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Record

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Book revised for 400-year anniversary

Yarra Valley, Victoria

The launch of a new edition of *Can We Still Believe the Bible?* ranked among highlights of the annual sales seminar for Adventist Book Centre managers from around the South Pacific.

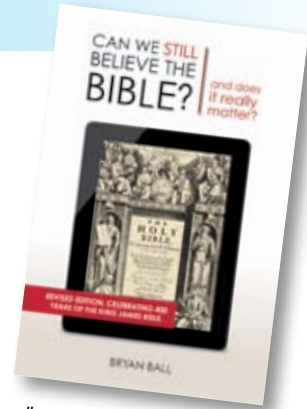
This new edition features two new chapters and has been revised to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible.

"The Authorised or KJV of the Bible has influenced the entire English-speaking world for four centuries, and in much more than matters of faith and religious belief," said author and retired church leader, Dr Bryan Ball. "No other book has played such a major role in the development of Western civilisation."

First published in 2007, thousands of copies of *Can We Still Believe the Bible?* have been distributed as an evangelistic resource, particularly by the New Zealand Christian Foundation. "The Bible is so foundational to what we believe that we needed to acknowledge this anniversary in some way," explained Nathan Brown, book editor for Signs

Publishing Company. "So when Dr Ball suggested this idea for a revised and expanded edition, we were enthusiastic. We hope Adventist churches and church members will take the opportunity of this new edition and this anniversary year to share the book with other churches and in their communities."

This was also the vision for Adventist Book Centre (ABC) ministry shared by the 28 managers and staff who met at JumBunna Lodge (Yarra Valley). As well as their interest in the new products launched and introduced at the seminar, the ABC representatives heard from Adventist authors Kay Rizzo and Bruce Manners, and Psalter music artists Eric and Monique, and Kate Hollingsworth. The ABC in Cooranbong received the sales award for Australia and New Zealand. The ABC in Fiji received the highest accreditation among Pacific ABCs, at the same time as retiring Fiji manager John Fong was thanked for his years of service. —Nathan Brown



Teen baptised by 'sponsor brother'

Pokhara, Nepal

A man who was sponsored as a child, has baptised his sponsor's daughter in a special ceremony in Nepal.

Gold Coast girl Nicole Sandy, 14, was baptised with a group of girls from Safe Haven, part of an anti-trafficking project run by Dr Rajendra Gautam. Nicole's father, Peter Sandy, began sponsoring Dr Gautam 25 years ago through Asian Aid, and they have been in close contact for the past 15 years.

"Being baptised is an unbelievably special occasion no matter where it happens or who baptises you. But to be in a country like Nepal, in a place that is breathtakingly spectacular and having my 'brother' baptising me, made it even more special," Nicole said.

The Sandy family met Dr Gautam for the first time in February. Now in his 30s, with a doctorate in theology, a masters in sociology and a degree in business administration, Dr Gautam is an ordained minister and director of his own aid organisation, 3 Angels Nepal (3AN). A partner of Asian Aid, 3AN runs three children's homes, an



Dr Gautam baptises Nicole Sandy.

anti-trafficking program, Safe Haven, for girls at risk, a new school and a radio program to share health and spiritual messages.

"I never started sponsoring orphans with any plans to meet them," Mr Sandy said. "I just continued to follow a path my family had started on when I was young. I started sponsoring because there are huge needs and with a small amount of money I was able to feel I was making a contribution. It showed me that God's family is the whole world and we are all part of it if we want to be."

Nicole plans to keep her membership with the small but growing church in Pokhara, Nepal. —Kimberly Ellison

OT book wins award

Cooranbong, New South Wales

A book co-edited by two alumni with research funding from Avondale College of Higher Education, has won the Enhancing the Preacher's Skill award at PreachingToday.com's annual book awards.

Reclaiming the Old Testament for Christian Preaching was edited by Drs Grenville Kent and Laurence Turner, with Dr Paul Kissling. The book is very practical and includes sermons as illustrations. Pastor Kent used the funding from Avondale to organise a theological conference in England. The book is based on papers presented at the conference.

"The Old Testament is theologically challenging," Pastor Kent said, "but there's unity with the New Testament. It preaches like a dream because people rarely hear it." —Brenton Stacey



Dr Kent held a conference in England.



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Seventh-day Adventist Church

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"PAU students at the opening ceremony
of the academic year."

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Pray with power

Glenn Townend

"Power of Prayer" was the title of a small article in the *Sunday Times* (October 17, 2010, p 38). It begins, "Praying for a sick person could help them even if they don't know they are being prayed for, a study says." The study of 999 patients at the Royal Adelaide Hospital Cancer Centre was led by Ian Olver, head of the Cancer Council. Some participants were chosen to be prayed for by members of a church, without their knowledge. Although there were no apparent miracles, there was a significant improvement in wellbeing in those who had intercessory prayer compared to the others.

Every day three pastors in the Western Australian Conference and three staff in the office pray for me—they covenanted to do this and I return the favour. Knowing that someone is taking my name to God's throne every day gives me an incredible sense of assurance.

Intercessory prayer works. "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the *Spirit intercedes for the saints* according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26,27 NRSV, *emphasis added*). Did you get that? The Holy Spirit intercedes or prays for me! Later, "Who is to condemn? It is *Christ Jesus*, who died, yes who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, *who indeed intercedes for us*" (v34). Jesus is praying for me too! Can you believe that? If human intercessory prayer works, imagine what divine intercession does.

We do not need to use prayer to convince God to do the best for us. He wants to do that anyway. Prayer opens us up to God's presence and shows God that we are open to His will and leading in our lives. We can come boldly to God and know that He wants to fulfil the desires He put in our hearts (Psalm 37:4, Hebrews 4:16). God wants me saved and has done all that is needed for that to happen—if we choose. God wants me to live a fulfilled life of purpose as a disciple of Jesus. When we remain in contact with God in prayer these things happen more easily. Intercessory prayer will help usher in revival.

Pastor Glenn Townend is president of the Western Australian Conference.

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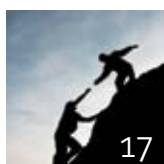
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Knott: keynote speaker

Dr Bill Knott, editor and executive publisher of the *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World* magazines, was the keynote speaker in the big tent during Easter camp. "I enjoy the series of personal conversations with people who attend the meetings and learning how the Gospel message reaches into their personal lives," Dr Knott said.



Church planter

Pastor John Horvath has been busy planting six new churches in Perth. Bible workers assist in nurturing former refugees from Sudan, Liberia, Buranda and the Karen people (Burma). "The practical ministry of teaching English, parenting, healthy cooking and finding accommodation are some of the activities that support our new Australians. We have about 60 children and need assistance to help assimilate them into our culture and be ready for Jesus to come," he said.



Committed to service

Seven years ago Julia Chapman travelled with her family to India to do health checks with Asian Aid children. They enjoyed the chance to serve so much they've returned twice since. "My family chose to volunteer their time during camp to promote the work of Asian Aid. They use every cent received to make the biggest impact in local communities in India," Ms Chapman said.



Backpacker baptised

Thassiannira Sousa was born in Brazil but grew up in Germany. Since graduating from high school she's been travelling around Australia and is enjoying camp in Perth. Miss Sousa arrived in Cairns and travelled down the eastern seaboard where she attended the Adventist Youth Conference in Melbourne. During the meetings she gave her life to God and was baptised.



Four generations of Adventists

Sharon (30), Coralin (80), Lesley (60) and Imogen (5) represent one of a number of four generation family groups who attended Sabbath services at Easter Camp, Perth. Coralin's grandparents, Henry and Evelyn Cooper, became Adventists in 1900 after receiving a *Signs* magazine. Many members of this family continue to serve the Lord throughout the Adventist Church.



Returned to church

Lyndon Riley has been attending the East Fremantle church since he recommitted his life to God. "Being a guitarist and playing in bands has been a challenge, so I've struggled with my faith over the years," he said. "I enjoy attending Easter camp as I get a chance to worship with my brothers and sisters. My faith is always strengthened with the great preaching and testimonies. I enjoyed the WA God stories the most."



Seventy years of doorknocking

The primary focus of the WA literature evangelism team is to win souls for Christ. They love seeing God work in people's lives. Between Brian, Clint, Brent, Sandi, Jerry and Rochelle (L-R), they have 70 years of doorknocking experience. "If we don't take God with us, we might as well not go," Jerry said.



Jigalong kids

Jigalong, an Aboriginal community of the Martu people, is located approximately 1070km north of Perth. Julie, Tarelle, Lucas, Clintesha, Bella and Jaylene (L-R) travelled 12 hours to attend Easter camp. "We enjoy the music, preaching and activities," Clintesha said. "I've enjoyed learning from Pastor Tony Knight (high school speaker)," Jaylene said. "He's a good storyteller and teacher."



Best job in the world

Bob Harders, who attends Kapel church in Perth, installs satellite dishes for Hope Channel. "I travel from Adelaide to Darwin and to the Indian Ocean. In some of my trips I can easily cover 10,000km," he said. "Almost 90 per cent of the dishes installed are for non-Adventists. Many have come to know Jesus and the Seventh-day Adventist message. I have the best job in the world."

Chinese missionaries in the Pacific

Suva, Fiji

Missionary work for Chinese communities in three Pacific Island countries will begin this year, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in Suva, Fiji, on April 14.

Global Mission coordinators from Tonga, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands each signed an agreement with the director for Global Chinese Evangelism from the Chinese Union Mission (CHUM), Pastor Terry Tsui.

Pastor Tsui was attending the Trans-Pacific Union's Global Mission Advisory where he finalised an arrangement in which CHUM will send missionaries from China to plant churches in the Chinese communities of the Pacific.

The Chinese volunteers are being trained at the 1000 Missionary Movement Campus in the Philippines, and once the training is finished and visas are secured, they will proceed to work on Global Mission projects in Tongatapu (Tonga), Port Vila (Vanuatu) and Honiara (Solomon Islands). These three projects are the first to target the significant number of Chinese people living in the Pacific Islands who haven't heard the Adventist message. It is hoped that similar projects will follow in Fiji, Samoa and French Polynesia.

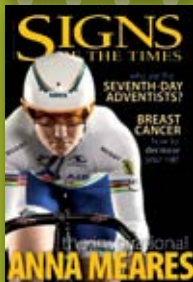
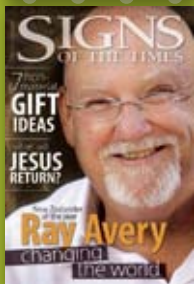
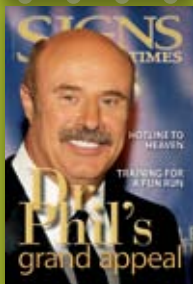
TPUM Global Mission coordinator Pastor Nos Terry negotiated for several months with Pastor Tsui who spearheads evangelism for Chinese people around the world. Volunteers will also be sent to Brisbane and Auckland.

"I am delighted that volunteer missionaries with an understanding of Chinese culture and the language can come and work among their own people here in the Pacific," said Pastor Ray Coombe, Global Mission coordinator for the South Pacific Division. "It is more effective when people can hear the Gospel presented in the context of their own culture."

The Chinese volunteers will be on a two-year contract, supported by Global Mission funding and CHUM, but it will possibly take six years to effectively plant an Adventist presence in these communities. This year there are 22 Global Mission funded projects in the Trans Pacific Union to plant churches in new areas and within unreached communities. —Ray Coombe



Signing of the MOU with Pastor Tsui (centre).



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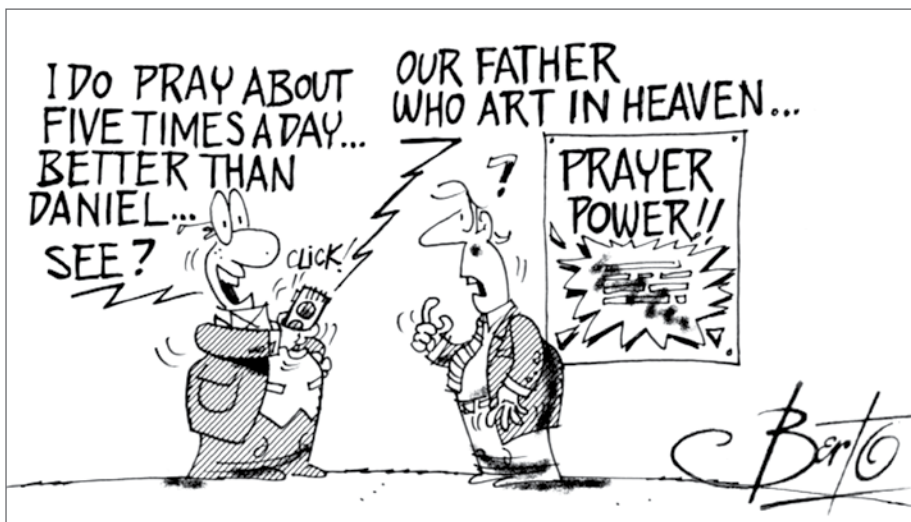
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Refer to Reach out in prayer, page 11

Retired pastor elected to parliament

Apia, Samoa

Samoans have gone to the polls in a general election, choosing 47 members of parliament from 41 village-based constituencies.

Toese Ah Sam, a retired pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with 40 years' service, has been elected as a member of parliament. Pastor Ah Sam has previously served the Church in Samoa, Hawaii and mainland United States.

His constituents on the island of Savaii elected him as their representative for the next five years.

Savaii is the largest and highest island in the Samoan Island chain. It is home to 43,142 people, who make up 24 per cent of the country's population.

"When Pastor Ah Sam returned from the US, he was given the title of matai, a family chief. He served the district

community looking after the needs of the people in terms of farming, land and resources," said Pastor Uili Solofa, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Samoa.

"Being the only Adventist member of parliament, my prayer is that Pastor Ah Sam will be a voice to serve his country, his people and God. I look forward to a healthy relationship between him and the Church."

Of major significance is that his election was not legally challenged, a clear indication of a clean election campaign. —*Julia Wallwork/Pablo Lillo*



Pastor Toese Ah Sam baptizing Leata Rasmussen in Samoa.

Adventist schools worship together

Sydney, New South Wales

The six Adventist schools in Sydney combined on March 2 for their first ever Day of Worship. The initiative brought together students from locations as far as Macquarie Fields, Hurstville and Wahroonga to celebrate their unity in a special chapel program.

Years K-4 gathered at Sydney Adventist College for the morning where they were blessed with a special program led by the schools' chaplains and youth director, Pastor Cheoneth Strickland. Years 5-9 combined at Parramatta church to enjoy a program presented by youth speaker, Billy Otto, where they also enjoyed a live reptile show. The older students in Years 10-12 benefited from a powerful message delivered by South Queensland youth director, Pastor Murray Hunter, at Kellyville church. All the schools in each age group were together in each location, worshipping together at the same time.

—*Claudia Martin*



The hall at Sydney Adventist College was packed with K-4 students.

Prime Minister donates \$SBD10,000 to school

Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands Prime Minister Danny Philip donated \$SBD10,000 from his personal finances at the official handing over of the new buildings at Kopiu Adventist Junior Community School to the Solomon Islands Mission (SIM).

Mr Philip was guest of honour at the ceremony, along with other government ministers and SIM president, Pastor Wayne Boehm.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Prime Minister praised the vision of Pastor Norman Ferris, who untiringly helped the local community establish the school in 1932.

He described Kopiu as a "lighthouse" in the community and said he was inspired by the high academic standard of education.

"The handing over of the school to the Solomon Islands Mission celebrated not only accomplishing the dreams of past generations, but launched the school into the future as it continues to train and equip young people in the service of God," Pastor Boehm said.

Since its establishment, Kopiu has become a historical

landmark of the Seventh-day Adventist church in Guadalcanal. The school has educated students who have contributed to the development of the church, government and private sector.

As years went by Kopiu became a "backwater" school. It was not until 2003 that a proposal was submitted, as part of the Post Ethnic Tension for Education Rehabilitation program, to establish a secondary school in Kopiu with an aim to "relive" the vision of its pioneers.

Pastor Ervin Ferris, retired minister and son of Norman Ferris, rekindled the vision to relive his father's dream. With the support of volunteers from the South Queensland Conference and local communities, Kopiu school now has an enrolment of 250 students. —*George Herming/Pablo Lillo*



The PM had to climb 172 steps to get to the school.



Enthusiasm

In 2010, there was a 42 per cent increase over the previous year in student applications for both print and online Discovery Centre (South Pacific Division) courses. The four most popular online courses were Digging Up the Past, Relationships and Parenting, Taking Charge of Your Health and Taking Charge of Your Life. –*Discovery News*



Divine appointment

Literature evangelist Marian Jones was told by three people on the same Townsville (Qld) street that she needed to visit a particular house. When she did, Ms Jones found a couple impressed about what the Bible says about death, the Second Coming and the Sabbath. The lady said God must have organised the visit. –*In Touch*



Disappointing numbers

South NSW president Bob Manners says the low number of Adventists in his Conference is “alarming”, with a number of towns having no Adventist presence at all. The Conference Executive Committee has met with pastors to establish a strategic direction for evangelism in the Conference and has asked for prayers from church members. –*Imprint*



Go forward

The North New South Wales Conference has embarked on a renewed push for church health and evangelism. Application of Natural Church Development principles has seen a renewal at the Toronto church, and a jump of 15 per cent in baptisms for the Conference. –*Reach*



Pass it on

Howleedy Simeon, a literature evangelist from Honiara (Solomon Islands) shows her books at local markets. One lady purchased a number of books, which resulted in Bible studies. The lady, enthusiastic about what she had found, shared with seven other people from her church, including a pastor. Now they are all baptised. –*In Touch*



Desert harvest

Coober Pedy (SA) church celebrated with a big weekend involving six baptisms and a wedding. The (literally) underground church doesn't have a font, so the baptisms were held at the local swimming pool. Local pastor Alan Tuionetoa led out with the assistance of SA ATSIM director Eric Davey. –*goodnews*

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Building a brighter future for destitute children





Record enrolment at PAU

by Jarrod Stackelroth

Pacific Adventist University (PAU), Papua New Guinea, has recorded its highest ever enrolment this year, with 855 students. According to the registrar's report, prepared for the March council, the enrolment has increased significantly in the past five years, from 497 students in 2006. A record was also set for new students, with 362 enrolling, 42 per cent of the total enrolment.

The business and science courses continue to be the most popular and student numbers have again increased. Theology also posted a record number of enrolments. This is significant due to the shortage of pastors in Papua New Guinea as well as the struggle for them to pay their way in a course that is not subsidised by the government.

The ratio of male to female is 47.5 to 52.5 per cent. Females have outnumbered male enrolments since 2008.

The number of foreign students has also increased but the overall percentage has remained the same.

PAU's strategic plan aims for the university to become the premier provider of tertiary Christian education in the Pacific Islands. Since the last strategic plan, PAU has seen the affiliation of Sonoma College (PNG) and Fulton College (Fiji). Goals for the next five years include increasing graduates by 20 per cent annually, developing a research culture by increasing the number of postgraduate students and increasing the students' spiritual involvement.

RECORD spoke to PAU vice-chancellor, Ben Thomas (pictured), to find out what the increase means and where the college is headed:

RECORD: Why is this growth important?

Ben Thomas: In Papua New Guinea, less than 2 per cent of the population are able to receive a tertiary education. Given the high population growth, and the even greater growth in church membership, I am extremely happy that PAU has embarked on the journey of growth. Unless we create more places at PAU, a smaller and smaller percentage of all Adventist young people will be able to attend an Adventist university and get a Christian education.

R: How was the increase in theology students achieved?

BT: At PAU we understand that one of our core reasons for existence is to serve the needs of the Church. I

have therefore been deeply concerned about the theology enrolments. The need for church pastors is very high here. I directly link the increase in theology students this year to a renewed focus by the Dean of the School of Theology in working with the various missions to find sponsorships for students. The School of Theology has also reached out to Conferences in Australia to assist in this regard.

R: What would you like to see spiritually on campus?

BT: Our five year strategic plan has "Experiencing Jesus Christ" as our number one goal. We realise that this is a huge challenge, given the variety of backgrounds from which students come. However, we are committed to providing an environment where all students, whether Adventist or not, have the opportunity to develop a personal relationship with Jesus. We have created a new role this year—director of Spiritual Services. Former PNG Union Mission president, Pastor Thomas Davai, who brings with him extensive experience, has been tasked with the creation of a Spiritual Master Plan, where all the activities of the university have a spiritual undergirding. He prayed with more than 100 new students on registration day. Thirty per cent of students at PAU are non-Adventists. This means huge potential for outreach.

R: Can (and will) PAU continue to grow?

BT: The needs for education in PNG are not going to reduce. With roughly one-third of the population under the age of 14, PAU will need to continue to grow in order to meet the needs of the Church. However, we are now totally strapped in resources. We are running classes in the cafeteria, because we don't have classrooms big enough. We are putting three students into dorm rooms designed for two. Our infrastructure is bursting at the seams. We are working with government and aid agencies to receive funding for capital projects such as more classrooms. By the grace of God, we will start building a new School of Business complex, with 12 new classrooms ranging in size from 60 to 500 seats, before the end of this year.

God is richly blessing us. I know He will continue to open doors for us, so we can prepare our students to serve community, country, church and God.

Jarrod Stackelroth is assistant editor of RECORD.

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OPINION*

Ali Heise

Pastor or credit card?

Recently my husband and I cut up our credit cards. We've been married six years and have maxed out and paid off our credit card bill repeatedly. We have modified our written budget numerous times—each time working towards paying off the debt only to see the numbers dipping below zero after a few measly weeks.

Now the buffer is gone. No second chance. No backstop. Now we have to actually live our budget, not just talk about it. It's amazing how motivated I've become all of a sudden. Now I care.

Do we use our pastors like a credit card? Do we expect our pastors to bail our churches out of unfortunate spiritual circumstances? Someone to really get our churches happening? Have you ever found yourself wishing you had a pastor who could preach really meaty sermons that just make you want to go out and yell to the world that Jesus is AWESOME? Someone who could really whip the place into spiritual shape? Wouldn't that make church just that bit more fulfilling? More real? And relevant?

Well, what if the pastor wasn't there? What if they quit and started building houses and became a regular member like the rest of the church? What if the "credit card" was no longer available? Would our churches die? Would we have an "epic fail" and start looking for someone more spiritual to pull the show together again? Or would we start caring more?

I don't believe a pastor is necessary for a thriving church. Don't get me wrong; I love and respect pastors a great deal for the amount of their own hearts they pour into the church. I should know—I'm married to one, I'm the daughter, daughter-in-law, granddaughter, granddaughter-in-law and great-granddaughter of a pastor. If anyone is guilty of letting the pastor do it all, it's me. I've got other things to do! I've treated all the pastors in my life a bit like a credit card at times. And I wonder if I would care more if they all quit and left me to step up.

* Views represented in Opinion reflect those of the author and not necessarily those of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Ali Heise writes from the Gold Coast, Qld.

OPINION POLL

What interferes with your prayer life most?

- Busyness
- Not a high priority
- Guilt
- Concentration

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Reach out in prayer

by Garth Bainbridge

IF I WAS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL TWELVE, I WOULD HAVE been the one mouthing the request, “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1). I confess that prayer doesn’t come easy for me—my mind jumps all over the place, or I run out of things to say after just a few minutes. So I often ask, “Lord, teach me to pray”.

What has helped me immensely, is to pray along the lines of the answer Jesus gave His disciples—the so-called Lord’s Prayer. It begins with praise, so I spend time praising God for His name, in fact for His many names, each of which expresses a way in which He reveals Himself to us. I enter into His heart’s desire for His kingdom to come, His will to be done on Earth as it is in heaven. I dare to ask Him for specific needs to be met, even to the basic levels of my daily bread. I confess, and ask Him for forgiveness, and for a forgiving spirit so I may be a peacemaker on Earth. And I consecrate myself to Him, asking Him to deliver me from the evils that hold me in their grip.

The part of this prayer that we slip through too quickly to get to the “give us this day” bit is, “Your kingdom come; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”. Intercessory prayer is one significant way we can engage with God in fulfilling this request. Jesus tells a story in Luke 11:5-8 to illustrate the effectiveness of praying for others:

“Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him’. Then the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything’. I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man’s boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.”

Intercessory prayer is asking God for something on behalf of someone else. Jesus’ story tells us a few things about how intercession works:

1. It happens because someone has a need. A friend of mine sends out an email of prayer requests nearly every day to her network of “prayer warriors”. Each request has arisen out of a need.

2. It happens because someone is concerned enough to pray. Intercessors are a special brand of people who are moved to cry to God out of concern for other people’s

needs. Intercessory prayer is totally unselfish.

3. The intercessor feels helpless in the face of others’ needs. The man in the story came to his neighbour with the plea: “I don’t have anything to give my guest”. Every intercessor has a heart-felt desire to see people helped, but doesn’t have the means to help.

4. The intercessor believes God has the means. An intercessor thinks, “I don’t have what is needed, but Another does, and He will give whatever it takes”. They stand between the need and the supply.

5. The intercessor is shamelessly persistent. That’s what the Greek word for “boldness” means. The man in the story bangs at the door until he sees a result. Not that God is unwilling and needs persuading. The story is one of contrast. Verse 12 says, “If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

But still, there is need for persistence. Verse 9 could read: “Keep on asking and you will keep on receiving; keep on seeking and you will keep on finding; keep on knocking and you will keep on opening doors.”

There’s another reason we must persist in asking. We see in Daniel 10, that God’s is not the only hand reaching out across the void. Daniel prayed for three weeks that the king of Persia would let the Jews return to their homeland. But “a great war” (v1) was happening behind the veil of human sight. At last an angel appeared to Daniel and explained: “Since the first day that you set your mind to . . . humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom [an evil angel appointed to influence the king] resisted me 21 days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes [appointed to protect God’s people—see Dan 12:1], came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.” Daniel’s persistence in prayer was vital to the outcome of this unseen battle.

So keep asking and you will keep receiving. Keep shouting under God’s window and He will keep throwing bread into your outstretched hands. Keep knocking on His door for someone in need, and He will keep opening doors of opportunity for those needs to be met. ➤

Pastor Garth Bainbridge is Ministerial Association secretary for the Greater Sydney Conference.



OPENING HIS WORD

David McKibben

The power of the Holy Spirit

Just prior to His ascension into heaven, Jesus commanded His disciples to remain in Jerusalem for the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5). He told them that they would receive power once this promise was fulfilled (Acts 1:8). The word 'power' in the original Greek is 'dunamis', from which we derive the word dynamite.

How is the power of the Holy Spirit demonstrated in the plan of salvation?

- The Holy Spirit convicts a person of sin.

Read John 16:8-11. Only the Holy Spirit can do this work in an individual's experience.

- The Spirit is the agent of conversion.

Read John 3:5, 6 and Titus 3:5. The experience of the new birth is only made possible by the work of the Holy Spirit.

- The power to live a changed life comes from the Spirit.

Read Romans 8:1-4.

- The presence and power of the Holy Spirit in a person's life is the key to an experience of growth, fruitfulness and joy. **Read** Galatians 5:22, 23 and Romans 14:17; 15:13.

How is the power of the Holy Spirit demonstrated in the Church?

- The Holy Spirit enables us to witness.

Read Acts 1:8. This is the key text in the book of Acts and explains how the Christian faith spread through the Roman Empire in a generation. The amazing story of the growth of the early church is testimony to the power of the Holy Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit is the source of spiritual gifts.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. These gifts provide tremendous potential for individual and church growth.

In summary, we are not to be afraid of the Holy Spirit but rather to know and love Him as a wonderful Friend. Fellowship with the Spirit produces a powerful and victorious life in Jesus.

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



HEALTH WISE

Dr James Wright

Energy drinks

Energy drinks for kids have taken off in a big way, both in Australia and worldwide. Nearly 200 brands are available in 140 countries, and are consumed by more than 30 per cent of youngsters. The main attraction is the enormous kick given by the main drug component, caffeine. This is the only legal drug of addiction for children as well as adults.

Most "energy drinks" contain 80 mg of caffeine per 250 mls. However, some contain as much as 300 mg. Compare this to 30 mg in a cup of tea or coffee.

Denmark and Sweden have banned energy drinks. France did but also, but then backflipped. Australia calls energy drinks a "dietary supplement". But Professor Wendy Oddy, from the University of Western Australia, recently said in the *British Medical Journal* that they should be limited to adolescents over 16 years. In Norway, energy drinks can only be bought at pharmacies! Enforcing bans is virtually impossible.

Unfortunately, many believe energy drinks are safe, provided there is no over consumption. Advice says pregnant and lactating women should not use them. The Adventist position of total abstinence from caffeine is a wise one.

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

MY MINISTRY IDEA

The young people of Cabramatta church, Sydney, NSW, have recently implemented a new means to reach out to their local community.

Every Sabbath after the Divine Service, a team of 15 toddlers, youth and their Sabbath School teachers stand on the corners of Fisher and Broomfield streets and distribute chilled, bottled water to the public.

Taking their post under a conspicuous beach umbrella, the youth bear "Free Water" posters on their torsos and offer water as passing individuals accept with an almost grateful disbelief. "Is it for free?" and, "Oh, just what I need!" they occasionally say.

The bottles of water are provided by some members of the church and a family from Narwee who willingly bring an esky and the bottles of water to church, despite their longer than usual commute to Cabramatta. This is followed by a fellowship lunch until 2pm after which these young pupils pair up and go from door to door to nearby residents and offer *The Father's Love Letter*, *Life after life* and the *Last day events* DVDs.

The allotment of DVDs is done every fortnight. Prior to this new ministry where the church is being more practical, the youth would run Adventist Youth programs every Sabbath afternoon. This change to the routine has sparked much interest and curiosity within the church, with the participation of young and older members slowly increasing each week.

Hopes for further building on these ministries include greater interaction with churches within Cabramatta's vicinity and establishing a music studio. The recording of hymns and other inspired songs will be sent to help our brothers and sisters in Cambodia where our youth were able to help facilitate a children's Christmas program in 2009. This was organised by the current youth leader having ties with the Phnom Penh church in Cambodia. —Philip Lygston





Going nuts for your heart

Nuts, including peanuts, are nutrition powerhouses. Studies show that enjoying a handful of nuts at least five times a week can significantly reduce your risk of developing heart disease.

Why nuts are so heart healthy:

Nuts contain a variety of nutrients and bioactive substances that contribute to lowering the risk of heart disease and controlling cholesterol.

- Nuts are a rich source of healthy fats, including monounsaturated, polyunsaturated and omega-3 fats. Eating a variety of nuts will help provide the right balance of these healthy fats to help lower cholesterol, particularly LDL cholesterol.
- Nuts contain plant omega-3s, found in walnuts, pecans, hazelnuts and macadamias. Research shows these plant omega-3s, called alpha-linolenic acid (ALA), reduce the risk of cardiac arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death.
- Nuts are a rich source of antioxidants and phytonutrients which maintain the health of blood vessels. Their anti-inflammatory effects play a role in reducing chronic inflammation, thought to cause heart disease and other chronic diseases.
- Nuts are a natural source of plant sterols which can help to lower cholesterol by reducing absorption and re-absorption of cholesterol in the intestines.
- Nuts are rich in arginine which is converted to nitric oxide, a substance that relaxes the blood vessels and keeps

them healthy.

- Nuts are a good source of folate, which helps reduce high levels of homocysteine, a known risk factor for heart disease.

Tips to include nuts every day:

- Sprinkle crushed walnuts and flaxseed over breakfast cereal or yoghurt
- Spread crunchy peanut butter on a wholegrain slice of toast
- Add cashews or almonds to a stir fry or curry
- Add slivered almonds to couscous or rice
- Mix your favourite nuts with dried sultanas or raisins for a healthy snack
- Roast macadamia nuts or pine nuts and toss through a salad.

Worried about your weight if you eat nuts? Studies show that for various reasons people don't gain weight when adding nuts as part of a healthy diet. Eating a plant-based diet and engaging in regular exercise is a prescription to help lower blood cholesterol and maintain a healthy heart.

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. To order the cookbook, visit our website <www.sanitarium.com.au> or <www.sanitarium.co.nz>.



RECIPE

Warm spinach, pear and walnut salad



- 1/3 cup walnuts, roughly chopped
- 1 tbsp maple syrup
- 1 tbsp macadamia oil
- 2 Corella pears, halved, cored and cut into 1cm-thick slices lengthways
- 50g parmesan cheese, shaved
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 100g baby spinach leaves

1. Heat a medium non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Add walnuts and toast, tossing often, for 2-3 minutes until golden. Transfer to a plate. Set aside.
2. Heat olive oil in the pan over medium-high heat. Add pears. Cook, tossing often, for 3-4 minutes until golden. Stir in maple syrup, balsamic vinegar and macadamia oil. Reduce heat to medium. Cook, tossing occasionally, for 1-2 minutes until bubbling. Toss through walnuts. Remove from heat, stand for 2 minutes.
3. Arrange spinach on serving plates. Top with warm pears and walnuts. Sprinkle with shaved parmesan and serve. Serves 4.

Preparation time: 10 minutes. Cook time: 8 minutes.

PER SERVE: 760 kilojoules (180 calories); Protein 5g; Fat 14g; Saturated Fat 3g; Carbohydrate 10g; Total Sugars 8g; Sodium 125mg; Potassium 190mg; Calcium 116mg; Iron 0.9mg; Fibre 2g.



habits of highly effective reconnecting churches

by Paul Richardson

I KNOW A LOT ABOUT ADVENTISM," HE SAID. "MY great-great-grandparents are James and Ellen White. I know all the stories. I can debate anyone on theology.

I was actively involved in church until a few years ago, when my marriage broke up and I felt as if the church my family started was not my family when I needed it most."

As I've interviewed hundreds of inactive members such as the one just mentioned, their reasons for leaving are varied. The common denominator in the majority of stories is exclusion—either by people or by theology. They felt on the outside of a group of people who were obviously part of the inside group. Others felt as though there was little willingness to accommodate variations on theology and standards. More could be said about the reasons for leaving. But what is clear from the interviews is what congregations are doing right in welcoming back those who have left! Below are eight ways I have seen churches be effective in reconnecting with inactive members:

1. Provide Effective Leadership

The attitude of the pastor sets the tone for the entire congregation. If he or she thinks inactive members are important, then the members will often see them that way

as well. Leadership is critical to an effective reconnecting ministry. If the environment isn't a positive one for such an important ministry, then please don't start inviting people to reconnect and risk their getting hurt again.

Leaders, think of reconnecting ministries as retention ministries. Our Adventist educators understand this concept. They realise they cannot rely solely on the influx of students each year to keep their school full. They need to do all they can to make sure they return year after year. If that happens effectively, theirs is a thriving educational setting. Sadly, our congregations have not been giving enough attention to retention initiatives. They've been holding evangelistic meetings, delighted with their baptisms. But they've paid little attention to the fact that many are leaving out the back door in droves, rarely to return.

2. Notice Predictable Leaving Patterns

What if half of the people who attend your church all of a sudden stood up during worship service one Sabbath and walked out the door? You might ask others around you, "Where are they going? Why are they leaving? Did we do something to prompt their leaving?" Unfortunately,

this is not how the leaving happens. It is often one, two or three persons at a time. And often they don't leave suddenly. Special attention must be paid to the signals members give that they are disengaging from your church in the first place. It's much easier to keep a connection while they are there than when they are gone.

3. Teach Listening Skills

We were given two ears and one mouth for a reason. Ideally, we should listen far more than we talk. Listening to inactive members with no stones in our hands is a wonderful gift to give them. When someone is angrily telling you about all the hypocrites in the church, it's very tempting to insist, "Not every person is as horrible as you've just portrayed". When someone is shy about telling his or her story, it takes good listening skills to draw out the details so that person feels heard from the heart more than the head.

4. Meet Away From Church

Some of the best reconnecting happens away from the church building. In many cases the building holds bad memories: that's where his grandma's funeral was . . . that's where her first wedding happened, and the subsequent divorce is still painful . . . that's where their child who died used to sing for Sabbath School. Meeting away from the building reduces a potential barrier to reconnecting.

One of the reasons they left in the first place is that the regulars just "sat around and talked about the Christian life" instead of actually living it. Doing fun activities is attractive to non-attending members. By providing a menu of activities away from the church as places to reconnect, you increase the chances that they will want to spend time with you again. So start sporting events, car rallies, book clubs, hobby groups, home or car repair teams for those in need, etc. Don't get stuck on the idea that they have to attend church for you to be reconnected.

5. Make Good First Impressions

The phone rang. It was her son on the other end. "Mum, my gift to you on Mother's Day this coming weekend is to go with you to church." She was delighted. She bought a new dress. It was a bright, sunny Sabbath when she met him in the parking lot at church. They walked to the doors of the church, opened them wide and went into the lobby. At that moment these words could be heard across the lobby loud enough for everyone to hear, "Well, well, well, our little black sheep is home". This greeting, I'm afraid, is the disastrous experience of too many inactive members who work up their courage to reconnect with the church.

We cannot assume that greeters know how to greet effectively. Some are very gifted, and we need to learn from them how to make people feel welcome. But there are too many horror stories of greetings gone awry in our churches. The good news is that those churches which are training their official greeters are seeing positive changes. And congregations that are creating a culture in which every person is a greeter find that a larger number of inactive members are attending again.

6. Create Safety Zones

On most Sabbaths she was spiritually single. But this Sabbath her husband joined her for Sabbath School and church. They both came to the class specifically designed for those who were reconnecting. Somewhere during the course of conversation he raised his hand and said, "This conversation reminds me of my academy experience. One night while all the guys were sleeping in the dorm, the dean and the resident hall assistants (RAs) burst into my room. The RAs pinned me to the floor while the dean cut off my long hair. This was in the 1970s when long feathered-back hair was central to our identity. I vowed at that moment that if the rules were more important than the relationship, I was out of the church the day I graduated from that 'military school'."

Since our class is specifically designed to process people's pain and provide a safe place in which people can bring their triumphs and troubles, doubts and dysfunctions, we did just that with this man's story. He didn't come back the next week, but he was there about a month later. Once again, in the middle of a conversation on another topic, he told his story again. This pattern repeated itself for months, and our class listened attentively each time because we realised this was blocking him from feeling close to God and the church. We won't forget the happy day when, as he launched into his story, he abruptly stopped and said, "I've told you guys this story before. I'm over that now". This was precisely why we started that class.

I recommend that you start one of these classes in your congregation as well. A traditional study class teacher may not be well suited for such "disruptions" to the flow of the presentation and learning. Don't try to conform all your classes to adopt this format. But if you have a space where you can start one, that is the place where astute greeters can bring returning members if they choose to honour you with their presence.

7. Include, Include, Include

There are many reasons why people quit attending the Adventist Church. You may want to judge whether their reasons are valid, but that does little good in creating a connection again. I have found that a large number of people who left, did so because they did not feel included by the pastor and core leadership of the congregation. The "friendship factor" in our churches needs to increase significantly. Include missing members who return within the first six weeks after they worship with you. Invite them to join teams who serve church members or people in the community. Introduce them to at least six people with whom they can identify because they share similar life experiences. Eat with them. Get to know them. Notice when they are standing or sitting on the sidelines, and go to them. Don't compel them to join you. If you do this, you have a better than 50/50 chance of keeping them in fellowship once they return. If not, you can count on them leaving again, and feeling even more bitter because they got burned twice.

8. Set Realistic Goals

It would be ideal if every person in every congregation was involving inactive members. I'm praying for that day. Until that time, it is important to set realistic goals and expectations for what you can accomplish in your church regarding reconnecting ministries.

Some missing members will return and become active. Some will repel you with anger and indifference. Still others will become active but not in your church. And a whole spectrum of responses in between these three options will take place. Are you ready? The more you are ready to let the Spirit set the reconnection pace, the more relaxed you will be, which will make you more authentic to your inactive friends.

Waiting for the Moment

She had grown up an Adventist but slipped away as many young adults do. One Sabbath she could not resist the prompting of the Spirit to reconnect with her local congregation. She got dressed and drove to the church. She found a place to park and shut off the engine, but she couldn't bring herself to open the door and go into the sanctuary.

Bad memories from the past came flooding into her mind and heart. The evil one was working overtime at that moment. She didn't feel worthy, and so she sat in her car praying and reading her Bible. Feeling better, she drove home without darkening the door of the church that Sabbath. Weeks went by before she returned to the church. Once again she could not bring herself to go in. This happened several more times before she got up the courage to come into the sanctuary of the church where she faithfully attends now.

I'm wondering how many people who grew up Adventist, but who no longer attend actively, are sitting in your church parking lot on Sabbath. Could it be that more of them are ready to come back than there are congregations to receive them?

How will your church respond? 

Paul Richardson is the coordinator of reconnecting ministries for Seventh-day Adventist churches in North America, and is the executive director of the Center for Creative Ministry in Lincoln, Nebraska.



Note: Views in letters do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Letters should be less than 250 words, and writers must include their name, address and phone number. All letters are edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author's original meaning will not be changed. Not all letters received are published.

EASTER CELEBRATION?

Samuel Whitehead, VIC

I've noticed over the past few months that many Adventists celebrate Easter and Christmas. I suggest while we continue to do that, we should also celebrate Holy Week, Advent, Lent and all the other Saints' feast days, which are commanded and determined by the Roman Catholic Church. Of course if we did that, we may as well go to church on a Sunday.

A HEAVY HEART

Kristine Stahl, SA

Thank you for publishing my previous letter, Derogatory Comments (Letters, April 2). I didn't think I'd have a sequel.

Recently, my Pentecostal friend requested to come to church with me. We travelled to and from church together sharing our faith journeys.

However, the very thing I feared the most, happened. It grieves me beyond words to tell you that a dear saint felt compelled to lecture her on the evils of the Pentecostal church.

She will never come to an Adventist church again. Unfortunately, the church member did a very thorough job of misrepresenting God's people.

Will we ever learn? Will we ever be ready to receive new believers? My heart is very heavy.

GOD BY MY SIDE

Brenton Waite, NSW

I'd like to thank the members of Gosford church for your prayers, support and letters. Thank you for praying for my Dad, Mum, Sister and extended family.

A special thanks to my friends from my old days in primary Sabbath School for your continued letters. You will forever be my close friends.

With God being by my side in jail, my days have been made a little easier. It's proof that even in the darkest of places or when you feel alone, God will always be there and never leave your side.

As you can guess, it's no vacation or five-star resort, but you have all helped to strengthen me and make my life a little easier. Without God's help and support I don't think I'd survive.

A verse that gives me courage is, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

I look forward to seeing you and attending church upon my release at the end of the year. Please keep praying for me as I constantly remember you in my prayers.

Friendship with God

by Casey Wolverton



THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT ALL PEOPLE, REGARDLESS of age, race or religion, were created with a capacity and a need for friendship with God. Accordingly, life is not complete—it is not as good as it gets—unless we are enjoying a personal relationship with our Creator. Early in the biblical record we’re introduced to someone who embraced this idea, even though the people around him desperately wanted to banish God from their lives. His name was Enoch.

“When Enoch was 65 years old, his son Methuselah was born. After the birth of Methuselah, Enoch lived another 300 years in close fellowship with God, and he had other sons and daughters. Enoch lived 365 years in all. He enjoyed a close relationship with God throughout his life. Then suddenly he disappeared because God took him” (Genesis 5:21–24, New Living Translation).

Enoch was just as busy as the next person, having to juggle the pressures of work and a large family. But somehow he developed such an intimate friendship with his Heavenly Father that He wanted him by His side in heaven. I suspect Enoch became a sort of ambassador for the human race until our ultimate Representative, Jesus Christ, was resurrected from the dead thousands of years later.

One of the authors of the New Testament writes about his friendship with God. In his letter to Christians in the city of Philippi, the apostle Paul shares a startling admission: that for much of his life he’d believed that attaining spiritual perfection was the key to happiness. Fortunately, at some point in his personal journey, Paul’s whole perspective changed. Listen to him talk about it, “I once thought all these things were so very important, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done” (Philippians 3:7,8).

Think about that statement. Paul is referring specifically

to his pursuit of religious perfection, but it could equally be applied to a pursuit of wealth, fame or power. He’s come to the conclusion that life can’t be defined or measured by one’s possessions, or power, or even one’s ability at keeping all the religious rules. All of those things had lost their appeal with this man. Something else now drives him. In Verse 8, Paul shares what it is, “Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may have Christ”.

For Paul, the experience of “knowing” Jesus Christ as the Lord of his life had surpassed all those other pursuits. It’s where he found purpose and a passion for life.

People can get more out of life. The secret is in recognising the value and opportunity we have in developing a friendship with the King of the Universe.

But how can we develop a close fellowship with such a mighty, awesome Being? There are many things that can be said about this, but let me share one text that gives us a hint. 2 John 1:9 says, “For if we wander beyond the teaching of Christ, you will not have fellowship with God. But if you continue in the teaching of Christ, you will have fellowship with both the Father and the Son.”

According to this Bible text, one thing that anchors my friendship with God is the implementation of His Word in my life. If we want to enjoy intimate fellowship with the Lord, we need to make the study and obedience of His ways a priority. That is, living in such a way that reflects His will for us in our behaviour, decisions and attitudes. The more we do that, the sweeter and more intimate will be our friendship with God.

↻

Pastor Casey Wolverton serves at Glenvale church, Toowoomba, Qld.

RESOURCES ONLINE

The AUC Resource Centre has an Online Store where you can purchase all the resources listed in their catalogue plus a range of new items, specials and clearance lines.

Some of the new items are Spanish DVDs and CDs by Pastor Stephen Bohr, Pastor Alejandro Bullon and Luis Cesar Caballero as well as DVDs for children.

resources.adventist.org.au



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RECORD REWIND

Cyclone at Mona Mona

An eerie calm hung in the humid air at Mona Mona Aboriginal Mission, inland from Cairns. About midnight the barometer dropped dramatically. The wind began gusting. With increasing surges it woke everyone up and alarm spread. A ferocious cyclone was bearing down on them.

The dormitories were quickly unlocked and all the youngsters shepherded to the relative protection offered under the three European homes, set off the ground and boarded around. Missionary families and adult Aboriginals quickly joined the children, praying no harm would come. The wind howled and ripped and slammed all around them, peaking about 4AM.



Mona Mona mission c.1949.

Guy wires joined to posts in the ground secured the dining room walls but the entire building was shredded. Eighty Aboriginals were sheltering under Moreton and Elsie Thorpe's home when it, too, disintegrated around them. The Thorpes then crouched behind the hen house until it tore apart, leaving Moreton to shield his wife and two-week-old infant in the dark driving rain until dawn.

The morning of February 3, 1920, presented utter devastation. The forest was leafless, stark sticks pointing skywards. The only buildings left standing, but damaged, were the girls' dormitory, one Aboriginal hut, and the homes of James and Rose Branford and Ludwig and Ruth Borgas. Fences, the sawmill roof, the boys' dormitory, dining hall, church and scores of huts for Aboriginal couples, were reduced to matchwood.

Miraculously, no-one was killed. The rain continued for days, with the ground becoming a quagmire. Cooking had to be done under the shelter of a few bits of retrieved corrugated iron. Thirteen of the Muluridji, Djabugay and Bulway clans surrounding the mission died of exposure despite the efforts of the Europeans to save them. James Branford, who had led the mission team from the outset in developing the station for almost seven years, felt gutted. All his efforts were swept away in one short hour. Only some assistance from southern church members, who rallied to rebuild the station, revived his spirits. —Milton Hook is a retired pastor with a passion for Adventist history.

MYSTERY HISTORY



Do you know?

- The date the photo was taken
- The people in the photo
- The church

Send to heritage@avondale.edu.au

Resource Centre
 Australian Union Conference
 289 Maroondah Highway
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Kids' SPACE

O'siyox* Kids!



Sometimes it's hard to live peacefully with all our neighbours. However, Jesus was able to do it. This week try to be kind to everyone you meet, pray to Jesus and ask Him to help you!

BIBLE TEXT: Use your Bible and write out the memory verse below. Matthew 5:9

HOW DO THE PICTURES SHOW WE CAN LIVE PEACEFULLY WITH OTHERS?

GRACELINK MESSAGE

We honour God when we live peacefully with others.

*North America - Cherokee

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December 29, 2011

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with Dr Barry Oliver

Our life choices

Life is about choices. It has been said even when we don't make a choice we are making a choice. Many things influence us when we make our choices: past experience, friends and family, allegiances, health, emotions, available information, etc. Choosing to be a Seventh-day Adventist Christian is a choice that most of us reading this magazine have made. This particular choice has been made as we have been led by the Holy Spirit. We have chosen to accept God's gracious gift of life—the "abundant life". We have chosen to give God our allegiance or loyalty. We have chosen to accept the "package" with all its benefits.

Of course, as in any relationship, there are also obligations and responsibilities. A friendship, marriage, even a business relationship, has both privilege and obligation. But no relationship can survive if the primary focus is on the obligation. Tragically, some choose to focus on the obligations in relation to God. Doing so will make those obligations burdensome and inhibiting. Eventually such thinking will make faith tenuous. I believe that faith cannot be sustained when we focus on obligation. Faith thrives in a context of focus on privilege. In fact, by definition, a healthy relationship with God is one which focuses on the privileges of the relationship—and in doing so takes into account the responsibilities. Being a part of this Church provides us with an amazing opportunity to make positive choices that focus on the privileges of a relationship with God. We must be known as a Church of the positives, not a Church of negatives. The choices we make and the focus we have make the difference—and of course, our God whom we serve!

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

N'SPYA, Western Australia

Ben Tavao

What started as a small group with a music focus in 2009, has grown into N'SPYA (inspire) Church, a new church plant.

In February, the church marked its beginning by meeting weekly on Sabbath mornings to worship together. God has blessed us with a core group of 50–60 people who love to celebrate together, enjoy Sabbath School, church and a meal.

We're an open and relevant church who are inspired to share God's love to the world. Through God's Word and Holy Spirit we inspire others to come, know and grow in God's kingdom. Since we started worshipping together, 15 people have given their lives to God through baptism and become foundation members of the new church plant. I'm excited by what God is doing in our lives.

Our corporate dream is to reach the lost, to provide a safe place for those who don't know Christ and be an open, relevant community. As the pastor I feel called by God to produce disciples not consumers, disciples who will make an impact in Western Australia.

We're blessed to have cell groups for different people with different needs. Our challenge is to find a suitable building to worship in that we can call our own—a building that will be recognised by the community as a house of worship where people are loved and honoured.





Jane Whippy attends the Palmerston North Adventist Church.

Now 98 years old, Jane recalls how her parents decided that the best they could do for her future was to entrust her into the care of early missionaries to Fiji, Mr and Mrs C S Palmer. Thus, in 1924, at about the age of 11, Jane travelled with the Palmers to the Kingdom of Tonga.

In Tonga, Mr Palmer became the first principal of the Houma boarding school which outgrew itself in two years. As a result, Mr Palmer, together with the president, R W Smith, acquired 80 acres of land in Vaini, where Mr Palmer relocated the Houma school to what is now known as Beulah College.

In 1926, Mr Palmer had to return to Australia for medical reasons and Jane boarded at Beulah for the next three years before returning to Fiji. It was not until 1952, stricken by filariasis, that Jane came to New Zealand to seek medical help.

Since 1957, Jane has made the Palmerston North Adventist Church her home and family. Up until about two years ago, she has been actively involved in welfare ministry and the community feeding programs of the church.

"I continually study my Bible each day and pray for the church to prosper and get more people to know the Lord and the soon return of Jesus," she said. —*Limoni Manu O'Uiha*

WEDDINGS

Fan-Zhao. Joshua Poh-Onn, son of Sevee Chong Fan and Gnok Lin Chan (Malaysia), and Sophie Chenlian Zhao, daughter of Yunsheng Zhao and Jingyan Chen (China), were married 27.6.10 at the American Express Building, Sydney.

Gary Kent



Hinton-Race.

Joshua Hinton, son of Ray and Helen Hinton (Canberra, ACT), and Nicole Race, daughter of Paul and Jennifer Race (Gosford, NSW), were married 2.3.11, in the bride's home church in Narara.

David Price



Kent-Dimitrijevic.

Jordan Ryan Kent, son of Gary and Robyn Kent (Sydney, NSW), and Teodora Dimitrijevic, daughter of Stevan and Jovanka Dimitrijevic (Brisbane, Qld), were married 13.3.11 in Salisbury church, Brisbane.

Gary Kent



Livingstone-Wawryniak.

Daniel John Livingstone, son of Eric and Carol Livingstone (Cooranbong, NSW), and Renee Silja Wawryniak, daughter of Andrew Wawryniak and Piro Lombard (both of Sydney), were married 13.2.11 in the Log Chapel at Fitzroy Falls Convention Centre.

Gary Kent



Roe-Allen.

Peter Benjamin Roe, son of Erl Roe (Cambridge, NZ) and Jennifer Roe (Mt Manganui), and Sarah Elizabeth Allen, daughter of Daryl and Dale Allen (Sydney, NSW), were married 7.11.10 at Peppers Creek Chapel, Hunter Valley.

Gary Kent

Stanbury-Kempsall. Daphne Stanbury and Roy Kemsall (both of Gatton, Qld) were married 23.1.11 at the Ipswich church.

Francis Pule

Tsang-Balatinac. Nicholas Tek-Yen Tsang, son of Lin Chit Tsang (Macau) and Diana Lai (Darwin),

and Anne-Marie Balatinac, daughter of Stephen and Marie-Ann Balatinac (Sydney), were married 29.8.10 at the Parramatta church.

Gary Kent

OBITUARIES

Bergquist, William Carl, born 7.5.1936 at Lambton, NSW; died 30.3.11 at Goonellabah. On 21.9.1957, he married Mary Margaret Ayers at Wallsend. He was predeceased by his siblings, Frank and Joy. He is survived by his wife; his children, Peter (Tweed Heads), Mark (Murwillumbah), Linda (Goonellabah); his siblings, Ted, Billy, Tilly, Norm, Jean, Stanley, Danny and Henry; nine grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. Carl's philosophy in life was "family first". He was deeply loved by his family and will be greatly missed. He went to rest in full confidence of the joyful resurrection when he will be reunited with his family.

Paul Geelan

Clark, Marie Enid, born 3.10.1916 at Wee Waa, NSW; died 4.3.11 at Toronto, in her 95th year. She was predeceased by her husband, Arthur, in 1965 and her daughter, Desley, in 2002. She is survived by her sons, Perry (Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, China), Nick (Yamba, NSW) and David (Perth, WA); eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Marie lived a long, full life of service to God, family and friends. She was laid to rest in a graveside service at the Catherine Hill Bay cemetery. She will be missed by her family and friends as she sleeps waiting for Jesus to return.

Aaron Jeffries

Fraser, Ethel May (nee Anderson), born 1915 at Pembroke (now Wanaka), NZ; died 15.3.11 at Elmswood, Christchurch, in her 97th year. She married Ralph, who predeceased her. She is survived by her four children and their families, Bruce and Jean, Gaye and Brev, Fergus and Viv and Marian and Ken; her grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and great-great-grandchildren. Ethel was a much-loved member of the Papanui church family.

Neil Thompson

Lesich, Maca (nee Lipohar), born 17.11.1932 in Yugoslavia; died 1.3.11 in Sydney, NSW. She

married Pero (Peter) Lesich. She is survived by Sdenka Pugh (Lightning Ridge); Michael Lesich (Melbourne, Vic); and Mariana Lesich (Gold Coast, Qld). Maca was disabled due to a car accident 44 years ago. Patient and brave, she was unable to attend church for many years, but was a faithful church member. She loved God with all her heart and longed for Jesus to come. She was laid to rest in the Lightning Ridge cemetery.

Bernice Underwood

Marshall, Lindsay Cleaton, born 24.5.1941 at Lismore, NSW; died 25.2.11 at Coffs Harbour. On 11.4.1965, he married Nancy. He is survived by his wife; Neil and Cheryl, (all of Coffs Harbour), Lynette and Darren Woolley (Central Coast), Brian and Renee, (Coffs Harbour), Dean and Sarea (Sydney); and loved Pop of their children; brother and brother-in-law of Ken and Judy (Coffs Harbour), Ray and Daph Peuser (Tyndale) and Kelvin and Belinda Peuser (Brightwaters). Lindsay was loved and respected by all who knew him. He loved the

land, especial his cows. He will be sorely missed by his loved ones and his church family.

John Lang

Stacey, Desmond Frederick, born 27.2.1919 at Opatiki, NZ; died 22.3.11 at Caloundra, Qld. In 1941, he married Dorothy Oldham, who predeceased him in 1989. He is survived by Valmai Grootmaat (Dapto, NSW); Judith and Allen Butler (Lake Macquarie); Dr Graham and Rosanne Stacey (Loma Linda, USA); Alison and Kerry Richards (Ninderry, Qld); Gayle Walker (Sydney, NSW); and Tony Stacey (Pretty Beach). Des worked for Sanitarium at Lewisham. He had his own service station business and was a panelbeater/spraypainter. Des was also a tenor soloist, choir member and wonderful keyboard player in churches. He loved his family, his Lord and his church.

David Lamb, John Rabbas

Wood, Ivan Rupert, born 5.12.1930 at Oakleigh, Vic; died 6.3.11 at Taree, NSW. On 8.9.1959, he married Shirley. He is survived by his wife (Taree);

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and his daughters, Jenny (Cooranbong) and Wendy Wood (Taree). Ivan was a loving husband to Shirley for 52 years; a devoted father; and a grandfather to Emily. Ivan was a faithful member of the Taree church and will be dearly missed by his family and church friends.

David Kosmeier, Lyndon Thrift

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Finally

In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.

Next Record **June 4**

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POSITIONS VACANT

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Principal—Hills Adventist College (Sydney, NSW). This position is for commencement in January 2012. Hills Adventist College is an expanding multi-campus college serving the Hills District in Sydney. The successful applicant will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the school. He or she will be able to lead teachers, parents and students in a dynamic and growing Seventh-day Adventist Christian community. The principal is responsible for the general wellbeing of all the school stakeholders, including the academic and pastoral care of students, and the management of staff and parental involvement. The principal is supported by a dedicated group of staff, both teaching and non-teaching, and also by the central education and finance administration teams at the Greater Sydney Conference Office. Hills Adventist College will be expanding to the senior secondary years in 2012, and the successful applicant will need to be supportive of the school's vision and plans for future development. The successful applicant will have excellent communication, organisational and professional qualities, and will provide leadership and vision for the school community. Requests for criteria and expressions of interest should be sent to Dr Jean Carter at <jeancarter@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **June 4, 2011**.

Cashier—North NSW Conference (Wallsend, NSW). Provide cashier and clerical support services as part of the Conference treasury team. The role is part-time being 0.4 of a full-time equivalent position. The role is responsible to the Conference accountant and the successful applicant will be familiar with petty cash systems, receipting, banking, credit card payment processing, etc. Enquiries to Vic Bonetti (02) 4951 8088. Applicants should express their interest by emailing their resume to Vic Bonetti (North NSW Conference accountant) at <vicbonetti@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **June 6, 2011**.

POSITIONS VACANT

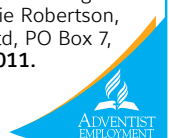
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Food and beverage attendant—Brisbane CBD. Part-time position—35hrs a week. Sanitarium Kitchen is a bright, friendly café in the heart of the Brisbane CBD. The café is a stylish and modern retreat for diners offering an abundant array of healthy, wholesome meals with both indoor and terrace dining. We are seeking a self-motivated and experienced wait person who enjoys working in a friendly, fast-paced environment. Duties include: customer service, order placement and order service, working as part of a team. You will have had previous experience as a waitperson in a busy café environment, including experience in both takeaway and in-house orders. If you are energetic, enthusiastic, reliable, passionate and self-motivated with exceptional customer service skills, then this is the job for you. For more information visit www.sanitarium.com.au/about-us/career-opportunities. Applications in writing can be sent to Catherine.frogley@sanitarium.com.au or Locked Bag 7, Central Coast Mail Centre NSW 2252. Applications close **June 3, 2011**.

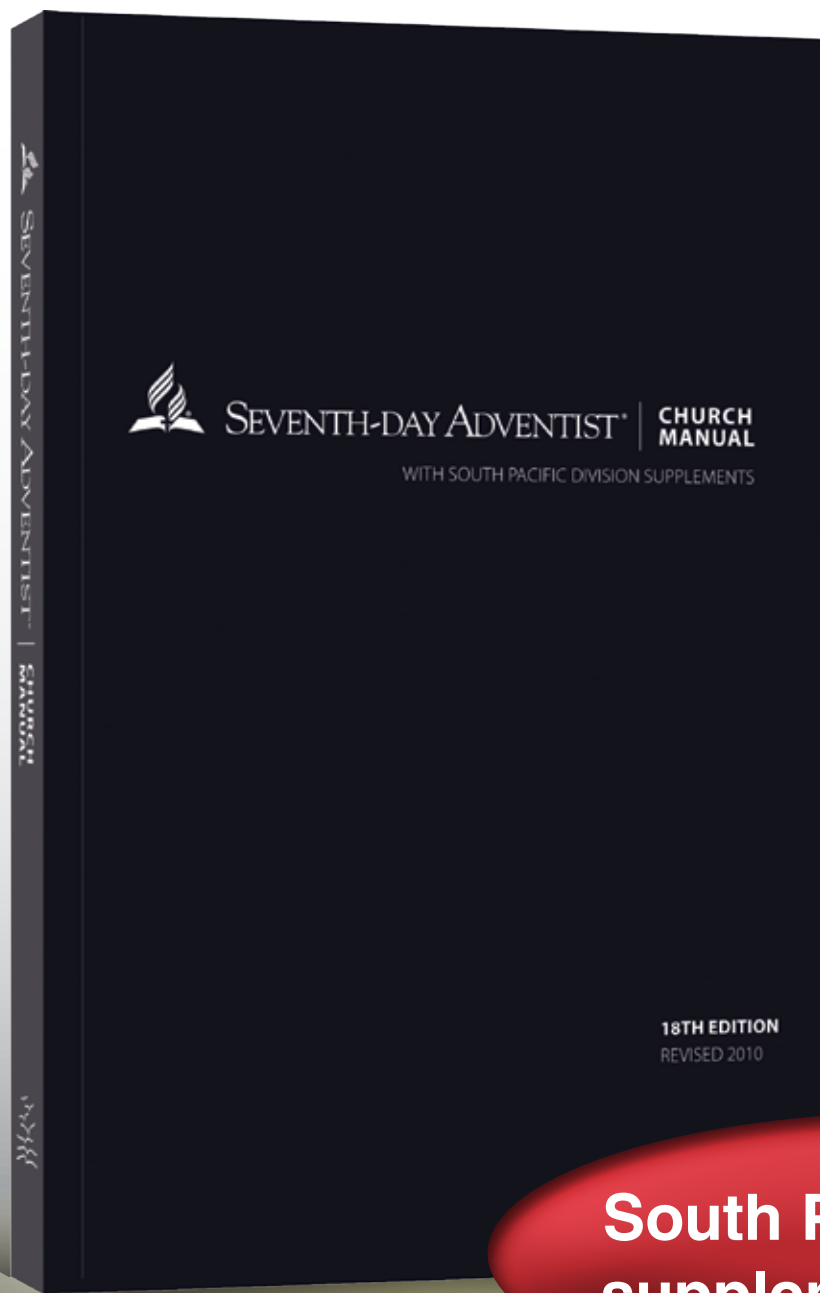
Site manager—Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care (NNSW) (Alstonville, NSW) is seeking to appoint a site manager for its retirement village at Alstonville. This key management and leadership role within the organisation reports to the managing director. The role has overall responsibility for the day-to-day management of both the village (86 self-care units) and a 50-bed residential aged-care service. It involves ensuring services meet quality and compliance standards, and are financially sustainable. Applications addressing the criteria in the job description, can be sent to the managing director at <davidknight@aacnsw.com.au>. For a copy of the job description, email <davidknight@aacnsw.com.au> or phone (02) 4977 0000. Applications close **June 27, 2011**.

Payroll officer and clerical assistant—North NSW Conference (Wallsend, NSW). This full-time position has two key education department functions, processing all schools' payroll and providing the following clerical services: accounts payable, processing journals, maintaining student data, receipting and reconciliations. We are looking for an experienced clerical assistant with the appropriate payroll qualifications/experience, with an understanding and knowledge of payroll system processes and basic accounting practices, well developed focus on customer service and attention to detail. Competency in keyboard and computer skills; Microsoft Office, ChrisPay and Maze experience highly regarded. For more information email <angelarobertson@adventist.org.au>. Applications in writing should be forwarded to Angie Robertson, System Business manager, SDA Schools (NNSW) Ltd, PO Box 7, Wallsend NSW 2287. Applications close **May 27, 2011**.

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