

RECORD

Record Growth
for Fulton—12



A Teenage Student in Russia—6



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The Women's Ordination Proposal—10



School Sings Its Way Through Town

Every Thursday, students of the Wellington Seventh-day Adventist Primary School, North New Zealand, walk a kilometre and a half to a library, through the City of Porirua—singing as they go. The 30 children sing songs and choruses that can be heard a block away. As they walk down the streets, people come from the shops to watch them pass by. Friendly comments are made and questions about the school are asked of the teachers, Sharon Hodgkinson and Irene Patterson.

"The weekly march has done much for the public relations of our school in Porirua," reports relieving principal Bill Miller.

The children hold onto a rope, evenly spaced along it, to form a "crocodile" as they walk through the city. They are pictured with fast-food booth proprietor Barry who greets the children every time they walk past.

The children will have a new school next term and will not have to go through town to a library. Mr Miller says there will be many who will miss the singing of the children.

Should We Pray?



Next Sabbath will be the first Sabbath of the General Conference (GC) session in Utrecht. While

that may not create more than a passing interest for most, some significant decisions will be made there. In the past few issues of the *Record* we have attempted to inform you of some of them.

Many of the decisions will be policy items of a narrow consequence, except for those who work with them, or those employed by the church. Some decisions, however, will have a wide-ranging and far-reaching impact. We need to pray for the delegates to the GC session, who have the responsibility to vote on these issues.

Wisdom Needed

Among the issues expected to cause strong discussion is the proposal to allow divisions, where appropriate, to ordain women to pastoral ministry. The last time the ordination of women was raised at a GC session, it was voted down. This time the request from the North America Division is that each division be permitted to ordain women if it is felt to be appropriate in that part of the world (see the report on page 10).

A precedent for this approach was set when the ordination of women elders was approved, on a similar basis, at a GC Annual Council.

Whatever the decision, there will be many who will not be happy with it;

women's ordination is a divisive issue. We should pray that wisdom and the will of God for His church will prevail. We need to pray for acceptance of the decision, whatever it be.

Then we need to go further, for there will be other contentious issues. Our prayers should extend to them as well.

Leaders Need Prayers

The lives of some of our church leaders will be changed dramatically in the next few days. The GC nominating committee will appoint various leaders, as the leadership of the GC and the world divisions come under review.

In our own division, at least the three senior officers (the president, secretary and treasurer) will be appointed at the GC session. (The departmental directors, normally appointed at a GC session, will probably be appointed at the South Pacific Division session later this year, but that is dependent upon a decision in that regard also to be made at the GC session.)

But think globally for a moment. Almost 100 positions will be considered. Many appointments may seem obvious, but no one knows—and committees are renowned for doing the unpredictable. Our prayers should be for those who are being considered for reappointment, for many must be battling with a sense of uncertainty right now.

God may use the session to give new direction in some lives, and some will find it difficult to accept this change. We need to pray for them.

We need to pray also for those who will be newly appointed, for suddenly, in many cases, final decisions will have to be made by them. They have to set

direction for the church. They will need a second helping of God's wisdom to handle His church well in their new position.

And our prayers shouldn't stop when the session is over. These men and women need our prayers constantly.

The Greatest Need

I've talked to people who have attended a GC session and they talk about boring discussions on policy items, heated exchanges over issues, fantastic evening meetings, the interesting booths, the shopping opportunities and so on. This is a giant business meeting of the worldwide church, so we shouldn't be surprised that some of the meetings may be boring or that some exchanges may be heated. (Have you been to one of your church business meetings recently?)

But wouldn't it be fantastic if the Holy Spirit moved in such a way at these Utrecht meetings that that's what the delegates and the others attending remember foremost. Imagine the impact in the church if more than 2500 church leaders (including many lay people) were touched by the Spirit at these meetings.

The old Pentecostal churches used to say they would, "Pray the Spirit down." While we may not accept the full implications of what they were praying for, we need to pray down the Holy Spirit into those meetings, that, as the business of the church is conducted, and in the celebrations of the evenings, His presence and direction will be felt.

There's no denying that the greatest need in the church today is the power of the Holy Spirit. Why shouldn't it begin at Utrecht? Bruce Manners

Official Paper
Seventh-day Adventist Church
South Pacific Division



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Next Week:

YOR Edition

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Vol 100 No 24

In Appreciation . . .

I must write and tell you how much we appreciate you sending us the *Record*. I have just read the February issues—they come in batches, by ship. It helps us to keep in touch with our homeland and the dear folk we grew up with.

You folk are doing a great work, and I wish God's blessings on you.

Howard F Rampton, USA

Extra Help

In response to the request ("Can You Help?" Letters, May 6), I'd like to make some suggestions. As individuals we really only have control over one thing in life: ourselves.

In any set of circumstances we have freedom to choose our attitudes. Gratitude for our children and a thousand other things can help to keep us above frustration. Our thoughts create our feelings; if we change our thinking about a situation, we can change our emotional response. God has also granted your husband freedom to choose the way he goes.

Perhaps, without mentioning the Sabbath, try to include him in your Sabbath afternoon activities. Suggest a stroll in a bush park, for the children's sake. But let him know that you want his company. In all things, be the best wife possible, loving and considerate. Hopefully the same loving consideration will be returned.

Norma Bow, Qld

More Conflict Resolution

I would like to express agreement with "Conflict Unacceptable" (Letters, June 3) relating to Ann Campbell's excellent article (May 6), and give some emphasis to the area of conflict resolution.

Like it or not, the fact is that conflict exists and will continue to arise, even in a Christian community, as it does in families and the workplace. The real test is how we deal with it, if, in fact, we choose to act at all. We would do well to examine the causes, considering the progression from a single difference of opinion through to aggravated hostility.

On a positive note, real progress can arise out of resolving conflicts; many a new direction is set as a result of tactful negotiation and reconciliation.

Conflict in the church is nothing

new. However, considering the increasing incidence, I would like to encourage our church administrators to place greater emphasis on training and counselling of ministers in the skills of conflict resolution.

Thank you, Ann, for getting us started.
David Hagen, NSW

Glasnost Revelations

I was born into the Adventist Church. My journey took me to Avondale and into the ministry. However, 13 years ago, because of issues of conscience, I believed it was the honest thing for me to resign.

I grew up with the idea that the church is the remnant, and this position was loyally supported. I sensed a spirit of triumphalism alive and well in the church for many years to the point, in my opinion, of dishonesty. I find it refreshing to note that there is now more openness in the church in regard to critical issues.

A *glasnost* is now evident. I guess it had to come. As a part of this new and continuing openness, I was fascinated to read in "Bridgebuilders Discover Their Church" and "What the National Survey Says About Adventists" (Report, May 20) that the Adventist Church is losing a greater proportion of its youth than other Protestant denominations, and that it has a higher level of marriage breakdown "than the national level."

For one who was brought up to believe that the Adventist Church was God's true church and that its believers were God's true believers, I find it extraordinary to now see the church isn't performing according to expectations. I'm sure that the reasons for these somewhat distressing facts will be found within the sociological or demographic arena in the first instance. But, surely, behind it all is the church's theological position.

I wonder how well the remnant should be performing in the areas of youth membership and the marriage stakes? I'm not looking for a perfect church, but I certainly wouldn't expect the remnant to perform worse than its Protestant cousins.

I sincerely believe that the Adventist Church's greatest need is to seek a genuine spirituality. To be seen to maintain a major focus on physical things like figures and growth, education, programs (however positive and relevant), with their associated sense of consumerism and commercialism, is not readily identifiable with the idea of God's caring and remnant people.

Name Withheld

Views expressed in Letters do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Letters should not exceed 250 words and should be mailed to *Record* Editor, Signs Publishing Company, Warburton Victoria 3799. Writers must include their name, address and telephone number. Letters received more than three weeks after the date of the issue carrying the article to which they respond will normally not be printed. All letters will be edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author's original meaning will not be changed. Not all letters received will be published.



40-Year Award



Photo: G McDonald

Joyce Jackson of Wanganui church, North New Zealand, was awarded a 40-year long-service award by the New Zealand Red Cross. Mrs Jackson, who has served the Red Cross since 1955, has received medals, served on committees, worked in the local opportunity shop, is vice-president of the local branch and a member of the Wanganui-Taranaki local coordinating committee. Mrs Jackson has assisted every year for 37 years in the church's Vacation Bible Schools, and is currently head deaconess.

12-Step Help

Warburton Hospital (Vic) has been selected as the exclusive market distributor for the full range of Hazelden Foundation publications and educational materials in Australia. The foundation is known worldwide for originating the

"Minnesota Model"—the effective alcoholism and other drug addiction treatment that is primarily non-drug, abstinence-directed and based on the 12-step program first produced by Alcoholics Anonymous. The foundation is a leading publisher of educational products for people impacted by all forms of chemical dependency.

Golden Key



Photo: P Rankin

When Nadine Eldridge, from Shepparton church (Vic), graduated with a Bachelor of Clinical Science, and Bachelor of Chiropractic Science, she was also awarded the Patricia Dobson Memorial Scholarship—and was granted membership in the Golden Key National Honour Society, in recognition of outstanding scholastic achievement and excellence.

Did You Hear . . . ?

. . . About the Australian government's use of *Cleo* magazine for its safe-sex campaign, and of the outrage of a Queensland Senator [not to mention many others] about its contents?

"So outraged was Queensland Senator John Herron at the explicit and immoral information contained in the *Cleo Safe Sex Guide* [a one-page ad within it read "Protection=Love"] that he decided to get one petition signature for every dollar the Federal Government spent on the guide. He's up to 100,000 so far and, if he reaches his target of 250,000, he will have compiled the largest petition in Australian history.

"Senator Herron can be contacted on: (06) 277 3440."
—*On Being*

Youlden Series Conducted in Gisborne



More than 130 people attended the Gisborne church in North New Zealand (usually 30-40 attend) on the final day of the Youlden evangelistic program, conducted by Adventist Media Centre evangelist Pastor Geoff Youlden (pictured baptising). Thirty people from the community attended a special presentation on health, and to witness a baptism. Twenty people indicated a desire for baptism in the future and, a week after the program was completed, seven new people were in attendance at the follow-up sermon presented by local pastor Colin Renfrew. A follow-up Daniel Seminar saw 31 guests from the community.

NZ Youth Commit

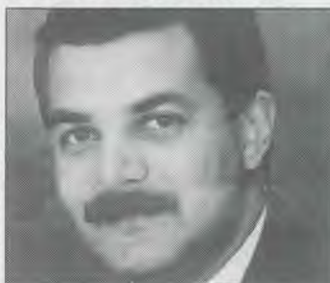


Photo: INZ Conference

A "significant number" of New Zealand young people dedicated and recommitted their lives to Christ at the conclusion of a series on Daniel presented by Pastor Gervais Cagy (pictured), youth director for the North New Zealand Conference. The Towards 2000 program, to be presented again in September at Hamilton, began with a youth rally and was attended by hundreds of youth—and was continued with a week of deep study of the book of Daniel. The series concluded with a con-

cert by the Ambassador gospel singers.

Prizes Awarded

Cecily Harker of Upper Ross church was awarded The Australian Institute of Management (Townsville Branch) Prize for the best overall performance in Master of Business Administration. Mrs Harker was also jointly awarded The Australian Institute of Management (Townsville Branch) Prize for the student who obtains a Master of Business Administration awarded at Class 1 Level.

WORLD CHURCH

Urgent Need

The General Conference Auditing Service urgently needs an auditor with certified public, or chartered accountant qualifications,

for the northern area of the Asia-Pacific area. The territory includes the countries of Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong. For more information regarding this mission opportunity and job description, please contact: Larry Colburn, General Conference Secretariat, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring MD 20904. Phone (301) 680-6652. Compuserve 74617, 435

Work Hampered

Twelve districts along Bangladesh's southern coastal belt suffered heavy cyclone damage on May 16 and 17 when a cyclonic tidal surge of up to three-and-a-half metres, accompanied by heavy rain and strong winds, caused water levels to rise more than two metres above normal tidal levels. More than 70,000 houses, plus schools and mission buildings, have been extensively damaged or destroyed. Food supplies and crops were destroyed, and an Adventist Development and Relief Agency water project was almost totally destroyed. Water wells and water ponds have also been ruined or polluted.

Guard Killed

An Adventist Development and Relief

Agency warehouse guard was killed in an accident on May 16, on a bridge near his home in northern Addis Ababa. Diriba Seboka was walking on the bridge when a Land Rover's brakes failed and went out of control. It struck Diriba, killing him instantly. He leaves a widow and two children. Although he graduated from Ethiopian Adventist College with a diploma in Community Development, he was willing to accept the post of night guard until a better position opened.—*ANN*

Children Preach

More than 50 children preached in churches in West Puerto Rico on May 20, as part of "Children's Day" celebrations. Children, ranging in age from 9 to 14 years old, conducted the Sabbath schools and the main church worship services, including the sermons. One boy's sermon was broadcast on radio. Sermon topics included the second coming of Christ, following Jesus, responsibilities of parents toward their children, and love for one another. In many churches the children sang for the special music, and asked the adults to come forward for the "adult's story," after which

New Tribe Found in Irian Jaya

A group of Seventh-day Adventist hunters in Irian Jaya, Indonesia, led by Lautik Bindosano, recently chanced upon an isolated and previously unknown tribe who call themselves the Keuw, according to Pastor Thed John Mehuwe, communication director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Irian Jaya Mission. The Keuw people have no weapons because they have always lived in peace. What little clothing they do wear on their generally small and slender bodies is made of tree bark. When the Adventist members returned home and reported the discovery of the new tribe, government officials went with them for an inspection. The government has since granted permission for the Seventh-day Adventists to work with the Keuw people.—*ANN*

Global Mission at Work in Sudan

Racked with civil unrest, Sudan remains a Global Mission high priority. Travelling by bicycle, since public transportation is almost nonexistent, Global Mission Pioneer (GMP) volunteers recently gathered in southern Sudan to report progress.

One Pioneer rode for 460 kilometres across trails and desert to attend the meeting. He reported that when he and his evangelism partner arrived in their territory they were not well received. However, God's miraculous healing of a sick girl for whom they had prayed gave them instant respect in the community.

Within a few months, 21 people had joined the church. Shortly after their baptism, war came to the area and the members fled to distant places. When things settled down two-and-a-half months later, only four members could be found and the GMP team started to work all over again.

Within eight months, 31 more had been baptised. One Sabbath, as they were worshipping, two of the missing members came in the door of the church. When asked what had happened to them when the war came, they told how they had fled 230 kilometres to the other side of the mountains.

The purpose of their return to the church was to request the GMP workers to go with them to baptise 16 people they had prepared. This is the spirit of Global Mission.

Today 30 congregations worship each Sabbath in southern Sudan. A school has been started and plans have been laid to establish new congregations in many other areas of this great country.—*GC President's Newsletter*

they asked them to go back to their seats.

Youth Camp

Some 1500 young Adventists were gathered for a national camp-meeting in Reinwarzhofen, Germany, on May 25-28. On Friday night, Pastor John Graz, youth and communication director for the Euro-Africa Division, baptised 13. On Saturday morning, 110 young people answered to

the appeal of Pastor Richard Barron, associate director of Church Ministries at the General Conference, to be baptised soon. On Sunday morning, 1200 letters were written to governments holding prisoners of conscience, a project conducted with Amnesty International.—*ANN*

ANN—Adventist News Network

CHURCH CALENDAR

July 8	"Hands Across the World" General Conference Offering
July 15	Pathfinder Day
July 22	National Bible Day
July 29	Union Institutions Offering
August 5	<i>Signs of the Times</i> Rally Day

A Teenager in Russia

by Nina Koolik

What does a 16-year-old Australian student in Russia do, and what can she teach us?

What's it like inside our church's seminary in Russia? I was one of the first Westerners to enrol in the Russian Adventist Seminary.

Our family (there are five of us, me pictured), was asked to return to Russia at the beginning of 1995. After giving the request considerable thought and prayer, we decided that it was what God wanted us to do.

My father, Peter Koolik, is the construction director of the new Euro-Asia Division offices in Moscow.

We'd been there before. In 1992-93 we'd worked as missionaries—the first year at the Adventist seminary, 120 kilometres south of Moscow and, in the second year, in Moscow. I guess that's why they asked us back.

Now I'm at the Russian Adventist Seminary. I made the decision to come and live at the seminary to study music and do my Year 11 school correspondence work from Australia.

For the past three months I've been living in the dormitories with other female students. At present I room with a girl from St Petersburg. She's the third room-mate I've had and probably the nicest.

My previous room-mate was a little forward in helping herself to my food and clothing—without my permission. At first I was disappointed about this. Then I assumed it was just the Russian culture. Later, when I moved in with a new room-mate, I realised it wasn't so much cultural as individual. But the experience helped me to grow.

For a 16-year-old, dormitory life is totally different to the home I was used to. The person you live with becomes your family. I've had to learn to cook my own food and wash my clothes by hand.



Nina Koolik is a 16-year-old Australian who is studying music and high school correspondence at the Adventist theological seminary at Zaoski, Russia (also pictured).

Often there's no water, so when there is, we fill up all our buckets for later use. Food supplies are limited with fresh fruit and vegetables a rarity. Bread and cabbage make up the bulk of our diet.

In my studies I take twice-a-week piano and voice lessons. The standards are very high, as are the teachers' expectations. The teaching techniques are also very different to anything I've experienced.

I suppose it's a legacy of the communist system, but the teachers yell at you and make you feel fearful. The teachers are reticent to become your friend, because that might be considered showing favouritism. However, they are very talented.

I've made many close and loyal friends at the seminary, who, to a point, have become my family. However, I've had to be careful with male friendships! I feel their interest could be in where I'm from, rather than in who I am. (And several have suggested marriage.) It's my girlfriends who really

make my life here nice.

But the advantages to living here aren't just social, there are real spiritual positives too. There are fewer worldly distractions and people seem to need God more than they do in Western countries. I recognise that a lot of people in developed countries are spiritually lukewarm and they need to wake up and realise that God is real.

And living in a seminary, I really feel God's presence. We have student worship every morning in the chapel. As well as this I've been having evening worship with a small group of my closest friends. Worship gives such a real spiritual boost. My friends want to share what they've found in Him.

Generally, my friends are a lot more forward in sharing what they believe with others. Here in Moscow, most Christians are excited about their Lord. □

Nina Koolik, from Sydney, NSW, is currently a student at the Adventist theological seminary, Zaoski, Russia.

The Church's Census Day

The church plans to explore the discrepancy that exists between the number of people recorded on local church rolls and the numbers actually attending on any given Sabbath.

A census of churches in Australia and New Zealand will be conducted by the Church Ministries Department of the South Pacific Division to establish actual numbers attending. Similar exercises have already been held in some of the union missions.

"It's important for local churches and conferences, as well as the other levels of the church, to have reliable data about the number of people reached on a regular basis," says Dr Alwyn Salom, census coordinator.

"Solomon made a point about 'keeping abreast of the facts' and 'knowing

the facts' [see Proverbs 24:3, 4 and 18:13]. It helps evaluate whether or not we're making an impact in fulfilling the Great Commission."

In order to keep the census as non-intrusive as possible, it will simply consist of a head count on only one occasion. The count will be of all worship attenders on a particular day. It will not attempt to discriminate according to age, church membership or visitor status. This will avoid the confusion that would occur if counters in local churches had to differentiate between baptised and non-baptised attenders, visitors etc.

"This may result in an inflated figure when compared to church membership," said Dr Salom, "but the purpose of the count is to establish the number of those who actually attend church—

not to establish the size of a particular church's membership."

The coordinators of the census propose that it be conducted by senior elders or a person designated by them. Church elders are being contacted with more information and instructions.

In most conferences, the census will be held on August 12; in the Western Australian and Northern Australian Conferences on August 5; and in the South Queensland and North New Zealand Conferences on August 19. Information concerning conference events was taken into account when fixing these dates.

Coordinators, Dr Alwyn Salom and Pastor Eric Winter will report the results of the census in the *Record* later this year. □

The Bible Story Leads to Baptism

by Graham Stewart

When Scott McKay was baptised, I could see the joy and transforming power of Christ reflected in his face.

Scott began to be touched by the story of Jesus' saving grace as he overheard a friend, Brenda (later to become his wife), reading *Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories* and *The Bible Story* to her children. I had sold the books to Brenda, but the Holy Spirit was active in watering the seeds sown by them.

The first time I saw Scott in church, he'd just walked some nine kilometres through the midsummer heat. He continued to attend each week. On about his fourth week in church I was impressed by the Holy Spirit to ask Scott if I could study the Bible with him.

You will study with Scott, came the voice of the Holy Spirit to me.

I resisted the impression, for I was busy with my literature evangelist work. But twice more the same words

came. At the conclusion of the service Scott came directly across the church to me.

"I need you to give me Bible studies," he said. How could I refuse?

And what a joy it was to study with Scott! His thirst for Bible truth and his growing love for Christ was a blessing to me, something for which I will always be grateful.

Not long after this, Scott completed the 32-lesson prophecy seminar and received his certificate for the course at his baptism. And, to complete the



Scott McKay is pictured being baptised by Pastor Graham White at the Mount Druitt church.

circle, he's about to begin training to be a literature evangelist. □

Graham Stewart is a literature evangelist who attends Mount Druitt church in Sydney, NSW.

What the President Said to the Review

by Roy Adams

If you want to know something, then ask the man at the top!

Last February, while participating (with five other presenters) in the three Bible conferences held in the South Pacific Division, Roy Adams spoke with South Pacific Division (SPD) president Dr Bryan Ball. (The interview is reprinted from *Adventist Review*).

Dr Ball, this is a very difficult time to be a leader in the Adventist Church. How do you cope?

You are right; there are immense pressures on the church and its leaders. But I try to live a balanced lifestyle, to have some exercise and adequate rest. I can't function otherwise. Equally important is the need to maintain one's spiritual life and I try to do that through prayer and reading God's Word.

In what ways is the South Pacific Division different from other divisions?

Statistically it's a small division—only 275,000 members in a total population of 27 million. Our geographical area spans 10 time zones—a huge area of land and sea. That's probably one major difference. It also differs in terms of stark cultural contrasts. On the one hand, we have some of the most sophisticated cities in the Western world, while at the other end of the spectrum it seems as though we are literally stepping back a thousand years in time.

Of the current membership of the SPD, nearly 80 per cent come from the island territories.¹ What's the reason for the comparatively slow growth in the homeland?

The main reason is probably secularism. We face the challenge of communicating a very conservative biblical message to communities that are essentially uninterested in religious things, particularly in traditional Christianity.

What's happening in Global Mission in the SPD?

Global Mission has caught the interest and attention of this division more than any other program the church has initiated. Already it has resulted in the message entering some 200 pockets of the still unentered areas left in our division.

The SPD has a reputation as a hotbed of theological controversy. Why is this so?

I have to concede that you are probably right! This division does have a reputation for theological inquiry, even divergence. In Australia, particu-



larly, there is a strong spirit of independence—in thinking and action. The nation grew up in the kind of setting in which people had to fend and think for themselves. And that, I think, has affected the way many Australians look at life in general.

Inevitably, this is reflected in their theology. On the other hand, I can think of some other areas in the world that run a pretty close second!

In your keynote address to the Bible conference, you mentioned that syncretism is creeping into the church. What do you mean?

In general I'm referring to the danger that strands of relativistic and humanistic thinking can infiltrate and change the essential nature of Christian thought—to the point that those who adopt it not only don't realise that it's happening, but still believe they're thinking and representing authentic Christianity. Syncretism represents a mixture of truth and error that is very subtle and very delusive.

The SPD leaders recently came out with a "statement of affirmation" in the *Record*.² What elicited that statement?

We were having discussions with representatives of independent groups in regard to certain divisive theological emphases. We felt it was appropriate, because of the charges against church leadership, to affirm our support for the 27 fundamental beliefs of the church. We wanted to make it clear to our constituency that the leadership is not in apostasy, as charged. The statement in the *Record* was signed by all the union and conference presidents and the division leadership.

At the moment the local church has the final say in regard to membership and disfellowshipping. Would you like to see that continue, or would you advocate change?

In general terms, I think the local church needs to have that authority. But I do sympathise with the view that there could be certain instances in which a local church itself went off the

rails, so to speak, and could need some kind of corrective action from the body as a whole.

I subscribe to the biblical teaching that the body of Christ is one. And that doesn't refer to the immediate local congregation, but to the whole church. So there is an organic and a structural relationship between the local congregation and the wider body. Maybe there could be times when a local congregation might need some help from the corporate body in such matters.

A few pastors have described to me what they see as a liberalising trend in the South Pacific—in terms of lifestyle and worship patterns. How would you comment on that?

From my own observations, I don't think this trend is much different here from that in the church in other parts of the world—particularly in what we often call “first-world countries.” I observe similar trends in North America and in certain parts of Europe.

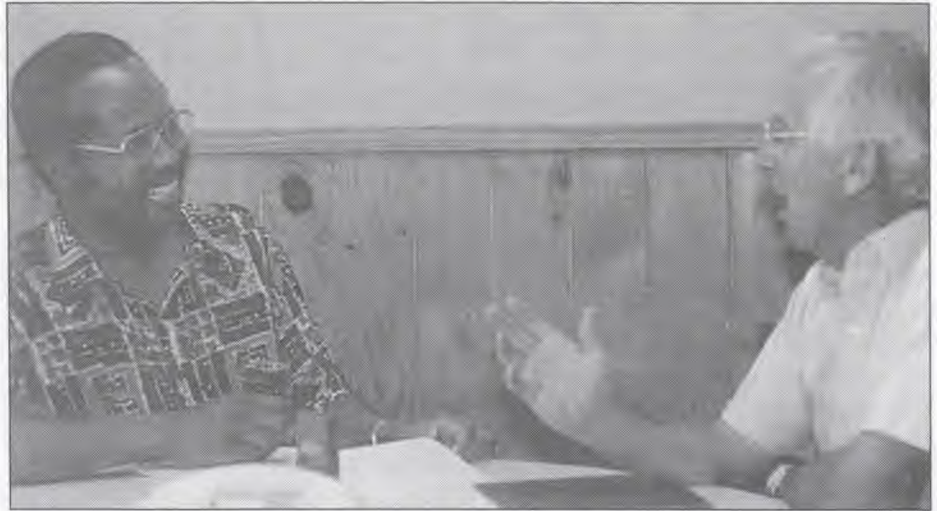
And to be honest, I don't see some attempt to brighten up our worship style as necessarily either liberalising or threatening. Christian lifestyle and worship should be firmly rooted in Scripture, and flow from a personal relationship to the Lord.

In regard to certain lifestyle issues, do you think that we have passed beyond the stage of corrective action?

I think there will always be those in the church with a stronger, more conservative heritage who will lament what they see as liberalising trends. My own wish is that the church could be broad enough to recognise that people are at different stages in their personal journey, and that people whom we might label “liberal” today may, in fact, be at a stage on their journey that time will further correct, and that they will grow in their own understandings. The church itself should always maintain a sound biblical basis for its teachings and lifestyle.

Adventist education in Australia is government-supported on certain levels. Have you experienced any problems here?

No. The program began a number of years ago and there was, under-



standably, some apprehension at first. But by and large it's worked out very well. I'm not aware of any concessions the church has had to make as a result of such arrangements.

The issue of women's ordination has been placed on the General Conference session agenda for Utrecht. How do you see it faring?

It's difficult to project. I think there will be some who will feel that the issue can't be discussed apart from its theological base. There may be some who will not be happy about the fact that it's been brought from an administrative or ecclesiastical standpoint, divorced from theology. I see that as one potential difficulty.

I also feel that there may be resistance from the standpoint that some will be fearful of it being seen as a precedent, that it will allow sections of the church in certain parts of the world to do some things differently from the body as a whole. So I feel there could be some animated discussion about the issue.

This division has made a significant contribution to the church over the years. Is that tradition continuing?

Yes, I think it is. We have very capable workers in many fields, and in administrative and departmental leadership at all levels of the church. There is also a tradition of excellence in denominational service in this division that has strengthened the church immensely through the years, and continues to do so today.

What do you see as the greatest challenge facing the South Pacific at the moment—either theologically or otherwise?

The successful communication of the gospel in the homeland unions where materialism and secularism are very dominant.

As you think of the future of the work in the South Pacific—or even in the church at large, what gives you hope?

One such thing—reemphasised in these Bible conferences—is the fact that the church is God's creation. The church was brought into existence by God, and we have the Lord's assurance that the gates of hell will not prevail against it. That gives me tremendous assurance.

I draw hope also from the basic common sense of our people. We tend sometimes to overstate our problems and difficulties. But we need to remember that we have a large number of members in our church community who are not only theologically sound, but are also people with good judgment, who are committed to the mission of the church. After all, they are the church. I also see many evidences of the Spirit's moving, and if He continues to lead us and bless us, we can only move forward in hope. □

References

1. *Papua New Guinea and many of the islands of the South Pacific.*
2. *See Record, July 9, 1994, pages 2, 3.*

Roy Adams is an associate editor of *Adventist Review*, based at the *General Conference headquarters, Silver Spring, USA.*

Why the Call for Women's Ordination?

The call for the ordination of women to ministry is to be on the agenda of the 1995 General Conference Session. The president of the North America Division (NAD), Pastor Alfred McClure, on behalf of his constituents, presented a recommendation to allow for the ordination of women at a special session of the NAD. The recommendation was



Pastor Alfred McClure, asked that the ordination of women be placed on the agenda of the GC session.

then taken to the General Conference Annual Council and voted for consideration at the General Council session at Utrecht, Netherlands.

The recommendation states: "The General Conference vests in each division the right to authorise the ordination of individuals within its territories in harmony with established policies. In addition, where circumstances do not render it inadvisable, a division may authorise the ordination of qualified individuals without regard to gender. In divisions where the division executive committees take specific actions approving the ordination of women to the gospel ministry, women may be ordained to serve in those divisions."

Pastor McClure, in introducing the recommendation to the 1994 Annual Council, made it clear that their request came out of support for the world church, not defiance.

"The North American Division is very much a loyal part of the world church," he said. "We believe in and are committed to unity. We are every bit as committed to the mission and unity of this church as we are pleased to see evidenced in other parts of the globe. We do not wish to cause a problem, or embarrass, or divide the body of Christ. We abhor that which would bring dishonour upon the church we love.

"We are not, in any way, trying to throw our weight around—after all, 10

per cent of the world membership could hardly be considered a heavy-weight. We are in no way a bully and do not wish to be perceived as one. We are not suggesting that our support of the world church is hostage to a positive decision on this issue. We do not believe that it is proper conduct for part of the family. If we are denied this request, we will do our best to continue to be a responsible part of the world family and carry our share of the financial load that we have been blessed by the Lord to provide."

The NAD president then made it clear the NAD was not planning any kind of unilateral action. "We are not about to rebel, or do our own thing and defy the will of the body. I assure you that I am a servant of this church and will do all in my power to keep us together. If we were determined to have our own way regardless of the consequences, we would not be here with a request. We would simply be informing you of our decision. But that is not our position.

"This is not an ultimatum, but rather a heartfelt appeal for understanding and recognition of what we see as a peculiar need."

Church Diversity

Pastor McClure pointed out the diversity of the Seventh-day Adventist Church—that it is made up of many different cultures. He stressed that the core doctrines of the church, and the fundamentals, are non-negotiable and universal. However, church practice—in the ecclesiastical areas—can differ from country to country.

He noted that there are universal principles given in Scripture, and the writings inspired by the Spirit of prophecy, but their application can differ from place to place. There must be

unity, but that need not necessarily mean uniformity.

Why This Request

Pastor McClure stated that an ordination precedent had already been voted by the Annual Council 10 years previously. The Annual Council voted that in divisions in which it was acceptable, women be ordained as local elders. It was "Voted:

1. To reaffirm the Spring Meeting Action on the General Conference of 1975 Role of Women in the Church (GCC75-153).

2. To advise each division that it is free to make provision as it may deem necessary for the election and ordination of women as local church elders." (Annual Council Minutes, 1984, page 48.)

This was not the first time that the issue had been addressed. The 1974 Annual Council voted "to request the President's Executive Advisory to also arrange for further study of the election of women to local church offices which require ordination and that division committees exercise discretion in any special cases that may arise before a definitive position has been adopted" (Annual Council Minutes, 1974, page 14).

Since that time hundreds of churches in the NAD have elected and ordained more than 1000 women as local elders. Pastor McClure then drew four lessons from this experience:

1. A precedence has been set.

2. It has not caused a significant problem for those parts of the world in which the practice is not followed.

3. It has allowed North America and some other countries to address the serious needs for the accomplishment of their mission and their territory.

4. There is no turning back. One cannot un-



tain 1000 women and tell them they can no longer serve as local church elders.

Theological Concerns

Pastor McClure then dealt with theological issues, saying this had troubled him for some time—even more since the church theologians could not agree on the issue 20 years after first giving it study.

It seems illogical to allow women to be ordained as local elders, citing Scripture, and at the same time deny them pastoral ordination and cite Scripture against it, he said.

“What kind of message do we send to our young women who wish to respond to God’s call when we welcome them to professional training—where they sit in classes with male peers who in a few years are afforded full recognition of their calling while they [the women] are made to feel inferior by less than full approbation of the church?”

There are at least 25 women serving in pastoral positions in North America, with another 25 serving as chaplains in health-care institutions. They have all the privileges of ordained ministry except the organising of churches and the ordaining of others.

It was time to either go backward or forward—according to Pastor McClure. It was untenable to remain as they were. People ask why women and men performing the same functions cannot receive the same ordination. There is no defensible answer to that question.

Pastor McClure then concluded with this powerful appeal: “We, therefore, come to you with a request for your understanding and help. We appeal to you, our brothers and our sisters of the world church, to try to listen, to put yourselves in our place, and to seek why we are making this request as we seek, not to bring divisiveness and disunity (Is the Adventist Church so fragile as to be shattered by this issue?), but to empower people for mission.

“Ellen White put it well when she said, ‘Not a hand should be bound, not a soul discouraged, not a voice be hushed; let every individual labour privately, or publicly, to help forward this grand work’” (Review and Herald, July 9, 1895).—David Newman, *adapted from Ministry*

Translator Works for 60 Years



Photo: Conference News

Pastor Lester Lock, over a period of 60 years, has been translating Scripture and various message books into languages of the peoples of Papua New Guinea.

A remarkable legacy of translation for the people of Papua New Guinea is being accomplished by retired minister Pastor Lester Lock.

His projects during retirement have included the translation of the Revelation Seminar lessons, students and teachers editions into Pidgin, Hiri Motu and true Motu; the translation of 60 plays into Pidgin for the Covenant Players and the translation of the *Organic Gardening* book produced by Pacific Adventist College into Hiri Motu and Pidgin.

Pastor Lock, son of a missionary, had his first taste of translation some 60 years ago when he translated a set of tracts his father had written. When called to Papua New Guinea in 1940, he was charged with the responsibility of translating Sabbath school lessons into the Motu language. The lessons were set by hand and printed on a pedal press.

There was a break during the early war years, but he returned to Papua New Guinea during the latter part of the war.

In 1960 the Locks moved to the then Coral Sea Union Mission (CSUM) and, by request, Pastor Lock translated the book of Daniel into Pidgin and Hiri Motu.

Following a three-year break in other areas of ministry, Pastor Lock was called back to the CSUM to resume translation work. He translated the Sabbath school lessons into Pidgin, produced a quarterly paper in Pidgin and Motu, and the Motu hymnbook *Dubu Anedia*.

At that time he became a member of the Bible Society and helped with the translation of the Old Testament into Pidgin and the New Testament into Hiri Motu. Other work included the translation of *The Marked Bible* into Hiri Motu and Pidgin, *Preparation of the Latter Rain* into Pidgin, helping Pastor Harold Harker to complete *Steps to Christ* in Pidgin and the production of a Pidgin hymnbook.

For several years the translation of Sabbath school lessons into Hiri Motu lapsed when Pastor Lock was ministering in Australia. However after his retirement he took up the challenge again and is still translating.—*Conference News*

Record Growth Seen in Fulton

With a recent record enrolment of 335, Fulton College, Fiji, is in the midst of a challenging year. Numbers are divided (60-40 per cent) between the college and the senior high school forms.

The record figure represents a 28 per cent increase over the 1993 enrolment figures, and 23 per cent over the 1994 figures.

The primary school has an increase of 100 students in the class range of 1-8. There has also been an increase in the number of first-year theology students. Primary educators have seen the need to begin a Year 1 stream. And there is the possibility of extensions for the overcrowded girls dormitory.

There has also been a significant increase in student numbers in the revitalised business studies course. There is a new line-up of three certificate courses and a new computer laboratory (16 units)—that have helped to attract students.

Enrolments in Forms 5 and 6 are steady, but Form 7 (first introduced in 1993) has grown to 25 students, all of whom will sit the government matricu-



Fulton College in Fiji has had a record number of students enrol this year.

Photo: Murray Howse

lation examination later this year.

With the growth in numbers, however, there has been a growth in challenges. Material needs for the immediate future are more dormitory and classroom space, as well as more computers and associated equipment.

Spiritual needs are also pressing. Some 50 per cent of Fiji's population is not Christian. Fulton College's students come from all faiths, and for many young people this is their first time to know about the living God.—*Nemani Tausere, principal of Fulton College, Fiji.*

Love Needed in Romania

At the Colentina Hospital in Romania, children are abandoned each day because they have AIDS, are autistic, or physically or mentally disabled. Parents abandon their sick children, especially the tiny ones, who often die alone, largely ignored at the hospital.

The doctors trying to care for these children say they have no medicines. Specific AIDS medication for one month for each child would cost as much as a doctor's wage. The government allocation for each patient's total care is less than \$A1 per day, so it is not surprising that the medication is not available.

A typical meal for a child is soup that consists of pieces of pork floating in fat. Hardly a nutritious, health-building meal for these children.

Paula Leen, the director of International Children's Care, has been using money donated through ADRA-Australia to purchase medication and blankets for these children. Earlier this year while visiting Australia, Ms Leen explained that because of lack of shoes, the children's feet were bound in rags to protect them from the cold and the snow. Recently a large container of blankets, clothing and shoes was sent from ADRA-Australia to Romania.

These children are starved of love and affection, and glow when hugged by caring volunteers bringing in blankets and clothes. It's sobering to know that each day 40,000 children around the world die due to lack of medical care, clean water and good food—and many die alone.—*Helene Aitkin*

CHURCH NEWS

Lismore, NSW: A Sabbath school workshop was conducted by (pictured from the left) Dr



Alex Currie, Trans-Tasman Union Sabbath school department leader; Pastor Lloyd Robinson, Sabbath school director for the North New South Wales Conference; and Pastor Eric Winter, Sabbath school director for the South Pacific Division. The theme was Master Teaching, a course designed by Dr Currie. Emphasis was placed on the special care needed for earlites, as they are at a vulnerable age.—*Lloyd Coe*

Cooranbong, NSW: A First Aid course was run at the Cooranbong Community Services Centre by Bob Baker for 16 students. Attending the class was Hank Buchanan, a paraplegic whose life was saved after a car accident some years before by Bob Baker. Hank was without a doubt an inspiration and motivating factor to the course participants to achieve the high pass rate they did.—*A Kitevski*

Logan Reserve, QLD: For three consecutive years the church has sent teams into Papua New Guinea



(PNG) to present Revelation Seminars. On the opening of the new church, three boys (pictured from the left), Anthony Trosky, Shannon Howard and Nathan Matheson, who went with their families in the latest Revelation Seminar team to PNG, presented a short dialogue in Pidgin. The boys, each travelling with one parent, stayed in different villages and enjoyed making friends and learning the language.—*Merilyn Trosky*

Aboriginal Camp a Success at Mirriwinni

More than 300 Aboriginal people from Sydney, Armidale, northern Queensland and Moree attended an Easter Camp at Mirriwinni Gardens, NSW, where Christ's soon return was the theme.

Local pastor Michael Batterham gave the first presentation—on Matthew 25; Fay Oliver, principal of Mirriwinni Gardens, presented the Sabbath school lesson; and Pastor Laurie Evans, South Pacific Division secretary, was the guest speaker for the Sabbath worship service.

Pastor George Quinlin was present and said he was happy to be home, visiting the place of his birth; and Pastor Frank Gorrie of Inverell and Moree was a guest speaker.

The Harmony Singers from Blacktown church and the Redeemers from the Cook Island church (both of Sydney) presented music and added to the spiritual tone of the Camp.—*Diane Batterham*

Boy Receives Courage Award

Fourteen-year-old Aaron Witton was recently awarded the Child of Courage Award by the Lesmurdie Lions Club. Aaron has cerebral palsy, and is profoundly deaf. He has a wide range of sporting abilities and interests.

He plays rugby, soccer, basketball—goes canoeing, abseiling and waterskiing.

"He's an absolutely lovely human being," says the club's third vice-president, Sheelagh Dupont. "His schoolwork is up to the standard of a child without disabilities and yet he has to work four times as hard to get that way."

The Reporter



Aaron Witton has received an award for courage for his display of persistence, bravery and enjoyable personality—in spite of the physical difficulties he faces.

CHILDREN

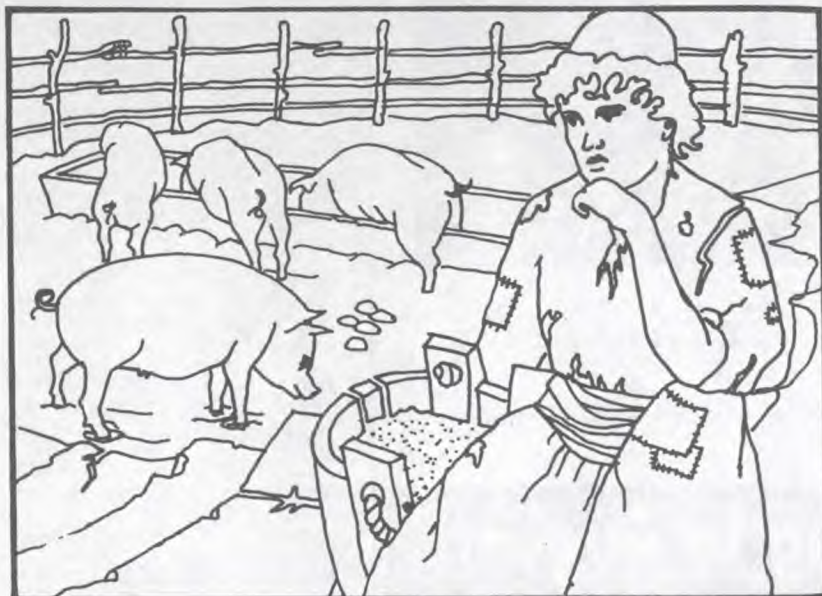
He Wants to Go Home

This young man wants to go home. Do you know the story? Read it in the Bible in Luke 15:11-24.

What do you think about his father? Did you like the idea of having a party?

What else did you learn from the story? Talk about it with someone older.

Now colour in the picture.



Appreciation

Fairclough. Gladys and family would like to thank all those who showed such kindness during their recent bereavement.

Parlane. Mrs Clarice PArlane and family wish to sincerely thank all their friends and church family who supported them during Clem's illness and in their recent sad loss. Your prayers, visits, flowers, cards and messages of sympathy have been a real source of comfort during a trying time.

Rabe, Athol and family, together with Kaye's parents, Nancy and Harry Groombridge, would like to thank all who attended Kaye's funeral, and sent flowers and cards. Your love, prayers and messages of sympathy meant so much to us and were a great support in our sad loss. We look forward to the resurrection morning.

Youlden. The Youlden family would like to express their deepest thanks for the wonderful support offered to them at the time of the death of their son and brother, Paul. Because the cards, phone calls, and floral tributes received were so numerous, it is impossible to acknowledge each one separately. Would you therefore please accept this acknowledgement as a personal thank you for your kindness to us at this time of heartache.

Geoff, Lynn and Nigel Youlden

Weddings

Boyd—Hinze. Paul Clifton Boyd, son of Margaret Boyd (Perth, WA) and the late Clifton Giles, and Cherie Nicole Hinze, daughter of Jeffrey and Pamela Hinze (Kempsey, NSW), were married on 5.2.95 at Kempsey. Eric G Davey

Caldwell—Green. Mike Caldwell and Tanya Green were married on 28.5.95 in Yuba City, Northern California, United States of America. They met in Australia while Mike was serving as a volunteer youth worker. Loyd Henderson

Shearer—De Vries. Craig Shearer, son of Logan and Margaret Shearer (North Canterbury, New Zealand), and Marina De Vries, daughter of Harry and Margaret De Vries (Waikanae), were married on 23.4.95 in Christchurch. Zane Edwards, Aaron Jeffries

Venville—Chapman. Leslie Edward Venville, son of Edward and Lorraine Venville (Coominya, Qld), and Tania Judy Chapman, daughter of Judy Chapman (Morningside), were married on 28.5.95 at Ipswich. David M Lamb

Walmsley—McCracken. Tim Walmsley, son of Stuart and Avril Walmsley (Adelaide, SA), and Sharyn McCracken, daughter of Vic and Shirley Mayfield

(Esperance, WA), were married on 23.4.95 in Perth. Lynn Burton, Tony Robinson

Obituaries

Beacham, Coralie, born 25.4.08; died 8.5.95 at Coronella Nursing Home, Nunawading, Vic. Married 11.6.36. She is survived by her husband, Tom; son, Les (Werribee); and daughter, Judith Plumb (Drouin). B C Smith

Benham, Graeme Leslie, born 3.3.44; died suddenly on 6.4.95 in Sydney, NSW. Predeceased by his father, Pastor Frank Benham, on 31.3.89. He is survived by his mother, Lillian (Camelia Court, Hornsby); sister, Coral (New Zealand); and brother, Robin (Sydney, NSW). B C Grosser

Brinkworth, Hulda Ethel Madlina, born 27.1.02 in London, England; died 28.5.95 at Boondall, Qld. Married in 1928. Predeceased by her husband, Hugh. Survived by her children, Peter, Valerie Wolshaar, Janet Rose, Jennifer Harrold and Audrey Song (all of Brisbane); grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Lance A O'Neill

Crawford, Dora Olive, born 19.1.1893 at Mackay, Qld; died 20.5.95 at the Adventist Nursing Home, Victoria Point, Brisbane. Married in May, 1921. Dora was predeceased by her husband, George Alfred on 9.8.66. She is survived by her daughter, Joan; grandchildren, Beth Wallis, Graeme Boston, Violet Richter, Heather Crawford and Raymond Boston; 16 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. G H Ormiston, M Ball

Davis, Donald Henry, born 19.10.40 in Melbourne, Vic; died unexpectedly in his home at Sussex Inlet, NSW. He is survived by his wife, Colleen; sons, Wayne, Glen, Scott, and Shane; daughter, Kim; and five grandchildren. John Andric, Jeff Webster

Gate, Jeremiah (Jerry), born 21.4.15 at Carlisle, Cumberland, England; died 26.5.95 at Knox Private Hospital, Wantirna, Vic. Married on 12.5.45 at Gordonvale, Qld. Jerry's death came almost two weeks after he and his wife, Lillian, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. He is survived by his wife (Nunawading); son and daughter-in-law, (Pastor) John and Nerolie (Normanhurst, NSW); daughter and son-in-law, Georgie and Noel Winzenried (Lilydale, Vic); and four grandchildren. Neil Marks

Hamilton, Sherrie Neridee, born 29.5.64 at Devonport, Tas; died 8.5.95 at Devonport. She is survived by her children, Adrian, Lyndsey and Daniel. Nigel Ackland

Jeans, Donald Henry, born 9.6.30 at Lockhart, NSW; died 17.5.95 at Box Hill, Vic. Married Judith on 10.11.91. He is survived by his wife (Warburton); daughter, Dianne Pertz (Brisbane, Qld); and sons, David (Saudi Arabia) and Denver (Melbourne, Vic). Merv Sparrowhawk

Jones, Ronald Maxwell, born 7.9.28 at Footscray, Vic; died 29.5.95 at Warragul.

Married Helen Roberts in October, 1957. He is survived by his wife (Warragul); and son, Rex (Sydney, NSW). Predeceased by his daughter, Ruth. Wim de Groot

McCrostie, David Hector (Dave or "Pa"), born 1.12.20 at Launceston, Tas; died 24.5.95 at Devonport. He is survived by his wife, Gwen; and children, Margaret, Lorraine, Jenny, Royce, Tony, Peter, Leanne and Gary. Nigel Ackland

Ridley, Emily Alexandria, born 21.6.07 at Enniskillen, Northern Ireland; died 4.5.95 at Tumut Nursing Home, Tumut, NSW. Married 21.6.33. Predeceased by her husband, John, in 1962, and daughter, Evelyn Barker in 1993. Emily is survived by her children, Leslie (Cobargo), Norman (Griffith), Edith Johnson (Perth, WA), Beverley Armanini (Yenda, NSW), Ivy Signor (Tumut) and Gordon (Gateshead). V P Harper

Robertson, Ronald Sinclair Munro, born 16.11.10 in Sydney, NSW; died 29.5.95 in Auckland, New Zealand. He was predeceased by his wife, Marjorie Hilda, on 9.10.73. Survived by his brother, Lloyd (Melbourne, Vic). David Erickson

Sinnamon, Desmond Michael, 28, died 13.5.95 at the Maryborough Base Hospital, Qld. Son and stepson of Desmond and Karen; and son and stepson of Jennifer and Edward Coe (all of Bundaberg). Arthur J Bath

Wells, Jessie Lou, born 11.10.15; died 7.4.95 at Nuyara Nursing Home, New Farm, Brisbane, Qld. Married Arthur Wells at Murgon. She is survived by her husband; sons, Raymond and Clifford; daughters-in-law, Joan and Lynette; and four grandchildren. G H Ormiston

Winter, Pastor Stanley George, born 23.1.16 at South Grafton, NSW; died 11.5.95 in the Mater Hospice, Newcastle. For over 40 years he served the church in Victoria and North NSW in public evangelism and pastoral ministry, and was pastor in charge of the building of the Avondale Memorial church. He is survived by his wife, Gladys; and daughters, Margaret Gill, Heather, and Barbara Fisher. Five of his seven brothers and sisters were present at the graveside service and memorial service held in the Avondale Memorial church. S R Goldstone, R V Moe, Cecil A Ogg, Alan King

Advertisements

Attention Teachers. With Avondale College currently moving from a three-year Diploma of Teaching to a four-year Bachelor of Education degree program, the education ministry of the Church anticipates a primary teacher shortage for 1996. A shortfall is anticipated also in some secondary teaching fields, particularly in the mathematics and science areas. The South Pacific Division therefore invites those interested in joining the teaching ministry of the church to contact Dr L D Devine, Director, Department of Education, South Pacific Division, for further information, either in writing to 148 Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga NSW 2076, by telephoning (02) 489 7122 or by facsimile transmission to (02) 489 0943.

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● **Volunteer Pastor—Mount Isa Church:** Northern Australian Conference for six months, commencing June 1995.

● **Volunteer Pastor—Tennant Creek:** Northern Australian Conference for nine months to work with local church community and establish a church commencing June 1995.

● **Fly'n'build Opportunities—American Samoa:** Two volunteer projects need help. (1) **Leone Church.** Local church members have commenced work, but urgently need help to complete the building. Tradesmen are needed—three carpenters to finish interior, one electrician. Project is for three weeks between July and September. (2) **Iakini School American Samoa,** October 5-26, 1995. Robbie Erceg is organising a team to build the new concrete block and timber school. Tradesmen needed are carpenters, block layers, an electrician and a plumber. Those wishing to join this team should contact Robbie Erceg. Phone (02) 653 1154. (3) **Aore Adventist Academy:** Vanuatu Mission requests a team to pull down a condemned house on the campus and build a new one using some materials of the old one and new materials. Project to commence when team is ready.

● **Teacher—Atoifi Primary School:** Atoifi Adventist Hospital, located on the island of Malaita, Solomon Islands, needs the service of a volunteer primary schoolteacher to teach in the International School. Both expatriate and national staff children attend the school. Service request is for 12-18 months, commencing as soon as Work and Residency Permits have been granted.

For any information on volunteer service, please contact Pastor Eric White, Volunteer Service Coordinator, 148 Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga NSW 2076; phone (02) 489 7122 or fax (02) 489 1713.

Albury Church—Praise and Thanksgiving Day. Former members and friends are invited on Sabbath, August 26, to join our Praise and Thanksgiving Day commemorating the 20th anniversary of the opening of the David Street complex. Meal registration and further inquiries: Cheryl

Judd (060) 43 1693, Bronwen Bullock (060) 25 7663.

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