

# InTouch

Winter  
2013

Powerful stories of God's grace in Literature Ministry

## Literature Still Vital to Mission

Robert was originally from the Anglican Church and a member of the Franciscan Brothers. We met after the church service one day and he asked me if I knew him. I said, no. "But I remember you came to my home" he said, "and showed me your books. At the time I could not afford to buy any books, but you gave me some free literature".

My mind went back to when I was working in a little town called Kirakira on San Cristobel Island in the Solomon Islands. When I knocked at his door Robert was very kind to let me in. After I showed him the books he said that he liked them but he was not able to purchase them. I prayed with him and thanked him and left him some free literature.

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Robert then told me that as he read the material I shared with him, he was disturbed by the message of the Sabbath. For one whole week he was confused as to which was the true day of worship,

Sabbath or Sunday. He then went to his bishop and asked him to tell him the truth about the Sabbath and Sunday. "We worship on Sunday because our leaders told us to worship on Sunday" he said. So, as Robert walked out of the bishop's house he made up his mind to keep the Sabbath.

**"because of that little book you gave me, I am here today as a Seventh-day Adventist! Thank you!"**

That same week he searched for the Seventh-day Adventist pastor to help him study the true Sabbath. Robert told me, "because of that little book you gave me, I am here today as a Seventh-day Adventist! Thank you!"

*Joshua Labuvolo, Area Manager,  
Solomon Islands*

## Welcome

InTouch is a fortnightly email newsletter sent to many thousands of people around the world. It consists of exciting stories of God's leading as individuals dedicated to Literature Ministry seek to save the lost. We hope you enjoy this special edition in print.

Literature Ministry is the very essence of missionary work, ordained in the courts of heaven as God's Blueprint to warn the world, to reach the lost and to save souls just before the close of this world's history. This work of the ordained and committed servant of God is a humble work fulfilling the commission of Jesus, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.' Mark 16:15

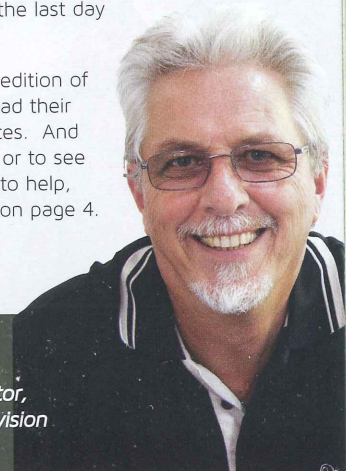
The South Pacific Division has over 400 faithful individuals dedicated to Literature Ministry who visit up to 10,000 homes weekly carrying with them books, DVDs, magazines and tracts filled with soul saving truth. As they daily visit the homes of people seeking truth, angels of God go before them to prepare the way and the Spirit of the Living God is their constant companion. It is common for these enthusiastic men and women to see miracles by the mighty working of our Heavenly Father.

Each year around 90 to 100 precious souls for whom the Saviour died, are baptised into the last day Remnant Church.

Enjoy this special edition of InTouch as you read their exciting experiences. And to find out more, or to see what you can do to help, check the details on page 4.

God bless

*John Brereton  
Publishing Director,  
South Pacific Division*



*"The world is to receive the light of truth through an evangelising ministry of the word in our books and periodicals." Testimonies volume 9, page 61*

## Praise God, Praise God! God Sent You Here!

I was working in a new area where houses are scattered near the village of Silivaca at Koro Island, Fiji. I came to the Browns' home, knocked on the door but there was no answer. I continued calling on other homes. Late in the day when I was walking back to the Browns' home I heard a truck behind me. Normally the truck driver usually stops to pick me up and drop me off whenever he sees me on the road.

I silently pleaded with God, "Father, help me, because I want to revisit this home, but may thy will be done." At that moment I could hear the engine but I did not look back, I just kept on walking and the truck did not slow down but continued on. The truck was empty as he drove past and I believe God answered my prayer.

I silently pleaded with God, "Father, help me, because I want to revisit this home, but may thy will be done."

As I knocked at the Browns' door I could hear a Christian song in the background and before long the lady of the house invited me in with a smile. She was very attentive and thanked me, having previously bought the *Family Bible* and the *Bible Stories* when her children were little. "I'm glad to hear this message again today because these books have helped my children to be where they are today. One is living in England, another is a qualified doctor. The *Family Bible* and *The Bible Stories* were the only books I read to my children when they were young at home."

"I'm glad to hear this message again today because these books have helped my children to be where they are today."

I continued to show her the set of *Encyclopaedia of Foods and their Healing Power* and she said "I will get that set for my family, how much does it cost?" I told her the price and then I shared with her the story about the truck that usually picks me up, but drove past after I prayed that the Lord's will be done. Mrs Brown replied, "God knew that I wanted these books and He made the truck go past. Praise God! Praise God! God sent you here."

"God knew that I wanted these books and He made the truck go past. Praise God! Praise God! God sent you here."

*The press is God's instrumentality – the press is a powerful means to move the minds and hearts of the people. The press is a powerful instrument which God has ordained to be combined with the energy of the living preacher to bring the truth before all nations, kindred, tongue and people. Many minds can be reached in no other way.* Colporteur Ministry, page 148.

Tom Florian, Fiji

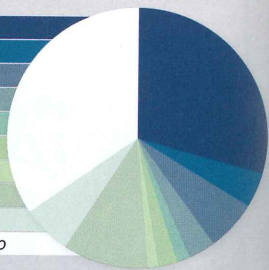
## Did You Know?

Does the Literature Ministry still work? You be the judge...

- Every week **10,000 homes** are visited.
- Over the past five years Literature Ministry across the South Pacific Division has resulted in **759,684 truth-filled message books** in people's homes. Just imagine the impact of so many precious books!
- The work of the Independent Distributor consists not only of selling a range of health and Christian resources. Sometimes they will meet precious souls searching for truth who, for some reason, cannot purchase the materials offered for sale. For this reason they carry free literature to share. During the past five years **more than 423,000 pieces of literature** including Signs magazines and tracts have been given away.
- Often the Independent Distributor will pray in a home, sometimes with their customers, sometimes with the sick and suffering, sometimes with those who are grieving the loss of a loved one... over the past five years those in Literature Ministry have **prayed in over 4,600 homes.**
- These faithful workers also study the Bible with those that they meet and one of the greatest joys of Literature Ministry is to see a customer baptised! The past five years have seen **450 customers baptised** into God's Remnant Church which has in turn started a ripple effect, touching countless other lives right across our Division.
- In 2012 there were **402 Independent Distributors** in the South Pacific Division Literature Ministry program.

They work in the following places:

Australia	118
New Zealand	18
Fiji	25
Tahiti	13
New Caledonia	6
Samoa	10
American Samoa	5
Solomon Islands	42
Vanuatu	25
Papua New Guinea	140



- In 2012 the Literature Ministry work resulted in:
  - **993** Homes opened for follow-up
  - **189** Baptisms
  - **48,512** pieces of free literature given out
  - **20,074** Prayers offered
  - **1,385** Bible course enrolments, and
  - **Total sales of \$2,417,498**

Jesus is coming very soon and the work of the Literature Ministry team will see a great harvest for the Lord!



## Bible Leads to Jesus

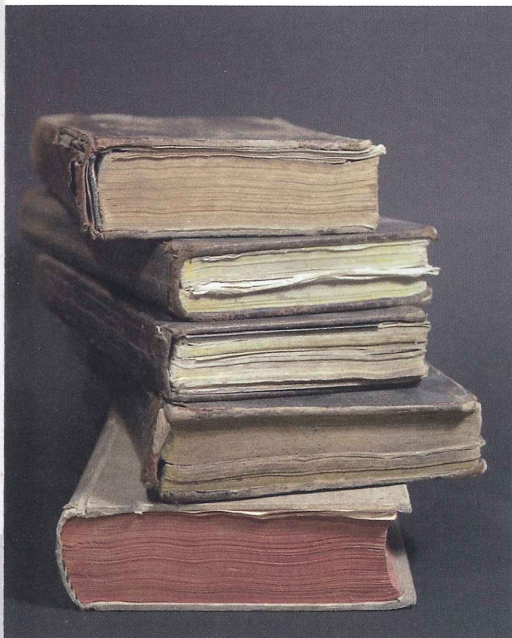
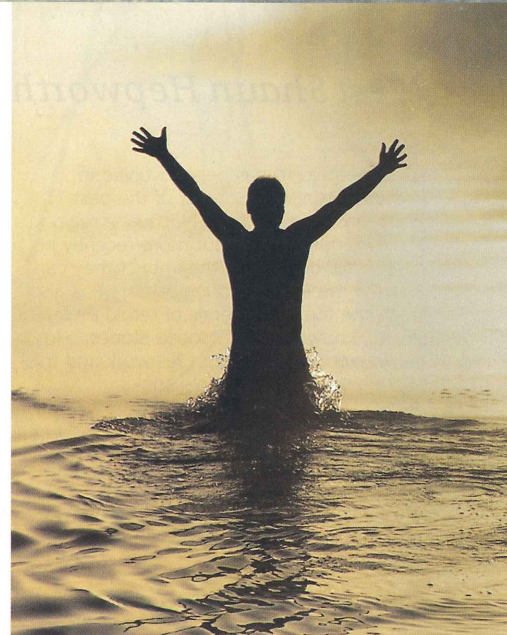
Jarell was one of the first people we met after moving to Darwin. Whenever we called to deliver his medical books he sang the praises of Dr Wright's advice that had helped him understand his Meniers Disease better. As a result he ordered the *Family Bible* and the *Conflict of the Ages Series*.

After a while Jarell had a question about Christian baptism. He said a friend had encouraged him to be christened as a Catholic. But, there was still one question lingering in his mind that had not been answered to his satisfaction. Was Jesus particular about the manner in which we are baptised? I was able to share with him the study in the back of the *Family Bible* about baptism and he agreed that we should discuss the Bible more.

When we met to study the Bible he was very excited. He said that the night before he had prayed before opening the Bible and that the Lord showed him Ephesians 4:5. The verse literally shone out of the page and there were no doubts left when he read, "There is one Lord, one faith, ONE baptism."

"That's it," he exclaimed, asking "how can I prepare to be baptised by immersion, the only right way?" Jarell felt he had come home when he attended church for the first time. As he completed Bible studies he said, "I've found that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the only one that is consistent with the Bible."

Andrew Johnson, Team Leader, Northern Australian Conference



## Old Medical Book Opens the Way

Recently in Sydney we met up with Peter and Margaret. Margaret had some major health challenges and we were confident that she would benefit from *Family Medical Care*. Peter mentioned that his wife had been given a medical book from her grandfather named *Practical Guide to Health*. The title of the book sounded familiar so I asked Peter if I could have a look at it and he obliged.

The book was well worn and tatty, but still in useable condition. I opened up the book and there on the title page was Signs Publishing Company printed in 1908. Excited, we pointed out to Peter and Margaret that we were from the same organisation. We then explained that over 100 years ago Margaret's

grandfather had received a similiar visit to his home as the one we were making to their home that day.

They then started to share what a blessing this book had been to their family, proceeding to show where the pages had been underlined in the past. They were particularly keen to receive a copy of *Today Tomorrow and You* as Margaret was a Christian and suffered with depression. We prayed with them before leaving, grateful for the faithful workers who had gone before us.

Conrad Jurello and Shaun Hepworth, Team Leader, NNSW, SNSW & Greater Sydney Conferences

## How Much Does That Book Cost? I Want It!

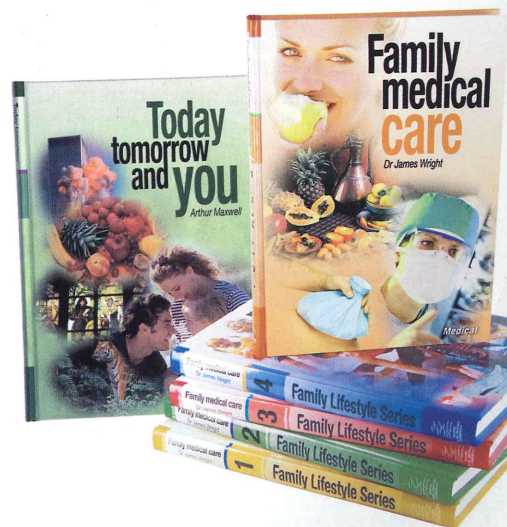
Knocking on doors can bring one into unusual, confronting, and heart-wrenching encounters. Brad (not his real name) was just such a case. I knocked on a door and was invited into the home by a kind and friendly woman. I walked towards the kitchen and from the shadows emerged Brad. I thought he had a mask on at first, but then I realised that his face was terribly disfigured and unusual.

What was I to do? My first thought was to make Brad feel at ease and accepted. I began to talk about the reason for my visit, praying that Jesus love would shine through so they would sense His presence and feel comfortable with a total stranger. Brad was very interested in volume three of the *Family Medical Care* and asked how much it was. I shared the book *Today Tomorrow and You* in an attempt to give

hope of what the Second Coming promises. I gently explained about the love of Jesus, sin and its effects and the promise of the soon coming of Jesus.

Brad then exclaimed, his voice muffled "how much is that book? I want it!" He then stood up, went to the drawer and paid cash for the book, asking me to return with volumes three, four, and five of the *Family Medical Care* books the following week. He then started to open up about his life. Very upset, he explained that every night he cried himself to sleep, asking God why? After listening to his story, I prayed with Brad and his sister. I pray that I will see Brad at the second coming, fully restored into the image of his Creator, Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Eunice Winship, Team Leader, Northern Australian Conference



## Meet Shaun Hepworth...

Shaun Hepworth has been involved in Literature Ministry for most of the past 13 years, based in the Lake Macquarie region of New South Wales. But more recently his passion for books and the impact they can make in the lives of young readers has also taken the form of a series of retold Bible stories, known as the "Moose Stories." He talked with *InTouch* about his work and this exciting series of children's books.

### Why did you become involved in Literature Ministry?

I had an impulse to share what I understood about God with others in a more direct way. I believe God has used me and blessed by putting a lot of valuable reading material into people's homes.

### What is so special about Literature Ministry?

It's a ministry that specialises in reaching people with the good news of salvation who would not otherwise come to church. It's meeting people where they are and making a genuine connection with them. I believe if Jesus was walking the earth today, He would be spending His time seeking people in their homes and searching for struggling souls.

### What impact has your work had on your spiritual life?

The impact has been significant. It has helped me to have a balanced Christian experience. Because the opportunity to share my faith comes up daily, I believe it has helped keep the fire of the gospel burning within me, and has helped me be more compassionate to people's suffering.

### Have you had any special experiences in your work?

I have seen God work in special ways many times, especially when you meet with people in their homes. It amazes me how God removes barriers as you gain people's trust and minister to them. Once they realise you are genuinely interested in them, they will frequently raise the issue of religion. This happens often from a health perspective.

### Where did the character of "Pastor Moose" come from?

The Moose was born out of family bedtime story sessions, with the re-telling of well-known Bible stories. The Moose gave me more leverage to fill the stories and have some fun with it.



Shaun Hepworth with Sandra, David, Tamia and Bailey Ashton

### You also have a ministry visiting schools in character. Tell us about that.

Recently I have taken my ministry to state and private schools in the form of author visits. I do story readings, share my testimony, run writing workshops and get the Moose character involved with a bit of light entertainment for the younger children.

### How important are Bible stories for young people?

Given that most people who make a decision for Christ, do so as a child, I believe Bible stories are still the best character-building tool we have at our disposal.

*If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public thus leading them to search the scriptures. Colporteur Ministry, page 7*

## How You Can Be Involved

### If you would like to:

- (a) Receive our e-mailed *InTouch* newsletters for free
- (b) Sponsor books to give away
- (c) Enrol in the free soul-winning course
- (d) Join our Literature Ministry soul-winning team

Please email [winsouls@adventist.org.au](mailto:winsouls@adventist.org.au)

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