

June 8, 1996

RECORD

Concerns
Reported at
Meetings—11



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Prophecy and
Adventists—6**



**Ethiopian
Refugees Wed
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or Losing
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First Adventist School in Nepal Opens

Two Australian volunteers are serving as principal and assistant to the first Adventist school in Nepal, opened earlier this year. Lynette Brown, the principal (pictured), and Jodie Esau have volunteered for 12 months. Supporting them at the school are four Nepalese teachers and a Nepalese administrator.

The 85 children who attend are from a wide range of backgrounds. Most are from the local community, including those whose parents work for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and Scheer Memorial Hospital. Twenty-four children are housed in an ADRA hostel because they come from remote areas on the Tibetan border.

"I'm sure the twins in my Grade One class have never seen a pencil, let alone held one in their hands," said Miss Brown. "They speak no English and little Nepalese, for they come from a remote village with a different dialect. With no educational background they are still learning quickly in this loving and caring environment."

The aim of the school is to provide quality Christian education and to improve on rote learning methods common in Nepalese schools. Teachers from surrounding schools will be invited to observe creative teaching styles.

There was some concern about how authorities would view the singing of Christian songs during the opening of the school in this predominantly Hindu and Buddhist country, but the district police officer remarked that Nepal needs more schools like this one.

Asian Aid is helping to fund support for the children attending this new school.

Parable of the Two Parents



It seems to me that God has put us who bear his Message on a stage in a theatre . . . (1 Corinthians 4:9, *The Message*).

Once there were two parents. One was the parent of Roger; the other the parent of Stewart. Both sons were in the second year of school.

And, lo, it was the time of the school play.

Roger and Stewart had lines to learn, and a role to play. The parent of Roger sat with him in the lounge room and helped him go over and over his lines. The parent of Stewart listened as she cleaned the house and prepared a nutritionally correct dinner.

The two parents attended the rehearsals to encourage their child. They both wanted to support them in their endeavours.

And it came to pass that at a certain point in the play, both Roger and Stewart forgot their lines. Before the teacher could share the lines, the other children did snigger, and they did laugh. While the teacher brought them back to order, both boys ran off the stage, trying to hide their tears as they ran.

The two parents hurried from where they sat in the hall, observing the rehearsal, to the back of the stage to give comfort and counsel.

The parent of Stewart knelt down beside him, held him at arm's length and told him in a voice heard by others in the hall, "I told you, you should have learned those lines better. Come on, I'll take you home. You need to practise some more."

The parent of Stewart heaved a sigh, shook her head and tsk-tsked several times as she walked out the door. Stewart had to run to keep up with his parent. And he found it difficult to see because of the tears.

The parent of Roger also knelt down. But she didn't say anything. She held Roger close and stroked his hair as she listened to the angry words Roger spoke.

Then, with her finger, she brushed away the tears on Roger's face.

She, too, held her child at arm's length. She spoke quietly to him and then said, "Come on, I'll take you home so we can practise some more."

The parent of Roger held his hand as they walked together to the door.

Again the two parents assisted in learning for the play. The parent of Roger sat in the lounge room and listened and corrected Roger when it was necessary to do so.

The parent of Stewart listened as she sat at the kitchen table writing a shopping list. She encouraged Stewart when he stumbled. "Get it right, boy!" and, "Look, these lines are not that difficult" were among the exhortations she used.

The two parents also assisted their boys in practising the comings and goings involved in the school play, for they both had active roles.

The parent of Roger said, "Come, let me play the role of Tamara so that you can practise as if she were here."

And they did. Roger practised coming into the lounge room as if he were coming onto the stage. His parent spoke the words of Tamara and did indeed act as if she were the person Tamara. After he had said his lines, Roger left the lounge room as if he were leaving the stage.

Then they did it again and again until

Roger said it was enough.

Stewart asked his parent if she would help him practise his comings and goings. The parent of Stewart took unto herself the role of Judith.

Stewart entered the kitchen as if he were coming onto the stage. His parent read the words of Judith. After he had said his lines, Stewart left the kitchen as if he were leaving the stage.

"See, that went well," said the parent of Stewart. Then she dismissed Stewart, for she had matters of a budgetary nature concerning her shopping list and a party she was planning on her mind.

The two parents returned for the rehearsal on the morrow.

At one point in the play Roger did forget his coming onto the stage. And the children did laugh once more. And Roger did cry.

The parent of Roger was quickly at his side. She held him close and whispered words of encouragement to him.

Roger determined to try again.

And then it was that Stewart did forget his going from the stage. And the children did laugh again. And Stewart did cry.

The parent of Stewart explained to the others in attendance that Stewart had got it right at home, and that she didn't know why he couldn't get it right on stage.

She took Stewart's hand with vigour and told the teacher in charge that she would enforce Roger to practise at home. She made fervent promises that all would be right on the night.

Then she encouraged Stewart with loud words as they exited through a side door.

Those who saw these things marvelled in their minds and questioned among themselves, "Which of these two is the Good Parent?"

Bruce Manners

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Next Week:

An interview with the organiser of the forthcoming Sabbath convention.

Cover Photo: Lynette Brown

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Vol 101 No 22

History Repeats

The German philosopher George William Hege (1770-1831) claimed in the introduction to his book *Philosophy of History* that the main thing we learn from history is that we *don't* learn from history.

The paradox is again brought out in Dr William Johnsson's editorial (May 11) in which he tells of an unplanned discussion—on his part—with a couple of fellow church members who were enthused with Bishop Arius' heresy dating from the early fourth century, that Christ was a "created being"—an erroneous view also espoused by some of our pioneers and probably many others between.

Keeping that in mind, we can therefore expect revivals of various issues in the future, such as sinless perfectionism, and legalism, with interludes of the "cheap grace" ideology as the pendulum swings; as well as the continued controversies over the nature of Christ.

This will no doubt be the *modus operandi*, unfortunately, until the Lord returns; but to be forewarned is to be forearmed. Thank you, Dr Johnsson.

Bob Donaldson, Qld

Disappointed Students

It was disappointing to our volunteer teachers and students to read the letters of May 18 regarding the lack of Sanitarium products in the Lilydale Adventist Academy breakfast program. At the time the photo was taken, Sanitarium was unable to see its way clear as a sponsor to the project. However, there is now support from Sanitarium to meet some ongoing product requirements.

Sanitarium does have good products. However, contrary to the second letter, Global Mission funds do not cover the ongoing costs. We did use some Sanitarium products—as seen in the original photo—but somehow this escaped the attention of the writers. Realistically, Kellogg's products were more in demand, but we have attempted to fly the Sanitarium flag.

I can't help but wonder what criticism Jesus faced when He provided nonvegetarian lunches for the hungry.

David McClintock,
Principal, Lilydale Adventist Academy

Trivial Issue

I picked up last week's *Record* (May 18) and was disappointed to find not one, but two letters from people complaining about the lack of Sanitarium products lined up on the shelves of the Lilydale Adventist Academy van for the disadvantaged students of state primary schools.

I wish that members of our church would stop being picky over what seems so trivial. It's topics such as this that can discourage our youth, and their potential witness in our schools.

The academy students are doing a fantastic job and should be congratulated for their dedication and the witnessing power they have in the schools around them.

I feel the academy is meeting the kids where they're at, not where we think they should be—it's what God did; and whether or not they use Sanitarium products, they are still going to be blessed by Him.

Kym Buttery, Vic

Pew Battles

"Stopping the Pew Wars" (Features, May 11) is timely and relevant.

Too often our decision meetings are spoilt by egotism, prejudice, lack of consecration, independent personalities, church politics, disunity, lack of spiritual motives, manipulation, pre-decisions,

domination, personal and group agendas, misunderstanding and even deep-seated antagonism.

Just how many of us (in times past) have come away from a business meeting having behaved like a "pig in a parlour" and having enjoyed it better than a church picnic? Or have we ever come away disgusted with the behaviour of God's people doing God's business?

How vulnerable we all are! How vulnerable the system we use is also! How vulnerable does the system make us!

An invaluable book on the topic is *Sharing Wisdom: A Process for Group Decision Making, a Guide to Building a Better Church*, by Mary Benet McKinney (Tabor Publishing). This book is being used by other churches as a textbook in leadership courses.

Efficiency, involvement, unity, spirituality and a greater use of both human and divine resources are enabled by the use of the methods presented in this book.

Jack Russell, Qld

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 (CompuServe 74617.726; Internet 74617.726@compuserve.com). 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.



ACE Invasion

While helping to advertise an evangelistic program, a group of literature evangelists (LEs) in Blenheim, SNZ, placed \$NZ50,000 of books, signed 27 people for health correspondence courses, and delivered 11 videos to people who could not get to the meetings. The team consisted of Angela Croft, Collette Brown and Eric Hoare (they call themselves the ACE-team), and spent a week as advance personnel, paving the way for a Zane Edwards's "Amazing Discoveries" program. Later they were joined



by additional team members, Nicholas and Linda Gatonyi. "The evangelistic series was a great success," says Mr Hoare. "It is a result of combined efforts under the guidance of the Holy Spirit that brings results." Pictured (left to right, standing) are: Zane Edwards, Linda and Nicholas Gatonyi, Collette Brown, Stephanie White (wife of the local minister, Pastor Bernard White), (seated) Eric Hoare and Angela Croft.

Oz Gift to Fiji Village

A medical kit donated by Australian church members



to the people of Dromuna village, located near Suva, Fiji, was recently presented to them by Thornleigh church member John Morris (pictured right). "The donation will markedly increase the efficiency of medical services to the villagers," says Mr Morris. Previously the clinic equipment consisted of that brought by visiting nurses. He said the gift shows the villagers that Adventists are interested in their welfare, even though there are no Adventists living in the village. Also pictured are Jacqui Weyman, Elwin Ferris and Pastor Asaeli, the local minister.

PACIFIC School Involved

Betikama Adventist High School, Solomon Islands, participated in the first National Conference on Distance Education, held at Honiara from April 17 to 19. The main objective of the

Tassie Adventist School Remembers



On May 3, students, staff, families and friends of the Hilliard Christian School, Hobart, held a memorial service for the victims and families of the April 28 Port Arthur massacre. Included in the service, which was conducted by Adrian Clack, the school chaplain, was the unveiling of a commemorative plaque in the school grounds by prefects Catherine Hope and Alex Roberts (pictured). School principal Mark Hansen (right) added to the memorial site by planting a Gallipoli palm.

conference was to raise awareness about distance education among policy makers, says Peter Stanley, senior English teacher at Betikama. Betikama was represented by the principal, Kenny Elisha; the registrar, Heath Oti; and Mr Stanley, who presented a paper.

WORLD CHURCH Asia-Pacific to Split

A specialist commission of the General Conference

Administrative Committee has recommended to the 1996 Annual Council that the current Asia-Pacific Division (APD) be divided in two. Currently headquartered in Singapore, the APD is responsible for church activities in 17 countries of the Orient and northern Pacific islands. The commission also recommended that the realignment include, in the future, the East-Asia Association, which ministers to the church's interests in the People's Republic of China and Mongolia. The Asia-Pacific region is among the fastest growing of the world church, says Pastor Ray Dabrowski, communication director of the General Conference.

Help for Refugees

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Ghana

Did You Hear . . . ?

. . . About the church member who has spent 54 years fundraising for her church? Celia Briden, of Masterton, New Zealand, recently retired from her role as chief fundraiser for the church. As "green as grass" when she began in 1941, Mrs Briden and her assistants collected anything they could for sale, including "thousands of daffodils, violets, roses, delphiniums, Russell lupins . . . and home-grown runner beans," says Maureen Trehey, of Masterton. Mrs Briden took her items-for-sale anywhere: one day selling vegetarian food and cakes to employees of a local meatworks; on another, pulverised sheep manure door-to-door. A compulsive fundraiser, she would organise social evenings and charge an admission fee. On one occasion, the ever-alert Mrs Briden opened the lawn beside the church hall and charged for car parking for patrons arriving at a food-and-wine festival in a nearby park.

has been asked by the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to be a provider for the Liberian refugees who have disembarked in Takoradi from the ship *Bulk Challenge*. ADRA provided emergency funds and two trucks to UNHCR for the purchase and transportation of shelters, firewood and supplies to a temporary camp site 32 kilometres west of Accra. In addition, the agency will provide food to the refugees for the next four to six weeks.—ANN

SDA Beliefs Go Public

In an attempt to settle misunderstandings, the first-ever Seventh-day Adventist-Protestant forum was held in Korea in early April. The forum discussed the church's beliefs and Protestant churches' opposition to its involvement in a combined churches Christian television network in which the Adventist Church is a major shareholder. The forum focused on three major issues: the Sabbath, the 2300 days and eschatology. After the forum, most of the Christian press and magazines found in favour of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, reports the communication director for the Korean Union Conference, Chun Jung Kwon. The church has been invited to produce health programs for the TV station.—ANN

Women Do the Work

Some 400 people were baptised in East Indonesia on May 11 as a direct result of a women's ministries evangelistic effort. The week-long reaping program featured Ardis Stenbakken, an associate director of women's ministries at the General Conference, Linda Koh,

director of the Asia-Pacific women's ministries Department, and Netty Rantung, women's ministries associate director of the East Indonesia Union Mission.—*Communique*

Intercontinental Net

Nearly 1600 churches in North America have joined the Net '96 satellite evangelistic series, which begins in October 1996. In addition, some 1200 churches in the Caribbean, Central America and South America will take part. Another 300 congregations in Europe—mainly German- or Romanian-speaking—will join. Net '96 will

be translated into six languages.—ANN

And the Winner Is . . .

Three Seventh-day Adventist publications won awards from the Evangelical Press Association, which were presented in Colorado Springs. Awarded first place in the humorous article category was *Women of Spirit's* "Saving Families, Losing

Sense," by Kim Peckham. An Award of Merit for overall excellence in the missionary magazine category went to *Message*. The North American Division's weekly magazine for youth, *Insight*, received second place in the colour cover category for "Youth Under Construction," by artists Spencer Freeman and Trent Truman. All three magazines are published by Review and Herald.—ANN

Lismore Adventist Church Gives Salvos a Home



Photo: J. Wagner, Northern Star

The Salvation Army and Seventh-day Adventist churches in Lismore made page 3 news of the *Northern Star* recently when the Army began to meet in the Adventist Church. Following the quick sale of their church, the Lismore Salvation Army congregation was left without a place to worship. The Lismore Adventists invited them to share their church until the Salvation Army's new community and welfare centre is completed. The church minister, Pastor Michael Browning, said his congregation was delighted to have the congregation as guests until their new church was built. The newspaper reported Lieutenant Edwin Cox, the Lismore commanding officer, as saying the sharing arrangement couldn't be better (he is pictured at left, with Pastor Browning at right).

CHURCH CALENDAR

June 15	Religious Liberty Day
June 22	Pacific Islands Advancement Offering
July 13	Union Institutions Offering
July 20	Adventist Media Day
	Adventist Media Evangelism Offering

Adventists and Albury Park

by Dean Giles

Such were the six days we spent under the holy and hospitable roof of Albury house, within the chime of the church bell, and surrounded by the most picturesque and beautiful forms of nature, but the sweetest spot was the council-room where I met the servants of the Lord.”

These words were written some 170 years ago by Edward Irving—at the conclusion of a prophetic council studying themes of the Second Coming. The council was the first of its kind, and its conclusions reflect closely the beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Held at Albury Park, Surrey, England, 20 of the religious thought leaders of the Old World met for six days of intensive study during Advent 1826.

The council shows that the Advent Awakening took place in England just a little before it began under William Miller and others in the United States.

Each year from 1826 to 1830 the owner of Albury Park, Henry Drummond, a 19th century banker and member of parliament, convened gatherings of eminent scholars for uninterrupted study and discussion.

An illustrious group came together in 1826. Foremost among the number whom Henry Drummond invited were Hugh M’Neile, rector of Albury and chairman of the meetings; Edward Irving, brilliant and dynamic minister of London; Daniel Wilson, afterward bishop of Calcutta; and Joseph Wolff (1795-1862), Jewish Christian “missionary to the world,” a herald of the advent to many nations.

In sending out the invitations to attend, Drummond asked these careful and mature Bible students to compare their views regarding the “present crisis,” and to discuss “great prophetic questions, which do at present most instantly concern Christendom.”²

He then invited these ministers and laymen to see “how far they coincided in understanding the mind of the Spirit on these momentous subjects.”³

The prophetic conferences were pre-eminently times of Bible study and prayer.

Notes were taken throughout and were later issued by Henry Drummond and named “Dialogues on Prophecy.” Among the conclusions reached from the deliberations were:

1. That the present Christian dispensation is “not to pass insensibly into the millennial state by gradual increase of preaching of the gospel; but that it is to be terminated by judgments, ending in the destruction of this visible church and polity.”

2. That the “termination of these judgments” will be succeeded by the millennium.

3. That the second advent “precedes or takes place at the commencement of the millennium.”

4. That the 1260 years “commence in the reign of Justinian and terminate at the French Revolution.”⁴

The predictions of Daniel, Paul and John were recounted at Albury Park, and the warnings and appeals confronted. Time was also given to other subjects, such as the place of the Jewish people in the divine plan.

But the central and connecting theme was the Second Coming of Christ. Irving had recently translated from Spanish the monumental work of Lacunza, *The Coming of the Messiah in Glory and Majesty*, one of the greatest single influences in the 19th century to promote the study of prophecy.

A Jesuit priest, Manuel Lacunza, writing under the pseudonym Ben-Ezra, was one of God’s heralds moving Catholics and Protestants alike.

What Might Have Been

The visitor to Albury Park today can stand in the large library and ponder many things.

A Seventh-day Adventist visitor would

surely question what might have been if these earnest Christians had followed through on prophetic study.

The council members lacked cohesion, evidenced by the fragmentation of Irving’s ministry through excesses and imbalance.

As Seventh-day Adventist historian LeRoy Edwin Froom has recorded: “The Old World awakening never became an integrated movement. It was strongly individualistic. There was little unification of position by the leaders. While there were warnings and entreaties, there was no general break or withdrawal from the churches. . . .

“The development went so far and then stopped, and began to wane. It was like the glorious dawn that precedes the full glow of the morning sun, but it faded out before the high noon of the distinctive movement of these latter days filled the heavens of the New World.”⁵

What was not accomplished at Albury Park bore fruit in America. But the buildings remain in Surrey as a witness to what was, in its time, a worldwide interest and proclamation of prophetic study. □

1. R. Charles Walmsley, *Albury Park, A Description of the Mansion and Grounds*, 1977.

2. LeRoy Edwin Froom, *Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, Vol 3, page 451.

3. *ibid*, page 276.

4. *Years of Ferment, The Story Behind the Building of the Catholic Apostolic Church* (no author listed), pages 12, 13.

5. Froom, *ibid*, page 269.

Dean Giles is a retired pastor who writes from Melbourne, Vic.



A News Letter Of The Trans-Australian Union Conference

Update

Spirituality: Invaded Lives

The word "spiritual" appears a number of times in the scripture in different settings.

Let me draw your attention to two of them. Galatians 6:1, "My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression you who are spiritual should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted". The other text is Romans 8:6, "To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the spiritual, brings life and peace".

"You who are spiritual". While this text was primarily for the Galatians it is also ad-

ressed to us in 1996. The Spirit

wants to invade our lives - particularly our spiritual lives. This, I believe most of us would agree, is what we need. Jesus Himself declared that when the Holy Spirit comes into a person's life, it is then that the Spirit glorifies Jesus and takes His words and brings them to practical use in the believer's life (John 16:14).

The Scriptures strongly suggests that our spiritual lives are enhanced by the presence of the Holy Spirit who in turn uses us for practical Christianity. The text in Galatians is telling those who are spiritual to assist those who have made mistakes and to do it in a spirit of gentleness. What an appeal!

Today, as never before, we

need to set our minds on spiritual matters that we might receive His life and His peace.

One of the objectives of the Trans-Australian Union Conference is to assist you spiritually.

This priority was clearly expressed in the 1995 Union Session theme of "Revival and Evangelism". Our own spirituality allows revival and church growth to take place. It invites us to share God's tenderness with others, especially those who have transgressed God's laws.

So let's be "Spiritual" and "tenderhearted", and in so being the revival we want and need will be abundantly evident. Jesus said, "Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5 N.R.S.V.).



David Currie
President

**Elders Seminar
January '97
Details Next Edition**



This Issue

- Invaded Lives
- Importance of Relationships
- Health Department & Resources

Training: A Nurturing Experience

So far in my life time I have spent approximately 1700 hours participating in a Sabbath school class. When I reflect on that experience there are a variety of pictures that come to mind. Sitting out in a cold church foyer, being disturbed by latecomers; looking at an amazing variety of backs of heads - from shiny balding to dandruff dropping.

Some pictures feature people - some preachers, others question askers. Most teachers were committed regulars who did it year after year. I also recall the mass of

non-participants who would sit through a class period and never utter a word.

Then there were those that you couldn't, excuse the language, "Shut ...". But my most significant memories are of those classes that usually I have chosen to attend that provided me with a stimulating and spiritually nurturing experience. These are classes where Scripture was not only understood theologically but practically. I went away better equipped to live the Christian life.

The Sabbath school experience, particularly the class time, is a most important part of the church's life. For many members it is the only time when they have interaction in a spiritually meaningful way with other Christians.

It is important for Sabbath school teachers and leaders to ask themselves on a regular basis what is the purpose of the Sabbath school program?

Ellen White makes this

perceptive comment about the importance of meeting together:

"What is the object of assembling together? We meet together to edify one another by a mutual interchange of thoughts and feelings, thus making one another acquainted with our aspirations, our hopes, and gathering strength and light and courage from one another..."

Review and Herald, 30 May 1871

Many of our classes are a long way from fulfilling this goal. The following objectives are worth considering.

- Increase ownership of classes by reducing class sizes: A class of 8-10 people is conducive for involving all members in the discussion.

- Encourage discussion that

is practical for participants: The study needs to apply the great truths and principles of Scripture to the lives of people.

- Provide appropriate seating for classes: A circle encourages people to share. When people share themselves in discussion they are investing themselves in that group. The result is a greater commitment to the class, to the church and to God.

- Train teachers in the skill of encouraging discussion: We gather strength for living the Christian life when we share our lives with others. This doesn't occur if the lesson is a mini-sermon.

- Plan other activities outside of class time: Relationships between class members can be enhanced by being involved in other activities.

Rob Steed
Church Mission & Development



Health Enter or Loss

For more than a century Seventh-day Adventists have been leaders in health, education and medical care. We promoted a vegetarian diet when it was ridiculed by many nutritionists. We helped make the Five Day Plan a world leader in smoking cessation. Our temperance voice was heard across the world. Churches used these health resources to reach their communities.

How times have changed:

- While vegetarianism is growing in the community, particularly amongst youth, it is diminishing in the church.
- Eliminating smoking is an international strategy.
- Alcohol use is tragically increasing among Adventists.
- Physical fitness is decreasing among Adventists.
- More churches are becoming silent on health issues.
- Even some church leaders expressed concern about a health emphasis as being unproductive.

Is Health still a relevant outreach?

Robert De Castella, renowned for his marathon running, recently retired to form Action Potential, a business devoted to health.

Health: The Wedge on the Edge?

He says, "I've learned that there are four main areas in life which are the most crucial to focus on. You've got to go after health and fitness, realise your intellectual potential, make sure you get on with other people, and see if you can leave the world a better place than how you found it."

Packaging a total lifestyle message is creating mega dollars for entrepreneurs. So is there a place for the church to fit into this new dynamic within the market place?

Is Health part of our Mission?

Our best model is the life and ministry of Jesus. He brought a balanced lifestyle to people through health and healing. He opened a window of hope and opportunity. He fused the mental, physical, social, emotional and spiritual qualities into a complete message for humanity. We must rediscover these skills and practice them until they became effective as an entering wedge.

Do we have the resources?

A new Quit Now program has been developed by our homeland Union health directors. We have the best program, now we must become recognised as

offering the best care and service.

Our vegetarian cooking classes are supported by an abundance of resources from Sanitarium's Nutrition Education Service. We have trainers in every Conference ready and willing to provide greater skills to church members on how to reach the public through a knowledge of food.

Every member should have a supply of the following Health Week resources.

- Living Smart with Less Stress - our 1996 Health Week feature.
- Eating Smart - all about choosing the best diet for a quality life.
- Who needs Drugs? - excellent for teenagers, youth and schools.
- Rediscover Life - How to get balance into our lifestyle.
- Just One Cigarette - information about the damage nicotine causes.

● Living life to the full - demonstrates the benefits of the Adventist lifestyle.

We have the resources, the members, the facilities and, with limited finance and dedication, we must remain a force in health. However time is running out. We are being surrounded by organisations who are seeing the potential for a quality of life.

Contact your pastor, church health secretary, Conference department, or Union Health Director for further information or help.

The longer we remain silent the less impact our health message will make on people around us. The end result will demonstrate that what was once an Entering Wedge has now become the Losing Edge in a world searching for answers and meaning in life.

Raymond Baird
Health Director

Taking time to look after yourself is the first step towards a better way of living.

At Warburton you can experience a wide range of indoor/outdoor leisure and exercise activities including aerobics, aqua aerobics, tennis, golf, swimming, cycling, and nature walks.

Programs include: Looking Good, Feeling Great; Weight Management; Women's Health; Stress Management; Stop Smoking; Stress Management/Golf.

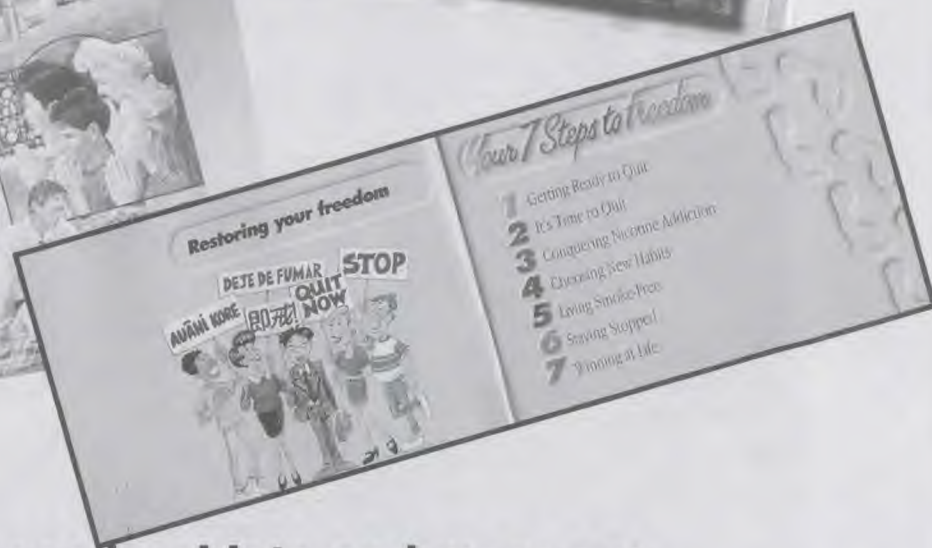
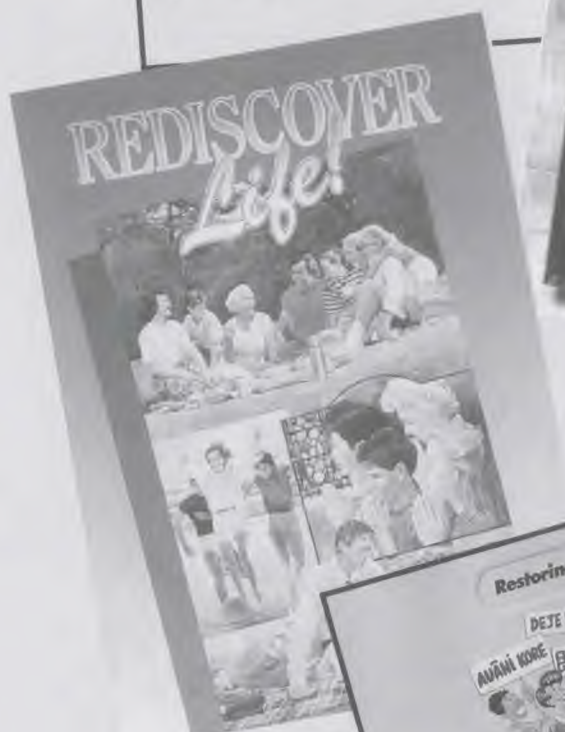
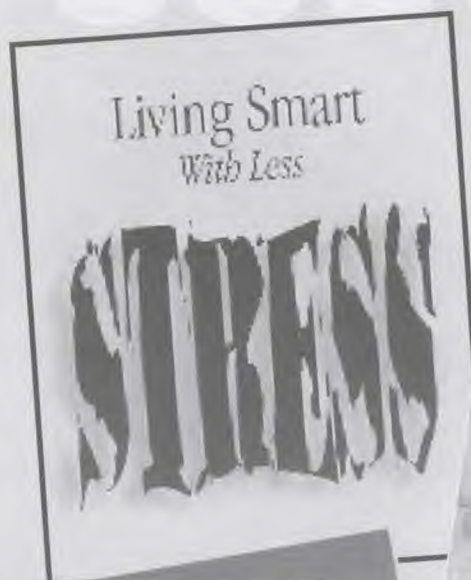
Also Pamper Packages, Nutritional Analysis Packages and Fitness Analysis Packages are available.

(059) 66 4444

**WARBURTON
HEALTH CARE CENTRE**

Trans-Australian Christian Conference

Health Department resources



**These booklets and more are
available at your local conference office.**

Challenges for the Adventist Church

The Adventist Church is facing two contrasting challenges: low growth rates in Australia and New Zealand, and



Photo: PJ & LJ Forrest

At the May meetings the division secretary, Pastor Laurie Evans, outlined some of the challenges facing the church.

the continuing large growth rate in the largest of the union missions. This was the message of the secretary of the South Pacific Division (SPD), Pastor Laurie Evans, during the midyear executive meetings (May 14-16).

Pastor Evans was presenting the division secretary's annual report.

Baptisms

For the year ended December 31, 1995, baptisms were the lowest for the past four years. In the case of the Trans-Tasman Union Conference theirs was the lowest in more than 14 years.

Pastor Evans commented that 1995 proved to be a "typical" General

Conference Session year with what appears to be a slowing down of outreach activities. "This is not peculiar to this division, but is also true on a world-church basis," he said.

Some 13,518 new members came into the church last year, with the major influx occurring in the Eastern Highlands (2278) and Western Highlands Missions (2108) of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM), and in the Fiji Mission (1046) in the Central Pacific Union Mission (CPUM). Some 89 per cent of baptisms were in the Pacific islands, 1 per cent more than for the last quinquennium.

Pastor Evans pointed to the increase in accessions for each quinquennial period from 1975 to 1989 (Table 1). He said that although there had been a

Table 1

Comparison of accessions for previous quinquennial periods:

(year)	(accessions)
1975-79	42,175
1980-84	48,335
1985-89	80,266
1990-94	77,455

slowing down in the last period, at current rates membership would grow from 286,199 to around 335,000 by the year 2000. An effort to make church rolls "more realistic" would significantly affect the projection, however.

Growth rates in the islands (Table 2) approximate world averages. But the decline in Australia and New Zealand represents "one of the greatest challenges facing the church."

Table 2
Comparative Accession Rates

	'86	'88	'90	'92	'94	'95
Union Missions	8.4	12.6	7.9	7.9	6.7	5.5
Union Conferences	3.2	3.6	3.5	3.5	2.8	2.6
SPD	6.9	10.2	6.8	6.9	5.9	4.9
World Church	10.3	9.3	9.4	8.8	7.9	-

The accession rate gives the number of people who become church members in a year, for each 100 members already in the church at the beginning of the stated year. (Accessions consist of additions by baptism and profession of faith.)

Points Made

The secretary of the South Pacific Division, Pastor Laurie Evans, also made the following points in his presentation to the division executive:

- Developing local missions to where they are self-reliant must be given priority. The church in Australia and New Zealand will be unable to contribute the necessary financial resources and personnel to sustain the growth in the islands.

- For church growth to occur, the church will need to continue trying to understand better the secular society that makes up such a large segment of the population. The church will need to develop strategies to evangelistically target this group.

- The average number of members per ministerial worker has increased from 287 to 309. The PNGUM (510) is highest, followed by WPUM (358) and Australia and New Zealand (163). Each ministerial worker is caring for 1.67 churches across the division, with the average being 1.35 in Australia and New Zealand and 1.88 in the Pacific islands.

The ratio of new members per "ministerial" worker has also declined in the past two years. The SPD average of 19 (down from 23 in 1994) is better than that in the North American Division (10), but well below the 50 and more throughout the world. Averages for Australia and New Zealand are about four per minister, while in the islands they reach up to 27 (PNGUM), with an average of 21 new members per ministerial worker for the three union missions.

Losses: Apostasies and Missing Members

In speaking of membership losses, Pastor Evans said the trends were disturbing. He said that, division-wide, one member is lost for every three baptised—increasing to one in two in Australia and New Zealand.

His report included figures that showed a net loss in membership of the CPUM. This apparent decline is an aberration created by a comprehensive updating of membership details that saw many inactive church members' names removed from the records in the Samoa, Tonga and Niue Missions.

Surveys in the islands and Australia and New Zealand have revealed that the official church membership is much higher than the active membership (see

Adventist Schools

Education continues to play an important role in the mission of the church. Currently the church caters for 18,808 primary students in 231 schools; 6440 secondary students in 38 schools; and 1214 tertiary students in four institutions.

Overall school enrolments were down by 88 students, with the primary sector hardest hit. Secondary schools remained static, while the tertiary sector, which consists of four institutions, was declining for the second year in a row.

"Church Census Shows the Reality," *Record*, March 9).

"The counsel contained in 1 Corinthians 13 must surely challenge every thinking church member and church congregation," Pastor Evans told the division executive members, "par-

Radio First for PNG

When "The Voice of Hope" went to air on Papua New Guinea's (PNG) national radio on May 16, it became the Adventist Church's first extended-time program to do so on a regular weekly basis.

The program's host is Benson ToPatiliu, director for the Voice of Prophecy for the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM). He works for PNG's National Broadcasting Commission (NBC). He produces the programs in his own time with the help of a team of Adventists who also work in the NBC.

The first of the hour-long programs featured telephone interviews with General Conference president Pastor Robert Folkenberg, and the president of PNGUM, Pastor Wilson Stephen.

The magazine-style program will promote Adventist lifestyle and beliefs.

The PNGUM paid the NBC K7800 (\$A7600) to broadcast the 52 weekly programs on the national Kalang-FM service, which is heard in the major provincial centres. The Voice of Hope team hope to also broadcast on the Karai Service, which covers most areas of PNG.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church was the first in PNG to broadcast a religious television program, Faith for Today's "Westbrook Hospital" series, when transmissions commenced in 1989.—Ray Coombe

ticularly those churches afflicted with division and dissension."

On a more optimistic note, he commented: "It took the South Pacific Division 88 years to reach the first membership total of 100,000 [1972]. It took only 15 years to add the next 100,000 [1987], and if growth continues at the current rate it will only take 10 years to reach a membership of 300,000. Hopefully this will be achieved by the end of 1997."

Statistics Mask Realities

He added that statistical trends cannot "gauge spirituality or measure the

asset value of the greatest resource the church has, which is people."

Figures and graphs "do not tell of the battles fought, victories gained or pain and joy experienced by fellow travellers on the road to the kingdom. Behind every statistical figure, whether it represents an accession or a loss to the church, there is an untold story or experience that has been faithfully noted in the record books of heaven. . . .

"Notwithstanding some sad aspects, we can look back over 1995 and say with the psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us, whereof we are glad" (Psalm 126:3, NKJV).

	1.1.95 MEMBERSHIP	ACCESSIONS	TRANSFERS	DEATHS	APOSTASIES	NET GAIN	31.12.95 MEMBERSHIP	GROWTH RATE %
C.P.U.M.	26,713	2,145	(139)	62	2,554	(610)	26,103	(2.3)
P.N.G.U.M.	157,696	8,638	326	201	1,140	7,623	165,319	4.8
W.P.U.M.	34,836	1,218	176	48	275	1,071	35,907	3.1
TOTALS	219,245	12,001	363	311	3,969	8,084	227,329	3.7
T.A.U.C.	20,432	446	83	197	299	33	20,465	.2
T.T.U.C.	38,123	1,071	4	320	473	282	38,405	.7
TOTALS	58,555	1,517	87	517	772	315	58,870	.5
DIVISION TOTAL	277,800	13,518	450	828	4,741	8,399	286,199	3.0

The figures show net percentage increases in union membership varied during the past 12 months from a net loss of 2.3 per cent (CPUM) to a high of 4.8 per cent. It highlights the disproportionate growth in union missions as compared with Australia and New Zealand.

Ethiopian Refugees Wed in NZ

A recent wedding of an Ethiopian refugee couple in the Brentwood Avenue church, Auckland, New Zealand, brought together a mix of religions and may be, says Phil Groom, an elder at the church, the first marriage of an Ethiopian couple in the country.

Hussein Mohamed and his wife, Hagere (Abegwe), first met in New Zealand. They had lived about 1000 kilometres apart in Ethiopia.

Mr Mohamed was a member of a refugee family brought to New Zealand by the government. When he arrived, the Brentwood Avenue and nearby Avondale churches were asked to assist the families. His family, which includes a number of Seventh-day Adventists, received much of their education from Seventh-day Adventist missionaries active in Ethiopia.

Before coming to New Zealand, Mr Mohamed's brothers and sisters had fled to a neighbouring country as refugees. They were escaping the civil war in

Ethiopia where, says Mr Groom, juveniles are conscripted into active military service. Their parents remain in Ethiopia, and Hagere has no known relatives in New Zealand.

Although not Adventists—Hussein is a Muslim and Hagere a Coptic Christian—they have since attended Brentwood Avenue church and are studying the church's beliefs.

The couple were married in a traditional Western wedding by Pastor Harry Tressler, a retired minister and former secretary-treasurer of the Central Pacific Union Mission. Although the bride wore



Photo: A Groom

Ethiopians Hagere Abegwe and Hussein Mohamed were married in the Brentwood Avenue Adventist church. Pictured are (from left): groomsman, Adam (an uncle); bridesmaid, Gerah (a friend); pageboy, Abanasai; Abraham (uncle and family head); Hagere and Hussein; groomsman Demisse (a friend); flowergirl, Abebe; and bridesmaid, Mekidies.

a traditional Western-style wedding dress, Pastor Tressler says many of the Ethiopian women who attended came in colourful Ethiopian costumes.

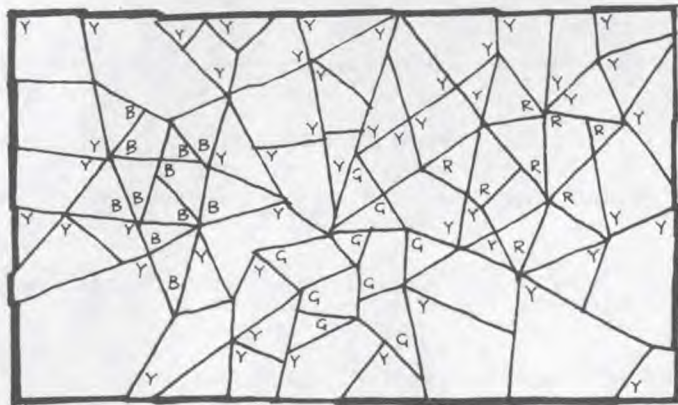
The Brentwood Avenue church provided a wedding breakfast for the couple.

CHILDREN

What Is It?

See if you can work out what it was that God told Abraham to number to discover how many descendants he would have.

Colour the spaces marked "R" red, "B" blue, "G" green and "Y" yellow.



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Position Vacant

Director of Nursing

Avondale Retirement Village is seeking an experienced person to fill the position of Director of Nursing.

The successful applicant will be a Registered Nurse holding current NSW registration, with proven experience in Aged Care at a managerial level.

- Fosters a cohesive team approach to resident-centred care.
- Practises effective communication skills within a consultative environment.
- Demonstrates flexibility within the changing parameters affecting the delivery of Aged Care.

Interested persons should contact The Secretary, Avondale Retirement Village, for an application form, selection criteria, and job description.

Phone (049) 77 1071. Fax (049) 77 1882.

Applications, together with CV and the names and telephone numbers of three (3) referees, should reach The Manager, Mr Leon Olsen, no later than July 12.

Address: PO Box 105
Cooranbong NSW 2265

Appreciation

King-Adams. Noel and Marelene King-Adams wish to sincerely thank all their church family in Australia, New Zealand and England who have supported them in prayer, by telephone calls, faxes, letters and cards during the past months of Marelene's unexpected stroke and brain surgery. Praise God the operation was a success and she is recovering well.

Anniversaries

Waring, Jack and Ida recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Albany with over 60 family and friends. They were married on 4.5.46 at Point Chevalier Anglican church, Auckland, New Zealand. After becoming an Adventist, Jack decided to give up his own business and work for the church as a literature evangelist, which he did for about eight years. After meeting people through his work in this field, Jack joined Sanitarium Health Food Company, where he worked for 23 years before retiring to Queensland. Jack and Ida moved to Albany, WA, and have now been active members of the Albany SDA church for almost three years. Their six children, Lindsey, Gail, Richard, Glenys, Phillip and John, came from all over Australia to surprise their parents, along with Jack's sister, Joyce, from New Zealand. Gail Searle

Weddings

Perry—Hills. Andrew Robert Perry, son of Graeme and Glenys Perry (Cooranbong, NSW), and Neroli Ruth Hills, daughter of (Pastor) Desmond and Ruth Hills (Melbourne, Vic), were married on 5.5.96 at St Johns Uniting Church, Wairoa, NSW. John T Banks

De Paoli—Rogers. Lawrence John De Paoli, son of Adelia Paoli (Sydney, NSW) and the late Carlo de Paoli, and Carolyn Joy Rogers, daughter of Gordon and Neil Rogers (Launceston, Tas), were married on 4.5.96 at "The Briers," Bowral, NSW. A M van Rensburg

Gordon—Formenti. Gavan John Gordon, son of John and Bette Gordon (Darwin, NT), and Rochelle Formenti, daughter of Brian and Elaine Formenti (Adelaide, SA), were married on 5.5.96 at Prospect SDA church, Adelaide. Lynn Burton

Obituaries

Craig, Sandra Lynette, born 10.6.49 at Blenheim, New Zealand; died 22.4.96 at Nelson. A telephonist at the Nelson Hospital, Lyn was diagnosed with cancer 18 months ago and given only a few weeks to live. Through her determination, faith and the support of friends, she had an extension to her life, much to the amazement of hospital staff. She is survived by her son, Jason (Nelson). Aaron Jeffries, Colin Dunn

Ellis, Lillian Mercy, born 30.3.11 in Wellington, New Zealand; died 30.4.96 in Christchurch, where she had lived since her teenage years. She married Peter John Ellis in 1935 and was later baptised in an evangelistic campaign conducted by Pastor George Burnside. Lil was a faithful member of the Aranui church. She is survived by her husband; son and daughter-in-law, Neil and Christine; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Graeme Loftus, Ray Moody

Evans, William (Bill) Robert, born 21.3.20; died 28.4.96 in the Sydney Adventist Hospital, Wairoa, NSW. He has been a resident of Alton Villas, Cooranbong, and a valued member of Avondale Memorial church. Bill is remembered for his work at Sanitarium Health Food Company, Lewisham, Sydney Adventist Hospital and the Manly Flats. He is survived by his wife, Nora; children, Robyn, Phillip and Graham; and their families. S R Goldstone, A J Flemming, P V Fowler, L A Gilmore

Gillham, Mervyn Algernon, born 17.4.07 at Gravesend, Kent, England; died 30.4.96 at Fremantle Hospital, Perth, WA. In 1939 he was baptised in Kalgoorlie by Pastor H G Bryant, and married Jean Willett on 5.10.50 at the Victoria Park SDA church. Merv loved to sing the old hymns and in his younger days was a choirboy in the Anglican church. He is

survived by his wife (Bullcreek); daughter, Colleen Helsby (Duke); and son, Ken (London, England). Pat Marshall, Harry Bone

Harrison, Alice May (Ally), born 18.1.10 at Mount Magnet, WA; died 9.5.96 at Rowethorpe Retirement Village, Bentley. Married Roy Harrison on 18.8.31. He predeceased her in 1968. Ally was baptised with her daughter in 1961 in Perth, following studies with Pastor Bob Possingham. A faithful, active church member, she was always caring for the needs of others. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Neville and Roslyn (Mandurah); and daughter and son-in-law, Glenys and Lindsay Laing (Kelmiscott). Cyrus S Adams

Hewitt, Mary Elizabeth (Molly), born 6.8.13 at Hunterville, New Zealand; died 1.5.96 in Palmerston North Hospital as the result of an accident. Married Frank Hewitt in 1937. He predeceased her in 1985. They were founding members of the Feilding church. For many years the Hewitt family were the only ones keeping the church going. Today there is a congregation of about 100 attending each week. Molly is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Margaret and Harry De Vries (Waikani); and three grandchildren. Kevn Amos

McFarlane, Peter Niven, born 11.11.09 at Aberdeen, NSW; died 16.4.96 at Harbourside Nursing Home, Shoal Bay. He graduated from the business course at Avondale College in the class of 1929. Later he did accountancy by correspondence. He was predeceased by his wife; and is survived by seven nieces and nephews. A N Riggins, Milton McFarlane

Orchard, Mary Jane May, born 2.2.06 in Adelaide, SA; died 29.4.96 at the Nursing Home, Adventist Retirement Village, Kings Langley, NSW. She had been a resident at the village for the past 21 years. May married William (Bill) Orchard in 1929. He predeceased her in 1960. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Jim McDonnell; and three grandchildren (all of Sydney). Bert Grosser

O'Shea, Sarah Rebecca, born 1919 in Northern Ireland; died 25.9.96 at the Adventist Retirement Village, Rossmoyne, Perth, WA. In 1937 she married John Hodgson, who predeceased her in 1975. She married Basil O'Shea in 1981. He predeceased her in 1994. She is survived by her son, Patrick (Perth), and two sons and a daughter in England. M C Bland

Pemister, Alma Lucy, born 1.1.14 at Dorrigo, NSW; died 28.4.96 at Whitehall Hospital, Lindfield, NSW. After graduating from Sydney Adventist Hospital in 1940, she served in pathology and theatre. From 1953 until her retirement in 1977 she was assistant and then matron at the Warburton Hospital, Vic. She retired to Kressville, Cooranbong, NSW, and moved to Elizabeth Lodge in 1991. She is survived by her sisters, Jean Speck (Moorabbin, Vic) and Doris Krahe (Eastwood, NSW); and brother, Dick (Goulburn). L C Coombe, E Stockton

Reynolds (formerly Williams), Violet Olga Edith, born 8.11.12 at Summerhill, NSW; died 13.1.96 at Lismore Base Hospital. She was baptised by Pastor W M R Scragg in 1934 in Sydney. On 29.6.36 Edith and Ronald Williams were married at Paramatta by Pastor Reuben Hare. Predeceased by baby son,

Avondale College Lecturer in Midwifery

Avondale College School of Nursing, Wairoa Campus, is seeking a Lecturer in Midwifery, to commence first semester 1997.

The college is seeking a practising Seventh-day Adventist for its academic and clinical program of the Midwifery major in the Graduate Diploma in Nursing course. The appointee will be a certified midwife with a higher degree in midwifery or related discipline and wide clinical experience in midwifery.

Further information and a full job description may be obtained from the School of Nursing.

Phone (02) 487 9630

Avondale College is an equal opportunity employer and reserves the right to appoint by invitation.

Applications, including curriculum vitae and the names of two referees, should reach the Principal, Avondale College, PO Box 19, Cooranbong NSW, by July 1.

Phone (049) 80 2101 Fax (049) 80 2118

Volunteers Needed

1. Two Pilots—Western Pacific Airline, Honiara.

Qualifications—Australian commercial pilot's licence and Command instrument rating with a minimum of 1000 hours total experience, of which 250 hours must be in command of twin engine aircraft, along with 200 hours instrument time. Position is for one year. Commencing early 1997. Accommodation and allowance of \$BD1500 per month provided. Endorsements provided and guarantee of 900 hours.

2. Teachers—Bangkok, Thailand.

Two teachers are required in the Bangkok Adventist Elementary School to teach Kindergarten to Two. This is an international school under the direction of Karen Maberly. Service is for one or two years, commencing August 1996.

3. Teachers—Nepal Adventist School.

This newly opened school in Benapa needs four teachers to cope with the increased enrolment. (Our current volunteers, Lynette Brown and Jodi Esau, are doing too good a job.) Positions are for 12 months, commencing January 30, 1997.

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Experienced remedial teacher urgently required for a six-month period commencing as soon as possible till December 13, 1996. Accommodation and stipend of \$US150 per month provided.

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Avondale College Alumni Homecoming August 30, 31, 1996

Honour years include 1936 and before, 1946, '56, '66, '71, '76 and '86.

Graduates and ALL past staff and students are welcome.

Events include: Friday golf, Vespers (be watching for memories from your *Jacaranda*), Sabbath services, Fellowship meals at the cafeteria, Reunion groups, Concert. Vespers Speaker: Arthur Patrick, Class of 1956
Sabbath Speaker: Bryan Craig, Class of 1966

Four weekend meals can be pre-ordered.

The main reunion lunch will be held at the Cafeteria.

For all program and meal bookings information,

call Marian de Berg on (049) 80 2139.

ALSO: PLAN NOW FOR NEXT YEAR

Avondale College CENTENARY Alumni Homecoming

August 29-31, 1997.

Ronald, in 1951 and husband, Ron, in 1984. On 10.8.92 she married Noel Reynolds at Ocean Shores. She is survived by her husband (Murwillumbah); sons, Peter Williams (Brisbane, Qld) and John Williams (Corryong, Vic); daughter, Jenny Whitesed (Kyogle, NSW); seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. Edith is remembered as a godly, loving and wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

W Federow, S Green

Simpson, John Leonard, born 19.10.38 at Chatswood, NSW; died 23.4.96 at the Wyong Hospital and was buried in the Avondale Cemetery, Cooranbong. He was baptised in the old North Sydney church and spent many years there. He is survived by his wife, Faye (nee Haysom); daughter, Jacqueline Simpson; son and daughter-in-law, Alan and Linda; and daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Tony Rogers; and two grandchildren; as well as many relatives and friends. Tom T Turner

Wilkinson, Doris Jean, born 6.8.31 at Mount Gambier, SA; died 22.4.96 at Mount Gambier. Married 1949 in Mount Gambier. Doris survived by her husband, John (Mount Gambier); sons, Terry (Moonta), Chris and Garry (both of Mount Gambier); and daughter, Donna Reilly (Millicent). Angus McPhee

Advertisements

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North West Camp, WA, will be held in Broome, July 10-14. Any inquiries may be directed to Graham and Sharon Chapman, PO Box 2930, Broome WA 6725. Phone (091) 92 3037.

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