

1200 Attend Remembrance Parade-11



Ellen White's Home Is 100 Years Old-8

**Annual Council** Renews Focus-10



# Series Taped for Adventist Women

he Adventist Media Centre (AMC) recently taped a series of health and lifestyle video programs, called "Life Talk for Women," for Women's Ministries and the Adventist Health Department.

Hosted by Bronwyn Reid, the series covers topics ranging from heart disease to building better relationships, all from a Christian perspective.

Styled in a television chat-show format, and taped in front of a studio audience, the series involved 18 Adventist lifestyle experts, the entire AMC production staff, plus freelance camera and sound operators. Designed as a health service for Adventist women, the series will be a useful resource for them to share with other women in the community.

"I think the phrase is 'over the moon," says Women's Ministries coordinator Carole Ferch-Johnson. "That's how I feel about the quality of this production. It's professional, informative, entertaining and gets the message across to women everywhere. I believe it's an absolute winner."

Post-production of "Life Talk for Women" will be completed by the end of the year.—G Krause

# The Liza and Henry Report



ive years ago, at the previous South Pacific Division (SPD) quinquennial session, held in Adelaide, the church set itself the

"faith goal" of 100,000 baptisms over the next five years. It was both a worthy and ambitious goal, set as a part of the General Conference's aim of one baptism a minute—every minute—for the quinquennium.

The degree to which the church in the South Pacific succeeded in this is outlined in the *Quinquennial Session Report 1990-1994*, presented to the SPD session, which concludes today in Brisbane.

This 164-page document contains the results of the efforts of numerous division departments and entities, which together comprise the South Pacific Division. The purpose of these departments is to support the church (that is, you) in your mission of spreading the gospel.

### Good News and Bad News

The first of these is the report of the division secretary, Pastor Laurie Evans. He notes that some 77,455 people were added to the church during the past five years. It would be easy to focus on the shortfall—the 22,545—and be discouraged. But if you can look beyond the numbers to the people they represent, you may feel differently.

### First the Good News

For example, I recently spoke with a woman, a mother of a young family, at a church I was visiting. She told me about herself and of her conversion some four years ago. She said she was formerly a "sort of pantheist" before she got to know Christianity and Adventism.

But her next years weren't easy. Because of her new-found belief, her marriage suffered and she anticipated divorce. But, supported by her church, she persisted in her faith. Finally, because of her faithful witness, healing came. Her husband was baptised earlier this year and sat next to her in the front pew of their church. They are two of the 77,455.

The various church departments all make a contribution to soul winning. Sometimes it's a little more oblique and not so easily assessed. Just recently, for

### Our church has become a bit like Henry and Liza's bucket.

example, I heard how the Sanitarium Health Food Company, arguably the largest entity of the division, gave away some 2000 breakfasts of Weet-Bix and Fruity-Bix on the steps of Melbourne's Old Treasury building.

Were people "won" because of it? Will baptisms follow? Perhaps not directly. But this feeding of the 2000 does have a biblical precedent.

#### Now the Bad News

The church isn't like those gamblers who focus only on their winnings—and disavow their losses. The reality is, the 1990 goal wasn't attained and, unfortunately, to this shortfall must be added those who left the church.

According to the secretary's report,

the net membership gain in the SPD was slightly more than 46,000, for some 26,000 apostatised or went "missing" since 1990. For every 2.95 people who came into the church, one left. Pastor Evans called it the "haemorrhaging factor."

Over the period, this amounts to a group the approximate equivalent of the Trans-Australian Union Conference in size. It's "the loss of one conference each year of about the size of Western Australia," Pastor Evans says.

He also suggests that there are many more former church attendees, especially among the youth, who were never baptised and received membership in the church, and who drifted away virtually unnoticed.

Perhaps you know someone who's left your church. Do you know where they are today?

#### "There's a Hole in the Bucket"

The report reveals that our church has become a bit like Henry and Liza's bucket. It leaks. And maybe that's because too many are like Liza and Henry: we observe the problem, we know how to fix it, but pass the job of doing so to someone else.

Our church's infrastructure provides us with more ideas and tools to fix the hole than we can use. The 27 reports presented to the 1995 session are replete with lists of courses and workshops and creative initiatives by the various departments. To these we can add our prayers, the power of the Holy Spirit, and, suggests Pastor Evans, "a revitalised, loving church."

During the next five years, lets talk less about the hole in the bucket, dear Liza, dear Henry, and do more about fixing it.

Lee Dunstan

Official Paper Seventh-day Adventist Church South Pacific Division



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### **Next Week:**

One woman's successful outreach into inner-city Sydney.

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### **Great Job**

I had to drop you a line to say thank you for the great news report you put together on the literature evangelist's congress (Newsfront, September 16). Top marks.

John Brereton, Qld

### Our Neighbour

"Demonstration of Christianity" (Features, September 30) was short but inspiring. Being a Russian refugee from China, I have experienced some of the pain and heartache that these unfortunate people have suffered. Even though I was only nine when I arrived in Australia, I still vividly remember the hunger, fear and sickness we experienced in China. Each day, beggars would come asking for food and people would commit suicide by lying on railway tracks. To them, being killed by a train was a more attractive option than a life with no hope under communism.

I was very happy to learn that two South Queensland Conference churches have formed support groups for refugees. However, there was no mention of an address so that donations could be directed in support of

these ministries.

Dulcie Simmons, Vic

All donations to such church-related causes can be sent through ADCARE, which has a base in every conference office.

### Contemporary Need

In an age when "men's hearts are failing them for fear," are we meeting the need for Christian counsellors and social workers? I note the many counselling centres of other denominations. Do we have only the few in our capital cities, or are we truly meeting the growing, nation-wide demand in this area? We need to reach into the community as well as to our own members.

Name Withheld, Vic

### Cultural Improvement

"Culture Clash" (September 16) expressed concern that our world church has "confused culture and religion"; further, that there is a problem in differentiating between the two.

I recall a missionary telling of how Seventh-day Adventist villages could easily be spotted in Papua New Guinea because of their cleanliness and the modes of dress etc. Praise God our church has taught the power of the gospel, bringing souls into the "commonwealth of Israel."

May heaven have pity on us if we forsake the clear scriptural injunction to "put away sin," in order to accept cultural practices that cut across a clear "thus saith the Lord." For example, idolatry is widely accepted in many cultures, but the gospel always results in idols being put away. The same happens with voodoo and witchcraft.

It is now safe to visit many South Pacific islands because of the power of the gospel to bring sinners to repentance, and to produce the fruit of the Spirit.

Paul Schoolderman, NSW

### Not With It

Recently I attended an Adventist church for the first time in five months. I looked a little different to the regular attenders-I even had a pierced nose-but at the door a wellmeaning deacon approached me and asked if I was "lost." I assured him I

wasn't and that this was where I wanted to be.

For all he knew, this may have been the first time I'd ever been to an Adventist church. Are we so secluded in our churches that we don't know how to act toward strangers? It seems that some may have forgotten how to relate to the world in their efforts to preserve truth.

A R Gray, Qld

### Bright Idea

There must be many elderly people among us who need somebody to care for them. I placed an advertisement in Record some time ago, inquiring after any elderly person who might need a live-in helper. I received eight telephone calls. After settling on one, I still have a list of people who need live-in care. I would encourage any reader who doesn't have an attachment to a family or work to perform this kind of missionary work.

Norma Hartwigsen, NSW

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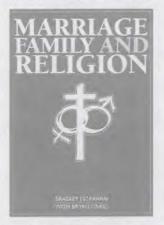






### **Book Release**

The results of the recently conducted Adventist Family Study have just been released in a book entitled Marriage, Family and Religion. The book, which was launched at the South Pacific Division session in Brisbane on November 2. was written by Pastor Brad Strahan from Avondale College, NSW, in conjunction with Pastor Bryan Craig, the family ministries director of the division. Marriage, Family and Religion focuses on the connections between religious faith and practice and marital satisfaction; and parenting and attitudes toward var-



ious family life issues. The book is available for \$A14.95 from Adventist Book Centres or from the Family Ministries Department of the division.

### Church Destroyed

The building housing the first church in Hamilton (a



suburb of Newcastle, NSW) burnt down on September 23. When the church moved in November 1982, the building was used by a local theatre group. Ellen White attended the opening celebrations of the church in September and October of 1899. She also attended the church several times in May 1900, before she returned to the United States of America.

### Appealing News

From conferences that began early:

 WA is edging toward its aim, which is 10 per cent above last year.

North New South Wales Conference has passed its attainment of last year.

•Mega collectors thus far: Bruce Garrick, NNSW. \$A6788; Valda Gratte, WA, \$A7050; Pastor Harry Bone (retired), WA, \$A9223.

 Bruce collected donations at an average of \$A12 (that's more than 560 dona-

The report from all points say that the Appeal is easier this year.

### Did You Hear . . . ?

... About the pastor who almost baptised the people sitting in the first row of church before they reached the font? The Adventist pastor, in an Adelaide church, was speaking to the congregation just before the baptism, when he stepped back too far-into the font.

Those present describe the splash as monumental. When the pastor surfaced, he quickly commented about how sometimes the angels must smile.

### WORLD CHURCH

### Capital Unearthed?

Archaeological excavation: An Adventist team of six, led by Dr Udo Worschech, dean of the theological faculty of the Adventist seminary in Friedensau, Germany, recently concluded an

archaeological excavation at el-Balu in Central Jordan. Dr Worschech believes the site is Ar Moab, mentioned in the Bible as the capital of the Moabites.

### Growth, Giving Up

With 8.6 million members worldwide, the Seventh-day Adventist Church continues

### **Volunteers Are Orientated for Ministry**



Twenty-four volunteer youth pastors from colleges in Canada, the United States of America and South Africa, as well as Avondale College have taken up appointments in most conferences. The Victorian and North New South Wales Conferences recently conducted orientation programs where church pastors and their volunteer associates spent a day planning and praying for the year's ministry. The South Pacific Division volunteer service coordinator, Pastor Eric White, and conference youth directors or volunteer service coordinators led out in the programs. Pictured are volunteers (top photo) from Victoria (left to right): Ben O'Rien, Jeff Kapiniak, Darren Bain, Derek Bil, Koreen Lang, Scott Krause and Bruce Blum. From North New South Wales are (left to right): Ken Duke, Jeremy Deurksen, Matthew Payne and Ken Aso.



to be a healthy, growing church, according to F Donald Yost, the retiring director of Archives and Statistics at the General Conference. Growth was reported in all 11 world divisions of the church, with four reporting more than 6 per cent growth. Greatest growth occurred in the church's Eastern Africa Division (11.7 per cent); China (10.51 per cent); and the Euro-Asia Division, which includes several states of the former Soviet Union (9.26 per cent). Worldwide, the church averaged a new member about every 48 seconds. Church giving rose with an increase in per capita giving from \$US164.23 in 1993 to \$US168.66 in 1994.-ANN

### **Accessions Decline**

While growth continues in

the Adventist Church, accession rates reveal an overall decline. From a high of more than 10 new members for each 100 existing members during 1986, the rates have declined to below eight new members per 100. Accessions include those joining the church by baptism or profession of faith. Despite this, on current trends, the church would be adding 1 million members each year by AD 2006.—ANN

### 50,000 Goal

The church in the Philippines have set a goal of 50,000 baptisms in the first six months of 1996. With 615,000 members already, they are planning for 8 per cent growth in only six months. The initiative is a part of the largest-ever Voice of Prophecy (VOP) evangelistic campaign,

### Fulton College Plans for Electric Milk



Milking the 70 cows at Fulton College currently takes five hours each morning (beginning at 2 am) and three hours each afternoon. That seems a long time until you realise that the cows are milked by hand.

Fulton's dairy is profitable, and it has assured markets and ample farmland to enlarge the herd, but that is impossible with hand milking.

Electricity is now connected to the milking yards and the college is searching for an electric milking plant (see advertisement in Noticeboard). Fulton is keen to hear from anyone connected with the dairy industry who may know where to obtain an electric milking plant.—Grant Watson

### Nelson Church Gives a Lift in SNZ



Photo: M Lai

LIFT (Ladies In Fellowship Together) may be a small group in the Nelson church, South New Zealand, but their impact is felt locally and abroad. With the support of the Nelson church, they sponsor two children through Asian Aid with a sales table and donations at their monthly meetings; supply food parcels to the needy; linen to a women's refuge; and make handmade toilet bags (with contents) to local emergency accommodation for relatives of hospital patients.—Rosemary Landall

planned to celebrate 50 years of VOP radio and Bible school ministry there. VOP plans to enrol 300,000 people in VOP Bible courses, 30,000 in Bible study groups, and 500 or more simultaneous evangelistic series across the country.—

### **NEWS EXTRA**

### **Ecumenicals Meet**

A prominent group of Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant scholars and church leaders gathered in South Carolina, USA, recently to re-examine theological differences that have separated them for centuries. Sponsored by Rose Hill, an Orthodox study centre, and the journal *Touchstone*, the meetings drew 200 people.

Speakers included Roman Catholic scholars Richard John Neuhaus and Peter Kreeft: Orthodox leaders Kallistos Ware and Patrick Henry Reardon; and evangelical professors Harold O J Brown and J I Packer. Participants said they wanted to test whether an ecumenical orthodoxy based upon the classic Christian faith can become the foundation for a unified Christian witness. Meanwhile, Pope John Paul II has issued an invitation for Protestants and Catholics to examine the role of the papal office. A common concern shared by Orthodox and Protestant believers is opposition to the pope's claim to a unique role in Christendom. Christianity Today notes that he shows no signs of surrendering the papacy's claim to ultimate authority.-CT

### CHURCH CALENDAR

November 11 Missions Extension Offering

November 12 Adventist Book Centre Open Day

November 18 Spirit of Prophecy Day

# **Shall We Call Down Fire?**

by Gerald Colvin

It isn't surprising that many earnest Christians perceive their roles as "correctors of the brethren."

Shall we criticise? Or shall we remain silent? Shall we raise questions? Or shall we simply ignore the problems?

In his little book *Our Church Today*, Arthur Keough inadvertently displays the complexity of this dilemma. Take a look at the following examples, taken at random from various sections of the book, but all dealing in some way with how believers should deal with those who err. You understand the dilemma better when you remember that both the pros and cons that follow came from the same pen:

Pro: "We cannot condone evil."

Con: "It is too easy to find fault. Members of the church must guard against this."<sup>2</sup>

Pro: "Sin in the church must receive immediate and efficacious treatment."

Con: "When we recognise our faults and failings, we know that we are in no position to judge others."

**Pro:** "Church members are not wholly released from recognising sin and condemning it."

Con: "The trouble with most of us in the church is that we are too self-righteous. We take pride in not being guilty of the wrong that we see about us."

**Pro:** "Paul instructed: 'Rebuke them sharply.' Such people need summary treatment."

**Con:** "We should recognise that criticism is a serious undertaking. We must not engage in it lightly."8

The fact that these apparently conflicting admonitions come from the same author, in the same book, shows the complexity of the issue of criticism (or discipline, or censure). When do you refrain? When do you act? When should you speak? And when should you remain silent?

The practice of correction and criticism—in the best sense of these terms—enjoys a tradition grey with antiquity. Noah, Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Nathan and scores of other Old and New Testament figures engaged in it.

It isn't surprising, therefore, that many earnest Christians perceive their roles as "correctors of the brethren." Lacking an audible communication from God (unlike the biblical personalities they attempt to follow), they nevertheless regard the message of Scripture and of Ellen White as somehow miraculously shaped for their own employment as critics.

Such activity is certainly not a phenomenon only of this century. Michael Walzer notes that "Puritan individualism never led to a respect for privacy. Tender conscience had its rights, but it was protected only against the interference of worldlings and not against 'brotherly admonition.' And the admonitions of the brethren were anxious, insistent, and continuous."

A similar need to correct others has marked the fundamentalist movement

No "unnecessary barriers" should be created between us and "other denominations."

in the United States, which arose in opposition to liberalism. While fundamentalists reflect a conservative (and, to an extent, a welcome) reaction against the teachings of modernists, they have, however, showed themselves to be a rather disagreeable lot throughout their rather tumultuous growth.

In his careful examination of early fundamentalist leaders, C Allyn Russell finds them "long on condemnation and short on constructive suggestion." All of them, he observes, hurt their own cause by a heresy of spirit more grotesque than the heresy of doctrine they opposed. "Their harsh and arrogant attitude toward all who differed with them revealed their own self-righteousness and made it difficult for the majority of people to communicate with them in any meaningful way."

What Can We Learn From Jesus?

I find it interesting that in the life of Christ we see something of the same dichotomy toward criticism that we highlighted at the beginning in Keough's words. On the one hand, we note Christ's amazing acceptance of even the vilest of sinners, without condemnation or criticism. On the other, we hear His strikingly open denunciation of religious rulers as whitewashed tombs full of the bones of the dead! Which of these approaches are we to follow?

James and John preferred the judge's role and, without hesitation, urged Christ to rain fire down on an inhospitable village. And it was as both judge and executioner that Peter drew his sword against the Gethsemane mob and managed to remove the high priest's servant's ear. In each instance, however, Christ rebuked them.

In confronting an obvious fault in another, we're clearly directed to go to the individual personally (Matthew 18:15-17)—not an easy thing to do, by any means. We're normally more comfortable grousing to everyone else. If one-to-one contact fails, Jesus said, then the person may have to be dealt with in the presence of "one or two more" and, ultimately, before the church itself.

It is possible, of course, that "the accuser," rather than "the accused" will be found at fault. Then it is the accuser who is obligated to cease all further accusations and criticisms.

Christ reserved His strongest criticism for those taking advantage of others in the name of religion or through virtue of office. Such people consistently seemed to make selfish choices in matters of religious principle: dedicating a portion of their money to the Temple (and keeping the bulk for themselves), rather than caring for their parents; hawking goods in the temple (for a healthy profit), rather than accepting freewill offerings; rescuing the profit-making ox on the Sabbath, rather than caring for suffering human beings; hastening wherever

to do "God's bidding," rather than

stopping to assist a neighbour.

But that was Christ's calling. To us He says, "Judge not, that ye be not judged" (Matthew 7:1). He emphasised the profound love we are to show toward each other: "This is my commandment, That ye love one another,

as I have loved you." And again, "These things I command you, that ye love one another" (John 15:12, 17).

In the Steps of a Messenger

The duty some may feel to correct others is likely to be influenced by the life and times of Ellen G White. Her personal testimonies are replete with specific corrections for and criticisms of early Adventists. In each instance, however, she was careful to identify her criticism as coming through inspiration from God. Can any of us claim that same office for ourselves? Do we forget that to call sin by its right name is not to destroy the sinner?

Mrs White herself counselled us to make a habit of speaking well of others. "Dwell upon the good qualities of those with whom you associate," she wrote, "and see as little as possible of their errors and failings. When tempted to com-

plain of what someone has said or done, praise something in that person's life and character."12

Rather than criticising and condemning others, we are urged to work out our own salvation, to watch ourselves diligently. We must put away every evil from our lives and seek to overcome every fault, becoming new creatures in Christ. Then, instead of weakening others through our criticism of them, we may strengthen them by encouraging words.

Hear this strong statement from her pen: "[We] have no time for dwelling upon the faults of others. We cannot

afford to live on the husks of others' faults or failings. Evilspeaking is a twofold curse, falling more heavily upon the speaker than upon the hearer. ... The very act of looking for evil in others develops evil in those who look. By dwelling upon the faults of others, we are changed into the same image."13



Seventh-day Adventists do not consider themselves the only true Christians on earth. We realise, in fact, that most of God's people are still to be found in other Christian churches. If we treat members of our own fellowship with harshness, we cannot expect Christian "siblings" outside our fellowship to be drawn to our "family."

Ellen White reminded us that there are "true Christians in every church, not excepting the Roman Catholic communion . . . God accepts their sincerity of purpose and their integrity before Him."14 Thus she has counselled that in our zeal we should avoid making sweeping denunciations, but in "humility and love, present to all the truth as it is in Jesus."15

No "unnecessary barriers" should be created between us and "other denominations, especially the Catholics, so that they think we are their avowed enemies. We should not create a preju-

> dice in their minds unnecessarily, by making a raid upon them."16 She cautioned that "our work is to study to weed out of all our discourses everything that savours of retaliation and defiance and making a drive against churches and individuals, because that is not Christ's way and method."1

> A loving, non-critical spirit will "work" both inside and outside the church.

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# Sunnyside Turns 100



## **A Dream Realised**

by Rex Cobbin

What a joyous day it must have been for Ella White and her younger sister, Mabel, to be reunited, on May 5, 1895, with their father, W C White, and his new wife, May Lacey White, and their grandmother, Ellen. They had been separated for three-and-a-half years. Ellen White wrote in a letter: "You cannot think how pleasant it is to have my family once more united."

Ella shared the tent with her grandmother while Sunnyside, Ellen White's home in Cooranbong, NSW, was under construction.

Almost 100 years later, on April 15 of this year, we welcomed to Sunnyside Ella's daughter, Gladys, and her husband, Pastor Daniel Kubrock; with Ella's grand-daughter, Martha, and her husband, Robert Natiuk.

In a recent letter, Gladys wrote, "Visiting Avondale and Sunnyside was one of the highlights of my life and fulfilled for both Daniel and me a seemingly impossible dream that we had shared ever since we became caretakers of Elmshaven in 1978. [Elmshaven is the home where Ellen White spent her final years in California, USA.]

"Sunnyside was a real surprise. Pictures cannot begin to convey the feeling of grace and beauty of that simple, but really elegant home.

"As we saw all the lovely, original furnishings that had been so lovingly cared for with such pride when the home was restored in 1960, we realised again the great significance of grandmother Ellen's ministry during her years in Australia...."

Rex Cobbin and his wife, Win, are the custodians of Sunnyside.

# **Memorable Day at Sunnyside**

by Des Pidgeon

iving at Sunnyside for three-and-a-half years was an experience that both my wife, Alice, and I shall never forget. Many hundreds of people came each year, but of all the tour groups, one shall always be remembered.

It began with a phone call from Sydney to arrange for a small tour of 20 to 25 seniors who would arrive at Sunnyside about midday, have their lunch in the grounds and then be shown through the home and the South Sea Islands Museum.

We expected a bus to arrive with our visitors, so you can imagine our surprise when a large group of motorcycles came roaring up the driveway. It looked as though we were being invaded by a bikie gang. However, these were members of the Ulysses Motor Cycle Club of Australia—all members are 50 years and over.

They were a great bunch of men and they showed great interest in everything. We were able to answer their questions as to our beliefs, how we chose the name Seventh-day Adventist and how we differed from other churches. They were very interested in the role Ellen White filled in our church.

Many of these men had been in the armed forces so the museum, too, held their interest as we talked of the Kokoda Trail and the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels.

When they left, much later than planned, they were our friends and many accepted Signs of the Times and other brochures.

As they donned their leathers and helmets they suddenly seemed to become 20 years old, and they roared off down the road. I wondered how the Holy Spirit would touch them.

Our time at Sunnyside was the most exciting and rewarding. Yes, the best.  $\square$ 

Des Pidgeon was the caretaker of Sunnyside from 1991 to 1994.



Recent visitors to Sunnyside included Ellen White's great-grand daughter, Gladys, and her husband, Pastor Daniel Kubrok (at right). With them was their daughter, Martha, and her husband. Robert Natiuk

**Sunnyside Centennial Prog** 

# **Sunnyside Comments**

by Win E Cobbin

What a peaceful atmosphere surrounds this place!" How often this and similar remarks are spoken as visitors of all ages, and from many places around the world, enjoy viewing the place Ellen G White called "home" during five of her busy, fruitful years in Australia.

Today, as I look from an upstairs room onto green lawns, trees and shrubs, and brightly coloured flowers basking in glorious spring sunshine, and on beyond to where blue skies crown the forest-covered Wattagan Mountains; the whole picture sings forth praise to our Creator God. The happy name Sunnyside, chosen by Ellen, seems to reveal the joy she experienced in her home and surroundings.

Here are some of the remarks people have made in the visitors' book after viewing the video and browsing through Sunnyside.

"Thankful to the Lord for having the chance to visit" (Moscow, Russia).

"Wonderful! Beautiful! Stirred. Lovely! Unique! Intriguing! Inspiring!" (USA).

"It is a great privilege to witness history before my eyes" (Suva, Fiji).

"Thank the Lord for bringing us here" (Brisbane).

"I am blessed to be in this house" (Korean pas-

"Great! Excellent! Very impressive! Very exciting! Eye-opening! Marvellous! Amazing!" (Zambia).

"Gut pela tru" (Papua New Guinea).

"I came from Portugal to see this treasure."

"Honoured to be here."
"Inspiration of Jesus."

"It makes Ellen White more real to me" (14year-old).

"I love her books and I love her house" (11-year-old girl).

"A very pleasant place and house with such a feeling of peace and close to God."

"Very emotional—we must never forget our heritage."

Let me conclude by sharing some of the bouquets we have enjoyed receiving:

"Beautifully presented and maintained."

"Inspiring, thank you."

"A credit to the work done by your people."

"Reflects the care given."

Praise God for His leading. May Sunnyside continue to bring inspiration to all who visit—to God be the glory. □

Win Cobbin, with her husband, Rex, is the custodian of Sunnyside.



# The Witness of Sunnyside

by Rex E Cobbin

Sunnyside is not a shrine, but it has been a witness for 100 years of the way the Lord has led us in the beginnings of our church in this South Pacific Division.

Just as the Lord led Israel through the wilderness, so He led Ellen White, His special messenger to His remnant people, to establish her home at Sunnyside for five years. From there she gave much-needed counsel and direction.

When she shifted to Cooranbong from Sydney, she lived in a tent while Sunnyside was being built. Her main objective was to see Avondale College established. There was no doubt in her mind that this was where the Lord wanted a training school for Christian workers to be built. A hundred years on we look back and ask, "What has God wrought?"

Visitors who come to Sunnyside and watch the video of the "Life Sketch of Ellen White," then tour the home and museum, are amazed at the foresight and vision of this woman in the development of the church in this division. When our early leaders were sometimes uncertain and even sceptical about the future development of the church, the Lord had His messenger to give counsel and encouragement. Her counsel is still available in those many pages she wrote, so much is just as pertinent for our times.

One Sunday morning, a woman and her brother-in-law called in to have a look around. After a brief chat, she told us that she was the great-grand daughter of Sarah Minchin who purchased the property when Ellen White and her son, W C White, and family, returned to America in 1900.

She was grateful to be able to look through Sunnyside and the museum. When she returned home she was anxious to read *The Desire of Ages*, which Ellen White completed while living in Sunnyside.

She failed to find the copy that her mother once had. Instead she found a copy of *Steps to Christ* and she wrote saying that, after reading it, she wondered why it had taken her so long to read it, for it revealed to her the love of God so clearly throughout its pages.

Sunnyside continues to witness to visitors of all places and faiths that He loves us and is willing to lead us personally to His eternal Kingdom.

Rex Cobbin and his wife, Win, are the custodians of Sunnyside.

# m November 18, 2.30 pm

# **Annual Council Renews Focus**

According to General Conference (GC) president Robert Folkenberg, church leaders have renewed focus and unity after attending the GC Annual Council, held in Washington, DC, from October 1 to 9.

However, in his final remarks to the council, Pastor Folkenberg said the meetings were worthwhile only if the leaders carried those values back to their workers.

He urged church leaders to carry the outcomes of the message and mission discussions to their workers and said that the meetings were worthwhile if they can take back what they have learned to inoculate and vaccinate the leaders within the unions against the creeping pressures of secular worldviews that move us from God-centredness to self-centredness.

This was the first Annual Council meeting with the new configuration for the 260-member GC Executive Committee voted at the GC session in Utrecht, the Netherlands. The committee now includes greater representation from the world church leadership, including both church administrators and members of the laity.

Highlights of the meetings included:

•Approving the 1996 GC budget of \$US133 million (an increase of about \$US3.4 million compared with the 1995 budget).

●Voting a five-year concept plan for issues of focus for GC departments, including Christian life and nurture, stewardship, communication, education and youth, Global Mission and leadership development, allowing for greater accountability and measurement of results

•Approving a process for world divisions to conduct self-studies (see Flashpoint, October 28).

•Electing Greg King, professor of theology at Pacific Union College, as editor of the adult Sabbath school lessons.

• Eugene Grosser, managing director of the South Pacific Division's Sanitarium Health Food Company, was voted director of the International Health Food Association.

The voting in of several boards of directors, among them, Adventist Development and Relief Agency,



The General Conference president, Pastor Robert Folkenberg, says that church leaders have a renewed focus and unity.

Adventist World Radio, Geoscience Research Institute and the International Board of Education.

• Reappointing the editors of Adventist Review, Ministry and Liberty.

 Church policy items considered included the discontinuation or dissolution of conferences, missions, unions and unions of churches; discipline of ministers; and the appointment of editors of main church publications.

• Giving conference status to the Central Philippine Union Mission, the South Philippine Union Mission and the East Indonesia Union Mission.

The first two days were spent presenting and discussing the church's message and mission. Several of these meetings were transmitted live to satellite sites in North America and Inter-America by the Adventist Communication Network.

In response to questions relative to a September 23 service held by Sligo church in Takoma Park, Maryland, USA, when three women were affirmed in their ministry in that church, Pastor Folkenberg made a brief statement expressing his personal disappointment with the interpretation given to the event by some of its promoters.

He affirmed the North American Division and the president, Pastor Alfred McClure, in the handling of the situation. Pastor Folkenberg said he was "saddened that some, driven by their personal passion, were willing to publicly embarrass the church."—ANN

## Unusual Find in Archaeology Dig

A small medallion, with a tiny inscription, was the surprise find in a collection of artifacts excavated by Pastor David Down and a group of volunteers from a tomb just outside Jerusalem. Even though the dig took place in 1994, the medallion still has not been properly cleaned or read.

Pastor Down, who is retired from ministry, lives in Sydney and conducts tours of the Middle East and archaeological digs each year. He has just returned from doing some excavation of the western wall of Jerusalem (sometimes called the Wailing Wall).

The director of the Jerusalem Centre for Archaeology, Dr Miki Waisman, who supervised the cleaning, classification and recording of the artifacts, said the Latin

inscription was so fine that his people had not deciphered it yet. They would have to use a microscope to photograph it.

Among the other artifacts found by Pastor Down at the Ein Yael site (as reported in the April 1995 edition of *Signs of the Times*), was a collection of 1500-year-old oil lamps, some glassware and pottery. The results of the archaeology centre study on these are not finalised.



Among oil lamps (pictured) discovered just outside Jerusalem was an unusual medallion that is yet to be classified.

# **1200 Attend Remembrance Parade**



Pastor Len Barnard, a former warrant officer, checks his watch before the parade begins.

Commodore Nicholas Helyer (centre) and Lawrens Adair (at right) prepare to lead the former service men and women into the church.

Some 70 former service men and women who served in the second world war marched into Wahroonga, NSW, church for an "In Remembrance Church Parade" attended by 1200 people on August 19. The parade celebrated the 50th anniversary of the end of the war in the Pacific (August 15, 1945), and remembered those who lost their lives or were injured in the conflict.

Pathfinders in full-dress uniform led the former service personnel into the church, with 10 carrying national flags representing countries and nations involved in the Pacific war.

Leading the service men and women into the church was Lawrens Adair from Brisbane, wearing his original RAAF Wing Commander's uniform, with Royal Australian Navy guest Commodore Nicholas Helyer, MBE.

Mr Adair was a navigator who was shot down over Germany (his story has been told in his book *Glass Houses: Paper Men*). Behind these two men marched the rostrum party of 12—all with a service record.

A pipe major, in full dress and playing the bagpipes, led two men, Wal Potter of Australia and Arthur Carey, DFC, of New Zealand, into the church. The two men placed a wreath in front of the pulnit

"This was very moving," reports Pastor Laurence Gilmore, who helped organise the event.

"Organist Karen Wood gave inspiration to the marchers with her playing of 'Onward Christian Soldiers,'" he adds. "Supported by a six-piece brass ensemble and the male choir, worshippers enjoyed their singing." The 45-voice male choir, Fifth Sabbath, participated in the program.

A former editor of the *Record*, Pastor Robert Parr, preached a sermon entitled "A Matter of Choice." During the sermon he recounted his brief service as a soldier.

As the national anthem was sung, a large flag descended over the rostrum.

"Far away, in the high mezzanine floor, a lone trumpeter sounded 'The Last Post' and 'Reveille,'" adds Pastor Gilmore. Explanations were given for these old service calls.

"The event was public relations at its best," he says. "Officers and members of the Hornsby RSL sub-branch were there enjoying every moment. Besides the navy commodore there was the mayor of Hornsby, and many others who are not Seventh-day Adventists."

The day included a special Sabbath school program in the morning and, during the afternoon, several speakers recounted stories of God's deliverance during the war.

"The following morning, I had a phone call from an RSL officer," says Pastor Gilmore. "He said, 'Laurence, I have been to many church parades, but never have I experienced such a one as yesterday in your church. The singing, the organist and brass, and the choir, and that speaker, Bob Parr, what a day! Thank you for inviting us."

Later he wrote saying: "We were very honoured to share this occasion with you."



A pipe major leads the procession out of the Wahroonga church after the remembrance church parade.

### Age No Barrier for Instructor

Seventy-four-year-old Mavis Williams, attending a recent nutrition school in Ararat (Vic), may be the oldest person to have studied the subject in Australia.

Motivated by a desire to help her family and community, she faithfully sent in her study guide and then attended all the sessions throughout the four-day

Victorian Conference health director Pastor Adrian Raethel, who conducted some sessions, reports that the nutrition talks and cooking segments worried some of those attending. But with a little guidance and support from presenters Marjorie Dodd and Tina Wong, everyone made good presentations. Members of the Ararat, Stawell and Maryborough churches attended.

# **Women Retreat in Their Year**

During the Year of the Adventist Woman, a number of conferences, missions and churches in the South Pacific Division organised spiritual retreats that attracted hundreds of women. Carole Ferch-Johnson, the Women's Ministries director for the South Pacific Division, reports that she is aware of some 15 retreats this year, but she understands that there have been many more.

"A chance to get away from the usual demands and responsibilities of the average weekend in a woman's life is great, if you can get it," says Mrs Ferch-Johnson. "But the real purpose of retreats is to give women a chance to focus on their own spirituality, and to experience spiritual growth."

She says the retreats she has been involved in have averaged about 40-45 people. Several hundred women gathered for a retreat on Manus Island.

"Women tend to experience and enjoy a higher level of intimacy on their own than when men are there," says

Mrs Ferch-Johnson. "By and large, and I think this is a cultural thing, men lead and it becomes male focused.

"Women tend to retire and withdraw and let men run things, that's the cultural bias. When men aren't there, women take initiatives and feel safe because everyone understands."

She also notes that women relate more on an emotional level than men and says it is important that they have the opportunity to do so.

"Women have a need for closeness to other women," she adds. "These retreats have helped many women develop networks that were once natural with women, but modern living pressures have broken those networks down. The retreats give us an opportunity to network, and the bonds last much longer than the retreat."

The response from women has been positive. Some, like Marilyn, were sceptical: "I wasn't sure what I was coming to, but it has been wonderful."

"I nearly didn't come," said Joan, "and look what I would have missed."

"I cleaned seven hous-

average weekend in a woman's life is great, if you can get it," says Mrs Ferch-Johnson. "But the real purpose of fessed.

es to earn the money to come, and it was well worth the effort," Sarah confessed.

"I was so lucky," said Karen. "A friend rang me and offered to sponsor me to accompany her here."

"Though it was hard to leave my husband for the weekend, I wouldn't have missed it for anything," admitted Corrie.

There seemed to be a real enjoyment at the retreats, says Mrs Ferch-Johnson—for various reasons.

Evelyn said it was the woman-towoman fellowship: "I found a deeper friendship with women I have known for years, but had never really gotten close to before. Now there is a special bond. It makes the concept of 'sister in the faith' more meaningful."

"I really appreciated the opportunities to meet in small groups to pray," said Doreena. "We kept the same group and prayed several times over the weekend. A wonderful bond of closeness developed between us. We felt we could depend on the support and love of one another, then and now."

"I appreciated not having to prepare any meals for a whole weekend," stated Marcia. "We walked into the dining room at mealtime and there it was, all beautifully presented. All we had to do was wash our own dishes. It's the first time I've ever had a weekend like that."

"It was the men who did the cooking," added Vicky. "They also minded the children for single mums so they didn't miss out."

"Some of them wanted to come to the meetings too. There should be men's retreats for them as well," said Alison.

"We laughed till our sides ached, on Saturday night," commented Petra. "Some of the skits and stunts the women put on were hilarious."

"A high point for me was just listening to the stories women told of their walk with the Lord," reported Enid. "Some told of amazing answers to prayer, to evidences of God's leading, and to instances when they were assured of His presence."

"I gained a lot of encouragement from those stories," added Marie. "Sometimes a book was recommended that someone found spiritually helpful.







Photos: C Ferch-Johnson

It helps when it comes to buying new books."

"I'm a real outdoor person," said Pauline. "I liked the opportunity to walk in beautiful settings. A group of us walked for an hour or so on Sabbath morning to watch the mist clearing, and to hear the early morning bird calls. We saw dozens of river trout jumping."

"Women's retreats mean women as guest speakers," commented Lynne. "This has real appeal because women address spiritual and other issues of specific interest and relevance to women. I suppose they speak in a language other women understand and can identify with. Mostly our preachers are men and I really enjoy the ministry of our church pastor, but it's nice to have the opportunity to hear a woman."

"I have never known a weekend to go so quickly," said Katrina as she packed up Sunday morning. "Maybe it's because we enjoyed it so much." "I have no doubts now as to the benefits of such a weekend for women," states Ann. "I think of the potential for inviting a one-time church attender or a new contact to a warm, friendly weekend away where she will have the opportunity to renew her commitment to Christ or make one for the first time. The possibilities for this kind of outreach are exciting. This can be another of God's avenues for reaching hearts with His good news."

# **Singles Ministries Leader Reports**

The Family Life director for the Trans-Tasman Union Conference, Pastor Bob Possingham, was recently interviewed for the Record about singles ministries in Australia and New Zealand.

Bob, you are closely related to singles ministries; what is happening with Adventist Singles Ministries (ASM) at the moment?

I'm glad to say that more chapters—that is, local groups—are being formed around the conferences, and the numbers are growing in these chapters.

#### What has made the difference?

Possibly three factors. First, there are more singles today—both in the community and in the church. Second, the singles enjoy a higher profile in the public relations of the church. However, I think the most important reason is the change of attitudes of church members toward singles ministries.

## What do you think has caused that change in attitude?

We are fortunate to have committed groups of singles who, at their own expense, travel thousands of kilometres to visit churches, taking worship services and promoting singles ministries.

Also, people have come to realise that ASM is not a matchmaking arm of the church; rather, it is there to provide spiritual, emotional and social support in realistic ways.

How does singles ministries achieve that support?

Well, ASM chapters conduct regular



Pastor Bob Possingham talks about singles ministries.

spiritual rallies, retreats, picnics and outings. Also, every two years the Trans-Australian and Trans-Tasman Union Conferences hold national conventions for singles with special guest speakers and workshops on numerous relevant and practical topics.

January '96 in Brisbane, we expect 250 singles to

attend the convention our union is sponsoring. Pastor Gordon Pifher is coming out from Walla Walla College in Washington, USA. Joining him will be Pastors Bryan Craig, Allan Walsh and Roger Vince, and Judith Mazz.

#### That's quite a team

Yes, they will deal with issues such as creative Bible study, sexuality and singleness, starting life over again, staying afloat financially, how to make yourself feel better, what singles can contribute to the church and a whole lot more.

# Bob, what would you like to say to the church about singles ministries?

That is easy to answer. Don't be negative. Give singles ministries all the support you can. Remember that Jesus was a single and every married person runs the risk of being single again, either through the tragedy of the death of a spouse or divorce.

### And what would you say to the singles?

Just two things: Hang in there because we're here to help you; and make sure you get to the convention in January 1996.—Terry Butler

### CHILDREN



### **Anniversaries**

Randall. Eric and Val Randall recently celebrated 50 years of togetherness with a party in Perth, attended by their four children and nine grandchildren. Eric and Valma Willis were married on 22.8.45—one week after VP Day—in the original Bickley SDA church, WA. The ceremony was conducted by Pastor A F J Kranz.

Rosa Robartson

### Weddings

Arnold—Richter. Brendon Grant Arnold, son of Graeme and Barbara Arnold, and Esther Joy Richter, daughter of Ian and Jill Richter, were married on 8.10.95 at the Eight Mile Plains SDA church, Brisbane, Old.

Ken Martin

Freeman—Campbell. William Frank Freeman, son of Dora Freeman (Coffs Harbour, NSW) and the late Herbert Freeman, and Jolie Ethel Campbell, daughter of David and Joy Caldwell (Newcastle), were married on 2.10.95 in a sunrise wedding at South West Rocks.

### **Advertisements**

●Volunteer Fly'n'build Teams are needed for projects in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu between April and September 1996. Teams should be no larger than 15 people, have a good ratio of tradespeople and labourers and a commitment to work with local people. If your church or group can assist, we would be delighted to hear from you.

●Volunteer Teachers: Mission appointments are available for qualified teachers to teach English language and Bible in the Korean English Language Institutes. Suitable volunteers who serve for one year receive return airfares and stinend.

●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.

Volunteer Pastor. South New South Wales Conference seeks the services of a volunteer pastor (preferably retired minister) for one of its country churches. For further information, contact the secretary/treasurer, O Twist, on (06) 249 6822.

Volunteer Youth Camp Caretaker. A volunteer youth camp caretaker is required for the Ankara Youth Camp situated on the Murray River at Walkers Flat, approximately one-and-a-half hours by road from Adelaide. Accommodation will be provided in the caretaker's cottage. Applicants will be required to care for the maintenance and upkeep of the facilities and grounds and the servicing of groups utilising the camp. Applicants will need to possess skills in maintenance to building facilities. For more information please register your interest by writing to Pastor Andrew Kingston, South Australian Conference, PO Box 120, Prospect SA 5082.

Position Available. Applications are invited for a highly motivated person to care for reception/telephone, with clerical and secretarial duties, at the Adventist Media Centre in Wahroonga, Sydney. The successful applicant should possess the following attributes: good communication skills, pleasant personality, good secretarial/clerical ability, computer literacy, and an enthusiasm for media work. Please forward a current resume to: Pastor John Banks, General Manager, Adventist Media Centre, PO Box 15, Wahroonga NSW 2076, Phone (02) 487 1844. Fax (02) 487 1659. A position profile is available on request. Applications close November 10, 1995.

Positions Available—Sanitarium Head Office, Berkeley Vale. Several vacancies will become available in the next few months. If you have experience in Secretarial, Personal Assistant and Receptionist fields, apply now for fulltime/casual work. Applicants would need to possess drive, initiative and above-average skills with PC experience in a Windows environment. If you would like to join a progressive team working in a pleasant environment on the NSW Central Coast, send your application and resume to: Personnel Officer. Sanitarium Health Food Company-Head Office, Locked Bag 7, Central Coast Mail Centre NSW 2252.

Position Vacant, Teacher, Prescott Primary—Southern. Middle Upper Grades Primary Teacher. Prescott Primary Southern is an Adventist school located in Southern Adelaide with a specific focus on education for the Gifted and Talented. It is a fast-growing school in a rapidly developing area. Applicants need to have qualifications and/or a willingness to undertake further study in Gifted and Talented Education. Applications in writing to: Dr John Waters, Trans-Australian Union Conference, PO Box 41, Surrey Hills Vie 3127.

Position Vacant—Supervisor Elizabeth Lodge. (Aged Care Hostel, Wahroonga, Sydney). Responsibilities will include supervising a staff of 33 and care of 73 residents whose ages range from late 70s to mid 90s. Applicants should have experience in aged care and be a licenced RN. Apply to Manager, Adventist Retirement Village, Box 231, Wahroonga NSW 2076. Applications close November 15. For more information phone (02) 487 3044.

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PO Box 721, Fairfield NSW 2165, With God's help, we look forward to another exciting and fruitful year.

Mildura SDA Church Home Coming. We are celebrating the 20th anniversary of our new complex on November 25 and would like to invite all past members, ministers, family and friends, to a special day. For further information, contact Liz Knott on (050)

Prescott Primary Eastern (formerly Eastern Districts Adventist School) of Adelaide, SA, is announcing its intention of closing permanently in December of this year, 1995. All past teachers and students are invited to a grand Closing Exercises at St Peters Town Hall, Payneham Road, St Peters, on Sabbath, December 9, beginning at 4 pm. A reply to Mrs Cheryl Raethel, 3/13 Gwyne Street, Firle SA 5076, phone (08) 332 2360, would be much appreciated, thank you.

Welcome Back to Dandenong. The Dandenong (English-speaking) church in Victoria was established 75 years ago, and so we are calling on former members and friends to return to Dandenong to celebrate with us the blessing of the past and to join in the opening of our new worship facility. The date set for this occasion is December 16, 1995. For more details please contact: The Welcome Back Committee, PO Box 1153, Dandenong Vic 3175.

Memorabilia Wanted. Any item relating to the late Pastor Wallace Ferguson and his family while in the Solomon Islands to help create a museum in his honour. Phone (044) 54 1574 or write to PO Box 49, Ulladulla NSW 2539.

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Attention Ladies—Want a Break? For more information on the Christian Ladies Getaway Club write to Lyn Spain, Yarra Travel Junction, PO Box 225, Yarra Junction Vic 3797.

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Adventist Retirement Village Hostel, Adelaide, SA. The newly completed hostel on Pimpala Road, Morphett Vale has several vacancies. There is an entrance fee of \$32,000 payable. This hostel is close to shopping, bus transport and the coast. The Morphett Vale SDA church is situated on the grounds. For full information and to obtain a prospectus, please contact the manager, Carol Peterson, at the hostel on (08) 381 8711.

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by Clifford Goldstein

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