

Zaoksky: Russia's role model

RECORD

M a r c h 4

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In this issue



*279 baptised
in PNG*

*Signs takes off
in NZ airports*

*Adventist World
Radio goes
multimedia*



Listen, it's God again!

BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

According to Greek mythology, two monsters lurked in a narrow sea passage between the toe of Italy and the island of Sicily. Here two rocks faced each other. Under the taller lived the six-headed Scylla who stretched out her snake-like necks to devour sailors on passing ships that drifted by her cave. Beneath the other hid Charybdis who sucked in water, creating a great whirlpool where ships that ventured too near were drawn to their doom.

This myth has come to illustrate the perils of any extreme confronting our activity and the need to steer a balanced middle course.

Dangerous extremes flank many a good practise beyond the skill of sailing. Prayer is one of these. Some of the dangers to prayer lie in the realm of belief, others belong to method and habit.

For instance, there is the belief that prayer does everything. Like the starter motor that fires an engine, it takes prayer to move God—to galvanise the heavenly machinery into action. That, without prayer, God is immobilised and any divine intervention, the drawing of a person to God by the Holy Spirit or conversion, are dependent on someone's prayers.

By contrast, there is the belief that prayer does nothing. That it makes no difference to God, to His plans or His working. In this belief prayer is only useful as a discipline to change us, to bring us into fellowship with God and to help us grow spiritually.

There is also the fallacy that it is our earnestness, sincerity, genuineness or need that wins the day with God. This implies a check list and suggests that if we qualify in most or all of the areas listed, He hears us.

Some say it is how we pray that counts. Setting aside an hour for uninterrupted communion with God gets the best results. Others say it is the manner in which we pray and give certain formulae in approaching God like: begin with praise, follow with confession, continue with petition and close with thanksgiving.

Prayers need to be very specific some argue—if we don't ask for specifics we won't get specific answers. This theory can even claim that we must use the exact words so that God will recognise them, and say them in the right order for Him to accept our prayer and act on it.

Added to this are notions of a right posture, a right place and a more conducive time to pray that makes the outcome more favourable. Much of this thinking supposes a prayer ritual that makes prayer more acceptable to God.

The problem with such notions is that they can build barriers. While intended for help, they can actually hinder our sense of freedom to come to God with no plan or preparation at all and know that He will hear.

There is reassurance in Scripture that God is always fully accessible to us through prayer no matter what form it takes. No matter how formal, spontaneous, thought-through or impromptu our prayer might be, God is available. Notice: "Whoever comes to me I will never drive away" (John 6:37, NIV). "Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you . . ." (Psalms 55:22, NIV). "'Come now, let us reason together,' says the Lord" (Isaiah 1:18, NIV).

We don't even have to get the words right. This doesn't seem to be important to God for "we do not

know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express" (Romans 8:26, NIV).

When we come to God in prayer, our attitude matters most. Faith in Him and in His power to save, belief in His wisdom and trust in His providence is all we need. Focus on God removes the burdens of guilt, fear, anxiety and worry from the praying person. Trusting Him to do what is best at a time that is right frees us from the burden of worldly care and places upon our shoulders the light and easy yoke of Christ.

While it is true that prayer changes us and not God, there's more to our relationship with God than change. Through prayer we are given several gifts: peace, renewal, strength and power. These benefits are for the praying person and can be received in no other way.

Evidence of God's answers to prayer is seen on every hand: the conversion of another through our influence or witness; the softening of a heart hardened against us or others; the restraining of a wilful child under our care; the provision of food, money or goods when most needed; the healing of a broken heart.

"I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth" (Psalms 121:1, NIV).

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GOOD VERDICT FOR GAOLED MINISTER

Pastor Anthony Alexander (pictured), the Global Mission pioneer imprisoned by the Sri Lankan government, received a favourable verdict on the most critical phase of his trial, the case of the "forced" confession.

The hearing lasted two minutes, reports Delbert Pearman, treasurer for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Sri Lanka.

The judge stated, "The prosecution's request to submit the confession document into evidence is denied."

Mr Pearman says case two—possessing ammuni-

tion for Tamil Tiger guerrillas—will be held on February 18.

"The prosecution's main evidence hung on the confession," says Mr Delbert. "We now expect case two to crumble."

Unfortunately, it is becoming more complex:

1. Pastor Alexander's friendship with a suspected terrorist—a 14-year-old Tamil, Mundel, whom Pastor Alexander kept in his home before enrolling him at Lakpahana Adventist College without asking for any birth certificate, personal reference, police

check or school leaving certificate—will form part of the case.

After hearing the judge's verdict, the prosecution asked for a new date to determine if the college was aware, before enrolling the boy, whether he was a suspected terrorist.

The prosecution claims it has two witnesses to present. One, an administrator at the college, appeared as a police witness in case one, but was not cross-examined.

This hearing will be held on February 28.



2. The police have re-filed case two in the magistrates court. This is a lower court than the one where Pastor Alexander's trial is currently being heard.

3. Police are scrutinising Seventh-day Adventist Tamils in the east and north of the country because they, like the Tamil Tigers, do not wear jewellery.

Mr Pearman was called, February 13, to Kandy Police Station to intercede on behalf of a 19-year-old who, after being imprisoned for 34 hours, was released.

SDAs honoured for service

Seventh-day Adventists have been honoured by both the Australian and Fijian governments for service to the community.

● Paul and Michelle Crawford, Kelly Hoare, Norman Trood and Ken Wright of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency were honoured for reducing poverty and sustaining development in developing countries.

● Don Bradshaw, founder of Warburton (Vic) Hospital's alcohol and chemical dependency unit, was given an Order of Australia Medal for his work with drug addicts and alcoholics.

More baptised in Mexico

The dramatic growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mexico contin-

ued when 4000 were baptised in the state of Veracruz, February 12-13. The largest baptism was held at a lake near the city of Catemaco, where more than 20,000 attended the celebrations.—ANN

Catholics: SDAs not a sect

"The Seventh-day Adventist Church cannot be treated either as a 'new religious movement' or a sect," declares a joint statement from the Roman Catholic and Seventh-day Adventist Churches in Poland. Recognising each other's autonomy and independence, the document was issued following 15 years of dialogue aimed at better understanding the teachings and practice of both churches.—ANN

Edge tackles tough teen questions

The Edge—the magazine for Seventh-day Adventist young adults—is back for 2000.

"And first up, we're answering tough questions from our readers," says Signs Publishing Company editorial assistant Brenton Stacey.

The questions range from, "Why do we so readily criticise other churches when there are problems in our own church?" to "What help is there for those who have been sexually abused or harassed?"

"We've given some pretty straight answers," says Mr Stacey.

Also in the first issue: an interview with Triple J "Unearthed" winners Rhubarb; an article about the opening of Fox Studios Australia and our obsession with celebrities; and a secondary student's Fiji fly'n'build diary.

Pick up your copy of *The Edge* with *Record*.



Church restructure? adventist.org.au/restructure

ZAKOSKY: RUSSIA'S ROLE MODEL

Trevor Lloyd, a literacy and English language consultant from Sydney, was invited to Zaoksky Theological Seminary in Russia last year to help re-design the curriculum for English as a foreign language. "It was a moving time," says Dr Lloyd. "Let me try to convey something of it to you."

The staff

The seminary staff—who work for the equivalent of between \$A110 and \$A140 per month—are a mix of old and young.

For example, academic affairs vice-president Pastor Eugene Zaitsev was aware years ago the regulations of the Soviet Union would not permit him to be employed as a Seventh-day Adventist minister. So he trained as a medical doctor and did ministerial work as he was able.

By contrast, three of the Foreign Language Department staff are young people who have been baptised over the past five years.

The students

Almost 500 undergraduates are studying for degrees in agriculture, financial management, general education, music and theology at Zaoksky. Forty post-graduates are studying for their Andrews University (Berrien Springs, Michigan, USA) affiliated Master of Arts in religion.

Some 120 students graduated last May. The 70 from the theology faculty were all offered jobs in the Euro-Asia Division (EAD).

A group of students want to try out their English on me. "How much family do you have?" "Do you have a daughter?" (a male student whose comment prompts a good deal of merriment from the remainder of the class) and, "I'm interesting, would you like to study



Top: Some 1800 volunteers began building the seminary in 1988. The project, the first of its kind in the Euro-Asia Division, took 20 months. Local churches decorated each of its rooms.

Brisbane-based Seventh-day Adventist Peter Koolik supervised the building of the cafeteria, chapel, dormitories, library and 22 staff homes beginning in 1992.

Right: First-year students of the English as a foreign language course, and their teacher.



Russia language?"

However, the questions I remember most are about personal spirituality. "When did you feel Christ wants you to follow Him?" "Could you tell us some of your interesting experiences with God?" and "How does your church live? What does it do for your city?"

I am impressed by one of my student's writing exercises. "You could be an interpreter," I say looking over her shoulder. She looks into my eyes and replies, "It is my duhream."

The needs

Many students cannot afford the \$A1500 tuition and \$A1000 board fees. Some are supported by church members in Australia and New Zealand, some by churches and conferences in the EAD.

I ask the theology students where they hope to work. One replies, "Moldova," another "Irkutsk," still

another, "East Siberia."

But what will they say about God when they get there?

"What is God like?" I ask a student in the cafeteria one evening. He thinks for barely five seconds and says with quiet assurance in very understandable English, "God is like Jesus . . . and Jesus is love."

"Is God angry at anything?" I ask. "Sin," he replies, soberly.

Let that be heard in St Petersburg, Siberia and the Gulag Archipelago and those places will never be the same again.

Without this seminary, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Russia has no hope of evangelising this vast land. With it, under God's blessing and the support of God's people worldwide, it can gather young adults from Moldova in the west to Siberia in the east and equip them for the greatest of all tasks.

279 BAPTISED IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Governor donates \$A200,000 to South West Papuan Mission.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Papua New Guinea continues to grow rapidly with the baptism of 279 during the South West Papuan Mission camp-meeting at Kikori, February 1-5.

Fourteen ministers, including South Pacific Division secretary Pastor Barry Oliver, helped with the baptism.

Some 3500 people attended the camp-meeting, the mission's first in five years.

Gulf Province governor Riddler Kimave, who is also a Seventh-day Adventist, brought more good news

at the close of the camp-meeting. He announced he would donate \$A100,000 for the construction of a church at Kikori and \$A100,000 for the construction of smaller churches in the three districts within his constituency (Baimuru, Ihu and Kikori).

He then offered free fuel to those who travelled by boat to the camp-meeting to help with their return home.

South West Papuan Mission is growing, reports Papua New Guinea

Union Mission Adventist Health director Colin Richardson. Membership is approaching 10,000, despite the region's economic and infrastructure problems and the closure of all the Seventh-day Adventist schools. Pioneers from Adventist Frontier Missions and local church members are entering new territories along the upper reaches of the Purari River, and more than a week's hiking inland from Kerema.



Fourteen ministers baptised 279 people during the South West Papuan Mission camp-meeting at Kikori, the first in five years.

mission watch



Global Mission pioneers in Haryana are spearheading the fastest Seventh-day Adventist Church growth ever seen in the northern Indian province. They are living among the people, eating with them, helping them and sharing God's love.

In 1990 there were 11 church members in Haryana (population 17 million). Today more than 5000 worship every Sabbath.

The healing touch

Layqat Masih and his wife, Venus, are pioneering in the city of Ambala. Mr Masih began work by visiting houses, distributing health literature and making friends with

people. Many in his congregation testify they have been healed through prayer.

The new group of believers has grown rapidly, and Maranatha Volunteers International has built a new church and school for them.

Veggie tales

People in the Hindu holy city of Kurukshetra are shocked and delighted to discover vegetarian Christians. It is forbidden to sell meat, let alone kill

animals, in Kurukshetra.

In the village of Thanesar, Global Mission pioneers Madhan Masih and his wife, Sheila, have been visiting homes and making friends. Already they have formed a group of new believers who now worship every Sabbath.

"We will capture this village for Christ through vegetarianism," says Mr Masih. "This one truth is what has given us entrance into all the homes and hearts of the people."



These people are all about to be baptised into the Ambala (India) church because of the work of Global Mission pioneers Layqat and Venus Masih.

Global Mission on the web? global-mission.org

SIGNS TAKES OFF IN NZ AIRPORTS

Signs of the Times may soon be available at all airports in New Zealand.

Four thousand copies of the magazine are currently being taken from eight airports each month. Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin and Wellington have lite boxes with magazines attached. Blenheim, Dunedin, Gisborne, Invercargill and Palmerston North have free-standing racks.

The lite box in Auckland is one of only two in the new international terminal and can be seen by passengers walking to any of the six lounges.

The lite box in Wellington is, according to Signs volunteer marketing representative Pastor Des Hills, in the most prominent position available.

Pastor Hills is currently negotiating with authorities in Auckland

and Hamilton to secure more lite boxes.

"Auckland is offering a second



The Signs lite box at Auckland International Airport is one of only two in the terminal.

lite box not because there's a shortage of advertisers, but because our lite boxes are regarded as being attractive and popular with passen-

gers," he says.

And also, it seems, staff. According to Pastor Hills, employees at the airport read each issue and "find it very interesting." A security officer at Wellington Airport told Pastor Hills one of his workmates takes copies from the lite box and places them in their office.

And that is creating a problem—there are not enough magazines to keep filling the boxes and racks.

More than 700 subscriptions were donated at the South and North New Zealand Conference camp-meetings, but Pastor Hills says he needs another 1500.

An advantage for a Seventh-day Adventist business renting a lite box for Signs is that the business can be named as sponsor and advertised. That means it can be claimed as a tax deduction.

Photo: B Stacey

Doc examines Revelation

A new book examining the Ways Revelation has been interpreted over the past 300 years includes a section on Seventh-day Adventists.

Apocalypse and Millennium (Cambridge University Press), by Dr Kenneth Newport, scholar at Liverpool (England) Hope University, examines Baptist, Anglican, Methodist and Catholic uses of Revelation from 1600 to 1800, and Millerism and Seventh-day Adventist uses from 1800.

Dr Newport argues far from being a random sequence of bizarre statements, millennial schemes (including the setting of dates for the Second Coming) are more often characterised by complex and internally consistent interpretations of scripture.—*BUC News*

children

Read Joshua 2:15 and 16 to find out why these spies are camping out, then colour in the picture



Illustration: P Taylor

New millennium Adventist

It's official, Kate Christine Harmon is the first baby born to Adventist parents in the new millennium (except for those waiting until next year—see Letters). She was born at the National Women's Hospital in Auckland, New Zealand, at 12.23 am on January 1.

She is also the fourth baby born on earth in the new millennium. She's pictured with parents, Richard and Jacinda, members of Papatoetoe church.



Now for the Y2K church

Some 120 Adventists in the Bine area of Papua New Guinea are planning to build a Y2K SDA Memorial Church in Giri village (near Lae). Benjes Alusi, an elder among the group, became the first Adventist in Giri village in 1976. He recently ran an evangelistic program and has another 30 prepar-

ing for baptism. The group is currently fund-raising for the Y2K church.

Pick a peck of little peppers

Pieces from *Little Peppers* and *Pepperbox Jazz 1* are now included in the 2000 Australian Music Examination Board piano syllabus for Preliminary, Grade 1 and Grade 4 exams. The books were developed by Elissa Milne (pictured), a former co-president of the Adventist



Students Association, in 1997. She published *More Little Peppers* and *Pepperbox Jazz 2* during 1999, with *Even More Little Peppers* and *Three Scenes from Vaudeville* due mid year.

Adventist Review number up

For the first time since 1986, the weekly circulation of *Adventist Review* is over 50,000. At December 20 circulation stood at 50,311. Besides the weekly edition, the monthly *North American* edition has a circulation of 302,000.—AR

Newswatch

Pope plans to apologise for mistakes of past 1000 years

Pope John Paul II intends to make a public apology for the failures and mistakes of the Catholic Church and its members over the past 1000 years, on the first Sunday of Lent (March 12). As part of his plan for the Jubilee of the year 2000, he hopes that it will bring greater transparency in the mission of the church, and bring healing and reconciliation with groups offended by the church in the past.

Although the Second Vatican Council made some apologies, the church has never attempted it on such a systematic scale. The pope sees the Jubilee as an opportunity to complete what the Second Vatican Council was able to do.

In his writings on the Jubilee, he calls for: a fresh appreciation of the Jewishness of Jesus; a "purification of memory" of the church for errors of the past 1000 years; a renewed commitment to ecumenism and Christian unity; closer relations with the world's great religions, particularly Judaism, Buddhism, Islam and Hinduism; a search to re-found a common morality consistent with religious and political freedom; and focusing on the quest for human rights, peace and justice, with care for the environment, as central to the evangelising task of the church.

Many church reformers persecuted or executed by the church, including Jan Hus, are to be rehabilitated. Savonarola, executed in 1498, is expected to be canonised.

"The pope wants to deal with the historical baggage the Catholic Church carries by honestly acknowledging past failures so that the witness of Catholics can be more transparent," reports Dr Bruce Duncan, a Redemptionist priest who lectures in history and social ethics at Yarra Theological Union, Vic.—*Zadok Perspectives*

"Dear God, be good to me;/ The sea is so wide;/ And my boat is so small.—Breton fisherman's prayer

Downlink today

Downlink first in SPD

"Celebration 2000," a program of worship and praise from the Greater Sydney Conference today (March 4), will be the first live worship service available from the South Pacific Division.

Featured speaker is Pastor Dwight Nelson



(pictured), presenter of NET '98. During the afternoon

another program will launch "Jesus 2000" with information about the evangelistic series.

Graduates succeed in finding church employment

Of the nine who found employment within three weeks of graduating from the office administration course at Avondale College in 1999, eight are employed within the Adventist church system.

Debra Topperwien (pictured) is one of them and is a newly appointed secretary at the Greater Sydney Conference.



LISTEN, IT'S GOD AGAIN!

by Jeris E Bragan

There's a scene in George Bernard Shaw's play *Saint Joan* in which Joan is interrogated by French officers. "Where do you get your instructions?" they demand. "I hear voices," Joan replies.

"How do you mean, 'voices'?"

"I hear voices telling me what to do," she explains. "They come from God."

"Oh, your voices, your voices!" King Charles peevishly interrupts, as he joins the interrogation. "Why don't the voices come to me? I am the King, not you."

"They do come to you, Sir, but you do not hear them," Joan of Arc says quietly.

Does that Voice still speak to us today?

The question may be an interesting abstraction to explore when life is serene and peaceful, but when our neat, orderly world crumbles before the chilling blast of real suffering, the question is profoundly personal and important. Then our souls ache to hear the word from God which Isaiah promised:

"How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer. . . / Whether you turn to the right or the left, / Your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, / 'This is the way; walk in it'" (Isaiah 30:19, 21, NIV).

God's apparent silence is the most painful thing for Christians to deal with as they struggle to make sense out of concrete suffering in their own lives.

But the Bible suggests four specific circumstances in which we may expect to hear God speaking to us. If we don't hear Him speaking to us today, the problem is in the receiver, not the transmitter.

1. God speaks to us in church and communal worship

For the most part, we choose our

messages when we choose our setting. Sports fans go to the MCG to see a football or cricket game, not to hear a Beethoven sonata. If you want to hear God's voice speaking to you, church is a good place to be.

Zechariah was in church when an angel told him about the impending birth of John the Baptist.

Jesus attended church regularly. "And on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom" (Luke 4:16, NIV). Even worshipping in small numbers brings a dramatic blessing. "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them," Jesus said.

Sometimes it's easy to hear God speaking to us in church. We come to worship and things click. There's a sense of wonder: "Surely, the Lord is in this place. This is none other than the house of God." And like Zechariah, we are moved and we do hear.

But it's not always easy. Some habit of the heart has brought us to worship, but we come angry with somebody. Or we're frustrated because painful circumstances have us in a maze and we can't find a way out. It's hard to hear God's voice above the roar of our own anger, fear, resentment, jealousy or malice.

Admittedly, as Billy Graham says, kittens aren't biscuits just because they may happen to be born in a stove. And going to church, by itself, doesn't guarantee that we'll hear God's voice. But in opening our heart, mind and soul during worship, Bible study, preaching and prayer, we will hear God's voice calling us into personal discipleship.

2. God speaks to us in our daily work

With few exceptions the Bible reveals that God first spoke to people when they were engaged at ordinary tasks: Moses was tending sheep; Saul was searching for lost donkeys; Matthew was collecting taxes;



Peter was fishing; Paul was traveling to Damascus.

Unless God has broken the pattern completely, this means that it will be while we are earnestly occupied at our business that God is likely to speak to us.

I have a friend who says God speaks to her almost every day. Before going to work, she prays, asking God to use her to bring some cheer into the lives of the people she meets. She's a waitress. You might not notice her in a crowd, but she's one of God's saints because she sees her routine work as an opportunity to be a living witness to God's love.

"When I see hurting people, I know it's God again, calling me to answer," she says.

A child, used to seeing images of the saints in beautiful, stained glass, said, "Saints are the people the light shines through."

That's what people of faith are, and these are the people to whom God speaks.

God rarely speaks to idle people. If we want to hear God's voice, we need to get busy but stay tuned!

3. God speaks through ordinary things

Perhaps because we're so saturated with the stunts and special effects of the world of entertainment, we'd like

God to speak to us in a more dramatic voice. But the biblical pattern suggests something much more ordinary.

When God speaks to people, it's usually through quite ordinary objects which took on special meaning: Moses saw a burning bush, Amos saw a plumbline, John the Baptist saw a dove, and Paul saw a bright light.

God whispers to us through ordinary things—the bread and wine of communion, the cross, in art, music and literature. In the noisy tumult of life we need to tune-out the chaos and listen, if we want to hear "the still, small voice" of God speaking to us.

4. God speaks through our relationships

It is in our relationships with one another that God speaks to us most directly.

There was once a poor cobbler whom God promised to visit in person. On the day He was to arrive, in preparation for the event, the cobbler fixed the best food, laid out fine clothes for himself, and even made an exquisite pair of shoes for the Lord.

While waiting for the Lord, however, a starving man arrived at his door, asking for food. Later a widow with three children asked for more food and clothing. As the day drew to a close, another beggar without shoes caught the cobbler's attention. Unable to bear the beggar's pain, the cobbler gave him the rest of his food and the shoes he'd made for the Lord.

Later that night the disappointed cobbler knelt by his bed, "You promised to visit me today," he prayed. "Why didn't you come?"

"Oh, but I did," God answered. "I was a hungry man in need of food; a destitute mother and her children in need of clothing; a barefoot man in need of shoes!"

This story reflects the sentiments of Jesus' parable of the sheep and the goats. And both suggest that such a circumstance might be the closest we will come on this earth to seeing God's face or hearing His

voice. It's when we look into the face of the person in need, hear their cry for help and then respond to their need.

God is burning bushes and dangling plumbines all round us if we open our eyes.

The important element in the story of Moses is what he did when he saw the bush: "I will turn aside and see this great sight," he said. How many times have you seen a "great sight" but ignored it?

The real miracle is not in the bush or plumbline, but in the willingness of people to see God's revelation in ordinary things. "Earth is crammed with Heaven and every bush aflame with God, but only those who see take off their shoes," wrote the poet Elizabeth Browning.

It is through the back doors of life that God most frequently enters our lives. We need an alertness, an openness to receive Him.

Is it a person on whom all of life has fallen in, who is suffering through and through? It's God again, coming to us for comfort.

Is it a person whose anger and bitterness has soured life? It's God again, coming to us in need.

Is it a person whose life is closed in by prejudice, who cannot see God in His varied people? Even here, it's God again, and we hold the key to this imprisonment.

If you long to hear God speaking to you, listen for His voice as you worship in church. Listen as you go about your work. Listen in the ordinary events of each day. And listen for His voice speaking in the people who make up your life and cross your path.

Don't be impatient. Wait for the Lord. Open your heart and your ears to Him. If you pray as Samuel did: "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening," then He's sure to answer you. **R**

Jeris E Bragan is a prolific writer, who writes from Tennessee, USA. He is the author of several books including Beyond Prison Walls, the story of his imprisonment for a crime he says he did not commit. (His books are available from Adventist Book Centres.)



AWR GOES multimedia

Shortwave radio will continue to be the primary medium for reaching most Asian peoples, especially in the countries in the "10-40 window"* where 95 per cent of the people are not Christians. But Adventist World Radio (AWR) president, Don Jacobsen, sees a broader range of media necessary to reach more people with the Gospel. "That's the reason AWR has gone multimedia," he says.

AWR has been busy expanding its outreach mechanisms to include local AM and FM radio, satellite and the internet. There is also a successful cassette ministry, with listeners recording the programs on cassettes for further distribution.

Europe

Bert Smit, AWR's Europe region director, says, AWR programs have been distributed on digital stereo satellite in English and German for two years. From early 2000, satellite distribution will move to a full 24-

hour service in many European languages. Local Adventist-owned stations around the continent will then downlink the AWR signal for re-broadcast on local stations.

AWR is sponsoring broadcasts on national networks in the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia, said Smit. He says hundreds of AM, FM and shortwave stations on a cable network carry the Adventist message.

Africa

A new shortwave station is planned for Italy, which will benefit AWR broadcasts into North Africa. According to Samuel Misiani, AWR's Africa region director, more governments in African states are permitting local religious stations to come on air.

"The Adventist Church is working to take advantage of those opportunities, but for now shortwave remains the prime way to reach the continent," he says. Shortwave is still

the "medium of choice" for North Africa and the Middle East, and continues to be effective.

AWR leases air time from a large shortwave station in Meyerton, South Africa, to reach people in east, central and west Africa. Madagascar and the islands in the Indian Ocean are covered from a leased station at Talata-Volonondry in Madagascar. Other leased stations in Slovakia and Germany blanket North Africa for AWR.

The Americas

Listeners in the Americas are being reached through a system of satellite distribution to more than 40 Adventist ground stations.

"It's the best way to reach the listeners these days," says AWR Americas Region director Greg Scott. He expects that within two years AWR will have more than 50 Adventist stations down-linking AWR programming in Spanish. Cuba and Mexico continue to rely on shortwave transmission. AWR Spanish programming can also be heard via the internet.

AWR programs are presently broadcast in some 50 languages. **R**



AWR IN ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

Between January 25 and Easter, Adventist World Radio (AWR) will feature in a St. Paul's Cathedral, London, exhibit commemorating the life and mission of Paul. Called "A Living Legacy," it illustrates the conversion, travels and teaching of Paul.

The AWR features in a section called Broadcasting Christ to the World, and is highlighted through a broadcast coverage map, a statement of mission and contact address. A free literature rack provides broadcasters brochures to the public.

According to Canon Saward of the cathedral, nearly two-and-a-half million visitors come to St. Paul's every year.

As the AWR section is located in the Crypt, a well-visited, well-lighted area of the Cathedral open free all day and into the evening, a high rate of attendance is expected.

"The exhibit is warm and friendly in its presentation, and evangelistic in nature. In several places, people are invited to accept Christ as their Saviour" says Ray Allen, associate director of AWR's English Language Service.

Other cathedrals in England have expressed interest in mounting the exhibit after it closes at St. Paul's.

**AWR Offering
next week**

* The 10-40 window refers to that area in the world which is found between the 10th and 40th latitudes. The majority of the world's population reside in these countries, which include China, India, the Middle East and North Africa.

BREAKTHROUGH PLAN

Adventist World Radio (AWR) is determined to reduce the number of "unentered territories" where the gospel hasn't yet been heard, to zero, according to AWR president, Don Jacobsen.

"We take it seriously when Jesus tells us to 'go into all the world.' By the end of 2000, we'll be on the air in 60 languages. We're developing



strategic plans to broadcast the Adventist message to places where the Seventh-day Adventist Church does not now exist."

The Global Mission department of the church has identified about two dozen "unentered territories."

"It's a list as varied and diverse as you could imagine," says Jacobsen. "We're mapping out a plan for reaching each of these territories, and we want to be in there—in the major languages of the people, within two years."

But AWR can already be heard in most of the listed countries.

People in seven of the unentered countries hear programs in Arabic, mainly through shortwave broadcasts from Slovakia. These countries are Libya, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Western Sahara and Yemen, with a combined population of nearly 60 million.

AWR's Africa Region director,

Samuel Misiani, says Arabic broadcasts are planned for the Comoros Islands, off Africa's east coast.

For the past two years AWR has reached into Somalia. Misiani reports responses from many listeners, even though it is difficult to be a Christian.

Other unentered countries reached by AWR (in several languages), include Andorra, the Channel Islands, Gibraltar, Monaco and San Marino in Europe. A local FM station operated by the Adventist Church in Rome covers the Vatican area.

The two largest remaining unentered areas are Afghanistan and Bhutan. According to Bert Smit, AWR Europe region director, programming is about to begin in the Dari language, to be beamed into Afghanistan (population 23 million). As many of the nearly two million Bhutanese understand Nepalese, AWR hope to get responses from

Bhutan, when Nepalese broadcasts begin, sometime in 2000.

The most difficult places to plan for are the tiny, remote areas of the world. Most of these are island groups, where radio is an effective and economic means of communication. Island groups targeted by AWR include Tokelau and Wallis-Futuna in the South Pacific, the Svalbard-Jan Moyaen Islands near the North Pole, the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic, and the Maldives in the Indian Ocean.

"We feel a sense of urgency," says Jacobsen, "because AWR is the voice of the Advent movement, commissioned to go to every corner of the globe, so that everyone has the opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ in their own language.

"Pray that God will provide the resources to break through to millions of people who don't yet know of His love." **R**

TESTIMONY TRILOGY

Radio broadcasting, when combined with personal visits and Bible study, is a powerful, life-changing medium. Here are three people who would have no or little knowledge of the gospel without the work of AWR.

● Dencho first heard the good news from friends. Then one day he prayed, asking God if there was a radio station he could listen to and understand the Bible. The answer was immediate: Listen to your radio at 7 pm, today, a voice seemed to say. And he did. It was in February 1999 that Dencho heard the Voice of Hope broadcast. On May 22, 1999, Dencho was baptised.

● Brother Ho is a new believer in China. The nearest Seventh-day Adventist church is 100 kilometres from his home. On one occasion he attended the church and members told him of the Voice of Hope broadcasts on AWR. He promptly bought a radio and began listening. "Since then my life has taken on more order. I spend more time listening to your sermons and less time watching TV; more time in reading and less time in chatter!" he says. "My wife is happy about this change! Your programs have made us a Christian family. We are thankful for this caring God who has brought us such peace and joy."

● A long-time listener to AWR, Youssif rejoiced when he found that there was an Adventist church in one of the cities of the Middle Eastern country where he lives. He says the Voice of Hope programs filled him with love for the Lord and increased his faith. "I would like to inform you that your efforts bore fruit in front of all those who saw me bury my old life in the pool of baptism and start my new life in Jesus."

INSPIRATION ARCHWAY

by Rachel Gray

When was the last time that you felt inspired? I mean, really inspired.

Inspired to do something great. Inspired to do something adventurous. Inspired to do something good.

Has it been a while? If so, don't worry; you're in good company!

I spent a week in the Solomon Islands in April of last year, and its effect on me was profound . . . for a brief interval.

I saw beautiful people, happy children, glorious sunsets and an amazing love for God, and I was inspired. Inspired to never let my life be the same again; inspired to never let myself get in the

same rut of inconsequential day-to-day living; inspired to make my life count for something.

Then reality kicked in.

I stepped onto the plane and left, eventually landing in Sydney. For a time I was changed. What I'd seen had touched me inside, and had made me want to really start living, not just existing. I determined never to forget my impressions; or forget what I'd learned; and never forget the values I wanted to embrace.

But, it seems, life doesn't consist of one profound experience that paves

a smooth way forever. But for awhile it was smooth sailing. I hadn't forgotten what I'd learned; I was living up to my new-found ideals.

But slowly the roughness of the road—the ordinary day-to-day living—clouded my dreams. I was soon back in a rut. To be sure, my view over the edge was a little different, but I was in the rut nevertheless. It was then that I began to feel discouragement.

I criticised myself for letting such a beautiful experience slip away so easily. I hadn't forgotten (indeed, my time in the Islands is a memory I will love forever), but I hadn't accomplished what I wanted. I berated myself for not making the changes in my life that I wanted to make.

I wondered if I would ever have the opportunity to try again.

Then I realised that it wasn't up to me to make the changes. Sure, it was my task to pave the way, to allow things to happen, but there was no way that it was humanly possible for me to make the changes I wanted in myself. I realised it was a task for Somebody bigger than I.

When I read a beautiful poem, when I watch a sunset, when somebody calls to say they've been blessed by something I've said or done, when I hear a good sermon,

or listen to a stirring song, I am inspired all over again. This time, however, I'm not letting those feelings of inspiration slip away the moment I walk from the room, drive away or close the book.

I'm learning to keep them in my heart among my other treasures—my cherished memories—and let God bring them out when I most need them.

Have you been inspired and let the moment slip away? If so, reach deep into your heart and search for your memories—the times you've been drawn close to heaven—and let God work a miracle of inspiration in your life. **R**

Rachel Gray writes from Normanhurst, NSW.

ONLY YOU

by Dave

Only you . . .
Can bring the happiness
That adds a touch of Spring
To any season, Jesus,
and to any little thing.

Only you . . .
Can bring the sunshine
To our hearts when skies are grey
And bring that special feeling
To the most un-special day.

And that's the reason, Jesus,
Why my dreams have all come true,
Because my heart has been its
happiest
Loving only you.

Dave wrote this poem soon after he was released from prison where he'd spent the past 27 years. It was while in custody that he met his Saviour.



The year 2000 is not the beginning of the new millennium. . . . It is disturbing to see the RECORD perpetuating the millennium fraud.

Congratulations to PNG

ETUATI ERIKA, NNZ

Congratulations to the Papua New Guinea Union Mission for their courage in taking the initiative to call Agnes Bayak to active ministerial service (Newsfront, January 22). The move is made more significant considering ethnic representation has often been accused of voting against ordaining women. I hope PNG will continue to give full credentials for women ministers.

Bring back those cities

NEIL LAWSON, NSW

I've just noted the Editorial defence in the February 5 RECORD in response to "South Australia off Map." A commendable defence except that the same map, with the same omission, appears in the same issue of the RECORD. It should also be noted that Canberra, the nation's capital, has been omitted from the map. Are the editors able to shift blame "elsewhere because none of (them) help in preparing" the RECORD? Perhaps the real problem is the Adelaide water.

It wasn't the same map, but because several, rather than one, capitals were not on it, we did not add them. Australia does include those cities, marked or not. Pity Lord Howe Island, though, it hasn't appeared anywhere. Watch for the launch of the Lord Howe Island Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Sunset, Sabbath and Y2K

NICOLE, AGED 17, WA

"Adventists welcome new millennium" (February 5) declared many times that Adventists celebrated the coming new year at the stroke of midnight. Am I confused about how the Sabbath was instituted from sundown to sundown?

And, would the Light of this World

be impressed with a showy, expensive concert on His wonderful Sabbath, which has been made especially made for us to celebrate Him? We should not mix the world with Christianity.

DEREK JONES, WA

I was disheartened to read this report with its emphasis on praise and worship and, unstated, yawns. We had a wonderful praise and worship service on our front lawn with about 45 people as the sun was about to set ushering in another Sabbath and the beginning of January 1, 2000. It ended at 9.30, retiring by 10, giving us clear, discerning minds—and no yawns—for the Sabbath fellowship and worship after a good night's sleep.

LUKA TITIMANU, WA

Experts in organisation say organisation has structure, strategy and culture. Change one and the others are affected. Now that our church structure is changing, our culture of welcoming new year has changed from sunset of December 31 to midnight.

COLIN RICHARDSON, PNG

Anyone who can count knows that the year 2000 is not the beginning of the new millennium or the new century. The year 2000 is the final end of the second millennium and the 20th century.

I found it instructive how humanity as a whole willingly embraced this fraudulent event. It suggests the enthusiasm with which we believe humanity will embrace a false Sabbath. It is disturbing to see the RECORD perpetuating the millennium fraud.

- Five points: 1. Sabbath was recognised and opened at these events. 2. Praise and worship all night has a biblical precedence (see Acts 20). 3. Parents of teens were particularly grateful for an Adventist program that went to midnight. 4. The new millennium doesn't begin until next year, but why spoil an excuse for praise and worship? (And, remember, the first millennium didn't actually begin on time, at Jesus birth, either.) 5. The RECORD is ready to report any Adventist celebrations at the end of 2000.*

Just a coincidence



Writers please note: Views in Letters do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Letters should be less than 250 words, and writers must include their name, address and phone number. All letters are edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author's original meaning will not be changed. Not all letters received are published. See masthead (page 2) for contact details.

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Maths/Science teacher	Betikama, Solomon Islands	6–12 mths
English teacher	Betikama, Solomon Islands	3 mths
Computer/database person	ADRA, Papua New Guinea	10 mths ASAP
Director of literacy program	ADRA, Papua New Guinea	12 mths ASAP
English language teachers	Russia	12 mths from April
Concreter/blocklayers	Paglum SDA School, PNG Solomon Islands. Need hand tools, planes, hammers, saws, squares etc.	

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

Position vacant

▲ **Manager, Adventist Retirement Services—North New South Wales Conference** is seeking a Manager for their Adventist Retirement Services. The successful applicant will need good people skills, a demonstrable record of business achievement, commitment to ongoing quality improvement; previous aged care experience is also desirable but not essential. **Applications in writing** should be forwarded to The Secretary, North NSW Conference, PO Box 7, Wallsend NSW 2287 no later than March 31, 2000.

▲ **Apprentice Cook—Warburton Health Resort and Hospital (Vic)** is seeking an Apprentice Cook for its busy vegetarian restaurant and hospital. Some evening and weekend work is required. The successful applicant must be self-motivated, willing to work hard and show a keen interest in vegetarian cuisine. **Applications in writing** should be forwarded to Food Services Manager, Warburton Health Resort, PO Box 300, Warburton Vic 3799; phone (03) 5954 7482 no later than March 17, 2000.

Transfers

● **Mark Goldsmith**, from private employment to chaplain and church pastor, Karalundi Aboriginal Education Centre, Western Australia. ● **Zenaida Goldsmith**, from Catering Department, Avondale College, to Catering Department, Karalundi Aboriginal Education Centre, Western Australia.

Weddings

Connelly—Thomas. Brenden Connelly, son of Desmond and Elizabeth Connelly (Brisbane, Qld), and Tiina Thomas, daughter of Heinz and Mirja Thomas (Woombye), were married on 23.1.00 in St Mary's Church, Montville.
Lloyd Grolimund, Ross Parker

Guljas—Kaufus. Istvan (Steven) Guljas, son of Stevan and Elizabeth Guljas (Yugoslavia), and Painite (Neta) Kaufus, daughter of Koloke and Lea Kaufus (Tonga), were married on 8.1.00 in the Robinvale Adventist church.
Ross Chadwick, Derek McCutcheon

Otto—Furlanetto. Stephen Andrew Otto and Deanna Furlanetto were married on 30.1.00 in the Ayr Adventist church, Qld.
Graeme Scott, Matthew Sweeney

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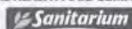
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