

Church restructure and departments

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Restoring an Avondale landmark

In this issue

Businesswoman's Spirit-led recovery

God's loud silence

Reaching a Siberian outpost

Bank hold-up

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF FAITH 1

If we're marching together to Zion, how come it's so difficult to remain in step with each other?

Raise a topic. Raise any of several topics and you'll discover heat. Try music, worship or the role of women in the church, for instance. Or, if your preference is for something more theological, what about Bible versions, wine in the Bible or basic church standards. You could probably add your own topics.

It is difficult to build a community of faith when the people within it are divided. How can we as church members be "community" yet march to the beat of our own drum? Or, worse, when there is open hostility within.

As a denomination, we're not alone with this problem: that doesn't bring comfort, but it helps us to understand what's happening.

Australian historian Michael Hogan makes this observation: "The conflict between church people is often as bitter as it has ever been, but such conflict is rarely *between* denominations (as in the old hostilities between Protestant and Catholic). It is much more likely to be within any of the major churches as they debate the political role of the clergy, attitudes to unemployment, or the ordination of women" (*The Sectarian Strand*).

The shift he sees within the major denominations has occurred within our own—although the areas of debate may be different. Sure, there are some who want to pursue what he calls "the old hostilities," but mostly we've become absorbed in those issues "within."

This is hardly a firm basis for

building community. In the good ol' days (which never were *that* good, but the passage of time apparently adds virtue) you knew what an Adventist was—and what he or she stood for. Some suggest you could even recognise them by the way they dressed. Whereas once you could pigeonhole or label them with a fair degree of accuracy, it seems, it's no longer possible.

Melbourne sociologist Gary Bouma says that "no denomination of any size is likely to speak with a clear single voice. There will be many different positions taken by those who associate themselves with a particular religious group because they are different, have different social locations, pursue different lifestyles and espouse different ethical stances" (*Many Religions, All Australian*).

No amount of wishing, hoping or praying will make such "differences" go away. We are now too large, too cosmopolitan. Another complication is that we Antipodeans have always had a problem with playing follow the leader; we tend to be suspicious of authority. Also, we live in an age insistent upon individual freedom.

Yet Jesus is clear on His desire for us to be one—just as He and the Father were one. Our greatest challenge may not be to conquer the world for Christ, but to conquer ourselves for Him—to be the kind of community He would have us be. Jesus, in John 13:34, 35, sets us the challenge: "Love one another . . ."

But even in writing those words I sense only weakness, because the word "love" is so abused. It has been turned into something senti-

mental and without power. Yet Jesus said it is love that will make His disciples stand out from the crowd, that will make them noticed. There's nothing sentimental about love at work within a church with different-nesses.

The kind of love Jesus has in mind will make us like no other community on the planet. And that witness will be reinforced by outreach that is driven by self-sacrificing, other-centred love.

So how do we build a community of faith? Think about "community." How do we define the term? That's difficult.

A US judge, attending a community building workshop said, "I don't know how to define ["community"], but I . . . know what it is when I see it." Or, often, we recognise it in the negative—by its absence—when community is not happening.

The Latin root word for community is defined as "that which is surrounded by walls." That would be a good start. Just as a wall separates, what is it that separates us from others?

We must begin with the gospel in Jesus Christ. This is basic. Jesus must not only be the walls, but also the foundation, ceiling and roof of our community. We are "in Him." Understanding this is the first step in creating our community of faith.

Bruce Mannors

Next week: Setting boundaries to strengthen an Adventist community of faith.



Next week

Scientists discover a Designer.

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NNZ CHURCHES MERGE; SCHOOL RELOCATED

The Avondale and Henderson (NNZ) churches have merged. Both held their last worship services on March 25.

"We've lost a few members," says new Henderson Central minister Pastor Paul Gredig, who describes the mood as "a little apprehensive" because of Avondale and Henderson's different worship styles.

However, "the church is

moving forward. The members are excited about the potential for growth."

The Avondale church, some flats owned by the church, and the West Auckland Seventh-day Adventist Primary School have all been sold. Proceeds from the sale were used to buy a two-year-old Moslem school in Henderson.

The relocated Seventh-day Adventist school—an administration area, two

classrooms and a library situated on six hectares—opened with 21 students at the start of term two.

"We also lost a couple of 'members,'" says principal's relief Fay Barriball, "but we're planning on growing to a two-teacher school next year."

The best thing about the move? "The space to grow and the opportunity to witness in the area."

Pastor Gredig agrees. He and the Henderson Central

elders are committed "to helping each church member continue to grow." And, he adds, "we're moving forward in faith."

A big test of that faith is the Jesus 2000 satellite evangelistic series.

The church inserted 50,000 brochures in the Waitakere City newspaper and wrote to everyone who had asked to see *The Search* video series over the past few years.—North Newz/Brenton Stacey

Macquarie Fields grows

Enrolments at Macquarie Fields (NSW) Adventist Primary School have grown 29 per cent in one term. The school now enrolls a record 99 students. "We're



sitting on the largest block of any of our Sydney schools—we've got plenty of options for growth," says principal Jenny Gibbons (pictured). The Greater Sydney Conference commissioned an old house on the block for use as a library. Parents of students helped renovate it. Mrs Gibbons: "The staff, parents and conference working together have brought positive benefits to the school."—David G Gibbons

Conference's (GC) operating costs after the GC Executive Committee accepted a recommendation to revise financial arrangements. The "landmark decision," says GC treasurer Robert Rawson, will be phased in over five years and see each of the 12 divisions contributing 2 per cent of their tithe. The North American Division (NAD) will contribute an additional 6 per cent. Previously, the NAD contributed 10.72 per cent; other divisions 1 per cent.—ANN

250 children's leaders meet

Some 250 children's ministries leaders from the Western Pacific Union Mission (WPUM) have attended a training workshop at Betikama Adventist High School. Teachers from Australia worked alongside those from the WPUM. Seventeen-year-old Cyril Rachmann, a new Seventh-day Adventist and the youngest delegate, received special permission from his school to take a week off to attend.—Glenda Roberts

Signs flies in Kiribati

Fact: *Signs of the Times* ministers where others cannot.

In Kiribati, for example, local councils can ban the entry of churches to their island, but *Signs* arrives regularly on board Air Kiribati.

"It's great seeing *Signs* in airports in Australia and New Zealand, but it's the in-flight magazine here in Kiribati!" says mission president Pastor Colin Dunn.

And that's partly because three of Air Kiribati's pilots were trained at Avondale College. The manager was educated at Fulton College (Tailevu, Fiji).

Pastor Dunn thanks those who donate to this ministry. "The pages you give go where preachers' feet can't."

Pictured is Seventh-day Adventist minister Pastor Kabung stocking an Air Kiribati plane with *Signs*.



SPD to pay more for GC

The South Pacific Division will be paying more of the General

HMS Richards Jr. dies

Pastor HMS Richards Jr. (pictured), former speaker of the Voice of Prophecy international radio broad-



cast, died of heart failure at the Glendale (California) Adventist Medical Center on April 11. He was 70.

BUSINESSWOMAN'S SPIRIT-LED RECOVERY

Cancer leads Catherine to Christ.

When successful businesswoman Catherine Riley-Bryan lay in hospital with cancer in 1993, she was at the lowest point in her life. Her marriage was over and her former husband had custody of their children.

Now she was alone and having an epidural.

That was when she promised God she would work anywhere for Him if she recovered.

And recover she did.

Catherine moved to Australia from New Zealand. In 1996 she was Tasmania's businesswoman of the year. But was there something more God wanted her to do?

In 1998, Catherine and her second husband volunteered as missionaries in Thailand.

As director of the Seventh-day Adventist English Language Schools there, she faced enormous challenges. However, through the difficulties, Catherine continued to have faith in God.

She found her previous business experience was useful in her new work.

When Ramkhamhaeng Adventist

International School opened last year, Catherine joined as a teacher and administrator. She says she loves working with the children and teaching them about Jesus.

Despite an ongoing battle with cancer and the difficulties of the mission field,

Catherine has a strong hope in the God who has been leading her.

Catherine came to Christ in 1989 after meeting a Seventh-day Adventist family while in cancer therapy. But she believes He was with her all along.

Born to a wealthy New Zealand family, she was raised with considerable educational advantages—attending a Swiss finishing school.

A high point in her young life was representing New Zealand in athletics at the Inter-Pacific Games.

As a farmer's wife in rural New Zealand, she was given a government position helping drought-

stricken farmers work through bankruptcy. She was also involved in earthquake recovery.

Catherine went on to create a successful career for herself in business. But she does not regret leaving all that behind for missionary



Catherine Riley-Bryan (right) does not regret leaving a successful business career to work as a Seventh-day Adventist missionary in Thailand. She is pictured with Brenton Parkin, a former student missionary to Thailand.

work in Thailand.

Whatever the future holds, she believes in a strong and supportive God.—Michelle Roberts

This school grew from 25 to 260 students in half-a-year!

Children from rich Buddhist families in Bangkok, Thailand, have filled a new Seventh-day Adventist school to capacity in half-a-year.

Teachers show the students how to pray to Jesus. When some children start to pray at home, their parents learn about Christianity.

"It's so wonderful to hear these little children lisp their first prayers," says teacher and administrator Catherine Riley-Bryan.

Ramkhamhaeng Adventist International School (RAIS) opened in August 1999. Enrolment has

grown from 25 students to 260. All with little advertising.

"God has blessed it all along," says Ms Riley Bryan.

It all began with the vision of Indo-Thai Seventh-day Adventist, Mr Udom, in December 1998. He decided God was leading him to establish a school.

After investigations, the RAIS was set up in what had been his speaker factory. The school has expanded to the point where it needs more classrooms. A second building is under construction.

The school offers an international

standard of education. It is registering with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges for full accreditation from the United States of America.

It has a library of more than 3000 books—all donated. Many are religious—parents of students are borrowing and reading them.

RAIS continues to grow and attract not only students, but teachers as well—including Australians. Ms Riley-Brown says the teachers are dedicated and take a personal interest in each student.—Michelle Roberts

REACHING A SIBERIAN OUTPOST

"[The Global Mission pioneers] knew if they did not sell, they would not eat."

Krasnokamensk is a half-built city of 70,000 in eastern Siberia, with radiation levels up to eight times higher than normal. Now it is under a gospel attack through Global Mission.

Until a Global Mission initiative began in September last year, there was only one Seventh-day Adventist in the city.

Krasnokamensk is located near the borders of China and Mongolia. Some years ago geologists discovered uranium (suitable for nuclear purposes) and coal. The Communist plan was to replace the small remote city with an ultramodern one.

The mining and building began, but since the fall of Communism only the mining continues. The city is yet to be completed—currently there are no street names, only building numbers.

In September, 1999, Ivan Golai (from the Ukraine) and Eugene Anisimov (from Siberia) entered the city as Global

Mission pioneers. From their apartment, and from the apartment of the Seventh-day Adventist woman in the city, they have begun their outreach.

Before they began, the pioneers spent three months' worth of their stipend to buy books to sell. They

knew if they did not sell, they would not eat.

They were given a corner in the city shopping centre where they could set up their stand and sell their books.

From their contacts, they currently have 15-20 people who meet with them regularly to study the Bible. Eight were recently baptised.

They say the hardest part of the assignment has been the isolation from other Seventh-day Adventists. That, says Mr Golai, and being separated from his wife and child, who have remained at home in the Ukraine.

His skill in basketmaking has meant they are also able to sell or trade baskets for things they need. For instance, he did not have a coat warm enough to withstand the extreme Siberian winter, so he made a basket and bartered it for a good coat.

More recently they have been working on a basket they hope to

trade for a piano.

At the same time they are planning to purchase an apartment they can use for a church. They are not yet sure where the \$A2750 will come from for the apartment.

"God will provide," they say.—*Jeff Scoggins/Adventist Review*



Top: Global Mission pioneers Ivan Golai (left) and Eugene Anisimov are bringing the gospel to Siberia.



Bottom: Part of the group now meeting in Krasnokamensk because of the work of Global Mission pioneers.

Fiji tourists get gospel

Most people who fly into Fiji arrive at Nadi Airport. It is the gateway for the thousands of tourists who come for the sun and sea at resorts on the Yasawa Group islands. A slogan for these islands reads, "The ultimate Fiji experience."



The Yasawa Group islands.

No Seventh-day Adventist churches are built on any of the islands. Who would attend? The few Seventh-day Adventists living there work either as government teachers or resort workers.

The Fiji Mission has attempted to spread the gospel to these islands, and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency and Dorcas Society have been at the forefront of relief efforts after natural disasters.

However, this all changes tomorrow (May 21) when Pastor Isei Draunikaumila begins a five-week evangelistic program in the village of Muaira, one of eight on Naviti Island.

Church members originally from the Yasawa's now living and working on the main island, Viti Levu, have been preparing for the evangelistic program. Ten left for Naviti on March 27 to cook healthy food, distribute clothes and present health programs.—*Joe Talemaitoga*

Briefly

SDA minister recognised by Korean government

Korean Prime Minister Park Tae Joon has awarded Seventh-day Adventist minister Pastor Philip Bohyun Yun the country's fourth highest award, the Prime Minister's Medal. Pastor Yun, a regular radio presenter, conducts health seminars, helped form the Association for Smoking and Health and used to sit on the board of the Anti-Drug Association.—*ANW*

AWR's European license



Adventist World Radio is now licensed to operate a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week satellite service covering all of Europe and North Africa, and most of the Middle East.

Smoking, intelligence linked

Research by the London-based Institute of Psychiatry indicates smoking in later life is associated with a decline in intelligence. The study examined 650 people aged 65 and over. Researchers found smokers experienced four times the risk of intellectual impairment than non-smokers or former smokers.—*ANW*

Evolution claim retracted

National Geographic has retracted its claim of "a missing link" connecting dinosaurs to birds. In its November 1999 issue, *National Geographic* claimed a fossil recovered from China portrayed an "Archaeoraptor," a kind of "feathered dinosaur" that linked dinosaurs to birds in an evolutionary series. A panel of experts convened by the magazine after doubts were raised, concluded the fossil was a composite of two different animals. A correction appeared in March. The magazine will soon publish a report on the issue.—*ANW*

PUBLISHING HOUSE'S 100TH

The Brazil Publishing House, the largest outside North America, celebrated its 100th Anniversary, March 10-12.

Located in Tatuí, São Paulo, the publishing house employs 365 workers, prints 14 periodicals (including *Signs of the Times*, which is distributed in newsstands) and owns five bookshops.

As part of the celebration, the publishing house launched a CD-ROM of the works of Ellen White—the equivalent of more than 20,000 pages of text—and *Brazil Publishing House: 100 Years* by Rubens Lessa, editor-in-chief.

A monument depicting the three angels' messages to the world was also inaugurated. It included a fourth angel, the "other angel" of Revelation 18:1, that according to Ellen White represents the gospel



Brazil Publishing House.

proclamation through the printed page.—*Vanderlei Dornelles/ANN/Adventist Review*

Largest bookshop in the world

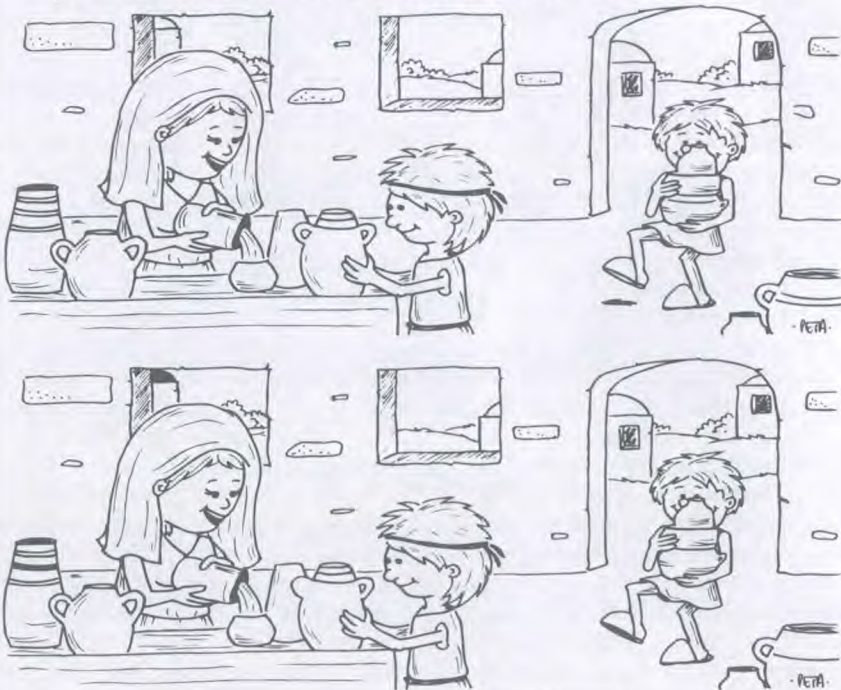
The new Potomac Adventist Book and Health Food Store (Takoma Park, Maryland, USA) is the largest Christian bookshop (in sales and size) in the world.

The 96-year-old store moved into its 40,000 square-foot building (with 160-seat auditorium, reading area, fireplace and baby grand piano) early last month (April).

A staff of 50 keep accounts with churches from 23 denominations. Sales are expected to top \$A17 million this year.—*Adventist Review*

children

Can you spot 10 differences in these pictures of the widow and her sons?



Top teacher awarded

An Adventist was among 10 winners of a \$A40,000 Australian Federal Government university teaching award. Tony Williams is a senior lecturer in the Learning and Development Program at the University of Newcastle, NSW, and a member of Charlestown church.



The awards recognise the work of university teachers who are considered by their peers and students to have made an outstanding contribution to student learning. Graduating from Avondale College in 1978, Mr Williams has worked in industrial arts and curriculum development in the Catholic education system. In 1992 he became a lecturer at the University of Newcastle, and has held his current position since 1998.

"Mr Williams is an innovator in the teaching of technology and design," said the Minister of Education. "He is a leader in the development and implementation of curriculum review and uses problem-based learning, learning contracts and project-based learning strategies to assist the development of critical thought in students."

Anzacs hear message

Maitland's (NSW) Pastor Ed Parker delivered the devotional address at the commemorative service on Anzac Day. More than 500 marched in the parade, another 1000 attended the service.

Stamp this out

When the General Conference session opens in Toronto on June 29, Canada Post will issue a commemorative stamp and two first-day covers. And, if you are not there, Joy Cornell from Wonga Beach Qld, will get them for you (see Notice-board). "Imagine the surprise (and witness) when your friends find this impressive envelope in their mailbox," she says. "Your name and details will appear as the return address. You can even forward letters for me to insert."

Britain gets the message

The Jesus 2000 programs are being uplinked to Britain where at least 20 churches have planned programs. There is a nine-hour delay in transmission so churches can downlink and use the program as if live at 7.30 pm local summer time.

Meanwhile, on the BBC

An Adventist family of four, the Careys, are part of a social experiment involving 30 people living on an isolated Scottish island. Several million viewers are tuning in to periodic updates on the BBC.

The oops file

Remember the advertisement for the Certificate in Christian Counselling course (April 15)? Try this mobile number instead: 041 629 1804.

Newswatch

AOG leaders drop support for "River of God"

The 48th General Council of the Assemblies of God (AOG) in Orlando, USA, saw leadership of the church reject the "River of God" (often known as River of Revival, Laughter Revival or Third Wave) movement.

The resolution, entitled "A return to biblical integrity," referred to a 1993 decision that stated: "We believe that God's Spirit never goes where His Word does not." Then it claimed that "the current 'river of God' includes many manifestations of the Spirit which are extra-biblical." "These extra-biblical manifestations have become a de facto evidence of a new level of spirituality and/or a new anointing."

"As a result, ministers and churches are being divided and members are confused about the authority of the Scripture. . . ."

The resolution disapproves of "Latter Rain doctrines and practices such as 'impartation,' 'birthing,' 'Joel's Army,' and the 'five-fold ministries' taught as 'offices' with 'predictive prophecy,' and other extraneous teachings. . . ."

This decision, made in late 1999, has not been adopted by the AOG in Australia.

"As the one who suffers endlessly, God is the one who exists for others."—Eberhard Jüngel

Owen gains an A+ in flying

Avondale Schools' (NSW) Year 11 student, Owen Earl, not only flew solo for the first time, in April, but is also being graded for it because it is a subject option.

Owen (pictured at the controls of the plane, with instructor Reg Litster) has taken Aviation Studies as a subject option at the school, through the Avondale Aviation School. The course also offers certification toward a commercial pilot's qualifications.

While most 16-year-olds are working on their L-plates for the car, Owen says that was no big deal. His first solo flight, though, was "thrilling." A number of other student trainee pilots should be flying solo soon.



coming

June 3 ADRA Disaster and Famine Offering
June 10 Women's Ministries Emphasis Day
June 17 Day of Prayer

REBUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

by Daniel Reynaud



The Avondale College auditorium shelters precious memories for thousands of former Avondale students under its distinctive curved roof. With the help of the June 24 offering, which goes to Avondale College, the building will be restored to serve future generations of Avondale students.

The "audio" has been closed since mid-1999 because of stress fractures in the ageing beams that support the roof.

The auditorium has been a focal point of campus life for nearly 50 years. Built as a 2000-seat hall, it has hosted graduation services, performances of *The Messiah* and other oratorios, conferences and regional meetings, as well as being at the hub of college social life.

Indoor recreation, especially basketball, and Saturday night socials made the auditorium a favourite place to meet and mix.

When the old chapel (now College Hall) became too small for Sabbath worship, the auditorium housed the college church until the new church building was completed in 1984.

Less happily perhaps for some, it was also a regular venue for holding examinations.

Plans for the auditorium were begun in 1950, recognising the urgent need for a multi-purpose building. Although funds were limited, manual arts teacher Geoffrey Richardson's innovative design combined modernist architectural style with economy of construction.

To cut costs even further, staff and students helped to pour concrete and build and raise the laminated arches that supported the roof. Work progressed in time for the graduation services of 1953,

URE AT AVONDALE

which were held there for the first time, marking the end of the era of large marquees for graduations.

Finishing touches were applied in 1954, with the total cost of the building rising to about £60,000.

Since then, the audo has been a vital part of the spirit of Avondale, and its forced closure last year badly disrupted the life of the college. Unfortunately, termites and dry rot had weakened the beams to the point where they were no longer safe. The asbestos roof was also at the end of its useful life.

The college is working closely with architects and the Lake Macquarie City Council to restore the building, which has been heritage listed for its architectural interest. However, while some funding has been received from the South Pacific Division and the General Conference, more is needed to restore this vital treasure to active use by the college.

Your generous offering on June 24 will make a refurbished auditorium a reality for Avondale's future generations. **R**

Daniel Reynaud is a lecturer in the Faculty of Arts department at Avondale College.



1. The performance of *The Messiah*, 1954.
2. A conference for Sabbath school leaders and teachers being held in the auditorium.
3. Under construction: the beams before the roofing went on.
4. Almost finished.
5. Graduation 1992.
6. Women's basketball, 1990s.
7. College men display their gym skills.

DEPARTMENTAL ROLES

What are the roles and functions of current departments?

The role of the departments can be described in different ways. Here they are identified according to their primary focus as ministries: to individuals; age or gender groups; churches or the public; and ministries that have an administrative or institutional focus.

A. Ministries for individuals

- Trust Services is largely a personal ministry to assist members in creating a will. It encourages responsible management of family finances and property.

- The Ministerial Association provides support for ministers. It assists in their professional development. It encourages them in a wide variety of ministries and maintains a focus on public evangelism. And it provides counselling in times of personal or family crisis.

- Family Ministries provides counselling, resources, training and enrichment opportunities for family members and families. Special functions include premarriage counselling, family crisis counselling, marriage enrichment and parenting training.

B. Age or gender group ministries

- Children's Ministries provides resources and training for volunteers at local churches who lead out in children's Sabbath schools and outreach to children.

- Women's Ministries provides resources, networking and motivation for women. It encourages women to develop their talents in ministry and encourages spiritual nurture.

- The Youth Department focuses on the spiritual, social and recreational needs of children, youth and young adults. It provides resources, training and enrichment courses for Adventurers, Pathfinders, youth and young adults. Special events such as rally days, camps, fairs and congresses provide opportunities for development, enrichment, recreation and nurture. Specialised ministries include youth evangelism and chaplaincy at universities and colleges.



C. Ministries for churches

- Sabbath School/Personal Ministries is focused toward the nurture, worship, evangelism and fellowship ministry needs of local churches. They provide resources such as Sabbath school lessons and appropriate tools for witnessing, arrange training for officers and teachers and coordinate lay evangelistic and community outreach initiatives.

- Stewardship facilitates the responsible management of all the talents God has given to each member. It provides resources to facilitate returning tithe to the Lord and to respond to the needs of the church through liberal offerings. Workshops and seminars focus on responsibility to God in positive management of personal resources.

D. Administrative or institutional ministries

- The Education Department has an administrative role in managing the school system. It responds to the professional needs of teachers, maintains basic Adventist educational values and standards, pro-

vides a distinctive curriculum, advises regarding buildings, facilities and equipment and coordinates the management of resources. While most of the work occurs during the school week, there is also a need to advocate the values of Christian education to the church members.

- Adventist Health has both administrative and promotional responsibility. It coordinates hospitals and retirement villages, providing a link with governments. It encourages the professional development of health-care workers and serves in an advisory role to health-care institutions. It also facilitates health and temperance emphasis among churches and provides training for volunteers in such areas as nutrition education and smoking cessation.

- Publishing is largely administrative, working through area managers and unit leaders to provide professional support for literature evangelists. It serves in an advisory role to the publishing house, manages the literature evangelists' program and encourages literature ministry among church members. It advises Adventist Book Centres as they serve churches by marketing literature, audio and videotapes and other similar resources to assist in their faith development and outreach initiatives.

- Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) has recently been reorganised on a national level and includes liaison with governments in responding to disasters, promoting Adventist Appeal, encouraging volunteers to respond to service opportunities, initiating and managing development programs in needy countries or communities. In Australia and New Zealand these ministries are provided through ADRAcare.

- The Health Food Department is better known by its trading name,

the Sanitarium Health Food Company. Its purpose is to advocate a vegetarian diet and to prepare and market a wide range of healthy foods.

E. Public relations

● The Communication Department focuses on communicating within the church and especially with the public through media such as newspapers, television, radio and internet. It provides training and news releases for local churches to communicate through local media, and encourages churches to represent themselves positively in their communities.

● Public Affairs and Religious Liberty represents the church with governments, other public bodies and with other denominations.

What is the place of a resource centre?

The purpose of a resource centre will be to coordinate the development of new resources and/or provide stock and/or inventory of available resources for those ministries that work through the local churches. These resources will help provide:

1. Nurture of the church family
2. Worship enhancement
3. Community outreach
4. Evangelistic initiatives
5. World mission support
6. Spiritual enrichment
7. Personal development
8. Fellowship opportunities

Resources are largely of three kinds: materials; people; and funds. At this time we note that funds are mainly managed through our church administrative structure. However, the management of people and materials could be coordinated by a resource centre. Resources are usually showcased at special events.

A. Events

Events rely on suitable people, useful materials and shared experiences.

1. Training events such as seminars and workshops
2. Enrichment events such as congresses, rallies, camps, fairs and festivals.

B. People

People resources are needed for the training and support of local church volunteers as they carry out their functions. A list of presenters is needed of those who can be involved in

- Skills sharing
- Motivation
- Consultation

C. Materials

Materials are needed to enhance training and outreach including:

1. Development of new materials
2. Development of hardware inventory
3. Development of resource catalogue including:
 - a. Training courses—correspondence, video, workshops and seminars
 - b. Manuals: for instance, for Pathfinders
 - c. Personal development courses
 - d. Skills training

Where will the resource centre get the resources?

A. Primary sources

Adventist Media
Signs Publishing Company
Division and union
departments

B. Secondary sources

Other publishing houses
General Conference
Other divisions or unions
Other churches
Independent ministries

A resource centre would largely be responsible for the gathering of resources. The departments promote to local churches and marketing should mostly be done through the Adventist Book Centres. Catalogues need to be readily accessible through a freecall number or the internet. **R**

GOD'S LOUD SILENCE

by Beryl Morris-Turner

Life crumbles—

And I feel alone. The path I tread so dark
has grown.

I beg the Lord to speak to me
But His loud silence deafens me!

My road divides—

The light seems dim, the signposts blurred.

I go to Him
And ask His will to hear and see
But His loud silence deafens me!

I have to choose—

I must decide the way to take. I need a
guide.

I plead with Him on bended knee
But still His silence deafens me!

Lord—

If my way You do not show, how can I tell
the way to go?

If You are with me, truly near,
If You are speaking, help me hear!

A thought steels in—

Not mine at all! Perhaps He's speaking after
all!

Could it be so loud I whine,
The only voice I hear is mine?

Then in that quiet—

Spirit stilled. His words come springing, com-
fort filled:

"You'll find Me, Guide and sure Defence,
In quietness and confidence.

"One step—

One moment at a time, is all you need to
take to climb

The highest mountain! I will lead,
Supply your strength and every need."

Forgive me, Lord—

When I repine. Forgive this doubting heart of
mine,

And help me, through Your grace and Word,
Give You the chance to speak, be heard. **R**

*Beryl Morris-Turner, originally from Perth, writes
from Chiangmai Adventist Academy in Thailand.*

BANK HOLD UP

by John Salmond

*I*t was a sunny Autumn afternoon in Stones Corner, an inner city Brisbane suburb. In the small Westpac Bank, I'd been directed to the teller furthest from the front door. I chatted to the teller as she processed the deposits from my wife's shop.

It was Monday and I laid out the money collected from tithes and offerings from Sabbath on the counter in front of me, ready to be passed to the teller.

As I waited for the teller, I heard a woman yelling at the front door of the bank. I'm unable to turn my head because of neck surgery some years ago so I didn't turn around to find the source of this disturbance. I also have severe industrial hearing loss and, while I can hear noise, I can't always pick up what's being said, particularly if there's background noise.

I thought it was a woman yelling at her children. From the tone of her voice and the manner of her speaking, I thought, *What a rude and inconsiderate person. Fancy talking to your kids like that.*

The noise came into the bank and continued at this loud level. But I still didn't turn around to see what was going on. I continued chatting to the teller.

However, the noise came closer and I could tell by the teller's face that something was wrong. That's when I became aware that there was a bank hold-up in progress.

I immediately thought, *That's God's money. It isn't in the bank yet. If she gets that, it's our loss, not the bank's loss.* I wasn't sure what the insurance situation might be.

I sent up a quick prayer, saying, "Lord, please look after this money. They are your funds, Lord. Watch over us here in the bank and don't let any of us be injured."

I just continued to stand there

and "guard" the money. The robber, a woman with a balaclava over her head, came to the teller right next to me. The teller who had been serving me grabbed a bundle of notes and tossed it over to the bandit, who promptly pocketed it.

I turned around to see what was happening. The bank robber had a sports bag slung over her shoulder and she was grabbing at the money with her left hand, while she held a sawn-off gun in her right hand. She wasn't deliberately pointing it because she was shoving money into her bag, but the gun was pointing straight at my stomach.

She was so close I could have reached out and grabbed the gun out of her hand. It was a weird sort of a feeling.

There was a railing behind me, so I took a couple of steps back and leant against the rail, watching her while she continued to stuff money into her bag. She screamed at the top of her voice the whole time, but I couldn't make out one word she said.

She then turned on her heel and walked toward the door, shoving the

gun in her bag. When she got to the door of the bank, she pulled the balaclava off her head, calmly walked across the street and got into a taxi.

When I turned and looked around the bank, everyone else was lying on the floor, face down, hands stretched out. I'd had the cheek to stand there all the time, but she didn't take any notice of me. I might as well have not been there as far as she was concerned. I was completely calm the whole time. I feel the Lord had an angel standing there beside me, between me and that bandit, guarding me and His money.

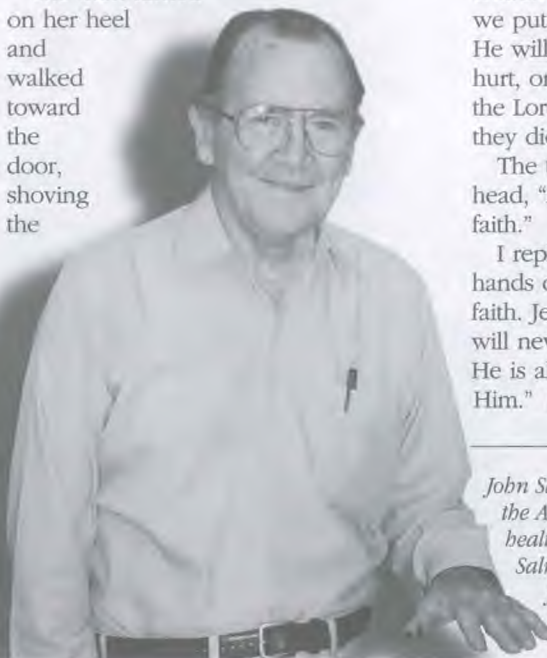
A great feeling of relief came over me, "Thank you, Lord."

However, two women bank employees were quite upset. We had to stay in the bank until the police arrived and I spent the time talking with them.

I took the hand of one of the tellers and said, "The Lord has been looking after us. I'm sure His presence has been here this afternoon. I asked the Lord to look after the church money and to look after us. If we put our lives in the Lord's care, He will look after us. No-one was hurt, only money was taken. Thank the Lord that things went as well as they did."

The teller smiled and shook her head, "Mr Salmond, I wish I had your faith."

I replied, "Just put your life in the hands of God and you can have that faith. Jesus has assured us that He will never leave us or forsake us and He is always there if we call upon Him." **R**



John Salmond is a long-time member of the Albion church, Queensland. Despite health problems, 71-year old Mr Salmond has been church treasurer for the past 15 years. He told his story to Nathan Brown.

“The gospel is what Christ has done for us, not what He does in us.”

ADRA and the gospel

PETER ROBERTS, NSW

What a disappointing editorial (“ADRA is not the gospel,” April 1). It seems to decry the work of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in preference of outdated and ineffectual evangelism.

I’ve sat through many evangelistic programs and while they may reaffirm our belief in the church’s distinctive doctrines, they seem to do little to touch other lives. Jesus’ first and foremost work was touching people where they hurt—the Gospels tell us that. It’s time we took a fresh look at reaching people, first touching their lives, then pointing them to Jesus.

JOHN DENNE, NNZ

The gospel, according to the Bible, is summarised in one word—Jesus. The gospel is God’s activity, not ours. Our response to the gospel is important, but it is not the gospel. The gospel is what Christ has done *for* us, not what He does *in* us. Let’s be clearly Protestant.

Help for the persecuted

AUSTIN FLETCHER, NSW

“Adventists expelled” (Flashpoint, April 1) mentioned Seventh-day Adventist and others who were “apparently” expelled from their villages. Were they or weren’t they? If so, what can we do to help?

RECORD has reported incidents of persecution from time to time and my query is: Do we have any mechanism within our church to offer direct financial help to these people?

● The word “apparently” was as accurate as the information available allowed. ● ADRA is willing to help where it can. ● For church members within this division, union missions offer financial help as funds become available. In the Solomon Islands, the Western Pacific Union Mission with the South Pacific Division helped displaced people with food and supplies.

Cabramatta clarification

PETER JACK, ADRA CARE DIRECTOR
GREATER SYDNEY CONFERENCE

The response to “Building community in Cabramatta,” (Newsfront, January 29) has been gratifying, but shows clarification is needed.

The ADRA Care centre is a referral centre, not a counselling and rehabilitation centre. In addition to pointing drug users and other needy people in the right direction, we offer ongoing friendship support, which is now being identified as a missing link in the war against drugs. Our centre is welcomed by Fairfield Council, the Special Branch of the Police Department and the Health Department, among others.

Seventy volunteers are trained to work at the centre and provide the ongoing support addicts so desperately need. One of our first victories? Reuniting a former heroin addict, who was baptised on May 6, with his family.

Manager David Haupt has a Bachelors degree from Andrew University (Michigan, USA). He has completed courses on regeneration,

alcohol and other drug counselling, HIV/AIDS education, pre- and post-marital counselling and counselling management training.

His experience includes giving pastoral counselling, managing Shared Vision Associates and providing training in bereavement counselling, HIV/AIDS counselling, strategic planning and stress management.

He’s also served the South African Government’s Regional Welfare Board, advising the Minister of Health and Welfare on welfare, including drugs and drug-related issues.

What kind of emotions?

IJJA PONSANG, QLD

I agree with the writers of “Wars over worship” (Letters, April 8) and their views on music in worship, but none referred to Jesus’ words, “God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24, NIV). The *SDA Bible Commentary* says, “In all sincerity, with the highest faculties of the mind and emotions.” I can only guess at what emotions are stirred up by that kind of music.

Just a coincidence



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.

Western Australian Conference Camp Ground Manager Busselton SDA Youth and Family Camp Ground—Busselton, WA

Expressions of interest are invited for the position of Camp Ground Manager for the Busselton SDA Youth and Family Camp Ground, Busselton, Western Australia.

Those interested in this management position must be competent to operate the Camp Ground to ensure its financial viability.

Other competencies required are:

- Skilled in general mechanical work, irrigation and reticulation, electrical, plumbing and general maintenance.
- Basic booking skills to ensure that expenditure is within the allocated budget and the collection and receipting of income generated.
- Demonstrate strong interpersonal relationship and communication skills.
- Possess good marketing skills.
- Must demonstrate loyal support for the mission and ethos of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

—Manager will be required to live on site in the Conference provided caravan and annexe.

—Remuneration will be through negotiation. Would suit a retired or semi-retired couple.

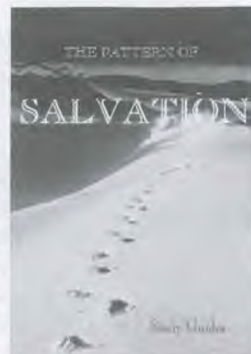
—A Job Description is available upon request.

—All expressions of interest and applications, including details of current Seventh-day Adventist Church membership, should be forwarded with your personal resume to:

Mr S W Whiston
Secretary/Treasurer
Western Australian Conference
PO Box 134
GOSNELLS WA 6110
Phone: (08) 9398 7222

Applications must be received by
Wednesday, May 31, 2000

The Pattern of Salvation



A helpful mainstream study series (24 lessons) addressing the key sanctuary doctrine, with its emphasis on the plan of salvation, and other doctrines which find firm roots in this truth or are expressed in sanctuary terminology, eg, state of the dead, the Sabbath, the Second Coming, special creation, assurance of salvation, worship, preparation for the final crisis. The emphasis is on the cross and our response to God's gracious offer.

Key references from scholarly and Spirit of Prophecy sources are given throughout, but this does not interfere with the easy style of the lessons. This is a reviewed study series in question/answer style with commentary.

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Advertisements

Please note: Neither the editor, Signs Publishing Company, nor the Seventh-day Adventist Church is responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised. Publication does not indicate endorsement of a product or service.

The 31st annual Sydney Adventist Hospital Graduates Association dinner will be held on Sunday, June 25, 2000 in the hospital cafeteria. Registration and ticket sales will be available from 6 pm with dinner commencing at 7 pm. Special celebrations will be held for those who graduated in 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990. The cost of the dinner is \$35 per head. For those who pre-pay before June 13 there is a discount rate of \$30 per head. Those who graduated more than 50 years ago will also receive a special discount—\$20 per head if tickets are pre-paid by the above date. Further information from Noreen Devine (02) 9456 5047 or email noreendevine@hotmail.com before the end of May. During June please contact David Williams on (02) 9477 6640.

Adventist Heritage Tours. Two-day trip includes a tour of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan USA and Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek, Michigan. Meal, lodging and transportation provided. Total package \$US180.00 per person. For reservations phone Andrews University's Guest Services on (616) 471 3295.

50 years of SDA Education in Albury

Border Christian College (formerly Albury Adventist School)

is holding a reunion on

October 14, 15

All past students and teachers invited.

For further details contact:

Phone: (02) 6043 1577

Fax: (02) 6043 2247

Email:

borderchristiancollege@telstra.easymail.com.au

Study chart on last day events—Pastor I. Tolhurst. Beat the GST, purchase from your ABC or from the author (02) 4977 3794. Over 70 topics with Bible and Spirit of Prophecy references. Revive prayer meetings, personal study. Few copies left.

Funeral directors—K & E Swanborough. Compassionate and professional care at an affordable cost from those who understand. Obligation-free advice on all your funeral requirements, including pre-planning. Phone (07) 3297 1141 24 hours.

Positions vacant

▲ **Associate Auditor—General Conference Auditing Service (Wahroonga, NSW)** is seeking to appoint an Associate Auditor at the South Pacific Division offices. The successful applicant will have a Bachelor of Business or similar degree in accounting, with CPA or Chartered Accounting membership; be computer literate and willing to travel throughout the South Pacific Division. **Further information** should be obtained from Bob Stratford (02) 9847 3255 or email bstratford@adventist.org.au. **Applications in writing** should be forwarded to the Human Resources Director, South Pacific Division, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076; fax (02) 9489 1713 or email ccclark@adventist.org.au no later than May 30, 2000.

▲ **Church Pastors—Greater Sydney Conference** will have vacancies for Church Pastors from July 1, 2000 on Norfolk Island and Lord Howe Island. Tenures of service will be by negotiation and expressions of interest are invited from those seeking volunteer positions or regular employment. **Further information** should be obtained from Pastor Bob Manners, Secretary, Greater Sydney Conference, on (02) 9868 6522 or email bobmanners@adventist.org.au

Canada's SDA stamp! First-day cover with two SDA stamps airmailed from Toronto (General Conference) \$A5; deluxe cover \$A7. Sorry, Australian currency only. No credit cards. Joy Cornell, 30 Esplanade, Wonga Beach Qld 4873; email bjc@internetnorth.com.au

WTS Furniture Removal. Local, country and long-distance. Storage provided and packing supplied. All goods insured. Free quote. PO Box 214, Williamstown Vic 3016. Phone (03) 9397 7190 all hours. Mobile phone 0412 383 140. New depot in Brisbane, mobile phone 0418 732 773.

Alstonville Adventist Retirement Village has a very spacious 2 BR unit available. This is a free-standing villa with beautiful views. Three other spacious units are also available set within this delightful village. For real retirement living you should think about Alstonville. We are only a phone call away. Phone Pastor Ian Johnston on (02) 6628 5648.

Holidays in Port Macquarie. Spacious, immaculate 2 x 2 BR units overlooking Flynn's Beach. Both sleep 6; everything supplied; garage; secure; handy to shops; reasonable rates. Gordon Southwell (02) 4774 1888, 0428 644 706.

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For sale. Private home nursing service north-coast area covering the Hastings, Macleay shires. Large clientele, excellent income, suit husband and wife team. Current registration with NRB and drivers licence a must. Phone (02) 6566 8238 AH.

Missing person. If you know the whereabouts of Marie McIver, who taught at Wild Dog Valley Primary School, Vic, 1950-51, please phone (03) 5664 2284 after 7 pm.

Please note: Advertisements approved by the editor will be inserted at the following rates: first 30 words or less, \$A30; each additional word, \$A1.50. For your advertisement to appear, payment must be enclosed. Classified advertisements in the RECORD are available to Seventh-day Adventist members, churches and institutions only. See masthead (page 2) for contact details.

Finally

Never borrow sorrow from tomorrow.

Volunteers needed

ESL teachers—Sanyu Language Institute, Shanghai, China. To teach Conversational English, degree not required. Term: 2-6 months, commencing May or July 2000.

Accountant—ADRA Laos, needs a volunteer accountant to support their office while full-time Accountant is away. 3rd year student Accountant would be acceptable. Stipend, accommodation, AVS insurance provided. Volunteer provide own airfares. Term: 3-4 months, from June-September 2000.

Blocklayers, carpenters, plumbers, handyperson needed! For water and building projects at Kauma Adventist High School, Kiribati. Teams needing more helpers! Term: 2-3 weeks, July 2000.

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

LONDON BRIDGE IS FALLING DOWN...



Structural deformation, rot, termites and aged asbestos roofing have conspired against the College Auditorium, making it unsafe for student use. A Special Offering is to be held on 24th June to raise \$3million for a new auditorium complex.

For generations, the Avondale College Auditorium has been the scene of countless memorable experiences for Avondale students from around the world. But no more can our young people treasure memories of wondrous "firsts" in the "Audo".

The years have condemned it and for some months students have been denied access to its facilities.

A Division-wide special offering is being held on the 24th of June to help raise \$3million for a new building. You will be kept informed both through your local church and in this magazine.

For details call Bob Bolst (02) 9989 8355.

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Surplus profits assist Avondale College in its continued development.*

Contact Bob or Fay at ACF Investments

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