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Record

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SO, YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING FOR GOD?

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EDITION**

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RESOURCES



EASY READING FAMILY BIBLE

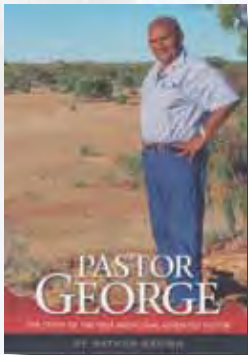
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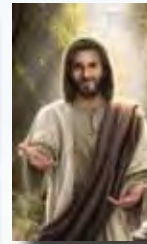
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First steps: AUC to produce pioneer DVD series

Ringwood, Victoria

A dramatised DVD series is being developed to bring to life the colourful characters, significant events and momentous challenges that faced the small group of believers who began the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Australian Union Conference (AUC) is currently developing the series that describes the background, birth and growth of the early Church.

"This will be the first time the Church has used historical drama and re-enactment to tell our story," AUC president, Pastor Chester Stanley, said.

"The story of the early pioneers will come alive. We will watch as they wrestle to understand Scripture, hotly debate theology and overcome bitter disappointment. We will get to know pioneers such as Joseph Bates, James White and Uriah Smith. We will be reminded again of how God called a young lady, Ellen Harmon, to do a special work in leading the fledgling Church. It is an exciting story full of pathos, drama, joy and sadness and, consequently, needs to be told in this medium."

The South Pacific Division is partnering with the AUC to develop the series, which will be produced by the Adventist Media Network.

"Everyone I talk to thinks that this is a series that must be developed," Pastor Stanley said. "The General Conference leaders are enthusiastic about the project and recently committed funds to assist with its development."

Pastor Stanley said a clear understanding of our identity as Seventh-day Adventists is fundamental to the ongoing health, growth and dynamism of the Church worldwide. "We must never forget our beginnings and our reason for being," he said. "Our past gives us our vision for the present and the future. Identity and mission are inextricably linked. In the thrilling story of the background to and the beginnings of God's end time prophetic movement, is profound evidence of God's calling and providential leading of His people."

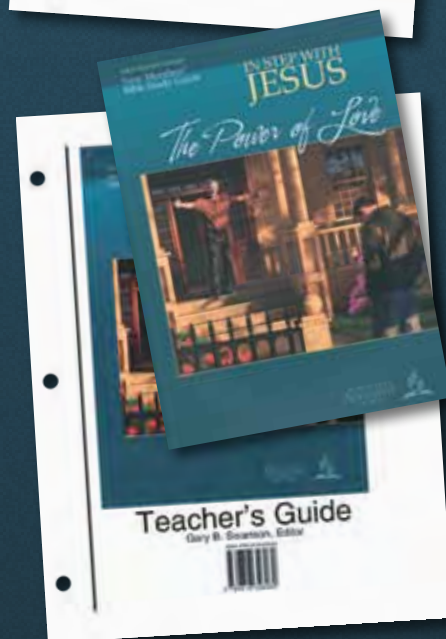
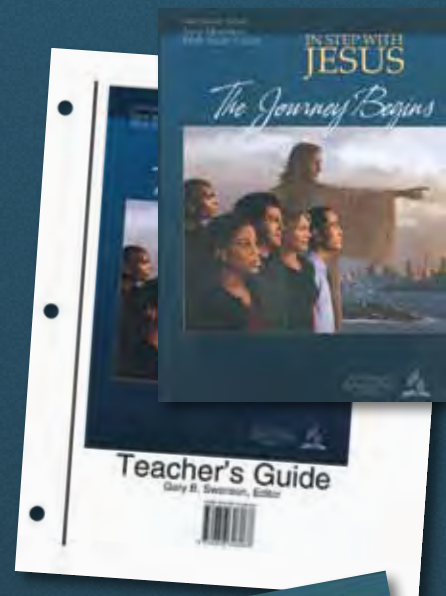
Pastor Stanley sees the series being both evangelistic and nurturing. "It will be a wonderful evangelistic resource that can be used by ministry and laity to pass to friends, neighbours or Bible study contacts so they can see God's leading in the establishment of our Church and understand our commitment to our biblical teachings," he said. "I also see it as a useful nurturing tool. We must not forget our story. If we do forget, we do it at our peril. Our young people also need to get to know this story. They need to see how God led. What better way for them to be reminded than to bring our story to life on the screen." —*RECORD staff/Chester Stanley*



IN STEP WITH JESUS

In Step With Jesus, a series of four Bible study guides for new members of the Adventist family.

Prepared by the General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department.



For more information contact your Conference Sabbath School Director or the AUC Sabbath School Department



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"A young Adventist takes a ferry
in Sydney Harbour."

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

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Drifting and renewal

Chester Stanley

The worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church has, in recent times, been called to earnestly seek the Lord, requesting of Him refreshing and renewal. Right down through history, God has repeatedly called His people to fresh understandings of truth and a renewal of their commitment to Him.

It's so easy for us to drift, to be distracted and persuaded by the all-pervading power of our surrounding culture. We live in an increasingly hostile environment that stridently voices its antagonism to the Gospel and its values. Also, we are very much aware that sin so easily besets us. Not only voices from outside, but influences within, can subtly but surely draw us away from our love and zeal for Christ.

The times demand that we have a deep love for our Saviour, are Spirit led and filled with zeal for our Father's business. These are not times for half-heartedness and apathy but rather for surrender, for renewed commitment to our Lord and His truths for our lives.

I had the privilege of being at the General Conference Annual Council last year when the call was given for the Church to pray earnestly for revival and reformation. It was a moving time of prayer, recommitment and, yes, confession; of making things right between the leaders. Let us pray that our churches will experience a renewed love for Christ and His Word and, consequently, be revitalised and renewed.

Whenever the Church has rediscovered truth and experienced renewal, it has resulted in a new passion for the mission of the Church. We clearly need to ask the Spirit to reveal those things within us that need to be renewed. But genuine revival will not be just a time of introspection. It's a time when we look away from self and look to Jesus, our perfect righteousness, and ask Him to give us a big vision—to be bold and daring in our thrilling work of telling the world that the Jesus who has come and paid for all our shoddy ways, is coming back again.

Pastor Chester Stanley is president of the Australian Union Conference.

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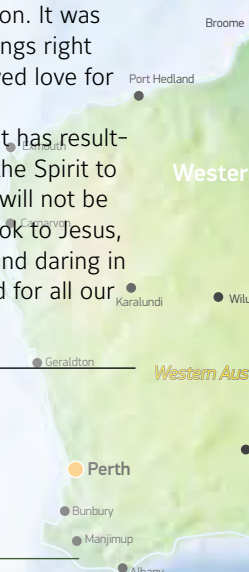
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Australian Union Conference (AUC)

Membership: 56,741 (as at Dec 31, 2011)
 Congregations: 556
 Ratio of members to population: 1:399



Northern Australian Conference
 Membership: 2400
 Congregations: 35
 Members to population: 1:475

South Queensland Conference
 Membership: 11,605
 Congregations: 98
 Ratio: 1:316

North New South Wales Conference
 Membership: 11,012
 Congregations: 80
 Ratio: 1:131

Greater Sydney Conference
 Membership: 9010
 Congregations: 77
 Ratio: 1:543

South New South Wales Conference
 Membership: 2587
 Congregations: 18
 Ratio: 1:515

Victorian Conference
 Membership: 10,140
 Congregations: 95
 Ratio: 1:555

Tasmanian Conference
 Membership: 1158
 Congregations: 14
 Ratio: 1:441

South Australian Conference
 Membership: 2958
 Congregations: 14
 Ratio: 1:560

Western Australian Conference
 Membership: 5871
 Congregations: 77
 Ratio: 1:400

Australian Union Conference (AUC)



New Aussie programs for HopeChannel

Yarra Junction, Victoria

Project Hope is an initiative of Hope International that equips and encourages Divisions and Unions to produce local television programs that can be broadcast not only to their region but also to other parts of the world.

In 2008, the Australian Union Conference (AUC) recorded more than 200 programs, some of which are still aired on HopeChannel. Many of the programs were very well received and two were acknowledged with awards from the General Conference.

In July last year, the AUC financed the second Project Hope for Australia, filming six programs of 13 episodes for local and international broadcast. The editing of these programs has recently been completed and they will begin broadcasting in the second half of this year.

The new programs are: *Teachers Talk*—Adventist education; *My Story His Story*—church leaders reflect on God’s leading; *Outback Adventurers*—our work amongst our Indigenous people; *Changing Lives*—church plants and the people whose lives they have touched; *Compassion Challenge*—ADRA, stories, challenges and opportunities; and *Surprised By God*—prayer, how, when and why. In addition, a number of musical items were filmed—performed by Australian artists—and these will also be broadcast.



Host Kym Piez and Melody Tan on the set of My Story, His Story.



The AUC will continue to finance the filming of Australian programs for local and worldwide viewing.

HopeChannel, the Church’s official television network, has a broadcast footprint that covers 98 per cent of the world’s population.

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Alert, not alarmed

by Ken Vogel

As the bloody threat of terrorism brazenly bludgeoned its way into even our lives Down Under, former prime minister John Howard urged Australians to "Be alert but not alarmed". Nowhere on earth can a population now say they are immune from this sordid and evil scourge.

In the same way, the great controversy between God and Satan is global. God is not willing that one should perish, but that all should come to repentance. To that end Jesus Christ has died for sin—for each person. The enemy of God and the enemy of humanity, Satan is determined to destroy. While his efforts are sometimes very overt, we can't always see his ways and plans. But, be assured that he, like the terrorists, is planning deception and destruction behind the scenes. Be alert!

Satan is using forces seen and unseen to do his bidding. The undermining of Christian values and religious freedom in Australian society is real, yet often subtle in form. The guise of human rights is one example, where human rights are pitted against each other. In such circumstances, the 'right' that is more politically correct often will win out. In today's society it is not politically correct to have religious beliefs, values and standards. And it is even more politically incorrect to be a Christian, as opposed to other religions. It is not 'normal' today to believe that there is truth for all people of all times. Thus, those who believe in the Bible and have a world view that emanates from God's Word are increasingly sidelined.

The undermining of the biblical view of marriage and family is currently very real in Australia, both nationally as well as in the states and territories. There are strong forces seeking to undermine the right of churches to employ selectively in order to maintain the beliefs, values and ethos of the organisation. The right and ability of those who wish to maintain the sacredness of the Sabbath is continually under attack. And the list goes on.

Threats to religious freedom are being experienced in the workplace and in educational contexts in Australia. It is good when matters are able to be addressed as close to the source as possible, and this does happen. But there are times when such matters have to escalate to involve church leadership regionally and nationally. And, even then, not all situations are able to be resolved!

Fellow church members are facing these real issues. If you are not one of them today, you may be tomorrow. And there's a growing number of Christians who are not Seventh-day Adventists who, like us, are finding this issue of reducing religious freedom a growing cause for concern.

God calls His people to have faith in Jesus and to be obedient to His commandments. Satan works to undermine both faith and obedience. He achieves this in various ways. Yes, he is happy to have us sleep, as it were, and



Kent Kingston interviews Ken Vogel for a Freedom InFocus segment.

put our Christian commitment on hold. But he also acts as a spiritual terrorist, attempting to upset and destroy those wanting to stand up for God and His truth. Do not give Satan the luxury of success or even too much of our focus. As this earth rushes toward its end, it is our duty to take the fight up to Satan. But in doing so, ever remember that hope and strength only exist with Jesus.

Be alert, but not alarmed. Let's fix our eyes and the eyes of others on Jesus—Creator, Saviour and Friend.

Pastor Ken Vogel is general secretary for the AUC and oversees religious liberty for the Church in Australia.

A young Victorian doctor struggled for four years to be allowed to enter surgery training and still keep the Sabbath holy. What are some things learned from this long and challenging ordeal?

- Discrimination on the basis of religious belief and practice can only be addressed if people are prepared to take a stand, but noting that in doing so there can be some risk and there is no guarantee of success.
- High integrity and consistent values of our church members can have an impact.
- Prayer is as important a part as the actions taken.
- Standing for God's Sabbath is not just about our freedoms, it's also a powerful witness to our Creator God in places and before people who might otherwise not have come across this important truth.
- The Church, from the local congregation through to the General Conference, can and does work in unity in support of a member's reasonable right to religious freedom.
- There is strength as members make a stand and support each other in that stand.



Faith in a secular society

RECORD interviews Australian Union Conference president, Pastor Chester Stanley, to find out more about the vision and challenges for the Church in Australia.



When you look at the Adventist Church in Australia, what do you see as its greatest strength?

The top of my list is faithfulness. As I travel, visit and meet members in our small country churches, our larger city churches, young people in universities, people in offices and businesses and workplaces, I am consistently impressed to find Adventists who are a minority in their communities, living their faith with steadfastness and dedication. It's not always easy being a minority. Our lifestyle is so dramatically different from the vast majority of Australians. Yes, faithfulness has to be right up there on my list.

What ideas or behaviours do you see as particular dangers to today's Australian Adventists?

One of the biggest dangers we face is forgetting who we are as a people and what we've been called to do—I'm talking about identity. Everything flows from this. It's very easy for an organisation to drift and forget, and consequently, lose what gave it its energy, vitality and focus. I believe the evidence is overwhelming that God guided in the establishment of our Church and that we have a unique and urgent message to share with Planet Earth about Christ in all His fullness, in the context of end times. Our church leadership—pastors and administrators—constantly need to remind the Church of its reason for being, its mandate, its marching orders.

Linked to this concern is a perception that has developed among some, that the word "doctrine" has negative connotations. I can understand how this can be the case when we have individuals dogmatically pushing minor issues and mindsets who insist that "you must agree with me". But we must remember it is our biblical teachings, or

doctrines, that bind us together as a people in a wonderful and Spirit given way. You would almost think that biblical teaching is unimportant for some.

- › Does it matter if we believe that Jesus was just a good Man, or that He was God incarnate?
- › Does it matter that we believe salvation is a gift that comes through faith in Christ as opposed to teaching that we don't need a Saviour and can get to heaven by ourselves?
- › Does it matter whether there is an eternal burning hell or not?
- › Does it matter that we know how to discern between true and false prophets?
- › Does it matter that God in Christ was the Creator?
- › Does it matter that we know the truth about the return of Christ?

Are these significant issues? The answer is a huge "Yes" to every one of them. Much of the New Testament consists of biblical writers clarifying teachings or doctrine. We must continue to be known as a group of people who have a passion for biblical truth and understanding.

Regarding behaviours, I also have a concern that, although we have been given, through the Spirit of Prophecy, stunning information that is increasingly getting the world's attention as to how to live—that promotes a longer life with more vitality and less disease—that some members seem not to take advantage of these wonderful principles. Of particular concern to me are the reports I hear that amongst some, alcohol is seen to be acceptable. I must be frank and say I don't understand this. When I see the absolute carnage that alcohol is wreaking in our society it surprises me that some feel comfortable modelling the use



of alcohol to our children and young people! We must not let the world squeeze us into its mould.

Our stand against alcohol has blessed us immeasurably as a people.

You're asking Aussies to give up their meat pies, their beer and their Saturday sports. That has to be a pretty big ask!

Yes it is, but remember that increasingly Aussies are looking for a better way to live. The objective evidence is overwhelmingly in our favour; that our way of life produces quality living in all areas of life. It is important for us to share our message positively, not as a series of negatives.

Also, let's remember that the surrounding culture of the New Testament church was very similar to ours. It was sensual, hedonistic, given to excesses, morally lax, sports loving, focused on entertainment . . . they lived for the gods of this world. Yes, it is a big ask, just as it was in the days of Paul! And just as then, there are men and women just waiting to be called.

What are the greatest opportunities the Church in Australia has?

I think we have exciting opportunities in relation to our work amongst Indigenous people. I am fortunate to hear reports from around Australia of the wonderful growth and development of our Indigenous work.

Also, our schools provide us with great opportunities for witness and nurture. We have significant numbers of community young people in our schools. Thousands of parents pay for the privilege of placing their boys and girls in our charge. Our principals advise, at the time of enrolment, that there is a possibility their child may become a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. Conferences provide chaplains and churches are being established in our schools. Community perceptions of our Church are being changed because of the presence of community young people in our schools. Our schools are increasingly intentional with the evangelistic opportunities available to them.

What specific event or project are you most excited about right now?

There are lots of plans and initiatives being developed here in Australia. I personally am excited about our initiative to tell the story of God's providential leading in the establishment of our Church, via a series of DVDs, using historical drama. This is a project that will benefit the church worldwide and help to motivate us in terms of who we are as a people and what we have been called to do.

It's no secret that Australian Adventism was rocked by theological controversy in the '70s and '80s. Has the Church healed from the scars inflicted during those years?

There were a number of theological challenges during

that time. It was difficult and quite divisive for some. The challenges forced us to study deeply and out of that study our understandings have strengthened, developed and grown. I personally think there has been considerable healing in the Church but no doubt some scars will remain.

Many of the kids I grew up with in Sydney and Melbourne, are no longer in the Church. What can we do to bring them "home"?

I certainly have a burden for the many who used to worship with us and no longer do so. We have taken an initiative to establish a new ministry across Australia called Reconnecting Ministries. The aim is for us to think strategically about this issue and be intentional in relation to reaching out to these dear people. Wherever the Church has been established, there are significant numbers of former members in that community. Interestingly, in most cases, the issues that drew them away were not theological. We plan to challenge each church to intentionally reach out to former members. Already Conferences and churches are doing some very creative thinking in relation to this issue. Of course, what we need to make sure of is that our churches are warm, nurturing, accepting places so that people never even think of leaving in the first place.

How are the demographics (ethnicity/age) of the Church changing in Australia, and what does this mean for the future of the Church?

The Church in Australia continues to become more culturally diverse. I believe this has brought a richness to our Church. But there are some indications that it is a growing challenge attracting Caucasian Australians to Adventism. The Christian church in Australia is ageing and whilst Adventism is not immune to this, it is on the whole represented by diverse age groups. The Church invests hugely in our young people with Adventist education and strong youth programs at Conference and local church level. For the security of the Church's future we need to ensure our young people are involved and engaged and feel that they are valued members of the church community.

By any measure, Australia is one of the wealthiest societies in the world. How can the Church reach a culture that is "rich and in need of nothing"?

Yes, we are a very blessed country in so many respects and we are grateful for that, but I personally believe that there is an increasing poverty of soul and heart in Australian society. Beautiful cars and lots of things don't bind together broken hearts, fix up marriages or help hurting young people and children.

There is a very interesting book put out by two academics from the Australian National University in Canberra, entitled *Affluenza*. This is a serious scholarly work that is based on huge amounts of sociological research. The findings are very clear. Australians are longing to have meaning



in their lives. They desire a society that has stronger sexual standards and clearer moral values. The overarching theme of the book is that Australia is gripped by a disease of affluence and consumerism which has negatively impacted society physically, emotionally and mentally.

As a Church we have the values that can supply the longings of Aussie hearts.

According to General Conference statistics, Australian Adventists are among the most generous in the world. Does your experience confirm this report?

Yes, I think they are. A recent report indicated that the Church in Australia is the fourth largest national contributor to tithe in the world field. United States is first, followed by Brazil, Canada and then Australia. Apart from tithe and local church offerings, our people are very generous to various ministries and causes. Also, some time ago, I read a report that Adventists give more to the Church per capita than any other Christian denomination in Australia.

What contribution have Australian Adventists made to the World Church?

We have made a huge contribution to the World Church in all kinds of ways. We are looked upon as enthusiastic, open, can-do sorts of people. We have served at all levels of the Church. We've gone to serve in all parts of the globe. If I listed all the names of Australians and their contributions, it would be a very long list! Perhaps just one example is the Australian colporteur who, approximately 100 years ago, was the first Adventist in the Philippines and now there are over a million Adventists in that country. It's a proud heritage of service we have to the World Church.

Earlier this year the North German Union voted to ordain women pastors, and three US Unions have made noises about following them. What is the AUC's perspective on this move?

It is clear that the vast majority of Adventist theologians feel that there are no theological reasons why women should not be ordained. Here in Australia we have an increasing number of women who are working in ministry and doing a wonderful work; at this time these ministers are "commissioned" rather than "ordained", but their function is largely analogous.

As you know, the worldwide Church is engaged in a major study on the theology of ordination and the findings of this will be presented at the next General Conference Session in 2015. We are looking forward to the results of that study.

Some of these issues are incredibly challenging for a

truly worldwide Church such as ours. It would be fair to say that in some parts of the world there is significant opposition to the ordination of women, due predominately to cultural factors. This issue has the potential to threaten the unity of the Church.

Interestingly, however, I was sitting next to a Division president from Africa at meetings in Washington and I asked him if they had women elders in his Division. He said they have many of them, and that in most places women elders are no longer an issue. I am sure that wouldn't have been the case a few years ago, just as was the case here in Australia. Perspectives are changing, but there is a need for patience as it is only through patience that we can move forward in unity.

We should not underestimate how remarkable and precious our global Adventist family is—and how fragile it is.

Australians are longing to have meaning in their lives. They desire a society that has stronger sexual standards and clearer moral values.

There are a lot of Australian and American ministries that raise money in Australia. What benefits and challenges does this bring?

First, we should remember that when people join the Adventist Church in Australia, they become net givers to the World Church effort. A lop-

sided growth that is focused only on poor nations creates a church family that is unable to care for itself and unable to promote further growth. It's also critical to remember Australia is a mission field. What's more, it's a tough mission field!

So, from every angle, if we want to have a strong global mission future at home and abroad, we have to support the Adventist Church in Australia.

That said, I am glad that I belong to a Church that is generous to its mission. In terms of benefits, it means that there are a large numbers of ministries and projects around the world that would not function were it not for the generosity of our members. Australian Adventists tend to have a big picture of the Church.

In terms of the challenges, I'm happy for church members to give to the many appeals from around the world for the Australian Adventist dollar, but we have to be careful not to do so at the expense of the Church here at home. Sometimes the appeals for overseas projects or ministries are very exciting and challenging. But all the hoopla sometimes obscures the breadth and depth of our organised work. We work with the kind of oversight necessary to ensure accountability, and the kind of thoughtful planning to ensure money isn't wasted on a flash-in-the-pan here and a grand display there. Our goal is for substantial, sustainable growth that doesn't merely count the baptisms, but also is accountable for retention and nurture.



Does supporting the “mission field” remain a key priority of the Church in Australia?

One of the rewarding aspects of the faithful giving of one’s tithe is the realisation that it’s dispersed not only locally, but also to the mission of the worldwide Church. In that sense we continue to be strong supporters of the worldwide mission field of the Church. But as well as that the Australian Church’s liberality to our local mission fields is very significant.

Also, when I think of the number of people who have been on fly’n’builds across the Pacific, and of the many who’ve raised funds to establish churches, clinics, schools and hospitals and run evangelistic programs, it’s clear to me we are committed to supporting “the mission field”.

What’s your favourite thing to do, when you’re not leading and pastoring?

In that I travel frequently—sleeping in my own bed! Seriously, it’s a very full program. I enjoy my early morning walk at which time I do my devotional reading. I also enjoy

gardening as Melbourne is a wonderful place to grow tulips, daffodils and deciduous trees. On holidays with my family, we enjoy the sun and surf and our tent at Stuarts Point.

What’s the most interesting place you’ve visited, and why?

A couple of years ago I was invited to Saibai Island in the Torres Strait. Standing on the shore of Saibai—Australian soil—you can look a couple of kilometres across the sea to the mainland of Papua New Guinea. The AUC has a vast territory! We were there to baptise our first believers on that island. It reminds me that this is the very spirit of Adventism: to continue to reach new people groups; to preach the Gospel; to establish new churches; and to see the joy on people’s faces as they rise from the waters of baptism to a new life in Christ.

R

Church tackles the Big Questions

Ringwood, Victoria

One of the fastest growing demographics in Australia is those who no longer believe in God, are not sure if they do, or who simply declare themselves to be secular. In response to this, the Australian Union Conference is developing a cutting-edge series that tackles the “big questions”.

“Australia has become a pre-dominately secular country,” said AUC president, Pastor Chester Stanley. “This new reality permeates society in all kinds of ways and no more so than in the media. Generally speaking, Christianity is painted in an anti-intellectual, unbelievable way. There is a growing confidence in the new atheist spokespersons; they are articulate, well-educated and derisive in their assessment of Christianity. Atheists are the new darlings of the media and, consequently, their books are selling well indeed!”

The 13 DVD series *Big Questions*, produced and presented by Dr Grenville Kent, will cover topics such as the powerful evidence for the existence of God and the trustworthiness of Scripture and its testimony about

Christ, in a compelling and entertaining way. Dr Kent takes viewers to different places and events and into the offices of leading scholars to defend Christian faith.

“These are not talking head, lecture-type presentations,” Pastor Stanley said. “Dr Kent takes viewers on a journey to interesting places and events, meeting fascinating people to tell the story.”

The series is being developed very carefully to make sure that it has been pitched correctly and that it’s answering the right questions. “We are all challenged and impacted by this new reality and none more so than our young people,” Pastor Stanley said.

“For those who attend university, their faith is regularly and openly challenged and it is the fundamentals of the Christian faith that are attacked. For this reason we have decided to produce a series like *Big Questions*, to bolster the faith of our members and challenge those in our community.”

Consequently, hundreds of people,



including pastors, young people, university students and church members, have been surveyed as to their perceptions of the pilot program and the series content. The pilot program has also been shown to focus groups in the community to make sure that secular Australians find it interesting and thought-provoking. The results from this evaluation process have been very positive.

Dr Kent’s engaging presentations remind Adventists that they can be intelligent and Adventist. They also provide the basics of faith for the secular Australian. This user-friendly resource has received very positive feedback from other areas of the World Church that are challenged by similar demographics.





Never look back

— as told to Steve Piez by Colleen Roberts, pictured second from right with Pastor Eric Davey

I was born in a bush camp not far from the dusty town of Marree in South Australia. I spent my early years with our old people learning their ways and living off the land. When I reached school age we moved to Marree and lived on an Aboriginal reserve. The town was cut in half by the old Ghan rail line and back then Aboriginal people were not welcome across the track. We found it hard to live in Marree. Mum had seven children and we often went hungry.

I missed living in the bush with extended family and the security of loving and caring relationships. So I struggled at school and kept running away. At 10 years of age I was made a ward of the state. I spent time in jail and lived in a number of foster homes in Adelaide—but I still kept running away. I returned to Marree when I was 14. In my absence, drinking rights had been introduced¹ and alcohol was destroying our community from within. Families were breaking apart and children sometimes went hungry because welfare payments were spent on alcohol instead of food.

I was lost during my teenage years, searching for meaning in a confused world. I had my daughter, Josie, when I was just 15 and went on to have four more children, one of whom I lost. I eventually drifted into the same life as everyone else but never stopped looking for something better.

My whole world collapsed in December 1990 when my mother died. It was the beginning of a tragic chain of events that nearly destroyed me. I began living hard—drinking, smoking dope and full of anger. Some years later my dad died. This was another tough blow, but two months after that I lost my sister, Noreen, as well. She was diabetic and, following the death of her husband, she stopped caring for herself and drowned her grief in alcohol. She continued binge drinking until her vital organs shut down and she died.

I was devastated and didn't know how to cope, but it wasn't over yet. A month later my daughter, Josie, along with my son, Bradley, were driving back to Marree along the Oodnadatta Track when they rolled the vehicle and Josie's little baby girl, my granddaughter, died from massive head injuries. Although everyone else survived it was more than I could take. I spiralled so far down that I was ready to end my life. I knew I needed healing but didn't know where to turn. However, God had something in mind and He sent Pastor Eric Davey to visit me. Pastor Davey visited a couple of times and suggested that I go to Mamarapha

College. The idea stuck in my head. Not once in my life had I thought that I would do Bible studies. But when I eventually came to the college I couldn't get enough. I discovered I was hungry for it. The more I learned, the more I wanted to know.

It was so good I couldn't keep it to myself and convinced Josie to attend as well. Josie and I were baptised in September 2011. Josie's daughters, Leticia and Kianne, were baptised in October and her two boys, Brandon and Shane, have also requested Bible studies. Attending Mamarapha was the best decision I have ever made. It has changed my life. God has filled me with His love and goodness and I will never look back.

When I look around and see my people, I just want to help. Satan has a hold on so many of them and our graveyards are filling up fast. If only they would look to Jesus, they would see a real future and a better life.

1. Drinking rights for Aboriginal people in South Australia were introduced in 1967



One God—One Tribe

One God—One Tribe, a new church plant targeting Indigenous Australians, began in April at the Yugambah Dreaming Community Centre in Logan City, Brisbane. It is the first of its kind in the South Queensland Conference and Pastor David Garrard says the response has been amazing. The average attendance has been around 70, new Bible study groups have started, babies have been dedicated and four people have now requested baptism. The church plans to build a holistic ministry that engages the community.



The birth of a unique Australian ministry

This year, the first city-wide campaign targeting Aboriginal Australians was held in Adelaide and 20 people made a commitment to be baptised. Similar stories can be told from across the rest of this vast country, and it is exciting to be part of an exploding nationwide work.

However, the Adventist Church hasn't always had a national approach to Indigenous ministry. Since 1910, the Church has been involved in a number of regional missions and outreach initiatives in New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. However, during the 1960s and early '70s the bulk of these initiatives collapsed.

In 1975, the newly-appointed secretary of the South Pacific Division, Pastor Ron Taylor, was appalled to discover that there was no formal work among Aboriginal people. He recognised that a nationally coordinated program enshrined in church policy was needed—a program that could not be abandoned by changes in leadership. Division treasurer, Pastor Lance Butler, also championed the cause and the Division committee approved the reorganisation.

The first thing they did was to consult with Aboriginal church members across the country who made it clear that they wanted an organisation focused solely on ministry to Indigenous Australians. "Give us the tools to work with and we will work with you for our own people," they said.

Pastor Bruce Roberts was appointed coordinator of the new work in 1980 and, during the early years, he was assisted by Pastor George Quinlin and a team of advisors, including Wilfred Levers, Ron Archer, Ken Farmer, Avy Curley, Frank Bobongie and John Assan. Pastor Roberts' brief was to minister to Aboriginal Australians. However, as a pilot in Papua New Guinea, he had occasionally flown over the Torres Strait Islands when skirting large storms in the southern Papuan region, and had a passion to share Jesus with these people as well. Once he realised the Islanders came under the same acts of parliament, he convinced leaders to include them. In this way the ministry became officially known as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries (ATSIM).



Since the early years, ATSIM has grown rapidly and is now one of the fastest growing Adventist ministries in Australia. Pastor Eric Davey was appointed in 1986 to assist with the expanding work. He took over the role of director in 1995 and continued in this role until his retirement in 2006.

God has certainly blessed the work of ATSIM over the past 32 years. It has partnered in the establishment of schools, countless programs have been run and resources developed that have changed people's lives. The *Good News* magazine has been incredibly popular and now has a distribution of 12,000 per edition. One non-Adventist Aboriginal lady recently shared, "Wow, I've never seen anything so good as this for our people. It's so good."

However, the crowning achievement has been the establishment of Mamarapha College, on the south-east outskirts of Perth (WA). Mamarapha is supporting the expanding work by training Indigenous pastors, Bible workers and health educators to serve in their churches and communities across the country. All of our current Indigenous leadership team initially trained at Mamarapha.

As I reflect on the ATSIM journey and its achievements, I am reminded of Jesus' statement in Matthew 24:14, where He promises that once His message has been preached in the whole world, the end will come and He will return. I am glad our pioneers took this challenge seriously. It has led us to where we stand today. Let's not lose the vision. Let's build on what has been done and finish the task that God has given us to do.

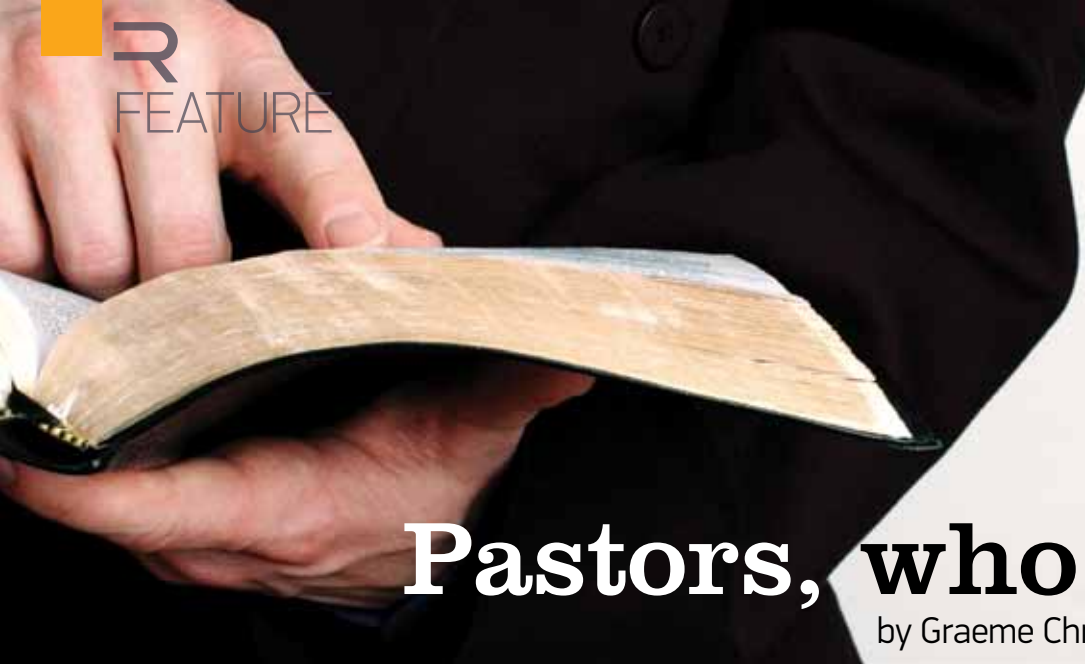
Steve Piez is ATSIM director.



A BBQ and the kingdom of heaven

Bourke Adventist church minister Keith Stockwell and his wife, Danuta, along with Pastor Don Fehlberg, recently organised an afternoon barbecue for the Aboriginal community of Engonnia. The event was a great success. Gavin Chatelier and his family sang and ATSIM posters were given to each family. It has been 10 years since Christian services were held in the community and families would like to see their young people baptised. Weekly Sabbath afternoon meetings have also recently started.





Pastors, who cares?

by Graeme Christian

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH CODE OF FOOTBALL YOU follow—soccer, rugby, gridiron or real football (that would be Aussie Rules, of course), the one thing that is universal is the importance of the coach. In fact, the role of the coach is at least as important as the stars of the game! Imagine, a guy sitting in a coat and tie on the sidelines being valued as much as the men in the middle taking the hits and making the big plays. How can a coach be so valuable?

It's because every team knows, a good coach brings out the best in everyone. And it's not just on the muddy playing fields in winter—it's in every facet of our lives.

And this also applies to the ministry. Being a pastor can be an isolating job that grinds you down. There are always internal crises to manage and frictions, as well as opposition. But the right coaching can make all the difference.

Take, for example, the case of Werribee church. Werribee is a good church with a good pastor who's been there for eight years. If it was a football team, it would be consistently, comfortably in the middle of the pack. But its pastor, Hensley Gungadoo, wasn't satisfied with running in the middle. He wanted more. So that's when he brought in the Ministerial Association coaching team.


So what happened after some excellent half-time coaching? After years of holding its numbers, Werribee exploded. In just seven months, Sabbath School attendance shot up from 25 to 75, and church attendance increased from 70 to 100. That is the difference good coaching can make. Of course, in the case of our Church, the coaching isn't all about crunches and sprints, it's all about the power of the Holy Spirit.

"The most fulfilling thing is seeing our pastors reach their potential," says Pastor Andrew Kingston, president of the South Australian Conference, reflecting on the role of Ministerial Association coaching. He loves to see ministry based on the spiritual gifts God has given pastors.

Greater Sydney Conference Minis-

terial Association secretary, Pastor Garth Bainbridge, says his vision is for every church to be a great, dynamic place for believers to bring their friends. With coaching and hard work, he's seen churches reach a new level. He points to Windsor church as a great example. It's grown phenomenally under the leadership of Pastor James Fletcher. Evangelistic programs have succeeded because members were eager for their friends to be involved in their church, so they brought them along to the meetings.

But coaching isn't all about great success stories. The Ministerial Association also provides the support and compassion necessary when things aren't going to plan—when pastors are facing the same kinds of personal problems we all deal with, when they can't seem to find the right balance between their love of work and love of their families, when they are discouraged, when things aren't working out, and even when they go through crises in faith. The greatest all stars in history struggle from time to time, and we are no different. The point is not to give up, but to give the kind of support that gets pastors through the tough times. Some of the most important moments in the Association's work come in the private, quiet conversations, prayer and understanding.

The Church isn't a football team—it's far, far more important than that. And the stakes we're playing for aren't a fleeting moment of glory, but are eternal. It's the Ministerial Association's privilege to support, encourage and coach our team to be the best we can be. Yes, we're up against enormous odds and immensely powerful forces. But we never forget who our team's Owner is, that He has promised us all the resources of heaven, and that, after the final whistle, He will win this game. 

Graeme Christian is Ministerial Association secretary for the AUC.





By all means save some

by Graeme Christian

"WE'RE AIMING FOR 40,000 YOUTUBE HITS! That's great advertising for the next event." James Toogood, pastor of South Canberra church, thinks big. "This is the city that God's given me. My job is to reach all—every single person in my community—to invite them to make a decision about Jesus."

Pastor Toogood is not alone. Virtually every Adventist I've ever met longs to see not one or two, but millions of people coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. That's not a surprise because spreading the Gospel is in the DNA of all Christians. It was, after all, Jesus who said, "Go . . . , make disciples . . . , baptising them . . . , teaching them . . .". It was also Jesus who promised, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end . . .". (Matthew 28:19,20). Jesus gave us a job, and more than that, He gives us the power to do it.

But think about it for a minute. It's easy to say what our goal is, but how are we going to make an impact in Australia's huge cities?

In response to Christ's great commission, a General Conference initiative to reach the big cities is underway. In Australia, Sydney has been chosen for significant city-wide outreach programs in 2013, and planning is in process for public preaching at 18 different venues. In 2014, this initiative will involve all Conferences and Missions in reaching a major city in their territory with the hope Jesus brings. Pastors and local churches will have major roles in this process, as will all church members. It's a great big world, and Christ didn't just leave the job to clergy—He entrusted it to all of us!

I can hear the cynics questioning if we have any hope of success. Do we? Yes we do, by God's grace. And how do we know that? Because of the success experienced in Adelaide (SA) last year. In 2011, pastors, churches, evangelists and lay people across Adelaide were involved in reaping programs that involved the coordinated public preaching of God's Word.

In 2009, there were 49 new members added to the Church in South Australia. Two years later, when the coordinated Adelaide-wide campaign was held, the number jumped a remarkable 94 per cent. We're only half-way through 2012, and baptisms are very close to reaching the 2011 record level.

Yes, working together as a church family with everyone pitching in together under the grace of Christ, we can do our part to fulfil the great commission today!

It's Time to Reap

Sowing and reaping is a simple concept every farmer understands. No farmer sows without intending to reap a harvest. Many activities of the Church are excellent for planting a seed of interest, and are absolutely vital, but some don't plan for effective reaping. "Farmers must reap every year, and churches are the same," says Pastor Geoff Youlden, who has conducted numerous reaping programs.

Pastor Joe Webb says the biggest evangelistic challenges for South Queensland Conference are both relational and personal. "It's getting our people excited about their relationship with Jesus. If you drink this water, it will be like a spring inside you—bubbling up. Many share a lot of facts rather than sharing an exciting experience. It's not just sharing a set of doctrines."

Relational evangelism involves believers sharing Jesus with friends—that's vital. A church with warm relationships provides a place to belong. And a church with a clear message gives a reason to belong—both are needed, and training is required. Relational activities are often sowing events, like a table tennis club (Devonport, Tas), a men's ministry (Bega, NSW), a men's shed (Northpoint, Vic) or kids' church (Wodonga, Vic). A clear message involves an open Bible, a seminar or preaching. Western Australia has a strong emphasis on church planting, and North New South Wales is empowering its youth to share the Gospel through its Bible Boot Camp.

God is using many methods to lead people into His Church. Effective methods are endless, but do have common elements: building relationships with people; gaining their confidence; and bidding them to follow Jesus. So how will you be involved in the mission Jesus gave the Church? Committed, trained, willing workers are needed, for "the harvest truly is great and the labourers are few". Prayer is needed, for Jesus said to "pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers". Then He said, "Go" (Luke 10:2,3). There's never been a better time to sow, reap and preach our message than now. There's never been a better person to share God's love than you! ➤

Graeme Christian is Ministerial Association secretary for the AUC.





Developing Communities of Faith and Learning

Much is expected of our schools beyond the three-Rs in the 21st century. Schools have become key agents of society in terms of the socialisation, health, wellbeing and productive citizenship of our young people. The challenges for educators in meeting these needs are significant and growing.

In his book *Flourish*, Martin Seligman outlines five components of wellbeing: positive emotions; engagement; relationships; meaning; and accomplishment. Adventist education has always endeavoured to provide a balanced approach to student wellbeing but really shines in terms of adding meaning and purpose to their lives.

Our model, *The Adventist School: A Community of Faith and Learning*, places Christ and the Bible as pivotal to all that occurs in our schools. With this key element of wellbeing clearly in focus, our highly committed school leaders and teachers proactively address Seligman's five components to wellbeing. The model is designed to foster school communities where young people and their families can Belong, Believe and Become.

Our hope and prayer is that Adventist schools will continue playing a significant role in building our community and preparing young people to be great citizens for God's kingdom now and beyond.

– Dr Daryl Murdoch, national director, Adventist Schools Australia

Belonging

Thank you Carmel. I was 14 years old and knew only a few Bible stories and had been to church a few times when I first walked into your halls. My great-grandfather had been a church-attending Adventist and that was my tenuous link to your campus.

Once I adjusted to the waft of cooking Weet-Bix, I began to notice that you were unique. Your teachers had time for the students and demonstrated compassion and kindness. I mingled among students who were far more relaxed and friendly than I had experienced in the past. I was confronted and challenged to consider a world view far greater than I had thought possible. I learned about talents and the importance of using them wisely. The compassion of your staff and teachers was so contagious.

Because of the profound effect you had on my life, it was easy to make the decision to be baptised and follow the teachings of Jesus. My life would forever be influenced by the few short years I spent with you.

Because of you, Carmel, I became a teacher and for a few years taught in schools just like you. However, alas, I left teaching to inherit my parents' business, and although I tried to convince myself that employing staff and making money were important, the life lessons you taught me kept gnawing at my soul.

I have now returned to teaching and it is a privilege to be once more at your campus. My prayer is that I, too, may play a small part in helping students gain a greater world view, an understanding of talents and, more importantly, a knowledge of Jesus.

– Kim Rule, Carmel Adventist College (WA) student 1981-82, and teacher 2012

THE ADVENTIST A Community of Faith

Bible-based, Christ-centred, Service



BELONGING is an essential element to the life of every individual. Adventist schools foster a sense of belonging to:
the family of God by building positive relationships;
a safe and attractive learning environment, where individuals are empowered to reach their potential and a community that provides identity and nurture.



BELIEVING is individual and intellectual choice that impacts Adventist schools' belief in:
Jesus Christ as Redeemer Lord of our lives;
the importance of making positive life choices; and
the value of interdependence and collaboration in harmonious community.

Did you know....

11,510 students commenced 2012 in Adventist schools in Australia.

910 students are currently enrolled in Adventist Early Childhood Centres.

989 full-time and part-time teachers are employed in Adventist schools within Australia.





T SCHOOL:
h and Learning

re-oriented, Kingdom-directed



Becoming

Over the past few years more than 30 students and teachers from Gilson College in Victoria have participated in “my*” mission trips in South-East Asia. The purpose of these trips is to provide students with the opportunity to become immersed in a different culture and give something of themselves to help others. All have returned with a greater appreciation of how much they have in contrast with the people they have met who have so little, yet are so content. Tharushi Kirella participated in the most recent my* trip and says, “The journey with the team was an amazing experience that I enjoyed and will always remember. I will be going back.”

Projects have included supporting two orphanages, rebuilding villages, building wells, constructing water tanks and funding local teachers. Students work in pairs or groups of three to teach English in schools and assist in the orphanages. The students become the classroom teacher and may find themselves teaching any age group from Prep to Year 12.

Michelle Tran recalls how the trip deeply impacted her life. “They became like part of your family and were so welcoming and humble,” she says. “It opened my eyes to not take things for granted and to appreciate everything I have. Their spirituality is so different to ours. Here, church is just another thing you go to but over there they sing with all of their heart. The trip was life changing. You want to help the children because of the connection you have made with them. It’s not like watching an ad on television—it’s a whole new level. It’s not just a picture but real people you are interacting with. I was taken out of my usual lifestyle and faced challenges that made me find the real me.”

– Mark Vodell, principal, Gilson College

Believing

I believe in an amazing God and am so excited that I attend an Adventist school where I can share my beliefs, participate in spiritual events and encourage others to do the same. During my 13 years as a student, I have attended two schools: Nunawading Christian College in Victoria and, currently, Northpine Christian College in Queensland. They have provided an awesome spiritual environment.

In primary school, I always watched the high school girls perform ‘creative expressions’ and longed to be old enough to participate. Now that I am in high school my friend and I have formed a bond and wonderful relationships with a group of girls from Years 7–11 through ‘creative expression’.

We have so much fun and it is great to have friendships with girls in other year levels. Although we laugh and have a lot of fun in practices, it’s an amazingly spiritual time as well. Before each practice and performance, we huddle together and pray. It’s awesome when girls who aren’t Christians offer to pray.

Through these friendships, my friend and I have started a girls’ Bible study group called BABES (Beautiful, Accepted, Blessed and Eternally Significant). We meet once a week to chat and study the Bible together. It’s pretty much the highlight of my week!

There are so many amazing opportunities in our schools to spread our love for God. If an opportunity to share your belief and love for God comes up, I encourage you to grab it with both hands. Better still, why not create an opportunity yourself!

– Monique Calais, Year 12 student, Northpine Christian College

462 personnel are employed as support staff within our schools.

25 Non-Seventh-day Adventist teachers have been baptised since 2008 and have become active believers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

During the Australian Global Financial Crisis the Australian Government gave **\$A72.5 million** to Adventist schools in Australia to build school infrastructure between 2009–2011.

On average over **4000** students per year make public personal commitments to follow Jesus.





The best problem to have!

by Tony Knight

"YOUTH IS DISINTEGRATING. THE YOUNGsters of the land have a disrespect for their elders and a contempt for authority in every form. Vandalism is rife, and crime of all kinds is rampant among our young people. The nation is in peril."

I was doing some research for a series of talks when I came across this statement in an old teen-leader's book from the 1960s. As I read further, I did a real double-take. The statement had actually been written over 4000 years ago by a discouraged Egyptian priest reporting on what he saw as the moral and ethical decline of kids in his era.¹

Youth Culture 101

"Wow, if that was 4000 years ago, how much worse must things be today?" we may wonder. Popular media and news outlets constantly focus on youth "misbehaviour", highlighting a succession of lifestyle problems and at-risk behaviours. Movies and music are filled with violence, profanity and promiscuity. Popular teen role models

often act-out in extreme ways or proclaim self-destructive messages through music and movies.

The range of lifestyle choices available to 21st century kids and the range of "isms" they navigate through is so wide that even the sociologists struggle to keep pace. A decade ago it was post-modernism. Now they argue about trans-modernism, neo-modernism, pseudo-modernism, re-modernism, post-ironic, even tribalism and, my favourite, liquid-modernity. The current list of teen/youth sub-cultures runs into the hundreds, if not thousands—silent, stolen, anarcho-punk, beat, BDSM, BB, Cybergoth, dark, deaf, death, demo, emo, fan, fetish, freak, furry-fan, gay, straight, bi, glam-rock, glam-metal, goth, goth-lolita, greaser, grunge, hacker, hardcore punk, hardline, hip-hop, manga, mod, metal, the list goes on.

But there is another option—a stealth option—that a growing group of youth—unwilling to fit into everyone else's "isms"—are taking. Don't expect Hollywood to celebrate it or a current affairs program to run a breathless feature on



it; you won't hear about it from gangsta rappers or death metal screamers, but everywhere I go, I'm seeing it.

Authentic and On Fire!

Today, many young people are turning their backs on all the 'this-isms' and 'that-isms', and literally begging us to introduce them to Jesus: to help them know more about His Word; teach them how to become disciples; and find not just a place in His Church but a leadership role in His cause.

Surprisingly, research coming out of several recent US studies suggests that many kids today are steering away from the missteps their parents and grandparents made. Data indicates that today's high-schoolers drink, smoke and use drugs far less than they did in the 1980s. Sexual activity rates for teen boys have dropped from around 50 per cent in 1988 to about 28 per cent currently. "There is a lot more media hype around kids who are raising h---," says Dr John Santelli, incoming president of the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine. But, it turns out, "[t]here are a lot of kids who are pretty responsible".² Young people are smarter today, they understand the consequences of the sex and drugs culture because they have seen it played out in wrecked lives all around them, and many are clearly searching for something better than what the world is serving up.

The Best Problem to Have!

Today, in our jaded and tired culture, young people are flocking to give their lives to Christ. For example, over this past year, across Australia, 1200 kids went to Adventist Church-run summer camps. More than 700 were from non-Adventist or unchurched families. Of these kids, 450 signed up for Bible studies and around 400 specifically requested baptism. In a world where fame and money are presented as the ultimate goals, these kids want something much deeper, much more authentic, something that doesn't fade with fads—they want a genuine relationship with Jesus.

And these kids from camp aren't alone. Kids from Adventist schools, Pathfinders, from youth conferences and events, from our churches and our homes, are stepping forward to ask for something a lot more meaningful and lasting than anything this society has to offer.

But this is creating a crisis of its own. To quote the Saviour (Matthew 9:37), "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." Our kids are keen. They are looking to us to give them reasons to believe. They are eager and open-minded, and this open window of opportunity is precious and must not be wasted, because the window will not stay open for long. If we fail to enter in and fill their hungry minds with what their heart craves at this precious moment in time, then there are plenty of others out there just waiting to leap through and exploit their innocence and sincerity for their own purposes.

Make no mistake about it, if we delay, it doesn't take

long for the door to slam shut in our faces.

This is our challenge: to give the most precious thing we have—our time—to nurture our youth who want to know Jesus. I will be blunt here—not enough of us are doing our part. We wring our hands about the direction of our culture, but when it's time for us to turn off our TVs, or put away our iPads and actually dedicate meaningful time to young people who want to know Christ, there aren't enough of us willing to do it.

So every year, I meet kids who came forward and asked for Bible studies, but no-one dedicated the time to study with them. I meet kids who wanted to be baptised, but were never followed up. I meet brilliant, energetic young people who had the courage to step across the line for Christ against all the pressures of society, who were then just left dangling out there.

Of course, many are followed up. But "many" isn't good enough. Every single precious young person who has opened his or her heart to Christ must have their call for mentoring met. This is not just the greatest opportunity our Church has, it's also our greatest responsibility as Christians. Our young people present the most wonderful opportunity for each of us to get involved and pass on the faith and love that's burning in our hearts. For some of us, who've become a little lukewarm ourselves, the gift of sharing will reignite our own first love for Christ. This is a win-win opportunity.

If they are to be saved, we must engage with young people and work just as hard, if not harder, than we would with any other evangelistic contact. The task belongs to all of us—not just the youth leader, pastor or the conference youth director. I pray that we each will reach out, learn a name, have a Bible study or set up a study group, share a smile, connect with a hungry young person, and make it our business to learn how best to break the bread of life before them.

Today, our greatest problem is that we have too many kids who want to know Jesus but not enough people willing to nurture them. It's a great problem, because it's one we can solve—you and I working together. We can be the solution, and in the process, experience the greatest miracle God performs—creating new lives right before our eyes. ➤

¹ First reported in Raol Tunley, *Kids, Crime, and Chaos—A World Report on Juvenile Delinquency* (Harper, 1962), 206 pages.

² Paul Asay, "Youth Culture Update", *Youth Worker Journal* v.28, n.5, 2012, p.6.

Pastor Tony Knight is director of Youth Ministries for the AUC.

If you would like more information on youth or teen Bible studies and discipleship resources, scan the QR code on the right to visit <aucyouth.com>.



Mission Mongolia

He was 15 and on his first mission trip. "What do I do?" he asked. "Go play with Mongolian kids," was the simple reply. He returned in minutes with a new friend. Over 10 days, they hung out, ate and attended evangelistic meetings together. Then the team left town. The next year, they found the young man had kept going to church, been baptised and moved to Ulaanbaatar, the Mongolian capital, to continue his studies. Now, he serves as a missionary in the back blocks of Mongolia.

"Mission Mongolia", an initiative of the Australian Union Conference, was primarily designed to send evangelistic teams to work with Mongolian believers to establish new work and grow existing church companies. People from every Conference in Australia have made the trek to that expansive land of rolling hills, nomadic people, and extreme heat and cold. Mongolia has a population of 2.7 million. "They're lovely people," said Pastor Wolfgang Jenke, leader of five teams from the Northern Australian Conference. "Most have no idea about Jesus—haven't even heard His name. It's nice when you talk to them about Jesus. He appeals to them."

Pastor Raymond Stanley (pictured, 89 at the time) captured the attention of the Mongolian people with a stick of chalk, a blackboard and an open Bible—15 joined the baptismal class.

Pastor Alban Matoriti and a team from Wahroonga

church, NSW, will support Ulaanbaatar churches with a kids' club and evangelistic meetings in coming months. In October, the Western Australian Conference will send its eighth team. They first worked with local missionaries in Arvaikheer, close to the Gobi Desert. They taught English, purchased and installed playground equipment for the town, built greenhouses, refurbished a classroom for deaf children and conducted evangelistic meetings. "First, there were two Mongolian missionaries and four high school girls. After five years, there are 60 baptised members and 40 kids going to that church," said David Shaw, WA Mission Mongolia coordinator.

Literally dozens of Australian teams have been to Mongolia. "Their contribution is appreciated," said Pastor Paul Kotanko, recently returned Mongolian Mission field director. Like to get involved? Contact Graeme Christian, AUC Mission Mongolia coordinator <gchristian@adventist.org.au>.





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MyEDGEMag.com is the official journal for Australian Adventist youth. It is published quarterly by the Youth Ministries Department of the Australian Union Conference.





Reconnecting ministry

by Roger Govender

"I don't know why they don't come to church anymore. I miss their presence here in our church family." This is a sentiment that we commonly hear in churches across Australia, expressing the hurt, loss and regret that comes when people leave our church communities. What can be done to reconnect these people with their church home, and lead them back to their Father?

We know from our research that most people don't leave because of doctrinal issues, so we can't get them back by proving our doctrines are correct. They probably already believe that. The issues are usually personal conflicts and simply finding church irrelevant to modern life. That is particularly true among people growing up in the Church—currently only 28 per cent of whom remain active church attendees in their 20s, while an additional 34 per cent attend church occasionally. And as for the rest? They are completely disconnected (Pointers Vol 2, No 4).

What a tragedy! But it's a tragedy that has answers. At a recent Reconnecting Summit, delegates representing church administrators, pastors and members spent time working on a strategy to reconnect former church members with their church family. Out of this came our Church's new venture: Reconnecting Ministry. It is hoped that all churches will appoint a Reconnecting Ministries coordinator who will engage local churches in an intentional ministry focused on reconnecting with former members of our family and inviting them back home.

The good news is that many former and non-active Adventists still believe in the Advent message. At a recent training program, several former members indicated that when they had left the Church they continued to consider themselves as members and still held onto their beliefs. Not all have closed the door behind them, so this is our chance to reach out, pray for them and welcome them back through the front doors of our Church. It's time for us to say, "Welcome home, you will always be loved, cherished, nurtured and valued here in your church family." ⇨

Pastor Roger Govender is Personal Ministries, Sabbath School and Stewardship director for the AUC.

Reconnecting Ministries



*There's a
place at
the table*

Our Focus:
Former Members
Missing Members

Our Values:
Compassionate
Nurturing
Authentic
Inclusive

Our Strategy:
Churches
experiencing and
demonstrating
loving relationships

*Discover how
your church can be
involved in a ministry to
former & missing members*

For more information contact your
Conference Reconnecting Ministries Director
or the AUC Reconnecting Ministries Director



So, you want to work for God?

by Roger Govender

MANY OF US WANT TO DO SOMETHING remarkable for God, but we aren't exactly sure where to start. Isn't there someone who can share his or her years of experience? Isn't there a place we can hone our expertise? Elisha had the schools of the prophets, the disciples sat at Jesus' feet and Barnabas was schooled by Paul. What about us today?

We may not have Elisha or Paul around, but we do have Jesus and the Holy Spirit, and we have wonderful men and women with years of experience and great expertise willing to share everything they have. And it's our privilege to connect them with you at the Australian Union Conference Lay Training Centre. The centre has been operating since 2010, and we've seen the Adventist mission and vision catch fire in class after class. "This is all about equipping anyone who is ready and willing for active ministry and engaging them in fulfilling service and leadership," explains AUC president, Pastor Chester Stanley.

The course is broken into two, three-week intensives, over two years. The classes meet at the picturesque Jumbunna Lodge in the Yarra Valley, about 70 kilometres from the Melbourne CBD. The Lay Pastoral Assistant and Youth Bible Worker courses are designed to equip members to participate in evangelistic and pastoral work. The responsibility and workload of local church pastors is becoming more complex and demanding, and the support and leadership these graduates provide is greatly needed and appreciated.

A favourite part of the course is the practicum between each learning block that gives students the hands-on training they desire. The local church pastor is responsible for teaching students how to give Bible studies, nurturing the members through pastoral visits, preparing and presenting

sermons, and providing the opportunity to participate in, and sometimes even present, an evangelistic series. The practicum is where the rubber hits the road!

The training centre partners with the Lay Adventist Seminary at Andrews University. The Lay Adventist Seminary provides academic support with two semester graduate credits per certificate which may be earned through the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. The successful completion of all certificate requirements, including an undergraduate degree, qualifies the student to participate in a post-graduate program.

One Woman = 37 Baptisms and Counting

Australia is a very multicultural society. But how can the Adventist Church reach every community? How about through our diverse members? Take Nan Myat for example. Nan, a Burmese refugee who arrived in Australia several years ago, decided she wanted to reach the Karen, Chin and Burmese communities in Melbourne so she attended the AUC Lay Training Centre. In four years she has led just over 37 people through to baptism. "I feel equipped. A big thank you to AUC Training Centre and the teachers who taught me how to preach, prepare and give Bible studies," Nan says. Today, she is studying with 17 young people, 10 senior members from the community and two groups of individuals via Skype who live interstate. She is just at the beginning of her ministry!

Church Alive!

North Perth church in Western Australia had a vision to reach its potential in spreading the good news so it sponsored three members to attend the training centre. Melinda Muscara, Shirley Georgiou and Caroline Laredo were all professionally trained, but felt impressed by the call of





Stewardship

What is stewardship all about? Is it giving a tenth here, and a little extra there? No! Giving back to God is about more than just returning tithe and giving offerings. It is primarily "my all in response to God's all". In short, giving back is about giving everything we are, everything we will be, everything we have and everything we value into God's hands. Peter Cousins, former North New South Wales Conference Stewardship director, puts it this way: "Stewards who live inside out do not walk life's stage because of careful planning, strategy and focused purpose. They show their parentage in the most unusual ways and places; they conform to the powerful and unpredictable power of God's Spirit."

In 2011, the AUC kicked off the Decade of the Disciple. Discipleship 2020 aims to sustain a long-term focus in developing the holistic life of the steward under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We've developed new resources and will be working throughout the decade to provide both the inspiration and the support for every Adventist to enjoy the vibrant life of a genuinely committed disciple. None of us want to be half-hearted Christians. But, if we were honest, many of us aren't experiencing the blessing of giving everything we are, everything we have and everything we hope for into God's mighty hands. That is what being a true steward is all about!

the Holy Spirit to serve their church and community. Melinda, a recently baptised member, is currently working with a church plant in an Aboriginal community and expressed the impact the training has had on her as "an experience I will never forget". Caroline says, "The courses on Adventist Identity and Personal Spirituality have impacted my life in a meaningful and profound way."

Lay Training to Full-Time Ministry

The AUC Training Centre is a 'stepping stone' for some of its students to further their education. For example, Wayne Humphries is graduating with a Diploma in Ministry and Theology from Avondale at the end of this year. "The training centre confirmed within me the conviction that I was moving in the right direction," he says.

A Love for Youth

Sheldon Warner, who graduated from the Youth Bible Worker course in February, is now studying for a Diploma in Recreational Studies. The Youth Bible Worker course is an opportunity for those who are interested in working with young people, both in their local church and community. The course focuses on personal evangelistic work, finding and leading young people to Jesus, and discipling them as church members. ➤

Pastor Roger Govender is Personal Ministries, Sabbath School and Stewardship director for the AUC.

experience GOD

Stewardship is
ALL of me
in response to
ALL of God
Matt 22:37-38



Supporting the Church's
mission through:

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Australian Union Conference
Stewardship Department

For more information contact your pastor
or Conference Stewardship Director





Seeing and hearing hope on the ground

by Jo Darby

IT WAS AT THE TOP OF MY MUST-SEE LIST, AFRICA. ONE of those intriguing, wild and wonderful places I had dreamed about for several years. But it wasn't a safari or the landscape or the handcrafts that drew me. I felt a calling, a deep push from within—God had been speaking messages of justice into my heart. And after reading and studying, and speaking and teaching, there came a point where I was convicted that I needed to see.

It had been a few years since I had engaged with extreme poverty in a tangible way. There are some things that must be seen with the eyes to be truly understood, and of these poverty is perhaps the most important.

I did not go with any delusion that I was going to change or fix anything or save anyone—I'm not a development professional. I wasn't going to live there for any length of time to really learn the culture or the language and establish relationships with the communities or the authorities and local government.

So why did I go? To see. To hear. I felt strongly that it was important for me to gain an insight into what ADRA, our Church's own aid and humanitarian agency, is really doing on the ground.

I have to admit I expected to be more confronted with the worst case scenario, but thanks to ADRA—and the

hard work of some very motivated beneficiaries—what I came across was incredibly positive.

Time after time we were greeted with smiling faces bursting with joy and confidence. The people we met in Malawi were eager and proud to show us the trees they had planted, the shops they were running, the food and water they now had access to and the kitchen utensils they were able to purchase with funds they had earned themselves.

These were people who were rising up, with skills, knowledge and confidence in their own abilities and the strength of their own community.

I remember meeting one group who were part of the Tsogolo Labwino development project in Salima, Malawi. They proudly showed us their goats in a shelter they had built with their own hands, from wood they had gathered themselves. They explained that with the help of ADRA's savings and loans training they were now earning an income from the goats, and were able to save and plan for more development for their community—changes they would initiate and sustain themselves.

I was particularly impressed when I heard them describe their plans to start putting money aside to care for the vulnerable in their community, rather than relying on aid organisations or government support.

Not only had there been a dramatic change to their immediate and individual circumstances, but there were changes happening that would continue to flow on into social reform. Here was a community empowered to function as it was designed to, the way God intended, with the ability to support, uphold and nurture even its weakest members.

So I went. And I saw and I have returned with a better understanding of what good aid actually looks like. I am filled with an incredible sense of pride that this—from the ADRA staff in the field and here at home, to the beneficiaries and to the generous supporters from across Australia—is my Church!

I came home with an even stronger belief that seeing and hearing hope on the ground is vitally important. To better understand the need and the best way to respond there is nothing better than watching ADRA do its amazing work.

And each of us has that chance and privilege. Through the ADRA Connections program teams from local churches and schools are able to engage with an ADRA project that is already up and running—implemented by ADRA professionals who are on the ground for the long haul, who have the right connections and are strategically placed in projects that have been carefully designed after much research and are then carefully monitored over a long time.

If, like me, you feel compelled to see and hear stories of need and hope on the ground, why not consider organising a team?

ADRA Connections is a chance to see the work of ADRA first-hand, and meet and participate with beneficiaries and ADRA field workers so that upon your return you can continue to be voices for the voiceless and ambassadors for those doing the work.

Now that I have seen and heard, I can't help but respond.



Jo Darby is an artist, mother and advocate for social justice from Newcastle, NSW.



Jo Darby meets African children.



ADRA also works in Australian communities.



ADRA volunteers make a difference during natural disasters.

Something to be proud of

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency, or ADRA as most know it, is the official humanitarian agency of the Adventist Church.

It's a seemingly dry and innocuous statement. But it is much more significant than it sounds.

Because within the statement echoes this—ADRA is your church and your faith in action.

In 17 of the world's poorest countries, we, as a collective church community, and you, as an individual within it, are making a difference. Throughout the South Pacific, Asia and Africa you are helping to bring life-changing assistance to those in need.

And right outside your own doors, you and your church can and are making a real impact. ADRA is working to empower local church communities to reach into the lives of the disadvantaged, into the lives of young people at sea with life, into the lives of immigrants and those wishing to rebuild from a life behind bars, and empowering them with hope.

ADRA's national program covers women's projects, youth training and resilience projects, community meals and crisis relief outlets, and social inclusion programs that support refugees, post-release prisoners, indigenous Aus-

tralian and those struggling with illiteracy, addiction and other issues. Across the country local churches are adding relevance, significance and impact to their faith and the lives of others.

This is ADRA and I'm proud of it. But more than that, I'm proud of you.

Proud, because you are making a difference. Proud, because you are taking up the resources and support we can offer to help you make a difference. Proud, because you are volunteering your time in our op shops, projects and as part of our emergency management program. Proud of the commitment displayed by our regular Hope Nation donors. And I'm proud because hundreds of you are praying for us each month as part of our Prayer Warrior team.

ADRA is our church, no, your church in action. But more than that, this is Christ's love made real.

ADRA is the official humanitarian agency of your church. We can be proud of that.

To learn more about ADRA's work and how you can be involved, including the life-changing ADRA Connections program, visit <www.adra.org.au> today.

Jonathan Duffy is CEO of ADRA Australia, based in Wahroonga, NSW.



Rich in resources

saving Gift

Giving Light to

beyond disaster

Like Australia, the Resource Centre of the Australian Union Conference is rich in resources. It has a veritable gold mine of evangelistic resources for church and personal outreach. It has seminars, Bibles, Bible studies, tracts, books, CDs and DVDs for most ages. There is a noticeable increase in church members wanting to be involved in sharing the Gospel, reflected in Resource Centre sales last year, which increased even though Australia's retail sector mostly experienced a decline.

It is interesting that Ellen White, speaking of Noah, says he used all that he had when building the ark to save the people. We, too, have an ark to build that will protect

people from the fire that will consume those who reject God's love. The robe of Christ's righteousness through the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Are we willing to be like Noah and use what God has given us to save people at the end of earth's history?

Almost every day there are opportunities to share with someone information about truths of salvation through the spoken or written word. May God bless you as you prayerfully seek to impart knowledge of the soon-coming Saviour and the eternal kingdom He will establish.

GLOW Tracts

With the recent printing of over one million tracts by the Australian Union Conference, there has been a renewal of interest in using tracts for spreading the truths of the Bible to a society that has all but been brainwashed into believing the errors of either church tradition, Pentecostalism, the New Age movement or secularism.

Bible truths have been buried under a mountain of error that has been reinforced by television, movies and books. Many are completely ignorant regarding who is behind the errors that they have embraced and the potential consequences for their eternal future. All spiritual roads lead to eternal life is a popular myth. The great controversy between good and evil is not understood and, likewise, what it means to be saved.

Tracts have the ability to sow seeds of truth that the Holy Spirit will water and bring to a harvest in the person's life, if they are willing. All we have to do is to be proactive and look for opportunities, corporately and individually, to share them with others.

Recently the GLOW (Giving Light To Our World) ministry in America shared this story: "At the last youth congress, there was a young man who came to our GLOW booth and shared his burden to reach one of his classmates in university. He took some of our tracts, went back and that night visited him. They had a great spiritual conversation. After the talk, he emailed us expressing that he was happy that he could share with his friend more about God and give him the tracts. He asked us to pray that God would do something in him. As our team was looking at his email there was another email arriving—his friend had filled out the request form on our website and signed up for a Bible study. Praise the Lord!"

Stop Press

Within a six-week period of a special offer by the Australian Union Conference, one million GLOW (Giving Light To Our World) tracts were sold.

Both churches and individuals have purchased large numbers of tracts to share with people in their communities. Orders have come in from every state and territory.

Pray that the Holy Spirit can use every tract to reach people with the knowledge of God's love, salvation and soon-coming kingdom.

Contemporary Church Images

The Resource Centre at the Australian Union Conference has recently paid to license the reproduction of the 25 volumes of the Oxygen Church Images series for Australia, reducing the price for Conferences, churches and pastors from \$A1250 per set to \$A125. This huge reduction now makes the image set very affordable. With 25 new images on each CD as well as a feathered edge version of each image, 55 original backgrounds and 350 background templates, this is an amazing resource for the price. They are suitable to be used for sermons, seminars, public evangelism, worship, Sabbath School or other church events. Go to <resources.adventist.org.au> to download an order form.



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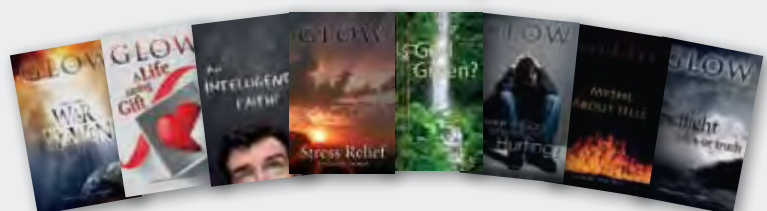
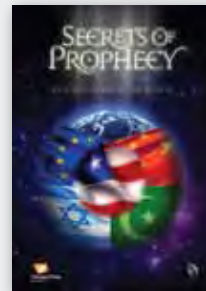
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www.resources.adventist.org.au





Our churches must be safe

by David Robertson

CHURCHES SHOULD BE THE SAFEST PLACES FOR children and young families. Church attendance provides spiritual comfort and inspiration and a critical social network. The healthy lifestyle, prayer life, and the message of love and forgiveness, contribute to a person's overall wellbeing and fulfilment. Unfortunately, however, churches can also attract people who see the environment of love, care and trust as an opportunity for abuse and exploitation.

That is why we all have to be alert.

Dallas O'Connor, Investigation coordinator at Safe Place Services, says addressing risks begins with recognising that they exist. "If we don't realise there is a problem, then there is little motivation to do anything about it," he says. "The data that Safe Place Services has accumulated over the past 10 years shows us clearly who is at risk in the Adventist Church in Australia and New Zealand. Seventy-five per cent of cases investigated by Safe Place Services relate to situations in local congregations, and it is women and children who are most likely to experience the Church as unsafe."

Safe Place Services director, Pastor David Robertson, says, "It appears that there has been a shift in the Church's culture over the past decade. When conducting training amongst churches and local Conference leaders, the culture of denial and embarrassment that used to exist when talking about abuse has been replaced with an openness and willingness to acknowledge and address issues.

"In 2010, a survey of Conference-level administrators and departmental staff, across both Australia and New Zealand, gained 68 responses." Overwhelmingly, respondents in the survey agreed that: (1) perpetrators can deliberately target the Adventist Church for child victims (82 per cent); (2) Adventist congregations are not thought to be safer for children than groups in the community like sports clubs or childcare centres (86 per cent); and (3) being a 'believer' does not make a person automatically 'safer' in terms of their potential to abuse (85 per cent).

"This level of response indicates that the Church's leadership now have their eyes wide open to potential risks," Pastor Robertson says. "We now recognise and have a better understanding of risks. As we see the work being done in local Conferences to establish Safe Place

Committees, implement local church policies and train local church boards and children's ministry leaders, the safety within the Church is increasing. As local churches, Conferences and the Unions across Australia and New Zealand continue to work together, these combined efforts are helping the Church in its mission to offer a foretaste of the peace and safety that will one day characterise God's eternal kingdom."

Hear of It? You MUST Report It!

Situations of children exposed to abuse or neglect should be reported to government child protection services in your region. In an emergency contact the police in Australia on 000 or in New Zealand on 111. To seek advice, or to discuss a situation of concern within the Adventist Church, call Safe Place Services on 1800 220 468 in Australia or 0800 442 458 in New Zealand. The Church's website <www.safeplaceservices.org.au> contains information on counselling and child protection services throughout Australia and New Zealand. 

Pastor David Robertson is Safe Place Services director for AUC.

The five essential safety steps to prevent abuse:

- 1 ALWAYS** have two or more adults present at activities for children and young people;
- 2 Promote an open-door policy;** activities are not run in confined and private one-on-one spaces;
- 3 Screen volunteers** using reference checks and required criminal history checks;
- 4 Require new attendees to wait six months before appointing them to work with children;** and
- 5 Train and support volunteers.** 2

These steps are covered in the Child Safe Policy template for local churches and endorsed for use in Australia and New Zealand by both Unions. The policy, and all the resources that go with it such as forms, brochures and posters, have been translated into Spanish, and more languages are on the way. These can all be downloaded by visiting the Safe Place Services website.³

1. Visit <www.safeplaceservices.org.au> and click on the 'Resources' menu to download a PDF entitled "Safe Place Services Year-end Report 2011".
 2. See The Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual (2010, 18th Edition), Warburton, Vic: Signs, pp. 167 - 168.
 3. See <www.safeplaceservices.org.au>



ANNIVERSARY



Jackson. Mervyn and Colleen (nee Gabasa)

celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends on 14.4.12 at Dalveen, Qld. The next day they had a celebratory lunch with their children, Christopher, Kim-Lorraine and Timothy, their five grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, sister, Anne and Trevor Simms (Brisbane), and many close friends. They are members of Stanthorpe church and are active in lay preaching, nutrition education and other outreach activities.

WEDDINGS



Peisley-Ravlic.

Jerome James Peisley, son of Lawrence and

Sandra Peisley, and Anica Ravlic, daughter of Dobroslav and Iva Ravlic, were married 29.4.12 in Parramatta church, Northmead, NSW.

Rein Muhlberg



Slade-Jones.

Ashley Slade, son of Glynn and Heather Slade

(Adelaide, SA), and Tamara Jones, daughter of Craig and Catherine Jones (Brunkerville, NSW), were married 15.4.12 in Greenway Chapel, Green Point, NSW. Ashley and Tamara teach at Central Coast Adventist High School. Family and friends wish them a life of happiness together

and God's richest blessings. They were married by a very proud dad.

Glynn Slade

OBITUARIES



Bevan, Meryl Isabel, born 6.5.1923 in Brunswick, Vic; died 21.4.12 in Sydney,

NSW. In 1994, Meryl was predeceased by her husband Frank, who, for most of his life, had served as a literature evangelist. Meryl is survived by her daughters, Ruth McNeer, Merryl Foster, Glenna Cluff and Janine Armstrong; her grandchildren, Eleanor, Alicia, Alison, Matthew, Rebecca, Sarah, Lindsay, Timothy and Natalie; and four great-grandchildren. Meryl rests in the certain hope of the resurrection and will be remembered for her love and devotion to her family.

Rein Muhlberg

Gardner, Elsie Muriel (nee Webb), born 10.6.1915 in Bowral, NSW; died 29.4.12 in The Abbey, Mittagong. She married Carlyle (Lyle) Gardner, who predeceased her on 9.8.1995. She is survived by her sister, Thelma; step-brother, Peter; children, Helen and Harold Halliday, Ross and Jan Gardner, Neville and Heather Gardner; eight grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren. Elsie awaits the call of the Lifegiver on the resurrection morning.

Athol Tolhurst, Iorangi Eiao

Hick, Margaret Florence (nee Godfrey), born 2.10.1910 in

Auckland, NZ; died 21.4.12 in Avondale Retirement Village, NSW. In 1931, she married Frank Hick, who predeceased her in February 1977. She was also predeceased by their only son, Colin, and her brother, Bill Godfrey. She is survived by her daughters, Elaine Cooper (Toronto) and Maralyn Young (Oakleigh, Qld); brother, Vinnie Godfrey (Seven Mile Plain); eight grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and six great-great grandchildren, all

of whom will miss her sponge cakes and Christmas puddings. Wherever she lived, Margaret made good friends and helped community service organisations. She was a loving and loveable Christian who is missed by all.

Owen D'Costa



Karmaniolos, Michael, born 5.3.1967 in Newcastle, NSW; died 23.2.12 in Newcastle.

On 4.5.08, he married Nicole

POSITIONS VACANT

■ **Accountant-Seven-day Adventist Aged Care (NSW) Ltd (Avondale, Cooranbong, NSW).** Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care (NSW) Ltd is seeking applications for the position of accountant to be based at our Avondale office. The accountant will be part of a small, dedicated team that provides solid financial support to the business. For more information or a job description, please contact Roy Soaika on (02) 4977 0000 or <_soaika@aacnsw.com.au>. To apply, please forward all written applications, including your CV, to: Business Manager, Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care (NSW) Ltd, PO Box 105, Cooranbong, NSW, 2265. Or email <_soaika@aacnsw.com.au>. Applications close **July 6, 2012.**

■ **Assistant Workplace Health and Safety and Return to Work coordinator-Greater Sydney Conference (Epping, NSW).** GSC has a part-time (2.5 days per week) maternity leave replacement position for six months for an assistant WHS and RTW coordinator. The position is available from July 1, 2012. Experience in the field of WHS is desirable but not essential. For more information, a job description or to apply (include CV), please contact Adrian Raethel on 02 9868 6522 or <adrianraethel@adventist.org.au>. Applications are open to Australian residents and close **July 16, 2012.**

■ **Pacific Adventist University in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, has the following positions vacant:**

■ **Dean, School of Education.** Commencing October/November 2012, this exciting senior position requires a leader capable of inspiring staff and students alike, with a strong academic background and significant teaching and leadership experience.

■ **Midwifery lecturer, School of Health Science.** Commencing in August 2012, this role will be to prepare and deliver lectures using contemporary education techniques and current research evidence in line with the National Framework for Midwifery Education and PAU curriculum, as well as perform administrative duties and be involved in various aspects of higher education.

■ **Associate lecturer/lecturer/senior lecturer, School of Business.** The School of Business has two positions available commencing in August 2012, and one position commencing in January 2013, for associate lecturers, lecturers or senior lecturers in one or more of the following disciplines-accounting, computing or management.

For more information please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website <www.adventistemployment.org.au>. All applications, including your CV, three work-related referees, copy of educational qualifications and the contact details of your local church pastor, must be forwarded to: HR Director, Pacific Adventist University, Private Mail Bag, Boroko NCD 111, Papua New Guinea. Phone: (675) 328 0200; email <humanresources@pau.ac.pg>; fax: (675) 328 1257. Applications close **July 8, 2012.**

For more vacant positions, go to
<adventistemployment.org.au>



Signs Ministry presents another in its Goodwill Flyer series. "The Marriage Act," extracted from Signs magazine, presents the biblical-religious origin of marriage as a God-given institution. To view content (and order online): www.signsofthetimes.org.au/marriageact

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one project

Jesus. All.

July 28-29

Kellyville Church, Sydney

www.the1project.org

Jade Branster and they had enjoyed just three years and 10 months of happy marriage together when Michael suffered a fatal heart attack. His beloved wife, and their yet-to-be-born baby boy (due in August), his family and many friends miss him terribly. Not now, but in the coming years, it maybe in the better land, we'll learn the meaning of our tears, and then up there, we'll understand. So now, Michael rests in God's loving hands.

Lionel Smith

Read, Doreen Gladys (nee Phillips), born 23.12.1929 in Bristol, England; died 10.4.12 in Cooranbong, NSW. She married her first husband, Matthew Smith, on 18.10.1949, and then she married Robert Read on 9.5.1976. She was predeceased by Matthew Smith Junior. Doreen is survived by her daughter, Christine Ritcher; and step-children, Susan Allen, Chris Read, Claire Nicholson, Catherine Bain and their children. Doreen's life themes included courage, loyalty, resourcefulness and faithfulness. She lived through some difficult times and, as indicated by her well-worn Bible, her faith was solid. She loved her family and is now at rest.

Kenn Duke

Thorpe, Allen Henry, born 3.5.1930 in Sydney, NSW; died 31.3.12 in Adventist Nursing Home, Victoria Point, Qld. He is survived by his brother, Oliver Thorpe. Allen, in his younger days, had been very involved at Albion church as a deacon, and was well-loved by many people there. He moved to ARV in 1989, sharing a unit with his brother, Oliver, before relocating to the hostel and then the nursing home.

Alvin Coltheart



Tudor, Ralph Llewellyn (Llew), born 30.7.1936 in Kyneton, Vic; died 22.4.12 in Sydney

Adventist Hospital, NSW. Llew was the only child of Pastor Ralph and Thelma Tudor. After many moves with his pastoral parents, Llew settled in Wahroonga where he met and married Nina Rodionoff in Wahroonga church on 30.4.1959. Llew is survived by his wife; his children and their spouses, Jenny and Nick Dixon, and Barry and Karina; and grandchildren, Erica, Lee, Guy, Garth and Alec. Though Llew was diagnosed with multiple myeloma 12 years ago, his great joy was to see Erica marry Mark and, just one month before his death, to participate in Lee's marriage to Galina. Llew was a true Christian gentleman who lived life to the full and died with a firm assurance of being safe in the arms of Jesus.

Garth Bainbridge

Whyatt, Alfred (Alf) Amos, born 29.9.1918 in Birdwood, SA; died 3.2.12 in Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide. On 2.2.1944, he married Marjorie Fennell, who predeceased him on 9.12.02. He is survived by his children and their partners, Barbara and Aubrey Fennell, Jennifer and Graham Taylor, Kevin and Raewyn Whyatt, Christine and Don Wellington, Beverly Barnett, Gary and Robyn Whyatt; 15 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. Alf had a very keen mind, enjoyed studying the Bible and loved a good theological discussion. He faithfully served the Lord all his life and filled many roles within the Church. He now sleeps in Jesus.

Allan Croft

Wrench, Kenneth Robert (Bob), born 7.4.1953 in Sydney, NSW; died 17.4.12 in Wollongong Hospital, after many years of illness. He is survived by his wife, Margaret; their two sons, Ken, Simon and Tammy; and grandchildren, Hayden and Samuel. Because of ill health, Bob had not been able to attend church for many years. It curtailed his lifestyle but it did bring him very close to Jesus.

Even when he knew his life was slipping away, his faith remained strong and he rested peacefully in the assurance that God was in control. The last thing he did before his life support was switched off was to pray for his wife and sons that God would bless and keep them.

John Bews

ADVERTISEMENTS

Tasmanian constituency notice meeting. Notice is given that the Tasmanian Conference will hold its regular constituency meeting on Sunday, August 19, 2012, at the Launceston Adventist Church Hall commencing at 9.30am with registration of delegates. The business of the meeting will be those items as outlined in the Constitution, and to consider amendments to the Constitution of the Seventh-day Adventist Church—Tasmanian Conference.

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Medical practitioners needed for the Logan Adventist Health Centre. Full-time and part-time practitioners needed. Contact 0428 486 455.

Law firm in Sydney. JYP Legal is a law firm run by Adventist church member Jane Park. Areas of law include property, wills and estates and family law. Please call (02) 9267 7171 or email <jane@successfulways.com.au>.

Finally Availability is better than ability for God.

Next Record **July 7**

THE VOICE
The Australian Union Conference is looking for someone who would volunteer their time to record audio versions of the GLOW tracts that they have just printed. These would then be put online and people would be able to listen to them as well as download. If you would like to offer your services for this important ministry please send an audio file of one of the tracts to <resources@adventist.org.au> for consideration by the Tract Committee. Text files of the tracts can be found on <www.glowonline.org.au>

**AUC Reformation Lands Tour
May, June 2013**
5 weeks visiting the sites of the Protestant Reformation in Italy, France, Switzerland, Germany, Czech Republic, England and Scotland.
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VOLUNTEERS

Builders, plumbers and general handymen/women needed for a fly'n'build project in the Solomon Islands, September 2-16, 2012. Fourteen days in Katurasele Village in the Choiseul Province while building a new church for the village. Currently needing trade-skilled people in building and plumbing. For further details or expressions of interest, contact AVS on (02) 9847 3278—Anna Downing.



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