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# Record

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## Sanitarium celebrates service

Sydney, New South Wales and Auckland, New Zealand

Inspirational stories of commitment, camaraderie and courage were celebrated during this year's Spirit of Sanitarium Awards program.

More than 250 Sanitarium Health & Wellbeing employees across Australia and New Zealand were nominated for an award.

Through the program, Sanitarium employees are nominated by their peers for demonstrating the company's philosophies and values.

On September 10, an awards luncheon was held in Sydney's newly renovated Museum of Contemporary Art, where 10 employees from Sanitarium Australia were announced as "Living our Values" recipients for their business units.

Sharon Jones, a team leader at the

Cooranbong factory in NSW, received the national Laura Lee Award. According to her colleagues, "Sharon inspires others to do their best. She is a caring, thoughtful and considerate person who always gives to the community. Sharon's work ethic is consistent and her kind nature makes it easy for anyone to approach her. Her team and the community benefit from her caring nature."

A representative from Camp Breakaway—one of the charities supported by Ms Jones as a volunteer—was presented with a cheque that will be used to enhance the lives of people with disabilities.

Team members who worked on a recent *Medical Journal of Australia* project on the adequacy of vegetarian eating were also recognised at the luncheon. They received the National Team Project Award.

Across the Tasman, over 150 Sanitarium New Zealand staff came together to celebrate at an awards luncheon on September 14.

Auckland factory employee Chris Flory received the national Sam Bearpark Award. The National Team Project Award for New Zealand was presented to a team who had organised

a fundraiser for an employee's son who has a serious heart condition. A highlight of the luncheon was a talk by guest speaker Mahe Drysdale, a gold medalist rower at the 2012 Olympics, who shared inspirational words and congratulated the awardees.

Spirit of Sanitarium Award recipients receive a personal cheque and equivalent donation to the charity of their choice. They also participate in a week-long international community project—this year the destination is an ADRA project in Vanuatu.

The 2012 award recipients for Australia are: Chuck Chandler, Mac Tutaki, Max Cameron, John Roberts, Sharon Jones, Barry Geelan, Roger Green, Anja Sussmann, Angela Saunders and Matthew McKenzie.—*Sharyn Brady*



Chris Flory, Mahe Drysdale and Chris Stanbridge, NZ Office Award recipient.



The 2012 award recipients for Australia with Sanitarium Australia GM Todd Saunders (right).

## Television personality to host hymn fest

Newcastle, New South Wales

ABC radio and television personality Geraldine Doogue will compere a special concert featuring hymns and songs of praise on November 3.

Ms Doogue has had a distinguished career in news and current affairs. She presents the ABC Radio program *Saturday Extra* and ABC Television show *Compass*. Prior to this, she presented ABC Radio National's *Life Matters* program.

The Hymns & Songs of Praise concert will feature congregational singing, the Institute of Worship's (IOW) 50-piece orchestra, Avondale Singers, Avondale Contemporary Choir, The Promise, Albert Mataafa, child instrumentalists and piano solos with orchestra backing.

"The Hymns & Songs of Praise program

includes grand hymns and contemporary songs, so there's something for everybody," said Valmai Hill, assistant to the IOW director.

"This is a great opportunity to invite your neighbours and friends to a wonderful event."

The concert, a joint venture of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Hunter and the Institute of Worship, will be held at 4 pm at the Panthers Club in Newcastle, NSW.

It is open to anyone from the community.

Tickets are available from the Adventist Book Centre website <[www.nnswabc.com](http://www.nnswabc.com)> or by calling 1800 231 061.—*Adele Nash/Lyell Heise*



Geraldine Doogue.



## Spare the rod; cherish the child

James Standish

On a bright blue day, I took my girls along to experience the joys of Sydney's Luna Park. It was every bit as fabulous as I remembered it from my childhood. We whooshed, we swooshed, we stumbled and bumbled through the thrills of the park. This wasn't merely an outing, it was a time machine transporting me back to the simple joys long lost in the clutter of adulthood.

And then, just like that carefree dream never occurred, something terrible happened. As I crouched, putting the shoes back on my youngest (Luna Park's "Joy Wheel" requires shoes off, thank you very much . . .), I noticed the woman next to me hit a little girl on the arm. Not a small hit. A big hit. I was a bit taken aback. But I went on with the task at hand as it really wasn't any of my business. And then she hit the little girl in the stomach. Not a tap, but a hit. The hair stood up on the back of my neck as I weighed up whether to say something or not. And just as I sat there paralysed by indecision, she hit her little girl on the face.

Now there are some things that are right and some things that are wrong, and some things we just can't tell. But if there is one thing I am certain of, it is that hitting a child in the face isn't just wrong, it is terribly wrong. And sitting by silently as someone else does it, isn't much better.

And thus began a frank exchange of views among the bedlam of the amusement park. Did I accomplish anything by confronting the woman? It's hard to know. But I am glad I said something. I'm glad because children can't protect themselves against abusive adults.

When I ran into the principal at my girls' school the next day, I asked her about her views on physical punishment. I recalled to her that when I attended school, children were being strapped, whacked and rapped on a regular basis up and down the school. And I certainly got my share. It seemed quite appropriate and necessary to virtually every-one back then.

It turns out my daughters attend the exact same school and the principal confirmed she completely eliminated corporal punishment years ago. So, you might well imagine, the school must be in utter chaos. Mucking up in line,

talking out of turn, colouring outside the lines, and that sort of thing, must be rife. But, and here's the rub, they aren't. In fact, it's the most well ordered, calm learning environment anyone could wish for. Indeed, it seems a better-ordered and much happier environment than I remember as a child, when I frequently went to school with a knot in my stomach.

Am I saying that all that hitting years ago was completely unnecessary? It certainly appears that way, doesn't it? And it may be worse than unnecessary. There is evidence piling up to support the view that, all other things being equal, the more physical punishment a child receives, the poorer they do in life in a wide variety of areas.

But what about the texts in Proverbs about using the rod to correct a child? These can only be understood within the broad view of child raising given in the Bible; a view that is most tender, caring and nurturing. Not permissive or weak willed, but deeply loving and most gentle. Think of Christ's words about the catastrophic results of offending a child,<sup>1</sup> and Paul's call not to provoke children.<sup>2</sup> Christ even intimates that when it comes to spirituality, we may have more to learn from children than they have from us.<sup>3</sup> Speaking of Christ's prayer that God's will be done on earth as in heaven, Ellen White says:

"Do you break the force of this petition by shaking [children], by striking them in anger, by speaking harsh words and by manifesting passion? Do not do this, but be merciful, kind and tender-hearted. Let the will of the Lord be done in your family, not the will of the enemy."<sup>4</sup>

Ellen White indicates that, in rare circumstances, corporal punishment may be appropriate. But she makes clear it must be a last resort, it must be "gentle discipline" and must be done without anger. That would, in my experience, eliminate much of the physical punishment meted out at home and school.

The problems society faces today aren't primarily due to too little physical punishment; they are due to too little genuine love. If we want to raise well-balanced, productive, loving children, we'd best lay off the hitting and lay on the hugging, stop the shouting and up the chatting, end

# Record

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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

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



## Dress shirts and promises

Linden Chuang

Seven-and-a-half months ago I got a job at RECORD. It still hasn't fully hit me. I'm working here in Sydney, getting up at 6:30 am on a regular basis, and I'm—shock horror—wearing dress shirts on weekdays. While none of that seems incredibly unbelievable, if you knew where I was eight months ago you'd recognise a stark change.

I was home in Melbourne at the start of this year, slugging away part-time in a factory. The remainder of my week was a delicate balance of looking for full-time work (unsuccessfully), helping my mum out around the house (somewhat successfully) and watching re-runs of *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air* (oh so very successfully).

Such an existence brought about some inevitable questions: Why can't I get a job? What should I do with my life? And my favourite: Why won't You show me what You want me to do? The "You" here of course was God, who undeservedly but so often bears the brunt of my frustrations. The last question was the one I pitched to Him most often. I had a yearning to play my part in God's will, but I had no inkling what I should do. I wanted to know. I needed to know!

While I struggled with uncertainty one concept kept invading my mind: trust. Keen to learn more about trust I dived into the Bible, and a few verses hit home. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6) and "Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass" (Psalm 37:5).

"Will" and "shall" are strong words. In fact, they are foundational words of promises and shouldn't be thrown around lightly. But here God promises to shape our lives, and in a way that is straight and true. Bold promises indeed, but we can trust *the Word* is most assuredly true to His word.

I don't think the discovery of this concept of trust is the reason why God has blessed me with this job at RECORD. I still don't know why I'm here or how long I'll be here. In fact, there are more "I don't know's" in my life now than there were before. But by God's grace I'm becoming more content with the unknown. God's Spirit wind is moving, and I'm simply being carried to and fro according to His will. This I do know.

*Linden Chuang is editorial assistant at RECORD.*

the violence and begin the gentleness.

I remain amazed at my daughters' school. The principal knows every child's name, the teachers' love and care is everywhere to be seen, and every single student is cherished and they know it. By and large, the behaviour of the students is impeccable. Coincidence? Or could it be that love really is the answer?

1. Matthew 18:6 (KJV).

2. Ephesians 6:4.

3. Mark 10:14-16.

4. Ellen G White, *Review & Herald*, 16 July, 1895.

*James Standish is RECORD editor for the South Pacific Division.*

## Why witness?

Some years ago my wife and I were asked by a conference to conduct evangelistic programs in a provincial town. I well remember the senior elder approaching me soon after we arrived.

"Barry," he said, "We are going to be in trouble if we try to run another evangelistic campaign in this town just now."

"What do you mean Ed \*?" I replied. "The conference is particularly keen that we go ahead this year. They have invested a considerable amount of money in the campaign."

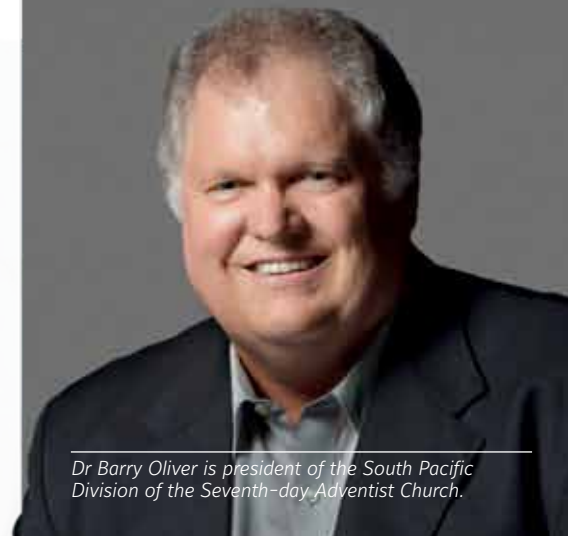
He was not satisfied.

"I know all that," he said, "but what we need is time to step back and consider who we are and why we exist as a church before we attempt to reach out to the community. It seems to me we have become so preoccupied with witnessing and sharing our faith that I am not so sure we any longer know what we have that we are supposed to be sharing."

He was a very loyal Seventh-day Adventist; a leader in the local church. We did conduct the evangelistic campaign and he did support it, but I have never been able to forget his sincere concern.

My good friend very much believed that it is absolutely essential that we share our faith. Yet he was equally concerned that our sharing must be a witness to our authenticity as the people of God—the Church. There is no point in encouraging the members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to share their faith and invite others to join the Church if we do not know what we are to share and why. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1, NKJV).

\* Not his real name.



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



### Ban the bottle

Health groups can't understand why parents in Victoria need to use alcohol at their kids' public school events. Geoff Munro, from the Australian Drug Foundation, says schools are doing a great job in drug education, but they need to show kids that it's possible to have fun without alcohol. —*Australian Drug Foundation*



### Increasing pressure

New research shows a global upsurge of restrictions and community hostility aimed at religious groups. Between 2007 and 2010, Christians were the subject of restrictions more often and in more countries of the world, closely followed by Muslims. The number of countries where there are heavy restrictions increased from 10 to 18. —*Pew Research Centre*



### Centenary

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Australian Inland Mission, pioneered by Presbyterian minister John Flynn. In 1912 Reverend Flynn began establishing a network of bush hospitals across the Outback. He helped invent the pedal radio that connected remote homesteads and in 1927 launched the iconic Royal Flying Doctor Service. —*ABC*



### Reconciliation

The Breakthrough Church in Palmerston North, New Zealand, has had a chance to explore what true forgiveness means, after the pastor's personal assistant stole \$12,000-worth of items from the church to finance her drug habit. After starting rehab, Samantha MacDonald publicly apologised to the congregation and has begun court ordered reparations. —*stuff.co.nz*



### Steadfast

The embattled Shouwang Church has been meeting outdoors in Beijing every week since April last year, denied a worship venue by local authorities. Shouwang has refused to join the official religious peak body, which restricts evangelism, Sunday School, baptising minors and other activities. Each week some worshippers are arrested, and later released. —*Baptist Press*



### Holy quiz

Producers say *The American Bible Challenge* is the first religiously themed game show to make it to secular TV in the US. Airing on the Game Show Network, the quiz program is aimed at an evangelical audience. But producers hope others will watch (and learn) as well. —*Religion News Service*

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## Church responds to sex abuse inquiry

*Nunawading, Victoria*

The Adventist Church in Victoria has submitted a 65-page document to a state government Inquiry—one of hundreds of submissions from various groups and individuals that detail how churches and other community organisations deal with child sex abuse.

The report, prepared by the Conference's Safe Place Services department, outlines how the Church investigates complaints, promotes child safety and has established training and policies aimed at preventing abuse.

Included in the submission are Australia-wide statistics that reveal similar levels of abuse within the Adventist Church in comparison to the general community. Specifically, 103 complaints were dealt with by the Australia/New Zealand office of Safe Place Services between 2000 and 2011; 55 of these complaints were sustained.

"Evidence is an issue in making a 'sustained' finding, so it's not like the rest of these cases are false," said Dallas O'Connor, investigation coordinator for Safe Place Services. "We've only had two false findings—ever."

According to the submission, hard data like this has done much to "fracture the denial" about the prevalence of child sexual abuse within Adventist communities.

The establishment of Adventist Support in 2000 (now Safe Place Services) was a key to the Church's response. "Safe Place Services has done so much to move ahead in these areas and thank God for them," said Arlagene Groves, a counsellor who has worked with a number of adult survivors of childhood abuse by Adventist church leaders. She's even had contact with people in their 60s and 70s who have revealed their experience of abuse for the first time. "Their greatest fear is that they won't be believed."

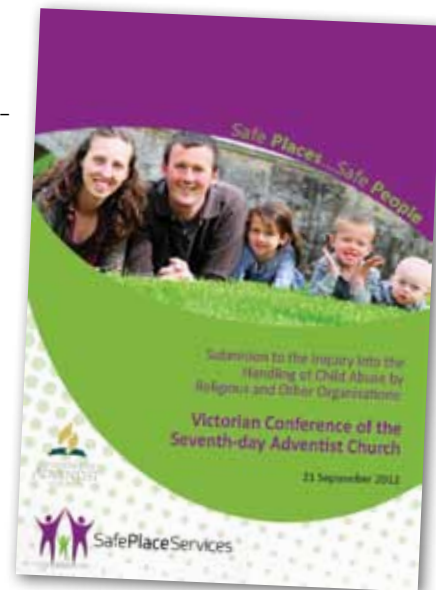
Ms Groves said abuse perpetrated by church leaders had a particularly destructive impact: "The spiritual devastation that accompanies this is incredible. Not only are these people very distrusting of other people in general, they are also very distrusting of God and also the Church.

"Many find it hard to get their head around why God would let this terrible thing happen to them while in the majority, the perpetrator gets away with it. Not only is it physical and sexual abuse, it is spiritual abuse in its highest form."

"Attention to care and protection of children has progressed significantly in the last few years, particularly over the last 12," said the director of Safe Places in Victoria, Susan Mercer, who compiled the report. "We welcome the Inquiry. We believe we have a spiritual imperative to provide for the safety of children, youth and vulnerable persons within our church communities."

The Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Organisations is considering submissions and is due to hand down its report in April 2013.

*Safe Place Services can be contacted online <safeplaceservices.org.au> or by phone in Australia: 1800 220 468 or New Zealand: 0800 442 458.—Kent Kington*



## Books donated to needy school

*Morobe, Papua New Guinea*

The South Pacific Division's (SPD) Education department has donated books, DVDs and CDs to Wasu Secondary School in Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea.

Associate Education director of the Papua New Guinea Mission (PNGUM), Jim Yawane said, "It is a form of reaching out and helping government and private schools that are in need, apart from our church agencies."

Wasu Secondary School principal Daniel Saya thanked the Adventist Church in PNG and the SPD for working together to supply the much-needed books for the school.

"The Education department elevated us from high school to secondary status in 2011 and we needed library books," he said. "The Church's Education department has come on time with the materials and we sincerely thank the Church for its support."

The appeal for the materials was made by Atuhuben Rubie, an Adventist teacher at Wasu school. She wrote a letter requesting books to the Education department of the SPD.

The resources were shipped to the PNGUM office in Lae and delivered to the school administration.—Andrew Opis



Wahroonga Seventh-day Adventist Church  
 Invites YOU to homecoming  
 3rd November 2012



*"Onward & Upward"*



*Pr. Chester Stanley, A.M.C. President  
 11am Divine Service*



*Reggie & Ladye Love Smith  
 In Concert 7pm*

## Adventists attend prayer breakfast

Canberra, Australian Capital Territory

Representatives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church attended the annual National Prayer Breakfast in the Great Hall of Parliament House, Canberra, on September 17.

Pastor Ken Vogel, general secretary of the Australian Union Conference, Dr Daryl Murdoch, director of Adventist Schools Australia, Adventist artist Jo Darby and RECORD editor James Standish were among the Adventists in attendance. Adventist primary school student Shea Standish accompanied her father.



Kevin Rudd with Pastor Ken Vogel.

The theme for the weekend-long Prayer Breakfast was "Leadership in the modern world". Speakers included former Australian prime minister Kevin Rudd, who shared how faith influences leadership in today's world, and deputy leader of the Opposition, Julie Bishop.

"It was encouraging to see our political leaders put aside their differences and give recognition to God as the source of wisdom and power needed to guide the affairs of our nation," Dr Murdoch said.

Pastor Vogel agreed, noting: "It is an honour to be present in praying for and with these people who have such influence over [Australia]."

In a gathering that included high profile politicians, senior church leaders and prominent business people, one might assume an 8-year-old girl would go unnoticed. Shea suggested she wear her school uniform to the event to "represent my school".

And that she did. When Mr Rudd met Shea, he looked at her cardigan and read "Adventist school". He then commented on his appreciation of Adventist education. Later in a conversation with Ken Vogel, he specifically mentioned an Adventist school he is familiar with in his district. Shea also met NSW Senator Ursula Stephens, who showed an interest in the school.

Western Australian Senator Dean Smith sat at Pastor Vogel's table. One week after the event in Canberra, Pastor Vogel followed the contact up, spending an hour with Mr Smith in his office in Perth.

"We discussed many matters together, including personal faith, the Protestant Reformation, the origins and purpose of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, trends and challenges facing Australia, and issues relevant to the future of religious freedom in our country," Pastor Vogel said.

"Before parting I was able to pray with Senator Smith."—RECORD staff

**REVIVED BY HIS WORD** October 20—November 3  
 READING THROUGH THE BIBLE TOGETHER  
 ONE CHAPTER A DAY

21 - Josh. 1	25 - Josh. 5	29 - Josh. 9	November
22 - Josh. 2	26 - Josh. 6	30 - Josh. 10	1 - Josh. 12
23 - Josh. 3	27 - Josh. 7	31 - Josh. 11	2 - Josh. 13
24 - Josh. 4	28 - Josh. 8		3 - Josh. 14



# Adventists surge in Australia

by James Standish

"While many denominations are in decline, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia grew in numbers between 2006 and 2011 by 14 per cent," according to analysis by the Christian Research Association of the 2011 Australian Census. "This was a faster rate of growth than any other Christian group apart from the Oriental Orthodox Christians (mainly Copts) who grew by 27 per cent, largely due to immigration.<sup>1</sup>"

The Adventist Church now stands at more than 63,000 members and grew 69 per cent faster than the general Australian population during the period.<sup>2</sup> The relatively rapid growth exceeds by over five times the 2.6 per cent growth the Adventist Church experienced between 2001 and 2006.

"Something good is happening in our Church in Australia," Australian Union Conference president, Pastor Chester Stanley, said. "I see it every day as I travel this remarkable nation. There is an energy, a real hunger and a humility. Sometimes we wonder if the Lord is able to use us in our weakness. But our weakness is His strength. I see Adventists all over this nation giving their weakness to the Lord and seeing Him do great things through them."

Confounding expectations, the Adventist Church is not "greying". Currently there are more than twice as many Adventists aged 24 or younger, than there are aged 65 years or older. This tilt towards the young has not changed over the past five years.

The Australian Census provides a good opportunity to check the Church's own membership numbers against an objective government source. Interestingly, there are 12.2 per cent more Australian Adventists reported in the Australian Census than there are reported in the Adventist Yearbook online.

While immigration has contributed significantly to the growth of the Adventist Church, it is far from the only contributor. The Church grew during 2006–2011, excluding immigration, at nearly twice the rate of total growth for 2001–2006.

In its analysis of the census data, the Christian Research Association noted: "A significant factor in growth and decline in the various denominations may be the specific ways in which evangelism is conducted and the particular groups of people to whom these denominations appeal. Both the Baptists and Seventh-day Adventists appeal strongly to professionals in person-oriented occupations such as health

and education . . . It may also be that the growth of Baptists and Seventh-day Adventists reflects their greater emphasis on evangelism and that they are using more effective means of evangelism.<sup>3</sup>"

The Northern Territory saw the fastest Adventist growth over the five year period (37.6 per cent), followed by Western Australia (27.1 per cent), ACT (24.5 per cent), Queensland (17.4 per cent), Victoria (15.6 per cent), South Australia (11.5 per cent), NSW (7.9 per cent) and Tasmania (3.4 per cent). Darwin (62.2 per cent) and Perth (24.1 per cent) experienced the fastest major city growth; Brisbane (17.7 per cent), Adelaide (15 per cent), Melbourne (14.4 per cent) and Sydney (10.6 per cent) all grew faster than the general Australian population.

A number of areas across Australia have seen a dramatic turnaround in membership growth between 2006 and 2011. Both Sydney and Adelaide, for example, saw a net loss of members between 2001 and 2006, but strong growth between 2006 and 2011. Similarly, the ACT saw minimal growth turn into dramatic growth between the two census periods. While growth in Tasmania was the lowest, it reversed the decline recorded in the previous census period.

The Christian Research Association concludes: "The census provides a picture of Seventh-day Adventists around Australia as a highly multicultural and comparatively young Church with lots of young families. There is every reason to expect growth to continue . . ."

Pastor Stanley agrees: "Of course, we're delighted by the significant rate of growth, but we're not satisfied. We have a message that is so wonderful, so attractive, so complete and inclusive that there should be 1000 coming to the faith where we currently have one. What we've seen over the past five years is that all the naysayers are dead wrong: the appeal of Jesus has never been stronger. Going forward, it is my fervent prayer that we experience explosive growth as people are drawn to our Saviour."

1. Rev Dr Phillip Hughes, Seventh-day Adventists Report based on the National Population and Housing Census, Christian Research Association. The numbers on which this article are based come from CRA reports, which contain analysis of the data from the Australian national Census.

2. The Australian Adventist population grew at 14 per cent, the general Australian population at 8.3 per cent. 14 per cent – 8.3 per cent = 5.7 per cent. 5.7 per cent/8.3 per cent = 69 per cent.

3. Christian Research Association, Pointers, Vol 22, No 3, September 2012, p 4.

James Standish is RECORD editor for the South Pacific Division.

**The Adventist Church grew 69 per cent faster than the general Australian population.**

**CABRAMATTA, Sydney**

Based on an interview with senior elder Vansy Ketsavann and elder Graham Barron

When you come to Cabramatta Adventist Church you notice something is different. It isn't an ethnic church. Rather it's a multi-ethnic church with a composition as diverse as any you'll find on earth.

We have members from Laos, Jamaica, India, Iraq, the Philippines, Croatia, Ghana, Vietnam, Korea and a number of other nations. We even have a member from Queensland! Christ said when He is lifted up all people will be drawn to Him—and we can see that every Sabbath in our church.

We love our church because it's so vibrant. There is a real warmth here. And a lot of energy. In the past we have brought in more donations per member for the ADRA Appeal than any church in the Greater Sydney Conference. Our willingness to get out there and work hard for the poor of the world shows where our heart is.

We love our pastor Kev Robinson. He has two churches and is a chaplain at Wahroonga Adventist School. So the elders and members have to work hard to keep the church running.

Fortunately we have a very talented church. Our young people can preach—you should hear them. We now have young people preaching every other month—but that may increase as they have proven to us that the Lord can



use them to touch our hearts. Our young people have joined together with the Cabramatta West Spanish Adventist Church to reach out to the community. We have more than 80 people who have requested information or Bible studies. It's taken a lot of hard work to meet people where they are at, but isn't that Jesus' model? Today our church is so full we often need to add extra seats up the back. That's what happens when you do the hard work to reach out to the community with the love of God.

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**WATSON PARK - QUEENSLAND**

**1-6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2013**

**POUR IT OUT.**



# When to baptise?

by Julie Weslake

**T**HE BIBLE DOESN'T TELL US THE IDEAL BAPTISMAL age and nor does the Adventist Church Manual. Maybe because of this, we are sometimes in a quandary when a young person asks to be baptised. Are they old enough to make such a serious decision? If we put them off, are we like the disciples who pushed children away from Christ? Is there an age when it's too early? Is there a time when a missed opportunity will turn into a life of missed commitment? When is just right?

All requests for baptism need to be taken seriously. Children have a high value before God and we cannot afford to discourage them and turn them away from the Church. They are longing to feel accepted and respected. And every child's maturity and spiritual insight differs. But we have some spiritual principles and some research that gives us a little insight into when might be an ideal age for young people to mark their momentous decision to commit their lives to Christ through baptism.

Faith is being developed from birth and research tells us that most people make decisions to follow Jesus as Lord and Saviour before they reach their teen years. Researcher George Barna found that children between the ages of 5 and 13 have a 32 per cent probability of accepting Jesus as their Saviour and only a 4 per cent probability between the ages of 14 and 18 and a 6 per cent probability in their adult years.<sup>1</sup>

Similarly, Ellen White states: "Children are the most susceptible to the teachings of the gospel; their hearts are open to divine influences and strong to retain the lessons received." She also notes: "Children of 8, 10 or 12 years are old enough to be addressed on the subject of personal religion. Do not teach your children with reference to some future period when they shall be old enough to repent and believe the truth. If properly instructed, very young children may have a correct view of their state as sinners, and of the way of salvation through Christ."<sup>2</sup>

So, what is the best age for baptism?

I believe that the years 9-13 are developmentally the best years to prepare for and be baptised. Barna's research found that by the age of 13 a person's spiritual identity is largely in place. He found that beliefs, values and attitudes are formed in childhood, and are so firmly

embedded in our brains by the age of 13 that they are very difficult to change later in life.

A recent Valuegenesis survey reveals that it is young people in this tween age group who are responding to baptism. It shows an accelerated rate of baptisms between the ages of 11 and 14 and currently very few choosing to be baptised after the age of 15. We need to acknowledge the risks involved in delaying preparation for baptism, and start to address the facts outlined by Valuegenesis. Specifically, that in the past 20 years the percentage of baptisms of Adventist youth by the time they reach the age of 18 has dropped from 81 to 38 per cent.<sup>3</sup> Other research shows that those who make decisions in their tween years are less likely to leave the Church and are more likely to become future church leaders.

**The percentage of baptisms of Adventist youth by the time they reach the age of 18 has dropped from 81 to 38 per cent.**

We have a huge window of opportunity for discipleship in the childhood years and a huge opportunity for decision making in the 11-14 year age group. Interestingly, it is during these years Jews perform bar and bat mitzvahs—coming of age ceremonies in which young people are recognised as capable of understanding the law and hence responsible for their own actions. It was also at 12 years of age that Jesus

was first mentioned as acting independently of His earthly family, and when He was first reported to have shared His spiritual wisdom (Luke 2:41-50). Pastors and parents need to be prepared to teach and nurture beliefs in this critical age bracket.

The Children's Ministries Department has a new set of simple Bible studies for parents to share with their children from the age of 8. These lessons are entitled Daily Bites: "Come to Jesus", "Dig Deeper" and "Share Jesus". We cannot overestimate the importance of teaching the faith of Jesus to young people, of communicating with, listening to and answering their spiritual questions, and of being true Christian examples at home, at school and at church. Every young person's request for baptism is a wonderful milestone—and one we should be prepared to accept joyfully.

<sup>1</sup> George Barna, *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*, p34.

<sup>2</sup> Ellen G White, *The Desire of Ages*, p 515; Ellen G White, *Testimonies*, Vol 1, p 400.

<sup>3</sup> Figure 3.1, *Valuegenesis 2*, 2011.

*Julie Weslake is director of Children's Ministries for the South Pacific Division.*



**Miliana Salabogi**

"A loving mother to Akanisi Namakadre and grandmother to Paul and me—'Bubu', we want to honour you today for being such an incredible inspiration. You were the beacon of light when we were living in darkness and we want to praise God for the fact that you never stopped praying for us. So we want to honour you for your loyalty to God and your loyalty and love for us. We are forever grateful. We love you, Bubu."—*Pate Namakadre*

**John and Pat Stackelroth**

"I may not have the opportunity to visit my grandparents often but when I do I cherish the time we spend together. I am increasingly grateful for the love and care that they show towards me. They provide a refuge, always watching over me. Thank you for always loving me."—*Brianna Stackelroth*

**San Oei**

"Opa, on behalf of all your grandchildren, thank you for being the strong head of our family, a prayer warrior and a humble servant of God. Thank you also for planting the early seeds of faith in our family. May God bless you and provide you with many fish on the line this summer! Love always."—*Linden Chuang*



**Musu and Theresa Amuimuia**

"I love my grandparents because they spoil me with presents and money. They are kind, loving and play with me whenever I visit. Much love!"—*Ariahna Amuimuia*

**Nola and Barry Findlay/Ruth and Ted Bridcutt**

"We are very lucky to have four wonderful grandparents. They give us lots of love, cook yummy treats and always spoil us. Thank you for everything you do for us."—*Jessica, Kiera and Ryan Bridcutt*

**Sierra and Mose Sou**

"We love our grandparents because they always sing to us, read books together as well as cook. We especially love it when they take us out to eat. We are grateful for all that Nan and Pa do for us and couldn't have a more dedicated set of grandparents who love and care for us like you do."—*Ezekial, Sylas, Zephaniah and Taliyah Sou*



**Savelina Vaisalo**

"O lo'u nana o se Tina e agalelei ma agamalu ma e pele lava ia i lo'u loto. O le ta mafutaga nana e le mafai ona faagaloina oe ma mea lelei uma ua e faia mo a'u. O oe o se Tina e tumu i le onosa'i ma o lou alofa e faifai pea, e le uma mo matou, lau fanau. Oute viia Le Alii mo ona faamanuiaga e tele i lou olaga, ae e silisili ona o'u fa'afetai i le Atua ua ia aumaia se Tina e malosi e ta'ita'ina le tatou aiga i auala a le Atua."—*Jarrod ma Lyna Stackelroth*

**Joan Gilbert**

"My nanny is special. I remember when she used to read to me my favourite Bible story-books like *The Little Maid* and *Five Loaves and Fishes*, and sing to me "Three Little Fishies" (and a mama fishy too). She used to walk me to school sometimes too, and I used to be the first kid who arrived."—*Melissa Starkey-Franklin*

**Luisa and Setu Maua**

"From early in the morning until we go to bed each day, we know Pappa and Nanna love us in a very special way. Sometimes it's koko and taro, sometimes a walk in the park. Sometimes it's just a hug when we're scared and in the dark. Because we know their hearts are filled for us with never-ending love."—*Prezley and Azaria Maua*



# In the beginning

by Bryan Ball

Almost all books on the creation/evolution debate focus on science. While science is undoubtedly important, *In The Beginning*, printed by Signs Publishing, is based on the conviction that for Christians biblical revelation is of primary significance and must take precedence over scientific theory and analysis of data from the natural world.

We often refer to nature as “God’s second book”. The Bible is his “first Book” and therefore should have primacy in our thinking. So there are twice as many chapters in the book about the biblical teaching on creation than there are on evaluating scientific thought. Why? Because we first need to thoroughly understand what Scripture as a whole teaches about creation as it undergirds what is revealed in the natural world.

This leads us to the book of Genesis, a much discussed but often little understood book of the Bible. *In The Beginning* focuses strongly on Genesis, since Genesis is crucial to understanding the rest of the Bible and is foundational to many basic biblical teachings: origins, sin, salvation, redemption and restitution in particular. The Genesis chapters in this book are directed to a fuller understanding of Genesis itself, and hence to a better understanding of the entire Bible, as well as providing excellent material on origins.

This in turn leads to the question of the credibility of Genesis. In the eyes of many people Genesis is the most suspect of all books in the Bible, full of “myths” and stories for children, but not for intelligent adults in the 21st century. As one critic observed, “If you can believe in Genesis, you can believe anything.”

*In The Beginning* directly addresses this perceived credibility gap, thereby greatly strengthening confidence in Genesis as a reliable source of information on origins.

*In The Beginning* was also written to meet a growing challenge to biblical teachings—theistic evolution. This is the theory that God used an evolutionary process to create the world and all life upon it.

In recent years this idea has captured the minds of many

in various sectors of the Christian world, including a number of evangelicals previously committed to the biblical view of creation. Strange as it may be, there is evidence that theistic evolution is now appealing to some within our own ranks.

Although it might seem obvious, it has to be said that theistic evolution is still evolution. It accepts neo-Darwinism as the explanation for life on earth and the long time spans of secular geology for the origin of the earth itself, regardless of another obvious fact—that the Bible does not even hint at an evolutionary process for either the earth or humankind.

Several contributors to *In The Beginning* address this growing problem from different angles. They do this, most importantly perhaps, by explaining and clarifying the theological inconsistencies and contradictions which arise from the theistic evolutionary position and by showing that theistic evolution undermines many fundamental biblical teachings.

Although evolution is confidently claimed as proven fact, in reality it is in many respects still unproven theory. Many people, including some who have embraced theistic evolution, are quite unaware of the flaws and gaps in evolutionary theory, many of which are openly recognised by some prominent evolutionists. *In The Beginning* contains two chapters, both written by highly-qualified scientists, which examine this issue. They point out the presuppositions and assumptions of evolutionary theory, as well as its inherent flaws and weaknesses, that raise serious doubts about its claims and credibility.

So why publish *In The Beginning*? It has been published to give substantial and reliable information to the Church on many aspects of this crucial biblical doctrine.

Dr Jim Gibson, director of the Geoscience Research Institute at Loma Linda University, summarises the import of the book: “. . . it offers fresh perspectives to the creationist literature . . . The entire book should be read by anyone interested in the topic.”



**Strange as it may be, there is evidence that theistic evolution is now appealing to some within our own ranks.**

*Bryan Ball is a former South Pacific Division president and principal of Avondale College of Higher Education, and is the editor of In The Beginning.*



# Questions & Answers

by Tabitha Krznar-Rad

**A** NYONG-HAS-SE-YO. THAT'S ABOUT ALL THE Korean I can remember from my five-month stint as an English and Bible teacher earlier this year in Seoul. Part of my character building experience included communicating in a language I couldn't speak, surrounded by food I couldn't eat and missing creature comforts like being able to flush toilet paper. Sometimes it's the little things in life that make all the difference!

Upon arrival I faced a life without friends, family and mummy! Of course that all changed quickly as I developed friendships with my students and colleagues. And the witnessing experiences were invaluable to my Christian growth. All in all, I loved the experience. However, the Christian walk in Korea was not as different as I expected. I anticipated different problems, different churches, different spirituality and maybe even a different face of God. Guess what? Same everything! I was particularly struck that in South Korea I was faced with a familiar question—

a question I have heard asked in Africa, Europe and even Australia:

"How do I know I have Jesus when I can't feel Him in my heart? I've prayed, I've asked for forgiveness and nothing has changed . . ."

So, what does generation Y do when we don't know an answer to a question? We "Google it" of course! On the Ask.com forum I found "confused guy". He wrote: "I am now a 20-something year old and I have asked Jesus into my heart, I have asked for His forgiveness but I don't feel any different. I mean Christians say 'just ask' . . . I did ask . . . and nothing."

Out of the 22 responses from Ask.com, the following grabbed my attention:

"Ghetto Gangsta" wrote: "Don't worry, you're not alone. He hasn't answered anyone. Makes you wonder, doesn't it . . ."

"The Great Inquisitor" said: "Why doesn't Santa bring

you everything you want? Same answer—they're both lies your parents told you."

The most brutal answer came from "Myth-buster": "Because he's dead and he can't hear you."

The Bible tells us that not only is He alive, but He has promised us a hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11). And we are reminded that we are paid for with an infinite price and loved with an everlasting love! (Jeremiah 31:3). So, it should be easy right? After all, Jeremiah 29:13 says: "You shall find me when you seek me with all your heart."

But sometimes it doesn't feel like He is working in our lives. When we are choosing our university preferences, future partners and facing life's curve balls, the God we have been told will comfort and deliver us seems to be at times, silent.

When you grow up in a materialised, glamorised culture of straighter hair in seconds, super high-speed internet connection and Facebook alerting us to each other's every move, we start to expect the same whiz bang reactions from God, and when He does not dazzle us with a "McAnswer", we are quick to doubt His existence.

But His ways are not our ways! God is not found in the noise, but is the still, small, inner voice. The Bible is our sure-fire connection with God. Hebrews 4:12 says the Word is alive, therefore it can revive us: it is sharper than any double-edged sword.

God has written a personal message to us but we have to read it. We can't sit back and wait for Jesus to update His Twitter status.

So how do we as young Christians deal with doubt?

1) Never underestimate the power of praying parents, grandparents and church members! I have been held accountable by my European grandmother, who never ceases to pray for me on her sore knees in need of reconstruction. Her words never fail to put a smile on my face: "Du yore beest end God vill du di rrest!" Do all that we can from our end to know God—and He will do infinitely more to fill in the blanks.

2) Old methods work best. To know God we must read our Bible daily. There is no other way. We have enough distractions to tear us away from Jesus. A simple 15-30 minute commitment is a great way to start. Pick a few chapters, maybe start with the Gospels, and actually read them start to finish. Invest in a good devotional book. I am reading *The Chosen* by Dwight Nelson. Ellen G White's *Steps to Christ—for youth* is one I particularly recommend. As you get to know Jesus you will want to spend more time with Him!

3) Since we are living in the technology era why not utilise it for God? There are smart phone apps with countless versions of the Bible, concordances and commentaries. Not to mention websites. I am a fan of <[www.audioverse.org](http://www.audioverse.org)>

where you can find an abundance of free sermons, <[www.amazingfacts.com](http://www.amazingfacts.com)> to tackle the tough questions and <[www.findjesus.tv](http://www.findjesus.tv)> for a local community focus.

4) Whatever things are honourable, pure and lovely think of such things. Surround yourself with things that can enhance your spirituality not discourage it! Keep a prayer journal so you can see how God is actually speaking and answering your prayers! Try memorising some Bible verses. I have a couple of verses stored to share and which give me encouragement! My favourite is Proverbs 3:5-6. Here we are assured God will direct our paths! But if we are deliberately redirecting our attention to Harry Potter and Lady

Gaga, then He's not going to force you to be some place where your heart's not. That isn't God's way. Tattoos, blue hair and piercings are commonly seen as outward marks of rebellion. But I think they are simply symptoms of not finding the One we are searching for. We all thirst for genuine acceptance and to know that someone cares. It's a universal human craving. So how do we answer the simple question: "I've called on Jesus, but I don't feel any different"?

Maybe the closing remarks in the chat-room by "Saved2seek" is a good place to start:

"Dear confused guy, Christianity is not about sitting back and feeling different.

The more we read about how to connect with Jesus, the more we understand that a real, raw and honest relationship with Him is the ONLY thing that will make us truly happy! Pursue Him like you would pursue a girlfriend or better still the Mr Whippy ice-cream truck. You cannot help but love Him back when you realise how much He loves you!"

There are times where we can all relate to the thoughts of "confused guy". In the midst of doubt, we have to remember that wherever we are, whatever is going on, if we have surrendered all our heart to Jesus, we are His! It's not about fleeting feelings or emotions, it's about perseverance that produces character, and character hope. When we open our hearts to Him, we are in exactly the space He wants us to be. And when we put our lives in God's hands, we are in for the ride of our lives! I know that first hand. It was God who directed me to Korea and what an amazing experience it was. I have to admit that I don't miss spicy kimchi that much, but I do miss the wonderful friends I made there! And the experiences I had in Korea strengthened my faith and deepened my understanding of the world.

For that, and everything else, I say a very big *kamsam-nida* (thank you) to my Lord. ✠

*Tabitha Krznar-Rad is a 20-something registered nurse at Sydney Adventist Hospital, and attends Wahroonga Adventist Church.*

## Tattoos, blue hair and piercings are commonly seen as outward marks of rebellion. But I think they are symptoms of not finding the One we are searching for.



## OPENING HIS WORD

David McKibben

### Judgement, Jesus and the Gospel

One of the deepest human longings is the desire for justice, and how much more is this true of God! He loves justice, and the theme of judgement is a key Bible teaching.

### Why is judgement a vital biblical truth?

- Judgement reveals the character of God. He is repeatedly described as the God who is just and fair. **Read** Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 50:1-6; Romans 2:5-6; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-7; Revelation 20:11-15. God's wrath is clearly revealed in Scripture; indeed His wrath has been defined as His love colliding with sin.

- Judgement provides a full and balanced picture of Jesus. In a host of biblical references He is revealed as the One who will administer justice. **Read** John 5:22-23, 27; Acts 17:31; 2 Timothy 4:1, 8. Jesus is both Lamb of God and the Lion of Judah.

- Judgement is an integral part of the Gospel. **Read** Acts 10:42, 24:25; Romans 2:16. Judgement uplifts and protects the Gospel and emphasises our compelling need of salvation (1 Thessalonians 1:10).

### What does the Bible reveal about the nature of God's judgement?

- Everyone will be involved. **Read** 2 Corinthians 5:10.

- It is inevitable and unavoidable. **Read** Hebrews 9:27; Romans 14:10-12.

- It will be comprehensive in scope, taking into account our deeds (Ecclesiastes 12:14), our words (Matthew 12:36,37) and our secret thoughts (Romans 2:16).

- Those who accept Jesus as their Saviour do not have to fear the judgement. **Read** John 5:24; Romans 8:31-34; Hebrews 7:25.

- The judgement is the fulfilment of God's promise to resolve the sin problem and destroy Satan forever. **Read** 2 Peter 3:7-9; Jude 14-15; Revelation 20:10-15.

When Abraham was told about the impending destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, he asked, "Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25). The testimony of Scripture is a resounding YES! The certainty of God's judgement is good news.

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



## OPINION

John Beckett

### Giving poverty the flush

Micah Challenge's The Great Toilet Tour came to Avondale College of Higher Education during its Festival of Faith in September. What did the loo have to do with the celebration?

You probably don't realise how much progress the world has made since 1990 to reduce extreme poverty. In just 20 years, we've:

- Halved the number of people living below the extreme poverty line of \$US1.25 a day.

- Halved the proportion of people living without access to clean drinking water. On current rates, 92 per cent of the world's population will have access to clean drinking water by 2015.

- Reduced from 12 to 7 million a year the number of children dying before their fifth birthday.

This is phenomenal progress. There is much to celebrate. However in many areas, the progress is not sufficient. Enter the giant toilet.

Few things are as fundamental to human health and dignity as the water we drink and the way we dispose of our waste. Illnesses related to water and sanitation are among the largest causes of death in the developing world. Around 3000 children die every day from water, sanitation and hygiene related causes. Almost all of these deaths are preventable.

The United Nations Millennium Development Goal 7 aims to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation by 2015. The world is falling short on the sanitation target. We can't be satisfied when 2.6 billion people still don't have access to decent sanitation.

Micah Challenge is lobbying the Australian Government to make a substantial increase in the amount of aid it invests in water, sanitation and hygiene, lifting it toward \$A500 million a year by 2015.

So the toilet invites us to celebrate, even as we mourn. Surely that is the Christian way. And it invites us to commit ourselves again to pray and act on behalf of those living in poverty. We want more reasons to celebrate!

*John Beckett is national coordinator of Micah Challenge Australia, a global campaign of Christians speaking out against poverty and injustice.*

## OPINION POLL



### Should children be smacked?

- Yes, it's standard punishment
- Yes, rarely within limits
- No, it's counter productive
- No, it's abusive

*Opinion? Comment?*

*Send a letter to <editor@record.net.au>.*





# Back to basics

by Kent Kingston

**I**N MOVING INDEPENDENTLY FROM THE WORLD Church on women's ordination, the Northern German, Columbia and Pacific Union Conferences risk pushing Adventists to "take sides" rather than considering the issue fully. Namely, before we decide who's in or out, what is ordination anyway?

Trans-European Division (TED) president Bertil Wiklander made some interesting public comments about ordination recently, even as he explained why the TED would work within the General Conference framework for studying the issue. Citing the work of Pastor John Lorencin, Dr Wiklander said:

"... there is no word for 'ordination' in the Bible. It is used in the King James Version from 1611, but it is there based on old Roman Catholic translations from the 14th and 15th centuries. In fact, Pastor Lorencin warns against letting the pastoral ordination be influenced by the Roman Catholic, unbiblical practice, which is rooted in the pagan Roman system of being promoted (Latin *ordinatio*) to a higher 'order' . . . Any sense of the rite of ordination conveying a special status or character that is not already there through the gift of the Holy Spirit is unbiblical. Ordination is therefore a work of the Spirit and only recognised and confirmed by the church."

Is it possible that we, as Adventists, have inherited unbiblical views from our Protestant and Catholic forbears? Consider these three points from the New Testament.

## Expiry date

In the book of Acts, deacons, elders and missionaries had hands laid on them. But did this "ordination" involve a life-long change in status or was it time limited? In Acts 13 Paul and Barnabas are set apart by the Antioch church for the task of evangelising Asia Minor. They return from their mission trip in 14:26 back to Antioch "where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed". The language of "committed" and "completed" suggests that the laying on of hands was for a specific task or role, rather than a lifetime vocation.

## Names and power

In promoting the ideal of servant leadership, Jesus warned against religious titles (Matthew 23:8). Consistent

with this, Jesus never baptised, but left the privilege to His disciples (John 4:2).

Nevertheless, the church lapsed into hierarchy over the centuries. Only priests could conduct the rites of the church and grandiose titles such as "His Holiness" were introduced. Adventists followed the Reformation's lead in rejecting these extremes, but is our continued use of "Pastor" or "Elder" as a title, rather than a descriptor, consistent with the spirit of Jesus' instructions?

## One body

Somehow we've fallen into the notion that Christians are split into two groups: clergy and laity. Nothing could be further from the radical New Testament teaching that replaced the old priests/people dichotomy. Instead the church is pictured as a body; each member complementing the other with Christ as the only head.

The word "clergy" comes from the Greek *kleros*, meaning "chosen". The apostle Peter uses the word to refer to church congregations in 1 Peter 5:3, consistent with his earlier statement: "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God" (1 Peter 2:9).

None of this detracts from the clear New Testament teaching on spiritual leadership. The pre-eminent leaders in the early church were "first apostles, second prophets . . ." (1 Corinthians 12:28). But it was not from ordination that this authority was derived; there is no record of anyone being ordained as an apostle or prophet. Strangely, it was the early believers' enemies who were on the right track: ". . . they took note that these men had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13). That's what makes the difference: the presence and calling of Jesus.

The Reformation task of disentangling primitive Christianity from millennia of tradition is yet to be completed. As a Church currently undergoing a worldwide biblical study of ordination, we are at a crucial historical moment; a tipping point that could end with us merely slipping into the comfortable lap of convention. Or we could choose to go wherever Scripture takes us, even if that's into less convenient territory.

*Kent Kingston is assistant editor for RECORD.*

# GREY NOMADS CAMP

17–25 May, 2013  
Stuarts Point Convention Centre

The annual North New South Wales Conference's Grey Nomads Camp for 2013 will be held at the Adventist Convention Centre, Stuarts Point, NSW from 17 to 25 May, 2013.

The event is open to Grey Nomads from across Australia and is an excellent opportunity for retirees to meet and fellowship together. Guest speakers include Pastor Melvyn Hayden II and Dr John Hammond.

More details about Grey Nomads 2013 will be available soon. Any enquiries can be directed to Debbie Head on (02) 4944 3220 or via email — [greynomads@adventist.org.au](mailto:greynomads@adventist.org.au).



## RECORD REWIND

Lester Devine

### Giant of the faith

Australians John and Mary Nichol became Adventists after reading a copy of *Review and Herald*, found on a path while out walking. When their son, Francis, was 8, the family moved to Loma Linda, California, where John helped establish a new hospital and medical school.

After graduating from Pacific Union College, Francis pastored briefly in nearby Vallejo before becoming associate editor of *The Signs of the Times*, which was printed by the Pacific Press Publishing Company, then located in Mountain View, California.

In 1927, he became associate editor of the *Review and Herald*, and was appointed editor in 1945 after the retirement of F M Wilcox. He is particularly remembered for his work as editor of *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*. A prolific author, he wrote more than 20 books and became well known for having a special interest in the areas of science and religion, health, and the life and work of Ellen White, whom he had known as a lad and in whose calling he had total confidence.

A trustee of the White Estate Board of Trustees for many years, the last three as chairman, Nichol gained national attention in America when in 1925, along with Dr Alonzo Baker, he participated in a series of debates in San Francisco on evolution versus creation. Nichol and Baker were far more effective in presenting their case than their opponents expected and this awakened much public interest in origins issues. On top of his busy workload, Nichol and a group of Review employees established the Review and Herald Memorial Church in Hyattsville, Maryland. He was the first pastor.

While much of what he wrote is dated now, this highly intelligent man and tireless promoter of the cause of Christ had a powerful influence in establishing a sound theological foundation for church doctrine.

Nichol lived a frugal life: driving a car with manual transmission long after most people had gone automatic (which cost more), and forgoing a radio in his car because that was an "extra expense option".

He, like so many of his generation, never retired. Vigorous and energetic to the end, the 69-year-old editor became ill while on his usual two-mile walk home from work and died from an aortic tear; very likely caused by a fall some months before. The autopsy revealed no damage to his heart or other organs, all of which were completely clear of atherosclerosis. Other than the aortic tear, his physiology was that of a man half his age—a powerful testimony to the effectiveness of an Adventist lifestyle.

Francis Nichol was truly a giant of the faith.



FD Nichol (1897–1966).

Lester Devine is director emeritus of the Ellen G White/Adventist Research Centre at the Avondale College of Higher Education.

# Kids' Space

## DZIEŃ DOBRY\* KIDS!

Jesus arrived in a town called Nain.  
He saw a sad funeral procession.  
A mother's little boy had died.

Everyone was so sad and that made Jesus sad too.  
Jesus went over to the coffin and touched it and said "Young man, get up" and he did! Jesus brought the little boy back to life!

### FIND THE 15 DIFFERENCES TRY AND FIND 15 BUT THERE MAY BE MORE!



**WORSHIP MESSAGE: WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE HELP PEOPLE WHO ARE SAD.**

\* Hello in Polish (Poland)



**PORT MACQUARIE  
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## 60th Anniversary

**24<sup>th</sup> November 2012 – 10.00am**

All past students, teachers, staff and friends  
are invited. For more information phone

02 6582 2271 or email

[admin@portmacquarie.adventist.edu.au](mailto:admin@portmacquarie.adventist.edu.au)

Facebook search: PMAS 60th Anniversary



Back row: Lucille Allan, Mavis Allan, Desma Edc, Fay Emery, Laura Batters, Betty Jay Rosewell  
Middle row: Billy Rosewell, Cecelia Williams, Geoffrey Morrison, Wally Batters, Terry Adams,  
Alan Rosewell, Thomas Darcy  
Front row: Lucette Mills, Della Scurr, Vera Johnson, Carol Isaac, Olga Hamilton, Julie Morrison,  
Allyson Farwell



500 Ocean Drive, Port Macquarie

LETTERS

Note: Views in letters do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Letters should be less than 250 words, and writers must include their name, address and phone number. All letters are edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author's original meaning will not be changed. Not all letters received are published. See Page 4 for contact details.

**GOD'S CHARACTER**

Neil Watts, via website

I'm writing in response to the "Adventist Atheist" (September 29). Good on you Neale! I've used a similar approach with some atheists too and they are nearly always surprised at our concept of God. One of our greatest tasks in these end times is to try to reveal the true character of God as opposed to lies about Him that Satan has fooled most people into believing.

**INDEPTH INSIGHT**

Rod Bullas, SA

I would like to congratulate James Standish for his comprehensive, insightful and interesting editorials. I was disappointed when the editorial was originally shortened (downgraded). And what happened to the idea of doing the *Record InDepth* program for HopeChannel?

Editor's note:

We have recently completed filming the *Record InDepth* series and it is scheduled to begin playing on HopeChannel before the end of the year. It will also be available on <www.record.net.au>.

**SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

Daniel Matteo, NSW

Although I have the greatest respect for my friend Nathan Brown, I feel I must respond to "A farewell to arms?" (September 29), in which he recommends that Adventists should downplay the idea of the Christian warfare, which he calls an overstressed "metaphor".

I very sadly see that many church members have fallen into the trap of secularism and are often ignorant of the reality of the spiritual realm. Not to mention the Church's relation-

ship with that realm.

That is why messages about spiritual warfare sound so strange and uncomfortable to us: because we no longer see the world for the battleground it truly is. Preaching, teaching and talking this way is not "playing armies"; it is an absolute spiritual reality and those who pray for the lost, those who share the Word with the lost and those who sing praises to God are participating in a very powerful attack on the spirit world.

Historically, our Church is rooted in the great controversy story which has given us the only answer to the "good God, bad world" question. It has also given previous generations of Adventists an insight into Satan's actions in world events and weapons with which to respond. Let's not give it up now so close to the end.

Until He comes and we are called to lay down our arms, let us NEVER cease to understand the truth of this world and to glorify the victorious warrior-Christ for ". . . ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power" (Colossians 2:10).

**MEN AND HEROES**

Danny Bell, WA

I write in response to "A farewell to arms?" (September 29). The author rightly points out that there are other metaphors for the church and that the military one is one of a variety used in the Bible. The problem I have is to be dismissive of it simply because we live in a war-torn world. The world in which the NT writers lived was brutal and war torn as well, but it did not stop Paul or his contemporaries from using it.

Nathan challenges us to concentrate on the peacemaker

imagery as an alternative but have we not been pumping this for decades now and where has it gotten us? Our young men are leaving in droves because we have concentrated on the gentle Jesus, meek and mild—a feminine form that they don't identify with. By the time our boys reach their 20s, we will have lost 70 per cent of them—that's a crisis.

Since boys no longer have the opportunity to be heroic because of an over-emphasis on being safe and pleasing, they turn to movies and video games for catharsis. Men spend billions to see on-screen heroes perform the ancient script written on their hearts.

Why are men's miniseries becoming so popular in Australia at present? Isn't it because they offer men that which they can now identify with—a masculine religion devoid of passivity and inaction.

Let God be God and allow Him to move as He may desire to move, even at our own discomfort.

**LOST IN TRANSLATION**

Colin Radford, via website

LOL! I wondered if you meant *joie de vie* (life) rather than *vivre* (food) (Editorial, September 29), however given our health message the two still apply!

Great to see the new directions, James. God's blessings on you and the RECORD's future. Thanks for shortening the distance between Madagascar and my church roots in Oz!

Editor's note:

While we do love food [*J'adore la cuisine*], we are quite confident in saying we have a joy of living [*joie de vivre*]. Great to know we're reaching Madagascar!

## APPRECIATION

**Lily Clarke.** Byron, Colin and Marlene Clarke, along with parents, Andrew and Irene Napora and twin sister, Sophie, would like to express their grateful thanks for the many phone calls, cards and floral arrangements both during Lily's illness and her passing. A beautiful life ended too soon.

**Helen Metcalfe.** The Metcalfe family, Dean, Jenni, Kathy and Andrew, thank everyone who attended their loving mother's funeral, sent cards, flowers, gifts and gave donations to ADRA. Thank you to the Dora Creek church ladies who helped at the wake.

## OBITUARIES

**Adams, William (Bill),** born 29.12.1928 in Sale, Vic; died 13.6.12 in Koo Wee Rup Hospital. On 24.9.1967, he married Coralie Paxton. He is survived by his wife; and Darryl (both of Nyora). Bill spent 25 years working for Sanitarium in Warburton, then retired to his ridgetop home in Gippsland. Apart from his family, Bill's greatest love was his Lord. He was a devoted deacon of the Longwarry church and is greatly missed.

*Peter Hughes*

**Bates, Sheila Mary,** born 23.8.1918 in Childers, Qld; died 9.8.12 in Victoria Point Adventist Retirement Village, Qld. She worked for 40 years at Sanitarium in Brisbane and moved into the retirement village in 1998. During her church life at Albion, Sheila held positions as church organist, treasurer, church clerk and in the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries departments. Her special talent was art of speech which she used at many recitals at church, camps and concerts. She was laid to rest at Redland Bay Cemetery on 15.8.12.

*Keith Miller*

**Clarke, Lily,** born 29.10.1963 in Adelaide, SA; died 13.8.12 in Adelaide from cancer. On 19.9.1999, she married Byron Nigel Clarke. Lily was a nurse at the San, Royal Adelaide and Hobart hospitals, until cancer ended her career. Lily was loved by staff and patients alike. She is survived by her husband; her parents, Andrew and Irene Napora; her twin sister, Sophie; her in-laws, Colin and Marlene Clarke; and her church family at Margate, Tas. Lily loved her Lord and we look forward to being reunited with her when Jesus comes.

*Robert Porter*

## POSITIONS VACANT

■ **Apprentice chef—Alstonville Adventist Retirement Village (Alstonville, NSW).** We require an enthusiastic, hard-working employee who has a passion for food, including vegetarian cooking, to join our food service team at Alstonville Adventist Retirement Village. We have a 51-bed, low-care facility located in a sub-tropical climate on the Alstonville plateau, just 15 minutes from some of the world's best beaches. An understanding of the Adventist Church and its beliefs is essential, as is a desire to learn and produce high quality meals for our residents. Enquires to <b\_wegener@aacnsw.com.au> or phone (02) 6628 1944. Send applications to Hotel Services Manager, 77 Pearce Creek Road, Alstonville, NSW 2477. Commencement date negotiable. Applications close **November 12, 2012.**

■ **Lecturer (marketing)—Avondale College of Higher Education (Cooranbong, NSW)** seeks applications for the position of a full-time lecturer focusing on marketing. This is an exciting role with a difference! The successful candidate will be required to primarily undertake teaching and to operate an active marketing consultancy in the Faculty of Business. For more information, a copy of the job description and information on how to apply, please visit <www.avondale.edu.au/jobs>. For further enquiries on the position, please contact Dr Keith Howson, Dean of Faculty of Business, on (02) 4980 2168. Applications close **November 16, 2012.**

■ **International development internships—three positions—Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia** is seeking expressions of interest from professional applicants of different ages (two positions) as well as recent graduates (one position) considering a career in international development. ADRA Australia supports community development programs in overseas partner offices and wishes to place interns in ADRA offices in Zambia, Timor-Leste and one other country for up to two years. The successful applicant may have previous cross-cultural or volunteer experience and demonstrable commitment to ADRA's mission, values and goals. Applicants must hold a valid Australian or New Zealand passport. For more information and an application form, contact Alison at ADRA Australia at <ayoung@adra.org.au> or phone (02) 9489 5488. Applications close **October 21, 2012.**

■ **Audit senior/manager—General Conference Auditing Service (GCAS) (Wahroonga, NSW)** is seeking expressions of interest for two available positions as audit senior/manager. The specific position being filled will be dependent on the experience and qualifications the successful candidates possess. Based at the South Pacific Division head office, the key function of this position is to conduct audits assigned by the regional manager with the primary objective of determining that financial statements fairly present the financial condition of the client and to report non-compliance with policies, laws and government regulations as may be discovered during the audit. The successful candidate should be eligible to work in Australia. For more information please visit the South Pacific Division's Human Resources website on <www.adventistemployment.org.au>. All written applications, including your CV, three work-related referees and the contact details of your local Adventist church pastor, must be forwarded to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (SPD) Ltd, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga, NSW 2076, Australia; or email <hr@adventist.org.au>; fax: (02) 9489 0943. Applications close **October 28, 2012.**

■ **Manager—ADRA Sunraysia (Mildura, Vic).** Specialists in new and used office furniture since 1993, we seek the services of a motivated professional for our Mildura warehouse, aged 30–50 years, who can handle sales, direct staff, coordinate deliveries, and liaise with suppliers, carriers and clients. Applicants must ably demonstrate a commitment to the ethos of ADRA Australia and the beliefs of the Adventist Church. An attractive salary package is offered. Sunraysia is known for excellent weather—one day terrific, the next fantastic! This may be your chance to "escape to the country". For more details please contact Darcy Malycha on 0418 596 240; or mail your resume to PO Box 5072, Mildura, Vic, 3502; or email <adrasunraysia@ncable.com.au>. Applications close **October 31, 2012.** ADRA Sunraysia is a separately incorporated entity that operates under licence from ADRA Australia.

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**Forward**, Nadine Joy (nee Budarick), born 9.9.1922 in Murray Bridge, SA; died 27.7.12 in AdventCare Whitehorse, Nunawading, Vic. On 2.4.1947, she married John Arthur Forward. She was predeceased by her husband in 1986 and her son, Peter, in 1992. She is survived by her sons, Andrew and his wife, Shan, and Brendan. Nadine's love of family, friends and those in need will be remembered always. She was a lady who intentionally lived by Proverbs 31:10-31. The memory of her good deeds continue even though she has now been laid to rest.

*Paul Kotanko*

**Knight**, Noreen Verna, died 31.5.12 in her sleep. She grew up in New Zealand and moved to Australia when she was 16 years old. While studying nursing at the San she met and married recent medical graduate, John Knight. Her priorities in life were simple: to love and nurture her family and friends. She will always be held dear by John, Jenny (James and Elliott Smith), David (Glenda, Michael, Chris, Erin and Tom Ford),

Sandy (Nigel, Toby and Tori Ackland) and Peter (Ann Stevenson, Jessica, Alex and Courtney), along with her siblings Ralph Weslake, Val Read, Audrey and Geoff Harrington, their children and their children's children.

*Dr Jenny Knight*

**Stewart**, May Doreen (nee Dando), born 27.5.1920 in Bristol, England; died 6.8.12 in Nunawading, Vic. On 11.1.1948, she married Pastor Victor Benefield, who predeceased her in 1998. On 6.10.02, she married Dr John Stewart, who predeceased her in 2008. May is survived by her children and their families, Elizabeth and Choon Yat (Sydney, NSW), John, and Ken and Jacinta Stewart (Ballarat, Vic); and grandchildren, Arabella, Abigail, Rebecca and Michelle. May trained as a Bible worker at Newbold College in England, and with Victor they pastored in villages across England and Wales. They moved to Australia to retire near their children. After Vic passed away, she married Dr John Stewart and they happily shared their lives at Corinella

Retirement Village in Nunawading until his passing. She will be greatly missed.

*Morrie Krieg, Ross Miller*

## ADVERTISEMENTS

**Giant book sale.** New stock. Save \$. Average price \$4. 6000 novels, music. Religion, EG White, Bible (also children) Christian novels, music. SS teachers, lay preachers, church libraries, readers. Nunawading church, Central Rd. Sun, Oct 28, 11am-3pm. Church building fund.

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## Finally

“No-one can whistle a symphony. It takes an orchestra to play it.”

—H E Luccock

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November 3

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■ **Maintenance/handyman position.** This position is available for a well-motivated person to use a wide range of practical skills while at the same time contributing to the development of a health retreat ministry. This is a full-time position available from January 2013. For more information on this position see <www.cedarvaleretreat.com.au/vacancies.php> or phone (02) 4465 1362. Applications close **November 25, 2012.**

*Cedarvale Health and Lifestyle Retreat is independent of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organisation but is supportive of the Church.*

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