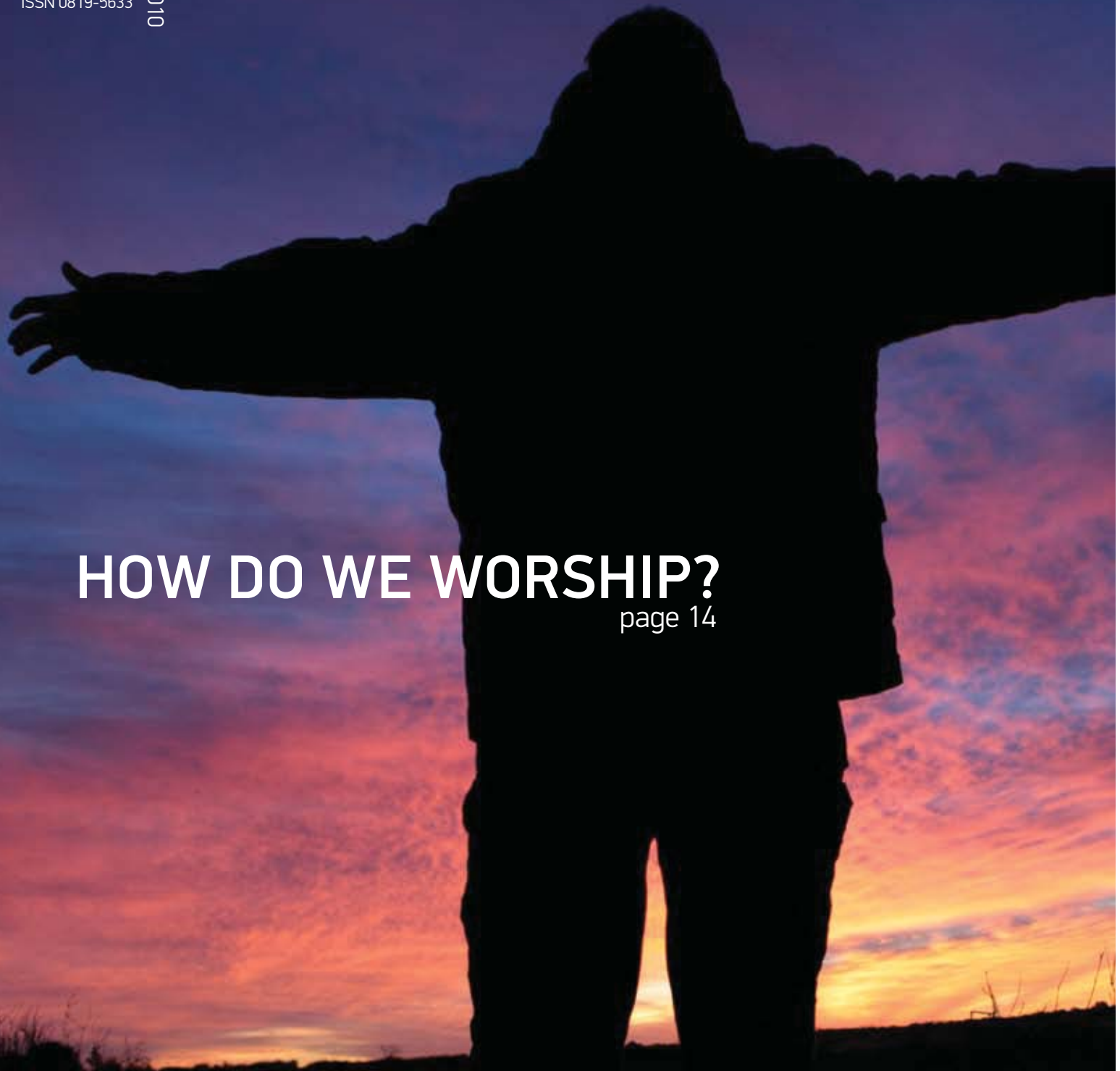


August 7 2010

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**NEW CHURCH GROUP DEDICATED IN
MUSLIM COMMUNITY** page 7



Ground-breaking learning

An adult literacy program in the Solomon Islands takes non-readers from zero to fluency in under a week. The "Buk Save" program, an initiative of the women's ministries department, starts non-reading adults at the alphabet, and connecting the letters from left to right. Exercises, games and repetition reinforce the learning. Graduating students are given a Pijin Bible. —RECORD staff



Second Coming

The Whangarei church, NZ, after several requests from the public and members, has reinstalled a mural depicting the Second Coming. Basil Ford took this project upon himself with help from Lewis Ringrose. Artist Brad Walters, from Parua Bay, Whangarei, completed the mural to a very high standard of workmanship. —Garry Hallmond



Bowled over

Famous cricketer Brett Lee appeared on *InFocus* with David Gibbons. He talked about his home grown values and why he supports ADRA. When he was younger, a close friend died from suicide as a result of depression, and it spurred the cricketer to work with others facing the illness through ADRA at Delhuntie Park (Victoria). The interview can be watched at <www.infocus.org.au>—a RECORD website.



Cupcake adventure

Children from Gosford Adventurer Club, NSW, recently iced and decorated 108 cupcakes that were then delivered to the local food kitchen serving meals to the homeless and less fortunate. Each cupcake was crowned with a flag which read "God bless you. From (child's name)." It was part of learning the fourth beatitude. —Sharon Bolst



80th celebrations hit the right note

To celebrate his 80th birthday, Alan Thrift was honoured with a "Pot Luck" luncheon by the Avondale Memorial Chorale, NSW, and their families. Alan is known for his contribution to music, both at the Avondale Memorial Chorale, the Lake Macquarie Ladies Choir, Avondale College, the Sydney Male Choir, and other choirs that he has conducted over a long and distinguished career. —Winsome Hughes



\$5500 raised for charity

Logan Reserve church, Qld, held a market day and fete. After advertising in their local newspapers, hundreds of people from the community came along to enjoy the fun on June 6. Each of the 20 stalls was fundraising for a charity of their choice such as ADRA, or clinic "Oreta" in the Solomon Islands. The Pathfinders earned lots of money towards the Camporee. —Jane Walker



League of their own

Fijian-born Lote Tuqiri is delivering an avalanche of tries for his NRL club, Wests Tigers, and Macarthur Adventist School, Sydney, NSW, is set to benefit. Wests League Club Campbelltown promised to pay \$10000 to a local school for every try the Tigers scored at Campbelltown this season. Macarthur says its cheque is on the way. —Macarthur Chronicle



Is Jesus your friend?

Karatundi students, WA, enjoyed a Week of Spiritual Emphasis with Pastor Ben Tavao. Eighteen students took a stand for Jesus on the final night. The theme was FAITHBOOK—taking the concept of the world famous social site Facebook and applying it to our setting as Christians. Pastor Tavao encouraged the kids to add Jesus as their friend, and to make sure they read Jesus' profile in His FAITHBOOK the Bible. —Robert Collins



Too old?

A survey of the 2033 General Conference Session delegates who listed their age on the application form for the Seventh-day Adventist Church's 59th General Conference Session indicates 2 per cent were under the age of 30. —ANN



The voices we need

Kent Kingston

I was intrigued by something my pastor said from the pulpit on Sabbath. He listed four types of people God uses to speak to us, using biblical characters as examples.

Priests represent the established church structure. They've devoted their fulltime working lives to God and have a depth of personal experience and corporate wisdom to share. As authority figures and servant leaders, they deserve our respect. Moses and Aaron fit into this mould, as do other formally recognised leaders in the Bible.

Prophets—outside the official organisational structure, they are fiercely loyal to the call of God rather than to particular traditions or trends. Their mission is to call believers and their leaders to a deeper devotion and closer obedience to their Maker; sometimes this involves warning or rebuke. We have seen this in the ministry of Ellen G White, as well as biblical prophets such as Nathan, Elijah or John the Baptist.

The poets connect us with God through beauty, expressiveness and emotion. Often they are vulnerable, opening up their own lives and feelings as they try to describe their encounter with the divine. Musicians, novelists, poets, painters, dancers and architects fall into this category. David is the example par excellence in Bible times—even today his psalms resonate with the cries of our own hearts.

And then we have the philosophers—the questioners; those who seek truth for truth's sake. Today, theologians and other academics might best fit this definition—men and women who spend years of their lives digging ever deeper into the treasures of God's Word and the wonders of His world. The books of Ecclesiastes and Job perhaps reflect this impulse most clearly, as the authors sought to come to grips with mysteries that seemed beyond human comprehension.

I'd like to see each of these voices well represented in this magazine. These pages should reflect a conversation coming from each of these perspectives, and more. We need our leaders, our loyal critics, our artists and our ponderers. Each has been made in the image of God; each is essential.

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"Desert sunset near Coober Pedy, SA."



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SIGNS
can reach
someone
▶ **you**
may never
reach



See insert in this
week's Record

Religious liberty leader honoured

David Gibbons—Wahroonga, NSW

The General Conference has recognised Pastor Ray Coombe for 25 years work in public affairs and religious liberty.

In front of General Conference president, Dr Ted Wilson, John Graz (General Conference Director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty—or PARL) and Eugene Hsu (General Conference Vice President) presented Pastor Coombe with a plaque. The plaque read “his ministry in the field of religious freedom and interfaith relations, for his wisdom and faith in times of challenge, and for his commitment to Christian ideals and principles throughout his entire life.”

Pastor Coombe, director of Adventist Mission for the South Pacific Division, represented the church as PARL director for 25 years at interfaith organisations such as the World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP) and the Australian Council of Christians and Jews (ACCJ).

He was an observer member of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) Executive Committee and attended NCCA Assemblies. In matters of Religious Liberty and government affairs he made submissions and lobbied governments on a range of issues in Australia, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Samoa.

Pastor Coombe says his greatest achievement was the organising and staging of the Pacific Rim Religious Liberty Congress in Suva, Fiji, in 1993. Since that time he has run seminars for Adventist politicians in PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji.

“More importantly,” Pastor Coombe says, “I’ve been able to help church members with religious liberty issues, such as accommodation for Sabbath observance, Sabbath exam exemptions, union membership issues, military service and religious discrimination.”

Pastor Ray Coombe officially retires from full time ministry later in 2010. The PARL roles are now taken care of by senior administrators at each of the four unions—Australia, New Zealand Pacific, Papua New Guinea and Trans-Pacific (situated in Fiji).



Ray Coombe (centre) is congratulated by General Conference PARL directors John Graz (left) and fellow Australian, James Standish (right).

Photo: Barry Bussey



Innovative ministry for “at-risk” kids awarded

Glenda Nilsson/Jarrod Stackelroth—Tauranga, New Zealand

KickStart Motorbike Ministry has been awarded the “2010 Regional Winner of the Educational and Child/Youth Development TrustPower Community Award”.

The recognition was given on June 21, in honour of the KickStart Motorbike Ministry making “an outstanding contribution to the Tauranga community”.

“Achieving this award gives greater credibility to our ministry which is continuing to develop and expand,” said Glenda Nilsson, Tauranga church secretary.

KickStart began in October 2007, taking six foster children motorbike riding at Tui Ridge Park, Rotorua. The program is run by a team of dedicated volunteers from the Tauranga church. After three years, 20 children have graduated from the program and 25 children are currently enrolled.

“The purpose of KickStart is to target “at-risk” kids in our community. Children who have been abandoned, abused

and neglected,” said Mrs Nilsson. “They are often children who are “written off.” Our goal is to show these children that there is hope and that they have a future.”

KickStart has recently developed its own motorbike track just five minutes north of Tauranga.

KickStart was stunned to receive the TrustPower Award.



The KickStart team.

Worship conference for all ages

Jarrod Stackelroth—Sydney, New South Wales

The Institute of Worship has partnered with the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC) Children’s ministries department to run a worship conference in the Cook Islands. The event was developed to focus on multi-generational worship and leadership mentoring. They determined to model an event that featured departments working together to train local church leaders and members.

It is the third such event this year, after successful conferences in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and Suva, Fiji. Pastors and elders who attended met for morning sessions on worship theology, culture and church worship leadership. During the day, workshops were run to upskill worship teams, with guitar, keyboard and voice tuition sessions. Presenters included Lyell Heise, head of the Institute of Worship, Kylie Ward, director of Children’s Ministries for NZPUC, and Litiana Turner, associate director of Children’s Ministries for the South Pacific Division. Mrs Turner presented the Barnabas Club, a model of an event planned for the whole family.



Avondale student, Blake Robinson, tutors some keen young worship band members.

Three youth paddle 400kms to congress

Wilfred Liligeto/Pablo Lillo—Honiara, Solomon Islands

Three young Adventists have travelled through 400 kilometres of intimidating seas, storms, rain and humidity to reach the inaugural Adventist Students Association Ambassador Congress held at Honiara, Solomon Islands.

More than 700 young people attended the conference. The three young men, Linton Vatora, 24, Jugha Japson, 25, and Nipla Thomson, 17, paddled from Choiseul in a dugout canoe. Their journey started on June 3 and they arrived on June 23 for the congress. With limited finance, the trio decided to deliver the dugout—owned by an aunty—to Honiara, and to experience the old way of transportation between islands.

“We never stopped praying to God throughout the trip and it paid off, which is a living testimony for us as youth,” said Mr Vatora, the youth leader at Choiseul and uncle of

the other boys. They survived on the hospitality of relatives and villages along the way.

The theme of the Ambassador Congress was Youth Alive—reducing at risk behaviour. Dr John Hammond, from Melbourne, and Ben Thomas from Pacific Adventist University, were the key speakers. The young people really enjoyed the congress. “Now, we have a program to work on to help ourselves as part of the worldwide youth ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” said a young man attending the congress.



L-R: Linton Vatora, Jugha Japson and Nipla Thomson carried mimimum supplies.



Quick fix

Maranatha Volunteers International has built more than 800 "One Day Church" buildings worldwide in the last two years. Maranatha is using the same pre-fabricated technology to construct classrooms in developing countries. At the end of a day of building, the classroom is complete with desks, chairs and even a blackboard.

—<www.maranatha.org>



Bad Language

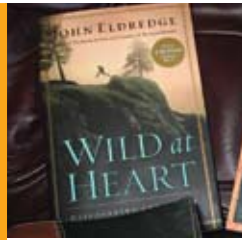
According to a draft update from New Zealand's Human Rights Commission, "New Zealand is a secular state... matters of religion and belief are deemed to be a matter for the private... sphere." The Catholic Church in New Zealand and the Christian Vision Radio Network have objected to the wording.—*New Zealand Herald*



Violence continues

At least eight Nigerian Christians have been killed near the town of Jos, where Muslim tribesmen massacred 500 people in March this year. Homes were torched and Christians were killed, including a mother of six children. The violence erupted after police withdrew from the trouble-spot, saying their wages hadn't been paid.

—*Voice of the Martyrs*



Mis-read

Many readers have enjoyed John Eldredge's book, *Wild at Heart*. The book encourages Christian men by using the language of "warrior" and "hero". But, Eldredge's readership now includes a violent Mexican drug cartel, La Familia Michoacana, which uses *Wild at Heart* as one of its textbooks.—*Religion News Service*



Plane swats mosquitoes

It has taken two Australian men 55 days to fly in the first Australian-designed and built plane to circumnavigate the globe. Pilots Ken Evers and Tim Pryse visited 16 countries during the journey, raising awareness and funds for the 300 to 500 million people who are infected with malaria each year.—*The Age*



Schism looming

Fears that the Anglican Communion is about to split over women's ordination are growing. Senior leaders took a proposal to the General Synod that would see women bishops working together with a male bishop. But, the proposal was voted down, disappointing traditionalists, who saw the compromise as a way forward.—*The Age*



2011
Expressions of Interest

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www.karalundi.wa.edu.au



New church group dedicated in Muslim community

Pablo Lillo/Jarrold Stackelroth—Sydney, New South Wales

The Lakemba-Tongan group has become an official company of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Pastors David Blanch and Michael Worker—president and general secretary of the Greater Sydney Conference—welcomed the company into the sisterhood of churches.

Forty six foundation members were voted into the company which will meet in the Lakemba Uniting Church.

The group was formed by the Fine family in their home about two years ago. Ana Lolohea has been working as the volunteer pastor with the help of retired minister Aisake Mafua.

In his address to the new congregation, Pastor Blanch summarised the 28 fundamentals, encouraging the

fledgling church to hold onto its values in these last days. Reverend Janie French, minister of the Lakemba Uniting church, where the group meet, said she couldn't believe how much she



Pastor Blanch conducts a baptism.

learnt about Adventists in one day.

The Granville and Sydney Tongan churches and the youth choir from

Punchbowl Samoan church supported the event. Also in attendance were members from the Hurstville and Lakemba Uniting churches and the Anglican church from across the road—friendships the Lakemba company have formed connections with.

Ana Lolohea said the application to become a company was accepted in February and had been a very exciting development for the church. "After many prayers and much fasting, it is very nice to see the work God has started in this church," she said. "We are now working towards becoming an organised church."

The afternoon program began when two young people were baptised by Pastor Blanch outside the church, a powerful witness in a concentrated Muslim community. The crowd then moved inside for the worship and dedication service, which was taken by Pastor Worker. A performance by the combined Lakemba Tongan and Hurstville Uniting choirs was a highlight of the program.



Pastor Worker preaches on the wedding feast of the lamb.

New Christian health series filmed

Pablo Lillo—Sydney, New South Wales

Two members of Church in the Fields—a relatively recent church plant in Sydney—have just finished filming their first health and well-being DVD series, titled *Flourish for Life*.

Michelle Noerianto and Suzanne Bocking—who run Flourish Consulting, a Christian counselling, coaching and education service established for women across all Christian denominations—created the series. They saw a great need to assist people who want a healthy change and are not sure where to begin.

Flourish for Life is a four-week holistic program that takes a revolutionary look at nutrition, exercise and thought processes from a Christian perspective.

Each program is 45 minutes long and has been adapted from a course that Flourish has successfully run in the community for people of all ages.

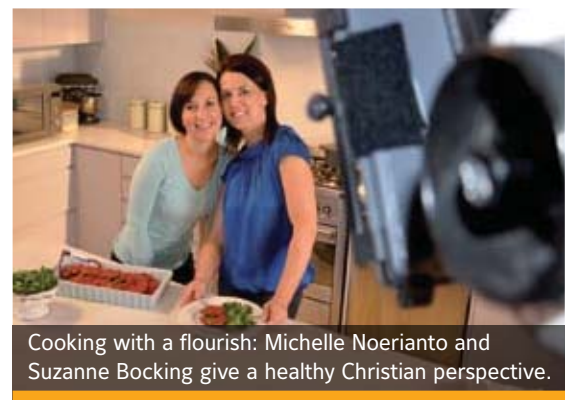
"This DVD may look slick on the outside but it's only a fraction of their ministry," said Andre Afamasaga, pastor of Church in the Fields.

"They not only share Jesus, they reflect and model


Him. As a local church we've had many come to Church in the Fields as a result of Flourish."

The DVD series is interactive and empowers people to record their own measurements, follow a food plan and participate in a short workout.

"God has given us an incredible passion to serve others in three distinct areas of life—the physical, emotional and the spiritual. If one of these areas is out of balance it affects the whole being," said Mrs Noerianto.



Cooking with a flourish: Michelle Noerianto and Suzanne Bocking give a healthy Christian perspective.



ADRA AUSTRALIA

Helping People at Home and Overseas

2010 ADRA APPEAL

www.adra.org.au
1800 242 372

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia

*Model used to protect privacy

Please help ADRA continue its life-changing ministry through supporting this year's ADRA Appeal.

ADRA Appeal dates for 2010:

North NSW	1 - 31 Aug
Queensland	31 July - 13 Aug
Northern Territory	31 July - 13 Aug
Sydney	7 Aug - 4 Sept
Western Australia	7 Aug - 31 Aug
South NSW	18 Sept - 31 Oct
Victoria	10 Oct - 17 Oct
Tasmania	2 Oct - 23 Oct
South Australia	10 Oct - 24 Oct

To find out how you can get involved, contact your church ADRA Appeal co-ordinator today.



OPINION

James Venegas

Apart or a part?

My local church recently supported a combined-churches effort to reach our community with the everlasting gospel. The initiative was a week-long series of evangelistic events targeting the different demographics of our town—women, men, adolescents and young families. The featured speaker was the grandson of an international evangelist, and in support were various music groups from around the country. The undertaking was immense but the return even more so. In one week hundreds of unbelievers made commitments, and thousands more were presented with, and challenged by, the truth of Jesus. What is more, Christians of all persuasions worked side-by-side, united by a common desire to fulfil “the Great Commission”.

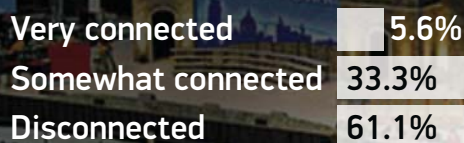
During the final and main event, while a call was being made for people to accept Jesus as their Saviour, I took a moment to scan the audience and noticed fellow leaders immersed in prayer. I could almost hear the united appeal on behalf of those who had not yet accepted Christ. It was quite a moment for me. And it confirmed a vital truth I learned early in my experience: that Christians must work together and not in conflict, if we are to reach the world of today with the gospel of the kingdom. This truth was powerfully impressed on me when, as a young man, I was afforded the opportunity to travel with an Adventist music ministry. We toured around Australia and abroad, singing in schools, public places and a wide range of Christian churches. During these years I met genuine, devoted believers who were committed to serving God.

Now, for some this may sound pro-ecumenical, but hear me out first. I am thoroughly convicted of my Seventh-day Adventist faith and am fully aware of the warnings in biblical prophecy regarding the mark of the beast and looming Sunday laws. I know full well that the final test before Christ returns will be a test of worship and allegiance and that the saints are called to obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus. However, I also know that our church has been raised-up for a purpose. We are not to gloat about our understanding of truth or see it in terms of status. Rather we are to see our role as mission; to not only share the everlasting gospel, but to warn fellow Christians of the devil's deceptions. Moreover, it is my conviction that they will never heed our warnings if we fail to associate with them beforehand—now. On the contrary, if we have their confidence and trust they will sense that love is our prime motivator, and only then will they heed the call.

Pastor James Venegas is pastor of Tamworth church, NSW.

OPINION POLL

How connected do you feel to what happens at the General Conference Session?




Next Poll

Is worship in your local church a truly multigenerational event?

Always Sometimes Rarely

Please visit <record.net.au> to answer this poll.



You said it

by Candice Jaques/Alexandra Marek

DURING THE PAST YEAR, ADRA AUSTRALIA HAS conducted nation wide research to identify ways it can be more effective in supporting the needs of communities living in poverty and hardship, and understanding and meeting the needs of supporters—the people who make ADRA’s work possible. As part of that research, a survey of ADRA supporters and Adventist church members was conducted.

Almost 700 people responded to the survey; 393 responding to the paper version and 278 responding on-line. Overall, the survey revealed that respondents know a great deal about ADRA’s work and are passionate and caring about the agency. The respondents represented more than 55 per cent of Australian churches, providing a great overview of church activity in relation to ADRA’s work.

More than 90 per cent of the churches represented participate in the ADRA Appeal. Of those churches participating, more than 85 per cent conduct door-knocking activities. Almost 70 per cent of respondents said most people donated when asked. Door-knocking, therefore, where it is conducted, continues to be a successful way of raising funds for ADRA’s work.

But the research also revealed that many people are declining to connect with their local community through the ADRA Appeal. When asked about their individual involvement, less than 50 per cent of respondents said they took part. When delving further into ADRA Appeal participation, these interesting results were found:

- People participate in the ADRA Appeal because they believe in ADRA’s work and are proud to support ADRA.
- People don’t participate in the door-knock because they prefer to raise funds in other ways. However, only 30 per cent of churches represented said they actually did that.
- The most regular ADRA Appeal participants are those older than 56.
- The greatest potential for increasing involvement lies with those under the age of 25, with approximately 65 per cent reporting that they “sometimes” participate.
- More than 50 per cent of door-knock collectors go out on a Saturday afternoon, but more than 40 per cent said people

were often not home. Only 13 per cent go door-knocking on a Sunday.

- More than 50 per cent of door-knock collectors go on one occasion only. Eight per cent go out three times.
- The majority of door-knock collectors—almost 70 per cent—go out for 1–3 hours per occasion.
- 88 per cent of those able to estimate said less than 40 other people from their church participated.

These results reveal interesting trends in ADRA Appeal participation, but also reveal how easy it can be to improve individual church totals.

To help make door-knocking easier for church members, ADRA has re-developed the ADRA Appeal brochure (featured in RECORD on July 17). The brochure shares personal experiences of two individuals that ADRA has helped, provides suggestions for donation amounts that can really make a difference and includes important information about who ADRA is and its high standing within the industry.

From the research results, ADRA has also identified four easy ways in which you can help to make the ADRA Appeal an even greater success: 1. Remember that door-knocking is still the most effective and successful method of direct appeal, and that most people give. 2. Go door-knocking more than once. 3. Make one of those extra occasions on a day other than Saturday. 4. Encourage one new person to go, so that the force on the doors can be doubled! The ability to reach and motivate more church members lies in the hands of people who have passion, drive and ability to advocate for ADRA at the local church level—people like you.

The research revealed that many ADRA supporters see the annual ADRA Appeal as the only way to interact with ADRA’s work. This shows a need for ADRA to provide more opportunities for interaction with church members. ADRA is currently developing new initiatives to help members better see the amazing difference their support is making in the lives of people in need.



Candice Jaques was the communication coordinator for ADRA Australia at the time of writing. Alexandra Marek is the marketing and public relations coordinator for ADRA Australia

Signs reaches out

by Lee Dunstan and Desmond B Hills

SIGNS OF THE TIMES MAGAZINE CONTINUES TO BE a relevant and attractive means of communicating the beliefs and lifestyle of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific. Since the formation of the Church in Australia, in 1885, *Signs* continues to be a principal tool for witnessing.

Throughout the month of August, we would like to encourage you to partner with the *Signs of the Times* team in their outreach ministry. Distributed in more than 50 countries, and cloned in a number of others, *Signs* is a stand-alone powerful witnessing and soul-winning tool.

Every year newly baptised people share their story of how their first contact with the Church was through *Signs* magazine. This Adventist publication has given hundreds of thousands of people over a span of more than 125 years an insight into Christianity.

The printed page cannot make the life-changing impact on it's own. It requires volunteers in partnership with *Signs*. The role of *Signs* magazine is to reach people you might otherwise never contact—a hippie sheltering under a bridge, an inmate rummaging through the rubbish bin of a prison exercise yard, and international visitors transiting our airports.

Many have contacted the church through one of the half-dozen offers in each magazine. These offers include invitations to purchase books and Bibles from our Adventist Book Centres; lifestyle or relationships correspondence courses from the Adventist Discovery Centre; enrolment at Avondale College; or to request one of *Signs'* free book offers, such as *Steps to Christ* and *The Ten Commandments*.

Grey nomads, Ngairé and Ron Andrew (pictured), responded to the challenge of delivering *Signs* magazines on a trip through the Australian Outback. "We had a great trip. . . We had a good time letter boxing 250 *Signs* and booklets. We did almost all the mailboxes between Cunnamulla, Thargomindah and St George. We had a sticker printed and put on the front of the magazines that read, 'Complimentary, from grey nomads Ni and Ron' with our email address. We also left *Signs* in caravan parks. May they be like seeds that will sprout in their own good time."

Each month at least 100,000 people read something from a *Signs* magazine. However, are you aware circulation has fallen over the past few years, to a print run of less than 35,000? In recent years, its role has diminished as the print medium has taken a back seat to other forms of media. This presents a real challenge for the *Signs* team in 2010-11. Yet they have plans to expand their ministry.

Awareness of how to use *Signs* is a major factor for our church members today. Most say they don't know how to share the magazine, other than having it sit in their church foyer.

Listed below are ideas the *Signs* team uses for mass-outreach distribution.

There are some 200 local outlets requiring supervision and sponsorship.

■ **Outback/Adventist Aviation (OAA):** Adventist Aviation Association in several states flies volunteer distributors to Outback towns for outreach. Also, travellers take sponsored *Signs* to drop along their route. Layman Noel Duffy, 83, has delivered Christian literature, including tens of thousands of *Signs*, to some two million homes over the past decade.

■ **Pacific Island Outreach (PIO):** *Signs* is highly valued in the Pacific Island nations, where quality, low-cost or free outreach materials are scarce. Up to 30 people will read a single copy. Distributors can never get enough for their needs, which include outlets at state universities, prisons and ADRA shops. They cannot afford them for themselves.

■ **Australian Transport Outlets (ATO):** Racks are in airports (Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia), truck stops, ferry and bus terminals around the country—wherever people are waiting with time on their hands.

■ **New Zealand Evangelism (NZE):** Includes scores of different means of distribution, with magazines in shopping malls, church rounds and waiting rooms in 12 airports.

■ **Signs for Our Schools (SOS):** Provides the magazine to families of non-Adventist students and visitors to our schools, informing them of the culture and beliefs of our Church, as well as about the times in which we live.

Literature Evangelists (LE): *Signs* are given to people showing an interest, when viewing our books in Australia, New



Zealand and the Pacific.

■ *Go Signs, Go Gospel!*: A packaged *Signs* and flier placed in all Australian and New Zealand letter boxes, one postcode at a time, using commercial direct mail distributors, with almost one million homes in Australia and New Zealand to date. Monthly drops of up to 20,000, often in support of public outreach, a local school or church.

Sponsors are needed for this plan to become a reality. In the past the cost has largely been met by corporate church entities, with substantial contribution by a few church members. Why not have your church adopt a postcode for a *Signs* drop? In addition to a *Signs* magazine, each pack contains offers that will connect the reader with the church nearest their postcode, including "Try Jesus" and free book offers.

Thousands of sponsored *Signs* are needed for these and other outlets that don't quite fit into any of the above. For example, the Sydney Adventist Hospital is desperate for magazines—700 a month are taken by patients and visitors. Others go to Bible study students in the Torres

Straits. Some are used in English language schools in Asia, and are distributed door-to-door in *Signs* rounds both at home and overseas.

You will find more on <www.signsofthetimes.org.au/testimonies>. Turn to the centre spread, where you'll find an order form. Remember, *Signs* reaches people you'll never know. R

Lee Dunstan is Signs Ministry coordinator for the SPD, and also editor of Signs of the Times. Pastor Desmond Hills is retired, but continues as

LETTERS

AN ABSOLUTE GEM

John Kosmeier, NSW

I'd like to thank Amanda Bews for writing "Family tradition" (Feature, July 3). It was an absolute gem of an article. I would have to say it's one of the best I've read in a long time.

MUCH DIFFERENCE?

Gennaro Cozzi, VIC

I was saddened to read "Lifestyle, not a ritual" (Opinion, July 3) by Marissa Grove—it's an opinion I share. The 'friends' of Marissa are disillusioned, perhaps in crisis. This is sad. Is their much difference between the early church and our church today?

I wonder how many times God has been disillusioned with our attitude? The remedy I apply in my life is quite simple: Just as Jesus came to serve—we should do the same—in love. If we follow this simple rule, then less of our family and friends will leave church.

A POWERFUL PUNCH

Jeff Crombie, NSW

I'd like to add my praise for Grenville Kent's article "The real mile high club" (Feature, May 15). Not only was it a brilliant piece of writing, it was super interesting from start to finish and packed a powerful punch for Christian values. It's certainly up there with some of the best articles I've read in the RECORD.

SUBSIDISED STUDY TOURS

Don Mitchell, NSW

I was reminded of the need in our region in "Desperate need in Pacific" (News, June 5). The thought came to me, that a lot of money could be saved if there were not so many subsidised study tours, for elite groups, going on continuously. Where do the funds come from to finance these ventures?

SUBSIDISED TOURS

RESPONSE: Pastor Gary Webster (Director of the Institute of Public Evangelism)

I appreciate the concerns raised by Don Mitchell. The church does need to exercise caution, ensuring there are very good reasons for conducting study tours and carefully choosing those who participate.

However, as an evangelist who has been to the Bible and Reformation lands, such study tours have been of enormous value to me and many others in leading thousands of people to Christ and His church. As such, rather than a cost—whose funds come from various church entities and the individual—they have been an investment. I believe Church leadership have been wise in making such investments.

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.



OPENING HIS WORD

Gary Webster

The final sign of Christ's soon return

In answer to the question, "When shall all these things be (the destruction of Jerusalem's temple) and what shall be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the world?", Christ left His followers with a number of signs of His return. In Matthew 24 and Luke 21, He predicted signs of both the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD, and the end of the world at His return. Between these two events was to be a period of great persecution—the 1260 years of Daniel and Revelation. **Read** Matthew 24:1-3,32,33; 21-23,29; Daniel 12:4,7; Revelation 12:6,14

These signs included wars and international conflicts, earthquakes, famines and diseases. **Read** Matthew 24:6,7

Immediately after the great period of persecution He predicted signs in the sun, moon and stars (fulfilled in the historical events of 1780 and 1833), and warned of Christians working deceptive miracles, signs and wonders, and teaching that Christ would come secretly (fulfilled in the modern Pentecostal/charismatic movement and the secret rapture teaching sweeping the world today). **Read** Matthew 24:23-28

But the final sign is the global proclamation of the gospel—the **good news that God loves everyone everywhere so much that He even gave His own Son for the worst of sinners**. This sign is being rapidly fulfilled today as the gospel brings salvation and hope to millions of broken hearts and lives in every country of the world. **Read** Matthew 24:14; John 3:16; Luke 21:28

No question, Jesus our Saviour will return very soon. What should we then do? My friend, right now take Christ's words seriously—Watch! Be ready! Turn away from making pleasure, materialism and the cares of this life your number one priority. Seek God and His righteousness first and He will take care of your needs. **Read** Matthew 24:42,44; 6:33; Luke 21:34

Pastor Gary Webster is director of the Institute of Public Evangelism.



MY MINISTRY IDEA

Mary-Jane Townson

For a while I been thinking about my three-year-old daughter who loves to cook; and I thought other kids out there would love to do it too. So I said to God, "Hey God, you know we want to do some serious work for You, but don't know where to go. We are thinking about cooking with little kids in the community as a starter. What do You think?" Then I finished off with: "I tell You what, if one person at the church board meeting rejects this idea, we won't go through with it for the moment."



Of course, no-one rejected the idea. I thought, "Crumbs! What have we got ourselves into?"

We started in May with eight kids, aged three to six. We currently have 14 booked. They love getting their own ingredients, while their mums wait for them at the table. As soon as they get there, they quickly put on their aprons and sit straight on their stool, behind a big bowl. Some kids, and also mums, have been caught eating the choc bits for the chocolate brownies!

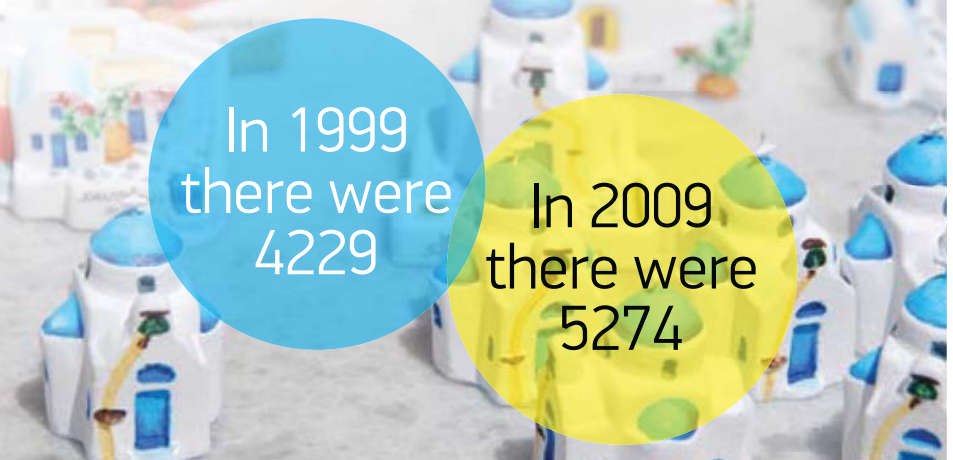
Big Chef (my husband, Pastor Ben Townson) talks to the kids through the process, and they all listen. Before they cook, Ben starts off with a game, or he tells them facts about something they will be using on the day. For example: Apricot Slice—he told them facts about apricots and where they are originally from.

We have an awesome team. Ros and Leanne look after the under-threes. Tricia, Sue, and myself are kitchen hands and helpers for games and clean up. Ben is the head chef. The mums are asking questions about Sanitarium and some are now using the products and recipes. Some mums are asking if we have more room for their friends and children to come along too. Unfortunately we've run out of spots. They've asked if we could do another "Little Chefs Academy" next year.

The Ararat Church and Sanitarium have been supporting us and that has been a great help. We all have been enjoying ourselves, the community are getting to know a bit more about the church and good health, and most of all they are getting to know that there is a God—an AWESOME GOD!

NOW @ THEN

Number of churches and companies in the South Pacific Division:





Cultivate a healthy work-life balance

There's no doubt we're a hard-working bunch, spending almost 200 hours more at work each year than the international average. But are longer hours at work affecting our health and work-life balance?

For 67 per cent of Australians, work provides a sense of identity. It's not surprising, when you consider that we spend one-third of our life at work. But Australians work longer than people in most other nations—spending an average 1855 hours at work each year in comparison to the international average of 1643 hours. As a result, half of us are feeling tired and run-down. So what can we do to juggle the hours, feel great and enjoy time at and away from work? Here are some tips from the Cultivate team to make sure you're performing at your best:

MOVE: Get up from your chair regularly, organise meetings outside or take a walk at lunchtime with colleagues. Get moving—research shows that sitting for long periods increases the risk of heart disease and diabetes.

EAT WELL: Enjoy a variety of foods at work. If you snack, instead of reaching for the lolly jar, keep a container full of dried fruit and nuts by your desk. Have a protein food at lunch, like a lentil patty; it will help sustain energy levels throughout the afternoon.

RELAX: It's important to identify stress triggers and have an action plan to reduce stress. Ten minutes in the sunshine,

a quick walk or a flick through a magazine can often help a stressful situation.

Making some of these simple changes can help you take care of your wellbeing at work. And a healthy work life can make things we do outside of work much more enjoyable and fulfilling.

These are just some of the many tips from the Cultivate team to help you reclaim your work-life balance. Cultivate is a new addition to Sanitarium's suite of health and wellbeing services, bringing a truly holistic approach to the work environment, making happier, healthier people and delivering real business results.

Cultivate provides health and wellbeing coaching, assessments, inspiring workshops, a sophisticated online wellbeing portal, dynamic activities like massage and skin checks and other engaging packages that can make a positive difference.

If you would like to speak with a dietitian about ways to focus on whole foods for better health, call 1800 673 392 (Australia) or 0800 100 257 (New Zealand). Alternatively, email us with a nutrition question at nutrition@sanitarium.com.au (Australia) or nutrition@sanitarium.co.nz (New Zealand). We'd love to hear from you! And don't forget to order your FREE copy of *Food for Health and Happiness Cookbook*—it has plenty of delicious and nutritious recipes. Order online or by calling during business hours.



Vegetable and pearl barley soup

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 2 ½ teaspoons paprika
- 2 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 2 sticks celery, sliced
- 2 cups water
- 1 cup pearl barley, rinsed
- 1 teaspoon salt (optional)
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- ½ teaspoon dried chilli flakes (optional)
- 2 potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 6 cups reduced salt, liquid vegetable stock
- 400g can no added salt, chopped tomatoes
- 400g can kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 2 tablespoons no added salt, tomato paste

1. Heat oil in a large saucepan and sauté onion until soft. Add paprika and chilli flakes and sauté for 1 minute.

2. Add vegetables, stock, water, tomatoes, kidney beans, barley, tomato paste and salt.

3. Bring mixture to the boil, then reduce heat and simmer for 30-35 minutes or until barley is soft.

4. Serve with toasted Turkish bread. Serves 8.

Preparation time: 20 minutes. Cooking time: 40-45 minutes.

Visit <www.cultivate.sanitarium.com.au>.

PER SERVE: 880kJ; Protein 8g; Total Fat 4g; Saturated Fat <1g; Carbohydrate 32g; Total Sugars 6g; Sodium 650mg; Potassium 580mg; Calcium 45mg; Iron 2.4mg; Fibre 9mg.





How do we worship?

by Dr Lyell Heise

ECHOING THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS, A 22-year-old Irish girl captured a precious worship theme. Charitie Bancroft penned a worship agenda for her native Ireland in 1863. But this theme was soon to be taken world-wide by Christians on another continent she didn't even know. This worship-inspiring message of faith in Jesus as a risen Saviour, a present Priest, and a soon coming King, went global as Seventh-day Adventists spread the message to the ends of the earth. Charitie stated it so well.

*Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea.
A great High Priest whose name is Love
Who ever lives and pleads for me.*

The message in Charitie's words, carried on a contemporary tune composed by Vikki Cook in 1997, is being sung today by Christians all around the world and by South Pacific Adventist congregations (*Before the throne of God above*, PDI music). It reminds us that Adventist worship is a Sabbath celebration, in which Jesus is adored and worshiped as Saviour, Priest and Coming King.¹

In acknowledging the centrality of Jesus, what else can we say about South Pacific Adventist worship? In what ways does the church support, energise and encourage its congregations in the grand enterprise of worship? What are some of the powerful cultural foundations which undergird South Pacific Adventist worship? What are the challenges that confront a multicultural movement as it seeks in worship to "sing the Lord's song" in a way that finds responsive echoes in the hearts of its people?

Remember that the worshippers are Polynesians, Melanesians, Micronesians, Australians and New Zealanders descended from and migrating from every continent on earth. Remember too, that they are children of the cultures emerging in our region from the experiences of world wars, economic boom and bust and disillusionment, yet have a tenacious grip on hope for the future and a passionate determination to thrive. They are communities in which seniors from the survivor generation (including both former soldiers and former fuzzy-wuzzy angels) seek community with baby-boomers, their generation X and Y children, and their Millennial grandchildren.

The South Pacific Division's Institute of Worship has been hard at work since its inception in 2004, addressing these questions in ongoing worship conversations. Here is a three-fold focus for the worship conversation.

1. A working definition of worship. Charles Teel, Adventist worship theologian, suggests that worship is "A Redeemed Community, Responding to its Redeemer."²

This definition captures the gospel base for Adventist worship. Not fretful worshippers on probation and uncertain about their status before the Lord they worship—not at all! This is a REDEEMED community. That awareness empowers their outreach and mission to the world.

The definition highlights COMMUNITY. If there is any one

idea that the Institute of Worship would like to seize as its mantra, it would be a passion for multi-generational worship. Tiny children and energetic youth lovingly interacting with adult singles, adult families and with senior citizens, is a picture which seems most attuned to the biblical picture of the family of God. Worship conferences and special events held this year in Port Moresby, Suva, Rarotonga and Auckland, offer that very special picture of the redeemed family of God.³

The worship to which we are drawn is full of action. It is a redeemed community RESPONDING to its Redeemer. This is a picture of high involvement, where young and old together are offered a place of participation and full contribution to the praise and adoration ascending to God.

2. A set of principles undergirding a vision for the content and shape of worship. Taking a cue from influential worship theologian Robert Webber, the Institute of Worship proceeds on the premise that the CONTENT and SHAPE of worship are absolutely central and primary issues. On the other hand, STYLE, while often the most heated point of discussion, may be best addressed after we have laid a clear foundation for CONTENT and SHAPE.⁴

3. Pointers toward understanding and interpreting a bewildering array of voices addressing the issue of style in worship. A tool which has been shared in training events is one which analyses the way in which the dominant form of communication in a group, or culture, or nation, impacts the way believers in that group express their worship of God. Thus the changing communication styles since the time of Jesus, drawing as they have on oral, print, broadcast, and now digitally shared communication, have inevitably modified the styles associated with Christian worship.⁵ The resulting variety, if carefully interpreted and expressed appropriately, has the potential to enrich our worship and give us a colourful prism through which to view and respond to God's call to His people, in all ages and places.

How do they worship, these Seventh-day Adventists set in a kaleidoscope of cultures and situations around the South Pacific? They worship with passion, they worship with hope and they worship with a variety befitting the variety in which God created the human race. In language, in song, in style, they fulfil the word of Revelation which calls all believers to "worship the maker of heaven and earth..." **R**

¹For a detailed presentation of an Adventist theology of worship, see Raymond Holmes' book, *Sing a New Song*, (Andrews University Press, 1984).

²Dr Charles Teel is a professor of religion at La Sierra University, and first offered his definition in the ongoing series of Worshipfests he hosted at La Sierra in the 1970s.

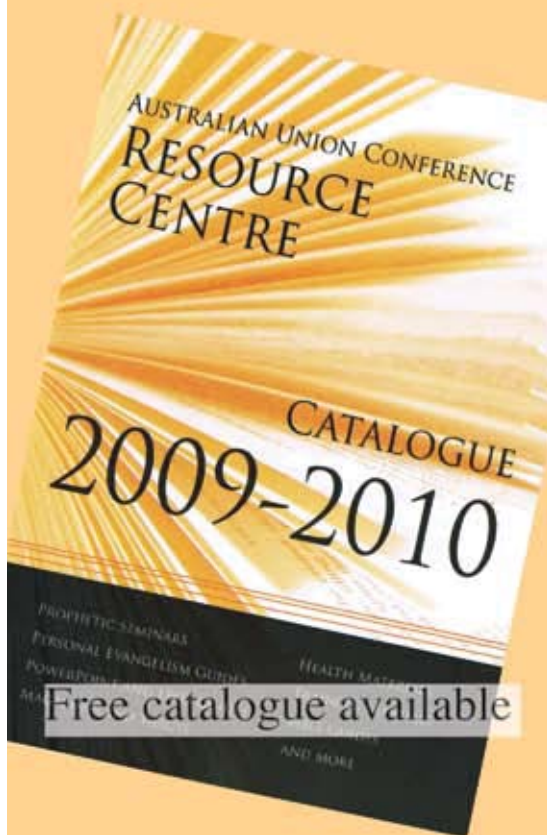
³Since conducting major worship conferences in each of the four unions of the South Pacific, the Institute of Worship is now focused on resource development, and worship leadership and training events in local conferences, missions, schools and churches.

⁴Webber's insight here is offered in summary form in his article "Youth Worship: What's Negotiable?" in the journal *Worship Leader*, September 2006, page 10.

⁵The best treatment of this insight is offered in Rex Miller's book, *The Millennium Matrix*, (Jossey-Bass, 2004.)

Dr Lyell Heise is a senior lecturer in Theology at Avondale College and director of the Institute of Worship.

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Ringwood Victoria 3134
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Email: resources@adventist.org.au



HEALTH WISE

Dr James Wright

Sore feet?

Q: I developed a sore heel six months ago. I visited a “specialist”. For \$500 he fitted a prosthesis, and said “It’ll be OK”. It became worse. I answered a newspaper ad which promised “we fix in one visit”. He said the prosthesis was useless, and tried something else, and told me to return each month, at \$75 a visit and no rebate. I feel ripped off. It is still painful.



A: This is “plantar fasciitis”—inflammation of the thin sheet of tissue just under the sole—and maybe a spur on the heel. They develop slowly (over years), and likewise take time to heal. Rub the heel firmly over a golf ball, or glass bottle on its side, for three minutes twice a day. This breaks down tiny fibre adhesions, improves blood supply, and removes

toxins which cause the pain. It may take months. Alternate hot and cold foot soaks twice a day help others. A cortisone injection can also be magical.

Q: I go for a daily walk. It usually takes one hour, or sometimes half an hour if lazy. I wear walking shoes. But I am noting discomfort at the base of the big toe. Should I stop walking?

A: No, keep up the exercise, and 30-60 minutes a day is fine. The brisker the walk the better. However, the pad of fat under the sole at this point is obviously thinning, so the continued pressure produces pain. Ideally see a podiatrist. An insole (“prosthesis”) will assist. This must include padding at the sore point. This replaces the insulation of the fat, and the pain will vanish.



WHY I AM AN ADVENTIST

Revona Govender

Almost every parent goes through the process of explaining to their child why they have to wake up bleary-eyed at eight o'clock on a Saturday morning, instead of sleeping in or watching cartoons. I have clear memories, as a child, of preparing for church on Friday night with my mum setting out my clothes, socks and all day snack-packs as we would be at church all day.

Being an Adventist is all about experiences. It's hard to explain the nature of God to a child, or teach them the benefits of being a Seventh-day Adventist—it's easier to point them in the direction of church and allow them to experience it for themselves.

I grew up in South Africa attending church camps, big regional meetings and afternoon programs almost every weekend. We moved to Australia and as I progressed in years I found myself more involved in church—singing, involved in dramas, still attending events and as I got older I took on leadership roles.

I give full credit and appreciation to my parents for raising me in an environment with awesome social interaction, exciting events and pot-luck lunches that I experience every weekend. This is why I'm an Adventist.



What's in a name?

by Dr Arthur Patrick

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE CHILD IS NOW SO GROWN that it is exceedingly awkward to have no name for it," James White commented at an epochal conference that began on September 29, 1860.

The "child" was the Sabbath-keeping branch of the Second Advent Movement, already 16 years old. It was born amongst scattered groups of "the people of the Advent near," now best known as Millerites. As earnest believers continued to study their Bibles, they added to their passion for the Second Advent four other "S" ideas: Sabbath, Sanctuary, State of the Dead and Spiritual Gifts. But they still couldn't decide what to call themselves.

Ellen Harmon's first vision was distributed as a broadside (a large sheet of paper printed only on one side) dated April 6, 1846, addressed in capital letters "TO THE LITTLE REMNANT SCATTERED ABROAD". A year later, 19-year-old Ellen, now Mrs James White, teamed with her husband and Joseph Bates to produce a pamphlet entitled "A Word to the Little Flock". During 1849, James White published a tiny hymnal, *Hymns for God's Peculiar People That Keep the Commandments of God and the Faith of Jesus*. "Little Remnant", "Little Flock", "People That Keep the Commandments" were all Bible ideas, for sure—taken from Revelation 12:17 and Luke 12:32—but hardly suitable as names!

Many other titles were used briefly by various companies of believers: "Friends of the Sabbath", "Those With An Interest in the Third Angel's Message", "Seventh-day People", "Sabbath-keeping Adventists", "Seventh-day Brethren". Some names were first hurled as epithets by critics who wanted to disparage the struggling groups now seeking a fresh identity: "Seventhday Door Shutters" and "Shut Door Seventh Day Sabbath and Annihilationists". A Seventh Day Baptist wrote amicably to James White in 1853 stating that it was "resolved that we instruct our corresponding secretary to correspond with the Seventh-day Advent people, and learn their faith".

Discussion about a permanent name continued for seven more years; the pages of the *Second Advent Review* and *Sabbath Herald* often devoted space to it—and the need for

effective organisation. Believers sacrificed to buy tents for evangelism in several states, but in at least one case the state evangelists left the Second Advent cause and took the tent with them. James White legally owned the infant publishing house, a fact that made him very uneasy. There was no-one to guarantee that travelling ministers were reliable, or to ensure they neither starved nor became discouraged for lack of financial support. Churches were being built on donated property; they could quickly be lost if the erstwhile generous donor experienced a change of mind. The need for a name was as dire as it was complicated.

So James White called for a general conference of believers to convene in Battle Creek, Michigan, on September 29, 1860—to settle such questions as the legal holding of church and publishing house properties and to choose a name. The discussion began on Saturday night and rolled through Sunday until, on Monday afternoon, it was voted to adopt a name. "Church of Christ" had been a favourite for some, "Church of God" was still zealously advocated. Finally David Hewitt, a layman, proposed "That we call ourselves Seventh-day Adventists". Discussion surged on, but at last the conference voted its approval, agreeing also to recommend the name to the churches, and to report the decision in the *Review*.

There were cogent reasons why the process of adopting a name was fraught with great difficulty. The Sabbatharians had been cast out of churches that had names and creeds: they never wanted that to happen to anyone again—ever! Some feared the movement would become Babylon immediately it adopted a name, let alone organisational structure. The years of indecision were tedious, the resolution was a relief to most but a few departed in sorrow. Ellen White confirmed the decision when she wrote: "The name Seventh-day Adventist carries the true features of our faith in front, and will convict the inquiring mind. Like an arrow from the Lord's quiver, it will wound the transgressors of God's law, and will lead to repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ" (*Testimonies*, I, 224). R

Dr Arthur Patrick is an honorary senior research fellow at Avondale College.

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RECORD REWIND

Lee Dunstan

Signs goes to Pitcairn

Arthur Maxwell—Uncle Arthur, author of the “Bible Story” series—stands beside the grave of missionary to Pitcairn, John Tay, in Fiji, in 1968. Arthur Maxwell, at the time editor of *Signs of the Times*, holds a copy in his hand. *Signs* was instrumental in opening Pitcairn to the Adventist message.



Arthur Maxwell remembers John Tay's life and sacrifice.

Elder James White, first editor of *Signs of the Times*, along with elder John Loughborough, beginning in 1876, sent *Signs of the Times* to Pitcairn Island, after hearing the story of their reformation through reading the Bounty Bible.

White and Loughborough felt compelled to reach across the Pacific and do something for a people group they had no other way of reaching. In 1886, 10 years later, Tay, a layman, sailed to Pitcairn Island to observe the effect of the message of the magazines on the population.

Tay preached a revival series, following which the islanders accepted the truths of the Adventist message. Many were baptised and the island has remained an outpost of Adventism to this day.

Signs of the Times is still being sent to Pitcairn Island, these days from Australia, paid for collectively by donors to the *Signs* Pacific Islands Outreach (PIO) Five-star project. Other PIO distributions include *Signs* aboard Pacific Yacht Ministries boats to Vanuatu, for Pacific Adventist University students who place them in jails in Papua New Guinea and an ADRA shop in Kiribati among others. It is one of six such *Signs* Ministry outreach projects supplying *Signs* to places not normally frequented by church members or beyond their reach.

Pictured below is the very first edition of *Signs of the Times* printed in Australia, in January 1886.

Lee Dunstan is *Signs* Ministry coordinator and also editor of *Signs of the Times*.



Kids' SPACE

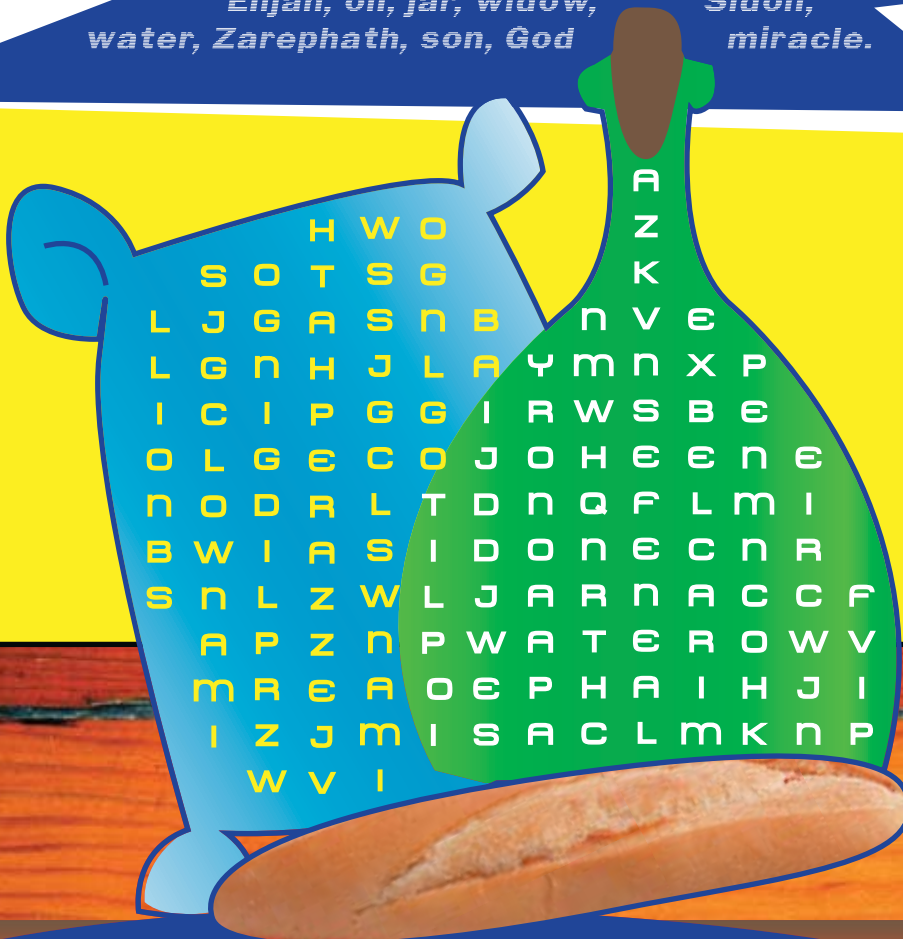


Kia orana*
KIDS!

Remember **Elijah**? He went to a widow and asked her to give him food. And because she shared what little she had. God blest her with a **miracle** and she had oil and flour in her home throughout the famine.

You can read this story in **1 Kings 17:7-16**

Find the following **HIDDEN WORDS**:
Elijah, oil, jar, widow, Sidon,
water, Zarephath, son, God miracle.



BIBLE TEXT "He is our God and we are...
under His care" Psalm 95:7

GRACELINK MESSAGE: GOD USES OTHERS
TO HELP US.

*Hello in the Cook Islands



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SYDNEY
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Why our church is special (Part 2)

I grew up in the Goulburn (NSW) Church. Over the years something happened to me as I attended Sabbath School, church, Pathfinders, JMs, MVs, church picnics and Saturday night socials. I was learning to know Jesus. My church has played a huge part in shaping my life as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Of course there have been a number of other influences as well, notably family, friends and colleagues. But the church has been, and continues to be, indispensable for me in consolidating and growing my relationship with Jesus.

The church is only the church when Christ is the Head of the church. The church is only the church when we are as the parts of the body joined together by Him living, working and praying for the good of one another. The church is only the church as we **reach up** to God and commune with Him, as we **reach across** to one another in love and support, and as we **reach out** to the world with compassion and care.

Our Church is special because it provides us with an amazing opportunity to find, and hold onto, Jesus. "In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit" (Ephesians 2:21, 22 NIV).

Photo: Barry (aged 12) and Trevor (aged 9) Oliver sitting outside the Goulburn Church in 1963.

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



Wayne Cooper, NSW

As a 19-year-old working as a fitter and turner in Sydney in the 1970s, I was discontented and unhappy. I'd heard about people living in beautiful locations in the commune environment, all happy and at peace, tip-toeing through the tulips and thought maybe they've got something there.

So I packed up my bags and started hitchhiking from my home to Nimbin, some 800 kilometres away in north New South Wales, to join a hippy commune.

I got a lift to Brooklyn, about 40 kilometres north of Sydney on the Hawkesbury River, but then my luck ran dry. It was a scorching hot day, and I had spent hours waiting by the side of the road for someone to give me a lift, but nobody stopped.

I had hitchhiked before and usually got to places easily. But for the first time, I waited for hours and nobody stopped. I actually believe it was angels who made me invisible because of what was to happen.

With the sun beaming down on me on such a hot day, I decided to go down and get some shade under the bridge by the Hawkesbury River. As I sat on the bank, having a cigarette, I saw a magazine that was half sticking out of the sand. I picked it up out of curiosity and brushed the sand off.

The magazine was opened to this story about a young guy who was looking for meaning in life like me, and had gone off to join a hippy commune, also like me. The guy in the story also tried the drug culture but never really found what he was looking for in life—contentment and peace. But through certain circumstances, the guy in the story became a Christian and was starting at a place called Avondale College to study to be a minister.

The magazine was the *Signs of the Times* and at that moment, I made a decision. I had never heard of the Seventh-day Adventist Church before but I could identify with the guy who was going through a similar experience and found all he was looking for in Christianity.

When I picked up the magazine, I got a really strong impression that God (even though I didn't recognise God at that time) was telling me to go home and try Christianity instead of going off and getting into the drug and alternative lifestyle scene. And so I went home.

Signs of the Times was instrumental in turning me around to look towards Christ as a way of living and to take on the Christian lifestyle.

But I fell back into my old routine. One day, in the early hours of the morning, after going out with friends partying and drinking, I was walking home and feeling really empty. I walked past a park which was close to where I was living and I remember looking up at the stars and I said to God, "If You are real, reveal Yourself to me. I want to know You if You're real."

It was a prayer that was miraculously answered not long after, when my housemate decided to leave to go to northern Australia with a friend for work. That friend also had a housemate, Dennis, and one day, all four of us met up before our friends' trip to northern Australia.

Dennis needed a new housemate and so we decided to share a place. It turned out that Dennis was a Seventh-day Adventist. I remembered that the *Signs* magazine that I had found was an Adventist publication and realised that God was at work and was trying to tell me something. I began to ask Dennis many questions about his faith and when I had exhausted him, he referred me to a retired Adventist pastor (Pastor Len Kent) for Bible studies. Pastor Kent eventually baptised me. God had answered my prayers in bringing me to understand about His great love for me and I had indeed found what I was looking for in Him.



POSITIONS VACANT

Administrative Assistant—Greater Sydney Conference

(Epping, NSW) is seeking an enthusiastic, dedicated and experienced administrative assistant to the general secretary and chief financial officer as a maternity leave position for 12 months initially. This full-time position requires the successful candidate to facilitate a productive administration through the efficient processing of enquiries, documents, scheduling appointments, secretarial work and administrative functions. The successful candidate will be committed to the teachings, values and mission of the Church. For more information, a full job description, or to submit written applications and your CV (including the contact details of your church pastor), please contact Pr Michael Worker on (02) 9868 6522 or email <michaelworker@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **August 16, 2010**.

Camp Manager—Tui Ridge Park (Rotorua, NZ). This position requires an outgoing person with exceptional people skills. A strong commitment to the mission and values of the Adventist Church is essential, as is the ability to manage staff and property, promote the park, and develop and implement programs. This is a lifestyle position living on-site at a premier camping facility, which is a 172 hectare park. If you enjoy the outdoors, and have a heart for ministry through adventure activities and camping programs, please email your CV to <nnzc@adventist.org.nz> or send mail to Tui Ridge Park Board—Manager Position, Private Bag 76900, Manukau City, New Zealand 2241. Applications close **August 19, 2010**.

International Development Internships—Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is seeking expressions of interest from recent International Development or Social/Human Science graduates considering a career in international development. ADRA Australia supports community development programs in a number of African, Asian and Pacific countries and wishes to place two interns in partner ADRA offices for two years, 2011–12. Applicants should have previous experience in a cross-cultural environment and/or significant volunteer experience and a demonstrable commitment to ADRA's mission, values and goals. Applicants must hold, or be eligible for, an Australian or New Zealand passport. For more information visit <www.adra.org.au/getinvolved/careers.htm> Internship Opportunities, or contact Alison Young at <ayoung@adra.org.au> or phone (02) 9489 5488. Applications close **September 10, 2010**.

For more employment options go to adventistemployment.org.au



WEDDINGS

Laumatia—Suavai. Sinapati Laumatia, son of Filipo and Tusa Laumatia (Niusuatia, Samoa), and Sene Suavai, daughter of Oto and Tagi Suavai (Cairns, Qld), were married 13.6.10 in Cairns church.
Musu Amuimuia

Lindsay—Watts. Trent Lindsay, son of Cameron and Vivienne Lindsay, and Kasi Watts, daughter of Kenny and Robyn Watts, were married at a park at Pt Cartwright, Mooloolaba, Qld. Trent and Kasi plan to make their home in the Nambour district.
Horrie Watts

Orchard—Martin. Daniel Orchard and Casey Martin were married

11.5.10, overlooking Catseye Beach, Hamilton Island. Their beautiful daughter, Charlise, was the flower girl. Daniel, Casey and Charlise live in Baldy, WA.

Tanner—Heitmann. Martin William Reginald Tanner, son of Reg and Ella Tanner (Bundaberg, Qld), and Michelle Lisa Heitmann, daughter of Robert Garrant and Shirley Jackson (Adelaide, SA), were married 6.6.10 at Hinkler church, Bundaberg, Qld.
Phil Downing

APPRECIATION

Bath, Pastor Arthur J. We appreciate so much the love and support we have received from family and friends at Victoria

Point and from all over the division, at this time of mourning for the tragic loss of our father and husband. May God bless your lives as we continue to share in His never failing love that Arthur has spread in word and deed everywhere he went. With gratitude and hope, Hazel, Robert, Lesley and Beverley.

Kemp, Alfred. Daph Kemp and family would like to thank everyone who sent messages and cards following the recent death of Alf. Your sympathy was greatly appreciated.

OBITUARIES

Arthur, Lynden John, born 21.4.1945 at Tingha, NSW; died 26.5.10 at Bonnells Bay. On 14.6.1965, he married Lynette Turner. He is survived by his children and their families, David and Adele (Toowoomba, Qld) Randall, Glenn and Chandelle (Toowoomba) and Jeffrey (Wyong, NSW); his nine grandchildren; and his siblings and their families, Noelene and Pastor Allan Croft (Adelaide, SA), Lynette and David Eddy (Mansfield, Vic), Cheryl Bryant (Brisbane, Qld) and Leon and Anne (Charmhaven, NSW). Lynden was a builder and helped construct the Lakeside church as well as two houses for sale to fund the church building. He loved his Lord and his family, and the prayers of many people during his long illness will always be remembered.
Allan Croft, Clive Nash

Atkins, Pearl Marie (nee Ratten), born 28.8.1932; died 18.4.10 at Ararat, Vic. Pearl and Geoff were married in 1953 by Pastor Frank Breden. She is survived by her husband; her daughters, Kay and Janet and families and five sons of Wayne (dec). Pearl was a keen gardener and supported Geoff in their business endeavours and church responsibilities.
Ben Townson

Baker, Mona Patricia (Pat), born 27.3.1924 at Ryde, NSW; died 21.5.10 at Port Macquarie. She married Thomas Hyde in March, 1942 who predeceased her in 2001. She is survived by her sons and their families, Robert and Rae Hyde (Bribie Island, Qld), Vincent (Scarborough) and Judith (Kempsey), Dennis and Marie (Lake Macquarie, NSW) and Colin

and Cheryl (Scarborough, Qld). Pat became an Adventist in her latter years through a "Try Jesus" card. She loved to give hugs and kisses and visit sick people.
Joseph Maticic

Bath, Pastor Arthur John, born 2.1.1927 at Kandos, NSW; died unexpectedly on 6.6.10 at North Stradbroke Island, Qld, doing what he loved best, fishing. He is survived by his wife, Hazel; his son, Robert (Bundaberg); daughter, Beverley (Mt. Isa) and their families. Arthur was a devoted "fisher of men", on many occasions leading missionary teams to Russia and the Ukraine. He is sorely missed by his family, the church family at Victoria Point and by those he led to a new life in Jesus Christ. We cry, "How have the mighty fallen?" (2 Sam 1:19), yet our hope is ever stronger to see him again soon.

Gabriel Ontanu, Murray Thackham, Barry Crabtree, Orm Speck

Buckman, Lilian Lee, born 3.4.1919 in Sydney, NSW; died 17.2.10 in Avondale Retirement Village, Cooranbong. She married Ken Buckman on 2.9.1942 at Concord church, who predeceased her in 1988. She is survived by Janelle Craig (Bonnells Bay), Nola Butler (Cooranbong), Terry Gilgandra, and their families. Lee was a committed wife, mother and an active church member.
Adrian Craig

Burns, Jannifer Christine, born 11.7.1954 in Sydney, NSW; died 19.9.09 at Pelaw Main. She married Jim Burns in 1971 who predeceased her in 1995. Jan was baptised on 29.11.08 at Avondale Memorial church. She is survived by her children, Malissa German and husband Geoff, Ray (all from Maitland, NSW), Belinda and partner Justin Farfull (Millfield), Leonie (Canberra, ACT); sister Carol and husband Lindsay Bishop (Brisbane, Qld); father Keith (Central Coast, NSW); and nine grandchildren. Jan loved singing in the Avondale Memorial choir, and she sang with them for four years before her baptism. She was a devoted mother and grandmother and loved by all who knew her.
Adrian Craig

Costa, Natanael Silva, born in Brazil; died in Ashburton, NZ. Natanael was baptised in

Ashburton in 2008. He is survived by his family in Brazil. Natanael drowned accidentally while working in NZ on a work permit. He discovered the Sabbath truth through his own reading. He was only 22 years old—a tragic loss.

Gordon Gosset

Craig, Ronald David, born 30.8.10 at Balgownie, NSW; died 18.4.10 at Esther Somerville Nursing Home, Wahroonga. He married Miriam Stronghill on 18.7.1940 in Adelaide, SA, who predeceased him in 2005. He is survived by Adrian (Bonnells Bay, NSW), Bryan, Suzanne (both of Sydney) and Winston (Berrien Springs, USA). Ron worked for 18 years at Sanitarium as an administrator and 29 years as a secretary-treasurer at conference and union level. He was loyal, an administrator with the heart of a shepherd, and a quiet achiever.

Adrian R Craig, Bryan K Craig

Else, Brian Herbert, born 29.5.1940 at Dunolly, Vic; died 29.5.10 at Bendigo Hospice on his 70th birthday. Brian is survived by his brother, Russell; and niece Kristy; and many friends. He was laid to rest at Eaglehawk with services of thanksgiving for his life, and with the hope of Resurrection in Christ.

Dean Giles, John Harris

Fehlberg, Kerry Chris, born 25.2.1950 in Hobart, Tas; died 19.5.10 at Wantirna Health, Vic. He is survived by his wife, Carol; his children and their families, Joel and Melanie, Gene Paul (all from Sydney) and Ben (London). Kerry and Carol married in 1972, living in Cooranbong, PNG, Mullumbimby, San Francisco and Melbourne. Kerry's joy was building hot rods, but his greater joy was his inner city ministry to the homeless and drug addicts of San Francisco.

Robyn Stanley

Fehlberg, Lawrence Neville (Laurie), born 31.5.1927 in Hobart, Tas; died 22.5.10 at Port Macquarie, NSW. On 21.5.1953, he married Margaret. Laurie was

predeceased by his daughter Karen in 1961. He is survived by his wife (Port Macquarie); his children, Stephen and Nerise Fehlberg, Debra and Geoff McGrath (all from Baulkham Hills), Jennifer (Toronto); and his brothers, Les (Gosford) and Ross (Mona Vale). Laurie is remembered for his commitment to his faith, family and fishing. He was a fun-loving father and grandfather who tried his hand at many things.

Joseph Maticic

Gooding, Dulcie Winnifred, born 19.10.1918 at "Silverdale" Mayanup, the youngest daughter of Archibald and Rose Ann Corker, pioneer members of the Seventh day Adventist Church in WA; died 7.5.10 at Bunbury WA. She married Laurence in 1942 and they were farmers until 1977 when they retired to Australind. She is survived by her husband; her children, Royden, Desmond, Pamela and Clive; grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Dulcie was involved with her local communities, as an exhibitor and judge at agricultural shows, her church and the senior citizens group. China painting and gardening were her great joys along with her family. One of God's saints was laid to rest witnessed by a large gathering of family, friends and neighbours.

Joseph Chambers

Horvatek, Anica (Anna-Baka), died 13.5.10 in Ararat Hospital, after her long battle with cancer. Anna was the much-loved wife to Peter, and mother to George, Steven, Maria and Josi. Anna was widely known for her loving nature and ability to turn ordinary people into family. She truly was a walking epistle of Christ (2 Cor 3:3). She will be sorely missed by her family and church family. Silently waiting for the biggest family reunion ever.

Ben Townson

Jones, Nora, born 5.4.1923 at Nanango Qld; died 5.5.10. Nora enjoyed nearly 60 years of marriage to Alan Jones (Belmont,

Qld). Nora was mother to three children, Graham, Wayne and Edna, and enjoyed five grand-children. She was a very caring wife and mother, noted for her straight talking, but always with a kind voice and manner. Nora walked openly with the Lord for most of her life. But recently she suffered a severe heart attack, and now awaits the joy of seeing her soon coming Lord Jesus.

Keith Grolimund

Kemp, Alfred, born 15.12.1921 at Wallsend, NSW; died at Victoria Point Retirement Village, Qld. He married Daphne Mitchell on 16.12.1942. He is survived by his wife, and his children Sandra, John and wife Chris; and granddaughter, Anita. Alf graduated in 1941 from the Business Course at Avondale, and worked in Sydney before returning to Cooranbong. They moved to Mullumbimby in 1950. He gave valuable service in the church for some years before retiring because of ill-health. Alf passed peacefully to his rest to await the call of the Life Giver.

Ken Martin

McConkey, Gerald William, born 1.7.1947 at Geraldton, WA; died 21.5.10 in Fremantle Hospital. He is survived by his six children; eight grandchildren; a brother and a sister. Gerald was a faithful member of Gosnells church for more than 30 years.

Gervais Cangy

Nowlan, Athol, born 16.4.1924; died in Nerang, Qld. He married Jean Stennett on 11.10.1950 at Murwillumbah, NSW, who predeceased him in September, 2003. He is survived by his daughters, Hazel Clegg and Marie Nowlan (both of Toowoomba). He was laid to rest beside his wife, Jean, at Cooranbong.

David Bertelsen

Penman, Robert (Bob), born 22.5.1934 in Scotland; died 8.10.09 at Whyalla, SA. He married Anne Jackson on 29.6.1957. He is survived by his wife; son, John and his wife Joy (all from Whyalla); daughter, Karen (Canberra, ACT); six grandchildren, Blake, Max, Lynna, Mary, Jose and Vernice; and great-granddaughter, Jasmine. After attending Bible lectures by Pastor George Bryan, Bob and Anne began worshipping each Sabbath and were baptised and became



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members in May 1958. They moved to Whyalla in 1963 and Bob became an elder at Whyalla church. Bob cared for the church for one year when a pastor was not available and baptisms resulted. He formally "retired" from his responsibilities just five days before his death.

*Eric Davey, Nonu Maiava
Garry McIver*

Riley, Gerald George, born 25.11.1934 at Carlton, Vic; died 25.5.10 in Geoffrey Cutter Nursing Home, Ballarat, Vic. On 25.1.1955, he married Shirley in Hobart, Tas. He was predeceased by his son Rodney. He is survived by his wife of 55 years (Ballarat, Vic); his children James and Sue (Hoppers Crossing), Karen Gaye (Redcliffs, Qld), Stephen, Michael (Melbourne, Vic), Barry and Judith (Castlemaine) and Jason (Ballarat); his nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Throughout his years of illness and confinement to bed Gerald never complained and maintained a sense of humour to those who came to visit. He sleeps awaiting the Second Coming when he will be raised to a life free of illness and disease.

Brian Lawty

Willis, Alison Jean (Nicholls), born 14.5.1932 in Wellington, NZ; died 18.5.10 in View Haven Nursing Home, Crookwell, NSW. On 27.2.1957, she married John Willis in the Wellington church, NZ. She was predeceased by her son, Dale. She is survived by her husband (Crookwell, NSW); her sons, Cameron (Crookwell),

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Sefton (Gosford); and her brother and his wife, David and Gloria Nicholls (NZ). Alison located the land and tirelessly raised funds for the new Goulburn church. She received a citation from the council for her community work. Alison is recognised around the world for her bark paintings of Australian scenes.

Wilfred Pascoe

Tong Oo, James, born and died on 22.5.10 in Lyell McEwin Hospital, SA. He is survived by his father, Tin Tong Oo; mother, Nyo Nyo Tin; his sisters, Htee Hsee Paw and Ta Mu La Lern Pwe (all of Elizabeth Park). A much longed for and loved little boy, who died perinatally. Now awaiting the Resurrection morning for Him to be placed in Mum and Dad's arms forever. We love you James.

Lee Bowditch-Walsh

ADVERTISEMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the 27th Constituency Meeting of the Greater Sydney Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be held in the auditorium of the Sydney Adventist College, 159 Albert Road, Strathfield, on September 18 and 19, 2010. The program will commence on Sabbath, September 18, with registration at 3pm, followed by a praise and inspirational program at 4pm, including the closing of Sabbath. The seating of delegates and the constituency meeting, to include proposed constitutional changes, the presentation of administration and departmental reports and financial statements for the years 2006 to 2009, will commence at 7pm and will continue on Sunday, September 19. The officers, executive committee, appointments committee, nominating committee and constitution committee of the conference for the next quadrennium will be elected at this constituency meeting.

Notice is hereby given that the second regular Constituency Meeting of the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be convened from September 10-12, 2010, at the Tui Ridge Park campground, 260 Anderson Road, RD 2, in Rotorua, New Zealand. The business of the constituency meeting will be in

accordance with the constitution and will include reports, election of the administrators of the New Zealand Pacific Union and the Missions, executive committee, and proposed changes to the constitution. Registration of delegates for the session will be held between 2pm and 4pm on Friday, September 10, 2010.

Vegetarian recipe book. New release. Recipes collected from the best vegetarian cooks, our Adventist women. Now available at Adventist Book Centres. Refer to 3.7.10 RECORD. Email <health@alburyadventist.org.au>.

For Sale. 9 acre organic fruit and vegetable garden at Katanning, WA. Close to church with large dam and excellent catchment area plus scheme water. Three, possibly four bedroom house. Most veggie beds above ground. Free range chooks. Two sheds, one with fruit and veggie stall and workshop. 3ABN and Hope installed. \$330,000. View at <www.elders.com.au/katanning>, id: 396811, or ring (08) 9821 3777.

60th anniversary of Cairns Adventist College (formerly Cairns Adventist School), August 13 to 15, 2010. Historic photos and memorabilia requested. Please join us for our celebration activities and fundraising. Contact: Clinton Bond on (07) 4051 2585 or email <ClintonBond@cas.qld.edu.au>.

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Invitation to the reopening and dedication of Windsor church. Windsor church was severely damaged by fire in January 2006 and with the assistance from many church members and the

local community, the church is nearing completion. A special opening ceremony will be held on Sabbath, September 25, 2010, inviting former pastors and members, local members of parliament and community members to attend. Please contact Pastor James Fletcher on 0407 368 385 to contribute financially, provide church memorabilia or for further information.

Glenhuntly reunion. Did you attend Glenhuntly in 1950-70? Relive experiences with old friends—November 27, 2010. Contribute memorabilia e.g. photos or importantly indicate your attendance for catering, to Margaret Howie at <mlhowie@me.com> or 0414 475 754.

Finally

The joy of the Lord is your strength.
-Nehemiah 8:10

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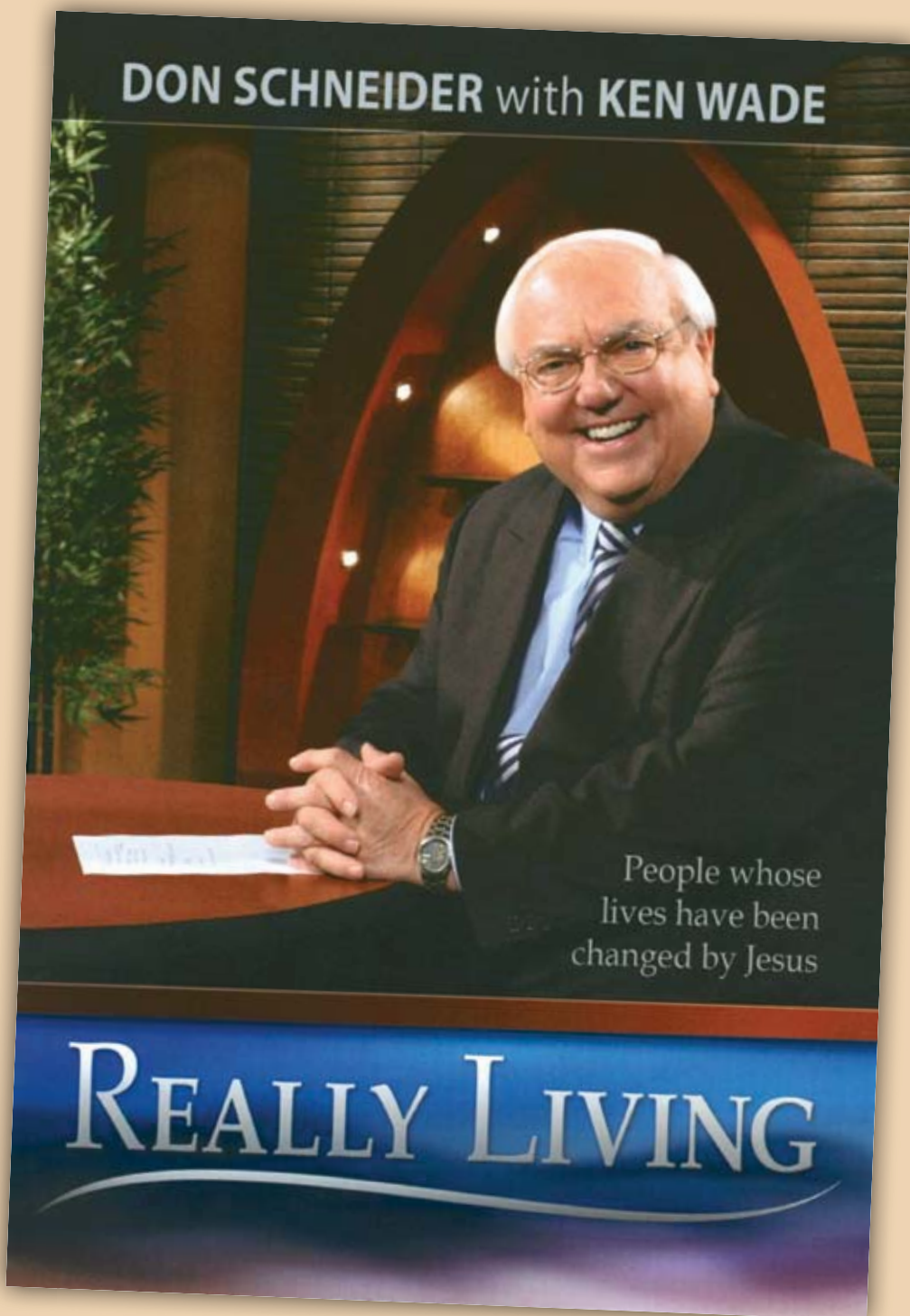
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