again, I struggled with God. I was busy with chaplaincy and serving in another church that I loved. However, on a Sabbath afternoon in August, 2006, we had church in our science lab at MAC. It was low key. We had Bunsen burners, a classroom skeleton and school textbooks around us. Instead of a band, we sang over a worship CD. There were about 30 people in attendance and it was exciting—the start of something new.

By May 2007, we had our first official service in our new school hall. We call ourselves Church in the Fields, a name that both evokes images of harvest fields from the Bible and is a reference to our community. As a school and church, we were called to be missionaries in an urban and marginalised community. Our ministry is not confined to the school fence line.

The faces of those living in the area light up when they find out I live on the same street where the riots started in 2005. I am one of them. I cannot go to the supermarket or service station without bumping into a local from our school or church. Once at the shopping centre, two mothers from my school were arguing in jest with a lady from a Pentecostal church over who had a better church. Pointing to me, one of the mothers said "Our church is better than yours. Our pastor is better than yours. He can beat up your pastor!" The irony was that she has never even been to Church in the Fields but because of the personal support and care her family received from the school, she felt connected to our church. We are praying that one day, she will join us.

I have a strong sense that we are instruments being used by God to carry His name

to our community (see Acts 9:15). Every Wednesday night, we meet specifically to pray for our community. The goodwill we spread by loving one local at a time has led to the sharing of the good news.

However, there have been times when I questioned my calling or the effectiveness of our ministry. One such time was during a Friday night teen's program. I was tired and discouraged while packing up a data projector. Looking on was a 10-year-old girl from a non-Christian home. She was intrigued by the desktop picture on my laptop computer—an image of Jesus praying in Gethsemane. She asked me with complete sincerity, "Who is that Man and why is He thinking like that?" I could not believe my ears and I asked her to repeat herself. She did and I started laughing. I realised this young girl had never seen an image of Jesus, nor had she seen anyone pray before. I began to share Jesus with her. This moment and countless others are grace notes God sends to remind me that I have been called for His purpose, His work and His glory.

These days on Sabbath mornings, we have an average weekly attendance of over 100. Half of those come from non-Christian homes—both school-related and people from the community. We have had the privilege of baptising 17 people this year. We run many effective ministries that meet people where they are and move them toward Jesus Christ. Lives and families are being transformed. All of this is possible because of the support of the Greater Sydney Conference and Global Mission funding.

In 2011, we will move into our new hall that seats 700 people. My prayer is that everyone in our community will also hear God's call to ministry (see 1 Peter 2:9). **R**

Andre Malifa-Afamasaga writes from Macquarie Fields, New South Wales.



“I want you to be a preacher”

BY GILDA DHOLAH-RODDY

YEAR 12 WAS OVER AND I STILL DIDN'T know what to do with my life. From a very young age, my parents made sure I received music lessons, so music seemed like the obvious career choice. I was at a critical point in my life, struggling to decide what was next when the Lord spoke to me.

The Victorian Conference was holding a youth revival and I was involved. I don't remember anything about Revival 1993. I can't remember what the speakers said or the names of people I met. All I remember is that the first night altered the course of my life. The meeting had started and I was listening intently when I heard someone calling my name, “Gilda.” I turned around and everyone was listening to the preacher. Again, I focused my attention on the preacher and again, the voice called out “Gilda.” This time when I turned around, the voice said, “This is what I want you to do.” Immediately I said, “What do you mean this is what you want me to do?” The voice said, “I want you to be a preacher.” Wow. I had heard God call my name. He had chosen me!

I went home that night very reluctant to tell my family. As I lay on my bed, the Lord spoke to me through Isaiah 61 and said “This is who you are.” “The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor” (Isaiah 61:1). Upon hearing my story, my mum and dad praised God. They said it was their prayer that I do the Lord's work and I had been dedicated to God.

After talking to the American pastors conducting the youth revival meetings, I knew that theological college was the next step for me. I didn't know where I would go to school but I knew God was telling me that seminary was the next chapter of my life.

Within a year, I found myself packed and on my way to Oakwood University in the United States. I was so excited that I was going to be a pastor. College life was exciting and challenging—I was like a sponge, soaking up everything my professors had to say.

Five years later, I am still learning and growing, knowing this is God's plan for my life. Don't get me wrong—I had my challenges and financial difficulties. But through it all, I always knew God would be by my side.

Shortly after completing a post graduate degree in Clinical Pastoral Education, I received a call to be the first female associate pastor of Oakwood University church, a congregation of more than 3000.

In 2001, a call came from Florida Conference to serve in a dual role as senior chaplain of Florida Hospital and senior pastor of Celebration church. I accepted the call, transitioning into my new ministry as a commissioned pastor. Throughout this time, I had the best of both worlds: during the week, I ministered by the patients' bedsides, having the opportunity to bring Jesus to the infirmed while on the Sabbath, I was behind the pulpit preparing souls for Christ's soon return.

I remember one particular instance that solidified my calling. There was a little old lady who had been in hospital for several weeks and requested a daily visit from the chaplain. We started out with small talk and as our relationship grew, our conversation became deep and meaningful. She knew she did not have much time to live and wanted to accept Jesus as her Saviour.

One morning, I received an urgent call from the hospital operator. My little lady needed a blood transfusion. She told the medical staff that she would not accept the blood unless I came to the room and held it in my hand, asking for Jesus' blessing. I ran to her room and held the bag of blood in my hands as my little lady accepted Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Later that evening as I sat by her bedside—her body wracked with pain—she summoned her last ounce of strength to whisper heaven's sweetest name, Jesus. If only for this one person, I praised God for having chosen me to represent Him as another soul was gained for His kingdom.

In January 2009, after much prayer, my family and I moved to Australia. I know God continues to lead in my life and my prayer is to always hear His call and serve as a pastor. **R**

Gilda Dholah-Rhoddy is director of Women's Ministries, Sabbath School and Children's Ministries for the Greater Sydney Conference.



From prison to preaching

BY DANIEL JONES

I WAS BORN IN LISMORE, NSW, IN 1974 AS the youngest of four boys. Dad left when I was about four years old and until I turned nine, life seemed OK. Mum sent one of my brothers and I to a Baptist Sunday school.

When I was nine, Mum met a man named Barry and after awhile, he moved in with us. He was nice at first but it didn't take long for him to start showing his true colours. You see, Barry was an alcoholic who was violent toward us on a daily basis. Before Barry moved into our lives, I was a typical school kid who would get into trouble every once in a while. However, soon after the bashings at home began, I started picking on kids at school and by Year 5, I became a school bully and was always getting into trouble. Because of the violence I experienced, I felt my only release was to hurt others.

At 12 years of age, I started taking drugs. I hoped they would take the pain away but I was very wrong. When I turned 13, I couldn't take the daily bashings from Barry anymore and I ran away from home. I lived on the streets for awhile until the police took me to the Department of Community Services. They placed me in a Children's Home and after getting into fights there, I ran away. The police found me again and placed me in foster care. My foster mum was a Christian lady who loved me and tried her hardest to help me.

After a few months, I went back home to Mum's thinking things would improve.

I didn't stay long. I was heavily into drugs and spending time with criminals.

As I grew older, I became angrier with God and the world. I believed there was a God and I blamed Him for all my problems. I would cry out and say, "God, if you love me, why did You let me get hurt?"

By the age of 24, I started working at the circus sideshows running the children's rides. I did this for a few years and my life grew worse. Sideshow alley was the lowest of lows to work in. I also started getting into the occult and one day, I asked the devil to take control of my life. That's when things grew worse. I started to get even more pleasure out of causing pain. I would deliberately go out of my way to hurt people, even my own family. I would think of ways to hurt people and when I did, I'd laugh at them. This gave me a buzz—a high. And yet all the time, I just wanted peace—peace in my life and in my heart. Some years later, a cousin invited me to church. I went for a short while but I wanted peace on my own terms, not someone else's. I didn't stay long and was back at the circus sideshows for a year or two more before returning home.

Soon after turning 30, I was at the lowest point in my life. I physically assaulted somebody and it was really bad. The police found me and I was charged with six offences. Before this I was very lucky as I always seemed to get away with light sentences. As the trial got closer, I had a further seven charges laid against me. Now, it

was 13 charges in total. On the day of the trial, the Public Prosecutor offered me a deal—if I was willing to plead guilty to the two most severe charges, they would drop the rest. I asked how long the jail sentence would be. "Up to three years," was his response. If I accept the didn't plea bargain, the sentence could have been up to eight years. I took the deal and was sentenced to three years of imprisonment.

Prison changed my life for the better. After being incarcerated for awhile, I noticed Christians coming in regularly to invite everyone to church. I struggled with every invitation as I heard a voice in my head saying, "Come and worship Me." I tried not to listen. One day, the Prison Chaplain asked me if I'd like to do a Kairos course—an interdenominational outreach program organised by different churches. I'd heard the Christians supplied real meals and a week of prison work sounded great.

I agreed but my only intention was to bludge for the week. I quickly realised the love shown to me and the peace these Christians had is what I had wanted all my life. These people didn't care what others thought of them. Some gave up their holidays to be there. They could have been at the beach or on a camp with their families—instead, they were in a jail showing the true love of Jesus and walking the talk. They were feeding the poor, hungry and those in prison, as described in Matthew 25.

One afternoon, I went back to my cell and got on my knees. I asked Jesus to for-



give me and to come into my life, and He did. There was no lightning bolt conversion or anything like that. I just knew Jesus was in me. Over the next few days, I noticed that I felt weird if I swore or laughed at a dirty joke. I knew my life had changed so the dirty jokes and bad language were no longer a major part of my life. A few months after this I was moved from Grafton jail to “The Bay,” Long Bay Jail in Sydney. One night after “lock-in,” I was feeling homesick and worried about Mum. It was dark and I was in a cell of my own, so I got on my knees and started praying. While praying, I felt a presence above and behind me. As I opened my eyes and turned around, I noticed my cell was lit up. As the brightness faded, I felt a power go through me. I finally felt clean and free on the inside. It was like I could feel my flesh being cleaned, and the peace and comfort in my heart was out of this world. Here I was behind a brick wall—with razor wire and guards in the watchtower with guns—yet I felt as free as a bird or a person walking down the street. While there, I also started a Bible study group in my wing.

Soon after this, another inmate gave me a copy of *Signs of the Times* magazine. I enjoyed reading it and saw a free offer for a book called *Steps to Christ* so I wrote a letter asking for the book, stating that I was in jail. A lady by the name of Meryl McDonald-Gough replied. She said if I wanted someone to write to, I could feel

free to write any time I needed. After I read *Steps to Christ* I wrote again, asking for someone to visit with more Christian books. Meryl sent two pastors, James Fletcher and Peter Rollo, who visited me once a month. Meryl sent me many books, including one about the seventh-day Sabbath. After reading the book and the Bible, I was convicted about the Sabbath.

In 2006, I was released on parole and went home to Lismore. I started attending the Lismore Seventh-day Adventist church. I had weekly studies with Pastor David Kosmier and I regularly challenged him with all my questions, keeping him on his toes. On December 10, 2007, I was baptised in a creek—on my mum’s farm—by Pastor Kosmier. Soon after this I felt a call to become a lay preacher. God has opened many doors, allowing me to share my life’s journey and my love for Jesus, and preach His word. **R**

**Daniel Jones writes from
New South Wales, Australia.**

This story has previously appeared in Ordinary People, Faithful God, published by Signs Publishing Company and available from Adventist Book Centres. Signs Publishing is currently collecting stories for a new volume of “Ordinary People” stories.

Email your story to <nathan.brown@signs publishing.com.au> or mail to Signs, 3485 Warburton Highway, Warburton Vic 3799, Australia.

Daniel tells his story on InFocus News – you can watch it on <www.record.net.au>.

Poem

Cell 23

BY DANIEL JONES



I’LL ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT DAY,
O Lord, when You came to
Visit me, in cell 23.

I was at the “Bay” that day,
When You came to comfort me.
I remember it as clear as day,
I was homesick and worried about Mum,
When I cried out to You,
And You came and gave me comfort.

I remember feeling your presence,
And as I opened my eyes
I noticed my cell was lit up,
And then I felt Your power, as
You went through me.
I felt clean and free,
Free on the inside of me.

I felt the cleanest that I’ve ever been,
And as free as I could ever be.
I thank you, O Lord,
For visiting me that day,
In cell 23.

Why we value children

BY DARON PRATT

JESUS SAID THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO CHILDREN (SEE Matthew 18 and Mark 19) and He saw them as a priority. Children make decisions for Jesus. According to the latest research, most people make a decision to follow Jesus before the age of 13. After this, the chances of reaching them are slim (Barna Research 28.7.08).

Children need to be disciplined, too. The future spirituality of our church members is strongly linked to the quality of the discipleship of our children. Children are our most under-utilised evangelistic resource. If we reach the heart of our children with the gospel message of salvation, they will reach their families and friends.

God has a passion to win the heart of every child everywhere. God calls parents, teachers, pastors and church families to refocus. People are most open to being disciplined to Jesus when they are children. Children find it easier to listen, learn, laugh and fall in love with their Friend and Saviour, Jesus. They are eager to share this Friend with others.

Why does the church value the Children's Ministries department? Because when Jesus wept for the harvest field (see Matthew 9:35-38) he saw grandmas and grandpas, mums and dads and children who were all lost. Every second person in the harvest field was a child. However, children often miss out when it comes to church. Children are taught on their first day of school to stand in line. Eager to please, they become good at it. The tragedy is that all too often, they find themselves at the end of society and the church's line. Those with more size, influence and resources jump in front of them. Why does the church value the Children's Ministries department? Because the church realises that something has to be done on their behalf! It is time to make sure that your church puts children first.

What Can You Do?

- F = Faith foundations built through Gracelink Sabbath school, family worship and mentoring.
- I = Involvement of children in worship, small groups, service and evangelistic ministries.
- R = Reach out to community children through Vacation Bible Schools, kids clubs, playgroups, children's rallies and Scripture in state schools.
- S = Support and empower parents as disciple makers.
- T = Treasure children and ensure that they have a personal relationship with Jesus by teaching them how to read the Bible and pray. **R**

Daron Pratt is the director of Children's Ministries and Sabbath School for the North New South Wales Conference.

Record Roo



Hi kids!
Deborah and Gideon weren't the only judges to guide Israel. One of the most famous judges was Samson. He was born during a time when the Israelites were being ruled over by the Philistines.

Bible Text

The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He _____ and the Lord _____ him, and the _____ of the Lord began to stir in him while he was in Mahaneh Dan...
Judges 13:24, 25 NIV.

Read

Read all about Samson's adventures in Judges Chapters 13-16.

Word Puzzle

Write the answers to the clues in the circles. The letters in the grey circles will spell out what Samson was.

1. ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
2. ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
3. ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
4. ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
5. ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
6. ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
7. ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
8. ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○



Clues ...

1. A messenger from heaven
2. Samson's father
3. Where Samson's father was from
4. What grapes grow on
5. What sacrifices were offered on
6. Samson killed one of these big cats
7. The opposite of sour
8. A big-eared beast of burden

ANSWERS: 1. Angel, 2. Manoah, 3. Zorah, 4. Grapevine, 5. Altar, 6. Lion, 7. Sweet, 8. Donkey

Positions vacant

▲ **Chief Financial Officer—French Polynesia Mission (Tahiti).** The New Zealand Pacific Union Conference is inviting applications for the position of Chief Financial Officer for the French Polynesia Mission, based in Tahiti. The successful applicant needs to show effective financial management, commitment to church members, strong and inclusive leadership skills and the ability to work with fellow administrators. The CFO will be expected to lead the finance team in financial management, revenue management, and the full range of accounting and administration functions that need to be cost effective. The applicant must be fluent in French and have sound English-language skills. For a position description or to send your application (including CV), please contact Peter Lynch, Secretary Treasurer, NZPUC on +64 2165 6620 or email <plynch@adventist.org.nz>.

For more employment options go to
adventistemployment.org.au



Weddings

Greig—Gianatti. Christian Greig, son of Darryl Greig (Cessnock, NSW) and Ann Greig (Cessnock), and Jodyne Gianatti, daughter of Norm and Kaye Gianatti (West Swan, WA), were married 26.4.09 at Bullsbrook.

Andrew Skeggs

Gronning—StilinoVIC. Remi Gronning, son of Oddvar and Diana Gronning (Vikersund, Norway) and Mireya StilinoVIC, daughter of Maria StilinoVIC (Brisbane, Qld), were married 16.8.09 at Hokksund, Norway. They now live in Norway.

Glen Tore Storvollen, Ruben Olscheusky

Hall—Ralph. Nathan Daniel Hall, son of Colin Hall (Sorrento, Vic) and Jac-kir Nair (Vermont), and Renee Claire Ralph, daughter of Lindsay and Kathy Ralph (Mooroolbark), were married 21.9.09 in Lilydale church.

Darren Croft

Heath—Menteith. Robert Heath, son of William Heath (Adelaide, SA) and Beryl Yates (Safety Bay, WA), and Margaret Menteith, daughter of Raymond and Joan Johnstone, were married 15.3.09 at Safety Bay.

Andrew Skeggs

Manners—Moore. Darren Carl Manners, son of Bob and Merrilyn Manners (Canberra, ACT) and Alexandra Rae Moore, daughter of Brett and Glenda Moore (Eastwood, NSW) were married 22.10.09 at Beecroft. The couple plan to establish their home in Wahroonga.

Bob Manners

Newick—Howie. Travis James Newick, son of Nigel and Leanne Newick (Canberra, ACT), and Jaimee Rene Howie, daughter of Gavin and Robyn Howie (Canberra), were married 20.9.09 at Gold Creek.

Ian Howie

Sinnamon—Crowhurst. John Sinnamon, son of Joe and Yvonne Sinnamon (Perth, WA), and Rochelle Crowhurst, daughter of Max and Helen Crowhurst (Perth), were married 5.4.09 in St John's Lutheran church, Perth.

Andrew Skeggs

Walker—Montefiore. Shane Walker, son of Ross and Jillian Walker (Manjimup,

WA), and Kylie Montefiore, daughter of Lloyd and Merrilyn Montefiore (Perth), were married 14.3.09 in Cottesloe Civic Centre, Cottesloe.

Andrew Skeggs

Obituaries

Armstrong. Coralie Delicia Lee (nee Siegel), born 8.10.1913 at Waverley, Sydney; died 9.9.09 in Matthew Johns Nursing home, Erina. On 25.2.1984, she married Henry Reginald Armstrong. She was predeceased by her husband; her son, Robert Briggs, in 2007; and her daughter, Coralie Baker, in 1972. She is survived by Jim Briggs (Central Coast, NSW) and William Drew (Sydney). Coralie moved from western NSW to Erina on the Central Coast for the last six years of her life. Coralie ran a weekly church service for the residents of the Matthew Johns Nursing Home, where she was also a resident. Pastor Russel Stanley led out in a memorial service for Coralie in Erina church. Two days later on 15.9.09, Pastor Eddie Mackie conducted her graveside service at Baradine.

Russel Stanley, Eddie Mackie

Baily, Bill, born 18.11.1921 at Brisbane, Qld; died 1.10.09 in his family home at Woongarrah, NSW. He was buried in Avondale Cemetery on 8.10.09. He is survived by his wife of more than 50 years, Jill; his children and their spouses, Kerrie, John, Debra and Robyn; his daughter from his first marriage with Dulcie, Sue; his grandchildren; and his great-grandchildren. Close family members cared for him day and night at his home. As a young man, Bill became an Adventist after meeting Jill and was baptised by Pastor Len Kent. At the time of his passing, he was one of the last of his "Australian Light Horse Brigade." He is described as always ready to lend a helping hand—an example of hard work, honesty and strong values. During his last weeks, he especially confirmed his faith in salvation and appealed to his family to make sure they were there to meet him on Resurrection day.

Bruce Roberts

Bennett, Eleanora Mary Augusta, born 30.12.1906 in Mt Torrens, SA; died 6.8.09 in Mount Pleasant Hospital. In 1931, she married Jack in Mt Torrens.

Volunteers!

Volunteer Manager—Sonship Ministries (Solomon Islands), wanted to supervise and manage 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

Project Atoifi 2010. We are very excited to announce the return of Project Atoifi for 2010, based at Atoifi on the Solomon Islands. It will be even bigger and better this year. We need at least 40 volunteers. We are looking for volunteer camera crews each with HD cameras, team leaders, builders, musicians, singers, storytellers, first-aid instructors, all round handymen and anyone who has a sense of adventure and would like to be part of a life-changing and very rewarding experience. This project will see new churches built and a new primary school. Project will run 29.6.2010 to 3.8.2010. For inquiries, contact Brian Larwood, <team@project-atoifi.org>.

Email:

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

+61 2 9847 3275



heart, his quick wit, and his love for stone collecting and polishing. Family and friends gathered at the Avondale Cemetery, Cooranbong, where he now rests, awaiting the call of his Saviour. He is sadly missed.

Mike Faber

Fehlberg, Ivan Robertson, born 14.3.1924 at New Norfolk, Tas; died 10.1.09 at Glenorchy. He was predeceased by his wife, Kathleen, and after remarriage, Pam. He is survived by his son, Nigal, and wife, Margaret (Morayfield, Qld); and grandchildren; Sharon and Richard. Ivan's health declined in the latter years of his life, yet his faith came first. Having the opportunity of a professional singing career in winning a National award, Ivan let this go in order to preserve his commitment to his church and his Lord. He is sadly missed by family and friends.

Lindsay Wells

Ferraro, Alapasia Humiko Lomu (nee Vavau), born 17.6.1935; died September, 2009, in Wesley Gardens Retirement Village, Sydney. She married Lewis Campbell, who predeceased her. She then married Sam Ferraro, who also predeceased her. She is survived by her siblings; her children, Jane Campbell Chan (Nadi, Fiji), Peter John Campbell (Sydney, NSW), Tiara Campbell (Brisbane, Qld); four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Alapasia attended Beulah SDA College and Full-ton College, Fiji, where she graduated as a schoolteacher in 1956. She taught primary school in Misipavavai, Tonga and various other schools, and became one of the first adult students to attend the university of the South Pacific in Suva. She set up her own commercial school called "Campbell Institute." A number of years later, she returned to Nielsen High School to continue her teaching career.

Gilberto Dias, Fine Teaupā

Ford, Amelia Marion, born 18.8.1931 at Tumut, NSW; died 2.10.09 at Batemans Bay. On 26.3.1951, she married Kevin. She was predeceased by her sister, Betty, soon after birth. She is survived by her husband (Batemans Bay); her sister and her husband, Ruth and Reg (Cordeaux Heights); her son, Barry, and his wife, Virginia (Canberra, ACT); and her daughter, Bronwyn, and husband, Warren (Orange, NSW); and three grandchildren, Nicholas, Brent and Justin. Quiet and reserved by nature, Marion was a loving, gracious person. Through her acts of loving kindness, she followed the example of her Lord, Who said; "It is more blessed to give than to receive." She sleeps now—a loving child of God awaiting her Saviour's call to eternal life.

Neil Lawson, John Tompson

Grosser, Bert Clifford, born on 9.4.1919; died 13.8.09 at Cooranbong, NSW. In 1943, he married Edna Wilson. He is survived by his wife; his children, Narelle Roy and Gaven Grosser; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Bert trained for the ministry at Avondale and, together with Edna,

She was predeceased by her husband in 1931, and her daughter, Lorna. In 1951, she was baptised in Adelaide City church by Pastor George Burnside. She is survived by her son, Andy Bennet (Mt Torrens). Lorna was a hardworking lady, with a lovely sense of humour. She was a kind and giving person who loved her Lord and studying the Bible. She was a deaconess and community liaison officer, and loved sending cards to people for any occasion. She now awaits the Resurrection morning.

Lee Bowditch-Walsh

Dunbar, Charles, born 10.7.1920 in Aberdeen, Scotland; died 12.8.09 in the Adventist Retirement Village, Cooranbong, NSW. He is survived by his two daughters and their husbands, Janet and Terry Salomon and Beryl and Andrew Rodionoff; his four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and three brothers. Following his wife Lee's conversion at Mt Isa, Qld, Charles embraced the Adventist faith while living in Brisbane. Years later they moved to Eillalong, NSW, and finally to Cooranbong. He was devoted to his family, who fondly recall his kind and loyal

they served as missionaries in PNG, did pastoral ministry in Qld and youth leadership in Qld and Auckland, NZ. He gave strong leadership in Health and Public Relations, and wrote and presented "Dial-a-Prayer" and "Dial-a-Story." At age 60, Bert retired from church ministry and volunteered to care for a hostel, then a retirement village, before finally retiring to Cooran-bong. Thousands remember his friendly visits and prayers. He died with a firm belief in the soon return of Jesus and a glorious Resurrection.

Claude D Judd, Gaven Grosser

Hanbury, Ena Jessie, born 22.12.1914 at Toodyay, WA; died 18.5.09 at Ross-moyno. On 23.9.1940, she married John, who predeceased her in 2002. She was baptised on 1.1.1931. She is survived by her children and their spouses, Colleen and Ivan Manners (Perth), Shirley and John Bishop (Albany); 15 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren. Ena was an energetic, unselfish, warm and generous person. She gave much to her family and always had a large gathering of people around her table. Ena was a genuine and faithful Christian who touched many lives deeply.

Andrew Skeggs

Hibbert, Michael John, born 7.3.1961; died 8.8.09 in Flinders Medical Centre SA. On 16.7.1995, he married Michelle at O'Sullivan Beach. He was baptised in Adelaide City church. Michael is survived by his wife (Christies Beach); his parents, Kevin and Helen (O'Sullivan Beach); brother, David (UK), and sister, Deb (SA). Michael loved his family and always had time for others. He was trained in martial arts, was an auto-electrician by trade and worked as a carer for community living projects. He also loved to share and discuss spiritual and biblical themes, and stood for justice and fairness. He loved Manna van Ministry and is now awaiting Jesus' return.

Lee Bowditch-Walsh

Hough, William Granville, born 20.7.1927 in Stockton, NSW; died 3.9.09 in Taree Base Hospital. On 12.10.1955, he married Pamela in Nambour, Qld. He is survived by his wife (Hough, Vic); his son, Christopher (Hough), and foster son, Troy (Lake Cathie, NSW). Granville was a faithful member of the Adventist Church, which he loved till the end of his life. He will be missed by his wife, sons and church family. Granville's expertise in electronics and PA systems was much appreciated. He loved the Lord and looked forward to His soon return.

A Penman, L Thrift, D Kosmeier

Kerwin, Kathleen Joan, born 11.3.1919 in Tasmania; died 18.9.09 at Cowra, NSW. In 1948, she married Herbert at Noorinbee, Vic. In 1973, she was baptised in Manly church, NSW, by Pastor Gary Williams. She is survived by Greg and Doreen (Cowra); three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Kathleen served her Lord faithfully. She was a positive person who looked

forward to the coming of our Lord. She was loved by all who knew her and was affectionately known as "Grandma" by her Cowra church family. We wait to meet her again in heaven after the trumpet call.

Brian Savage

Marzi, Frank, born 10.12.1932 at Subi-aco, WA; died 7.10.09 at Collie. On 22.12.1960, he married Barbara Robinson. He was predeceased by his wife in 1997, and his daughter, Julie, in 1961. He is survived by Debbie Waring (Collie), Paul and Gavin (both from Perth). Frank was a kind and generous man who served as a deacon and gardener at Victoria Park church for many years.

Robert Kingdom

Nankivell, Joyce (nee Webster), born 29.6.1924; died 1.8.09. On 7.7.1945, she married Francis John, who predeceased her in 1984. She is survived by her children and their spouses, Rodney and Pamela, Brenda, Brendan and Vera (all of Adelaide, SA), Peter and Rosalie (Alice Springs, NT) and Jane (Adelaide, SA). Joyce was a positive, talented Christian lady who contributed much to the life of the church, the community and her family. She rests trusting in her Saviour, awaiting His promised call.

Wolfgang Stefani

Olsson, Iris Daphne Jean (nee Southam), born 20.9.1927 in Bute, SA, died 12.10.09 at Smithfield, NSW. She is survived by John and Sandra, Beverley, Janice and John, and Shayne and Colleen. Iris was a loving grandma to 12 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren and her great-great-grandchild.

Dave Hamilton

Reid, Harold Leslie, born 24.1.1920 in Melbourne, Vic; died 23.9.09 in Wantirna. He married his first wife, Shirley Gould, in 1950, who predeceased him in 1957. He then married Shirley Eg-gins, who predeceased him in 1992. He is survived by his wife, Yvonne (Lilydale); and his children and their spouses, Ross and Lyn (Cooroy, Qld), Robyn and Jerry Walbrun (Washington, US); his grandchildren, Janelle and Justin; two great-grandchildren; his step-son, Neil; and brother, Frank. Harold was a foundation member of Croydon church, Vic, and served there and at Healsville church faithfully. Faith, family and church fellowship were his abiding interests and trust. His dedicated Christian life was attested in services at Lilydale Memorial Park and Healsville church on September 30. Harold was highly regarded in his profession as a Civil Engineer, following service in the Australian Army from 1941 to 1945.

Dean Giles, Darrell Croft, David Currie

Smith, Thelma Florence (nee Callow), born 13.9.1909 in Rockhampton, Qld; died 16.9.09 in Ringwood, Vic. In 1935, she married William, who predeceased her in 1993. She is survived by her son, Bill; and his family, Ivy, Jennifer, Joanna, Jesse, Jake and Sienna (Woodside). Thelma's death came suddenly and was a shock to all. On 12.9.09, Thelma at-

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tended Wantirna church. Her upcoming century of life was remembered and honoured at church, and she enjoyed the day immensely. On her birthday, she celebrated with friends and family. Thelma suffered a fall the next day and was admitted to Ringwood Private Hospital. From there, her health rapidly deteriorated and she passed away. She was a loyal, humble, resilient woman with a deep and abiding faith. Her enduring hope was Jesus' return. She now rests in the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection and reunion. We grieve but not without hope. Come, Lord Jesus.

Morrie Krieg

Stojanovic, Barbara, born 4.12.1923 in Rogovac, Croatia; died 17.11.09 in Nambour Hospital, Qld. She was a loving wife of 64 years to Paul. She was predeceased by her son, Daniel, in 1999. She is survived by her husband; her children, Jack (Zlatko), Peter (Vlado), Brenda (Brankica), Mudri and Melita Honnin; 13 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. She fought the good fight, remaining faithful to her family and her Lord in very difficult times in her homeland during World War II, as well as during resettlement in Australia from 1963. Many will remember her for her lovely smile and the delicious cakes she made, especially the doughnuts. Her church family and her extended family will fondly remember her as they look forward to seeing her again when Jesus comes. A service was conducted in Landsborough church. She will be missed but

never forgotten.

Peter Stojanovic, Heinrich Rusterholts

Till, Glensy Rita (nee Kitto), born 7.12.1942 at Millicent, SA; died 20.9.09 at Mt Gambier after a 15-month illness (leukemia). On 26.12.1962, she married Linley at Millicent. She was baptised at Millicent in 1963. Glensy is survived by her husband; her daughters, Elizabeth Dekoning and Maryanne; and her grandsons, Erik and Jaak Dekoning, all of Adelaide, SA.

George Hirst

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Finally

Kind words can be short and easy to speak but their echoes are truly endless.

—Mother Teresa




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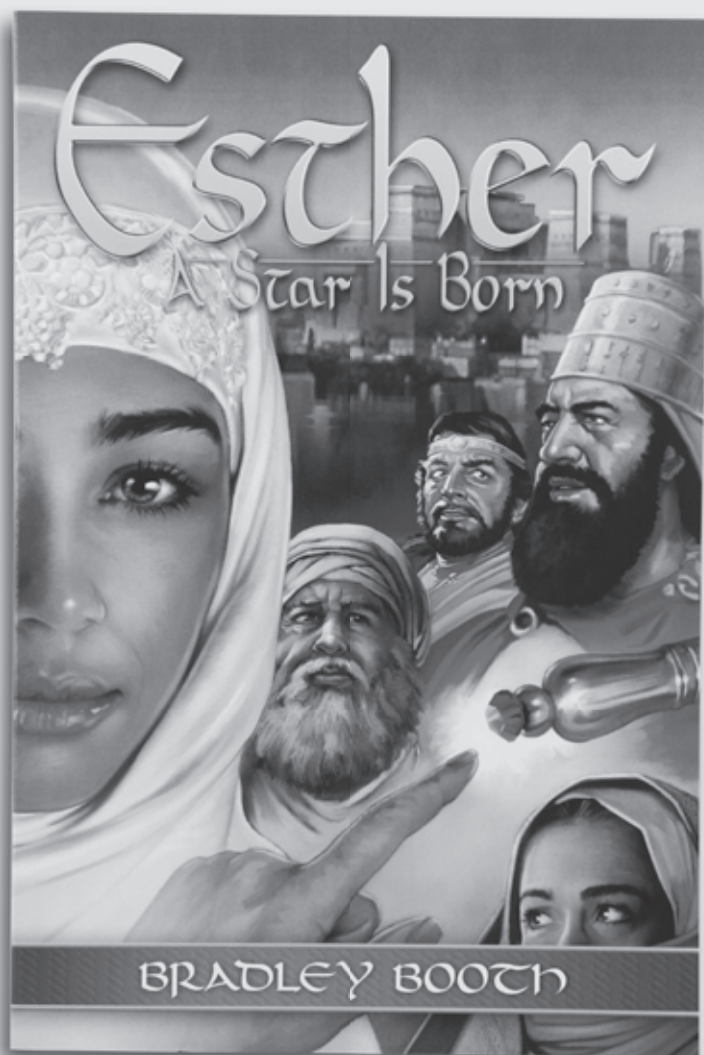


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