

OCTOBER 5 2013

Record

ISSN 0819-5633

AUSSIE FARMER'S UNIQUE MINISTRY

page 14

NEW PRESIDENT FOR WA CONFERENCE

page 7

SPIRITUAL GAME OF THRONES

page 16



Make this summer Memorable



This summer, take your family and retreat into the beautiful alpine mountains or enjoy the cool waters of Lake Jindabyne. Breathe in the fresh alpine air and let your stress melt away.



Does your church group, social club or workplace need a new start for the year? Come away to this peaceful haven and start the new year refreshed and ready for new challenges.



Experience the rejuvenating effects of God's magnificent nature on 125 acres of natural bushland. Meet the friendly native residents including kangaroos, wombats, and rosellas.



P: (02) 6456-2738

E: info@alpinevillage.com.au

122 Tinworth Drive Jindabyne, NSW

starting from **\$10** per person, per night
www.AlpineVillage.com.au

Virtual doorknock a first for ADRA Appeal

Wahroonga, New South Wales

Knocking on doors is the long held tradition of the annual ADRA Appeal, but for the first time the doorknocking has become virtual.

"The ADRA Appeal has always been a social event with church members going out to doorknock together on Sabbath afternoons and throughout the week," said Aleksandra Marek, Marketing and Public Relations coordinator for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia. "The social aspect now has a new twist thanks to social media."

Ms Marek said the virtual doorknock makes raising funds for the ADRA Appeal easy.

"It just takes a few seconds to create a fundraising page and then it's just a matter of sending the link out to friends and colleagues via email and your social networks," she said. "In just a few minutes church members can start to raise enough to send a Burmese refugee in Thailand to school for a year or teach Mongolian families how to produce enough food to feed their families throughout winter."

Ms Marek said the technology behind the virtual door-

knock also means the appeal has the potential to spread much further than the traditional doorknock, and is an easy way to share what the Adventist Church is doing to help those most in need.

The appeal runs throughout the month of October—or Knocktober as it is has recently been renamed. Throughout Knocktober ADRA is challenging people to collect just \$A40, which, if met, will raise \$A2 million—enough to ensure 13,000 people will have access to basic necessities like food, water and education.

To start your own virtual doorknock visit www.adra.org.au/knocktober and follow the links.—*Braden Blyde*



ADRA appeal moves online.

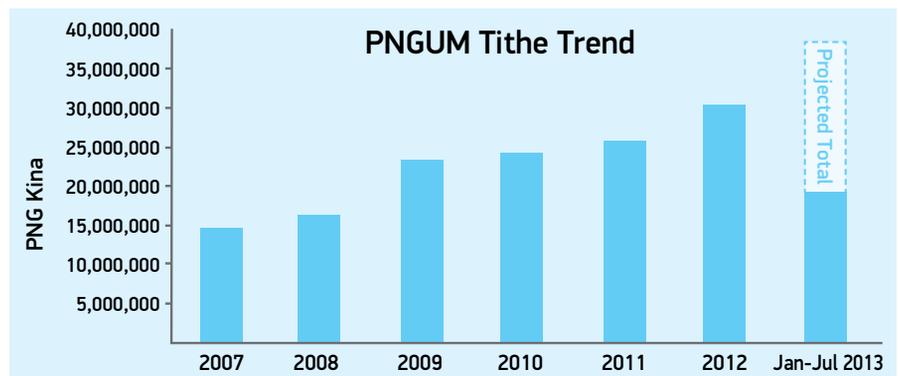
Exceptional tithe growth in PNG

Lae, Papua New Guinea

Ten years ago, the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) had the lowest tithe of the four unions that comprise the South Pacific Division, despite having the highest membership. This year, when measured in Australian dollars, the PNGUM tithe is almost triple that of the Trans Pacific Union and 50 per cent more than the New Zealand Pacific Union (NZPUC).

"If you would have told me 10 years ago that PNG's tithe would eclipse NZPUC's, I wouldn't have believed it," said Rod Brady, chief financial officer of the South Pacific Division, "but in this case, seeing is believing!"

PNG is one of the fastest growing economies in the world primarily due to its booming resource sector. From 2008-2012, the country's average Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth was 7.42 per cent per annum—exceptionally robust. In contrast, over the past five and-a-half years, PNG tithe has grown an average of 18.02 per cent per annum. Even when this is adjusted down to reflect the average annualised inflation rate during the period of 6.54 per cent, the real



average annual tithe growth of 11.48 per cent is significantly faster than the rate of GDP growth.

In some cases, villages are compensated by companies for mining rights. But there are cases where villages are being compensated not to mine due to historical or ecological reasons. Bob Butler, chief financial officer of the PNGUM, said one village on the southern end of the Kokoda Track is compensated 5 million Kina a year by the Australian Government not to mine. The village is tithing the payment. Many similar stories of faithfulness are coming from PNG.

"We are very happy about the

reports coming from Bob Butler about the faithfulness of our church family in PNG," Mr Brady said. "The increases we're seeing in PNG tithe are much faster than inflation. What this means is that the Church's capacity to serve the population of PNG is increasing in real terms. But, and this is very important, this doesn't mean PNG is now a nation without needs. Support from Australia and New Zealand has never been more important as PNG society struggles with the inevitable consequences of very rapid social change, and the growing chasm between the rich and poor." —*James Standish*



John

James Standish

Did you know that four religions revere John the Baptist as a prophet? There are Christians, of course. And Muslims. The Baha'i also claim John as a prophet. But maybe the most interesting religion is Mandaism. This small faith community follow John, but reject Jesus.

Ellen White in *Desire of Ages* talks about the unwillingness of some of John the Baptist's disciples to accept Jesus as the Messiah. I wonder if the Mandaeans—Semitic people who speak a version of Aramaic—are the spiritual descendants of those disillusioned disciples.

Reading the story of John, it's easy to understand how his disciples might find accepting Jesus difficult. After all, where was Jesus, who claimed to be sent to set the captives free, during John's hour of greatest need?

Josephus records that John was imprisoned at Machaerus, an out of the way hilltop fortress. Maybe it would have endangered Christ's mission by visiting the location. But that still doesn't explain why Jesus didn't send a message to John. If there was time enough for John's disciples to get a message to Jesus and back, surely the reverse would have to be true. Why was Jesus apparently aloof during John's anguish?

All of this has been on my mind, not because I've fallen into the rut of vain theological musings, but because of a friend; a friend I've known since we were vulnerable teenagers, sent to boarding school far from home, trying to forge an identity in a landscape so utterly foreign and emotionally remote. We've recently reconnected, but not for happy reasons.

Today she has cancer. It isn't the kind of cancer that is easily treatable. There's no fabulous operation or high-tech drug in the offing. It isn't the kind of cancer that doctors speak confidently about as if they wield god-like power over life and death. It's the kind of cancer where only the intervention of God will bring healing. To date, that intervention has not come.

Think about your life and I suspect you'll be able to recall situations that are just as perplexing. Situations in which you desperately needed the power of God, but the power was nowhere to be found. Why didn't Jesus come by?

Why didn't He intervene? Why was He with everyone else, performing miracles, giving comfort, speaking tenderly, and not with the one who needed it most?

And yet Jesus said no—one born in the history of the world is greater than John. David? No. Daniel? No. Moses? No. No. No. No-one.

But why? Why was John so great? If we took all the Scripture written about John and put it together, it would only make one reasonable length chapter in the Bible. If John's story is told, it's normally as a supporting character. As far as we know, he wrote nothing. Yes, he prepared the way for the Messiah—an awesome honour—but I wonder if there isn't one thing more.

Everyone has their share of heartache. David had his days fleeing Saul and he paid an awful cost for his sin. But David in his old age was powerful, wealthy and honoured. He even slept with a young woman to keep him warm! Job lost everything, but was rewarded times over in this life. Joseph died in power and had his bones carried to the Promised Land. Even though Moses didn't get to the Promised Land, he got one step better—he was translated. Elijah was taken to heaven in chariots of fire.

But John? What was his reward for a life of faithfulness? He was left alone rotting in prison when everyone in Israel was being blessed by Jesus. He died young. He died poor. He died humiliated and defeated by his arch enemy. It's hard to imagine a more complete fail at the end of life.

But is his complete humiliation the precise reason he is the greatest? Christ repeatedly returns to the theme that those who suffer much will be rewarded much. The Beatitudes are promises to those in distress. In the kingdom, the last of this world are the first.

Ironically, it's John's dismal end that gives a glimpse of hope in despair. If John, the greatest of humans, died so utterly bereft of honour, comfort and without Divine intervention, maybe there's hope for all of us. And maybe that hope is greatest for those who suffer the most.

James Standish is editor of RECORD.

Record

Dr Barry Oliver Senior consulting editor
James Standish Communication director
Jarrod Stackelroth Associate editor
Kent Kingston Assistant editor
Dora Amuimuia Sales & marketing
Tracey Bridcutt Copyeditor
Linden Chuang Assistant editor - digital
Loopeck Lewis Graphic designer

Letters editor@record.net.au
 News & Photos news@record.net.au
 Noticeboard ads@record.net.au
<http://record.net.au>
 Mail: Adventist Media Network
 Locked bag 1115
 Wairoonga, NSW 2076, Australia
 Phone (02) 9847 2222
 Fax (02) 9847 2200

Subscriptions
 Mailed within Australia and NZ
 \$A43.80 \$NZ73.00
 Other prices on application
subscriptions@record.net.au
 (03) 5965 6300

Cover credit: Athal Tolhurst/Week-end West

"Mal Willis, a WA farmer and member of Merriden Adventist church."

Official news magazine of the South Pacific
 Division Seventh-day Adventist Church
 ABN 59 093 117 689
 Vol 118 No 21

twitter.com/RECORDadventist

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

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



Through South Pacific eyes

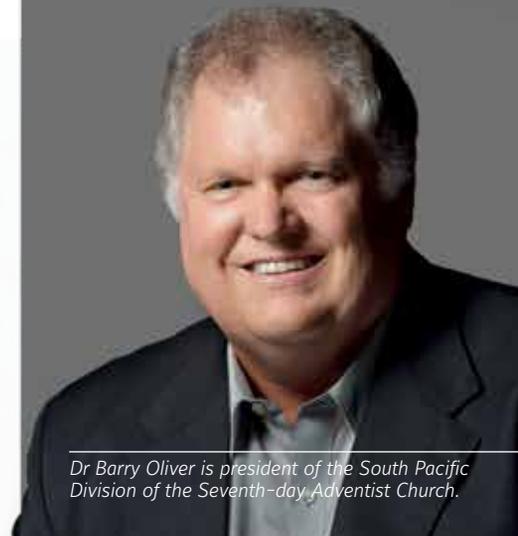
Kent Kingston

Grassroots

I'm sitting in the constituency meeting of the Western Australian Conference. It's a cool evening in the gym at Carmel College. The rest of Australia is glued to its collective TV screens as votes are being tallied in the federal election. Pastor Lionel Smith, as the ranking officer of the Conference, is in the chair. He has asked a member of the executive committee, Sharon Lawtie, to assist him with the responsibilities of the chair. According to the conference constitution, the chair has the discretion to ask a member of the executive committee to do that. There's a degree of formality, mixed with light-hearted goodwill and humour about the proceedings. I think there are about 300 delegates in the room.

Constitutions, delegates, executive committees, constituencies. Boring? No way. Well not really! They're simply the labels that ensure that the Church belongs to the people of the Church. The Adventist Church is at its very best at its grassroots. When the community of faith is gathered to consider strategies and plans for the future; when it's electing leaders and holding them accountable; when it's seeking the will of God and presence of the Holy Spirit—this is what makes this Church stand out from the pack.

I thank God every day for the people of this Church. Loyalty, commitment, passion, integrity, humility and wisdom—these are just some of the descriptors that come to mind when I think about the people of this Church.



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

I was sitting on the beach, chatting with a friend on a sunny Sabbath afternoon. My friend has a Pacific Island background, which prompted me to mention his cultural advantages when it comes to understanding the Bible. He gave me a bewildered look that suggested he'd never seen it that way.

So, in honour of the 80 per cent of Adventists in the South Pacific Division who live in or hail from the Pacific Islands, let me explain.

There are a lot of parallels between the lifestyle and cultures of the ancient Middle East and traditional Pacific ways—more, in fact, than there are with Anglo-European cultures. Consider. People in Bible times mostly built houses out of locally available materials, lived in villages and ate from their gardens, their flocks and local markets. In hard times they went without meals; other times they feasted on freshly caught fish or sheep roasted on a spit. If they wanted to get water, they had to walk. If they had to travel, the walk might take days.

Ancient Middle Eastern cultures were very status conscious. Women were very much second-class citizens and religious leaders were given great respect. Most people couldn't read and had to rely on these leaders to explain the Scriptures to them. Anthropologists would describe these cultures as being driven by "honour and shame".

Take a fresh look at popular Bible stories through Pacific eyes. Can you see the village elders disapproving of teenage Mary's pregnancy? No wonder she escaped to her cousin's house in another village. If Mary was in Samoa today, she might end up in a village like Vaitele Fou, populated by people exiled from their home villages.

What about Zacchaeus? In my Anglo-Australian culture, his pariah status makes little sense. But what if I imagine him as a PNG man who worked his way up the management ranks of a foreign mining company in his home province? How would his wantoks feel if Zacchaeus earned "consultant fees" of millions of kina while fleecing them of their traditional land?

Can you see a respected Tongan chief lifting his tupenu to expose his legs and running through the village to embrace his prodigal son? It's a picture of God the Father at His most vulnerable—casting aside His reputation in reckless love.

The Bible is not a European book. It took centuries for it to be printed in English. For most of history its stories were conveyed through oral tradition or by reading aloud. Bible study was a community discipline, not an individual one. Western culture—postmodern, wealthy, sedentary, educated, individualistic—is about as far from the cultural context of the Bible as it can be.

Those of us within that culture—in Australia, New Zealand and the rapidly developing population centres of the Pacific—need to be aware of the vast gulf that separates us from the mindset of the Bible's first readers. It's too easy to interpret the Scriptures through our own cultural lens, and miss basic truths.

On the other hand, those of us who are closely tied to traditional Pacific cultures have an extra responsibility to understand the Bible at a deep cultural level. And not just to understand, but to apply it to our lives, our families and our churches. The way Jesus challenged the culture of His day should take on extra weight when we realise how close it was to our cultures. What did Jesus say about leadership and status? How did He deal with the politics of oppression, corruption and violence? How did He treat despised ethnic groups, the disabled, women and children? What picture of the Father did He paint when God was seen as judgemental and angry?

It's time to take a fresh look at what Jesus says is really most important in life. It's time to read the Bible through South Pacific eyes.

Kent Kingston is assistant editor of RECORD and spent some years of his childhood in Papua New Guinea.



Old story/new look
With a science fiction “steam-punk” aesthetic, *The Record Keeper* online short films go behind the scenes of history, where loyal and rebellious angels battle it out for the upper hand. The project is being developed in partnership with world Church leaders and is due to be released online this month. —facebook.com/TheRecordKeeper



Unlikely play
The Australian and New Zealand Obesity Policy Coalition has slammed a new ad campaign positioning Coca Cola as part of the solution to the community’s ballooning obesity problem. The campaign highlights new smaller cans, and encourages physical activity. Health groups say Coke should stop marketing activities aimed at children. —*ABC*



Fresh start
An Adventist hospital has partnered with African supermodel Waris Dirie in setting up a medical centre to repair the damage caused by female genital mutilation, common in nearly 30 countries. The “Desert Flower Centre” at the Krankenhaus Walfriede hospital in Berlin, aims to help up to 100 women each year. —*ANN*



Kneeling together
Last month, Christians in North Korea launched an unprecedented 100 days of prayer. Believers around the world are being asked to gather in small groups for worship and prayer in public places—the very activity that endangers North Korean Christians, thousands of whom are believed to be in prison. —facebook.com/SeoulUSA



Massive footprint
A \$US2.9 million upgrade to Adventist World Radio’s flagship facility in Guam, Micronesia, will see gospel messages beaming clearer and further into hard-to-access North Korea, and other Asian countries. The upgrades allow AWR to simultaneously target different countries, sending programming in local languages during peak listening times. —*ANN*



Free for all
The South Australian Government, as well as Christian and other community groups, have spoken out against suggestions that adult-rated programs should be available on free-to-air TV at any time of the day. The major commercial networks are arguing that new technologies have made time-of-day rating requirements irrelevant. —*Family Voice Australia*

MY PREVIOUS JOB HAD ME

CREATING ads that

meant nothing!

Now I'm raising **AWARENESS**

for people in need

Luke - Visual Communications Officer - ADRA Australia



**FIND MORE REASONS
TO WORK FOR A
CHURCH EMPLOYER**

**ADVENTIST
EMPLOYMENT
.ORG.AU**





Adventist magazines recognised

Wahroonga, New South Wales

RECORD and *Signs of the Times* magazines both earned recognition at the annual Australasian Religious Press Association (ARPA) Awards night in Melbourne.

ARPA is a Christian communication network for Australian and New Zealand publications, their staff and contributors.

RECORD received bronze awards in two categories: Best Profile Story and Best Theological article.

The Best Profile award went to "Fighting Mac", written by Avondale College lecturer Daniel Reynaud about an Anzac army chaplain. The citation said it was a "well-rounded" and "insightful" profile that made the judges want to learn more about the subject. A version of this piece was printed in *Signs* in April 2011.

The Best Theological award went to "Laying down the

Law", written by Pastor Anthony MacPherson.

The judges said it was a "lucid exploration of law and grace".

Signs received a silver award in the Best Humorous category for "How to understand the truth" by Scott Wegener. The piece was the inaugural winner of the Signs Publishing Writing Prize at the Manifest Creative Arts Festival in 2011. From there it was submitted to *Signs* and has now received recognition by ARPA. The judges admired the "conversational tone and style that, through its humour, allows us to appreciate our differences while having a chuckle". —Jarrod Stackelroth



Training seeks to unite home and church

Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Four departments of the South Pacific Division (SPD) joined with their respective New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC) and Cook Island Mission leaders for a joint ministry event called Think Orange in the Cook Islands in August.

Women, Children, Family and Youth Ministry leaders presented plenary sessions and workshops to more than 85 leaders and church members.

"Think Orange calls

for a commitment to bring the home (red) and the Church (yellow) into a closer working relationship (orange) that enhances and enriches both home and church ministry to all age groups and both genders," said SPD Family Ministries director, Pastor Trafford Fischer.

Erna Johnson, SPD Women's Ministry director, said, "It was a wonderful opportunity for me to be able to make a presentation to the Church as a whole on how Women's Ministries fits into the Church and family life as a whole."

NZPUC Family Ministries director, Pastor Victor Kulakov, said the training event was "an absolute success". "Thanks to the SPD and Cook Island teams for their collaborative work." —Trafford Fischer/RECORD staff



Church leaders "think orange".

New president for WA conference

Perth, Western Australia

Pastor Terry Johnson has been named president of the Western Australian (WA) Conference.

His appointment follows the departure of Pastor Glenn Townend, who accepted the role of president of the Trans-Pacific Union Mission in May.

"It's certainly an honour to have been considered and voted as [president]," said Pastor Johnson in a statement on his Facebook page. "It's going to be a challenge as well as a privilege to serve in this new ministry role."

Pastor Johnson has served as a youth director for the WA Conference's Adventist Youth Ministries for the past seven years.

"I'd like to say a huge thank you to the young people I've had the honour and privilege of working with over the last seven years," he said. "You are the true stars and godly leaders who motivate and do the work of heaven."

Pastor Johnson has been a minister for 22 years, serving

in three countries. While studying his Masters in Divinity at Andrews University (Michigan, United States), he worked as a student pastor under Pastor Dwight Nelson, helping to lead a congregation of more than 3000 people at Pioneer Memorial church.

Pastor Johnson is a fourth generation Adventist pastor. He is the son of Pastor Eddy Johnson, manager of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency Community Centre in Blacktown (NSW), and Erna Johnson, director of Adventist Women's Ministries in the South Pacific. Pastor Johnson and his wife, Kimberly, have two children. —Linden Chuang



Pastor Johnson and his wife, Kimberly.

WE'VE GOT A MESSAGE FOR THIS GUY

YOU NEED SIGNS!

Sponsors are needed for *Signs of the Times* to go to

- Airports • Bus stations
- Schools • Personal delivery
- Literature Evangelists in New Zealand

For more information about *Signs*' New Zealand Evangelism 5-star Project and to donate, go online to:

www.signsofthetimes.org.au/donations

or phone *Signs* subscriptions on

1800 035 542 (Aus)

0800 770 565 (NZ)

Signs of the Times

PASS IT ON!



WORLD CHANGERS

Miriam lives in Papua New Guinea's picturesque Markham Valley, near Lae. A young woman in her early 30s, she works with disabled children for a living.

One night Miriam had a dream. She saw the words "My vision is your mission" and a light chasing her. She tried to run and hide under huts and bamboo, but finally asked, "What do you want me to do?"

A Bible text flashed in the sky in response: "Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people" (Revelation 14:6, NIV).

The next day Miriam attended an Independence Day rally and she watched a group of Pathfinders march past. When they turned, she saw on the back of their uniform the same words she'd seen in her dream: "My vision is your mission". That afternoon a friend told her she needed to go to the South Pacific Division World Changers Youth Congress in Brisbane, and remembering her dream, she decided to go.

Miriam loved the congress and cried her way through most sessions. When the call was made for those who wanted to recommit their lives to Jesus, she went down to the front and had a powerful reconversion experience on her knees.

Back home, Miriam immediately started looking for ways to put her vision into action. "How can I change the world?" she wondered. That night she dreamt she was in the highlands where her father's village is. There were hundreds of pandanus palms heavy with fruit, but no-one was harvesting them. The following Sabbath Miriam decided to go to the village—a place where only the Lutheran pastor owned a Bible—and witness to the people.

The only person willing to accompany her was a nine-year-old boy. "Don't come. You're too little," she tried to tell him, but he insisted. They walked for a day and a night, taking turns carrying a congress World Changers bag full of Adventist literature.

When Miriam reached the village she was greeted by her aunt and uncle, who said they'd been waiting for her, despite the fact she hadn't told them she was coming. The whole village knew she had good news, even the old blind chief, and she shared the Gospel with more than 400 people that weekend, one person or family at a time.

Now, thanks to Miriam's testimony, a nearby Adventist church as well as some individual church members are building a relationship with this village. The chief has also asked her to come back with other Adventists, saying, "We haven't heard good news like this for a long time."—*Maritza Munoz was an intern with RECORD when she wrote this piece. As told by Nick Kross.*



REVIVED BY HIS WORD

October 5—19 2013

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE TOGETHER
ONE CHAPTER A DAY

5 - Pslm. 59	9 - Pslm. 63	13 - Pslm. 67	17 - Pslm. 71
6 - Pslm. 60	10 - Pslm. 64	14 - Pslm. 68	18 - Pslm. 72
7 - Pslm. 61	11 - Pslm. 65	15 - Pslm. 69	19 - Pslm. 73
8 - Pslm. 62	12 - Pslm. 66	16 - Pslm. 70	

Worship for all generations



Multigenerational worship was the focus of a Fijian conference sponsored by the South Pacific Division's Institute of Worship.

Starting in Nadi and concluding in Suva, attendees included worship leaders, pastors and university students from Suva's Pacific Tertiary Evangelistic Centre, whose pastor, Joe Talemaitoga, was the event host.

"It's an irony," Mr Talemaitoga said, "that Fiji's strong emphasis on Adventist Youth (AY) gatherings on Sabbath afternoon is often leaving our youth feeling disconnected from involvement in Sabbath morning worship. Churches with effective Sabbath Schools can fall into a similar trap, creating a culture in which Sabbath morning worship can unintentionally ignore or sideline the children."

Valmai Hill, from the Institute of Worship, spearheaded workshops aimed at creating high impact multigenerational worship. Together with Institute director, Dr Lyell Heise, she crafted a model Sabbath morning worship service that featured high involvement across the generations. Participants ranged from preschoolers to seniors, including Fijian church educator Walpole Talemaitoga, aged 80-plus. Throughout the worship event, youth featured in the welcome, the sermon's drama vignettes, the worship band and the praise choir, while children brought banners to the stage that illustrated key sections of the sermon.

"There is an incredible consistency of responses when we project images of worship and ask audiences from diverse cultures which images touch them the most deeply," said Dr Heise, reflecting on worship culture throughout the South Pacific.

"There is always a strong response to images that focus on the sharing and preaching of the Word. A small but

passionate group respond to images illustrating visual and floral arts in worship. But overwhelmingly positive responses always come back to us when we project images of children and youth involved in worship, especially when that worship includes a thoughtful application of present day communication strategies. Fiji worship conference attendees continued these clearly established trends."

The Institute partnered for the first time with the Covenant Quartet, a male vocal group from Cooranbong, NSW. Quartet members Rick Ferret and Peter Lindsay teamed with Fiji's Meki Ratulevu to upskill worship band members.

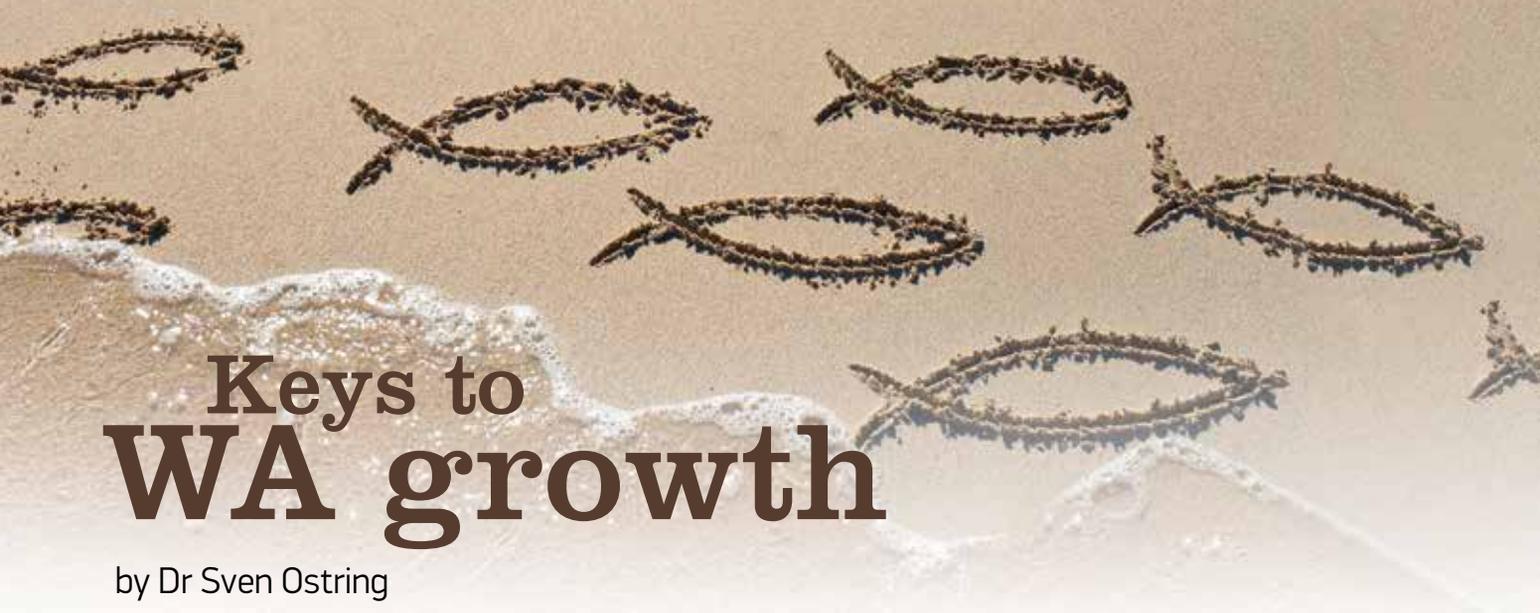
Husband and wife teams, John and Christie Venegas and Joel and Leonora Pakoti, who have years of combined experience as choir, praise team and worship leaders, enjoyed connections with new colleagues in Fiji. Mr Venegas described directing the 40-member Praise Choir as a "lifetime peak worship experience".

Ann Stafford pioneered a new initiative, directing popular workshops in the art of using creative digital photography as a support for worship. Karlie Fraser, from the Institute, and Jesel Novakalomana, from the Trans-Pacific Union, contributed personal testimony and drama skills to the workshop on youth and worship.

"After now attending two worship conferences from the Institute of Worship, our worship team is fully committed to crafting theme-based worship services," said Marika Yalimai Jnr, a young adult worship leader from Raiwaqa church.

"Everything from the sermon to the smallest worship component is designed to work together to impress God's message for the day on the hearts of all the worshippers, young and old." —*Institute of Worship*

. . . positive responses always come back to us when we project images of children and youth involved in worship, especially when that worship includes a thoughtful application of present day communication strategies.



Keys to WA growth

by Dr Sven Ostring

THE 2011 AUSTRALIAN CENSUS REVEALED THERE was a 27 per cent increase in the number of people in Western Australia who identified themselves as Seventh-day Adventists over the period from 2006 to 2011. That is an average growth of 5.4 per cent per year during that period. From another angle, a recent membership report for the Western Australian Conference shows a 3 per cent growth per year, for the past three years, in the number of people joining the Seventh-day Adventist Church in WA.

These two independent statistics confirm that the WA Conference is the fastest growing conference in Australia and one of the fastest growing conferences within the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Western world. What has it done to encourage this kind of growth? What are the keys that unlocked the growth potential?

Listening to God and people

The first key to the growth in WA was simply listening. The conference administrative team, under the leadership of Pastor Glenn Townend, spent time listening to the pastors and church members to really identify the common challenges and dreams that were shared within the Church. They also cultivated an environment of listening to God by modelling prayer and Bible study in order to discern God's vision for the Conference. It was after spending significant time listening that the Conference could move confidently into His preferred future.

Shaping and implementing a vision

The next key was to articulate the vision. Dr Russell Burrill shared at a camp meeting in 2005 that the Adventist Church was originally a lay movement, and he noted that "we can only become what we once were". The WA Conference

leadership sensed God's vision for them would be based on our heritage and drive them to a better future. It would supersede existing growth patterns. Having spent time listening and brainstorming, the executive committee articulated the following shared vision: "Renewing the Adventist movement by creating significant lives and transforming communities."

While the picture of a renewed Adventist movement was clear in the minds of the conference leadership, later it became evident that some people needed tangible numbers, which led to the formulation of the 2020 vision:

- 20,000 Adventist disciples
- 2000 groups
- 200 churches
- 2 new schools by 2020

The 2020 vision initially challenged many people, but after persistently communicating the vision with stories of WA people trying to fulfil the dream, many within the Conference caught it.

Letting the growth be Spirit-led

Another major key was to allow the growth to be led by the Holy Spirit. Rather than being prescriptive and constricting people into a predetermined strategy, the conference leadership encouraged people themselves to listen to the Holy Spirit and follow His leading, whether they start a kids' club, a soup kitchen or door knock. While this involves taking the risk of giving people freedom, the results have demonstrated that a Spirit-led movement is more powerful than one that is tightly constrained by human strategies.

Mission training and development

The WA Conference leadership team understood that one of its key roles was to train people for mission. This



Cloning Christ: life-changing portraits from Patmos (Part 7: Great Lover)

Last study we lingered at the life-changing portrait of Christ as the Emperor or King. Now we discover Him as the Great Lover of His bride or wife—His church. Christ our Emperor Creator is also our Husband.

Read Revelation 19:7; Isaiah 54:5.

Self-sacrificing Husband

The depth of the love of Christ our Emperor Husband can only be measured by the infinite expanse of Calvary love.

Our Husband Lover is also the Lamb, slain from the foundation of the world to justify, purify and set apart His loved bride for a relationship with Himself.

Read Revelation 19:7,8; Ephesians 5:24-32.

Husband Lover and the great rescue

But that's not all. With a far better storyline than any epic Hollywood blockbuster movie, Jesus the Emperor Lamb comes at just the right moment to rescue His beloved bride from her end-time enemies.

Read Revelation 19:7,9-21; Matthew 25:1-12.

The Lavish Husband

As with a classic Hebrew wedding, Jesus the Emperor Husband of His bride takes her to His Father's house where He has lavishly prepared a place for His beloved of all ages so they can live with Him and His Father face to face.

Read Revelation 21:3,9,12,14; 22:3,4; John 14:1-3.

What a life-changing portrait of love! Decide right now to let Christ your Lover be your Husband—the Head or Leader and Master of your life. It's a choice you'll never regret—eternal life with your Emperor Lover.

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

Runs on the board

Last issue, we carried a church growth story from the Australian state with the slowest population growth. This issue we look at church growth in Australia's fastest growing state. It's no secret our Church is growing faster in West Australia than in any other state in Australia. Indeed, the growth in WA is impressive by any standards—and certainly by the standards of developed Western nations where many churches are shrinking. Yes, WA's population is growing faster than any other state in Australia, so, yes, the Church should be growing fastest there. But from 2006–2011, reported WA church growth significantly exceeded WA population growth. It therefore appears that there is more than a happy coincidence behind the healthy growth of the Adventist Church in WA. Do you know of real, verifiable church growth where you live? Then share with RECORD the good news—including the why, the wherefores and how it may be replicable.

mission focus included a whole range of projects, including public evangelism, STORMCo, overseas mission trips and church planting. Training occurred by modelling mission as well as facilitating key events, including the annual life renewal and church planting summits, which teach the biblical principles of mission.

Communication

Finally, the WA Conference has been actively communicating the stories of what God has been doing in the Conference, as well as the challenges being faced. This has been accomplished through the conference leadership and departments telling God stories in worship every Sabbath in the various churches around the Conference. The monthly *NewsWest* magazine and the AMNWest video media unit tell the stories of what God's people are doing. People love hearing these stories and it provides them with tangible examples of what can be achieved.

Prior to the current growth phase, it took 100 Adventists to disciple one new person into the faith. It now takes 30 Adventists to make another disciple of Jesus. The church plants are particularly effective in reaching new people, with only 19 Adventists in a church plant being needed to make another disciple. Tithe has also grown in the period from \$A3.8 million to \$6.3 million.

God led the journey and is to be glorified for the growth in the WA Conference. We would like to acknowledge the keys that He has given to us for this growth. ➤

Dr Sven Ostring is Global Mission and leadership director for the Western Australian Conference.





Buk Save comes of age

Three local women have been given total responsibility for overseeing the Buk Save Adult Literacy program in the Solomon Islands. Wendy Wale, Constance Galo and Martha Rade have worked with Buk Save for a number of years, helping to teach adults how to read Pidgin English through an intensive seven-day training program. Buk Save was founded in 2008 in the Solomon Islands by then Women's Ministries director Janette Kingston. —*Going Places*



Learning the lingo

Thirty-eight students learned how to read Pidgin English at the most recent Buk Save program held at Auki, Solomon Islands, in August. An additional 20 pastors and other interested people also received training on how to teach the program. Graduates received a certificate and a Pidgin Bible, which will serve as their textbook in follow-up classes. —*Janette Kingston*



Cover girl

Erna Johnson, Adventist Women's Ministries director in the South Pacific, was featured on the cover of the August 15 issue of *Vikan*, the longest-running magazine in Iceland. The issue highlights Mrs Johnson's journey from a small island off the coast of Iceland to the islands in the South Pacific (with many countries in between) as well as her work in ministry. —*Going Places*



Worth celebrating

Morata Two Adventist church, located on the outskirts of Port Moresby (PNG), was packed to capacity as Pathfinders and Adventurers gathered together to celebrate World Pathfinder Day. Young members, dressed in their iconic uniforms and colours, took the Friday night and Sabbath worship programs, with the help of guest speaker Lazurus Kairi, youth coordinator for the National Capital District (NCD). Mr Kairi reminded attendees that "to be a leader" you first have to be "a loyal servant". NCD Adventurers coordinator Dickson Marabu also served as a guest speaker at the event. —*Nancy Tawampe*



20 years on

Avondale School's Year 9 class of 1993 took reminiscing to a new level when they opened the school's first time capsule on the Cooranbong campus. Former history teacher and school librarian Ron Sparke was on hand to unlock the secrets from the past, sawing open the capsule to reveal its well-preserved contents after 20 years. Among the items were letters of reflection by students on school and current events, descriptions of the day the capsule was sealed (September 24, 1993), a collection of class and staff photos, and the greatest conundrum, an 8mm videotape. —*Felicity Pittaway*



Like father, like son

Mark Govan and his son Brandon were ordained together as elders at Wallsend Adventist church (NSW). "We have four new elders," said senior pastor John Denne, "and it is great that two of them come from the same family." Photo (left to right): Stuart Arblaster (senior elder), Mark Govan, Anna Govan, Brandon Govan and John Denne. —*John Denne/Jeff Guy*



Flying high

Dre Faaeteete, a Year 11 student at Macarthur Adventist College (NSW), was awarded first prize in the Senior Sports Category at the annual Pacific Achievement Awards (PAA) night, held in August at Campbelltown Catholic Club. Dre currently competes at a national level in high jump. The PAA aims to unite Pacific cultures in the local community by recognising the achievements and accomplishments of talented individuals and groups. —*Candice Jaques*



New life at 96

It really is never too late to be born again. Bill Whitehead was recently baptised at 96 years of age at Geelong Adventist church in Victoria through profession of faith. Youth pastor Ben Townson (pictured right) officiated the baptism, with Bill's friend and Bible study partner Simon Beveridge (left) standing by his side. —*Rachael Gale/IntraVic*



The real social network

We live in an age where, in some ways, we are more connected than ever. Most people are only a quick text, email or phone call away and social media can give us a by-the-minute update of the daily activities of friends and family.

But with these connections being more available than ever, if we're not careful, their quantity can increase, but their quality diminish. It can be easy for social media news feeds and tweets to become relationship "cheat sheets", making us feel connected to others without any actual engagement taking place. Ironically, with so much information and "connection" at our fingertips, it can be easy to become isolated.

In his flourish equation, US psychologist Dr Martin Seligman identifies a number of areas that are needed for a life that truly flourishes, with two key aspects being relationships and meaning. The good news is, acts of service, especially on a community level, can be great ways to build relationships, while also nurturing physical and emotional health.

Some great ways to get involved in the community can include volunteering through your church or community organisations like Meals on Wheels or by simply starting a walking group in your area. By reaching out into the community, we can have a profound effect not just on the health of others, but also on ourselves.



Fresh noodle and vegetable rolls

Preparation time: 30 minutes Serves: 12.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 80g rice vermicelli noodles | ¼ small Chinese cabbage, finely shredded |
| 1 medium carrot, grated coarsely | ½ cup coriander leaves |
| 1 medium cucumber, deseeded and finely sliced | ½ cup mint leaves, whole |
| 1 medium red capsicum, finely sliced | 12 x 22cm rice paper wrappers |

1. Soak noodles in boiling water in a large heat-proof bowl for 5 minutes; stir to separate strands, then drain. Using scissors, cut noodles into shorter lengths.
2. Place noodles in a large bowl; drizzle with 2 tablespoons of a dipping sauce. Add vegetables and herbs; toss to combine.
3. To assemble rolls, place 1 sheet of rice paper in a medium bowl of warm water until just softened. Lift sheet from water carefully; place on a board covered with a clean tea towel. Place ½ cup of mixture across lower part of the wrapper, in a neat horizontal pile. Fold bottom end over, then sides and roll up tightly. Place on a platter. Repeat with remaining rice paper sheets and vegetable filling.

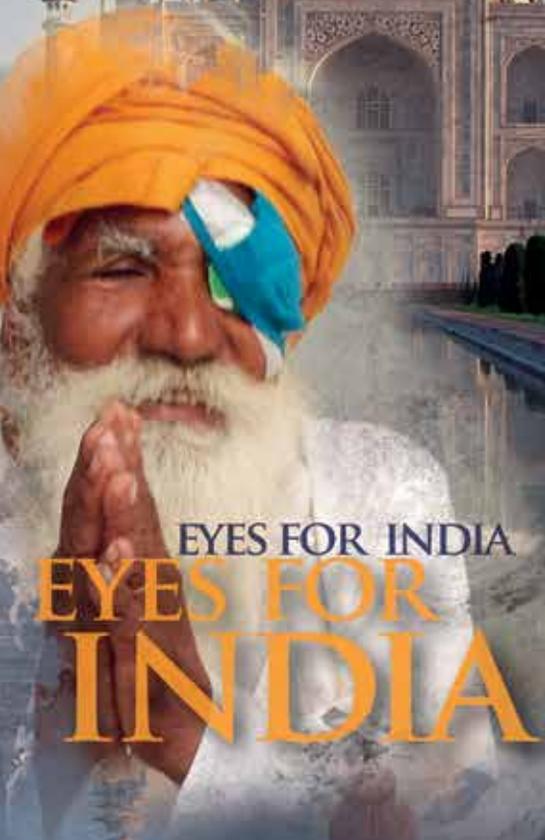
PER ROLL: 140kJ (35cal). Protein 1g. Total Fat <1g. Saturated Fat nil. Carbohydrate 7g. Total sugars 1g. Sodium 10mg. Potassium 105mg. Calcium 20mg. Iron 0.5mg. Fibre 1g.

Call and speak to one of our qualified nutritionists at Sanitarium Lifestyle Medicine Services on 1800 673 392 (in Australia) or 0800 100 257 (in New Zealand). Alternatively, email us at nutrition@sanitarium.com.au (Australia) or nutrition@sanitarium.co.nz (New Zealand). Don't forget to order our free cookbook, *Food for Health and Happiness*, by visiting our website www.sanitarium.com.au or www.sanitarium.co.nz

Sanitarium

LIFESTYLE
MEDICINE
SERVICES

GIVE THE GIFT OF SIGHT



EYES FOR INDIA

EYES FOR INDIA

In India, there are 15 million blind people. Many of them could see again if they could have cataract surgery. It Is Written Oceania—*Eyes for India* is making this happen.

A mobile clinic equipped with professional staff brings this life changing service to thousands of people.

For just \$75 you can help the people who desperately want to see.

www.itiswrittenoceania.tv

or call 1300 567 297

SPONSORED BY



it is written
OCEANIA

Changing lives around the world

MY MINISTRY

"Farmers have begun meeting at lonely crossroads in the eastern wheatbelt as they support one another through one of the toughest periods in generations." Thus began an article in the *Weekend West* newspaper of April 6-7, 2013. The first meeting was organised "without fanfare or government support by good Samaritan, Mal Willis".

Malcolm Willis is a member of the Merredin Adventist Church in Western Australia. He initially began the program as a morning prayer group in a shed on his property "Ashdale", before meeting at a nearby crossroad where this ministry has continued for two years. As news spread that the morning meetings were to encourage farmers who were hard-hit by poor harvests and increasing debt, the prayer sessions were extended to two per week. Currently there are also five monthly breakfasts organised, each held in a different isolated location, usually at a country crossroads. The program, where Malcolm provides breakfasts at his own expense from his custom-built cooking trailer, has become popular. New groups are springing up as news spreads of the benefits to struggling farmers.

Some breakfasts involve as many as 30 individuals: men and sometimes women. The farmers meet just before dawn to share ideas and encouragement before returning to their properties and work programs two hours later.

The breakfasts are about encouraging one another. "I think it is sensational to see the mateship—the guys sharing what they are going through," Malcolm says. "It brings them together to help one another."

From time to time representatives from the Regional Men's Health Initiative are invited to the breakfasts, to offer farmers a "preseeding service". The counsellors check oil pressure (blood pressure), the chassis (waist) and the "shockies" (stress levels).

I attended one of the breakfast meetings recently, and following breakfast, discussion and prayer, came away thrilled that a young Adventist farmer has put into effect a novel program for reaching out to his neighbours, and, as Ellen White recommends, serving them in a non-threatening, but much appreciated way.—*Athal Tolhurst*



OPINION POLL

Which of the following is most important for church growth?

- Local church autonomy
- A comprehensive vision
- Training and development for members
- The right model

See the Keys to WA growth on page 10.

Step of



by Summer Lockley

LAST DECEMBER MY HUSBAND WANDERED INTO the kitchen and asked if I was ready for a bombshell. "I'm thinking about doing this," Damien said, as he threw an ARISE brochure on the bench where I was preparing dinner.

Going against the grain and making "crazy" decisions had always worked for us in the past, so my initial reaction was one of excitement and enthusiasm. It was only three years ago that God had called us out of our worldly lives and dramatically transformed us. Damien was undoubtedly "on fire" for the Lord, so a three-month evangelism course seemed like a natural step—except that we have two young children and rely on his income.

We committed it to prayer and asked God to sort out the finer details. Within a few weeks He had sold our Queensland investment property. That alone was a miracle. There were more than 1000 properties for sale in that area of the Gold Coast. Ours was far from special, yet we received two offers in one day. The real estate agent was stunned! Then God arranged someone to keep Damien's surveying projects going—His will was clear.

Twenty-three people from three different countries had similar stories. Stories of anonymous financial donations and the most unlikely scenarios that enabled them to leave work or study and come to northern NSW in February, for the first ever ARISE Cornerstone program to be held outside the United States.

I wrongly assumed that ARISE would be an opportunity for the kids and I to see a little more of Damien, especially as we live only a kilometre from Kingscliff Adventist Church where the event was being held. However, within a few days of the program starting, I had labelled myself the "ARISE widow"! Fortunately there were other widows too, and we were quickly able to connect and support each other. What a privilege it was though, to be behind the

scenes as my husband spent 12 weeks in intense Bible study, worship and outreach.

His long days were filled with the inspiration

of international and local speakers, including Pastor David Asscherick, Pastor Ty Gibson, Jeffrey Rosario and Matt Parra (NNSW director of Evangelism), learning just how biblically sound the Seventh-Day Adventist message is and how to communicate that to others.

I remember waiting nervously at home the night of his first doorknocking experience, praying for God to lead the students to the "right" houses. He did and soon more than 30 Bible studies were underway with members of the community. From that, there have been 12 decisions for baptism and many new people embraced by our church family.

With ARISE returning to Kingscliff in February 2014, Damien is encouraging any potential students to step out in faith.

"ARISE far exceeded my expectations," he says. "It gave me a much better understanding of God's character and just how far from it we are.

"All the classes were relevant to the time we're living in which made it easier to share with people in the community. Probably the biggest highlight for me was being a part of a unified group that consecrated themselves to God. ARISE exemplified the end-time work we should be doing as God's children, in order for Christ to come." 

Summer Lockley writes from Kingscliff, NSW.





Spiritual Game of **Thrones**

by Timothy Humphries

REMEMBER IT WELL. I WAS ASKED BY A RELATIVE AT a party why I was so intensely interested in politics. Stumbling for an answer, I didn't know what to say. It has been a driving interest as far back as I can remember. I recall one such incident as a child. I scoured a local library trying to find a copy of the Australian Constitution. Later I realised the source of my fascination was a sociological one.

Why do humans act as they do? What drives them? How do their glories and failures define them individually and as a society? It remains an ongoing fascination.

Thinking about it again recently, my mind considered the great sweep of history. The great figures whose courage, tenacity and persistence saw victory and defeat in equal measure.

Often as Christians we eschew involvement in politics for a number of reasons, including a prevailing sense that compromise is counterproductive. Many times we see secular values as incongruent with biblical values. Both arguments are valid.

However, the thrills and disappointments of good people seeking to do the right thing on the grand stage and the folly of evil that rises and is rebuffed, remains a key component in the human process of politics.

It's true that our sinful, fallen nature precludes the possibility of a perfect society in our time. Despite this my heart rings with joy when considering the passions of Martin Luther, William Wilberforce and Martin Luther King. Let's not forget, of course, the greater operative of love: Jesus!

The Great One rebuffed the pincer movements of Satan and the Pharisees with grace and excellence. An excellence that makes the machinations of US TV drama series *Game of Thrones* look like the squabbles of children.

Whilst Jesus wasn't a politician, He was the ultimate communicator. It wasn't just that His message cut through to a great number of people. The key was the fact that it set the stage for the greatest seismic shift in human history. This change was God's grace embodied in Jesus. Such greatness! A greatness that sets in train the strategic beauty of pure love.

Importantly, the next question relates to whether Christians should be involved in politics. Many would say yes and others no.

Ellen White placed competing answers to this question into starker contrast with the following words:

"Dear youth, what is the aim and purpose of your life? Are you ambitious for education that you may have a name

and position in the world? Have you thoughts that you dare not express, that you may one day stand upon the summit of intellectual greatness; that you may sit in deliberative and legislative councils, and help to enact laws for the nation? There is nothing wrong in these aspirations. You may every one of you make your mark. You should be content with no mean attainments. Aim high, and spare no pains to reach the standard.

The fear of the Lord lies at the foundation of all true greatness. Integrity, unswerving integrity, is the principle that you need to carry with you into all the relations of life. Take your religion into your school-life, into your boarding-house, into all your pursuits. The important question with you now is, how to so choose and perfect your studies that you will maintain the solidity and purity of an untarnished Christian character, holding all temporal claims and interests in subjection to the higher claims of the gospel of Christ. You want now to build as you will be able to furnish, to so relate yourself to society and to life that you may answer the purpose of God in your creation" (*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, page 82).

Politics to me isn't just a representation of the day-to-day banalities of human process. It's actually an unquestionable battle of ideas with our hearts and minds being the ultimate battleground.

For me, God's love isn't just a revolution; it's an act of social, political, economic and spiritual force that remains unmatched. Some would say this is an ambitious statement.

However, if we are serious about the transformative power of God's grace in Christ Jesus, then social, political and economic change is critical in the spiritual transformation that shakes the world when people come to Christ. This is why I live in this space, seeking any opportunity to see and effect change in His service.

Whether left, right, centre, upside down or inside out, it doesn't really matter. In the Spiritual Game of Thrones there is only one answer: Jesus, All! His is the greatest transformative command.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20). ➤

Timothy Humphries writes from Brisbane, Queensland.

It's actually an unquestionable battle of ideas with our hearts and minds being the ultimate battleground.

**'Whoever
welcomes
one such child
in my name
welcomes me'
Matthew 18:5**

You can make a difference for a child in need. \$43 a month helps to provide food, shelter, education and healthcare for a child and their community.

**To sponsor a child,
contact ICC Australia
on 02 9987 1136
or visit our website**

www.iccaustralia.org.au

ICC, a ministry, is independent of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organisation but is supportive of the Church.



The painting preachers

They preached . . . and they painted!

As early as 1960, theology students at the Australasian Missionary College were required to study the arts so they could produce visual aids for evangelistic programs and ministry. Morriss Kennedy, a lecturer at the time, was largely responsible for the initiative.

"He was an innovator," says Rose-lee Power (pictured with a hand painted evangelism aid), curator of the Adventist Heritage Centre, which has a few of the paintings in its collection. "As an artist, he saw everything visually, so he wanted to teach others to see visually as well."

The students found the class challenging but enjoyed the practice of painting, Ms Power explains. Some continued to create other works of art, but many resorted to hiring professional artists such as Mel Skinner.

Not all students were fond of the decision. Pastor Ross Goldstone, a retired Seventh-day Adventist minister who studied under Kennedy, believes that although some theologians may have the artistic skills to complement those in ministry, this is not universally the case. "I'm better with words than I am with a paintbrush," he says.

Though now showing their age, the works produced by the artist-theologians in training were often conceptually unique and showed a vibrant creativity. "It was a good idea that they learned how to get a message across visually, because a lot of people are visually orientated and we tend to speak only in words and not in pictures," Ms Power says. "Often a picture can say more than a few words can."

Pastor Russell Kranz agrees. The retired minister, whose Bible lands watercolour exhibition was hosted by Avondale Libraries recently, was adamant art and Christianity go together. "The Bible is full of images," he says.

Contact the Adventist Heritage Centre (heritage@avondale.edu.au) if you have items you wish to donate that relate to the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific.

Cameron Fletcher is a bachelor of Arts student at Avondale College of Higher Education.



MYSTERY HISTORY



Do you know?

- The people in the photo.
- The date the photo was taken.

Send to heritage@avondale.edu.au

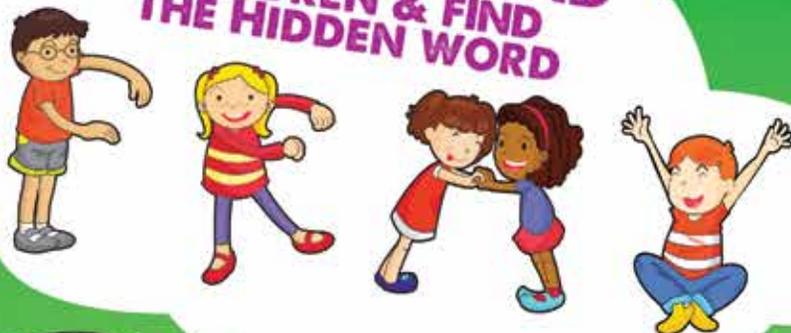
Kids' Space

WERTE* KIDS

Cornelius was praying in his room when an angel told him to go to Joppa and find a man named Peter.

At the same time, Peter was praying and had a vision that showed God loved everyone the same. Going downstairs, Peter found 3 men looking for him. They took Peter to see Cornelius and Peter taught them all about Jesus and His love.

DRAW AROUND THE CHILDREN & FIND THE HIDDEN WORD



COLOUR ME

FIND-A-WORD

"God does not show favourites" Acts 10:34

H	S
E	S
G	E
C	C
S	T
A	C
T	A
S	P
T	H
C	C
I	C
P	D
T	C
C	P
R	P
P	D
H	G
C	P
G	O
D	H
H	H
G	I
P	D
V	H
O	G
G	G
I	W
A	A
G	G
E	I
N	I
W	D
F	S
I	I
S	H
O	W
H	O
E	S
I	Y
U	T
N	O
H	S
N	R
V	S
G	

WORSHIP MESSAGE
GOD'S CHILDREN CAN BE FRIENDS TO EVERYONE.

* Afrikaans South Africa

TOP 5 REASONS TO VISIT

record.net.au

- 1. You are missing out:** Hear the latest in the womens ordination debate? Chances are it was a web exclusive story. Did you read "Choppers and Coffins"? It too was web exclusive. The hardest hitting, the latest breaking, the most intriguing stories we publish, are published at record.net.au.
- 2. Join the conversation:** You can shout at a magazine when you get excited, or you can go on the website and share your perspective. Lots of people do. Comments on the RECORD website are up 141% this year alone.
- 3. Sharing is caring:** Reading is more fun when you can share. It only takes a click of a button to share something you find interesting or infuriating. RECORD is putting the media back into social media. Facebook referrals to the RECORD website are up 229% this year.
- 4. See it first:** Why wait for the paper RECORD to appear at your church, when most of our major articles and news pieces are published first on the web. You'd be a mug to wait!
- 5. Moving words:** record.net.au doesn't just have words, it has pictures and video. So why watch InFocus on someone else's schedule, when you can watch it any time you like on RECORD web?

For the other 362 great reasons to visit www.record.net.au you'll have to...

visit www.record.net.au

LETTERS

UNEQUALLY YOKED?

Jan Knopper, NSW

I read with concern that Avondale College of Higher Education signed a memorandum of understanding with Charles Sturt University, a secular university (News, September 7).

In 1 Corinthians 6:14 we're instructed: "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" Ellen White, commenting on this passage, states: "This command includes the marriage relation and every business connection."

We cannot be assured that the high standard of Seventh-day Adventist education in regard to not only academic performance but also in ethics, morals, social behaviour and Adventist Christian principles, will not be compromised by this business connection.

Going over the history of Avondale and how it was established by Ellen White, we want to see that this is maintained and protected against all influence which could harm it or take it on a downward trend.

We do appreciate that Avondale College is aiming to be a university in its own right. But we wonder is this the way to reach it? A number of my children and grandchildren are Avondale trained, which shows I have an interest in Avondale College.

Avondale's response
Ray Roennfeldt, NSW

Thank you for the opportunity to reply to concerns regarding the recent signing of a memorandum of understand-

ing (MoU) between Avondale and Charles Sturt University (CSU).

First, it should be noted that this is not a "business connection" or a partnership. Rather, it is primarily a mentoring relationship in which CSU undertakes to "Act as a mentor and advisor to Avondale in its 'journey' to Australian University College status by assessing and benchmarking governance, learning and teaching, and research quality and standards" (MoU 2.1).

Second, we can be assured that this relationship will not in any way compromise Avondale's academic performance, ethics, morals, social behaviour, or Adventist principles. The MoU specifically states "That CSU and Avondale will protect each other's intellectual property and autonomy as separate higher education providers and respect each other's mission and ethos" (MoU 1.3).

Finally, Avondale is working hard to be the best that it can be in higher education—"the head and not the tail" (Ellen White)—this progress is something everyone in our community should celebrate.

CSU would not have been interested in mentoring Avondale except for our record in quality learning and teaching and our increasing performance and potential in the research areas that are distinctively Adventist: lifestyle medicine, worship and spirituality, and Christian education.

CREDIT DUE

Ross Goldstone, via email

I noted with interest the article "Medical Houseboat floats Again" (News, September 7).

While pleased to read that this boat has been resurrected

from the dead, I was disappointed that no mention was made of the person responsible for its original design and construction.

David Lundstrom, now living in Western Australia, was a missionary appointed to head up the work at Ambunti and saw the need for a boat to ply the waters of the mighty Sepik River and the network of subsidiary streams, giving access to remote and unentered villages. A skilled engineer, David designed and built the *Pathfinder* and rejoices that his skilled and dedicated contribution to the outreach of the Gospel lives on.

Let's give credit where credit is due.

TO BE LOVED

Barb Shelley, via email

The article "Only by love" (September 7) touched the very heart of what is lacking today in so many people's lives—acceptance and a sense of belonging.

Thank you Dannielle for an inspiring and thought-filled article.

As a practising psychotherapist, I can vouch for the "hearts cry" of many people—to be accepted, to belong and to know they are loved.

MYSTERY HISTORY

Olga Ward, via email

RECORD September 7 gave us some interesting historic pictures in the Mystery History results. The first picture (on page 18) is of staff at Sopas Hospital, Papua New Guinea. The man, second from the left is Jacob Mittleider, listed as Jake Mitlighter.

Thank you for noting this. Keep up the good work, as we enjoy reading each publication.

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

POSITIONS VACANT

■ **Digital and channel marketing specialist—It Is Written Oceania (Wahroonga, NSW).** It Is Written Oceania (IIWO) is a ministry of Adventist Media Network. The successful applicant will be a dynamic, passionate individual who wants to use their digital and marketing talents to share the everlasting Gospel to the world. The position involves developing an integrated digital and channel marketing strategy; managing projects; create, develop and manage exciting and insightful content (text, images and video), copy edit and proof read, develop and maintain brand look and feel for all digital presence including the website; social media interaction; developing campaigns to drive optimisation and extend reach; and analytics and reporting. He/she should have strong digital and channel marketing experience of a minimum of five years; superior written and verbal communication skills; experience writing content and SEO; proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Powerpoint and Final Cut Pro; a creative, enthusiastic and flexible nature; the ability to build, develop and retain rapport with internal and external stakeholders; a proven track record of delivering projects in a timely manner; a “can do” attitude; attention to detail and accuracy; and a passion for soul winning.

■ **Admin. assistant—It Is Written Oceania (Wahroonga, NSW).** It Is Written Oceania (IIWO), a ministry of Adventist Media Network, is seeking a part-time (24 hours per week) admin. assistant. Flexible working arrangements are possible. The successful applicant will assist the activities of the IIWO ministry. The position involves day-to-day management of the database system for recording donations, creating reports and mailing lists; providing frontline communications by handling phone and web enquiries; coordinating the ministry resources of DVDs and other printed material; providing general administrative support with filing, documentation, minute taking and other administrative support activities as requested from time to time, and coordination of projects. He/she should have interest, skills and experience in working within a small team; effective communication; proficiency in MS Office applications including Word, Excel and Powerpoint/Keynote; coordinating projects to ensure deadlines are met; attention to detail and accuracy; willing to take the initiative to develop the role's responsibilities; public and personal evangelism; and a passion for soul winning. The successful applicants must be baptised members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with full commitment to its message, mission and lifestyle. Overseas applicants should ensure they can satisfy Australian working visa requirements before applying for this position. Adventist Media Network reserves the right to fill these vacancies at its discretion. For more information about It Is Written Oceania visit <www.itiswrittenoceania.tv>. Applications and enquiries should be directed to: Calvin Dever, Corporate Services, Adventist Media Network on (02) 9847 2222 or email <corpserv@adventistmedia.org.au>. Applications close **October 22, 2013.**

■ **My career is *the most important thing* is my family.** You've probably read a version of that statement before. Hopefully it got you thinking about your priorities in life. A lot of us have sought increased salaries and corporate success but our families and personal spirituality have suffered. Considering working for a church employer. You'll find a God-ordained cause, people who care about you, flexible work options, a competitive salary and a career that allows you to put God and family first. Show your interest by creating a profile at <www.adventistemployment.org.au>.

■ **Manager—AUC Resource Centre (Ringwood, Vic).** Applications are invited for persons interested in the role of AUC Resource Centre manager at the headquarters of the church located in Ringwood,

Melbourne, Victoria. This position is available immediately, and we are looking for a person with a strong passion for evangelism, preferably with pastoral experience, who also has some demonstrated management skills. The position is a permanent one, subject to satisfactory performance appraisals. Please send CV or resume to Kingsley Wood, Seventh-day Adventist Church (AUC) Ltd at PO Box 4368, Ringwood, 3134, or email it to <kingsleywood@adventist.org.au>. Should you wish to discuss the position, please call Kingsley Wood on (03) 9871 7555. Applications close **October 18, 2013.**

■ **Executive assistant/office coordinator—Adventist Media Network (Wahroonga, NSW).** This is a position at the centre of the operations of the office that requires a passionate individual who is organised and capable of handling a variety of tasks at the same time. The requirements for the position include assisting with the preparation of board agendas and minutes and appropriate reports; ability to maintain confidentiality; highly developed time management skills and demonstrated ability to meet deadlines and to effectively manage multiple projects at once; ability to coordinate the operations of the office, including ordering supplies, managing service contractors and handling incoming enquiries; compiling itineraries for corporate travel; well developed keyboard skills with an advanced knowledge of MS Office applications; a proactive and “can do” attitude; the ability to build, develop and retain rapport with internal and external stakeholders; and superior written and verbal communication skills. The successful applicant will hold suitable qualifications or have equivalent experience as an office coordinator and admin. assistant to senior positions. They will have a commitment to quality and service, and be a baptised member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Overseas applicants should ensure they can satisfy Australian working visa requirements before applying. Adventist Media Network reserves the right to fill this vacancy at its discretion. For more information about Adventist Media Network visit <www.adventistmedia.org.au>. Applications and enquiries should be directed to Calvin Dever, Corporate Services, Adventist Media Network on (02) 9847 2222 or email <corpserv@adventistmedia.org.au>. Applications close **October 22, 2013.**

■ **Communications and Public Relations coordinator—Greater Sydney Conference (Epping, NSW).** The Greater Sydney Conference is seeking to appoint a full-time Communications and Public Relations coordinator. This person will manage both internal and external communication for the Conference, including the bi-monthly newsletter, the fortnightly eNewsletter, the website and social media platforms. The successful applicant will have an appropriate communication, journalism or marketing qualification, excellent communication skills, be highly organised, self motivated and have a high level of computer and keyboard skills, particularly with Adobe InDesign. For further information and a position profile, please contact Pastor Adrian Raethel at <adrianraethel@adventist.org.au> or phone (02) 8876 5288. Applications close **October 18, 2013.**

■ **Church youth leader—Bishopdale Church (Christchurch, NZ).** We are a vibrant, growing church that is committed to our young people! As a result we are currently seeking a passionate person who loves Jesus and young people to work full-time as our youth leader in 2014. The successful applicant will receive a salary, subsidised accommodation, mentoring and support from church leaders and a chance to explore our stunning part of the world. Could God be calling you to grow young disciples via an adventure in service in beautiful New Zealand? For more information and to apply visit <www.adventistemployment.org.au>. Applications close **October 21, 2013.**

Sign up for job updates and find more vacant positions at <adventistemployment.org.au>



WEDDINGS

Hennig-Edser. Jordan Hennig, son of David (deceased) and Judith Hennig, and Ashley Edser, daughter of Dallas and Christina Edser, were married 4.8.13 at Preston Manor, Toowoomba, Qld. They have set up their home in Toowoomba.

Wes Tolhurst



Read-Baskin.

Jason Read, son of Greg and Helen Read (Perth, WA), and Michelle Baskin, daughter of Peter and Susie Baskin (Perth), were married 23.6.13 at Carmel church, Perth.

Andrew Skeggs



Scudamore-Haora. Bruce Edward

Scudamore, son of Don Scudamore (Browns Plains, Qld) and Rosemarie Scudamore (deceased), and Ingrid Emma Haora, daughter of Gary and Jill Haora (Woodridge), were married 2.8.13 at Underwood Park, Priestdale, Qld.

Mike Brownhill, Duane Haora

OBITUARIES



Borgas, Basil Gustave, born 18.2.1927; died 30.7.13 in Avondale Nursing Home.

He married Erica Ball. He is survived by his wife; their children, Heather, Kaye, Trevor, Wayne, Geoff and Mick; 17 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. Basil was born, educated and employed in Cooranbong. A quiet, gentle man, Basil was physically very strong and his handshake was never to be forgotten once experienced. He graduated from a business course at Avondale, where he met Erica, and won her hand in marriage. Basil worked for Sanitarium in the freight department of the Cooranbong factory, and enjoyed driving semi-trailers loaded with products. Both Basil and Erica have been actively involved in the life and worship at Memorial church.

Ross Goldstone

Burg, Doris, passed away late July, aged 96 in Ozcare Nursing home, Malanda, Qld. Her children and family laid her to rest in

the Atherton Crematorium. She was a committed Seventh-day Adventist and is looking forward to meeting her Lord in the first resurrection.

Wolfgang Jenke

Duff, Graham John, born 3.1.1940 in Paddington, NSW; died 29.7.13 in Redcliffe Hospital, Qld. On 8.5.1993, he married Helen

Duff. He is survived by his wife (Deception Bay); and their sons, Cameron (Campbelltown, NSW) and Stuart (Baulkham Hills). In the hearts of family and friends, Graham will always stay loved and remembered every day. He gave years of commitment to Pathfinders in Sydney, NSW.

Bob Possingham, Bronwen Ford

Eliot, Elsie Evelyn Hart (nee Bradley), born 31.3.1922; died 2.8.13 in Redland Bay Retirement Village, Qld. On 28.5.1941, she married Douglas Eliot at Timaru, NZ. They joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1945. They shared many happy years together working in Brisbane, south New Zealand, Avondale and at the South Pacific Division. Elsie was a devoted wife, a wonderful host and a beautiful homemaker. She was predeceased by her only son, Jonathon, and her husband, Douglas. She is sadly missed by her two daughters, Elizabeth and Susan, and their families. Elsie joins her beloved husband in the grave, resting in Jesus and waiting to be reunited at His soon return.

Alvin Coltheart, Sven Ostring

Fairhurst, Gwennyth Rubine (nee Burman), born 24.6.1940 in Riverton, SA; died 13.7.13 in Charles Gairdner Hospital, Perth, WA. On 23.4.1960, she married Hubert Enoch Fairhurst, who predeceased her. She is survived by Janette Fairhurst, Tequila Qia and Geoff Fairhurst (Kelmescott, WA). Gwen worked for 20 years as a volunteer at the Adventist Book Centre in Gosnells. She was a faithful member of the Gosnells church.

Gervais Cangy

Faulkner, Beryl Mills (nee Mulroy), born 31.7.1926 in Uralla, NSW; died 30.6.13 in Nelson Bay. On 13.3.1948, she married Patrick Faulkner, who predeceased her in 2010. She was also predeceased by her daughter, Antonia, in

1971. She is survived by Michele, Daphne Duence (Snug, Tas), James Maurice Faulkner (Bobs Farm, NSW) and Matthew Lloyd Faulkner (Mayfield). Beryl worked as a nurse and she had a cheeky personality. She battled cancer, confident of Jesus' love for her and longed to see His face.

Ken Love

Hansen, Moreen Gladys Merle, born 8.1.1935 in Rawene, NZ; died 29.7.13 in Dargaville. On 24.10.1953, she married William (Bill) Harison. She is survived by her husband; their son, John (Waimate North), their daughter and her husband, Wendy and Grant Pickles (Dargaville), their daughter and her husband, Wanda and Mike Daley (Auckland); and grandchildren, Zak, Caitlin and Ben. Moreen was a very devout follower of her Lord Jesus, a vigorous defender of the Sabbath truth and the Adventist health message, having helped many people through their health problems, using the knowledge she obtained from her study at the Health Institute in the US. She was much loved by all.

Ken Curtis

Hodges, Llewellyn Cameron, born 25.12.1940 in Sydney, NSW; died 4.7.13 in Atherton Hospital, Qld. On 14.1.1963, he married Wendy Powter, who predeceased him on 15.1.1993. Llew will be remembered for his love of carpentry, music, nature and his family. He is survived by Mary (Qld), sister, Gwyn (NSW), daughter, Cheryl and her husband, Chris; and grandchildren, Joshua, Nathan and Kate (Vic). Looking forward to the resurrection morning.

Wolfgang Jenke



Hunt, Patricia (nee Posten-Robinson), born 11.6.1928 in Rawalpindi, India; died 9.5.13 in Auckland, NZ. On 10.4.1963, she married Reginald Hunt.



Hunt, Reginald, born 10.4.1929 in Taihape, NZ; died 8.7.13 in Auckland.

They are survived by their children and their spouses, Alistair and Angela Hunt (Auburn, Washington), David and Carolyn Hunt (Auckland, NZ), Evelyn and Tony Will (Pukekohe); and five

grandchildren, Grace, Olympia, Liberty, Hamish and Laura. Pat immigrated from England to New Zealand in 1958. She was a wonderful wife, mother, grandma and friend. She had an amazing faith and will be greatly missed by her family and all who knew her.

Reg was a successful salesman who enjoyed his garden in retirement. His enthusiasm for life was contagious. Reg deeply felt the loss of his wife and together they await the resurrection morning.

Greg Timmins



McFerran, Annaleisha, born 17.6.1986 in Rangiora, NZ; died 24.3.13 in Perth, WA.

On 8.9.07, she married Daniel McFerran. She was baptised on 10.5.08 in Fremantle church. She is survived by her husband; their children, Connor and Elyssa; her parents, Peter and Karen McMurtrie; her siblings, Jacinta, Melane and Logan McMurtrie; and her father and mother-in-law, Ken and Diana McFerran (all of Perth). Annaleisha was a warm, sensitive and perceptive young woman. She had a special gift for loving children in her family, the church and the community. She will be remembered for her gentleness and a huge smile. Gone too soon after a brief battle with cancer, Annaleisha will savour the wonders of eternity.

Andrew Skeggs



Raymond, Heather, (nee Silva), born 7.12.1946; died 10.7.13 after a short battle

with cancer. She is the mother of Margaret, Kate Maurice and Peter; beloved nana to many. She will be greatly missed by her husband, Ken, and her family and friends. She is remembered for her devotion to her family, her practical support for those in need and for her commitment to God and church. Family and friends mourned and remembered Heather's life at a service on July 16 at the Lilydale church, Vic. In recent years, Heather and Ken pioneered a new house church plant in Mornington and saw more than 20 people come to the faith. She is at peace knowing that next time she opens her eyes she will see Jesus.

Rutland, Leo, born 10.3.1939 in Subiaco, Perth, WA; died 3.7.13 in Joondalup. He was predeceased by his son, Royce. He is survived by his children, Raelene, Victor, Narelle and Jaclyn; and his grandchildren, Brendan, Scott, Chris, Karena and Saxen (all of WA). Leo was faithful until the end and now awaits the bright new morning.

Phil Rhodes

Tilley, Dixie Ann (nee Lee), born 30.6.1938 in Bourke, NSW; died 1.8.13 in David Berry Hospital, Berry. On 20.12.1962, she married Roger Tilley. She is survived by her husband (Shoalhaven Heads); Linda Louise Poppleton (Burpengary, Qld), Stuart Wayne Tilley (Hervey Bay) and Patricia Anne Tilley (Barrack Heights, NSW); and grandchildren, Joshua, Hollie, Danielle and Lauren. Dixie was known for her commitment and dedication to her God, family, friends and to the churches she attended. She now rests awaiting her Saviour and Lord.

Tony Moala

Trafford, Kenneth Edward, born 26.6.1923 in Melbourne, Vic; died 3.7.13 in Nunawading. On 2.11.1948, he married Audrey Trafford. He was predeceased by his daughter, Diane Clare, in 1989. He is survived by his wife (Melbourne); son, Christopher and his wife, Lea (Melbourne); nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Ken will be remembered as a man who lived life to the full despite many personal hardships. As an active member of the East Prahran church for more than 70 years, he generously gave of his time and ability. He will be sadly missed until the resurrection.

Paul Kotanko

ADVERTISEMENTS

Coming Ready or Not—five DVD set. Last day events with four sessions by Geoff Youlden,

three by Allan Lindsay and one by Bruce Price. Plus powerful literature evangelist stories. Just \$35 post paid to Australia and NZ. Limited number available. Be quick! Contact: <johnbrereton@adventist.org.au>.

Kurri Kurri church 90th anniversary—November 30, 2013. All past members and friends welcome. Photographs, written memories and memorabilia appreciated. Send to Sue Martin on <martinsue903@gmail.com> or send to PO Box 169, Kurri Kurri, NSW 2327, by October 26.

Mont Albert church anniversary. Celebrating 100 years of fellowship, 90 years as a church and the dedication of our new extension. Saturday, October 19, 2013 at 43 York St, Surrey Hills, Victoria 3127. Sabbath School at 10am. Worship with Pastor John Denne at 11.30am. Finger food provided for lunch. 2.30pm program: History of Mont Albert and extension dedication. Any memorabilia to loan, something to read about the history/memories of the church, other enquiries or confirmation of attendance for catering purposes, please contact the church clerk Karina Gurban <kgurban@adventist.org.au> or phone 0425 715 065. All welcome.

Check out the new soul winning website <www.movemelord.com> with a free online souls winning course. Contact: <johnbrereton@adventist.org.au>.

Margate church, Tasmania—80th anniversary, encompassing Kaoota, Middleton, Glen Huon, Bruny. November 30, 2013. Past members, ministers and friends are invited to celebrate 80 years at Margate's special combined program commencing 9.45am. Fellowship lunch. Photos, memorabilia, confirmation:

contact Jeanette Southwell, Phone (03) 6227 2128, 0437 531 056 or email <southwell@netspace.net.au>.

Law firm in Melbourne: McMahon Fearnley Lawyers Pty Ltd. Areas of law include the sale and purchase of property, litigation, commercial transactions (including shareholder and partnership agreements, franchising and leasing), wills, estates and probate applications. Adventist lawyers include Lloyd McMahon and Michael Brady. Please call (03) 9670 0966 or email <mb@mcmahonfearnley.com.au>.

Reduced price quality satellite kits for Adventist television and radio. Full instructions for easy DIY installation, photos, technical support. \$235 + freight. Australia only (02) 6361 3636.

Projectors, screens, wireless microphones, amplifiers, speakers, etc. Lower prices for Adventist institutions. Australia only. Contact Trish, <greenfieldsenterprises@bigpond.com> or (02) 6361 3636.

Weak people wanted. The Lord has a mission impossible for people who are strong! We need people who are weak and must cling to Jesus day by day (see 1 Cor 1:27). Is this you? Do you want to be a soul winner? Visit <www.movemelord.com> or email <johnbrereton@adventist.org.au>.

Finally . . .

“It’s not so much that the church has a mission, it’s that the mission has a church.”

—Michael Stewart

Next RECORD
October 19

Reformation Lands Study Tours

Visit significant locations in the development of Protestant Reformation history. Travel through Italy, France, Switzerland, Germany, Czech Republic, England and Scotland following this God inspired story.

Two available opportunities to suit your travel budget:

- 1) May 2014—3 weeks in Continental European countries only
- 2) May-June 2015—full 5½ weeks

AUC sponsored Reformation Lands Tour in all of the above listed countries

Denominational employees and lay members alike can experience the inspiration of these faith confirming travel opportunities.

Expressions of interest and enquiries contact tour leader Pr Russel Stanley
m: 0405 181 047
e: russelstanley@adventist.org.au



Note: Neither the editor, Adventist Media Network, nor the Seventh-day Adventist Church is responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised. Publication does not indicate endorsement of a product or service. Advertisements approved by the editor will be inserted at the following rates: first 30 words or less, \$A68 +GST; each additional word, \$A2.26 +GST. For your advertisement to appear, payment must be enclosed. Classified advertisements in RECORD are available to Seventh-day Adventist members, churches and institutions only. See masthead (page 4) for contact details.

