

Mega-life bus burns—twice

RECORD

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THE END OF THE WORLD SHOW

On July 4 an article appeared in the English *Sunday Times* entitled "It's the end of the world show." The article was written for the fourth of July because Nostradamus had "prophesied that the 'King of Terror' would arrive in the seventh month of 1999."

Somewhere in the prophecy is a reference to an eagle, which led some to believe the apocalypse of Nostradamus would occur on America's Independence Day.

The article talked about several quasi-Christian and non-Christian groups that have become obsessed with the new millennium and its supposed connection with the end of the world. The writer cautioned, "As the millennial dawn approaches, a cauldron of prophets and doomsday cults is coming ominously to the boil. . . . The dawn of a new era holds a profound fascination for cults, evangelical Christians and modern soothsayers, which could easily turn dangerous."

On Wednesday evening, July 28, the well-advertised "Seven Signs of Christ's Return" was broadcast in prime time by the Nine Network in Australia. While we cannot concur with most of the theology presented, the fact that a program on Christ's return was aired in prime time on a national network is of considerable significance. In the past, religious programming just didn't happen in prime time on major commercial networks.

There has been a tremendous upsurge of interest in the millennium and the end of the world as we approach the year 2000. We, as Adventists, are certainly interested in events leading up to the return of our Lord, but we do need to be cautious.

As we hope and pray for the return, we're to take notice of the words of Jesus when He said, "False messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce great signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, even the elect." Then He added, "Take note, I have told you beforehand" (Matthew 24: 24-25, NRSV).

At the dawn of the new millennium, we who are living in the expectation of the imminent return of Jesus Christ and committed to the certainty of His literal, visible return need to be vigilant. We need to ensure that we don't allow apocalyptic speculation to sway our thinking. Many scholars have sought to lay such a charge at our feet. The origins of our church and the predisposition of the Millerites to set dates for the return of Christ are happy hunting grounds for those who wish to do us a disservice.

While we believe there are signs of Christ's return and that He has made it clear that we should be alert, apocalyptic speculation that thrives on the sensational and speculative has no place in authentic Seventh-day Adventism. I refer particularly to publications, for example, that attempt to make more of the Y2K bug than can possibly be known at this time.

Generalisations, logical inconsistencies and the emotive language that often appears in publications of this nature is unacceptable. The truth is more important than speculation, no matter how desirable the end may be. The tragedy is that many Adventists are being enticed by just such forms of reasoning and speculation.

We must avoid this kind of speculation for three reasons:

1. Jesus told us clearly (Matthew

24: 36-44) that the time of His return is not known. To speculate beyond that revealed by revelation is to engage in a kind of quasi-date setting.

2. No significance can be placed on the year 1000 or the year 2000 because Jesus was born some three or four years BC. Dionysius Exiguus, who drafted the anno domini calendar, was three to four years out in his calculation—the third millennium AD has already started. Our evangelists teach this when they explain that Jesus was about 30 years old when he was baptised in AD 27.

3. While we earnestly await the return of our Lord and Saviour there is the danger that faith becomes motivated in an unbalanced way by expectation alone. The New Testament writers were very clear that the Christian Church and its faith are to be grounded on the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The knowledge of the person of Jesus Christ as the incarnated revelation of God gave substance to faith and grounded the hope of the early Christians. The formula has not changed.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, as an apocalyptic movement of prophecy, must ensure that it remains distinct from other apocalyptic movements. It is imperative that we, of all people, maintain a balanced theological perspective.



Barry Oliver
Secretary
South Pacific
Division

Next week

Author tells
creation book's
story.

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FREE THE WILD GOOSE WITHIN

by Nathan Brown

We made our way somewhat reverently into the assembly. We seated ourselves on the hard wooden pews and shivered because of the cold. A large congregation was shuffling in, all dressed appropriately. The *Record* was distributed at the door. An offering was collected, announcements were made and a couple of hymns sung.

One shouldn't be surprised at what happened next, but you might be: as the main presentation began, the congregation began to cheer, applaud and support the cause in which they believed. Welcome to a gathering of one of Australia's largest religions.

The Australian Football League had a total attendance that weekend of approximately 280,000.* The Seventh-day Adventist Church averages around 35,000# weekly attendance across Australia.

Last weekend, I attended a gathering of each of these denominations. In my brief Victorian sojourn, I have been amazed at the fanaticism in relation to their particular brand of football; it truly is a religion. So I took the opportunity to observe this bizarre social phenomenon in the hallowed surrounds of the Melbourne Cricket Ground on a cold and windy Sunday afternoon—and, yes, they do sell the *AFL Record* outside the games.

The main difference I noticed was the excitement and commitment that I observed in that of the larger denomination. And it wasn't that it was a close and exciting game—it was a decidedly one-sided affair. To be perfectly honest, I think Australian Rules football is a bit of a silly game and I wasn't terribly excited about the experience.

The question

But as I looked out across the 70-something-thousand football faithful who had assembled that afternoon, the question had to be asked as to how these people could be reached by a greater event, a more certain victory and—in Jesus—a greater superstar.

An answer

An answer—not necessarily the answer, but an answer—is that we have to be prepared to take risks.

Being a Christian is a risk. That's what faith is about—it is being sure of something about which one can't really be sure.

God takes risks: He took a risk creating us, He took a risk in giving freedom of choice, He took a risk in sending His Son and He took a risk in leaving us to tell everybody about Him. We have a God who takes risks.

The opposite of risk is comfort and contentment. That's what the whole Laodicean luke-warm thing is about. God wants a church that will take risks.

On occasions, I've been told that we should not take risks in the church and in our attempts to reach out. But when working for a God of risks, there is no excuse in clinging to the comfortable.

In commenting upon the general decline in mainstream church attendance, the report of the National Church Life Survey concludes: "Our greatest need is to release the wild goose presently locked within us, and to follow where it leads. In following the wild goose, we take big risks. There's such a thing as a wild goose chase. Yet to go with the Holy Spirit, with all the attendant risks, is the only way. If we are to save our life, we must lose it. That means risk. And there are no safety nets."

While being careful in taking risks—it doesn't have to mean compromise, recklessness or change for the mere sake of change—we must take the risks. Personally, we have to be prepared to feel uncomfortable; we have to be prepared to wash the smelliest feet we can find. Our attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus (Philippians 2:5-8).

As a church, we need to risk our precious buildings, our new carpet, our upper-middle-class image and even our reputation in the process of being a church that reaches out

to its community. Let's be creative; let's be daring. When it comes down to it, the answer to the question over the church's continued relevance is practical, not doctrinal or theological.

Wouldn't it be great to get a bit of footy-esque enthusiasm into our church, into our worship, into our outreach and into our lives?

This kind of attitude cannot be created artificially—it requires something to be excited about. Our communities must be able to see that Christianity is something with real, practical value. And I think that it might be an encouragement to us to see some practical result of our professed faith as well.

It is only by taking risks and getting uncomfortable that we can have such an impact. **R**

* Official AFL attendances.

National Church Life Survey.

Nathan Brown wrote this while working as an editorial intern on the RECORD. He has since returned to study in Queensland.

Did you hear...?

■ . . . About the two church members who shaved to raise money for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency?



Caringbah (NSW) church head elder **David Taylor** (pictured, left) raised \$A385 from church members for shaving his 25-year-old moustache.

Treasurer **Lex Klumpes** (right) raised \$A665 from his work mates and church, family and squash club church members for shaving his head.

■ . . . About the Sabbath-keeping database at the South Queensland Conference?

More than 100 non-Adventist groups around Brisbane who keep the Sabbath are listed in the database. And all have been personally invited to attend **Dr Samuele Bacchiocchi's** Sabbath and Second Coming meetings at this year's camp-meeting.

■ . . . About the scientist invited by a Christian minister to give a series of studies on Seventh-day Adventist doctrines in his church?

Warren Shipton of Townsville, Queensland, spoke on the sanctuary and the great controversy theme. He was then invited to speak at a meeting of Torres Strait Island church groups.

Mr Shipton, who along with **George Jackson**, another scientist, now of Hobart, has since collated the studies into a book, *The Pattern of Salvation* (available at Adventist Book Centres).

"The request was too good to refuse," says Mr Shipton. "And it's great to see this opportunity benefiting the church."

Clarkson has own church after 23 years



After worshipping in rented community halls for 23 years, the Clarkson (WA) church—formerly Wanneroo church—is finally moving into its own building today (September 25).

The new building (pictured) includes a 200-seat nave in auditorium style, Sabbath school rooms, a hall and kitchen. Local fundraising and the support of the Western Australian Conference helped with

building costs, reports Clarkson communication secretary Werner Tubbe.

The opening and dedication is planned for February 12 next year. All former members and ministers are invited.

Minister covers the distance



During his ministry, Jim Ballantyne has driven more than 500,000 kilometres to cover his parish. The jour-

ney took a new turn on August 21 when the Ceduna, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie and Whyalla (SA) minister was ordained in the Port Pirie church on August 21. Pastor Ballantyne (pictured, with his wife, Tania, being presented with his certificate of ordination from South Australian Conference president Pastor Don Hosken) has been a minister in the South Australian Conference for the past five years—he graduated from Avondale

College in 1994. During that time he has baptised 17 people. "His ministry has been greatly appreciated," says Pastor Hosken. "The church full of friends and church members testified of the friendship in which his ministry is held."

Signs' record financial year

Signs Publishing Company has returned its best ever financial figures. The result, for the year ending June 30, is, according to

Youth represents Christians

Angelina Wright (pictured, far left), a secretary at the Greater Sydney Conference office, represented the Christian church at a program sponsored by the World Conference on Religion and Peace on August 18.

The program, organised by the University of Sydney, brought together representatives of five religions—Baha'ism, Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

Miss White, an elder at the Fox Valley church, was



chosen because organisers wanted a representative

who was 35 years or younger.

She describes being chosen as the Christian representative as "quite scary," but, she says, "Christianity has the best thing going for it. The other speeches were all historical and theoretical, and all based on doing things.

"The other speakers were just like me—they're searching for something and think they've found it."—*Brenton Stacey*

general manager Dale

Williams, due to cost efficiency, healthy growth in key areas, and good



Adventist Book Centre and literature evangelist sales.

"The result is a tribute to God's leading and the team effort of all the staff at the Signs Publishing Company," says Mr Williams.

Choir performs for first time

The Avondale Contemporary Choir is performing in concert for the first time, at the Avondale College (NSW) church tonight (September 25). Also performing at the concert are the Avondale Singers, Vision, and arranger and composer Tak Yamamoto. "We're hoping to use the talents here at college to praise God and celebrate His grace," says director Moe Ioane. The choir is featured on the Avondale College "Greater Vision" album, released at this year's Homecoming.

SQld to celebrate centenary

The South Queensland Conference will celebrate its centenary with a recommitment and dedication service on October 23 this year. The service will be held on the old show-ground site in Toowoomba, where, during camp-meeting on October 18, 1899, 211 church members voted to form the conference.

World church

1787 baptised in Kenya

Some 1787 people were baptised and more than

TV temperance time



The Seventh-day Adventist Church's stand against alcohol was featured, September 5, on 70 television stations around Australia.

South Pacific Division Adventist Health director Dr Percy Harrold (pictured, left) appeared with Gordon Moyes (right) discussing the problems of alcohol use in Australia on the Wesley Mission program "Turn Around Australia."

Dr Harrold said one of the main reasons for abstaining from alcohol was the need to remain free from its clutches, considering 25 per cent of Australians have the possibility of becoming alcoholics if alcohol is used.

He also compared the supposed mild improvement in heart disease by the use of a little wine with the increased incidence of heart disease and cancer once more than one drink a day is used.

Dr Harrold also appeared on Mr Moyes' nationally syndicated radio program "Sunday Night Live" discussing the problems of alcohol use.

On both programs Dr Harrold was introduced as "coming from the Seventh-day Adventist Church with its strong emphasis on health and prevention of disease."

2000 couples renewed their wedding vows at the end

of a family life evangelistic program in Nairobi, Kenya, on August 28. The baptism,

held at a sports ground, received nation-wide coverage by three television stations. General Conference associate publishing direc-



tor Pastor Jose Campos and his wife, evangelist Adly

Campos, spoke at the programs, Samuel Misiani, director of Adventist World Radio in

Africa, reports after Mrs Campos preached, "680 new people responded and indicated they too wish to be baptised."—ANW

Did you hear . . . ?

■ . . . About the woman who used *Family Medical Care* to save a life?

A few weeks after she purchased the books, the woman's granddaughter, whom she was minding, swallowed a bottle of pills. She used the emergency section of volume three to save the child's life.

Quotable

"Local village elders say we at Sopas are the only ones concerned enough about their plight to do anything positive to stop the fighting."

—Sopas (Wabag, Papua New Guinea) Adventist Hospital chief executive officer **Dennis Tame**, writing after a meeting with neighbouring villagers that led to the hospital being reopened. (See Newsfront, September 18.)

Snap!



■ Staff and students of Wanganui (NNZ) Adventist Primary School celebrated Conservation Week by planting 60 trees in the school grounds.—*River City Press*

Church calendar

■ **October 16** *AdCare/Community Services Day*

■ **October 16** *AdCare/Community Services Offering*

BLIND AND DEAF FUNDING INCREASED

Board recommends 66 per cent subsidy increase for New Vision camps.

Camps for sight and hearing impaired children will now receive extra funding following a Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired (CSFBHI) Board decision in early September.

South Pacific Division associate secretary Nat Devenish praised the work of the CSFBHI team during the board meeting. (CSFBHI provides, as its main function, a library of talking books for the sight impaired.)

He said although the major service of CSFBHI reached the elderly, service to youth should not be diminished.

As a result, the board recommended a 66 per cent subsidy increase to local conferences who run New Vision camps. This equates to a new subsidy of \$A250 per sight or hearing impaired camper.

CSFBHI director Dr Percy Harrold hopes the subsidy



Funding for New Vision camps has been increased. Local conferences who run camps for sight and hearing impaired children will now receive a 66 per cent subsidy increase.

increase will encourage conferences not running New Vision camps to run them.

The board also recommended that each church library should have a copy of the newly subtitled *Keepers of the Flame* video series.

According to CSFBHI treasurer Lynray Wilson, the board expressed thanks to the thousands of donors and those who gave to

the bi-annual CSFBHI Offering. "Their generosity keeps these services alive."

In other news . . .

CSFBHI loaned 11,109 talking books to the sight impaired last year. This free service continues.

A new catalogue of CSFBHI resources will soon be available from CSFBHI librarian Jan Mitchell.

GOING PLACES GOES PLACES

Women at Seventh-day Adventist churches in Australia and New Zealand will receive a free copy of *Going Places* next Sabbath (October 2).

"As I've travelled across the division, women have asked me, 'Are you going to publish a magazine for us?' This has given the impetus to produce *Going Places*," says editor Carole Ferch-Johnson.

The magazine, produced quarterly by the Women's Ministries Department of the South Pacific

Division, features articles on parenting, columns on health, nutrition and relationships, interviews with women who are doing unusual things for God, letters and recipes.

"And our writers are all from Australia and New Zealand," says Mrs Ferch-Johnson, "so they write with a perspective and style suited to our part of the world and about people and places we know."

Mrs Ferch-Johnson adds that women in the Pacific islands would value a copy of *Going Places*, "but

they don't have the finances to pay for it.

"If you're already subscribing, could you subscribe for a Pacific islander as well? Your dollar will be well spent."



Update

Trans-Australian Union Conference

Volume 4 Number 3

September 1999

Youth Camps Change Lives!



Tony Knight,
Youth Director

We've heard it said. We instinctively believe it, but is it true? Yes. Let me say that again with emphasis — Yes!! Without a shadow of a doubt, unequivocally, no questions at all — YES!!

Like many of you, I have been involved with all manner of youth camps from full-scale summer camping programs and bush retreats to Pathfinder expeditions and club camps, church retreats, Bible camps, and teen-initiative weekends. The end result is always the same — groups of elated kids looking back on their camping experience with a fondness that sees them exchanging addresses, promising

life-long friendships, waving goodbye to friends, counsellors and staff, all of whom have become a significant part of their lives. True — camps come and go. The faces change. So do the venues and programs. But the lists of kids whose lives have changed, and have made commitments to God are ever present.

Praise God that Ellen White (page 253, page 186) and others saw value in "getting away from it all" for spiritual refreshment and learning in the great outdoors. Praise God, that in virtually every Conference, our pioneers and church leaders saw fit to purchase and develop

"Are we taking full advantage of the resources we have before us?"

properties that we, the church, may use to our heart's content to enormous effect. The question, however, is this. Are we taking full advantage of the resources we have before us?

"Today's young people," says Bud Williams, "are being bombarded from every side with hedonistic

values. They are fed a diet of pre-digested secondary experiences and, living inconsequentially, they find themselves too involved with the moment to examine those experiences and are compelled on by their peers. It is no wonder that youth workers investigate every new program and ministry tool on the market that could possibly enhance their work with this complex age group. Some discover that the wilderness is such a tool." (

, in *The Youth Leader's Source Book*, 1991)

It's the same old story. We've had these opportunities for years. It seems the world has finally caught up. In 1942, some 60 or 70 years after Ellen White wrote about such things (Evangelism 386), kicked off in Wales through the efforts of Kurt Hahn, a German born Christian educator who believed that the best lessons were learnt when one was taken out of their normal realm of experience — hence the idea of the "retreat." This experience, says Hahn, would protect the young person from what he called the "tempting declines" of the modern world. "The decline of fitness, due to modern methods of moving about;

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From the President



Pr David Currie
TAUC President

I have been to Western Australia twice in the past two months. The first visit was with our people in the North West. I participated in the opening of the Broome church and conducted evangelistic meetings. The second visit was to interview students at our ATSIM Bible College at Carmel, Perth. My soul was refreshed on both occasions!

The Broome company is 100% active in sharing their faith and witnessing for their Lord in their community. What kind of witnessing? To many it will appear unusual to say the least! Every second Saturday night during the cooler, drier months the town hosts a local speedway. The two main areas in which they are involved are:

1. Canteen — Announcers give plenty of time and credit to the "Adventist food". Such as, "You get generous serves and we all know that the Adventists know how to make it best."
2. Racing — Many young people participate, driving around the track in one of three cars, (literally old bombs — made safe for racing). The Cars advertise "Advent Racing" in big bold letters.

The second visit was to interview ATSIM Bible College students and it was a real inspiration. Five of the students at the college are applying for ministry positions in our Conferences. They have completed a three year course

and I believe will make a great contribution to our church.

Most of the students are trained to go back to their people as volunteers and in this they are doing an excellent work already. Some feel called to ministry and I must say that those who applied are fine examples of "born again" Christians who love their Lord.

On summing up the general attitude of the ATSIM Bible College, I quote an applicant - "if I am not chosen I still want to work for my people."

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Youth Camps Change Lives

the decline of memory and imagination, due to the confused restlessness of modern life; decline of skill and care, due to the weakened tradition of craftsmanship; the decline of self-discipline, due to tranquillisers and stimulants. Worst of all, the decline of compassion, due to the unseemly haste with which modern life is conducted." (In Kenneth R. Kalish,

1979 page 5.)

Camping ministry does many things: it stimulates spiritual growth, it promotes physical development, helps develop social relationships, it goes a long way towards meeting important psychological needs (security, recognition, acceptance), and it provides an agency for education. It can and should expose young people to many new experiences, helping to unearth their unique and hitherto latent gifts present in every young person. And it works. Of the kids responding to the Valuegenesis survey, 72% of those who attended camps identified them as dramatically

contributing to the development of their religious faith. Further, where Conferences run a camping program, there was seen to be a 32% greater chance of their youth reporting high Christian commitment levels.

When camping ministry is done right, kids can't get enough of it. They are keen, they are open, they are eager to participate. They come along with a sense of expectation and anticipation. Something great is going to happen — they just know it. And it does. Lives are changed forever!

Ankara Youth Camp (SA)

Shaded by majestic River Red Gums and framed by towering sandstone cliffs that reflect the sunset onto the tranquil waters of the mighty Murray, Ankara is truly a delightful



spot to be. Situated 110km from Adelaide, the site boasts abundant bird life and native animals, its own aquatic playground with sandy beach, diving board, pontoon and some of the best water-skiing in the country.

"Ankara is about more than just having fun." Says Camp Superintendent, Kevin Parker, "There are many stories of young people meeting Christ and making decisions to serve Him from those who have camped here. It is experiences such as these that make it all worthwhile for my wife

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Thelma and me. My belief is that God has been preparing me for this work right throughout my life."

Kevin Parker

Contact: Kevin & Thelma Parker Ph. (08) 8570 8043
RSD 4818, Walker Flat, SA, 5238

Logue Brook Dam Camp (WA)

As a young guy of around 15, I was starting to get a taste of what the world had to offer. My non-Christian friends were inviting me to their Friday night parties, movies and anything else that was going. Despite my parents' best efforts to educate me in the Christian lifestyle, my interest in church was non-committal. Their questions about my comings and goings were greeted with a brief, "Just going to a friend's place."

Around the time I turned 16, an old church friend invited me to a Pathfinder camp-out. I'd been camping before with the local Scout club, so I agreed to go. It was great. I knew some of the other campers and I had fun meeting some new friends, most importantly, girls.

To cut a long story short, it was through this and a string of other camps that followed that I found two very important friends. The first was my Saviour whom I discovered had been watching and waiting for me all through my searching teen years. I also met another friend who has supported me and walked beside me for over 18 years now - my wife Beth. Looking back, I would hate to think what direction my life would have taken if it were not for those years of being involved with the church's camping program.

Our feelings about camping ministry are so strong that Beth and I have dedicated over 13 years to it. In that time we have seen many young people, Adventist and non-Adventist, dedicate their lives to Christ and

to the doing of His work. There is no greater joy than seeing young people requesting baptism, publicly declaring their decision at our youth camp because that is where they met their personal Saviour.

Please pray for our youth and for our church's camping ministry.
Andrew Eyre

Contact: Mr Andrew & Mrs Beth Eyre
Ph. (08) 9733 5522
Logue Brook Dam Camp Road, Harvey, WA, 6220

Camp Howqua (Vic)



For decades, the Adventist Church has embraced Camping Ministry as a means of encouraging young people to reach their God-given potential, discovering the great outdoors and as a way of connecting with their Creator. The Victorian Conference Youth Department is very much committed to this philosophy and has seen evidence of its benefits.

Camp Howqua is situated at the foot of Victoria's magnificent high country, and offers a unique range of activities including grass skiing, a high ropes adventure course, a hard-court outdoor playing surface, access to snow sports in winter and water sports in summer, as well as activities on the beautiful Howqua River.

Camp Howqua is a special place. Our youth are special people. What a combination!

Adrian Raethel
Vic Youth Director

Contact: Mr Ken & Mrs Jeannie Harvey
Ph: (03) 5777 3509
Howqua River Road (PO Box 291)
Howqua via Mansfield, Vic, 3722.

Trans-Australian Union Conference

Josh Hunt

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Adventist Alpine Village (SNSW)

The Adventist Alpine Village (a South Pacific Division institution) has for almost a decade been the venue of Summer Camps for the South New South Wales Conference. While the camps are activity based, many young people have discovered that there is more to a week in the Australian High Country than just "neat things to do." Worship times featuring dynamic music, relevant drama, fun video and challenging talks, are all aimed at creating a climate that will nurture the spiritual dimension.

"It's not unusual," says Youth Director, Graeme Christian, "to hear comments like — "Special things happen when I come here," or "The music's great — it brings me closer to God." Summer Camps have become a place to invite non-SDA friends — a place to be proud to be an Adventist — a ministry that makes sense to those who know our Lord, as well as those who are searching.

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Summer Camps — Memories for a lifetime!"

Graeme Christian
SNSW Youth Director

Contact: Mr Owen & Mrs Michelle Amos
Ph. (02) 6456 1316
Tinworth Drive, Jindabyne, NSW, 2627.

Orford Youth Camp (Tas)

Orford Youth Camp is located 80kms to the North East of Hobart, and is situated in a beautiful bush land setting. The camp mostly caters for school groups from around Tasmania, though some Victorian schools, including Lilydale Adventist



Academy, are regular guests.

We have had many memorable times since we've been here at Orford!

We like being involved in this part of Gods work. We have enjoyed our work immensely.

Pat Hyland

Contact: Mr Jim & Mrs Pat Hyland
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Spring Bay, Orford, Tas 7190

Update
Trans-Australian Union Conference
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Trans-Australian Union Conference

Church For the 21st Century

Church Planting & Multiplying Conference

Special Guests:
Dr Russell Burrill North
American Division Institute Of Church Growth & Evangelism
John McGhee
Pacific Union Church Planting Consultant

**March 3-5 2000
Howqua Victoria**

Update is the official newsletter of the Trans-Australian Union Conference. It seeks to challenge members spiritually; to provide information regarding its services; to train and resource for the strengthening of our churches.

Editor: Tony Knight (tknight@adventist.org.au)
Design/Layout: Colleen Kane

"Man of God" dies of cancer

Pastor Merv Savage, minister of the Dandenong (Vic) church, died of cancer on August 7. (See Noticeboard, page 14.) He was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease in January 1998.

"Merv remained positive during this time of sickness," says Wantirna church minister Pastor Morrie Krieg, who preached the funeral service. "His faith was true, his hope strong."



Pastor Merv Savage.

Pastor Savage and his wife, Judy, ministered for 10 years in New Zealand starting 1972. During this time the couple had three daughters: Lynelle, Kerrilyn and Delwyn. The family moved nine times in 10 years.

"Merv loved and cared for his parishioners," says Pastor Krieg.

Pastor Savage, a trained counsellor, was the director of health education at Warburton Health Resort following a move from Bendigo. He then ministered at Hughesdale for a year before ministering at Dandenong, where he worked until his death 11 years later.

He also worked at Charis House, a counselling centre run by the Victorian Conference, and served on the conference Executive Committee.

"He spoke only when he had thought an issue through," says Pastor Krieg. "Many people sought his counsel. He was the sort of man we need more of. He'll be sadly missed."

● Pastor Savage's family would appreciate any cassette or video tapes of his sermons. Send tapes care of Signs Publishing Company.

MEGALIFE BUS BURNS—TWICE



Photo: Illawarra Mercury

Yallah minister Pastor Ross Chadwick crouches in front of the burned Megalife bus. Vandals set fire to the bus at 1 am. Fire brigade officers then extinguished the blaze; however, the vandals returned three hours later to finish the job.

The double-decker Megalife bus used by the South New South Wales Conference for outreach events was burned, twice, on September 4.

The bus was parked on the corner of a highway and road in Yallah as a promotion for the local Seventh-day Adventist company. Minister Pastor Ross Chadwick says the fire is a blow to the company.

"We have only been going for 12 months and it's disappointing when we get setbacks like this."

Vandals set fire to the bus at 1 am. Fire brigade officers then extinguished the blaze; however, the vandals returned three hours later to finish the job.

"It was supposed to be garaged in our warehouse over the weekend, but a break and enter on the bus a few weeks ago made that impossible," says Pastor Chadwick. "The intruders on that occasion left the lights on and flattened the batteries. . . . I paid nearly \$A500 for new batteries, but I was busy on Friday night and didn't get around to putting them in."

The bus was in "good condition," reports conference youth director

Pastor Graeme Christian. "It's an excellent attention-grabber. You drive it down a street, anywhere, and people stop just to look at it."

He describes the renovation of the bus by young people in the conference as a "great job." "They worked hard, how do I tell them it's gone? I'm not looking forward to that."

The bus helped youth in the conference focus on outreach, says

The bus . . . was worth about \$A30,000, "but how do you put a value on volunteer work?"

Pastor Christian, "although we hadn't realised the potential it had."

The bus, which was insured, was worth about \$A30,000, "but how do you put a value on volunteer work?" says Pastor Christian. "I'm convinced our youth are eager to be involved in outreach. This is not going to stop them."—Brenton Stacey/Illawarra Mercury

How can we make this time so special, so happy, so welcoming, that we will be a living witness of the love of God?

Still wondering

"Just wondering" (Letters, August 21) asked what to do when unmarried couples who are family members visit. Should they "allow them to share the same bed under our roof"? The question received a large response. Some warned against sharing in the guilt of the guests, others thought differently.

"Stop worrying about what other church members might think," said one. "Your concern should be what sort of impression you leave on the young couple. . . . Allowing them to share the same bed doesn't mean you're in agreement with what they're doing."

Some felt that it did.

"If [a couple] were allowed to disobey God in my home, I would be a 'partner in crime' and as guilty as [they]" said one who'd been through the experience and insisted on separate bedrooms. "You have to be firm and loving and you will have a clear conscience," the writer concludes.

Another agreed: "If you don't stand by your principles, what's the point of having them? We stood by our principles and requested that while in our home they [a son and his girlfriend] abide by our wishes and use separate beds. They respected this. . . . I feel you would be responsible to God to allow them to occupy the same bed. If they do not like your stand, they should find some other place to stay."

DO THE RIGHT THING

Another reader suggested that this being the case, then, "do the right thing and book them into a motel—and pay their first night. If they stay a month, you're in front!"

One writer, since married and now a church member had been in this situation—as the guest. Her parents insisted on separate rooms when they stayed over. "I would have felt uncomfortable sharing a bed with my fiance there. . . . I found that my par-

ent's strong convictions to do what was right has helped me and my husband find God. . . . We are not to do what makes people feel comfortable—especially if it is wrong—we must always do what God commands."

But this seemed to be where the division came: What does God command and expect of us?

PERFECT OPPORTUNITY

Said one: "You have the perfect opportunity to show that you have something better to offer. God took Israel just as they were before He sat them down at Sinai to show them the better way; the prodigal was welcomed home, just as he was; and, while still sinners, Christ died for us. Jesus always shows us He has something better after He shows us He loves and accepts us. Don't set a standard or barricade for family, friends and associates to jump before they can associate with us."

Most agreed, some suggesting that the background of the couple could

make a difference particularly for non-Christians. "If we were to cast our Christian judgment on them, we would immediately create barriers that would stop any opportunity to witness of God's great love and forgiveness. So the question we need to ask is, *How can we make this time so special, so happy, so welcoming, that we will be a living witness of the love of God?*"

"If someone was to enter God's house (church) and they were fornicators, adulterers or not dressed properly, would God have us kick them out of His house or tell them immediately what is correct behaviour? No! He would have us welcome them lovingly, make them feel accepted as they are. Then they will want to stay. They will want to know more about our God and what pleases Him."

Another reasoned, "What if they don't keep the Sabbath, would we refuse them hospitality? What about a thief, would we hide our valuables? And what if they're a liar? These people need help, not censure."

Just a coincidence



Mail: RECORD Editor, Signs Publishing Company, Warburton Victoria 3799 **Fax:** (03) 5966 9019
E-mail: editor@a1.com.au 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.

children

Joseph is on his way to see his brothers -
Can you spot 10 differences in the two pictures?



Illustration: P. Taylor

Appreciation

Geelan, Mrs Nancy Geelan and family wish to sincerely thank all who sent floral tributes, cards and personal condolences in the sad loss of their beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Arthur Geelan.

Ivey, Edna Stanford, sister of Elsie Ivey, deeply appreciated the flowers, cards, prayers and support of all her friends during this sad time.

Liggett, Helen (formerly Lofton-Brook), would like to sincerely thank all those who gave their condolences and sympathies at the recent loss of her much loved husband, Theo.

Anniversary

Boucher, Mavis and John celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a very special evening in the Redcliffe church hall. They were married on



25.6.49 and have been blessed with three children and eight grandchildren. The highlight of a lovely meal was the beautifully iced 50th wedding cake. The many church members wished them well.

Transfers

●**Donald Dickins,** from secondary teacher, Mountain View Adventist College, Greater Sydney Conference, Trans-Tasman Union Conference, to lecturer in marketing, Avondale College. ●**Georgina Chelberg,** from health educator, Warburton Hospital, Trans-Australian Union Conference, to serve as project officer, Nutrition Education Service, Sanitarium Health Food Company, head office, NSW.

Weddings

Abel—Carney. David Wesley Seymour Abel, son of Wesley and Elizabeth Abel (Chandler, Qld), and Suzan Rachael Carney, daughter of Greg and Brenda Carney (Oxenford), were married on 25.1.99 at St Peters Presbyterian church, North Sydney, NSW.

Allan Walshe

Acosta—Carrasco. Luis Acosta, son of Francisco Acosta and Francisca Cuera (NSW), and Allison Carrasco, daughter of Ademir Carrasco and Ruth Johnston (Fairfield), were married on 29.8.99 in the Wetherill Park Spanish Adventist church.

Walter Flamenco

Augustakis—Oaklands. Jim Augustakis, son of Anastasis and Lynne Augustakis (Brisbane, Qld), and Kaylene Oaklands, daughter of Pastor Gordon and Christine Oaklands (Bris-

Positions vacant

▲ **Business systems analyst—Sanitarium (Head office—Berkley Vale)** is seeking a Business Systems Analyst. The successful applicant will have excellent analytical skills in computer software, up-to-date knowledge of technical products used by business systems, excellent people management/interaction skills, ability to be proactive in the determination of company systems requirements, good presentation skills in both written and verbal format. Tertiary qualifications in Information Technology are desirable. **Applications in writing** (including a current CV) should be forwarded to The Human Resources Officer, Locked Bag 7, Central Coast Mail Centre NSW 2252; fax (02) 4348 7787.

▲ **Principals/teachers—New Zealand schools for 2000.** The following principalships and teaching positions are currently being advertised nationally: Principals at Auckland High, Invercargill Primary, Wellington Primary, Rotorua Primary; teachers at Christchurch Area School (secondary chemistry/maths/science; also secondary biology/maths/science), Auckland High ESOL position, Rotorua Primary. **Further information** may be obtained from Daryl Murdoch, National SDA Schools Director, phone 0011 64 9 262 5620.

bane), were married on 21.8.99 at Clear Mountain Health Lodge, Samford, Brisbane.

Brian Christian

Jakupec—Baraba. Shane Geoffrey Jakupec, son of Tomo and Nada Jakupec (Stanthorpe, Qld), and Zorka Baraba, daughter of Marijan and Ana Baraba (Wetherill Park, NSW), were married on 5.9.99 in the Parramatta Adventist church, Old Toongabbie.

Ray Roennfeldt

McKay—Edser. Phillip Andrew McKay, son of Doug and Dorris McKay (Launceston, Tas), and Andrea Christine Edser, daughter of Trevor and Chris Edser (Mackay, Qld), were married on 11.4.99 in the North Mackay Adventist church.

André Richards

Mitchell—Symons. Nathan Mitchell, son of Bruce and Rae Mitchell (Auckland, NNZ), and Rona Symons, daughter of Laura Symons (Brisbane, Qld), were married on 22.8.99 at Point Chevalier Beach, Auckland.

Paul Gredig

Rowe—Topperwien. Wayne Thomas Rowe and Judith Ann Topperwien, daughter of Gordon and Mildred Topperwien (Perth, WA), were married on 4.7.99 in the Carmel Adventist church. Wayne was privileged to have the support of family from Melbourne.

Dale Arthur

Schirmer—Carey. Gregory James Schirmer, son of Ken and Elinor Schirmer (Rockhampton, Qld), and Kim Marie Carey, daughter of Bob and Vicki Carey (Murarie), were married on 29.8.99 in St John's Lutheran church, Eight Mile Plains.

Neil Tyler

Thomas—Craig. Jeffrey Stuart Thomas, son of Barry and Valerie Thomas (Bundaberg, Qld), and Colleen Marie Craig, daughter of David and Glenda Craig (Watalgan), were married on 29.8.99 at Baldwin Swamp Environment Park, Bundaberg.

D R Dunn

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Mr Barry Hiscox
phone (07) 5491 3544
or fax (07) 5491 3958

Obituaries

Charlton, Mervyn George, born 18.9.19 in Launceston, Tas; died 21.7.99 in Hobart. He is survived by his wife, Beryl (Lindisfarne, Tas); his children, daughter-in-law and grandson, Barbara (Sydney, NSW), Denis and Bev (Hobart, Tas), Brian (Melbourne, Vic); Val (Gosford), and Rohan (Sydney).

Leigh Rice, Ray Stanton

Craig, Sybil Alice, born 21.5.15 in Auckland, NNZ; died 18.7.99 in Bethesda Home and Hospital. In her younger days, Sybil worked for the Sanitarium Health Food Company in Auckland, where she gave loyal and willing service. In her latter years she lived in the Adventist Retirement Village. She will always be remembered for her love of music and her sweet singing voice.

R R Faithfull

Dunstan, Sydney Leonard, born 25.5.14 at Sandstone, WA; died 31.7.99 in Charles Jenkins Nursing Home, Rowethorpe. On 21.12.42 he married Olive Murdoch. He is survived by his

Volunteers needed

Position	Place	Job description/duties	Term
Fly'n'build teams	Sepik Mission, Wewak, PNG	Blocklayers, builders, plumbers and painters to assist in upgrading the mission headquarters. Project date negotiable.	May-Sept, 2000

For further information contact Pastor Eric White, Coordinator, Volunteer Services, South Pacific Division, Locked Bag 2014, Wabroonga NSW 2076. Phone (02) 9847 3333; fax (02) 9489 0943; email <ewwhite@adventist.org.au> web <volunteers.gc.adventist.org>

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SEPTEMBER BOOK OF THE MONTH

wife; his daughter, Beverly Jeffery; his sons, Brydon, Murray, Lincoln (all of Perth), John (Albury), Lee (Warburton); their spouses; his seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Syd served in church ministry for some years; and later as elder at Queens Park church. Cyrus Adams

Ellis, Marion, born 21.5.11 in Tas; died 22.6.99 in the Adventist Retirement Village, Kings Langley, NSW. She was predeceased by her husband, Thomas, in 1986. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Marilyn and John Maxwell (Cherrybrook); her two grandchildren and their spouses; and her five great-grandchildren. Marion was a true "mother in Israel." W F Taylor

Gill, Ruth Isabel, born 17.2.11 at Coocoo Creek, Tas; died 4.7.99 at Scottsdale Hospital. On 1.8.49 she married Geoffrey, who predeceased her in 1989. She is survived by her daughter, Gayleen Williams (Waterloo, NSW); and her two grandchildren. Ruth was

brought up an Adventist but left the church for many years. She returned about 1984 and became the driving force of the Scamander Company, Tas. George Rappell, Don Fehlberg

Gosling, Raymond Gordon, born 15.12.27 at Macksville, NSW; died 2.8.99 at Macksville. He is survived by his wife, Jean; his children, Geoffrey, Jeanette Kendall (all of Macksville), Bernard (Nambucca Heads) and Trevor (Coffs Harbour). E Krause, M Browning

Johansen, Vera Maude, born 14.12.05 at Lithgow, NSW; died 30.7.99 in Esther Somerville Nursing Home, Normanhurst. She was predeceased by her first husband, Gordon, on 5.11.73. She is survived by her second husband, Pastor Eric Johansen (Cooranbong); her daughters and their spouses, Val and Les Fehlberg, Deidre and Roy Benton (all of Kariong). Claude Judd, Eric Greenwell

Jones, William, born 22.11.07 in London, England; died 1.4.99 at Cooran-

bong, NSW. In July, 1940 he married Edith Spital and migrated to Australia in August, 1946. He is survived by his wife (Cooranbong); his daughter and son-in-law, Margaret and Jack Carter (Berowra Heights); son and daughter-in-law, Ian and Bev Jones (Hornsby); and his four grandchildren. David Blanch, Bruce Price

Liggett, Theodore Archibald, born 15.9.09 at Helensville, NZ; died 24.6.99 at Manukau City. He was predeceased by his first wife, Merle, on 2.9.89. On 8.9.91 he married Helen (nee Lofton-Brook). He is survived by his wife (Manukau City); his children, Wallace (Manurewa), Dellwyn Ellis (Pukekohe); and his stepsons, Kenneth Lofton-Brook (New Plymouth) and Oliver Lofton-Brook (Toronto, Canada). Theo was a well-respected, appreciated Christian gentleman and church leader. Kyrill Bland

Molyneux, Linda Jean, born 24.6.15 in Perth, WA; died 1.8.99 in the Freeman Nursing Home, Rossmoyne. On 2.2.37

she married Richard, who predeceased her in 1990. She is survived by her daughters, June Peakall and Janice Murphy (both of Perth). Linda, though small in stature, was big on those wonderful gifts of the Spirit. Edgardo Campos, Robert Kingdon

Richards, Valmai Elise, born 12.9.07 at Nelson, SNZ; died 30.7.99 at Nelson. She is survived by her niece, Pat Fearn (Nelson). Douw Venter

Savage, Pastor Mervyn John, born 27.1.46 in Timaru, SNZ; died 7.8.99 in Warburton Vic. On 20.12.71 he married Judy Harris. He is survived by his wife; his daughters and son-in-law, Lynelle and Murray Howse; Delwyn (all of Warburton); Kerylyn and Mick (Woori Yallock); his father, Ernie (Timaru, NZ); his brothers, Brian (Greymouth), Alan (Christchurch) and David (Sydney, NSW). Morrie Krieg

Schubert, Norman Laurence, born 1.6.19 at Murray Bridge, SA; died 26.7.99 in Parklea Nursing Home, Ade-

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Camberwell Centre, Melbourne	Saturday, October 9, 8.00 pm Bookings: Phone 132 849

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laide. He is survived by his sisters, Irene Wicks (Murray Bridge), Doris Burner (Adelaide); his brothers and sisters-in-law, Vic and Flo (Vic), Leo and Heather (Strathalbyn, SA).

Dave Hamilton

Smith, Clara, born 15.4.03 in Lincolnshire, England; died 31.7.99 in West Park Nursing Home, Goolwa, SA. In 1925 she married Bob, who predeceased her in 1963. She is survived by her daughter, Hazel Hughes (Aldinga Beach). Clara was the daughter of Walter and Clara Short, who were members of the Adventist church in England. E G White stayed in the Short home when she visited England the first time (24.8.1885).

Allan Croft

Strickland, William Edward, born 10.4.14 at Aitutaki, Cook Islands; died 25.7.99 in Central Auckland Hospital, NZ. He is survived by his wife, Vae; his sons, Howard, Edward, Karika, William and Moses; his daughters, Emily, Georgina, Nora and Maryanne; his 14 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Errol Singer

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- 10:00 am Sabbath School for all ages
- 11:00 am Worship service – Pastor Athal Tolhurst
- 12:30 pm Picnic lunch (B.Y.O.)
- 2:30 – 4:00 pm Special program of music, drama, audio-visuals and interviews
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