

March 5 2011

# Record

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A man in a black and white striped polo shirt and blue jeans stands in the center of a large pile of rubble. He has his arms outstretched. Behind him is a multi-story brick building that has been severely damaged, with its upper floors partially collapsed. The building features arched windows and decorative stonework. To the right, another building is visible, partially obscured by debris, with a colorful mural on its side. The sky is overcast.

**THROUGH THE VALLEY  
EARTHQUAKE THAT SHOOK A NATION** page 17

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UPCOMING EVENT  
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## TRYathlon is good, healthy fun

Sandy Gersbach—Sydney, New South Wales

More than 3000 children ran, cycled and swam their way to fun and fitness at this year's Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon at Sydney Olympic Park.

The event was so popular that registrations closed a week early as maximum capacity had already been met.

Sports stars including former world champion iron man, Guy Leech, rugby league stars Jarryd Hayne, Tim Mannah and Ben Roberts, triathletes Lisa Marangon and Simon Thompson, and world paddling champion, Jo Brigden-Jones, attended the event to inspire the participants aged between 7 and 15.

Now in its 13th year in Australia, the TRYathlon includes nine events held across the country from January to May. About 15,000 Australian children and 20,000 New Zealanders will participate in the event this year, providing a fun way for children to experience the benefits of exercise.

The event's ambassador, Guy Leech, said it enabled children of all sporting capabilities to have a try in an encouraging and supportive environment without the pressure of competition.

"Everybody had a fantastic time and it was great to see so many kids getting involved and enjoying a fun day out with family and friends," he said.

"The Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon isn't about getting the fastest time or winning the race, but is about taking part, having fun and being healthy. Everyone who participates gets a medal and goes home a winner."



A participant meets Eels star, Jarryd Hayne.

## New course follows dreams

Jarrod Stackelroth—Sydney, New South Wales

The Discovery Centre has launched a new correspondence course as a follow-up to the highly successful *Taking charge of your life (TCYL)*.

*Living your dreams* is the second in the trilogy and will be followed by the *Taking charge of your future* course. The launch was held during morning worship at the Adventist Media Network (AMN).

Peter Jack, a retired pastor and evangelist, wrote the course and presented a short devotion at its dedication.

The goal of the three courses is to guide students on a journey of discovery that leads them into developing a relationship with Jesus.

The course was developed to help people with questions they need answered about common lifestyle concerns. Topics include stress, anxiety, reaching your potential and visioning.

"Pastor Jack shows us how to handle inhibitors, which may diminish our future potential," said Pastor Greg Evans, director of media ministries at AMN.

"TCYL is one of our most popular courses. We hope the new course is also."



AMN staff joined in a dedicatory prayer over the new course.

## Adventist author launches picture book

RECORD staff—Brisbane, Queensland

Park Ridge church member Karen Collum launched her debut picture book, *Samuel's Kisses*, at Marks & Gardner Gallery, at Mt Tamborine, in the Gold Coast Hinterlands.

Ms Collum wrote the book after being inspired by her eldest son, Samuel, who as a toddler blew kisses to strangers in the shops. She was fascinated by the power of a simple kiss to transform grumpy strangers into smiling, happy shoppers and decided it would make a great children's picture book.

The book launch was a celebration of the long road to publication and an opportunity to share the joy with friends and family. The event was attended by Ms Collum's publisher, as well as the illustrator of the book, Serena Geddes. The audience listened to Ms Collum read *Samuel's Kisses* and shared the inspiration for the book. They also watched a drawing demonstration by Ms Geddes.

*Samuel's Kisses* is published by New Frontier Publishing, a trade publisher in Australia, and can be found in most good book stores. Ms Collum also recently had another picture book published, this time for the Christian market.

*Fish Don't Need*

*Snorkels* is aimed at children aged from two to four, and reminds them that God made everything—including each of them—just right. *Fish Don't Need Snorkels* will be available in Adventist Book Centres soon.



Karen Collum reads from her new book.



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Seventh-day Adventist Church

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Cover credit: Brigid Peddie  
"Kurt in front of the building he  
escaped." See page 17.

*Our vision is to be a church that...*  
**knows  
experiences  
and shares**  
*our hope in Jesus Christ!*

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## The power to move

Litiana Turner

I stand in awe at the work of the Holy Spirit when I read of what transpired amongst the followers of Jesus on the day of Pentecost. God has achieved much through His Church over the past 2000 years. Before Jesus returned to heaven, He promised to leave a Gift with His disciples, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1: 8). The Holy Spirit is available to every believer to finish God's work here on Earth. As I think of our Church today, I'm reminded there is so much work to be accomplished.

Fast forward 2000 years. Picture yourself in Brisbane, Australia, on the cusp of Move with the Power III (MWTPIII): a training opportunity for youth leaders and emerging leaders.

Youth leaders from the South Pacific have been praying for this special event to be a holy time. We want the youth of the South Pacific to come together for prayer and be empowered as a generation of change agents. It will also be a time to learn from each other.

Can you imagine the youth leaders of our Church compelled to reach out to others, prompted to reach across the generational and multicultural divide. Imagine leaders who reach up to God, seeking Divine guidance for the dreams and visions He has placed in their hearts. Our prayer is that this movement will be unstoppable, where people's lives will be changed forever.

MWTPIII is a youth event. It's a moment in history when youth will come together to seek God's blessing on the workings of their hearts and minds.

In this edition, Danny Bell in his article "Blunt axes" (p14) challenges us to re-examine how we evangelise and asks, "Are we labouring hard without wisdom?" Dr Wayne Krause shares the church planting (p13) goals of the South Pacific Division and Karen Collum embraces creativity (p19). Dr Barry Oliver looks at the silence of God (p12) in the face of disaster and suffering.

The RECORD team brings you a new segment, "Mission in Brief" (p8). Once a month we'll bring you snippets of evangelism news taking place around the Pacific.

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## New campus opens its doors

*Pablo Lillo—Sydney, New South Wales*

The newest Adventist school has opened its doors in Kellyville, New South Wales, ushering in a new era of education in the Hills district of Sydney.

The Kellyville campus caters for middle and senior school students. It's a result of the success of the Early Learning Centre and junior school at the Castle Hill campus. The school began in Castle Hill over 45 years ago and experienced a boom when the secondary school started.

"The opening of our new Kellyville campus extends the vision of our school and church," said Hills Adventist College principal, Greg Hinze. "Our aim is to reach into the community of north-west Sydney and share our unique message."

The Kellyville campus, set across 1.6ha, is in stage one of development and will expand to Year 12 by 2013.

The school has been working closely with the Kellyville church since the inception of the project in order to create a masterplan that will benefit them both. The vision of the

church is to minister to the spiritual needs of the growing community by providing a complete family and Adventist oriented community care and educational service.

"The opportunity to minister to the families of students is extremely important, as more than half of the students are non-Adventist," Mr Hinze said.

The number is likely to increase as the school grows. A church building is being planned so students can have a venue for corporate worship, as well as after school care and a youth centre.



Greg Hinze with students at the new campus.



Some of the young people enjoying the watersports offered at DreamTrack.

## Young people on a DreamTrack

*David Garrard/Good News—Brisbane, Queensland*

Despite miserable weather, 50 young people and more than 20 staff attended Queensland's first DreamTrack Youth Club outdoor event at Somerset Dam.

The event, organised by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries (ATSIM) department of the South Queensland Conference, was the first that has been run specifically for Indigenous young people. Called DreamTrack: Living with Purpose, it has been developed to help Indigenous young people live life with a positive identity. The attendees had a great day, full of watersports and other activities and built great relationships with staff members. It was a fun day out.

Three more community youth groups are wanting ATSIM to come and run DreamTrack programs for them.

## World budget prioritises mission

*Ansel Oliver/Kent Kingston—Sydney, New South Wales*

Continuing tradition, the two largest components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's world budget this year will fund appropriations for administrative and mission work outside of North America and fund the operation of the General Conference.

The denomination's US\$159.4 million budget for 2011 continues support of mission work—about \$37.5 million in appropriations to world fields, with an additional \$26 million for missionaries and employees in other world regions.

Operating costs for the denomination's headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, United States, is limited to 2 per cent of world tithe, about \$38 million this year.

"We are budgeting for 2011 in an economy that's giving us less money than we need . . ." said church undertreasurer Juan Prestol.

The South Pacific Division (SPD) is one of the few regions that are net contributors to the world church. Thanks

to members' tithes and offerings, the SPD contributes around \$A6 million annually to the General Conference budget.

"When members return tithe there is a system in place for that to be used to support both local ministry and ministry in other countries—that is a brilliant aspect of the Church's stewardship program," said SPD chief financial officer, Rodney Brady.

There is some return from the General Conference, however. \$A1.9 million is allocated to the SPD in "base appropriations". Additionally, the world church provides free services, including Hope Channel programming, Global Mission project funding and administrative and training support.



Rodney Brady

**Cultivate Sanitarium** is rapidly expanding! We are looking for enthusiastic, motivated and energetic people, ideally with a nursing background (for H&W consultants), to help us deliver programs and services to church and corporate clients. We take our Adventist Christian beliefs, our purpose and our values very seriously, with "genuine care for whole person health" at the core of everything we do. We would expect that the successful candidates will be able to credibly demonstrate a natural fit with what Cultivate stands for and be a walking talking advertisement for health and wellbeing. The roles we need filled are:

- **Health & Wellbeing Consultant – Auckland based**
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- **Business Support Coordinator – Pyrmont, Sydney based (permanent part-time - 20h pw)**

If you are passionate about making a genuine difference in other people's lives, possess fantastic people skills, solid business acumen and a successful track record of achieving results in the health arena, we would love to hear from you.

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For further information about Cultivate please visit

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



## Bike ride to fight poverty

Warrnambool Standard/Jarrold Stackelroth—Warrnambool, Victoria

Warm-hearted cyclists hit the Great Ocean Road on a mission to raise money to help children living in poverty.

The team of 23 riders took a 300-kilometre journey from Geelong to Warrnambool, along the Great Ocean Road, to raise funds for a group known as 25,000 Spins.

The group is a not-for-profit charity organisation that is dedicated to reducing global poverty through fundraising bike rides. All proceeds went directly to the three charities nominated by the riders—Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Compassion and the Botswana Orphan Project.

Adventist riders included Avondale lecturer Dr Darren Morton, Jason and Melissa Hinze, and ADRA riders Matthew Siliga and Denison Grellman.

The aim was to raise \$28,500, but the group raised more than \$40,000.

The name 25,000 Spins was created because about 25,000 children under the age of five die each day as a result of poverty.



Matthew Siliga and Denison Grellman.



The riders enjoyed the scenic landscape.

"It was a lot of fun but it was hard work," said Denison Grellman.

"At the end of the day it was a great cause," said Matthew Siliga, donor relations officer for ADRA Australia. "The reason we did it is because in the countries we work in, distance is a measure of poverty. The further you need to travel to

access water, healthcare and education, the worse off you are. We thought for two days, let's push ourselves and let's do the distance for the ones that do it every day."

It was the first time the team had travelled the Great Ocean Road, after organising trips from London to Paris and through Switzerland.





### Opening convocation

Pacific Adventist University opened the academic year with a K1 million cheque presented by the guest speaker and Minister for Planning, Paul Tiensten. In welcoming the students, deputy vice chancellor Dr Tracie Mafile'o emphasised the importance of Christian education. Vice chancellor Ben Thomas has also aligned PAU's strategic direction to PNG's vision. —*Stephen Vele*

### Church reaches out

Springwood church, Brisbane, will open its new building on March 26. Current members are keen to see as many ex-attendees as possible be part of the day. Pastor Andre van Rensburg said the church's theme for 2011 was 'Reach Beyond' and they planned to invite the Springwood community to many programs. The building includes a 500 seat auditorium and seminar rooms. —*Roger Meany*

### Clinic leads way to close gap

Access to medical care for Indigenous Australians has been improved through a partnership between the Indigenous community and Majellan Medical Centre in Scarborough. Strategies developed by Indigenous elders and Redcliffe (Qld) church member, Dr Paul Johanson, have seen attendance increase from five consultations per month to more than 80. —*Paul Johanson*



### Our hearts are with you

Longburn Adventist College staff and students dressed in red and black to represent the region of Canterbury, which is still recovering from the earthquake. About 280 students dressed up and altogether \$NZ1180 was raised for the Christchurch appeal. —*Manawatu Standard*

### Lismore celebrates ordination

Paul Geelan was ordained in Lismore church, NSW, where he has ministered for the past three years. Pastor Geelan grew up in the Cooranbong area and met his wife, Vanessa, while they were both students at Avondale College. He graduated with a Bachelor of Business (Accounting) in 1990. Although he had a successful career as a financial adviser, he felt the promptings of the Holy Spirit guiding him towards ministry. Paul and Vanessa have two daughters, Lucy, 10, and Anna, 5. —*Valerie Dunstan*

### Nathan aims for Olympics

A Year 6 student from Mountain View Adventist College, NSW, expects to be selected for the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics. Nathan Robinson has broken his own Australian 200 metre butterfly record by 7 seconds, making him the fastest 11-year-old in the 200 metre butterfly in Australia. —*Jenny Gibbons*



### New website

The *Signs of the Times* website has been revamped for the first time since its launch in 2004. Visitors can now comment on articles and share them through Facebook and Twitter. Easier navigation means relevant topics are now more accessible. Subscriptions can be made online securely and conveniently. Go to <[www.signsofthetimes.org.au](http://www.signsofthetimes.org.au)>

### Perfect achievement

The Grove church member Karmen La Dru-Smith received a Merit Award from the ACE Board of SA (South Australian Certificate of Education) for a perfect score in Vocational Studies. Karmen received the award at Government House, SA. —*Wendy La Dru-Smith*

### Citizen of the Year

A lay-preacher from Parkes church, NSW, has been awarded Citizen of the Year for 2010. Graham Hitchcock has served in the rural fire brigade as well as working voluntarily for most organisations in Bogan Gate. He drives the local school bus. He was nominated for "selflessly" serving. —*Parkes Champion Post*

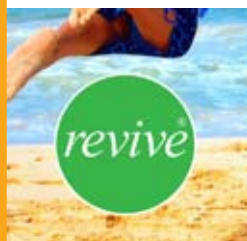
### Cyclone aid

The New Zealand High Commission is giving ADRA Vanuatu \$NZ50,000 (VUV 3,436,000) to help respond to damage to water systems in Tafea caused by Cyclone Vania in January. ADRA has been working with UNICEF, Oxfam and Vanuatu Red Cross as part of the WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) cluster approach being taken in the Pacific now. —*David Cram*



### Easter inspiration

*Signs of the Times* has published a flyer for church members to use at Easter. It can be used as a goodwill gift and is small enough to fit into a letterbox. It features an article explaining the real meaning of Easter, summarising a most important aspect of salvation—Jesus' resurrection. —[www.signsofthetimes.org.au/easterspecial](http://www.signsofthetimes.org.au/easterspecial)



### Eat for life

Jeremy and Verity Dixon operate the Revive eatery in Auckland, NZ—providing healthy vegetarian meals, snacks and drinks. Their free e-newsletter delivers weekly health and nutrition tips to 9000 people and they hold cooking demonstrations annually. Customers have attended home groups and Adventist lifestyle seminars. —[revive.co.nz](http://revive.co.nz)



### Harvest

Pastor Wolfgang Jenke and his wife Lyn Joy (Innisfail/Tully, Qld) have returned from the Philippines full of excitement and thanks to God. In November and December 2010 they conducted evangelistic campaigns in the cities of Kabankalan and Siaton. Up to 500 people attended and 182 people were baptised. —*TopNews*



### In the family

Literature evangelist (LE) Shelda Tari laughs when her customers ask where her office is. "My office is in my home!" Some older Vanuatuans remember the books; now they're buying them for their children. Praise God that an unknown LE sold books many years ago and now the next generation is benefiting. —*INTOUCH*



### Fighting fit

Twenty-five people attended a Coronary Heart Improvement Project (CHIP) program at Lismore Church (NSW). During the program, cholesterol, triglyceride and glucose levels dropped between 9 and 12 per cent and participants lost up to 12 kilograms. At the graduation dinner, Paul Geelan used Daniel 1 as the basis for a short talk. —*Valerie Dunstan*



### Sacred site

The small Aboriginal community of Burringurrah, about 1500 km north of Perth, has requested the building of a community church. When John Beck (ATSIM director) and volunteer Darren Peakall met with the local elder and community CEO, they recommended a site right in the middle of town, opposite the police station. —*NewsWest*



WOMEN AND THE WORD

## EXCAVATING GOD'S TRUTH

**8th April 2011**

6.30pm

**9th April 2011**

9.30am

### LOCATION & COST

Sydney Adventist Hospital

Level 2 Conference Room

185 Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga

\$35 per person / \$20 students

### BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES

Jan Bolst

Email: [janbolst@adventist.org.au](mailto:janbolst@adventist.org.au)

Website: <http://women.adventistconnect.org>

**Please register on or before Friday 25th March 2011**





# Church responds to Christchurch crisis

by Jarrod Stackelroth

**I**N THE WAKE OF THE DEVASTATION WREAKED BY THE earthquake in Christchurch, the Adventist Church and its entities have jumped into action, in an effort to help in any way they can.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA NZ) worked closely with the civil authorities and the Salvation Army to provide immediate physical relief to those scattered in the three or four evacuation centres around Christchurch.

Part of the relief needed by those who had lost homes and accommodation was breakfast. New Zealand's leading breakfast cereal company, Sanitarium Health and Wellbeing, provided Weet-Bix, So Good and Up and Go to 1100 people in two of the evacuation centres.

"I received an urgent request at 1:00am [the morning after] for Sanitarium and ADRA to feed 1100 people at two sites as they didn't have sufficient food there," said Pierre van Heerden, general manager for Sanitarium in New Zealand.

Staff came in during the night to ensure those at the centres would get breakfast. Sanitarium extended that help as numbers were confirmed and reports flooded in.

"We have been very blessed and lost very little stock," Mr van Heerden said. In the September earthquake much of the warehouse stock was damaged, however very little damage was done in the latest shocks.

"It is amazing to see [members of] the New Zealand Food and Grocery Council pull together and offer to donate necessities for the crisis," said Mr van Heerden, who also serves as vice chairman of the council. "We have had calls coming in from people wanting to donate stock. We have referred them to ADRA."

Although the company lost significant production time, Mr van Heerden said, "the big thing for us first is the health and welfare of our staff and the community".

Sanitarium has given ADRA NZ some office space so it can coordinate its response from there.

"We are working with authorities to ensure that a coordinated and planned approach is taken," Mr van Heerden said.

Sanitarium's Papanui factory property was used as a triage centre immediately after the event. The centre was closed down and moved closer to the city, however it was reopened as people including amputees and those with minor cuts and bruises kept coming in. Sanitarium's factory also provided underground bore water for the residents of Christchurch.

"The major thing I would ask Adventist church members from around the Division is to pray for the people of Christchurch, especially those who have lost loved ones and those who are injured or have lost property," Mr van Heerden said.

Churches were also affected in the disaster. Most church buildings sustained minor damage, while some suffered liquefaction and more major damage. Most churches had to be assessed by structural engineers before being cleared to be used for worship again. This meant that the first Sabbath after the earthquake saw Adventist congregations meeting in members' homes and going out into the community to help those who needed it most. Only three churches, Rangiora, Ashburton and Oxford, held Sabbath services.

"May God come especially close to each of you in your assistance and encouragement of this dramatic situation," said Pastor Craig Gillis, president of the South New Zealand Conference (SNZC).

The SNZC received a message of support from General Conference president Ted Wilson, who sent his thoughts and prayers to all affected. The Conference is also holding a Trauma Recovery seminar at Bishopdale's ADRA room, with a specialist who worked in the aftermath of the Chile earthquake.

*Jarrod Stackelroth is assistant editor of RECORD.*

“LET THERE BE  
LIGHT”  
GENESIS 1:3

CELEBRATION OF  
CREATION

PACIFIC ADVENTIST  
UNIVERSITY  
MAY 6 AND 7, 2011

AVONDALE COLLEGE  
MAY 13 AND 14, 2011

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South Pacific Division (Avondale)  
Pr. Lawrence Tanabose - Secretary,  
South Pacific Division (PAU)  
L. Jim Gibson, PhD - Director,  
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## OPINION

Greg Evans

### Low self-esteem with no depression

Recently, we've studied some important, thought-provoking Sabbath School lessons, including a couple on depression and self-esteem.

Some might find it depressing to learn of the World Health Organization report which stated that depression is the leading disease contributor to the number of years people live with a disability. By 2020, depression will be second only to heart disease in the number of years of productive life lost due to a disability and premature mortality.

A common belief is that one of the causes of depression is low self-esteem. Nonsense! It is not low self-esteem when we esteem our own opinion so highly that we believe that we are of little value to anyone. Another cause of depression is said to be a chemical imbalance in the brain. And, once again, this theory is nonsense, according to psychiatrist, Dr Jon Jureidini. Opinion revolves around cause and effect: does a chemical abnormality trigger depression, or do years of anxiety and discontent cause a chemical imbalance—which corrects itself once sufferers put their lives in order?

We are not dealing with something like a broken leg here, where treatment by the doctor will see it mended, because the mind is significantly different to any anatomical structure. The problem has its roots in the selfishness of man which arose as a result of the origin of sin on earth.

Psychology is not the answer to depression. Psychology is a counterfeit religion masquerading as a science and is more likely to be part of the problem than the solution.

Here's what is needed: we must decrease; Jesus must increase (John 3:30). What we are to esteem highly is not self (Philippians 2:3), but the image of Christ in self (Romans 8:29). Mrs White mentions self-esteem more than 300 times and it is never as a positive character trait to be attained, so why do we seek it?

In faith, we are to surrender all to Jesus, the wonderful Counsellor and Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) through whom grace and peace are multiplied in our lives as we become partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:2-4). Then the incidence of depression will decrease.

*Pastor Greg Evans is associate director of media ministries at the Adventist Media Network. He is not a registered counsellor.*

## OPINION POLL

The next step my church needs to take toward successful soul winning is:

- Develop members' personal faith
- Inspire church to be more involved
- Get in touch with community
- Change the methods of outreach

Refer to *Blunt axes* (page 14)  
Visit <record.net.au> to answer this poll.

*Options don't suit you?*

*Send a letter to the editor (250 words or less)*





## Fruit and vegies: nutritious as they used to be?

Living in a country with an abundant food supply gives us the perfect opportunity to enjoy some fabulous fruit and vegetables in season. But have you heard people say that the fruit and vegies we eat today are not as nutritious as 20 years ago? Well, our national food regulatory body has put this notion to the test. So, what did it find?

### Should we be supplementing our diet?

A study by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand analysed the mineral content of 44 common fruits and vegetables. It evaluated the potassium, sodium, calcium, magnesium, iron and zinc contents of these foods, comparing content in the early 2000s with content in the early 1980s. They confirmed that despite some minor variances, there was no significant difference in the mineral content. While further research would be helpful to understand whether there are major differences in the vitamin content of fruit and vegies, we can be quite confident in the mineral content. So based on current knowledge there is no need to be concerned that they are deficient in nutrients, or that we need to supplement our diet.

### So how can we get the most from our fruits and vegies?

**GO SEASONAL:** Choosing fruits and vegetables in season means the time spent in commercial storage, and any potential nutrient loss, is minimised.

**GO FOR VARIETY:** Aim for a rainbow of coloured fruits and vegetables, maximising intake of antioxidants and other health promoting nutrients.

**BUY IT REGULARLY:** Buy fresh seasonal fruits and

vegetables several times a week. It is better to buy less and more often, than to have limp or blemished produce at the end of the week.

**MAKE IT CONVENIENT:** Frozen vegetables can be a convenient alternative to fresh.

**GO LIGHT:** Lightly cook vegetables to help minimise nutrient loss. Microwaving, steaming and stir-frying are best.

**FOOD COMBINING:** Eat whole foods that complement each other nutritionally. For example, eating broccoli with cooked tomatoes means the phytonutrients in each food will interact synergistically to enhance their function, helping you to absorb more nutrients. More examples of this include: tomato and avocado (the fat in avocado helps you absorb the carotene in tomatoes); Vitamin C and iron (a glass of orange juice at breakfast will help you absorb more iron from plant foods).

Enjoy a variety of whole plant foods as close to their natural state as possible—including a range of fruits and vegetables, wholegrains, nuts, seeds and legumes—combined with regular exercise and you will reap the substantial benefits that eating whole plant foods offer in improving health and protecting against disease.

Call and speak with one of our nutritionists, 1800 673 392 (Aus) or 0800 100 257 (NZ). Alternatively, email us with a nutrition question at <nutrition@sanitarium.com.au> (Aus) or <nutrition@sanitarium.co.nz> (NZ). And don't forget to order your FREE copy of *Food for Health and Happiness Cookbook*—it has plenty of delicious and wholesome recipes. You may order the cookbook by visiting our website <www.sanitarium.com.au> or <www.sanitarium.co.nz>.



## RECIPE

### Avocado pizza



- 1 prepared pizza base
- 1 clove garlic, chopped finely
- ½ cup sliced mushrooms
- 100g cherry tomatoes, halved
- ½ cup fresh basil leaves
- 3 tablespoons tomato paste
- ¼ cup chopped shallots
- ¼-½ cup sliced olives
- ½ cup shredded mozzarella (optional)
- 1 avocado, sliced

1. Spread pizza base with tomato paste, sprinkle with garlic and shallots.
  2. Arrange mushrooms, olives and cherry tomatoes on pizza base.
  3. Top with cheese (optional) and bake in a moderate oven, 180°C, for 20 minutes or until crust is golden.
  4. Remove from oven, serve topped with basil and sliced avocado.
- Makes 8 slices.

Preparation time: 10 minutes. Cook time: 20 minutes.

PER SERVE: 760 Kilojoules (185 Calories). Protein 5g. Total Fat 9g. Saturated Fat 2g. Carbohydrate 19g. Total Sugars 4g. Sodium 280mg. Potassium 355mg. Calcium 60mg. Iron 1mg. Fibre 2.5g.



# Silence

## on Earth and in heaven

by Barry Oliver

**T**HERE WERE TWO MINUTES OF SILENCE TODAY. Two minutes remembering and praying for the people of Christchurch. We remembered the infant of five months who was laid to rest yesterday. We remembered a young mother, a professional businessman; lives lost, lives torn apart, fear, trauma, hopelessness.

A few weeks ago we were concerned for the people of Rolleston as they endured horrific bushfires. Then there was Tully and Mission Beach. They endured the ravages of Yasi, a category 5 cyclone. Not to mention floods in Rockhampton and Chincilla and Dalby and Toowoomba and Murphys Creek and Brisbane and Horsham and . . . it just goes on and on. Not so long ago it was Tonga and Samoa and Fiji.

Any of us could be forgiven for wondering just what is going on. Certainly those who are enduring the pain of loss cry out in their desperation. For them it is almost impossible to talk about hope in the face of utter hopelessness.

People who look on from the sidelines may patronise and theorise and even moralise. But when you are the one who is in a very hard place, the only option may be to hang on without having any idea where you are going or what the future holds.

BUT . . . there is a "BUT" . . . it is possible to start to learn something after holding on a few times. I think I have had to hang on enough times now to know that although I may not know the future, God does. In the face of overwhelming odds God says to us through the prophet Jeremiah: "For I know the plans I have for you . . . plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

I long ago learned by heart a passage written by the apostle Paul in his letter to the church in Rome: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). These words are so simple yet

so profound.

I have also learned something else. God too is silent in the face of disaster and human suffering. His silence is a mark of His grief. He grieves for His children, especially when they do not understand what is going on and they want to blame Him for it all. He grieves because all of this was never His plan.

He made His intention clear when He placed two perfect people in a perfect garden. And it is His intention to bring full restoration. That is the story of the plan of salvation. When sin came He had a contingency plan. And the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is the assurance of the reality of that plan.

The devil on the other hand had another plan which he appears to be implementing with gay abandon. His plan is reported daily in the newspapers, on the television sets and other mass media. But his time is short lived.

In Matthew 24, Jesus Himself told His disciples (and us) very clearly that as we see the devil stepping up his activity through upheavals in nature, we could be assured that the coming of Jesus is growing near: "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars . . . for nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in diverse places."

He added that: "many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many". But then in His inimitable way He assured them (and us) that: "he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matthew 24: 5-13).

Today, there may be silence on Earth and in heaven. I am longing for the day when in a cacophony of praise the redeemed of all the ages will declare:

"Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not honour thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy (Revelation 15:3,4). ✞

*Dr Barry Oliver is president of the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.*

# 1000 churches

by Wayne Krause

**T**HE GENERAL CONFERENCE HAS SET AN AIM OF planting 25,000 new churches throughout the world in the next five years. As part of this world-wide vision, the South Pacific Division has set its own aim of planting 1000 churches during this period.

Why is church planting so high on the Church's agenda? The answer is quite simple: the Adventist Church started as a church planting movement and we know that we have to keep planting or we will stagnate and die.

Pastor AG Daniells was instrumental in starting church planting in Australia, then went on to become General Conference president in 1900. He refused to ordain men to ministry who had not planted churches. The early Adventist Church sacked pastors who had not planted churches. Ellen White asked church members to find employment where there were no churches so that they could work as missionaries and start churches, rather than settle in large communities of Adventists.

We praise God for established churches. Most of us are part of one, but the reality is that in every part of the world where Adventists are aggressively planting new churches the Church is growing. Everywhere where Adventists are not aggressively planting new churches there is very little, if any, growth.

So, what do we know today about church planting in Australia and New Zealand? The facts speak for themselves. In 2009, of the 11 Conferences within Australia and New Zealand there were over 600 churches and companies. Yet five of those Conferences had their highest or second highest baptisms in churches that had been started in the past 10 years. New churches, in general, baptise more people per member than more established churches.

We have also found that at a time when there is a higher percentage of women to men going to church, church plants attract more men than more established churches. We are not sure why, but it may have something to do with the element of risk associated with a new plant, the challenge of doing something new and exciting.

The most successful Adventist church plants are conservative theologically. They place a high value on Bible study and evangelism. They also tend to concentrate primarily on evangelism and discipleship rather than spending as much time in community services. Having said that, the

most successful church plants still generally spend more time in the community building relationships and contributing to the community, than do established churches.

The primary growth in church planting is ethnic in nature. While it is exciting to see anyone accepting Christ and joining His church, if this trend continues the ethnic make-up within Adventist churches in Australia and New Zealand will not reflect the ethnic make-up of the general community. While continuing our success in planting churches amongst our ethnic brothers and sisters we need to look at how we can also reach the Caucasian population.

Another interesting fact we have discovered is regarding public evangelism and church planting. If a public evangelistic campaign is run with the specific aim of starting a new church, there is a much higher retention rate of new believers than if the aim is to feed the new converts into existing churches. Other research has indicated that this is because the new people find it easier to bond and form community with other new people than to try and fit into existing relationships, no matter how friendly those relationships might be.

The Adventist Church started as a church planting movement and it will end its mission as a church planting movement. While the SPD has set an aim of planting 1000 new churches in the next five years, aims mean nothing unless the church members themselves catch a vision for revival and reformation and decide to be part of such a movement. The Church faces many challenges in Australia and New Zealand. On present trends there will be more precious souls who don't know Jesus and our last day message tomorrow than there are today because of population growth.

What is exciting is that more and more church members are planting churches whether it is in a home, café, hall, warehouse or church building. In the next three months, there are four church planting conferences planned around Australia and New Zealand. Global Mission, the SPD Centre for Church Planting and every level of the church administration are committed to planting churches. Has God called you to plant a church? R

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*Pastor Wayne Krause is director of the South Pacific Division's Centre for Church Planting.*

# Blunt axe

**A**S A KID, MY PARENTS USED TO TAKE ME TO the state wood chopping championships. Dad and I would wander into the “pits” where the axemen sat under umbrellas, their axe kits in front of them. I remember hearing the rasping sound as they moved a square block of stone over their axe blades with dotting care. You could see how sharp the blades were as they glinted in the midday sun. When the starter’s gun fired, chips of wood flew onto the ground at my feet as the axemen swung wildly. In seconds, a 40 cm thick block of wood fell with a thud to the ground. The secret of success lay somewhat in their stamina and strength but I’m sure that no axeman that day counted on those things as much as a sharp blade. The cutting edge of the axe was crucial to maximising every blow as a blunt edge would sap strength and cost them the event.

These memories still surface from time to time when I think of our Church. I see a lot of similarities between the axemen and our efforts in soul winning. We, like the axemen, ply our trade with force, chopping wildly in the heat of the midday sun and we feel our strength diminishing as we hack away at the task in front of us. The similarities stop there though because, unlike the axemen, we have not assessed well our progress, and unlike them, our axe is blunt.

The Scriptures sum it up. “Since a dull axe requires great strength, sharpen the blade. That’s the value of wisdom; it helps you succeed” (Ecclesiastes 10:10 NLT).

Data shows that Adventists in Australia are not growing at a rate that can be sustained to accomplish our task. From 1999 to 2008 the total membership increase for the Australian Church was 11,615. The total combined apostasies; deaths and missing members were 8815, giving a net growth figure over that period of 2800 souls. The average yearly growth figure over this period was 280.<sup>1</sup> This is without deducting generic baptisms<sup>2</sup>—conservatively estimated at 50 per cent—which would bring a kingdom growth figure

to about 140 souls per year for our Church in Australia.

For roughly the same period mentioned above, the population of Australia grew by 2 million, an average of about 200,000 per year. Since 1995 the population ratio increased from one Adventist for every 364 Australians to one for every 393 in 2008.<sup>3</sup>

It’s also interesting to note the different avenues by which people come into the Church. If we take a slice of data from a typical Conference intake of new members over a certain period, we find that the largest percentage of people coming into the Church (31 per cent) indicated that they were influenced by friends and relatives—friendship evangelism. By contrast, a very small proportion (8 per cent) came in through traditional methods like evangelistic series and prophecy type seminars.<sup>4</sup> The anomaly is that most of our resources are spent on the latter form when it comes to evangelism, despite the figures. We throw large amounts of money into this area while the figures show one-on-one contact methods work best.

Also, the average age bracket missing from our churches are the 25–35s, and I believe it is not entirely their fault.<sup>5</sup> Churches that adopt a position of standing at the doors and calling out to the current generation with traditional methods will not reach them. I have even heard a church member say, “If they don’t want to hear the message it’s their problem”.

I must say, this is a shocking position to take.

The question therefore needs to be asked—are we labouring hard but without wisdom? Have we become like the Pharisee who went to extraordinary expense to gain one convert when we could have had 10? The above figures are alarming and show a soul crisis. If we are in a crisis, then why doesn’t the church community reflect this? A community in crisis behaves a certain way. Let’s use the 9/11 disaster in New York as an example of what a community does in a crisis. We expect to see the following;

1. They warn others about the impending danger.

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by Danny Bell

2. The community goes on high alert.
3. They risk their own lives and engage in dangerous rescue operations. Some even die.
4. They think of how to avoid the disaster and plan for it not to happen again.
5. They go on the offensive, not sit around hoping it will go away.
6. They put aside differences to discover solutions.
7. They seek God.

A problem is that some people go into denial as they attempt to deal with the reality of a situation. The 9/11 crisis had its fair share of those in denial, giving answers that bordered on the ridiculous for why it happened. Below there are some typical answers people give when confronted with the hard reality of negative church growth:

"Every soul won for Christ is precious."

Yes every soul is precious and angels do sing when they come to Christ but are we being wise stewards of our time and resources? Can we have a bigger impact by working in a different way? We cannot place a money value on a soul but we can use the money more wisely resulting in more converts than the few resulting from costly and very taxing traditional methods.

"We are sowing seeds and will not see immediate results."

We have been sowing seeds since the days of the pioneers and so some of that should be coming through by now. Where are the fruits of the efforts from before our time? Why are we not reaping them today or do we believe that all of the fruit will appear at the last hour? This is overly optimistic in the face of current figures.

"We live in challenging times and so what will be will be."

This is Laodiceanism—a form of denial—"we are doing a lot and we don't need to try anything else or do it differently". Einstein once said, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results". Let's

keep swinging away without having a close look at our axe blades.

"Young people are so worldly today. Only one in 20 will be saved."

This is a definite form of denial and makes excuses for current losses. Again, we cry losses in this area and yet offer a very narrow avenue for service and involvement. If they do not accept our methods then we wipe our hands of them and appease our consciences with quotes like the one above in order to satisfy ourselves that we have done enough.

Many experts agree that churches experience negative growth not because they aren't doing enough, but because there are "growth blockers" in that organisation. Growth is natural and if we don't get in the way then it will "naturally" happen. We can't always sit back on our laurels and blame the godless public for empty pews. They are our target audience; if they are not listening then we had better sharpen our axes and come up with another plan.

Look around the churches and what do you see? I see tired, worn out people chopping with blunt axes. We need to work smarter not harder. For evangelistic methods, the biggest area where people are coming in has the least focus of resources. The importance of Bible based evangelism cannot be undervalued but maybe we need to use them as a reaping program rather than a cutting edge tool.

Let's sharpen the axe, give the tired and burnt out workers a rest, and begin to chop on the other side of the tree. For some this is heresy—for me it is the way home. ☞

*1 South Pacific Division Statistics 1999 to 2008.*

*2 Generic baptisms are baptisms that are generated from inside the church like the children of the families who attend church already.*

*3 Ibid, Division statistics files from the year 2000 to 2008 calculated on a yearly basis.*

*4 WA Conference figures for baptisms 2006 to 2008.*

*5 Australian Union Survey 2008.*

Danny Bell is editor of Trench Mail, an Adventist men's ministry magazine.



## OPENING HIS WORD

David McKibben

### The divinity of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is not only described as a Person, but in the classical creeds of the Christian faith He is also specifically identified as the third Person of the Godhead. What is the scriptural authority for such a position?

### What divine attributes are ascribed to the Holy Spirit?

He is described as omnipresent.

**Read** Psalm 139:7-10

In fact, this was one of the reasons why Jesus said the coming of the Holy Spirit would benefit His followers.

**Read** John 16:5-11

The Spirit is also described as omniscient. **Read** 1 Corinthians 2:10, 11 Other qualities such as holiness, truth, love and life are also attributed to the Holy Spirit throughout Scripture.

### What has been the Spirit's involvement in divine activities?

-Creation (Genesis 1:2)

-The Incarnation (Luke 1:35)

-The new birth (John 3:5; Titus 3:4-7)

-The gift of Scripture (2 Peter 1:19-21)

-The Resurrection (Romans 8:11)

### How is the Holy Spirit related to God?

Throughout the Bible the Holy Spirit is regarded as equal with the other members of the Godhead. For example, lying to the Holy Spirit is equated with lying to God. **Read** Acts 5:3, 4 Paul regarded the voice of the Holy Spirit on the same level as God's voice.

**Read** Acts 28:25 This essential unity and equality of the Holy Spirit within the Trinity are expressed in the following passages:

-The baptismal formula (Matthew 28:19)

-The apostolic grace (2 Corinthians 13:14)

-The spiritual gifts discourse (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

In summary, the Holy Spirit is described as equal with God, has divine attributes, and has been intimately involved—and continues to be—in the saving work of God.

*Pastor David McKibben is senior pastor of Parramatta church, NSW.*



## HEALTH WISE

Dr James Wright

### Stroke

Stroke is common, increasing with age, as blood vessels wear out. It may be simple and passing (TIA, Transient Ischaemic Attack, now called an "Event") or more severe.

They are caused by temporary or permanent interruption of blood supply to the brain. If the vessel goes into spasm, it will generally self correct. Others are caused by vessel obstruction, chopping off oxygen to a segment of brain, then affecting the body areas supplied by those neurones. Or an artery may burst, causing a haemorrhagic stroke, damaging surrounding tissue with effects often devastating. TIAs keep recurring, but often lead to a major stroke. Aspirin (a quarter of a tablet a day) helps to prevent a stroke. This marginally thins the blood, reducing clot risks. Doctor-prescribed "Iscover" has a similar effect.

Risks increase with high blood pressure. It must be brought down, ideally to 130/85. Medication is often necessary. High cholesterol, a high fat diet, being overweight, inadequate exercise and alcohol all increase risks. Smoking (or inhaling passive smoke) is possibly the worst risk factor.

Stroke causes temporary or permanent paralysis of a single muscle, muscle group, or in severe cases a quarter or half of the body. Many recover, others do not. Treatment is a "multi-disciplinary" effort. Doctors, physiotherapists, massage practitioners and dieticians all help.

*Unwell? Go to <docwright.com.au>. Enter symptom and click for immediate help. If symptoms continue, see your doctor.*

## WHY I BECAME AN ADVENTIST

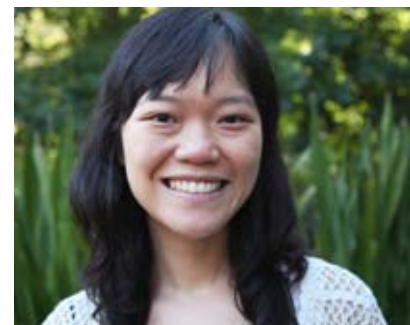
### Maureen Wang

I had been an atheist for almost 18 years. In April 2002, my beloved Grandpa passed away in China. For the very first time I prayed to a tomb.

Soon after I arrived in Australia and became a student at Macquarie University. I was still grieving the loss of Grandpa and was convinced that nothing spiritual existed; that hope would only yield bitter fruit.

In March 2008, at university, I came across an Adventist, Nathan Chee, from 3am church. Out of courtesy, I signed up to the Adventist student club, yet chose not to attend their events. A few months later I ran into Nathan again. Feeling awkward, I agreed to have a Bible study with him. I was amazed by the Bible truths. The message about the state of the dead helped me understand why Grandpa didn't answer me from the grave as I was still mourning his loss.

At the end of the year I accepted an invitation to attend the 3am church camp. It was a better option than staying at home alone. That was a critical turning point in my life and changed my view of God. Not only did I meet a group of adorable young Christians, but I was overwhelmed at the time, money, energy and skills they put to serving God. Through this group, I met a loving Jesus. I learned He stepped down from His throne to an earth full of thorns and spiky stones. He found me and saved me, telling me, "I loved you before you were born. I'm not here to ask for anything. All I want is for you to turn to me when in pain, so that I can set you free."







# Through the valley

by Brigid Peddie

**Y**EA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4).

On Tuesday, February 22, at 12:51pm, these words pierced my soul. Before that, I was going through the motions of an ordinary day. I had arrived in the Christchurch CBD to attend a professional development course at 1:00pm. The course was to be held in the Inland Revenue building in Cashel Street. Prior to this, I had arranged to meet with my brother, Kurt—who works in Cashel Mall—to borrow his tennis racquet for my 12-year-old son, Sean.

At 12:45pm, I sent a text to Kurt to say I would meet him in five minutes. I proceeded through Ballantynes and entered the Guthrey Centre—and that is where my control over the day's events ended.

Halfway into the centre, the quake struck. It was so violent that I couldn't walk or run. I sheltered under a shop entrance with another couple and was stunned by the crashing, shaking and dust. The heaving of the building must have lessened and a man beside me said, "run now," so we ran. I stopped at a pillar outside the centre where moments later another shake rocked everything around me. There was another man sheltering at the pillar, and I remember looking into his eyes—dropping social barriers and clinging to him.

When the shaking stopped, I never looked back to where I had come from. I didn't know the state of the Guthrey Centre. From that moment my eyes were fixed on my brother's building. It had collapsed, with my brother inside.

Sirens were sounding, people were running to and fro. From nowhere men emerged with yellow hats, clearing rubble and carrying helpless people onto the street. The people were so grey, covered in dust. I couldn't look. The words pounded in my brain—"my brother's inside".

At one point I looked away from the building and recognised the face of Jillayne Ennor (a friend from church) hurrying through the mall. I noticed her because she was moving in the wrong direction—into the area, not out of it. As we met and hugged I repeatedly told her that Kurt was in the rubble. She held me and calmly responded, "He'll be all right". I didn't believe her, however it was comforting to hear the words. Jillayne had her own anxiety to deal with; she was looking for her daughter who worked in the mall and

had left her elderly mother in the car. In spite of her own concerns, she chose to stay and comfort me.

The next thing I witnessed was my mother running down the street. She happened to be in a building in Cashel Street at the time of the quake and had made her way through the debris in search of her son. Jillayne eventually left me to get back to her mother. She left without having found her daughter (she was later reunited with all of her family). As she did, I had the presence of mind to say to her with unprepared conviction, "God has sent you here to me today".

My mother and I tried to alert the searchers that Kurt was in the rubble of his collapsed building. Official-looking men told us to leave but we refused. If we left, who would know to look for Kurt? Sirens blasted as emergency workers continued to clear rubble. The eerie sounds of groaning and anguish were all around me. I took for granted, at this stage, that my mother was there. The unlikely probability of her being in the city, at the same time as myself, had not sunk in.

About 15 minutes after the quake, my eyes were drawn to movement and I witnessed Kurt's arm appear from amongst the rubble with a briefcase in his hand. My mother and I cried out, "Kurt, Kurt". Inexpressible joy passed over me as I watched my brother make his way over the debris.

As the three of us held each other, I experienced uncontrollable shaking as my mind began to process what had just happened. I had nearly lost my brother. During the hours and days that followed, it dawned on me that I had also nearly lost my mother, and my own life. A few seconds earlier and I would have been in the entrance of the building which collapsed and claimed the lives of others.

Although I walked through the valley of the shadow of death on Tuesday, February 22, 2011, I went through that valley with an unshakable sense that God was very present in my time of need. No one or thing will ever be able to take this from me.

I am compelled to declare that my God, whom I serve, is able to deliver me. But if not, let it be known to you, that I do not live my life, subject to luck, or nature. I serve and worship a living God, a God who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water. He is a God who has promised that He will be with me always, even to the end of this world.

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*Brigid Peddie is chief financial officer for the South New Zealand Conference.*



with Dr Barry Oliver



### Mission

Mission has become a buzz word in most organisations these days. It describes the reason for existence. It differentiates the organisation from all others. It should determine what is done, how it is done and what resources are used to do it. Most organisations even have a succinct statement of mission. They tend to display it prominently on stationery and office walls.

We have a mission. In fact, we have a mission statement. It reads:

*Our mission is to make disciples for Jesus Christ of all peoples, communicating the everlasting Gospel in the context of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12.*

This mission statement can be memorised easily. It is all about making disciples for Jesus Christ. A disciple is a follower; a person who is authentic; a person who has made an intentional choice; a person who has decided where their allegiance lies. A disciple is always learning, always growing, always sharing. There are no age limits. There is no gender, ethnic or cultural differentiation.

The special thing about our Church is that we have the unique privilege of disciple making in the context of the end-time proclamation of Revelation 14. We share the everlasting Gospel. We call all to worship the Creator God and honour Him by resting on His Sabbath. We call attention to judgement and speak out against any and all who denigrate our God with their false worship.

Mission is not just a nice thing to do. It is an imperative. I am glad our Church takes it seriously.

*Dr Barry Oliver is president of the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.*

### EAST AUCKLAND CITY, New Zealand

Christine Lukhelo Williams

East Auckland City Worship and Seminar Centre (formerly Pakuranga Adventist Church) has big dreams for its community. The church was small until its members decided to make a change. Membership had dropped to 50.

Dyason Kuresa and his wife, Pua, are pastoring the centre and run projects that meet the needs of the community. "We wanted to do outreach but we did not have the facilities to run programs," Pastor Kuresa says. "It was also our vision to have doors open not just on Sabbath but every day of the week."

"We started looking at the building across the road but it wasn't meant to be," Mrs Kuresa says. They fasted and prayed and the current building at Howick became available. God allowed them to purchase the building with assistance from the South Pacific Division and North New Zealand Conference's yearly grants. Church members also contributed through local offerings.

"It's a huge blessing," Mrs Kuresa says. The value of the new building has increased "but more importantly, our membership has more than doubled", Pastor Kuresa says. "We now have 125 regular members and more people have registered for baptism. We want them to get to know the character of God better."

From September 2010, the centre opened its doors at 9:00am every day for prayer and Bible study to the community. Anyone can attend, ask questions, talk with the pastor, Bible worker and freely learn from the Word. Currently they have 32 non-Adventists attending church regularly and 22 coming to the midweek Bible study.

The centre runs health programs, recovery from addiction, marriage seminars and cooking classes. Pastor Kuresa says the challenges they have are God-given because He can deal with them. "We are a growing vineyard and the prayer meeting is the engine room for the activities happening here."



### EPPING, Sydney, NSW

Sue Wood

I've been attending Epping church in Sydney for more than 40 years. The church has had its boom and busts. People have come and gone. Throughout this time, I think I've served in every capacity available—it's what you do in a small church.

Our church closed for about two years sometime ago, then a new congregation arrived that breathed new life into the church and the surrounding community. We're active and growing with a regular attendance of 80. We love to worship together and we enjoy a strong sense of community and family unity.

I'm living with cancer and my church family has supported me. I recall an Agape feast we celebrated where everyone came and prayed with me—it was a special moment in time. Their prayers have strengthened me as I've been getting stronger and stronger.

If I was to describe my church, I'd have to say they're a loving family who go beyond the call of duty.



# Embracing Creativity

by Karen Collum

**I**F YOU HAD TO CHOOSE ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE yourself, what would it be? It's a tough question isn't it. How do you possibly capture the essence of 'you' with a single adjective? For me, the answer is actually quite simple. Creative.

I can't help it. Whatever I am faced with, no matter how mundane, I attempt to add a dash of creativity. However, this doesn't always mean I end up with brilliant results. At times my husband gets quite despondent about my need to be creative—especially in the kitchen. I rarely follow recipes. I might the first time, but from then on I free myself from the restrictions of tried and tested methods and explore the outer edges of culinary techniques—with questionable results. Perhaps his greatest gripe is when I do hit the jackpot and produce something magnificent, there's a good chance I will never be able to make it taste that way again!

In other realms of my life, embracing my creativity has brought indescribable pleasure. As a primary school teacher I taught within the confines of the curriculum but approached each subject with a whirl of creativity. I never taught the same topic the same way, two years in a row. After all, I had different students in my class every year who responded to different teaching methods. I have students who are now in university who remember their grade 6 year, when we set up a complete shopping precinct in the classroom and spent hours learning how to write cheques, use a credit card and reconcile a bank statement. Creativity enhances learning.

Being creative is not something I do; it is the essence of who I am. This was very evident some years ago when I was diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome. I spent a tough four years battling overwhelming exhaustion, mental foggy and excruciating pain. On days when I felt well enough, I would sit at the piano and indulge in one of my greatest pleasures—song writing. For a few blissful hours my body and mind would be engaged in an activity that was purely and utterly me. During that time I discovered something amazing. When I was song writing, I experienced no

pain. For those few precious moments, my bones wouldn't ache and the sharp, shooting pains that left me breathless would disappear. Creativity is therapeutic.

And now I am a writer. After years of wishing, dreaming and wondering if I could actually be an author, I am living out my calling. I have found my authentic self. I have embraced my creativity. And in the process I have discovered God in a new and exciting way. Creativity engenders worship. It's probably not surprising to learn I have a passion for the Genesis account of Creation. The simple words, "God created . . ." take my breath away. How the angels must have looked on in wonder and adoration as the scene unfolded before them. Light and dark. Land and sea. Grass and trees. Sun and moon. Fish and birds. Animals of every kind. And last of all, God's piece de resistance, mankind. The first Sabbath in the Garden of Eden must have been simply divine. My mind simply cannot fathom the intelligence, the design, the sheer creativity that went into making our world. It makes my efforts seem somewhat inadequate.

I am blessed to be living a creative life. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to exercise my talents and abilities. I am privileged to have discovered the authentic 'me'. But just in case I ever get ahead of myself and lose sight of my place in the universe, I have three beautiful, energetic reminders of the incredible creative power of God—my sons, Samuel, Jacob and Matthew. They keep me humble. One look at their smiling faces, one memory of what it was like to have carried them in my womb—I am once again speechless and back in my rightful place, worshipping the Creator of heaven and earth. God's creativity is unrivalled in all the cosmos and any hint of creativity that I may possess is a gift from Him and Him alone. Perhaps that explains why I have such a need, such a deep desire to be creative. For when I embrace my God-given creativity and use it for His glory, my heart beats in time with His. For just a moment I get to partner the great Creator. What an honour. ✂

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*Karen Collum is a children's author and member of Park Ridge church, Qld.*

# OPEN DAY

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## RECORD REWIND

Arthur Patrick

### Advent movement gathers momentum

William Miller focused the eyes of thousands of believers on the "blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ," to use the words of one of his key texts, Titus 2:13 (KJV).

How surprising it was for the emerging Advent movement to explore, as did Charles Fitch, what Christ will do when He returns.

In 1842, George Storrs of Albany, New York, an Advent believer, published six sermons under the title *An Enquiry: Are the Souls of the Wicked Immortal?* It had taken Storrs several years to refine his conclusion that immortality is a gift from God and that the wicked who refuse God's gift will perish forever in the "second death".



William Miller

Charles Fitch's background in Protestant thought prejudiced him against any such teaching. But a passion to follow the Scriptures slowly changed his mind.

On January 25, 1844, Charles Fitch wrote from Cleveland, Ohio:

"Dear Brother Storrs. As you have long been fighting the Lord's battles alone, on the subject of the state of the dead, and of the final doom of the wicked, I write this to say that I am at last after much thought and prayer, and a full conviction of duty to God, prepared to take my stand by your side."

Fitch declared that he was "thoroughly converted to the Bible truth, that 'the dead know not anything'". He reasoned his way through the evidence before exclaiming:

"You are right Brother Storrs, we shall have a clean universe. Thanks be to God. You can use this letter in any way, so that it speaks out. I shall not put my light under a bushel. I have preached two sermons here this week on this subject. They have produced a great uproar."

Fitch finished his letter with a clear focus on the Advent, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection". His study of what Jesus will do when He returns was leading him to discover truths that now seem so plain and precious to Seventh-day Adventists.

Dr Arthur Patrick is an honorary senior research fellow at Avondale College, NSW.

Photo: Andrews University

## MYSTERY HISTORY

### Do you know?

- Taken in the Solomon Islands
- The date the photo was taken
- The people in the photo

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# Kids' Space

# CIAO Kids

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Jesus is worthy of our worship because of what He did for us.



GRACELINK MESSAGE: We praise Jesus because He died and rose again.  
BIBLE TEXT: \_\_\_\_\_ believe \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ again. (1 Thessalonians 4:1)

\*Hello in Italian (Italy)



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## POSITIONS VACANT

**Departmental Personal Assistant—Australian Union Conference (Ringwood, Vic).** The AUC, located in Ringwood, Victoria, has a full-time vacancy for a motivated person to be a departmental personal assistant. You must be committed to the Church and its mission, love communicating with people, be very computer literate, have organisational skills, self-motivated. CV/ resume to Kingsley Wood, PO Box 4368, Ringwood, 3134, Victoria, or email <kingsleywood@adventist.org.au>, or fax to (03) 9870 7715. Applications close **March 19, 2011.**

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For more employment options, go to <adventistemployment.org.au>



## WEDDINGS

**King—North.** Joshua Nicholas King, son of Glen and Charmaine King (Eleebana, NSW), and Gemma Elizabeth North, daughter of Gary and Joy North (Wangi Wangi, NSW), were married 19.12.10 at St Patrick's of Nulkaba Chapel.

*Mike Faber*

**Gale—Wiles.** Matthew Don Gale, son of Brad Gale (Kempsey, NSW) and Phyllis Hartnett (Sydney), and Ruth Kelly Naomi Wiles, daughter of Robert Wiles (Collie, WA) and Colleen Wright (Bourke, NSW), were married 19.12.10 at the Seventh-day Adventist Convention Centre, Stuarts Point, NSW. Matthew and Ruth are former students of Mamarapha College.

*Leo Wright, Don Fehlberg*

## OBITUARIES

**Appave,** Judith (Fifi) (nee Johnson), born 6.3.1919 in Mauritius; died 23.11.10 at Blacktown, NSW. In 1946, she married Samuel Appave. She is survived by her husband, Pastor Samuel Appave; four children, Gervais, Orette, Christiane and Rosemay and their

spouses; and a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Adventism came to Mauritius in 1911 and the Johnson family were among the first converts. Some 30 years ago, Judith and her husband migrated to Australia to be closer to their children. Throughout her life, Judith faithfully supported her husband. In the process, she took care of four children in an era when a minister spent much more time doing God's work than with his family, and also found time to be actively involved in church activities. A few years after migrating to Australia, Judith was struck by disease and for the past 20 years she uncomplainingly faced physical hardship. She kept her sunny disposition, until finally, a stroke got the best of her.

*Gilbert Cangy, Roger Govender, Eddy Johnson*

**Blennerhassett,** David Evan, born 23.1.1946 in Melbourne, Vic; died 3.1.11 at his home in Melbourne having fought a brave battle with his health for a number of years. David is survived by his wife, Faye; his daughters and their families, Lisa and Bruce, Tanya and David; and

three grandchildren, Tristan, Ryan and Caitlyn. His life was characterised by his optimism, his love for his family and a total commitment to God's will in his life. David was a talented musician and director of the gospel music group New Testament.

*John Hammond*

**Bujva,** Joseph, was born 14.3.1920 in Yugoslavia; died 2.1.11 in Mission Beach, Qld. He and his family arrived in Melbourne in 1970, but they settled in Brisbane for most of their time. The last five years they lived in Mission Beach, Qld. He is survived by his wife Milka and his daughter Esther. Joseph is resting securely in the arms of Jesus until the resurrection morning.

*Wolfgang Jenke*

**Chapman,** Doctor Walter (Ray), born 20.3.1928 in Perth, WA; died 9.11.10 at the Gold Coast, Qld.

He is sadly missed by his wife Shirley, and children Anthony (Rockhampton), Jenny (Adelaide), Murray (Sydney), Lindi (Qatar) and Dale (USA) and their families. After a miraculous recovery from septicaemia at age 14, Ray decided to commit his life to God and His service in the field of medicine. He studied medicine at Sydney University where he met and married Shirley Greive. He worked in many Adventist hospitals at home and abroad. In 1979 he was ordained as a minister in acknowledgement of his service to the Adventist health ministry. He was a compassionate and humble man who enjoyed mentoring young doctors wherever he worked.

*J Rabe, W Millist, C Butcher*

**Chesham,** Allan, born 13.11.1934 in Melbourne, Vic; died 6.1.11 at Wahroonga, NSW. Beloved son of Ernest and Elsie, who predeceased him. Greatly respected and dearly loved cousin of Margaret, Elizabeth, Phillip, Dinah, Alf, Sharon, Dianne; and friend, Marie.

*Nataniel Pereira*

**Jones,** Florence May, born 8.9.1919; died at Christmas 2010. She spent her last eight years in Cardwell, Qld, and was baptised on 23.8.08. Florence is survived by her son Russell, and several grandchildren. She is resting securely in the arms of Jesus until

the resurrection morning.

*Wolfgang Jenke*

**Kent,** George Lynden, born 17.10.1928 in Sydney, NSW; died 10.10.10 at Elizabeth Lodge. He married Stephanie Bowe, who predeceased him in 1956 and features in his book *The Swelling of Jordan*. He married Fay McMahon in 1964. Lynden is survived by his sister, Cecily Syme (Hobart, Tas); wife, Fay (Sydney, NSW); children, Stephanie (Brisbane, Qld), Grenville and Linda (both of Sydney); and grandchildren, Zoe, Marcus, Ethan, Thomas and Jeremy, who loved their 'Saba' (Hebrew for grandfather), especially his stories and spin-bowling. Language scholar, Bible student, gelignite artist, organist, pig-hunter, lay-preacher, awarded author, adventurer, bubble-blowing grandfather—Lynden was a real character who trusted a perfect Saviour.

*Grenville Kent*

**Lucas,** Pearl Mary (Billie) (nee Schultz), born 28.5.1928 in Hobart, Tas; died 12.9.10 at ElderCare Franklin. On 3.11.1949, she married Jim Lucas at St Clements Anglican Church and they were both baptised the next year by Pastor Vern Heise, becoming strong members of the Margate church. Billie is survived by her husband; her children and their families, Susanne and Michael Grace, Brendan and Shelley, John and Robyn (all of Tasmania), Michael (Qld), Marcia and Tony Robinson (Vic); 17 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. She was a vibrant member of the hospitality team at Margate over many years and will be sadly missed for her love, laughter and gracious life in Jesus.

*Graeme A Brown*

**Moffitt,** Ernest John, born 21.3.1936 at Inverell, NSW; died 18.5.10 at Gosford. In 1959, he married Adrienne at Avondale Village Church, Cooranbong. He was predeceased by his daughter, Alison. He is survived by his wife; and his children, Maree, Graeme and Laurel; and his grandchildren, Bradley, Nicholas, Jemma and Christopher. Ernie worked for the Church in various positions including as an accountant at Sanitarium and Avondale College, various auditing work for the Greater Sydney and North NSW Conferences, and associate

auditor at the division.

*Wayne Krause*

**Page**, Albert Trevena, born 7.1.1924 at Fairfield, NSW; died 12.12.10 at Maitland. He married Gwen. He was predeceased by Roslyn Page. He is survived by Dawn Dixon (Narramine), Pam Page (Central Coast), Noeleen Roswell (Bishops Bridge); 14 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. The family looks forward to seeing Albert in heaven.

*Mark Venz, Ray Jerrard*

**Pascoe**, Allan Leslie, born 14.3.1931 at Parkes, NSW; died 4.12.10 in his sleep at Erina. On 15.5.1958, he married Marjorie Schultz. He is survived by his wife (Green Point); and his daughters and their families, Leona and Graeme Edwards (Melbourne, Vic) and Jennifer and Matthew Thomas (Sydney, NSW). Allan worked for Sanitarium for 11 years and at BP as account clerk for 18 years. At the age of 54, he had to retire due to failing health but kept his mind active through studying. He graduated from Newcastle University with a BA in 1994 and a MEd in 1998. Despite his physical disabilities, Allan was an inspiration to his friends, family and fellow church members.

*Russell Stanley, Wilf Pascoe*

**Reynolds**, Noel Stanford, born 25.3.1918 at Mullumbimby, NSW; died 27.3.10 at Urbenville. On 21.4.1997, he married Beverly Briggs. He was predeceased by his first two wives, Connie Reynolds and Edith Williams and his son, Noel. He is survived by his wife, Beverly; his children; 18 grandchildren; and 33 grandchildren. After serving in the Australian Army during World War II, Noel went into the building industry and also the banana industry. He spent time at Mona Mona Mission training an Aboriginal crew to run the sawmill which was later destroyed by fire.

*Horace Evans*

**Sibley**, Milton, born 31.3.1932; died 23.12.10 at Wongthaggi, Vic. He is survived by his wife, Betty; their children, Linda, David, Philippa and Josephine; and grandchildren, Gemma and Donovan. Milton, son of the late Pastor and Mrs David Sibley, was

for some years a teacher in Newcastle and Sydney Adventist High schools. Milton died two days before Christmas, a short time after open-heart surgery.

*Roy Naden*

**Treay**, Norma (nee Morton), born 30.3.1928 at Kurri Kurri, NSW; died 21.12.10 at Maitland. She is survived by Maxine, Alan, Anthony, David, and their families. Norma rests waiting the return of her Lord.

*Mark Venz*

**Willis**, Cedric Charles (Peter), born 3.3.1931 at Bellingen, NSW; died 5.1.11 in Canberra, ACT. On 28.2.1953, he married Ruby (Cass) who predeceased him on 6.6.03. He is survived by his children and their families, Larae and Gary Lane (Blaxland, NSW) and Leon; his grandsons, Ben, Luke and Jacob; and great-grandchildren, Peter, Gabrielle and Naomi. Quiet and reserved, Peter nevertheless had a colourful life. In 1950, he joined the RAAF and saw active service in the Malayan conflict. An expert photographer, he was for some time chief photographer for Colgate Palmolive and photographer with K G Murray Publishing. He was also a printer for the GS Conference. Peter loved music, played a number of brass instruments and transmposed the complete Adventist Hymnal for saxophone.

*Neil Lawson*

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## Finally

He who gets wisdom loves his own soul, he who cherishes understanding will prosper. —Prov 19:8

Next Record April 2

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