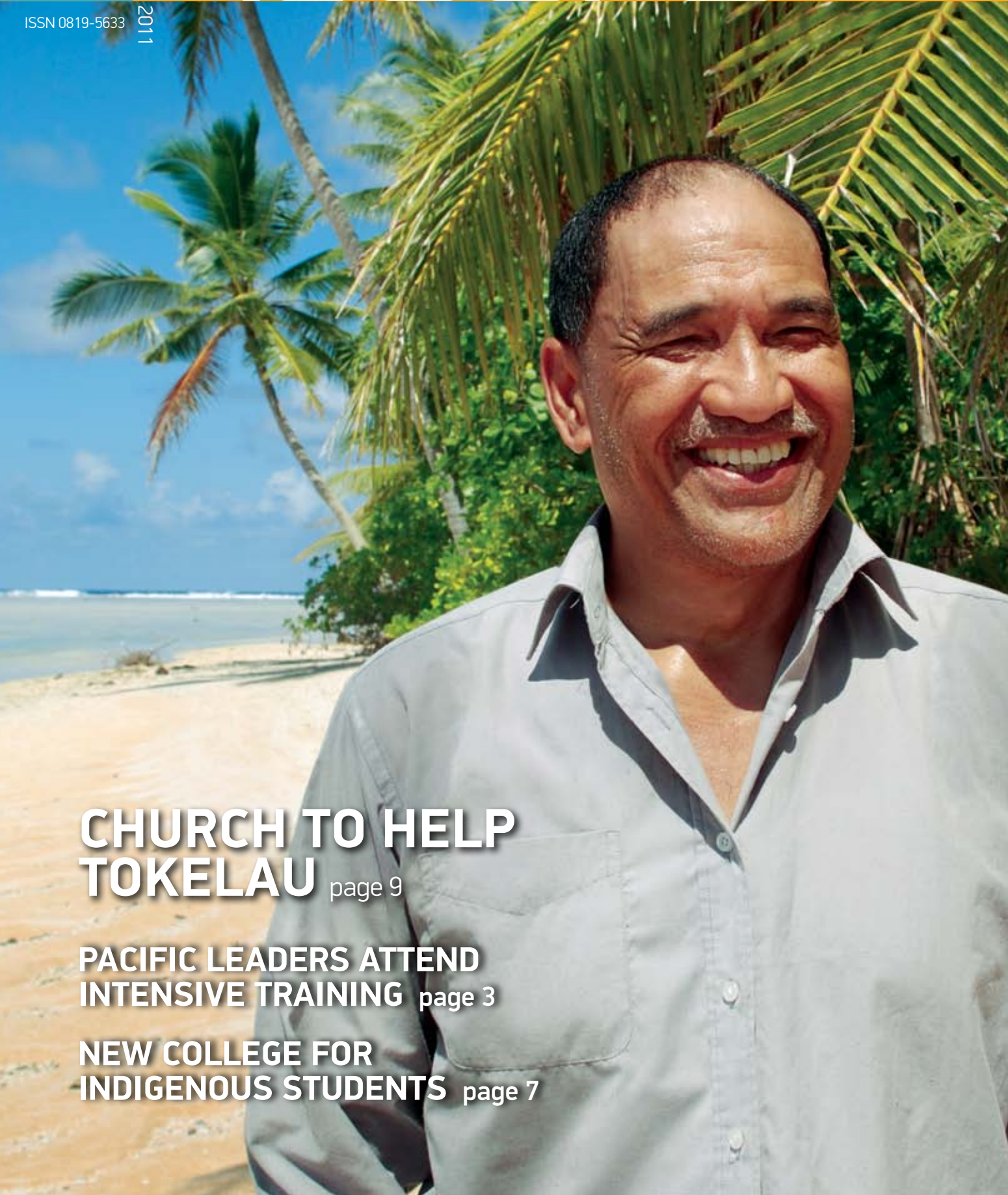


JULY 2 2011

# Record

ISSN 0819-5633



**CHURCH TO HELP  
TOKELAU** page 9

**PACIFIC LEADERS ATTEND  
INTENSIVE TRAINING** page 3

**NEW COLLEGE FOR  
INDIGENOUS STUDENTS** page 7

# Adventist Health & Alcohol Summit Professionals Conference

Advance Adventist Health  
How? Above? Within? Beyond?

How should Adventists address  
alcohol today?

Are you an Adventist doctor, nurse or allied health professional? **Recharge** your health energy as you attend this special weekend designed just for you. **Enjoy** time with others who face the same challenges. **Explore** for yourself the spiritual, personal and service aspects of health in a contemporary setting. Minimal cost only \$55.

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Friday August 5 (7.00 pm) to Sunday August 7 (noon)

Sunday August 7 (noon) to 6.00 pm

## Keynote Speaker



### Professor Garry Egger MPH PhD

Director, Centre for Health Promotion and Research, Sydney  
Professor, Lifestyle Medicine and Applied Health Promotion, Southern Cross University, Australia

Dr Egger has over 40 years of experience in health promotion and epidemiology, with a mixture of teaching, consulting, clinical work (as a registered psychologist), and research. He has published 150 peer reviewed articles, 30 books (6 texts), as well as numerous popular media appearances. He will speak on Lifestyle, Prevention or Medication.

## International Guest Speakers



### Dr Peter Landless MB, B Ch, MFGP (SA), MMed, FCP (SA), CBNC, FACC, FASNC

Executive Director International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (ICPA);  
Associate Director General Conference Health Ministries

Dr Landless has been actively involved in medical mission work his entire career. He has a keen desire to address the growing problems of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, especially among youth. He has a number of publications in peer-reviewed journals, and has been honoured academically. His passion is the blended ministry—the recognition and practice of spirituality in health.



### Dr Fred Hardinge DrPH, RD, CHES, FADA

Associate Director General Conference Health Ministries

For more than 35 years Dr Hardinge has been communicating the message, that our health can be impacted by our choices. His background includes pastoring, academic teaching, research, community health education, corporate training, administration and private health counseling. He is a creative educator and motivational speaker. He co-founded *Bibleinfo.com* and founded *PositiveChoices.com*, a new health evangelism web initiative.



### Dr Mihram Ask MD

Medical Coordinator Addiction Treatment Program at Loma Linda Veterans Hospital

Dr Ask is on the faculty of Loma Linda University School of Medicine in the Departments of Internal and Preventive Medicine. He also serves as the chairman of LLUMC and VA Well Being Committees. He trains medical students and residents in all aspects of addiction medicine. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine and has been working in the addiction field since 1983. He will address addiction within an Adventist context.



### Dr Wayne Dysinger MD, MPH

Chair Department of Preventive Medicine at Loma Linda University; President American College of Lifestyle Medicine;  
Medical Director Adventist Frontier Missions

Dr Dysinger is involved in teaching medical students and residents in research, medical education and population health. His passions are Lifestyle Medicine and Global Health. He has worked in a variety of international health settings including the Guam SDA Clinic. Dr Dysinger is a graduate of Loma Linda University School of Medicine and is board certified in Family Medicine and Preventive Medicine.

**VENUE:** Sydney Adventist Hospital, Wahroonga, NSW, Level 2 Conference Room

**REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL**

For more information or to register contact Jenny Robson at Adventist Health (SPD)

**PHONE:** +61 (02) 9847 3368 **EMAIL:** [jennyrobson@adventist.org.au](mailto:jennyrobson@adventist.org.au)

Brought to you by Adventist Health (South Pacific Division) and the Australian Union Conference in conjunction with Sydney Adventist Hospital and the Sanitarium Health & Wellbeing Company



## New church plant in French Polynesia

*Tahiti, French Polynesia*

A new church plant has been opened in the district of Hitiaa as part of the Church's growth in French Polynesia.

Mission general secretary, Pastor Gilles Teaotea, opened the new company, the third to be established in French Polynesia this year.

Hitiaa is a district associated with the township of Hitia'a O Te Ra, located on the main island of Tahiti, in the north-east coast where more than 1500 people live. Most of the inhabitants are Protestants, followed by Catholics and then Latter Day Saints.

This is the first time there has been an Adventist presence in this community and there are already 32 members recorded in this new company. Roger Teriierooiterai, an experienced senior elder, has been appointed to carry out the mission of the company under the supervision of

Pastor Steven Atger, leader of the district.

The new plant is well perceived by the local people, including Desiree Maihi, mayor of the district of Hitiaa and owner of the place of worship. She has brought considerable support to the company already and is interested in Adventist teachings. The mayor of Hitia'a O Te Ra, Henri Flohr, is a member of the Adventist church in Papenoo. The new company has already planned a crusade to proclaim the Adventist message to the 1500 inhabitants. —*Gilles Teaotea*



Members gather in the new church plant.

## Adventist honoured for service, skills

*Dunedin, New Zealand*

A master weaver has been awarded the Queen's Service Medal for representing New Zealand at art events and for sharing her knowledge of the art form in her community.

Misa Emma Kesha, originally from Samoa, is a passionate artist who actively seeks to share her weaving skills and knowledge with others. The 70-year-old is a hard-working member of the Dunedin church, where she has served in various capacities over the years.

The mother-of-six has been weaving since the age of nine when this skill was an integral part of everyday life in her village.

Dunedin Pastor Malcolm Eastwick said God had blessed Mrs Kesha in her service to the community. "She's always involved in church life and is passionate about her faith," he said. "Mrs Kesha is a cheerful and valuable member of our congregation and community."

In 2010, she was awarded the \$NZ10,000 senior artist award at the Creative New Zealand Arts Pasifika Awards. "Even though I've been around for a long time, there is no stopping me from serving God and my community," she said. —*Pablo Lillo*



Emma Kesha shows her handiwork.

## Pacific leaders attend intensive training

*Wahroonga, New South Wales*

Literature evangelist leaders have come together in Wahroonga, at the South Pacific Division (SPD), for a two-week leadership course.

SPD Publishing Department director John Brereton came up with the initiative that saw 15 leaders from around the South Pacific attend the course.

"The two-week Leadership Seminar was very practical in all aspects of Christian leadership . . . it was an excellent seminar and I know my fellow Islanders feel the same," said Highlands Papua New Guinea area manager Kila Nii.

The program was based on Christian and biblical principles and provided a solid foundation for future growth in the area of leadership. One of the major learning tools was the daily journal that all participants wrote summarising the most important principles and applying them to their particular circumstances.

"The objective was to equip the leaders with basic

understanding and essential leadership skills, such as vision-casting, strategic planning and motivating their team members," said Dr Branimir Schubert, SPD Leadership and Professional manager and facilitator of the course.

While attending the seminar, participants also took part in leading worship at SPD headquarters every morning and preached sermons at various local churches in Sydney. —*Revona Govender*



The literature evangelists who attended.



Official news magazine of the  
South Pacific Division  
Seventh-day Adventist Church

ABN 59 093 117 689

Vol 116 No 13

Cover credit: Matthew Butler  
"Upulilo Melemele on the beach in Tokelau."

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**knows experiences and shares**  
*our hope in Jesus Christ!*

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## Did you hear about . . . ?

Pablo Lillo

I recently sat in a discussion group. The theme was sin. During a lively discussion the group agreed that many Christians have a tendency to look past their own sins and gossip about others. Someone in the group mentioned one of the best ways to continue to be an ineffective Christian is to look at others in a spirit of judgement and gossip.

We can find Hebrew and Greek words translated as "gossip" or "gossiping" eight times throughout the Bible. There are two passages in particular where three prominent versions translate a Hebrew and a Greek word as "gossip", namely, Proverbs 26:20 and 2 Corinthians 12:20. The Hebrew noun translated "gossip" in Proverbs 26:20 refers to a person—a person who talks too much—and we know that the more talkative a person is, the more likely he'll say things he shouldn't say. The Greek noun translated "gossip" in 2 Corinthians 12:20 refers to a thing—a secret slandering of someone's character.

Satan is the inventor and initiator of gossip. In the very beginning, Satan used slander in an attempt to destroy the reputation of God in the eyes of Eve by accusing God of evil motives (Genesis 3:1-5). He accused Job of weakness before God (Job 1:1). So it's no wonder that Satan is called "the devil" or "the accuser".

Christians who gossip are being used by Satan to destroy the church from within. Knowingly or unknowingly, Christians are pawns of Satan when they accuse brethren and create distrust and disunity within the family of God—the church. They, like puppets, are being manipulated in an attempt to frustrate the mission of Christ.

Our church community has many strong points and many indications of real spiritual growth. But we have all paid insufficient attention to this destructive and critical issue. I admit, I'm not innocent in this area. None of us are. It's important to admit that our ears love to hear gossip and, as a consequence, pass judgement on others.

Ellen White says, "A living church will not be a gossiping church. Planting doubt, questioning, evil surmising, and jealousy in the hearts and minds of others. It will be an earnest, working church. The members will be the Lord's salvation to others. They will be His light bearers."

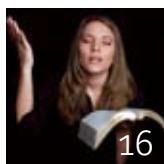
*Pablo Lillo is editor of RECORD.*

## CONTENTS



### NEWS

- 3 Pacific leaders attend intensive training
- 6 School leaders challenged
- 7 New college for Indigenous students
- 9 Church to help Tokelau



### FEATURES

- 11 Picking up the pieces
- 14 Remembering the past and shaping the future
- 16 Revival, revival, revival



### COLUMNS

- 10 Opinion
- 12 Opening His Word
- 18 Record Rewind
- 20 Snapshot



### Double ordination

Richard Reynolds and Saia Vea were ordained to the Gospel ministry, at the Western Australian Conference Easter Camp. Avondale College president, Dr Ray Roennfeldt, preached from Paul's charge to Timothy. Pastor Barry Oliver lead in the prayer of ordination and laying on of hands. As a tribute to both families, the pastors formed a choir and sang the hymn "Turn your eyes upon Jesus". —Steve Goods

### Richard Reynolds

Pastor Richard Reynolds and his wife, Jacque, work together in the Geraldton district and have an effective, cross-cultural ministry to Indigenous, Island and Caucasian people. Pastor Reynolds shows evidence of the peace of Jesus in his life as he cares for people. Mrs Reynolds said time spent in prayer empowered her husband to work for Jesus.

### Saia Vea

Pastor Saia Vea and his wife, Laukau, with their young adult children Anna and Tau, minister in the Pilbara area. They are based in Newman, but have small groups of believers in the towns of Marble Bar, Nullagine and Tom Price. Pastor Vea is originally from Tonga and has a very effective ministry to the desert people of Pilbara. He has shown great leadership and insight into their culture and is developing mentoring leaders from among them.



### John Tompson

Bega church, South NSW Conference, was filled beyond capacity to witness Pastor John Tompson's ordination. For four years, he has served the Bega, Cobargo and Moruya churches, where members have appreciated his commitment and dedication to the work, said Conference president, Pastor Bob Manners. John married Alice Petersen who encouraged him to pursue nursing. He lectured in nursing at Sopas Hospital, PNG, before returning to Sydney to head a new van ministry. He oversaw the Health and ADRA departments while studying Health Promotion and Theology, before moving to full-time local church ministry.

### Jeffrey Pum Lian Pau

Pastor Jeffrey Pum Lian Pau, minister for the Auckland Korean church, has been ordained after nine years of ministry—seven in the North New Zealand Conference, at Glen Innes, Hamilton, Lower Hutt, Thames, Waihi, Te Aroha and Pongsonby. Jeffrey has come a long way in his journey with God and is a credit to the change that knowing God can make in a life. He was sponsored to attend Mountain View College, Philippines, where he graduated in 2000 with a BA in Theology, and in 2002 with an MA in Education. He has an avid interest in leading others to Christ and serves with his wife, Di Dim.

Photo: Paul Edwards



### Tim Shelton

Tim Shelton's call to pastoral ministry was recognised as he was ordained at Chatswood church, Greater Sydney Conference. He is the second Chatswood pastor who has responded to the call within two years as Sue Redman was commissioned in February 2009. Tim was first engaged in ministry by Fox Valley church when he was a nurse at the San. The pastoral team invited him to give part of his time to ministering to nurses and nursing students. The experience gave him such a love for ministry that he went to Avondale to study theology. He did his internship at Blacktown and then Parramatta church. Pastor Shelton's parents, Barry and Rose, were recognised for their role in preparing him.

### Levi Mote

Union Ministerial director, Pastor Graham Christian, delivered a powerful sermon at the ordination of Pastor Levi Mote. This was followed by the Ordination Prayer, conducted by Pastor David Stojcic, president of the Northern Australian Conference (NAC). The program was well attended and featured excellent music and items, followed by a huge lunch catering for more than 250 people. Pastor Levi is a graduate from PAU, served for five years in the Samoan Mission as a pastor, and is currently serving two years at the Aitkenvale and Ingham churches, with his wife, Nive.

# SIGNS OF THE TIMES

## CHANGES LIVES



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—Michael

"I was hitchhiking to Nimbin for a life as a hippie. On the way, I **picked up Signs** from under a bridge."—Wayne

"I was a die-in-the-wool Anglican, then one day I read **three Signs** magazines."—Joan

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## School leaders challenged

Adelaide, South Australia

Delegates from Perth to Raratonga enjoyed the opportunity to seek spiritual refreshment, network with colleagues and explore ways to partner with chaplains, pastors and parents to reach young people for Christ, through an Adventist Education conference.

The biennial conference saw 108 educational leaders from the Australian and New Zealand Pacific Union Conferences gathered together in Adelaide, South Australia. The meetings focused on how schools can partner with churches and families to encourage children to develop meaningful relationships with Jesus.

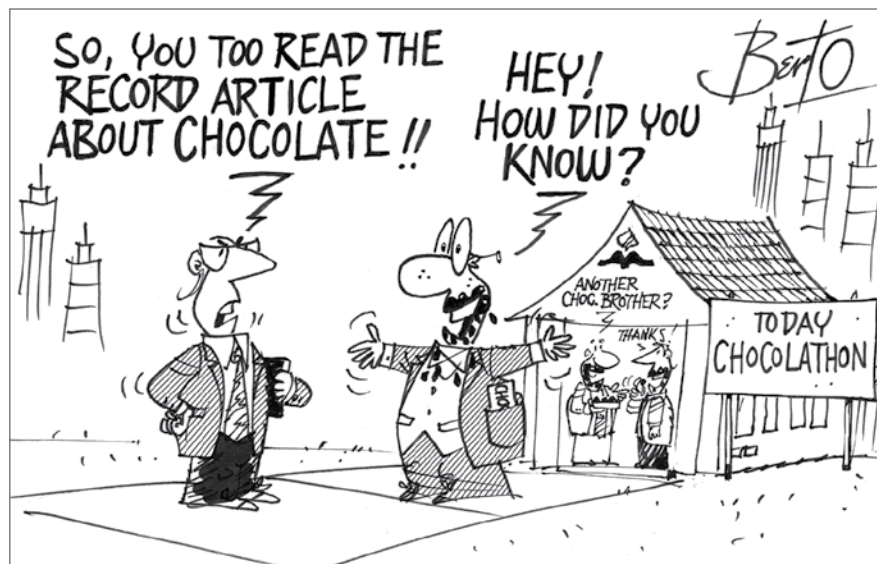
Guest speakers included Rev Dr Rowland Croucher of John Mark Ministries, Dr John Skrzypaszek of the Adventist Research Institute, Dr Barry Oliver, president of the South Pacific Division, and Pastor Don MacLafferty of Kids In Discipleship.

Adventist school leaders were challenged to take the initiative to establish a team approach to intentional discipling of our young people. First and foremost people who lead others into discipleship must themselves be disciples, Pastor MacLafferty said. He reminded principals and school leaders that their daily appointment with God was foundational to effective leadership especially in this key area. Secondly, he said daily appointments with family were God's next expectation for workers in the Gospel cause.

Conference dinner speaker, Sheridan Voysey, challenged the group to look beyond our schools and churches to consider themselves part of the 2 per cent of communities who can "change the temperature of the society in which we live". Mr Voysey, a presenter on Christian radio show Open House, was inspirational as he presented the key rationale of why Christian living makes sense in our 21st century society. His fresh look at Jesus as Saviour was a highlight of the conference.—Lyndon Chapman



The meetings focus on schools partnering with churches and families.



Refer to *Chocolate: good or bad?* page 12

## New college for Indigenous students

*Brewarrina, New South Wales*

Currawah Adventist Aboriginal College was officially opened on June 6 by North New South Wales Conference president, Pastor John Lang, and the Federal Member for Parkes, Mark Coulton.

The opening was attended by almost 100 guests, including executive members of the Church and Adventist Education, representatives from the Association of Independent Schools Australia, local dignitaries, parents, students and board members.

It provided a chance to reflect on the past three years of development, and celebrate the innovation and opportunities of the future.

Pastor Lang thanked the many people involved in making the dream of the boarding school become a reality.

Mr Coulton commended the vision of the Church. "It is one thing to recognise a need; another to do something

about it," he said. "I am thankful for your practical Christianity."

The Federal MP believes the two important things in a student's life are a sense of where they come from and an education. "An education will give you choices, and having choices will make all the difference", he said.

He said the college

would be a wonderful asset in western NSW.

Principal George Spero outlined his focus for the students. "The three areas that we focus on with our students include teaching our students to have respect for themselves and others, to be responsible for their actions and to contribute back to society," he said. "And we're doing an intensive English, literacy and numeracy program to catch up on their literacy skills."

The school has started with Year 7 and has plans to add additional years up to Year 10 in the next three years. The ultimate dream is to have one stream of students to Year 12, with another stream working towards becoming job-ready, in a practical sense.

"We see a real need to develop strategies to prepare these young people to be leaders in the community and to be able to make a real difference in their areas of influence," Pastor Lang said.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church plans to develop more classrooms and staff housing by December, and to expand each year up to Year 10. —Linda Stuart/ABC news



Thomas Strong, a Year 7 student, performing on the didgeridoo.



George Spero with a Year 7 student.

## Couple receives university's highest award

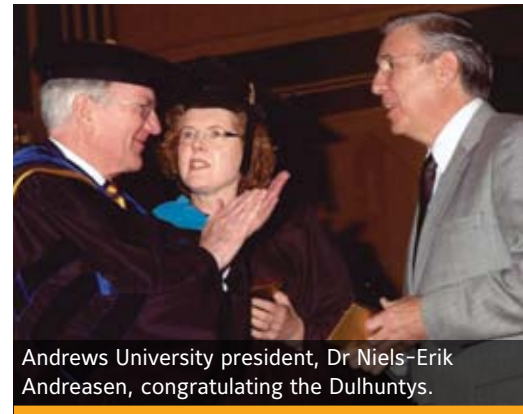
*Michigan, United States*

Australian couple, Paul and Dawn Dulhunty, have been awarded Andrews University's highest faculty award for academic excellence and noteworthy service—the John Nevins Andrews Medallion.

Mrs Dulhunty is the director of the International Development Program which involves a masters degree offered in annual intensives in Chile, Japan, Canada, Italy, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda and South Africa. Mr Dulhunty, a consultant, was instrumental in establishing working relations with the local universities and communities where the program is conducted. Under their leadership, this off-campus education opportunity currently has a student body of 380 students representing 77 countries and 180 organisations.

The couple has committed the past 35 years to improving the health, education and wellbeing of people from poor and developing countries. This includes travelling to Zambia as medical missionaries, starting the work of ADRA in Nepal and working for ADRA in post-war Kosovo—one

of ADRA's biggest emergency operations. The Citation read at the presentation ceremony co included, "Dawn and Paul have been inspiring advisers, dedicated mentors and personal friends to the hundreds of students who have participated in the International Development Program. They have been passionate advocates of leadership training for humanitarian workers, who in turn help fulfil the mission of Andrews University to "Change the World". —Carol Maberly



Andrews University president, Dr Niels-Erik Andreassen, congratulating the Dulhunty couple.



**Discrimination OK**

Faith-based groups in Victoria have been guaranteed exemption from equal opportunity requirements. The new legislation protects the rights of religious groups to refuse employment to people who do not uphold the organisation's values. The Opposition claims the democratic process has been corrupted. —AAP



**Stocking up**

The Presbyterian Church in New Zealand is urging an increase in food aid for North Korea. After claims that donations were not being delivered, the United Nations says it has now toughened up procedures in delivering shipments. Many NZ Presbyterians are from Korea and their concerns have motivated the public statements. —Council for World Mission



**Fifty fifty**

Australian Bureau of Statistics research shows the nation is losing the battle of the bulge. The statistics compare people who are obese, overweight and in the healthy range. The research found there now are just as many people overweight as there are in the normal weight category. —Australian Bureau of Statistics



**Bible on trial**

A radical Islamic party in Pakistan will petition the Supreme Court to ban the Bible. Churches in Pakistan have reacted with dismay saying that the Constitution is supposed to protect religious freedom and that the Supreme Court cannot listen to such madness. —Mohabat News



**Millions wasted**

Christian Brother Robert Charles Best, 70, has been convicted of 21 sex offences against students attending Catholic schools in Victoria. More than \$1 million has been spent defending Brother Best, prompting criticism of the Catholic Church's handling of sex abuse cases. —Sydney Morning Herald



**Tragedy**

An Adventist university community in Mexico is in mourning after the shooting of 20-year-old Yoselin Perez Ramirez in a botched kidnapping attempt. The Montemorelos University student was killed in the evening hours of May 29. Officials say a case of mistaken identity is the most likely explanation. —ANN

*If you look into my eyes  
you will see a young  
person who has lived for  
many years.*

*I may have aged but try  
not to think of me as  
old or spent.*

*I am you, a few short  
years from now.*

*I don't want or need to  
be "accommodated".  
Like you, I just want  
somewhere I can call  
home. My need to love  
and be loved is as  
strong as ever.*

*Do not diminish me.  
Never doubt my worth.  
I remain the person I  
have always been.*

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# Church to help Tokelau

by Matthew Butler/Candice Jaques

A team from It Is Written Oceania recently visited Tokelau at the invitation of community leaders, to discuss ways in which the Seventh-day Adventist Church can assist the people of this small island nation.

It Is Written Oceania is partnering with Adventist Health and Global Mission in an effort to reach Tokelau with humanitarian assistance.

Tokelau has remained the only South Pacific nation without a permanent Seventh-day Adventist presence.

Located in the Pacific Ocean about half-way between New Zealand and Hawaii and accessible only by a one or two-day voyage from Samoa, Tokelau consists of three coral atolls with a very small land area. The people there have no permanent crops and rely completely on imported goods. With the lack of fresh fruit and vegetables, the typical diet in Tokelau is mainly fish and processed foods.

Smoking is widespread. Basic services, such as health care and education, are limited, with the small local school and hospital in urgent need of basic resources. Many of the people struggle with lifestyle illnesses.

In recognition of these concerns and their vulnerability to ongoing issues, the leaders of Tokelau invited It Is Written Oceania to visit their country in an effort to improve the lives of their 1500 residents. As a result of the visit, they have asked It Is Written and the Seventh-day Adventist Church to commence plans for long-term support.

In partnership with Adventist Health, It Is Written Oceania will provide assistance to the people of Tokelau in three main areas: health education; resourcing the local hospital and school's science laboratory; and providing for women's needs in nutrition education and exercise.

Associate director of Adventist Health Ministries, Dr Chester Kuma, who travelled with the team to Tokelau, said, "The people of Tokelau are under serious threat from lifestyle diseases such as obesity, diabetes, heart attack, stroke and hypertension. The need for health education programs is huge."

During the visit, the team gave a wheelchair and

crutches to several people who are either unable to walk or have great difficulty walking. More than 50 pairs of glasses were also provided for those having difficulty reading.

Dr Kuma had several opportunities to provide medical assistance, including urgent support for a patient suffering septic shock on the boat during the return voyage to Samoa. "I believe that by providing some basic health services and advice we can greatly reduce the health problems currently being experienced by the people in Tokelau," Dr Kuma said.

In addition to vital health and medical care, It Is Written Oceania, with funding from Global Mission, has appointed Bible worker Upulilo Melemele to support the people of Tokelau. Mr Melemele has lived most of his life in Australia, but was born in Tokelau. "It is a great privilege to return to Tokelau and help my people," he said. "Whenever I visit Tokelau I see people living a very difficult life. They need us to show them the love of Jesus—and I am also meeting people who want to know more about the truth in the Bible." Currently there are only two religious faiths in Tokelau; Congregational Christian and Roman Catholic.

It Is Written Oceania anticipates broadcasting its television program, featuring speaker/director Pastor Gary Kent, through satellite television in Tokelau.

Tokelau sits in the Samoa-Tokelau Mission, and It Is Written Oceania is working closely with church leadership.

"We are very excited to see the opportunities to work in Tokelau," Mission president Pastor Uili Solofa said. "We greatly appreciate the efforts of It Is Written Oceania in Tokelau and will assist the team in any way possible."

Project manager Matthew Butler said, "This first visit has been a major success, far beyond our expectations, and the people of Tokelau are keen for us to return as soon as possible. We encourage anyone who wants to know more about our work in Tokelau to please contact us and pray for our team as we continue to work in Tokelau."

For information visit <[www.itiswritten.com.au](http://www.itiswritten.com.au)>.

*Matthew Butler and Candice Jaques work with It Is Written Oceania.*



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Sunday 4.30am

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GEM [Channel 90 metro,  
Channel 80 regional]  
Sunday 6.00am

Australian Christian  
Channel (on Foxtel,  
Austar and Optus)  
Monday 12.00pm  
Tuesday 7.00pm (rpt)  
Friday 5.00am (rpt)

TV2  
Sunday 5.30am  
Monday 4.30am (rpt)

NEW ZEALAND

CTV [Canterbury region]  
Sunday 9:00am  
Tuesday 11.00pm (rpt)  
Wednesday 1:30pm (rpt)  
Saturday 11:00pm (rpt)

SATURN [Sky TV]  
Wednesday 5:30pm

CUE TV [Channel 23  
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Channel 110 on Sky]  
Monday 8:30pm  
Wednesday 8:00am (rpt)  
Saturday 5:00pm (rpt)

Details current as of June 2011

It Is Written Oceania produces a television program that reveals the truth of God's Word, to reach people for Jesus. It is completely self-funded and needs your support. To donate to this soul-winning ministry, visit [www.itiswrittenoceania.tv](http://www.itiswrittenoceania.tv) or call

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OPINION\*

Ross Cole

## My prayer life

My prayer life isn't traditional. I have trouble kneeling in prayer for too long with my eyes shut. But hold on, does the Bible say they should be shut?

Maybe my problem is that when family worship was conducted in my family of origin, it was sort of shoved in between a million other things, at the convenience of the organiser, nobody else.

For me, prayer usually involves going off by myself, and just pouring my heart out to God. It is sometimes jubilant and light but more often it is deeply pained and heavy.

At other times, I am overcome by the enormous stresses I face, and I call on God just to carry me through the next few seconds. And He does. Then there are the times I sit with a Christian counsellor to talk and gain perspective. That is prayer too. I know the theory back-to-front, and am almost a walking concordance of the Bible. But I find whole new perspectives when I am sharing my story with someone else.

My life is incredibly complicated. I have many problems, known to only a few people. Yet I lead my life with integrity and purpose, because prayer connects me to the Infinite One. A passage of Scripture, a piece of music, some poetry, an extract from a novel; almost anything these days can trigger my sense of being overwhelmed yet comforted in the Divine Presence.

Then I know that I would not have my life any other way. I am grateful to God for the troubles, for they have driven me to Him as my Absolute Love. And He remains with me as I go back into my daily life in a land that is not my home.

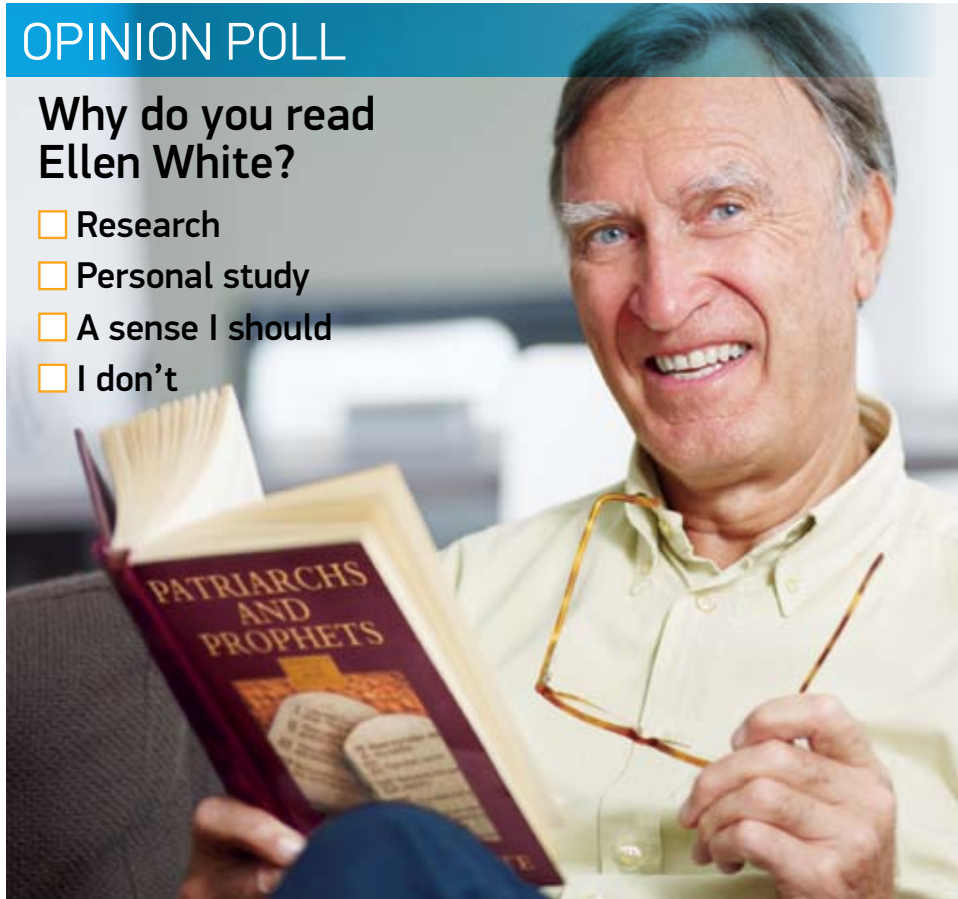
\* Views represented in Opinion reflect those of the author and not necessarily those of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Dr Ross Cole writes from Cooranbong, NSW.

## OPINION POLL

### Why do you read Ellen White?

- Research
- Personal study
- A sense I should
- I don't





# Picking up the pieces

by Kent Kingston

**C**HURSTCHURCH ADVENTISTS ARE IN RECOVERY mode, after the February 22 earthquake that left 181 dead and a damage bill of up to \$NZ16 billion. When RECORD spoke to him, South New Zealand conference president Pastor Craig Gillis was upbeat about how well church members are putting their lives and communities back together.\*

"I think we're starting to get on top of things," he said. "Everyone now is back onto the waste water system, so no more chemical loos at this stage. It's amazing how quickly the whole city has been able to be put back online."

"On a spiritual level, it's not a negative, it's a positive. We've seen an increase in church attendance, both in our church and other denominations... I think at times like this people really do consider what life is all about and consider the spiritual realm, because they realise that the physical realm isn't always going to be there. So from that perspective, we can see people are reaching for God and I hope they can feel they're being nurtured by the church."

Adventists in Christchurch have certainly been doing their share of nurturing. Immediately after the quake, they mucked in with their neighbours, shovelling the silt from houses and streets that had bubbled up through the ground in the form of liquefaction.

It's the liquefaction as much as the quake itself that has left foundations cracked and buildings unstable. Pastor Gillis estimated that the homes of up to 30 Adventist families were significantly affected by liquefaction, sinking and cracking. His own home has been "red-stickered"—marked for demolition. "My daughter—it's quite frightening for her," he said in reference to the frequent aftershocks. "She thinks the whole house is going to fall on her."

It seems she's not the only one. "We've had several church families that have moved [away from Christchurch]," said Pastor Gillis. "It's quite frightening for some folks—they've struggled with continual aftershocks... There's a lot of trauma; it affects people's health I think."

A number of Church-owned properties were damaged in the quake. Members of Christchurch's largest Adventist congregation, at Bishopdale, are still worshipping in the hall as there are concerns for the structural integrity of the main sanctuary. The brickwork at the back of Papanui Church has broken away, St Martins had its floors damaged

by flooding and Ilam's hall has been damaged.

St Albans also has significant damage. The rear end of the building breaks away more with every aftershock. Pastor Gillis says church leaders are working with insurance companies and engineers to ascertain whether St Albans will require repairs or a total rebuild. Aranui Church, in the eastern suburbs, was the hardest hit. The building has been red-stickered.

Ironically it's at the scene of the greatest damage that Seventh-day Adventists have been the most visible in terms of earthquake recovery assistance. The carpark of the devastated Aranui church is the site of the ADRA Oasis Café caravan, described as a "focal point" for relief coordination and service provision in the hard-hit eastern suburbs (see "Oasis in the devastation" RECORD, April 2, 2011).

Pastor Gillis expressed gratitude for the prayers, phone calls and donations to the Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA) that have poured in from Adventists around New Zealand and further afield. But at ground zero the support has been more practical: "With the ADRA café we've had volunteers from across all our different Christchurch churches coming together," said Pastor Gillis. One full-time and one part-time activities coordinator have now been employed to run community projects. Seven projects are now running out of the ADRA Oasis Café, including resilience programs for children and young families, holiday activity programs for children and sporting events for teenagers.

Pastor Gillis said the services being provided at Aranui have been a great boost to public awareness of ADRA. "It's been very positive. From going from an agency that no one had really heard of before to being a recognised kiosk for information about the quake at council level... Our profile has definitely risen."

"Individually we can't cope," said Pastor Gillis, "but corporately—if we meet together and share what skills we have together—we can much better approach the challenges that are still there before us." R

*Kent Kingston is an assistant editor of RECORD.*

\*Since this interview was conducted more major aftershocks have hit Christchurch. ADRA have been involved in distributing food. Pastor Gillis has called for continued prayer.



## OPENING HIS WORD

Gary Webster

### Should we speak in tongues? (part 1)

Many Christians today speak or pray in an unknown tongue (termed ecstatic utterance), which in almost every case, is a non-earthly language.

We begin in Acts 2, where many Jews, who no longer knew their mother language, had gathered for the feast of Pentecost. All the disciples, filled with the Spirit, spoke with other tongues (v4). These were real language used in their time, some of which are listed (v9-11). The New Testament never mentions a gift of hearing in tongues, but rather of speaking in tongues. The Spirit came on the disciples to speak, not the listeners to hear. The purpose of the gift was not for the speaker, but so the listener could hear the wonderful works of God.

#### Read Acts 2:1-11

In Acts 10, the Spirit came on Cornelius and his non-Jewish friends, causing them all to speak in tongues. These tongues were also real earthly languages since, "the Spirit came on them as on us at the beginning" (Acts 2). Real earthly languages were spoken at Pentecost, and it was "the same" on this occasion. In Acts 19 about 12 male disciples spoke in tongues, but there is no reason to believe these were not earthly languages.

#### Read Acts 10:44-46; 11:15; 19:1-7

Four important principles are gleaned from the discussion of spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:

1. While many today pray in a tongue for their own spiritual benefit, the Bible says spiritual gifts are given for the benefit of everyone, not just the recipient (v7).
2. While many today expect God to give them the gift of tongues if they ask for it, the Bible says the Spirit determines which gifts we receive (v11).
3. While many believe or imply that tongues is the most important gift and is even indicative that a person has received the baptism of the Spirit, Paul puts tongues at the bottom of his list (v28).
4. Paul states (clearly in the Greek language) that not every Spirit-filled person speaks in tongues, just as not everyone has all the other gifts (v29,30).

#### Read 1 Corinthians 12:7,11,28-30

Gary Webster is director of the Institute of Public Evangelism.



## HEALTH WISE

Dr David Pennington

### Chocolate: good or bad?

In News (June 4), Kent Kingston reviewed the Ashton/Stojanovska book *The Chocolate Diet*. He writes that "Consuming a small amount of good quality dark chocolate may help achieve weight-loss goals sooner and protect heart health".

"The Chocolate Diet" ascribes these positives to theobromine, which is in high concentration only in dark chocolate. Theobromine is a methyl xanthine chemical related to caffeine and theophylline (a drug used in treating asthma). Studies have shown that theobromine very slightly reduces mean blood pressure, but slightly raises systolic blood pressure.<sup>1</sup>

Most chocolate also contains caffeine, which has a similar effect, but raises pulse rate, can precipitate cardiac arrhythmias<sup>2</sup> and causes insomnia in many.

Moderate consumption of dark chocolate may reduce heart attack risk in non-diabetics.<sup>3</sup> Some animal studies have associated chocolate intake in pregnancy with low birth weights in newborns and some birth defects.<sup>4</sup> Another study has shown that theobromine is toxic to the sperm-producing Sertoli cells in male testes.<sup>5</sup> Chocolate is fatal to all canine species and theobromine is a constituent in a bait designed to kill coyotes!<sup>6</sup> So it's not all good news.

However, the main problem with the message that is attributed to "The Chocolate Diet" is that people who love chocolate will take it as a health tick for their bad habits. A quick perusal of any supermarket candy shelf will confirm that the vast majority of chocolate consumed by the public is milk chocolate, which contains little theobromine, large amounts of sugar, fats (both cocoa-butter fat and cheaper substitutes), milk protein, fillers and preservatives. That type of chocolate will make you fat, increase your blood pressure, and increase your risk of diabetes and heart disease.

The chocolate that, in quite small amounts (one serve per day according to one Scandinavian study), may be beneficial is very dark, bitter chocolate akin to cooking chocolate. This kind of "Good quality dark chocolate" is not easy to find in Australia. Most "chocoholics" dislike it and don't buy it, preferring the popular, sweet, obesity-promoting variety.

As a plastic surgeon I daily see people whose obese bodies are the result of excessive chocolate intake, as well as other junk food. The supposed benefits of chocolate that are mediated by flavonoids can be obtained in many other plant-derived foods that don't have the same risk of obesity as do most popular forms of chocolate.



1 van den Bogaard B et al, "Hypertension" 2010 Nov; vol. 56(5) pp 839-46

2 Patane, S et al, "International Journal of Cardiology" 2010 Nov. 19; vol. 145(2) pp 74-76

3 Jansky I et al "Journal of Internal Medicine" 2009 Sep; vol 266(3) pp 248-57

4 Patera, J et al, "Folia Histochemica Cytobiologica" 2006; vol. 44(3) pp 207-11

5 Wang, Y & Waller DP "Toxicology Letters" 1994 Feb. 1; vol 70(2) pp 155-64

6 Johnston JJ "Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry" 2005 May 18; vol. 53(10) pp4069-75

Dr David Pennington is associate professor, Australian School of Advanced Medicine, Macquarie University, and senior plastic surgeon, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, NSW.



## Healthy eating on a budget

Healthy eating on a budget can seem quite difficult, but it doesn't have to be. Meal planning, careful shopping and the types of cooking we do will help save money on food bills plus help us eat a healthier diet.

### Shopping

Before shopping plan your weekly menu and write a shopping list—it helps reduce unnecessary buying.

Try and shop weekly—if we shop more than this we tend to spend more on unnecessary items.

Buy foods that can be used for lunches and snacks—this is cheaper than buying them from cafes.

If possible avoid shopping with kids or a partner and never shop when hungry—these lead to impulse buying.

### Fruit and vegetables

Buy fruit and vegetables from the market or local green grocer as they are generally cheaper than supermarkets, and always buy seasonally for best flavour and prices.

Frozen and canned options are often cheaper than fresh and are equally nutritious. Choose canned varieties that are packed in juice and have low levels of added salt.

If buying in bulk many fruit and vegetables can be frozen, stewed and bottled, or made into jam or chutney.

### Grain and cereals

Uncooked rice is significantly cheaper than the pre-cooked alternatives. Brown rice is filling, but often children don't like it, so basmati is a great option—it has a low GI so is filling and provides longer lasting energy.

Choose wholegrain breakfast cereals, such as Weet-Bix; they are filling and more nutritious than other cereals which are higher in sugar.

Pasta is an economical food which many children enjoy. Adding a pasta sauce and vegetables will turn pasta into a very nutritious meal—full of nutrients and fibre.

### Fluids

Avoid buying soft drinks or fruit juice. Water is healthier and free. If you struggle to drink water, add a few drops of lemon or lime juice, a slice of orange or lemon, or some fresh herbs, such as mint.

When buying milk the budget brands are just as good as the more expensive brands. Avoid flavoured milk as they are more expensive and contain additional sugar.

### Leftovers

When preparing meals, cook extra portions of chilli, spaghetti bolognese or other sauce recipes and freeze. These make a quick and easy meal for those days when you are running late—just add pasta and frozen vegetables. It is cheaper and healthier than buying takeaways.

Small amounts of lemon juice, milk, coconut milk, tomato paste or pesto all freeze really well in iceblock containers and then placed into small plastic bags.

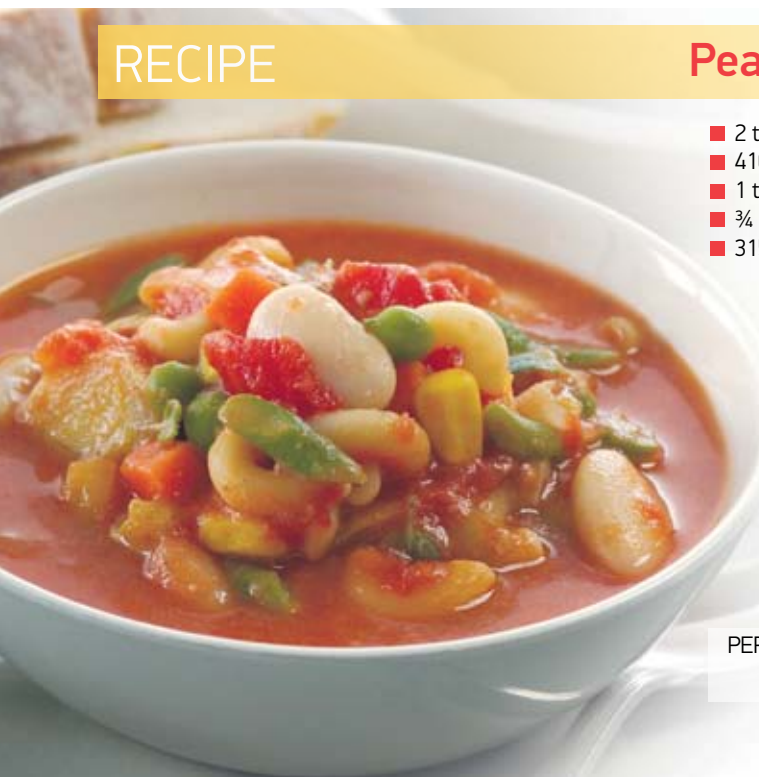
Use leftovers so that they don't go to waste. They can be eaten for lunch the next day or added to other ingredients for another dinner.

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## RECIPE

## Peanut minestrone



- 2 tsp oil
- 410g can tomatoes, chopped
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- ¾ cup macaroni
- 315g can butter beans, drained
- 1 leek, washed and sliced
- 2 tbsp tomato paste
- 5 cups water
- 10g vegetable flavoured stock cube
- 2 cups can mixed vegetables, drained
- 2 tbsp smooth peanut butter

1. Heat oil in a saucepan. Add leek and sauté until soft.
2. Add tomatoes, tomato paste, oregano, water, stock cube and macaroni. Bring to boil, then reduce heat and simmer for 10 minutes.
3. Stir through beans, vegetables and peanut butter. Heat through.
4. Serve with crusty bread. Serves 6.

Preparation time: 10 minutes. Cook time: 15 minutes.

**TIP:** You can make extra and then divide this mixture into serving sizes and freeze.

PER SERVE: Kilojoules 800kJ (195cal); Protein 9g; Fat 7g; Carbohydrate 24g; Sodium 560mg; Potassium 490mg; Calcium 70mg; Iron 2.2mg; Fibre 10g.



# Remembering the past and shaping the future

by John Skrzypaszek



## Remembering the past

Ellen White remembered. In 1884, while visiting the places of her childhood years, she recalled three important life-changing experiences.

"While in Portland I visited the places of special interest in connection with my early years, among them the spot where I met with the accident that has made me a life-long invalid. This misfortune which for a time seemed so bitter and was so hard to bear, has proved to be a blessing in disguise. The cruel blow which blighted the joys of earth was the means of turning my eyes to heaven. I might have never known Jesus, had not the sorrow that clouded my early years led me to seek comfort in him." Her moments of distress were not without inspirational highlights. "I remembered the spot where the house once stood where Jesus revealed himself to me in power and I seemed to see his blessed face beaming upon me in divine love and gentleness."<sup>1</sup>

One writer describes the depth of such a transformational journey as follows. "When we think about people who have given us hope and have increased the strength of our soul, we might say that they were not advice givers, warners or moralists, but the few who were able to articulate in words and actions the human condition in which we all participate

and who have encouraged us to face the realities of life."

They speak from the heart for they enter so deeply into human suffering. They speak faith for in the depth of afflictions, they regain the intensity of God's love. They share encouragement for they understand what it means to be a child of God and what matters to God (John 1:12; Romans 8:37-38). No wonder, Ellen White wrote so convincingly about the mystery of God's redeeming love. "Our little world is the lesson book of the universe. God's wonderful purpose of grace, the mystery of redeeming love, is the theme into which 'angels desire to look', and it will be their study throughout endless ages."

Secondly, she recalled the challenge that shaped the pathway of her future life. "I also visited my early home, and the house where my first vision was given me . . . In the chamber of the last-mentioned house, I once passed a night of anguish at the thought that I must go and relate to others the things that God presented to me. I shrank from this work in timidity and fear." Yet, her life's journey was not without blessings and the comforting presence of Jesus. "It has been my lot to be chastened by affliction, which has had a softening and subduing influence, removing enmity from my heart, and filling it with sympathy and

love. My life of bereavement, pain and suffering has not been without precious revealings of the presence of my Saviour." Note the uplifting nature of her reflections. "God would not have any of us to remain pressed down by dumb sorrow, with sore and breaking hearts. He would have us to look up to catch the rainbow of promise, and reflect light to others."

Thirdly, Ellen White recalled the joy of hearing the good news about Jesus' return. In this context, she described the spirit of intense spiritual awakening. She knew that some of the people present were not part of the past experience and so she described how large groups "accepted the faith, and rejoiced in the glad tidings that Jesus was coming soon". The believers shared times in intense prayer and praise. The study of the Bible led to life-transforming conversions and genuine faith. As she pointed out, "Genuine faith is founded on the Scripture". The described qualities formed a foundational springboard for the emerging Advent movement.

### Transforming the present

However, the journey to the destination, the meeting-point with Jesus, continued. Now some 50 years later, memories took Ellen White back to three significant life-changing experiences. Indeed, she remembered:

- a) The transformational experience of her own journey
- b) The God-designed purpose for her life
- c) The joy of sharing the hope in the Second Coming

I suggest such memories foster Christian faith—faith and implicit trust in God's presence and involvement in human life and history. They restore confidence in His unfailing promises. Ellen White wrote, "He [Jesus] longs to clasp our hands firmly, while we cling to him simply in faith, imploring him to guide us. It is our privilege to rejoice in God. If we let the comfort and peace of Jesus into our lives, we shall be kept close to his great heart of love."

German theologian Walter Brueggemann explains, "God's promises are not generic good feelings of optimism about the future." Rather, God's promises integrate into life's journey as "the remembered utterances"<sup>10</sup>—the reminders of God's reliability and involvement in human life. I refer to them as little stepping stones that mould the quality of faith, making it resilient for all unexpected odds. On this journey of faith, the prophetic voice reminds us about the trustworthiness of God's promises. In the process, it shapes a consciousness alternative to the consciousness of the dominant culture around us. Such a voice shapes the heartbeat of a prophetic community—a community of faith.

While the contemporary culture of consumerism and secularism erodes the sense of identity, it is time to focus on the transformational nature of the Christian journey. It is time to focus on the God-designed purpose for life. It is time to share the joy of Christ's promised return (John 14: 1-3). In other words, while listening to the prophetic

voice of past, it is time to shape the future by rediscovering what it means to be a prophetic movement and a prophetic voice in the society

### Shaping the future

The pilgrimage motif reminds the Church that its distinctiveness is in the nature of its calling as the "people belonging to God" (1 Peter 2:9). God's call invites the Church to continue the visionary pilgrimage on which they become inspirers of faith in God, people who practice and authenticate the presence of God (Hebrew 11:9). On the journey they need to rely on the divine promises, sharing with the watching world the principles and values of God's kingdom. The distinctive nature of such a calling does not apply separation from the world. Rather, a relationally interactive and faith-oriented journey with God crafts one's identity and demonstrates what it means to be God's people, a royal priesthood and people belonging to God (1 Peter 2:11).

Ellen White's prophetic voice challenges the Church to recapture the story of commitment, passion, faith and ongoing openness to progressive understanding of God's revelation. It reminds the Church to respect its heritage. At the same time, it challenges us to in-plant a visionary spirit into the fabric of our lives. It challenges us to shape identity in the context of the world we live in and to nurture a conscious alternative to the consciousness of the dominant culture around us. Such a prophetic movement will continually examine whether it generates a climate of authentic Christian pilgrimage or whether it creates activism that drains its spiritual energy.

By remembering, the prophetic community will shape its future. The journey has its pitfalls, times of discouragement and heartaches but let's remember God does not require any of us to remain pressed down with sorrow. "He would have us to look up to catch the rainbow of promise." The dominant culture around us needs to hear not only voices of the past, but also the voices of the present. No wonder that the prophetic voice of Ellen White encourages us to become a prophetic movement, people who reflect the light, the rainbows of Christ's promises, to others. ↩

1 Ellen White, *Travel Notes (Review and Herald)*, 25 November 1884, par. 3.

2 Henri J.M Nouwen, *Reaching Out: The Three Movements of Spiritual Life* (New York, NY: Doubleday, 1875), 61.

3 Ibid.

4 Ellen White, *The Desire of the Ages* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press, 1940), 19.

5 Ellen White, *Travel Notes*, par., 4.

6 Ibid., Par. 5.

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid., par.,11.

9 Ibid., par., 26.

10 Walter Brueggemann, *An Introduction to the Old Testament: The Canon and Christian Imagination* (John Knox Press, 2003), 45.

11 Ronald W Duty, "Congregational and Public Life" in *Word & World* Vol. 26, No.3 (Summer 2006): 277.

12 Ellen White, *Travel Notes*, par., 5.

*Dr John Skrzypaszek is director of the Ellen G White/SDA Research Centre at Avondale College of Higher Education, Cooranbong, NSW.*



# Revival, Revival, Revival!

by Eddy Johnson

**R**EVIVAL HAS BEEN THE BUZZWORD SINCE THE new General Conference president, Dr Ted Wilson, used the term as part of his main focus in his closing Sabbath address at the 2010 General Conference Session. His emotional appeal expressing concern has generated much discussion and created quite a stir in the Adventist world. It seems that everywhere one goes in Adventist circles, one can hear the sentiment expressed in references to revival which will usher in the Second Coming of Christ.

I am currently 69 years of age, and have been employed

by the Church for the past four and-a-half decades, first as a teacher in my home country of Mauritius and then in Zaire (today known as the Democratic Republic of Congo), then as a minister in many different parts of the world. I was born into an Adventist family and brought up by faithful parents. I have heard many times calls for revival as far back as I can remember—in particular when there has been a session of some description at one of the levels of church administration. It always seemed to me that each and every time a call of revival was made, it came with the same suggested prescription: We need more time spent in prayer;



more time devoted to Bible study; more significance given to the reading of Ellen White's books; and more time committed to conducting missionary activities.

As I look back, I must say that every call for revival appeared to create the same sense of energy—the same 'buzz', but it would last for a little while. Then it would seem that 'normal life' would be reverted to, and revival was quickly forgotten collectively until the next opportunity.

Today the Church does not appear to be any nearer to the so-called 'primitive godliness' than any time before in its past history. Is revival then a futile undertaking? Are the often-repeated prescriptions impotent? Is it something that we periodically get going to appease our minds or assuage our guilt? Why are all past calls for revival not working? If they were, there would not be a need to call for revival so often.

I believe I have found an answer to my frustration with the litany of calls for revival through a careful study of the revival theme as prescribed by the Old Testament prophets. Prophets were sent by God to Israel in order to call the people to repentance which then led to revival. However, invariably the people's response was for more sacrifices and formal practice of the prescribed rituals and celebration of seasonal festivals, which they believed would turn away God's disappointment and judgement. Israel regularly missed the point regarding revival because they interpreted the exercise as a means to appease God and therefore escape His divine wrath. It appears to me that our Church may be following the exact same pattern once again in 2011.

All past calls for revival that I have heard have been consistently tied to the concept of readiness to meet the Lord and thus hasten His Second Coming. The revival theme is often expressed by something like "Worldliness is relentlessly invading the Church . . . Wake up Church! We are far from being ready for the soon coming of the Lord. Genuine revival is sorely needed!!" Then follows the prescription of things to do (as mentioned earlier) and a call is made to discard of worldly things such as the wearing of jewellery, putting on make-up, watching TV, etc. In fact, at a revival meeting held this year, the list of serious moral flaws to dispatch included a need to reverse or remove tattoos and to unceremoniously dump any dating relationships with a non-Adventist person.

It seems the prophets rarely, if at all, called for revival as a way to escape God's judgement. Two texts come to mind: Isaiah 1:1-17 and Micah 6:1-8. In both cases, God's judgement is in fact more a call for revival and yet the people respond by augmenting the monetary and emotional value of the sacrifices instead. But the two prophets reject the response and redefine true revival and its result as: ". . . cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressors; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow" (Isaiah 1:17). They did not define sinful behaviour as a matter of what one wears and watches, but instead as the

failure to show love and compassion. This failure was due to the people forgetting God's compassionate interventions in their own history and personal experiences.

A recent issue of the *Adventist Review* (January 13, 2011) conducted a survey of 100 members, asking what was their New Year's resolution? The focus of the majority of the respondents was the need to embark on some sort of self-improvement—spiritual, physical or emotional—exercise. There were only a few cases that I noted which suggested that their greatest perceived need was to be more compassionate for the poor and needy of the world.

I suspect that revival for the sake of readiness to meet the Lord is subtly self-centred in nature. We link revival today to the advent in the future and forget the desperate and distressing now of this world. Is it any wonder that as a Church we are perceived as irrelevant?

I was appalled recently when a fellow church member told me that on hearing about some of the most recent natural catastrophes of the world, he was filled with joy because they were signs that Jesus' Second Coming was so close. After my initial shock, I simply asked him if he felt any pain for all the suffering caused by the events? He then looked at me as if I had come from another planet. Have all these past calls for revival turned us into callous and selfish human beings?

I suggest that genuine revival should turn the believers into the kind of people that Jesus describes in the Beatitudes. They are the true citizens of God's kingdom whose overall attitude to life is bound up in humility, sorrow for the woes of the world, meekness and a deep yearning for justice in all its forms. Their Christ-like character reflects the same integrity and compassion. Such people have only one mission to which they are absolutely committed: peacemaking at all cost, even that of their own lives if the circumstances require it. Such are deemed worthy of being acknowledged as sons and daughters of God.

I conclude with a quote by Pastor Garth Bainbridge, ministerial secretary of the Greater Sydney Conference, Australia: "Revival is a fad word that gets hijacked by various groups in the Church and defined in terms of their own agendas. Revival will not come because we seek it for itself. Seeking it leads to a legalistic adding and subtracting of behaviours. Revival is simply the outgrowth of a daily, positive relating to Jesus. The focus is not on the end result (revival) but on the relationship that makes me a more loving and lovable Christian".

To this statement I will add that neither should revival have as its main/only objective preparedness for the Second Coming. May we as individuals and collectively as a Church experience true revival for God's purpose in our world today. R

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*Pastor Eddy Johnson is ADRA Blacktown Community Centre manager, Greater Sydney Conference.*

# 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.

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## RECORD REWIND

Arthur Patrick

### Against all odds

The need was stark. The 1890s were more than tough financially. Depression in the US and Australia devoured Adventist resources when there was so much to be done, like building the Avondale School for Christian Workers (Avondale College of Higher Education).

Ellen White's diaries and letters portray a woman of large vision and deep concern. When laying a foundation brick for the first Avondale building, Bethel Hall, reportedly she looked around the disconsolate group and exclaimed, "Children, this is a resurrection, not a funeral!"

That was during October 1896. The next year that building was completed, partly because women drove the nails. Soon other buildings were erected, including, by April 1899, College Hall. At last there were better classrooms, space for assemblies and a library. But the bills were still mounting.

At one point Ellen White was \$25,000 in debt. Her half-dozen household and editorial staff were minus regular salaries for a year; her grocer in Newcastle was out-of-pocket for six months. Sleepless nights were many for the woman who viewed debt as a form of leprosy.

But during the crisis Captain Henry Norman, assumed to be the wealthy owner of several ocean-going steamships, came to the rescue at the General Conference session in South Lancaster. Norman was a convert so new he kept his first Sabbath at the General Conference session. Seriously rich and amazingly generous, he promised the Church \$400,000—including \$15,000 for Australia—by May 1899. (At the time an over-paid building foreman at Avondale expected \$2 a day.)

"Captain" Norman was clever; he was also a sham and a fraud. Gilbert Valentine re-tells the sad story, vividly. Norman absconded "along with a young Adventist woman's affections and her savings" (*The Prophet and the Presidents*, Pacific Press, 2011, page 145).

But in those dire times the College was built and Sydney Sanitarium was planned. Ellen White stated: "I see that by this Norman case the Lord tested and proved men, to see what they would do under temptation." Where there is vision God's people and His work do not perish.

*Dr Arthur Patrick is an honorary senior research fellow at Avondale College of Higher Education.*



## MYSTERY HISTORY

### Do you know?

- The date the photo was taken
- The church

Send to [heritage@avondale.edu.au](mailto:heritage@avondale.edu.au)



# Kids' SPACE

## Whutta-waye\* Kids

He was a Prince in Israel but Joash still needed people to protect him. His Aunty Jehosheba and Uncle Jehoida looked after him until he was seven years old when he became King. Jesus gives us family to love and protect us.

Thank Jesus today for the people who take care of YOU!

**Gracelink Message**  
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- COLOUR CHART**
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  - 6=green,
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  - 8=orange,
  - 9=skin colour,
  - 10=pink,
  - 11=light blue

**BIBLE TEXT** Fill in the missing vowels and complete the Bible text: (O,E,I,E,A,E,O,E,I,E,A,O,E)

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 S \_ ST \_ RS (Romans 12:10)

\* Hello in Norfolk Island

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with Dr Barry Oliver



### Global initiative

Many of you will have heard of plans to share as widely as possible copies of Ellen White's classic, *Great Controversy*.

This project has come as an initiative of our General Conference president, Pastor Ted Wilson. He would like to see the book circulated as widely as possible during the next three years. The project is gaining momentum right around the world.

The South Pacific Division is launching its participation in the project at the annual meeting of the Division Executive Committee in November with Pastors Wilson and Bob Lemon, General Conference treasurer, in attendance.

We plan to focus on distributing *Great Controversy* through personal contact with friends, neighbours and colleagues. We are asking each of us to be able to give a testimony of what the book has meant to us personally. This is how Ellen White advocated the book should be distributed, particularly when she was addressing the work of literature evangelists.

Our aim will be that each church member purchases and shares at least one copy with a person not of our faith. That will mean we will share half a million copies in our Division.

We are planning to print an attractive, inexpensive, modern-English version of *Great Controversy* which has just been prepared for this purpose by the White Estate at the General Conference. The books should be available early next year. Please join me as we participate in this global initiative together.

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



### HOUSE CHURCHES, Western Australia

Peter Fowler

My job is to look after the Western Australian Adventist House Church Network.

The Western Australian Conference (WAC) recognised there is a culture that not everyone wants to attend a recognised traditional church program. Culturally, people are weary of church and for some, church isn't seen as the only place to engage with Christian spirituality.

Therefore, we have people who are open to other opportunities, other places to enquire. The Conference has responded as it's into church planting. It has a goal of 2000 house churches with 20,000 new members. It's all part of a strategic plan.

Over a period of two years we've started 16 house churches throughout WA. That's in excess of 200 people, of which 40 per cent are returning ex-Adventists and Christians from other faiths looking for new ways to do church. The others are Adventists looking for other ways of being church.

Worship is the experience of the gathering. House churches work on five principles: story telling, spirituality, accountability, mission and fellowship of food. This is important as it's innate within the nature of humans to be heard, listened and valued.

The house churches in WA do not exist for themselves. Within two years every house church is expected to plant a house church somewhere else.

Our vision is to build God's kingdom through partnerships of adventure. Our goal is to put a house church in the suburbs of every city and major town in WA.

House churches function as a church plant. Members are trained, equipped to become leaders and understand the ethos of a house church. The great thing is that house churches are self-initiated, i.e., not pastor dependent. It's exciting not having to chase people to serve in different aspects of ministry.

House churches meet corporately every six weeks with others in the region. They spend a day sharing stories, praying together and learning from each other.

Every house church is encouraged to have an intentional relationship with the local Adventist church in their area.

This represents the most exciting time of my ministry ever. I've waited for such a long time in my ministry to see lay people taking ownership of the Church. House church is now putting the Church back into the hands of the people.

This is only possible because of Conference visionary leadership and a willingness to listen to members who've been saying we can't continue to do more of the same and ignore the fact that it's not engaging. I thank the Conference for listening to pastors and lay people and empowering them to run with their calling.

Comments? Questions?

Write a letter to the editor <editor@record.net.au>.



LETTERS

**OUTSPOKEN DO-GOODER**

Joan Major, WA

My heart goes out to Kristine Stahl, "A heavy heart" (Letters, May 21), in regards to the treatment of her Pentecostal friend who she invited to church, only to receive a lecture on her differing faith.

Please, could this outspoken do-gooder be advised of the terrible damage done to the visitor. If not brought to see the damage, the person will do it again to others and misrepresent Jesus as a loving Saviour.

Wherever you are Kristine, I'm praying for you and your friend.

**WHERE IS THE CHRISTIAN LOVE?**

Graham Stark, QLD

I wish to respond to the letter from Kristine Stahl (May 21) in which she describes how she brought her Pentecostal friend to church, only to have her lectured by an over-zealous, tactless church member, condemning Pentecostal's religion.

She stated that her heart is very heavy, and my response is that my heart is heavy too, and the hearts of many other Adventists who have had similar experiences are very heavy to think that many precious souls for whom Christ died are treated with such offensive criticism.

Where is the Christian love and acceptance which Jesus showed to all people demonstrated by this professed follower?

This serious problem in some of our churches must be addressed and rectified before we can expect God to pour out

his Holy Spirit on our churches and win souls for Christ.

**MANDATORY FOR EVERY ADVENTIST**

Shirley Evans, NSW

I read with passionate agreement "We need more sinners in church" (Feature, March 5). I have only twice before felt compelled to respond to letters and this is one I passionately empathise with.

I was intrigued to read only one response to it in letters.

I was also similarly sideswiped by "Eight habits of highly effective reconnecting churches" (May 21), and I can no longer delay my response.

If I had it my way, it would be mandatory for every Adventist and Christian to be given a copy of the mentioned articles. I would encourage them to put the principles into practice.

I wonder how many thoughtless remarks and actions would be reconsidered. How much heartache and "slipping out the back door" would be avoided?

**FOOD FOR ONE, POISON FOR ANOTHER**

Donna Hobbs, NSW

I read with interest: "Super-sized Adventists" (Feature, May 7), "Confirmed Vegetarian" (Letters) and "Slow Food" (Health feature).

While our health message is a wonderful privilege to have, we need to remember health reform is so much more than what form of protein we eat. Vegetarianism is the tip of the iceberg.

Ellen White even said, "I would prefer a meat diet to the sweet cakes and pastries

so generally used" (CDF, p334).

Many vegetarian substitutes are highly processed and contain flavour enhancers, chemical additives and allergens that they cannot be considered healthy foods.

Some foods are so refined or concentrated that their nutritional value is questionable, along with how our bodies are to digest what should be eaten closer to its natural state.

We also need to be aware of white flour, sugar, preservatives, colours, flavours, sulphites and everything we consume when we remember our bodies are the temple of God.

For those with allergies, vegetarianism can be very difficult, with allergies to eggs, nuts, soy, gluten, wheat, dairy and legumes making a church lunch a nightmare!

There are also sensitivities to salicylates and amines that present a challenge for some.

Ellen White states, "What would be food for one might be poison for another" (CDF, p494).

Those who can eat any vegetarian dish, praise God, while being less judgemental of those who are not so fortunate.

**TSUNAMI OF LOVE**

Joe Patrick, NSW

I refer to Kylie Ward's article "Healthy relationships" (Opinion, April 30).

I thank God the opinion piece came like a tsunami from on high.

Sister White reminds us, "The strongest argument in favour of the Gospel is a loving and lovable Christian" (*Ministry of Healing*, p470).

*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.*

## WEDDINGS



**Buresova–Stewart.** Mitchel Buresova, eldest son of Savenaca and Serafina Buresova, and Annalise Stewart, eldest daughter of Kelvin and Lynyce Stewart, were married 20.2.11 in a sunny ceremony at the gorgeous setting of Pukekura Park in New Plymouth, Taranaki.

*Anton van Wyk*



**Campbell–Mattner.** Joshua Campbell, son of Daryl (dec) and Vicki Campbell (Hobart, Tas), and Jemma Mattner, daughter of Craig and Karen Mattner (Adelaide, SA), were married 10.4.11 at Broadway Chapel, Woolloongabba, Brisbane.

*Russ Willcocks*



**Crow–Roberts.** Joseph Crow, son of Deslie Ellis and Garry Crow, and Miranda Roberts, daughter of Sherri Roberts, were married

20.3.11 at All Saints Chapel, Woodville, NSW.

*John R. Lee, Wayne Krause*



**Finch–Chandler.** Jason Tully Finch, son of Peter and Meralyn Finch (Eleebana, NSW), and Bronwyn Maree Chandler, daughter of Brian and Rosemary Chandler (Bonnells Bay), were married 13.3.11 at Rafferty's Resort, Cams Wharf.

*Bryan Craig*



**Perkins–Ward.** Kelly Perkins, son of Alan (dec) and Carmel Perkins, and Kylie-Jo Ward, daughter of John and Gwen Ward (all of Qld), were married 27.3.11 at Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, Manly, Qld.

*Martin Fleming*



**Richardson–Norris.** Shane Richardson, son of Martin (Morisset, NSW) and Joy Richardson (Brisbane, Qld), and

Kerryn Mae Norris, daughter of Robert and Andrea Norris (Brisbane), were married 1.5.11 at Springwood church.

*André van Rensburg*



**Rykers–Raymond.** Joshua Rykers, son of Anthony and Paula Rykers (Bairnsdale, Vic), and Simone Raymond, daughter of Ralph and Julene Raymond (Springwood, NSW), were married 10.4.11 at All Saints Anglican Church, Berridale. The reception was held at Adventist Alpine Village, a special place for them because it was where they first met.

*Tony Knight*

Sanitarium, the Church, its people and its mission. He was a much-loved member of the Erina, NSW church. He touched so many lives and was always caring for others. Now he is cared for by Jesus.

*Russel Stanley*

**Brasauskas,** Ethel Martha, born 30.4.1920 at Bundaberg, Qld; died 12.2.11 at Bundaberg. Ethel was predeceased by her husband Jonas. She was the beloved sister of Eddie Otto (dec), Ruby Leet (dec), Bill Otto (dec), Sylvia Guy and Allen Otto, and much-loved auntie to many nieces and nephews. Ethel was a church member for more than 55 years and was a godly influence to all she met.


*Kevin Chugg*

## OBITUARIES

**Bateman,** Francis Victor Langfeld (Frank), born 1.8.1926 in Bournemouth, UK; died 3.5.11 at Kincumber, NSW. On 7.4.49, he married Joan Myrtle Blee at Gosnells church. He is survived by his wife; children, Graeme, Alwyn (both of Albury/Wodonga) and Vicki (McGraths Hill, NSW); seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. His entire working life of 40 years was devoted to



was the wife of the late Clarence; the mother of Hermon, married to Jenni; the special mother of Charmaine and the late Eustace; and grandmother of Jessica and Jaime. She was a talented and faithful member of Hughesdale church and died in the positive hope of the Resurrection. She




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■ **Education finance accountant–North NSW Conference (Newcastle, NSW).** This senior finance role provides an opportunity for an experienced accountant to contribute to the mission of the church education system in North NSW. The role reports to the education system business manager and involves year-end financial reporting, internal auditing, government reporting, tax office compliance, supervision of payroll and accounting staff and systems, asset register, and other related functions. Applicants will have well developed verbal and written communication skills. Send resume to Angie Robertson, Education System Business Manager, [angelarobertson@adventist.org.au](mailto:angelarobertson@adventist.org.au). Applications close **July 29, 2011**.

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was dearly loved and will be greatly missed.

*David Pearce*

**Hill, Dorothy Christina** (nee Hume), born 25.9.1926 at Babinda, Qld; died 27.3.11 at Cairns Private Hospital. Dorothy was predeceased by her son, Dennis and husband, Jim. She is survived by her son, Ian and daughter, Karen Porter. Dorothy accepted Jesus at the age of 17 at a youth camp and has been a faithful Christian throughout her life. She died with the hope of a glorious Resurrection when her Saviour returns to claim her.

*Ernst William, David Gilmore*

**Mather, Mavis Ellen** (nee Denny), born 8.8.1920 at Katanning, WA; died 17.4.11 at Albany. She married William (Bill) Mather, who predeceased her in 1993. She is survived by her children, Judith, Kerry (both of Bridgetown), Brian and Martin (both of Perth); her grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. Mavis reached out to her community with strength and kindness. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

*Deborah Waring*



**Wainwright, Bethli**, born 7.10.1966 at Palmerston North, NZ; died 25.12.10 in Auckland Hospital, aged 44. She is survived by her mother, Robin; father, Ross; sister, Kylie Burling; brother-in-law, Fraser; and her adored twin nephews, Lennard and David. Bethli was widely known in New Zealand and internationally for her achievements as a law librarian, civil servant, and for her PhD work on liver transplantation. Many people prayed for Bethli in 1974 when she was dying in New Plymouth, and again during later health crises. Bethli never complained throughout 36 years of health issues. She was treasured by her family. Dying so young, she is missed by many. Bethli lived life to the full, and awaits the call of Jesus.

*Ross Wainwright*

## ADVERTISEMENTS

**South New South Wales Conference Triennial Constituency Meeting.** Notice is hereby given that the 83rd Constituency Meeting of the South New

South Wales Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be held at the Seventh-day Adventist Church Hall, Gourcock Avenue, Goulburn, NSW. The business session will be held on Sunday, September, 18, 2011, commencing at 10am. Registration will be required prior to the commencement time. Delegates are to be appointed in harmony with the Constitution. The business of the Constituency Meeting will be as provided in the Constitution, incorporating the presentation of reports and financial statements for the period. The officers, executive committee and other committees, as provided in the Constitution, will be appointed.

*Kendell Cobbin, general secretary*

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### Narromine church 50th anniversary, September 3, 2011.

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## Finally

Great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance.

Next Record July 16

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# July

## Book of the Month



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