

# RECORD



Television personality Dr John D'Arcy (pictured, inset) helped launch Taking Charge of Your Health. "I see great vigour in [the series]."

## Health series to connect with community

Wahroonga, NSW

Television personality Dr John D'Arcy has launched an interactive, multimedia health series the Seventh-day Adventist Church is using to connect with the community.

Dr D'Arcy is the face of the television advertising campaign for *Taking Charge of Your Health* (TCYH) and appears in the series. "I only do something if there's a point to it, and I see great vigour in *Taking Charge of Your Health*," he says.

TCYH is a seven-part, magazine-style series of programs on DVD designed to help Adventists in local churches make contact with members of the community.

"It is not overtly religious in its content, but strongly promotes the church's principles of healthy living, family values, spirituality and relationships," says Jonathan Duffy, the director of Adventist Health Ministries for the South Pacific Division.

Each program features a contemporary health issue, such as stress management, body image and at-risk behaviours, and shows how applying simple and practical Adventist lifestyle principles can lead to healthier, happier and more fulfilling lives. Those viewing the series at local churches talk in small groups at the end of each program about what they have seen presented.

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*Focusing a Christian business*



*Food for farmers hit by drought*

# When Truth is in disrepute

**W**hat happens to a church that says it has the Truth, but nobody believes in Truth anymore?

What happened to Truth anyway? Once there was a time when people had a confidence about finding Truth. It was something attainable. The honest searcher would know when they had found it. Like  $2+2=4$ , it was something that could not be debated once discovered.

And we Seventh-day Adventists applied that kind of certainty to the Bible. We were seekers after the Truth about God. We claimed to take the Bible at its word. To let God speak without the filters of pagan or philosophical thought and practice.

But nobody cares anymore. You go to university and they laugh at the idea of Truth. It's passé. Disproven. The whole notion was refuted years ago.

Truth these days is about what is right for you. You have your Truth and I have mine. They might contradict each other, but that doesn't matter because there are many paths to the top of the mountain. So choose your path and, if it feels right, follow it.

How does a church survive when it has built its whole identity around having the Truth? Where people were meant to come and behold with amazement the edifice we had carefully constructed?

And we have seen the results. A church struggling to get a hearing. A church unable to make an impact. A church struggling to hold its ground. A church demoralised.

So what do you do? How can an Adventist, or any other Christian for all of that, make an impact?

There is one simple answer. And it is something that more and more Adventists are cottoning on to. It's grace. Yes, Christ-

ian grace. Practical grace. Extended to the human sister or brother who has needs. Jesus taught it, but, more importantly, did it. And it wasn't just an incidental in His ministry. It was as core to His teaching as the graciousness of God.

Today—in a world that doesn't value religion, which is horrified by debate about which deity is right, in a world that doesn't want to know, just feel—there is a soothing, calming generosity of Christian spirit that can shatter the most self-satisfied and hardened heart. But it also has a razor edge that can cut through the most recalcitrant intellectual elitism.

As Christians rediscover true, practical grace that seeks out those more needy than themselves, non-Christians look on and see an argument they cannot refute. It's an argument not found in the realm of debate. It's an argument that resides within the very constitution of human goodness. Self-evident. Irrefutable to any heart open to the Spirit of God.

More than 100 years ago, a most important church pioneer wrote three chapters in her book *The Ministry of Healing* about this approach to reaching people. She challenged her church to get practical with its grace. She talked of those poor alcoholics enslaved by their addiction. She spoke of the unemployed. She spoke of the people in poverty. And she challenged her church with a task.

She asked it to establish a centre in every city where slaves to addiction could be helped. She called for country centres where the unemployed could be trained for meaningful work. And these days, as Adventists respond to that call, non-Christians' hearts are being softened by practical grace.

Within the Adventist Development and

Relief Agency (ADRA), we attempt to provide a vehicle by which practical, Christian grace can manifest itself before a society that doesn't take much convincing. And it's gratifying to see courageous church members willing to dive into the toughest societal challenges of all. Like our Cabramatta centre. Like the Recon program in Melbourne. Like the Delhuntie Park programs—in Victoria, with some now in other states and New Zealand.

And we see churches come alive. They're no longer demoralised. They offer something to society too good to refuse.

And the day is soon coming when people will again seek after the Truth about God. Pluralism and postmodernism, those words—almost too big to say, let alone spell—will have had their day. For they too can be questioned and diminished, and people will discover that there is a fruitful middle ground between what they refuted and what they tacitly asserted, where a God of love can truly be sought by the honest seeker.

The day is soon coming when seeking after God will again be popular. And Adventists can again champion a seeking that is free of philosophical and traditional attachments.

In the meantime, let's apply ourselves to God's given tasks, and be true to our disadvantaged brother and troubled sister, because the day is not far off when many will seek God in goodness and Truth.

Gary Christian  
Director of National  
Programs, ADRA



OFFICIAL PAPER  
South Pacific Division  
Seventh-day Adventist  
Church  
ACN 000 003 930

Vol 108 No 39  
Cover: Mykol Heath

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**Subscriptions:** South Pacific Division mailed within Australia and to New Zealand, \$A43.80 SNZ73.00.

Other prices on application. Printed weekly.

Our vision is to...  
**know**  
**experience**  
**and share**  
our hope in Jesus Christ!

- Signs Ministry surges forward in South NZ • University guide awards Avondale College
- Hymns in the hills • Adventist books delivered to prison for Pauline • and more

—Compiled by Kellie Hancock—

Some good news from Signs Ministry coordinator Pastor **Des Hills**. The SOS for Queenstown Airport (Flashpoint, July 5) motivated church members to donate enough to keep **Signs in this strategic South New Zealand outlet**. He reports that in the same region the Signs litebox is now back in the Christchurch Airport.

Avondale College, Cooranbong, NSW, has **scored five stars** in several categories of the **Good Universities Guide** (GUG) rankings. Avondale ranked among the top universities in the nation in terms of staff qualifications, student-staff ratio, and graduate rating of the educational experience for the fifth consecutive year.—*The Avondale Experience*

The Assistant Minister for Fijian Affairs, Culture and Heritage, Hon **Ratu Suliano Matanitobua** (pictured receiving an honorary lei), declared the opening of **Cultural Week at Fulton College**, Fiji, during a simple traditional Fijian welcoming ceremony on September 15. With emphasis on the theme “One in Christ’s culture,” the cultural week aimed to increase and promote awareness of other cultures and to further encourage unity and also consciousness of one’s unique indigenous culture. Fulton College is a



## First love seen at Avondale College



Hundreds of people packed the Avondale College church to see this year’s most ambitious theatrical production at Avondale College at the close of this semester’s Festival of Faith.

Some 60 cast and crew were involved in staging the production *First love*—a musical based on the biblical story of Hosea, who was instructed by God to marry a prostitute.

The play showcased the talents of Lyndsay Morton, who wrote the script and the music. She

took a book by US author Francine Rivers and transformed it into a musical drama.

“This was a team effort. So many different people have been involved in the musical right from the beginning,” says Miss Morton. “We want people to focus on God and listen to the story’s message.”

Directed by Jo Atkins and orchestrated by Vanessa Sharp, the musical starred a number of students including Melissa Stojanovic and Alan Newbold (both pictured), who played “Angel” [Gomer] and Michael Hosea [Hosea] respectively.

An orchestral ensemble including eight strings, a guitar and various brass instruments provided accompaniment.—*Heather Potter*

**multicultural institution** with students from the Pacific islands of Tuvalu, Kiribiti, Solomons, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga and Fiji, with Fijians and Indo-Fijians as well. In an increasingly multicultural society, tolerance and respect for each other’s culture is not sufficient, but rather as pointed out by Mr Matanitobua in his opening speech, we need to take a step further and “rejoice at our cultural differences and attempt to learn from them.”—*Elisapesi Latu*

Two TV advertising campaigns in **Melbourne**, Vic, offering free viewings of the *Search* video resulted in **3450 requests**

for visitation. More than 300 video sets have gone out and more are still being delivered. Some churches have as many as **80 per cent of contacts still viewing videos** after number 10.—*Intraviv*

The conclusion of the **Wellington Samoan Outreach** program in Wellington, NNZ, saw **38 people**, including many youth, proudly proclaim their new relationship with Jesus Christ by being **baptised** on September 6.—*e-youth*

**Castle Hill church**, NSW, reached out in fellowship to the public through music at the Hills Centre of Performing Arts on August 31. “**Hymns in the hills**” was part of the Orange Blossom Festival and celebrated shared Christian heritage. It featured 150 choristers and 27 instrumentalists from a

number of Adventist and other Christian churches across Sydney and **also from Hillview church** (near Cooranbong). Because of its resounding success, it is planned to be an annual event.—*Don Roy*



● **Jonathan Allotey** has been announced the new executive director of **Ghana's** Environmental Protection Agency, or **EPA**. Mr Allotey, a 21-year veteran of the agency, completed his secondary education at the Bekwai Seventh-day Adventist Secondary School and is a local elder and preacher in the **Mallam Seventh-day Adventist church**, Accra.—ANN

● Another Adventist recently placed in a position of public influence is **Derrick Foxworth**, a member of the Sharon Seventh-day Adventist church in Portland, Oregon, USA, who was named that city's

**chief of police** on September 2 by Portland's mayor, Vera Katz.—ANN

● Some **700 Adventist women** from France and Belgium **gathered in Paris** recently for the first Adventist Women's Ministries conference in the region. As a result of this conference, the church's Franco-Belgian Union Conference has established a Women's Ministries department. **Josiane Beauregard**, director of the Women's Ministries Department for the North France Conference, has been chosen to head up the new department at the union level.—ANN

● Some **170 house-church Christians** in Nanyang County, Henan Province, **China**, have been **arrested**. The believers had assembled for worship when Public Security Bureau officers raided the meeting place. After the arrest, the police started processing the detainees to identify the leaders. They are presently holding 14 leaders, while the rest of the Christians were forced to **pay fines** before being fingerprinted, warned and released. The 14 leaders face more serious charges and may be imprisoned.—*Crosswalk.com*

● **India's coalition government**, led by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), is about to introduce **fresh rules to prevent religious conversion** across the nation—something that has no approval from the Indian Parliament. The BJP is vigorously opposing conversion of backward Hindus to Christianity and Buddhism. "This will effectively deny a large section of Indians their right to religious faith ensured by India's Constitution," said **Oliver D'Souza** of the All India Christian Council. "This judgment and the present rule can be questioned on the grounds of fundamental rights. We will make sure that **religious rights of the minorities** are protected."—*Crosswalk.com*

## Days and offerings

**October 11**—Spirit of Prophecy Day  
—ADRAcare Appeal  
Expense Offering

## Off the record

● Hmm . . . It would appear that Adventist writers are an honest lot. Despite suggesting that the use of a **holiday house in Queensland** may sway the judges' decision in choosing a **guest editorialist in RECORD**, all entries so far in the **Winning writer** competition (Newsfront, August 30) have not resorted to bribery. "The quality of entries already received from Adventist ministers and teachers in Australia and New Zealand has been impressive," says Pastor **Bruce Manners**, RECORD editor. **Entries close October 20.**

● Here's what you look out for if you want to join members at the **Rockhampton church** for worship. Their new church is on Yamba Road between Spotlight and the Mobil service station. They extend an **open invitation for tourists** travelling in northern Queensland to drop in.



● **Pauline Hanson** now has some positive reading material to help pass the time in prison after receiving copies of **Adventist books** *Gifted Hands*, *Think Big* and *The Desire of Ages*. Victorian-based literature evangelist **Ruth Harris** has a passion for placing Adventist literature in prison libraries and with the assistance of staff at Signs Publishing Company these three books were recently dispatched directly to Ms Hanson's temporary address.

● Armidale, NSW, church member **Bruce Lockwood** (pictured) received a **Centenary Medal** and plaque for his efforts in **contributing to the indigenous community** and Australian life. Along with his many contributions, Mr Lockwood helped build the Mirriwinni Gardens School near Kempsey, NSW.



## Advent Brass blows their way to trophy

**M**elbourne Advent Brass took out the **MC-grade winners trophy** at the recent Victorian band championships held at Ballarat.

They have been runner-up for the past three years, and for the past two years came second by only one point.

"The band aims to present Christ through music and serve the church in its outreach to the community, as well as to serve the community at large," says band president Ray Boehm.



Recently the band attended the Western Australian and Queensland conference camps and visited Lord Howe Island to assist Dr James Wright and the local church in a health-outreach program to the community.

Musical director Reynold Gilson (pictured with the C-grade champion trophy) invites "wannabe" band members to join now. Contact Mr Boehm for more information on (03) 9754 5635 or email <rboehm@cybernex.net.au>.

# Health series to connect with community

(Continued from page 1)

“The strength of *Taking Charge of Your Health* is not in the final product but in the way the series brings people together,” says Mr Duffy. “It’s a move away from the traditional, scientific approach to health where we told people what to do. We’re now dealing more with the social determinants of health.”

Dr D’Arcy began his broadcasting career more than 20 years ago and is currently a health and medical reporter for the Seven Network on Australia’s *Today Tonight* program. But he is critical of television’s impact on our social lives.

“Television seeks to look for connectedness in the community but fails hopelessly,” says Dr D’Arcy. “I’m also a family GP.” He returned to practice in the early 1980s. “I know that at least half of any consultation

is about connectedness and the rest about a particular medical issue.”

TCYH is targeting 30- to 49-year-old females with young children. “They have a major influence on family health behaviours,” says Mr Duffy.

Three people host each program. Mr Duffy: “The first interviews a health professional [more than 30 appear in the series; all volunteered their time] who explains the science behind the issue—nutrition for example. The second, a health educator, unpacks the science in simple language—low-fat cooking is a nutritious way to prepare food. The third shows how to put the science into practice—you know all about low-fat cooking, but what do you actually eat for dinner?”

“With the flood of health information available, it is confusing as to what is the best health practice,” says Mr Duffy. “This



Mykol Heath

**Pastor John Gate of the Adventist Discovery Centre spoke of the success local churches showing *Taking Charge of Your Health* have already had during the launch of the series.**

series demystifies the science of health and offers simple, doable, take-home messages.”

Some 181 Adventist churches in Australia and New Zealand have registered for the series. Pastor John Gate, the director of the Adventist Discovery Centre—its health correspondence course is the base for the program topics—spoke during the launch of receiving the first report, from the small Karratha church in Western Australia.

“The members there are running each program in the series twice a day. Nine people from the community—all mothers—attended the first morning program. Twenty-three—most of who were mothers—attended the first evening program.”

Adventist Health has launched two follow-up programs—a walking club called “Heel N Toe” and a weight-management program called “The Healthy Weigh”—for those attending TCYH. “These are support groups that provide practical and fun ways to change health behaviour,” says Mr Duffy.—**Brenton Stacey**

For more information on TCYH, log onto <[www.takingcharge.com/health](http://www.takingcharge.com/health)> or contact your local conference Adventist Health Ministries Department.

## Pastors learn steps to reach new generations

Arrowhead, California, USA

A group of Seventh-day Adventist pastors have formed a network that would “empower the next generation of pastors to think creatively about the future of the Adventist Church.” This group, called “Re-Church,” includes pastors, church leaders and members.

“We deal a lot with evangelism in the postmodern context, [such as] urban ministry,” says Pastor Ryan Bell, minister of the Bucks County Adventist church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. “[It’s] about a mentality [of] reaching new generations and a new culture.”

One of the main functions of Re-Church is the annual conference. This year’s conference, called “Dancing With God: Steps to Loving Well,” was held recently in Lake Arrowhead, California, with some 70 participants.

“Our relationship with God is much like a dance,” Pastor Bell says. “It’s not so much a mathematical formula. We learn a

relationship with God a lot like we learn dance steps. When you dance with a partner, there’s always a leader. We want to reflect like we’re following God in a dance. The dance steps are spiritual discipline, prayer, fellowship and love.

“It’s a beautiful metaphor,” he continues. “We talk about the gospel as music. When you hear the gospel, it makes you want to dance with God.”

Pastor Bell says, “People are hungering to experience spirituality, rather than seeking answers to questions. Spirituality is evangelism for the 21st century.”

Re-Church is “a network of friends conspiring to change the church and the world around us by first changing ourselves.” Though Re-Church members are primarily based in North America, Pastor Bell says the group is not exclusive to one area.—ANN

For more information see <[www.re-church.org](http://www.re-church.org)>.



# Small-group outreach key to church growth

Guayaquil, Ecuador

**O**utreach through small groups is an asset to the movement, declared Dr Jan Paulsen, General Conference president, during a meeting with local church leaders in Lima, Peru, early in September. “This is where the people form friendships and gain understanding [of] how the church functions,” he says. “This is where they receive nurture.”

Seventh-day Adventists in South America represent a vibrant and fast-growing community that today exceeds 2.1 million members. The small-group ministry is considered to be a major part of the church’s “phenomenal growth,” Dr Paulsen noted during his 10-day pastoral visit to South America, which took him to the north of Brazil, including the Amazon region and Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador.

Pastor Ruy Nagel, president of the South American Division, commented on the church’s outreach to the communities that it serves. “When we provide quality of life for our believers in the church, they share it with others,” he says. “This helps other people to grow, and that’s where they receive a sense of being important.”

During his South American tour, Dr Paulsen spoke at an evening meeting, “Trophies of Victory,” a joyful celebration of the baptism of 1076 people, the majority of



*Pastor Paulsen lays a symbolic brick in the construction of a multifunction complex at the Bolivia Adventist University, perhaps the largest Adventist higher-education centre with some 6500 students.*

whom were the “fruit of our small-group approach,” according to a local leader.

Following a spiritual meeting with 7000 church members in Quito, Dr Paulsen flew to Guayaquil to officiate at a baptism of the 52,000th church member in Ecuador.

The foundational principles of Adventist witness and involvement in mission were underscored by the president. The church bears a testimony to the fact of “meeting people where they are,” and particularly those experiencing privation and living in very basic circumstances, “where they are given a sense of values, where Christ is being communicated to them.” Dr Paulsen added that “not only [should we] look at numbers, but at the effectiveness of touching the lives of people, bringing them joy, completeness and hope.”—ANN

# Sow 1 Billion coming

Wahroonga, NSW

**A** worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church initiative to distribute, by the end of 2004, one billion Bible-study invitations is coming to the South Pacific.

Sow 1 Billion has the potential to reach two-thirds of the world’s population. Even a 0.5 per cent response rate will mean five million people have asked for Bible studies.

Dr Erika Puni, the director of Personal Ministries for the South Pacific Division, describes the possible impact of Sow 1 Billion as “phenomenal.” He says, “And all it takes is a commitment to pass out a brochure to your friends.”

The church in the South Pacific has been preparing for Sow 1 Billion by training its members to share their faith. It will also print four million copies of the invitation—a brochure featuring the theme, “Finding hope in an uncertain world”—for distribution in Australia, one million in New Zealand and 500,000 in Papua New Guinea and in the Trans-Pacific. They will be available in March next year.

Members of the community who respond to the invitation will be offered a viewing of the video, *Who is Jesus?* and an invitation to complete the new Bible correspondence course, *Try Jesus*.

“Sow 1 Billion is an exciting windfall for us,” says Pastor John Gate, the director of the Adventist Discovery Centre, which will receive the invitations for follow-up. “I only wish we had more time to encourage local churches and church members.”

—Brenton Stacey



2004 is the Year of

**EVANGELISM**

## Soccer teams start small groups

**T**hroughout the South American tour, Dr Paulsen was introduced to numerous members of the church who are involved in varied witnessing initiatives, working with people representing different social groups and interests.

“This is evangelism,” said Pastor Ricardo Palcio, a local church youth leader in Ecuador. Behind him were two soccer teams participating in “church Olympics.”

“We play here every Sunday and the only prerequisite to joining our competition is that each team must bring at least four players who are not Adventist.” Within two weeks of the competition, the teams begin Bible studies and several players have already joined the church family.—ANN

# Food supplied to drought-stricken farmers

*Brisbane, Qld*

**S**eventh-day Adventists have donated \$A25,000 in food to drought-stricken farmers in Queensland.

The farmers—station owners who live between Charleville, Cunnamulla and Quilpie—have not received good rain for the past three years, says retired minister Pastor Ervin Ferris. “David Adcock, he’s the district stock officer for the Department of Primary Industries, calls them the genuine Aussie battlers.”

Twenty-five station owners and their families each received one tonne of produce from the church.

“I asked the wife of one of the station owners, ‘How long has it been since you could afford to buy shampoo?’ ‘Two-and-a-half years,’ she said. Another said, ‘I’d love to taste tinned peaches again.’”

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Australia gave \$A21,000 and the South Queensland



**Station owners Peter Lucas and Ray Sommerfield with food donated by Adventists in Queensland.**

Conference gave \$A4000 to the project. Sanitarium Health Food Company donated 140 cartons of food. The church’s Women’s Ministries Department prepared 20 hampers of personal-care products.

“The Lord made loaves and fishes out of

this project,” says Pastor Ferris. “It’s been as satisfying as any I’ve been involved with.”

Peter Aldridge, a member of the Adventist church in Tamborine, Neil Peatey, the director of Adventist Aviation Association, and Bill Petie, a member of the Adventist church in Capalaba, helped Pastor Ferris distribute the food.

Dennis Taylor from Brisbane and his mechanic, Noel Cherry, a member of the Springwood church, donated the use of Mr Taylor’s truck and their time to deliver some of the food. Bill Battialana, a publican from Gympie, donated his four-wheel drive and trailer to deliver the food that would not fit in the truck.

Pastor Graeme Humble, the director of ADRA in southern Queensland, says the project has proved something to him: “It’s shown us what happens when the departments of the church work together—you multiply your strengths.”—**Brenton Stacey**

# Florist to give profits from winning business back to church

*Wahroonga, NSW*

**A** Seventh-day Adventist has been recognised as one of Australia’s top innovators.

Lisa Hayden’s Floral eKiosk is the winner of the Best Idea Concept Stage category at the 2003 Yellow Pages Business Ideas Grants. It could gross more than \$A50 million in sales in five years, but Ms Hayden, 31, plans to give one-third of the profits away.

The eKiosk allows qualified florists to sell their products 24 hours a day. Customers can purchase arrangements from a vending machine or arrange for flowers to be sent anywhere in the world via touch-screen technology. Ms Hayden plans to launch the product as “Flowers all Hours” in April next year.

“God has blessed me,” says Ms Hayden, a member of the Wahroonga church. “But I don’t need that much money. I’d rather put it toward a worthy cause.”

She plans to give 30 per cent of the net profits back to the Adventist Church—20 per cent for training church members to share their faith and 10 per cent as tithe.

Ms Hayden receives a fortnightly income from the federal government’s New Enterprise Incentive Scheme. She is living in the nurses’ residence at Sydney Adventist Hospital to save money.

“I’m currently doing part-time, temporary work because I need to give full-time attention to setting up the business.”

Judges of the Business Ideas Grants selected Ms Hayden, and Mervyn Dobbins and William Emerson, from 24 finalists in three categories. They announced their decision at a ceremony in Melbourne on September 3. Ms Hayden receives \$A50,000 for winning, plus \$A15,000 worth of advertising and \$A5000 worth of training and development support.

The grants—organised by Sensis, an advertising and media company—are to

encourage, recognise and reward small businesses and individual entrepreneurs. More than 1100 entries were received this year.

Ms Hayden completed a certificate in business studies at Avondale College in 1991 and this year was granted a scholarship to take up degree studies at Avondale. She has elected to postpone further study and focus on her business at the moment.—**Brenton Stacey with Heather Potter**



**Lisa Hayden.**

Peter Hagen

# After 150 years: Our ever-new school

by Arthur Patrick

**J**ames White in the 1850s was a young man with a big task. Along with his wife, Ellen, and retired mariner Joseph Bates, James was helping scattered groups of Second Advent believers discover their identity in Scripture and understand their mission in a mostly hostile or indifferent world. His “little flock” lacked effective organisation. Not until 1860 would they even agree on a name for their movement.

But “the little remnant scattered abroad” did have one precious resource, a magazine. Dubbed the *Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald* when it was founded in 1850, it reviewed the work of God in Millerite Adventism and heralded the seventh-day Sabbath. Two years later the *Review* still had no permanent home; it simply moved with the Whites as they nurtured struggling companies of believers.

Thirty-year-old James White sensed a growing need for another magazine. He believed that the Lord was coming so soon there was neither time nor money to start church schools. But children and youth

must be instructed in the way of the Lord. So, on August 9, 1852, the *Youth’s Instructor* was born.

The Bible and its message were the core concerns of both the *Review* and the *Instructor*. But in the *Instructor* the young editor broke new ground by publishing Bible studies.

“We intend to give four or five lessons, in the form of questions and answers, in each number, one for each week for Sabbath-school lessons,” James White wrote. His idea would grow and transform itself into an all-age Sabbath school that, 150 years later, includes 16 million students in 203 nations.

## Precedents

Adventists have always been interested in the longer history of such endeavours. They remember ancient Israelites were enjoined to teach the words of the Lord diligently to their children (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). Records of the first century suggest this is the way early Christians nurtured their young. As part of the Protestant Reformation, Luther took this important initiative in 1529, as did John Knox in 1560.

Seventh Day Baptists from 1739 held Sabbath-afternoon sessions for religious instruction. Englishman Robert Raikes, in 1780, on Sundays and during the evenings when their factory work was over, saw groups of “ragged, wretched and ignorant children” idle and quarrelling. So Raikes founded the modern phase of the Sunday-school movement, an idea that would come of age amid the reforming impulses of the 19th century.

## Transforming the idea

Probably about 40 per cent of early Adventists came from the Methodist communion, so they were accustomed to class meetings as a central part of their religious experience. As early as 1847, in their first little tract for Sabbatarian Adventists, the Whites and Joseph Bates stated: “The Bible is a perfect, and complete revelation. It is our only rule of faith and practice.”

So, for our forebears the *focus* was the Bible, the *method of study* centred in the small group, the *high day* of the process was the seventh day of the week. Sabbath school, therefore, seemed a natural and essential expression of their spiritual identity, well supported by the provision of *lessons* in the *Youth’s Instructor*.

Those who want to study the fascinating story of the Seventh-day Adventist Sabbath school since 1852 can access the *Review and Herald*, in either microform or “hard copy” at Avondale College, in the Ellen G White/SDA Research Centre. The magazine is still published weekly, as *Adventist Review*, edited winsomely for the past two decades by Australian William Johnsson.

In addition, there are perhaps 50 books that narrate significant events in the ongoing life of the Sabbath school or explore methods of instruction and outreach. Many of their titles are colourful: like Mary Moore’s *A Workman Not Ashamed* (1942) and Curtis Barger’s *Tomorrow in Your Hand* (1966).

About 20 song books have been created to help all-age Sabbath school students sing their faith; one of the best known of these is *Christ in Song*, from 1900. We shall note here just a few of the crucial transitions in the exciting story of a century-and-a-half.





## Transitions

By 1885, Sabbath schools were strong enough in the United States to start thinking what they could achieve if all their offerings were devoted to mission outreach. The Oakland, California, Sabbath school that year gave all its income to aid in planting an Australian mission. Within a year, California's Sabbath schools raised a further \$US700 to support Adventist outreach in Australia.

Between 1889 and 1890, Sabbath school funds contributed \$US12,000 to build the missionary ship *Pitcairn*. The *Pitcairn* sailed repeatedly to the South Pacific, bringing missionaries to remote islands and strengthening the fledgling church in New Zealand and Australia. But the *Pitcairn* was only the first of many mission vessels built, equipped and powered by Sabbath school offerings.

When American missionaries arrived in Australia, one of the first things they did here was start a Sabbath school. Jessie Israel was elected secretary and recorded that at the first Sabbath school meeting the membership was 10, the attendance was 100 per cent, plus one visitor.

A year later Jessie's legible handwriting recorded a membership of 92, an attendance of 83, with two visitors. Interestingly, those who were absent were expected to furnish written excuses. A small sheaf of these can still be read in the church's archives. A typical one, in copybook script, is addressed to the superintendent (see "My excuse").

Since 1901, when the church was extensively reorganised, Sabbath schools worldwide have been fostered by a department of the General Conference. That means a chain of leadership needs to operate at the various levels of the church organisation, right down to the local congregation.

Currently, Dr Erika Puni leads Sabbath school interests throughout the South Pacific Division. Within the same vast territory, Janet Rieger invests her skills in support of Children's Ministries, a task that dovetails well with other Sabbath school endeavours.

From among hundreds of innovations during the past century, we shall mention only a few. Black-and-white memory verse cards came into use in 1906, changing to

colour in 1915, the same year that Eyegate Pictures and Picture Rolls were developed. In 1970, with the help of colour slides and cassette tapes, Mission Spotlight was inaugurated as a way to present on-the-spot reports of mission progress and needs. Currently, of course, this feature employs more modern technology.

During the 1980s at Union College in the centre of the United States, there was an initiative to develop lessons that thinking youth might find more challenging. The project was so successful that, in 1986, the *Collegiate Quarterly* became an ongoing project of the General Conference.

## People

Hebrews 11 and 12 tells of the worthies of the past who lived by faith and who seem to form about us "a great cloud of witnesses." I like to visualise some of the intrepid Sabbath school leaders who have implemented their vision for the Sabbath school.

My favourite mind-picture is of James White writing lessons while his horse rests and eats. The journeys from one tiny cluster of believers to the next were often long. During meetings there was little time to write for the church's periodicals. Hence, after a hurried lunch, James White often wrote by the roadside, resting his paper on the top of his stovepipe hat.

Other early lesson authors were R F Cottrell, a prolific writer; Uriah Smith, a skillful editor; G H Bell, an astute teacher whose lessons were so good that they were used for 25 years. My mind passes to a host of others, like Flora Plummer, a woman of energy and wisdom who wrote four important books between 1922 and 1936, envisioning what Sabbath school could be and do.

My reverie includes more recent stalwarts, like Australasians Howard Rampton and Alice Lowe. Pastor Rampton is now retired in the United States, but I meet Miss Lowe often. Her retirement home is in Cooranbong; she still seems

## My excuse

*Wright's Journal*

*Dear Bro Platt  
On account of illness,  
I am unable to attend  
Sabbath school this morning,  
will you excuse, & Oblige yours in  
the Faith, Annie Bone*

infused with the energy of her 1981 book, *Building Little Christians*.

## Purpose

A host of reasons have been given as to why Sabbath school is so important for Adventists. Three stand out. First, it is a prime way to stimulate the study of the Bible for every member of our community of faith, from infants in the Beginners to the oldest amongst us who may need large-print pamphlets or even "talking books."

Second, the small-group concept is a foundational idea for effective Christian nurture. In a cluster of eight to 12 persons, quality communication occurs, close fellowship grows. Third, the eyes of the Sabbath school members can be directed to their mission each week, embracing a mutual responsibility in the local Sabbath school for fellow class members, the surrounding community and the world at large.

## Finally

Perhaps the most-used guide for Sabbath schools is *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, compiled from the writings of Ellen White. One sentence indicates the tone of its 186 pages: "The Sabbath school should be one of the greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in bringing souls to Christ" (page 10). 📖

*Arthur Patrick is a retired church historian who is still actively involved in academic pursuits. He writes from Cooranbong, NSW.*

# Focusing a Christian business

by Christopher R Bennett

The Seventh-day Adventist Church includes many members who operate their own business. These range from tradespeople to professionals. For many of us, the challenge is to operate our business in a manner that glorifies God. I believe that this can be done by focusing on three core values:

- Service before profit
- Others before self
- Supporting the church.

## Why are we in business?

The first question that has to be asked is, why are we in business? In his excellent book *Business by the Book*, Larry Burkett suggests that as Christian businesspeople, the purpose of our business is the same as our lives: to glorify God. We therefore have four essential functions:

1. Fund the gospel
2. Meet the needs of our staff
3. Be a disciple
4. Make a profit.

If we're going to glorify God through our business, it's absolutely essential that we operate in a manner acceptable to God. This isn't always easy considering the demands of the world in which we operate, but that only serves to make it all the more important that we fulfil Matthew 5:14—"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden."<sup>1</sup>

## Service before profit

There are two quotes from the Bible that have helped me immensely as a businessman. The first focuses on money: "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.



Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs" (1 Timothy 6:10). The second is about a person's name: "A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold" (Proverbs 22:1).

We need to put money into its proper perspective. While it's an enabler, it cannot and should not be the focus of our business. The ancient Greeks had it right with their saying, "Money comes and goes, but honour lasts forever."

In worldly businesses the goal is to maximise shareholder returns, that is, to maximise profit. However, that is only a minor—but essential—function of a Christian business. There's a trend among

socially responsible businesses<sup>2</sup> to downgrade the importance of profit maximisation. Some rate company performance using the triple bottom line: how the company has performed from a social, environmental and financial perspective. All three need to be in balance to have a healthy company. Unfortunately, profit is the main focus of too many businesses.

By far the majority of ethical situations I have been confronted with during 12 years of running my own business have in some way or other been associated with money. If one recognises that money is less important than service, problems can often be avoided.

Most of our customers are in developing countries where money is at a premium, so we apply the

principle of Christian stewardship to our clients. We do this by ensuring our prices are as low as possible given our manufacturing and development costs. Also, if a client wants to purchase equipment that they may not need, we will point them to a lower-cost solution. We need to know that we have provided value for money or we're not being good stewards.

In his book *Escape to God*, Jim Hohnberger tells of a presentation he gave to fellow real estate agents on the secret to his success: "The secret is a living connection with the Lord Jesus Christ, every moment of the day. This enables me to inquire of the Lord what is the best property for my client. This enables me to

put ambition and concern over my profit aside and tell some clients that this isn't the type of area they want to live in. . . . I sometimes tell other clients they are overextended."

As most businesses know, it takes a long time to build a good reputation, but it's disconcerting how quickly one can lose it. By focusing on service before profit, clients will see God in your business dealings.

### Others before self

The second most common area where ethical decisions are required is in dealing with staff. Here, we can learn from the socially responsible businesses where staff are recognised as stakeholders in the business. Yes, they are employees, but without them the business will not succeed and this fact needs to be appreciated and rewarded.

Staff satisfaction can often be related to remuneration, which draws us back again to 1 Timothy 6:10. It is important that staff members are paid a fair wage and that, as owners, we're always ready to review salaries to reflect changed circumstances. The following are a few examples based on our experiences:

- If a child is added to the family, special leave should always be available so employees are able to make the necessary adjustments or provide additional support to their spouse. We should also consider giving a special payment, even a small one, to assist with additional expenses.

- Many employees desire to further their education. This is facilitated either through funding or time off. We put aside 2 per cent of the salaries into a training account, which they use on any approved training of their choice.

- Every staff member participates in a bonus scheme. If the company does well, it's due to the support of the staff and this should be rewarded. When we sold part of our company we gave a tithe to God, a tithe to charity and a tithe to the staff.

This philosophy should also extend to dealing with subcontractors and other businesses.

- When you receive an invoice, how long do you wait to pay it? Delays can create problems for your suppliers who may in fact need payment urgently. If you're able to pay promptly you should. After all,

as Christians we should avoid debt, and the same should apply to our suppliers.

- Are they being paid fairly for the work they do? A software company bid for a contract and their quote was less than half what we estimated it would cost to do. We put aside the full amount and when they discovered the work would cost more to complete, we were able to provide a fairer return for them. They were most appreciative and have given us sterling service in return.

Satisfied staff and suppliers may cost you more financially, but the rewards will be far greater, both through improved performance of the company and through the satisfaction of knowing that you are being an example to them of Christian ethics.

In this, I believe we follow Jesus when He said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19).

### Supporting the church

There are many opportunities for Christian businessmen to support the work of the church. The obvious one is financial, but there are other ways open to us.

Young people in the church often need holiday jobs and your business can provide them with work in a positive Christian environment. This can help them see the gospel put into practice and can have many intangible, but long-lasting benefits. Almost every business has things that never get done due to time constraints—why not hire a student to do them for you? Yes, it may affect the profitability, but giving someone work is a wonderful opportunity and it can be fulfilling to all involved.

Businesses also have other opportunities for tangible support of the church:

- Photocopying. Most businesses have bulk photocopying facilities that cost a few cents per copy compared with much higher prices from commercial copying businesses. By making these available to the church and fellow members we can provide a much needed service.

- Equipment. There are generous

depreciation rates on equipment for businesses, and rather than selling obsolete equipment it can be donated to church work. One can even loan the church equipment that is not immediately needed—for instance, our company's data projector is used every Sunday for outreach.

- Donations. With business taxes being lower than personal taxes, there are often financial benefits from making donations to the church through the company.

### Glorifying God

In his book *Man's Search for Meaning*, Viktor Frankel, a survivor of Auschwitz, observed that those who set out in search of riches will never be satisfied since there will never be enough. If fame is our goal we will never be famous enough. If it is happiness, we'll never be happy enough. Frankel argues that we should set out to live our lives to our fullest potential and only then can we be satisfied.

This same approach applies to a Christian business. God wants our business to glorify Him and this can be done only by operating it with the ethical standards Jesus would have us follow. Service before profit; staff and suppliers before self; and support for the work of the church should be our focus. If we follow these, then God can use us and our business to further His work. However, if we focus on the wrong things, then we cannot and will not succeed.

Jesus commanded, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). **R**

1. All Bible quotations are from the New International Version.

2. The international organisation *Businesses for Social Responsibility (BSR)* is at the forefront of socially responsible business practices. Many Christians are members of the BSR and we can learn from its goals. Details are at [www.bsr.org](http://www.bsr.org) and there are local chapters in Australia and New Zealand.

Christopher R Bennett was manufacturing data collection equipment for roads, usually sold in developing countries, when he wrote this. He also worked part-time as a consulting engineer for the World Bank. He recently sold his business and is shifting to Washington, DC, to work fulltime for the World Bank. He writes from Motueka, NNZ.

Peta Taylor

# "Don't come yet, Jesus!"

by Anthony Whyatt

I was visiting not far from home and the young bloke I was with jokingly said, "I don't wanna die—I'm too young to die!" Within a few seconds he revised his comment: "I don't wanna die—I haven't had sex yet!"

As I drove home, those few words expanded into a myriad of thoughts. The topic was doing cartwheels in my mind.

Death is the final event for our present existence, and for those who won't see death the coming of Jesus will be the ultimate event. My young friend's comments were appropriate in either situation. I began to wonder about priorities. My priorities. Our priorities.

As practising Christians, what is most important to us? Are earthly ambitions keeping us from our heavenly goal?

Do we take this kind of attitude? "Don't come yet, Jesus! I'm about to build a new home and it's going to be great. It's located on a Gold Coast canal and I'll have my boat moored at my own private jetty. You should see the pool! It is like an extension of the sea coming right up to the back door.

"The fishing is good (just thought I'd throw that in because You relate well to fishermen). And what about that home theatre? The nice leather lounge in a lowly lit room with the little Sony projecting onto the whole wall? Of course, I'm going to use that for evangelism. I'll invite the neighbours in to watch Kenneth Cox evangelistic videos—if I can fit it in between the State of Origin and Bathurst and the golf and the lawn bowls and *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* and the news and ..."

Or is it this? "Don't come yet, Jesus! I have two weeks to retirement. I'll get a new gold watch and I have so many plans. I've put in my years of work and now it's time for me to sit back and let the world look after me. Golf twice a week. Visit friends on Wednesday. Pursue my hobbies—the



model train set and my new Pentax. Don't forget Thursday; you'll find me relaxing with the wife you gave me at the Caffex Club. Oh yeah! Life is just about to begin."

How about this? "Don't come yet, Jesus! For the first time in my life I'm in a stable relationship. I'll be married next Easter and we're already planning our family. We've settled on two kids—hopefully one of each. Maybe You could help in that area because we've already chosen names and we don't have a reserve, but if You can't we'll settle for strong, healthy babies."


Or this? "Don't come yet, Jesus! My next holidays are shaping up to be the best yet. I've purchased a trailer for the motorbike

and me and the young lady are planning an around-Oz camping holiday. When the weather gets a bit rough or we feel like a pampering, we'll pull into a B&B.

"Of course, You're welcome to come once we return because who would want to go back to work after a holiday like that? By the way, I'm not sure about leaving my Harley behind when we go to heaven. Are You sure I couldn't take it too?"

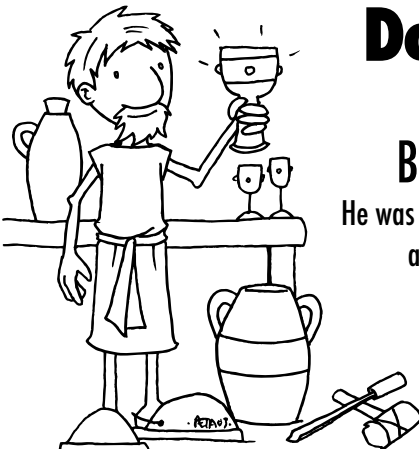
I'm not saying that these things are bad, but are our heavenly plans keeping pace with our earthly plans? A home on a Gold Coast canal would be great, but how does it compare to a home on heaven's Gold Boulevard? Retirement sounds great, but what about eternity in heaven?

A stable relationship is a dream come true, but what about sitting at the feet of Jesus and building a relationship with Him? A trip around Australia or New Zealand sounds wonderful, but what about that trip to heaven?

Some things pass and some things last—forever. Come soon, Jesus! 

*Anthony Whyatt writes from Crestmead, Qld.*

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Read about **Bezalel** in  
**Exodus 31:1-11**

Peta Taylor

## Missionary spirit lives

John Skuse, WA

As I read the letter "Don't let their deaths be in vain" (August 23), tears began to flow. Perhaps it was because I know from personal experience that a missionary's life can be full of risk. In 1966 Brian Dunn and I were the only nurses to apply for the position at Atoifi Hospital. I was shocked by his death as I was by the death of Lance Gersbach.

With my family, while working in Zambia, I also faced dangerous situations: first, from Communist guerrillas (my family faced loaded rifles) and, second, from tropical diseases (I almost died from cerebral malaria). I find it hard emotionally to think about what happened at Atoifi.

## Underground questions

J T Knopper, NSW

In "Small-group movement growing 'in Spirit's time'" (Newsfront, September 13), Pastor Gilbert Cangy makes the observation that it is easier to run "a program" than change "the culture" of the church. This statement invites questions.

For example, Why change the culture of the church? What's wrong with current church culture? If current secular culture surrounding the church calls for a change of church culture, then should the church change the world or those in the world?

According to Paul (see Romans 12:1, 2),

we're not to adopt the customs of this world.

David Brown, Vic

Pastor Cangy states "We thought the Underground would in six months leap into life. It hasn't." I believe the reason for the lack of success of the Underground is due to the negative connotations of the term *underground*.

The *Macquarie Dictionary* has a number of definitions including: "Secretly; not openly"; "hidden or secret" and "referring to a group, organisation etc, that holds radical political views and does not work as part of the establishment."

These definitions are negative. As this is

("Sanitarium develops Vege Burger for McDonald's," August 9). The most disgusting thing was the chilli sauce, which could turn people off other Sanitarium products. It's a good idea, just a bad end product.

The vege sausages Sanitarium made about 35 years ago: Does anyone still have the recipe? Please send it to Sanitarium and tell them to make them again. And bring back Kwik Bru!

## Congratulations in order

Malcolm Ford, NZ

Congratulations to the 2003 Avondale Homecoming planning committee(s). In addition to seeing old friends, Dr William

## The vege sausages Sanitarium made about 35 years ago: Does anyone still have the recipe?

how most people think of any group or organisation that calls itself "underground," it should not be surprising that the Underground has not been very successful.

If the Underground was to change its name to something less negative, I believe it would take off and reach goals that the people running it could not imagine.

## Thumbs down to McDonald's

Joe Marshall, Qld

We thought we'd try the new McDonald's Sanitarium health burger

Johnsson's Murdoch lecture and Sabbath morning presentation, Robert Wolfgramm's witty reminiscences and the Saturday night concert all added up to a most enjoyable and memorable weekend.

## The other side

Name withheld

After spending many years a victim of domestic violence I was disturbed to read "Response to domestic violence" (August 16). I found it painful because I'm a male who has suffered the full range of abuse—physical, verbal and mental—from my wife. The article tends to point to the male as the only one to perpetrate violence, but my experience is not an isolated one.

The article stated that the church must not avoid its responsibility to help those targeted by this violence. On several occasions I went to church leadership for help only to discover that if a woman cries rape the church members rally around her. But if a man cries foul, he is ignored.

When will someone stand up for men?

**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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## Anniversary

**Schubert.** Vic and Florrie (nee Tedman) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends, and a surprise lunch at their home on July 20. They were married in Burnie, Tas, on 15.7.53 by Pastor W Stevens. They have two daughters, Sue (and husband, John) and Jenny; two grandsons; and two granddaughters. They moved to Warburton, Vic, in 1967 so Vic could work for the Sanitarium Health Food Company. He retired in 1991, and they remain in Warburton.

## Appreciation

**Longson.** Verna and her extended family would like to thank everyone for their help, prayers, cards, messages and flowers after the sad loss of Kenneth. He sleeps awaiting the Lord's return.

**Tesese.** Mrs Avaganofoa and family express sincere appreciation for the outpouring of love, support and condolences from our many friends and relatives, church pastors and members, organisations and individuals during the sudden but peaceful passing away of our beloved husband, father and grandfather.

## Weddings

**Chesher—Crane.** Nigel Grant Chesher, son of Graham and Lydia Chesher (Coffs Harbour, NSW), and Simone Maree Crane, daughter of Gary (Ulong) and the late Christine Crane, were married on 1.8.03 in Coffs Harbour Adventist church.  
*Eric Greenwell*

**Corcoran—Parkin.** Dr Chris Corcoran, son of Dr John and Lyn Corcoran (Southport, Qld), and Marissa Parkin, daughter of Neil and Jenny Parkin (Mackay), were married on 5.10.03 at Tamborine Mountain.  
*Bob Possingham*

**Dyson—Waring.** Luke John Dyson, son of Pastor Frank and Rosalie Dyson (nee Plane, Busselton, WA), and Sherilee Rose Waring, daughter of John and Deborah Waring (nee Marshall, Albany), were married on 17.8.03 at Araluen Botanic Park, Roleystone, Perth.  
*Gordon Smith*

**Hanes—Hammond.** Owen Christopher Hanes, son of Osborne and Mary Hanes

## Positions vacant

▲ **Project Manager—Signs Publishing Company** is seeking a Project Manager to work with the General Manager to: assist in a growth strategy for Signs Publishing Company; identify opportunities for product development, process improvement, customer services and growth areas; analyse cause-and-effect relationships and implications of project studies; plan, direct and coordinate activities of designated projects to ensure that goals or objectives of projects are accomplished within prescribed time frame and funding parameters. As an applicant you should have demonstrable analytical and problem-solving skills, and business-plan implementation. A full position description is available on request. **Initial inquiries or written applications** and résumé may be directed to Mrs Leslie Wood, Signs Publishing Company, Warburton, Vic. Phone (03) 5966 9111 or email <lwood@signspublishing.com.au>. All inquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence. Signs Publishing Company is an equal opportunity employer. **Applications close** October 23, 2003.

▲ **Nursing Education Manager—Sydney Adventist Hospital (Wahroonga NSW)** invites applications from registered nurses who: have excellent interpersonal and communication skills; are role models both clinically and personally; have a current NSW nursing registration; have postgraduate qualifications in education and/or management (preferably at master's level); and have a minimum of five years nursing experience. **For further information and applications** contact Annette Baldwin, Nursing Executive Officer; email <annetteb@sah.org.au>; phone (02) 9487 9431; or fax (02) 9487 9425. **Applications close** October 24, 2003.

▲ **Student Adviser/Recruiters—Avondale College (Cooranbong, NSW)** is seeking two Student Adviser/Recruiters for a three-year renewable term. Responsibilities include: assisting in marketing activities within Australia, especially in Adventist and other Christian schools and churches. The successful applicants will have the ability to relate well to young people, a passion for Avondale and Christian education; a driver's licence and experience in marketing or sales. **For further information:** <www.avondale.edu.au>; Sonya Muhl (02) 4980 2284; email <sonya.muhl@avondale.edu.au>. **Applications in writing** close October 17, 2003.

▲ **Assistant Director of Men's Residence—Avondale College (Cooranbong, NSW)** is seeking a full-time Assistant Director of Men's Residence commencing early 2004. The successful applicant will have an appropriate degree, strong people and communication skills, good rapport with young people, and preferably experience in counselling. **For further information** see <www.avondale.edu.au>. **Applications in writing** should be forwarded to Sonya Muhl, Human Resources, Avondale College, PO Box 19, Cooranbong NSW 2265; or <sonyamuhl@avondale.edu.au>; (02) 4980 2284 or fax (02) 4980 2269, to arrive no later than October 20, 2003.

▲ **The South Pacific Division (Wahroonga, NSW)** is seeking applicants for the following positions: **Business Manager:** Atoifi Hospital, Solomon Islands; **Bursar:** Pacific Adventist University, Port Moresby, PNG; **Accounting/IT Lecturer:** Pacific Adventist University, Port Moresby, PNG; **Industrial Technology Lecturer:** Pacific Adventist University, Port Moresby, PNG; **Nursing Lecturer:** Pacific Adventist University, Port Moresby, PNG. **For further information** please visit the Employment section of the SPD web site on <www.adventist.org.au>.

▲ **Coordinator—Women's Refuge (Gold Coast area, Qld)** is seeking a Coordinator for a Women's Refuge for a full-time position. Award wage. Allowances to be negotiated. **For further information** phone (02) 6674 5558; or email <adrianr@norex.com.au>.

(Strathpine, Qld), and Bess Belinda Hammond, daughter of Richard and Jeanine Hammond (Narangba), were married on 23.8.03 in Morningside Uniting church, Morningside, Brisbane.  
*Henry Miller*

**Harding—Rabbas.** Walter George Harding and Joan Kathleen Rabbas were married on 31.8.03 at Wynnum, Qld.  
*John Rabbas*

**Schirmer—Stark.** Michael Thomas Schirmer, son of Neil and Gay Schirmer (Dulong, Qld), and Michelle Rebecca Stark, daughter of Juergen and Carol Stark (Sorento, Surfers Paradise), were married on 7.9.03 at "Woodlands Lakeside Manor," Cobaki Lakes, Tweed Heads, NSW.  
*Neil Tiler*

## Obituaries

**Knowlson,** Christopher, born 22.9.1912 at York, England; died 6.3.03 at Albury, NSW. He was predeceased by his first wife, Mary; and his second wife, Carla. He is survived by his wife, Connie; his children, Chris, Andrew, Heather, Eva, Jacob, Trevor and Carol; their spouses; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. Chris attended Newbold College and was a minister, both in England and Ireland, before migrating to Australia. He spent the past 20 years of his life in Albury, NSW.

*Mike Parker*

**Osti,** Bernhard, born 8.2.1942, at Prynja-

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vor, Germany; died 2.7.03 at Berkeley Vale, NSW. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn (nee Reynolds); his daughters, Jacqueline Wykes (New Lambton), Meagan Chaffey (Kings Park) and Rhaelene Goodwin (St Agnes); and their families. Bernhard was a kind, considerate and hardworking man, cut down in his prime by a debilitating illness. His four girls, family and friends are longing for the special day when Jesus comes to call His loved ones home.

Daniel Cinzio

**Shields**, Doris Jean (nee Forsyth), born 22.9.1913 at Christchurch, SNZ; died 6.8.03 in Brisbane, Qld. On 8.5.43 she married Tom, who predeceased her in 1994. She is survived by her children, Trevor (Sydney, NSW), Cheryl Boge (Brisbane, Qld) and Jennifer Straus (Waco, Texas, USA). Doris was a Christian woman, whose joy in life came from being a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother to her family.

Gordon Oaklands

**Wood**, Len Clarence Collard, born 14.8.1927 at Grafton, NSW; died 10.8.03 in Brisbane, Qld. He was predeceased by his son, Jim; also his grandson, Clinton. He is survived by his wife, Heather; his daughter and son-in-law, Leonie and Howard Ross-Gilder (Kooralbyn); his daughter-in-law, Pam Wood; and his two grandchildren. The service was conducted from the Springwood (Qld) SDA church.

André van Rensburg

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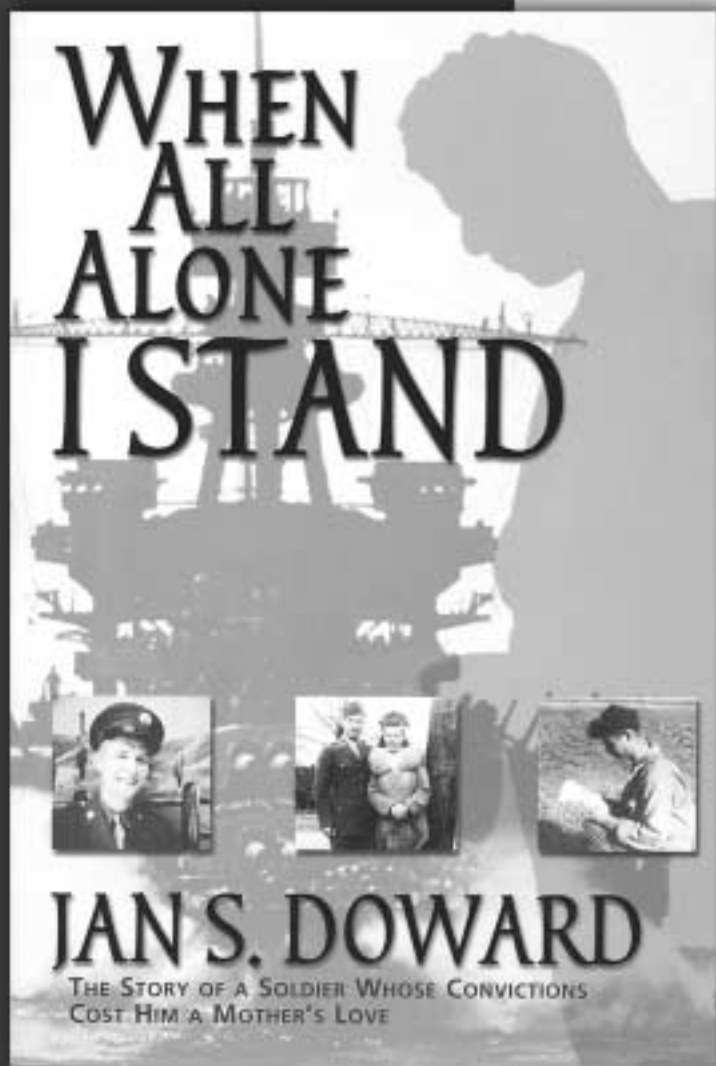
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