

RECORD



Avondale College president Dr Geoffrey Madigan in the newly completed auditorium: "Your support made this building possible."

Avondale "Audo" opened

Lee Dunstan

Avondale College's new auditorium was officially opened on October 26, during the 2002 Homecoming weekend. The old auditorium, a feature of the Cooranbong, NSW, campus and centre of student activities since 1953, was found unsafe due to termite infestation in 1999 and condemned. The \$A4.4 million reconstruction and replacement project also included the refurbishment of the auditorium basement classrooms and facilities.

In declaring the facility open, the Honorable Jeff Hunter, Member for Lake Macquarie, congratulated the fundraising and construction, saying he was "proud to have the college in [his] constituency."

Federal MP Kelly Hoare, Member for Charlton, said she perceived the facility as providing a focal point for the college and student community. She added, "We know that when we come to Avondale, we will be greeted by friends—like friends!"

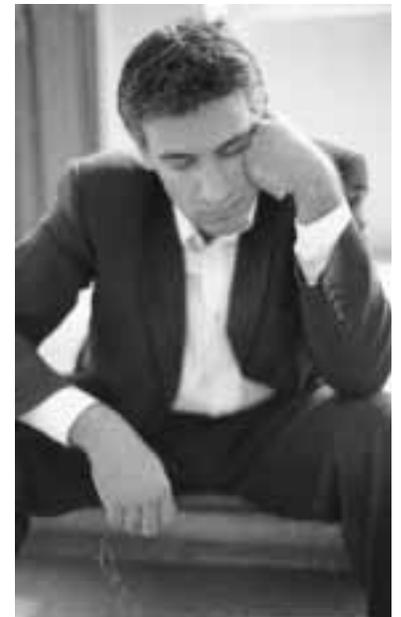
Dr Geoffrey Madigan, president of Avondale College, thanked donors for their contributions, singling out the Canadian-based Chan Shun Foundation—which gave about one-quarter of the cost, and after whom the facility will be named—and the South Pacific Division which, in addition to its financial support, helped secure General Conference funds. He also thanked the many donors "large and small," including the thousands who gave through the college auditorium offering, saying, "Your support made this building possible." (More on page 6)

In this issue

*The challenge of
Go One Million*

*Tragedy mars
church opening*

*Five ordained at
SQLd camp-meeting*



*Serious
about
ministry*

The Spirit is in control

Spirit of Prophecy Day. This is an annual event, and the Field Secretary is asked to write an editorial to reflect on the ministry of Ellen White. One of the reasons is that I, among other responsibilities, carry the presumptuous title of Coordinator of the Spirit of Prophecy. So, let the reflections begin by pondering upon that phrase.

The title is internationally used by the church, almost as a technical term. It presupposes an intimate acquaintance with our understanding of the prophecies in Revelation as it—on the basis of Revelation 12:17 and 19:10—refers to the writings and work of Ellen G White.

This sense, so integrated a part of our Adventist heritage and vocabulary, is, however, quite specialised. A broader and general meaning of the expression the “spirit of prophecy” is the “Spirit of God.” It refers to the Holy Spirit, who inspires prophets to proclaim the message of God and Christians to share the testimony that Jesus entrusts them through the Word.

Also, Ellen White employs the phrase in a broader sense. Paul’s companion Silas, for instance, was “gifted with the spirit of prophecy” (*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 203). In a similar usage, “the spirit of prophecy was upon” Simeon in the temple (*The Desire of Ages*, page 55), and “by the spirit of prophecy He [God] carried him [Enoch] down through the generations that should live after the Flood, and showed him the great events connected with the second coming of Christ and the end of the world” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 85).

Not what, but who

So I will not ask what, but who? Who is the spirit of prophecy? It is the Holy Spirit. I must then ask myself, is it really possible

to be the Coordinator of the Spirit of Prophecy? Or, at least, is it possible in this sense of the term? The answer should be a resounding no!

The Holy Spirit is a person, part of the Godhead. This description of the Holy Spirit may seem vague to the human mind, but it is deliberately so. His work is as manageable as the wind—in the Aramaic that Jesus spoke in John 3:8, the word for *wind* and *Spirit* is the same.

The Holy Spirit can be grieved as a person (Ephesians 4:30) and, in sharing the heavenly gifts, the Spirit works according to His own decision and purpose (1 Corinthians 12:11).

Yet, surprisingly, we often do our best to control the Spirit. A common human reaction to the divine seems to be that we want to stay in control. Such was the nature of idol worship. The advantage of having your god as an image is that you’re able to carry it around.

Some years back I sat in an interdenominational committee planning a worship program. At one point it was suggested that we hire a group of professionals to sing the congregation into the mood for 45 minutes and then simply let the Spirit take over. But programming an event in this way is a human attempt to control or manipulate the Spirit and His outpouring—deciding beforehand how and when this should happen.

In some Christian circles healing sessions are structured because it’s known that programming them in a certain way will create the proper emotions, and then it’s labelled the work of the Spirit. Even prayer is used at times as if it were magic or, perhaps, demands, ordering God around.

But the Holy Spirit is a person of the

Godhead and cannot be controlled, manipulated or coordinated by humans. His work cannot be confined to our schemes and structures; His gifts cannot be decided and listed, and put into our small boxes. The Holy Spirit comes to humans through the preaching of the crucified Jesus (Galatians 3:1, 2), not by works of law. He works according to His own purpose and will, not our expectations.

What of Ellen White?

Perhaps one of the reasons some people question whether the ministry of Ellen White is the work of the Spirit of Prophecy, is that we have created wrong expectations. We try to confine her ministry to our little box. We may want her to be another canon, which she denied was the purpose of her work. We may want her to live up to our concepts of infallibility, even if she never claimed to be anything but human. We may want her to belong to our modern culture, something even the biblical authors cannot claim. But the Holy Spirit pours out His gifts according to His own purpose.

I’m convinced that Ellen White, in her ministry, fulfilled the particular purpose for which the Spirit of Prophecy called her. I believe so mainly because she always uplifted the crucified Saviour through whom alone the Spirit of God is received.

Paul B Petersen
Field Secretary
South Pacific Division



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

- Changing the face of Weet-Bix • Nutrition Service meets needs • ADRAcare helps with drought • ATSIM under review • Search for songwriters • Waitara church success
- Mabel Richards dies at 103 • Mel Gibson plans film about Christ • and more

● New Zealand **Weet-Bix packs** became **Thank-You packs** for six weeks during October and November. The Thank-You branded packs thanked New Zealanders for supporting **Weet-Bix**, which allowed the Sanitarium Health Food Company to provide funds to a variety of charities. The organisations—including Adventist Development and Relief Agency—were listed on the back of the pack with a profile of the work they do.

● A search for **Australian Adventist songwriters** is under way with the Australian Union Conference (AUC)—under the direction of Pastors **Rob Steed and Graeme Christian**—planning to release a praise and worship resource for the Australian church. The aim of the project is to create a resource of **Adventist worship songs** that includes sheet music, PowerPoint and backing music tracks that could be utilised by a congregation. Songwriters from around Australia should submit their materials to the music director of the project, **Mirek Stekla** (pictured), by December 31. Address submissions to: AUC Worship CD Project, PO Box 215, Nunawading Vic 3131; phone (03) 9259 2100; email <mstekla@adventist.org.au>.



● Study is being made of the possibility of appointing an **associate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministry**

Walls fall during children's expo

A building in Lae, Papua New Guinea, collapsed during an expo for children's Sabbath school leaders organised by the Adventist Church. Two hundred were attending the expo, held at the Lutheran Conference Centre, to learn more about the new GraceLink curriculum.

"One of our plenary sessions in the hall finished late," reports Janet Rieger, children's ministries director for the South Pacific Division. "We were about to leave for our workshops in the three traditional huts at the centre when one collapsed. White ants had eaten a supporting beam."

The manager of the centre expressed concern at what could have happened, but God's protection impressed him, says Mrs Rieger.

Pictured in front of the collapsed hut is one of the children's ministries leaders attending the expo.—*Brenton Stacey*



Janet Rieger

(ATSIM) director to be located in the Brisbane conference office to serve the east coast of Australia. The ATSIM director, Pastor **Eric Davey**, is based at the Australian Union Conference office in Melbourne.

● Some **45 people** indicated a desire to follow Jesus and be baptised at the end of a series of meetings held over the past 12 months at the **Waitara church**, Sydney. The meetings included a Life After Death evangelistic series, a Daniel Seminar and a Revelation Seminar. The main presenter, the church minister Pastor **Geoff Youlden** (pictured), was supported by **Neale Schofield**, the senior elder, and **Kevin Brown**, the associate pastor.—*Intrasyd*



● Sanitarium Health Food Company's **Nutrition Service** receives more than **120 requests a day** for community health advice, according to Sanitarium chief executive officer **Kevin Jackson** (pictured).—*Newslines*



● Several Christian organisations in New Zealand are seizing the chance to **share their faith** during the America's Cup. Youth With a Mission, the Bible Society and OAC Ministries are among those with America's Cup-related projects. The January issue of *Signs of the Times* for 2003 features **Tom Schnackenberg**, who leads

the New Zealand team attempting to retain the cup. New Zealand churches interested in a special bulk order (at \$NZ1 each) of the issue should contact **Margaret Rosenberg**—email <renewals@signspublishing.com.au>. Orders must be in this coming week.

● ADRAcare's **Chris Olafson** is among representatives from relief agencies and charities on a committee as part of the response by the New South Wales government to the **drought** in the state. The committee is to monitor, prepare and carry out responses to personal support needs of affected farmers and businesses. The meetings have been chaired by Dr **Col Gillatly**, NSW's most senior public servant. A recent meeting in Orange was attended by regional representatives from the rural sector, councillors, health professionals, government departments and community organisations.

● The Russian affiliate of **Three Angels Broadcasting Network** (3ABN) won first place at an international media competition held in Odessa, Ukraine. The contest drew 300 entries from 67 cities in Greece, Moldova, Russia, Uzbekistan and Ukraine. 3ABN won the spirituality category for a **Christmas program** about the birth of Christ. “Many television stations in Ukraine want to broadcast this Christmas program,” says Pastor **Valery Ivanov** communication director for the Euro-Asia Division. “It was a wonderful opportunity to introduce Adventist productions to the television and radio world.”—ANN

SAH helps fit out Cedarvale Retreat

Equipment including spa baths, a shell bath, sitz bath, contrast showers, sauna and vichy showers, originally used



in the men's hydrotherapy treatment rooms at the Sydney Adventist Hospital, have now been commissioned in new treatment rooms at the Cedarvale Health and Lifestyle Retreat,” reports Scott Tindall, public relations officer for Cedarvale. Cedarvale is situated at Fitzroy Falls, south-west of Sydney.

“We thank the Sydney Adventist Hospital for their generous support in providing hydrotherapy equipment to the centre. Until August this year, the centre's hydrotherapy equipment consisted of one single spa bath, an upright steam chamber, showers and an improvised washtub for sitz baths.”

Since opening in 1991, Cedarvale has promoted positive health and lifestyle programs. Hydrotherapy treatments form an integral part of each guest's health regimen and Mr Tindall says it has been satisfying to see the retreat grow in size and in the quality of the services it provides.

● Millions in **Guatemala** are tuning in to a broadcast specifically focused on young people. *Live Without Fear* is produced by the Inter-American Division, aired by **Adventist Television Network** and carried by one of the largest cable television stations in Guatemala. It is also transmitted by Adventist World Radio to a local radio station in Guatemala City. The broadcast began on October 19 and continued every evening until November 2.

● **Mabel Richards**, wife of well-known Adventist broadcaster Pastor **H M S Richards**, died on October 25, at 103 years of age. Her late husband founded the **Voice of Prophecy** ministry on October 19, 1929, with a radio program on KNX, Los Angeles. Her son, Pastor **H M S Richards, Jr.**, took over as speaker of Voice of Prophecy in 1969—he died in April 2000. The Voice of Prophecy broadcast is one of the longest-running religious broadcasts in the world and a weekly television program airs on several satellite networks.

● The Adventist churches of Rochester, New York, have worked together to commemorate the **150th anniversary** of the purchase of the first Adventist printing press and the **birth of the church's publishing work**. In 1852, leaders of the Sabbatarian movement met to discuss the problems of having the *Adventist Review* published by non-Adventists. After much prayer and a short-term loan of \$US650 from Hiram Edson, a press was purchased. The church now has **56 publishing houses** that produce some 400 magazines in more than 300 languages.—AR

● **Mel Gibson**, the actor, has announced plans to create a film of the **last 12 hours of Christ's life**, with the script in Latin and Aramaic, without subtitles. He says he feels that, if done properly, it will transcend the spoken word. A staunch Catholic, he admits that the venture is risky, but he says, “It's good for the soul, not the pocket.”

Days and offerings

December 7—Stewardship Day

Off the record

● **Gotitas de Esperanza**, that's the name of the children's choir at the Wetherill Park Spanish church, Sydney. With **45 children aged between three and 11**, it began to be a witness last year. The choir has participated in worship services, church programs and singing to the elderly and sick in nursing homes and hospitals.—*Intrasyd*

● This is a first—a baptism in the **Eschurch** (Qld). There have been other baptisms in the area, but **Tim and Sonia Fittkau's** baptism was the first in the church, in a temporary font. Pastor **John Rabbas** performed the ceremony.



● The **Morningside Spanish church**, Qld, is on the move with plans for the sale of their existing church and the proposed purchase of land for building at **Richlands**.—*Focus*

● Here's an ADRA Appeal champion. **Effie Georgos** (pictured) attends the **Hughesdale church**, Vic, and has collected for 11 years. She works on the appeal from 10 am to 6 pm, with the support of her husband, Con. Within 19 days this year she **collected \$A4025**. She confirms that emphasising the Safari story in advertising helped her with her contacts.



● **Elaine O'Brien** is another champion. The Salisbury Council, SA, named this retiree one of their 10 **Learning Champions** after she completed two Year 12 subjects with distinction. She worked for many years at the conference office before retiring.

Church opening to benefit community

Brenton Stacey

The opening of a Seventh-day Adventist church in Katherine, Northern Territory, shows the denomination has something tangible to offer the community, says the minister, Pastor Roger Millist.

Church members will use the centre for their worship services, but they are also hiring it to members of the local Baptist Church for their worship services. The hospital and the senior citizens association are also interested in using the centre.

The opening is the highlight of the church in Northern Australian Conference's Year of the Outback celebrations, reports the president Pastor Deane Jackson. He helped unveil a plaque on Australia Day (January 26) this year to commemorate the

start of construction and the appointment of Pastor Millist as the first minister. Mark Friend, a volunteer, served as minister from 1998.

Forty Adventists from around Australia and 15 from Katherine volunteered to build the centre. "Some took their annual holidays to help; others donated money," says Pastor Millist. "To me it sums up the Outback spirit—a sense of mateship."

The deputy Mayor of Katherine, Des Buckerfield, and the local Member of the Legislative Assembly, Mike Reed, joined Pastor Millist at the opening. Also



The new Seventh-day Adventist community centre in Katherine, Northern Territory.

Tragedy mars church opening

The death of five people in a road accident has marred the opening of a new Seventh-day Adventist community centre in Katherine, Northern Territory.

Kellie Saueha, 22, her husband, Tema, their children, Leleana, five, and Itai, 10 months, and Leleana's friend, Ruby Thompson, died when their car collided with a truck on the Stuart Highway 50 kilometres from Katherine at about 9 am on November 2.

The Sauehas were travelling south from Darwin in a three-car convoy with other members of the local Adventist church. They were all planning to attend the opening of the community centre.

Mrs Saueha's mother, Sherree Orr, and Ruby's mother, Ella Geia, witnessed the accident. Mrs Orr is principal of the Darwin Adventist Primary School. Her students were to sing during the ceremony.

Mrs Saueha, a part-time teacher at the school, had recently completed a Bachelor of Education at Avondale College, NSW, and was to graduate in December.

"Avondale is a small, close-knit community. The loss of a member affects everyone," says Dr Geoffrey Madigan, the president of the college.

"Our faith in the soon-coming Saviour becomes a vital hope in times like this," says Pastor Deane Jackson, the president of the Northern Australian Conference. "Priorities are brought into clear focus as we endeavour to encourage and support one another, especially those who are so deeply affected on a personal level."

Pastor Jackson had planned to speak during the opening of the community centre, but travelled to Darwin to comfort the family and friends of those killed.

Pastor Roger Millist, the minister of the church in Katherine, has counselled the truck driver, ambulance officers, one of the police officers and local members since the accident.

The accident is the second involving Adventists travelling to church events in Katherine on the Stuart Highway this year. Dr Isaac Ogendi and his wife, Moraa, rolled their car while travelling north from Tennant Creek to a women's retreat in May. Dr Ogendi is now a paraplegic.—*Brenton Stacey with Nalissa Maberly*

attending were the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries director for the church in Australia, Pastor Eric Davey, the secretary of the South Pacific Division, Dr Barry Oliver, and the chair of the local inter-church council, Neil Forgie.

Helema and Simone Dauth, one of the daughters and the granddaughter of the late Paulie Shah, the first known Adventist in Katherine, each presented a flower arrangement during the opening.

Adventist sniper victim mourned

With the capture of two suspects in the three-week series of sniper murders in the Washington, DC, area, Adventists are mourning the death of Premkumar Walekar, 54, the third victim of the shootings. He was shot on October 3 while filling his taxi with petrol.

Mr Walekar was a member of Sligo Adventist church in Takoma Park, Maryland. He is survived by his wife and two children. A trust fund has been established to help the family with immediate expenses.

Charges have been filed against suspects John Allen Muhammad and John Lee Malvo for the shootings that left 10 dead and three wounded.—*Ansel Oliver, ANN*

Avondale's homecoming opens auditorium

Lee Dunstan

Avondale College's newest facility—the Chan Shun Auditorium—was opened on October 26. In addition to local dignitaries, college staff and students, and South Pacific Division personnel, the opening was attended by several hundred former students and their families, at Avondale for the annual Homecoming weekend, which this year honoured the classes of 1942, '52, '62, '72 and '77, '82 and '92.

New auditorium opening

The 2002 Homecoming on the weekend of October 25-27 was significant in that it featured the first event to be held in the new Chan Shun Auditorium—a variety concert produced by Avondale graduate Kevin Ferris, president of the 1962 graduation class, and featuring the Springwood, Qld, church choir and Newcastle's Orchestra Nova. The next official event will be the Avondale College graduation on the weekend of December 6-8.

Invited guests at the opening included the South Pacific Division (SPD) president, Pastor Laurie Evans, SPD secretary Dr Barry Oliver, Kelly Hoare, Federal Member for Charlton, and Jeff Hunter, State Member for Lake Macquarie.

Commenting on the demise of the old and loved "Audio," Pastor Evans said, "It wasn't that it was a great piece of architecture, it was what it represented that was important. . . . We acknowledge its passing . . . [but] the spirit of Avondale remains. It was a symbol of vision, sacrifice and cooperation."

And on its \$A4.4 million replacement, a price tag that might raise a few eyebrows, he said, "It's not an option, but mandatory."

Dr Bruce Youlden, the college's vice-president for planning and administrative services, nominated the opening of the new auditorium as "a defining moment" in the more recent history of Avondale.

The construction, which began with the demolition of the old structure at the end of 2001 and actual construction on March 4 this year, was finished on time. The little



remaining work will be completed prior to graduation and involves mostly cosmetic work, such as the marking of basketball courts and fitting out of rooms.

The old building, which was completed in 1954, was designed by Geoffrey Richardson and based on the concept of the American Nissen hut, ubiquitous around the country during the war years. Its large, semicircular supporting beams were constructed from hardwood taken from the nearby Watagan Forest.

Its replacement, at 1620 square metres, is some 25 per cent larger in floor area, achieved by moving the walls outward and relocating the stage area at the southern end of the old building to an extension midway along its eastern side.

During the reconstruction, it was found that the old concrete floor suffered a 75 mm fall-away from one end to the other, which necessitated the pouring of a lightweight concrete surface across it. On top of this is a sprung sports floor, which will be marked with one international standard court (lengthways) and three standard courts (crossways). There will also be markings for volleyball, badminton and netball.

The new building bears little resemblance to the old, being constructed on a "steel portal" frame, the walls a combination of concrete block, glass and Luxalon and Colorbond steel panelling. The interior is rendered concrete block with acoustic panels and includes cellulose insulation.

And for nostalgic former students looking for some vestige of their past, the southern

external brick wall has been incorporated into the new construction. There's also a piece of the concrete path that ran around the old auditorium containing a tile mosaic—"The Class of '53."

The new auditorium has been officially named the Chan Shun Auditorium. About one-quarter of the project's cost was donated by the Chan Shun International Foundation, which was set up in 1974 by Chan Shun of Canada, whose daughter once attended Avondale. Mr Shun was the founder of Crocodile Garments of Hong Kong, and his foundation has donated some \$A50 million to education around the world—much of it to Seventh-day Adventist institutions.

Major donors, including the Avondale College Foundation and numerous families and individuals, will have various courts, classrooms and facilities named in their honour.

Challenging the church

Presenting the annual William G C Murdoch Memorial Lecture was former RECORD associate editor Gary Krause, who now serves in the office of Global Mission at the General Conference. In his lecture, entitled "Your mission, should you wish to accept it . . .," Mr Krause challenged the church to be more relevant in presenting the gospel to its potential audience—the unchurched in the postmodern era—and, at a personal level, to be more enthusiastic about doing so, a theme he continued in his Sabbath sermon.

Five ordained at SQld camp-meeting

Bruce Manners

Five were ordained to the gospel ministry at the South Queensland Conference camp-meeting on September 28: Sean Berkeley, Murray Hunter, John Rabbas, Tony Urrea and Karl Winchcombe.

Sean Berkeley

Pastor Berkeley came back to God at the age of 18. "I loved my church and enjoyed the people of the church," he says. "Out of that came a desire to do ministry for God." He speaks of falling into ministry as he followed "God's gentle proddings."

An Avondale College graduate, he studied for ministry in 1992, volunteered for a year and graduated in 1996. He worked in the Greater Sydney Conference for three years at the Kellyville (two years) and then Fox Valley churches. For the past two years he has been the assistant youth director for the South Queensland Conference.

"One of our biggest challenges today is trying to make our Adventist message impact in the youth culture of today," he says. He and his wife, Carmelle, are expecting their first child in January.

Murray Hunter

Baptised at Avondale College on the day he graduated with a teaching degree in 1986, Pastor Hunter did not expect to be working for the church. But he was asked to teach in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

He and Linda married before his second year in the Solomons. He then served as principal at Rockhampton and Ipswich schools, Qld, for a total of nine years. He then taught at Northpine Christian College before accepting his current role as youth director for the conference two years ago.

Pastor Hunter is best known as the speaker for the REZ10 series. He and Linda have three children aged eight, nine and 12.

"What drives me is to help young people to connect with God in a society today that is hopeless and pulls kids away from church and God," he says. "There are so many kids out there whose whole life is a pay cheque and a weekend."



Pictured at the ordination are (back, l to r): Pastor John Rabbas; Scott Hopkins, conference treasurer; Pastors Tony Urrea; Chester Stanley, Australian Union Conference president; Sean Berkeley; Karl Winchcombe; Murray Hunter; and Ross Baines, conference ministerial secretary. Front (l to r): Beryl Rabbas; Beatie Urrea; Carmelle Berkeley; Natalie Winchcombe; and Linda Hunter.

John Rabbas

When Pastor Rabbas returned from the 1995 General Conference session, a friend challenged him about what he was going to do with the rest of his life. He tells of "heavy discussions" with God over a number of weeks before deciding to leave his home-improvement business and volunteer.

He offered himself to the conference and was stunned when they asked him and his wife, Beryl, to minister to the Hervey Bay and Maryborough churches.

"I love working with people and seeing the lights come on as they come to an understanding of gospel truth," he says. He adds that he has discovered that ministry is more about people than about theology.

They have three adult children and five grandchildren, and are currently in their second year of caring for the Gatton and Esk churches.

Tony Urrea

Born in Italy, Pastor Urrea says he was an atheist when he had a miraculous encounter with God while reading a Bible he had been given as a gift. He was on a flight from Norway to Israel. During a "chance" encounter with a bus load of Spanish Adventists in Israel, he discovered they believed what he had found in the Bible.

He would go to South America and then to South Africa before attempting to attend an Adventist church. When he tried, he was told he was not dressed appropriately and not welcomed. At his second visit—at God's urging, he says—he was welcomed warmly.

He describes more miracles that led him

to study theology at Helderberg College (South Africa), graduating in 1995. He was a volunteer youth pastor at the college for a year before moving to Australia and ministering at Landsborough and with youth on the Sunshine Coast. He and his wife, Beatie, currently care for the Roma and Charleville churches.

"Ministry gives me the opportunity to talk about Jesus," he says. "When people discover how to love God with all their heart and soul, I see God's impact on their life overriding everything else."

Karl Winchcombe

Pastor Winchcombe, a New Zealander, became an Adventist in 1983 and attended his first camp-meeting. A year-long church ministry course at Longburn College was advertised and he sold his cabinet-making and French-polishing business to study.

He was offered a volunteer ministry role at Tauranga and for the next six years served as a volunteer there and at Te Kuiti and Taumarunui. He remembers having up to 30 Bible studies a week during this time.

He studied theology at Avondale College from 1991 to 1995 and, since graduating, worked in the Goondiwindi and Gayndah churches. He has been the pastor of the Gladstone, Biloela and Monto churches for the past two years. He is married to Natalie, a fellow New Zealander, and they have four children, three of them still at home.

"I enjoy seeing changes in people's lives as they study the Scriptures and are being moved by God's Spirit," he says. "I like to see churches develop into an organic unit."

Being serious about ministry

by Anthony Kent

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has long recognised the vital role that the local church pastor plays in implementing and coordinating the fulfilment of the mission of the church—the growth and nurture of the membership. For some time now, the church has been considering how it can support and resource pastors in the field, and demonstrate that it is serious about ministry.

In order to be properly informed about the needs of its pastors, the South Pacific Division commissioned an independent survey of the Australian and New Zealand ministerial work force who commenced their pastoral ministries in 1990 or later.¹

the dual benefit of appropriately providing our developing pastors with personal and professional support, which will not only benefit the individual, but the church as a whole.

It was expected that from the survey there would be some strongly positive responses and also some challenging comments. These expectations were confirmed in the survey responses. The challenging responses provide the church with valuable information to address and improve current deficiencies. The South Pacific Division has already addressed some of these deficiencies and is planning some changes to improve existing systems.

Input into the content of the survey was received from administrators and

indication of overall directions in responses.”² The report went on to say, “It is possible that the data gathered highlights strongly negative and strongly positive responses as those with ‘less to say’ are less likely to have responded.”³

Recruitment

The results of the survey indicate that the main reason why individuals enter ministry is the “desire to see the gospel communicated.” Eighty-five per cent of the total respondents identified this reason as “very important.” Other notable reasons included a “divine call” and a “desire to help others.” It’s encouraging that our pastors enter into pastoral ministry with the most noble of motives and reasons.

The response of our pastors will be the catalyst for continuing modifications to the manner in which our ministerial training is delivered.

The Christian Research Association [CRA] was invited to administer the survey to ensure that participants in the survey could be open and honest in their responses. The survey was designed for those who are currently employed in Adventist ministry and those who are no longer employed as Seventh-day Adventist ministers. The information provided by both these groups was most important in evaluating the current systems and a valuable asset in designing an effective training program for the future.

The survey was motivated by the desire to ensure that the Adventist Church is doing all it can to effectively educate, train and support our developing pastors. The research was conducted intentionally in order to strengthen the support of and effectiveness of our ministers. Unless we’re prepared to listen to their honest concerns, we won’t be able to provide what the ministers and the church need. This has

ministerial secretaries from the South Pacific Division, union conferences and conferences, together with lecturers from Avondale College, selected church members and field pastors. It was a comprehensive survey, taking a minimum of 45 minutes for participants to complete.

The major areas addressed in the survey were:

- Recruitment—the background and “call” of the minister before their training
- Ministerial training and the transition to ministry
- Internship or the first two years of field ministry
- Current ministry and satisfaction
- And, for those no longer employed as Seventh-day Adventist ministers, reasons for leaving the ministry.

The response rate to the survey exceeded 50 per cent and the conclusion drawn by CRA was that “the rate is sufficient to provide a wide range of experiences and an

Ministerial training and the transition to ministry

There was a range of questions that offered the respondents an opportunity to express their thoughts and opinions on various aspects of their ministerial training and their experiences at Avondale College in particular. Some were very complimentary, while others took the opportunity to express their disappointment. For example:

- 27 per cent of all respondents said their Avondale training was inadequate in giving them confidence in the distinctives of Adventism
- 33 per cent said their training was inadequate in giving them confidence in the 27 fundamental beliefs
- 38 per cent said their training was inadequate in giving them confidence in their ability to lead a person to Jesus Christ.

These statistical findings were supported with written comments such as, “The approach of Avondale College to ministry was impractical and highly scholastic, leaving me with few learned skills for ministry.”⁴

On the other hand, an example of one of the many positive responses⁷ was, “My training at Avondale encouraged me to appreciate the Bible in a balanced way. This new understanding helped me to reconcile the Adventist faith from a new, better confirmed perspective. It helped me consider the ‘distinctive of Adventism’ from an individualised perspective.”⁶

Another response was, “The theology course stretched my naive understanding of many things. But I am very thankful for this. It did not diminish my confidence in God, SDA beliefs etc, because I saw that the lecturers deep down believed it all themselves.”⁷

There were some positive comments regarding the lecturers: “Avondale lecturers are of a high calibre, both as academic professionals and practising Christians.”⁸

These comments are confirmed by some of the other data provided in response to the survey. For example: “Sixty per cent of all respondents [which includes the former ministers who responded to the survey]

said their Avondale training provided them with an excellent foundational understanding of Scripture. A further 23 per cent, in response to the same question, said their Avondale training provided them with an adequate foundational understanding of Scripture.”⁹

Providing a training program that meets the expectations of a wide range of students is no easy task.¹⁰ Similarly, providing a theological training institution that prepares future pastors for the complexities and diversities of pastoral ministry—all in a few short years—is a challenging assignment. Giving students a foundational understanding of Scripture, a comprehensive awareness of theological issues and scholarship, teaching them how to be relevant in an ever-increasingly secular society and to present distinctive biblical truths to this contemporary society almost matches the task of Noah.

Training pastors to preach biblical, interesting, spiritually stimulating, informing, comforting and yet challenging

Sabbath-morning sermons is but one of many pastoral roles for which a ministerial training program attempts to prepare its students. Consequently, it’s obvious there are going to be diverse responses from former students to their experiences at Avondale College.

All responses provide valuable insights. The response of our pastors will be the catalyst for continuing modifications to the manner in which our ministerial training is delivered. The findings of the survey will assist

the church to continue the process of moulding a ministerial-training program that better meets the needs of the church and the trainees.

This section of the survey also sought responses regarding the transition process (the “calling” process) from being a ministerial student to field ministry. Approximately one-third of those who responded to the survey felt the transition from being a student to being a minister was not all that it could be.¹¹ It should be noted that those invited to participate in this survey were individuals who were called into employment with the church—in other words, they were successful applicants for employment.

One individual had this to say, “The ‘calling’ process is poorly structured—leaving graduates wondering what is going to happen to them! Selection criteria are not spelled out specifically and little if any feedback is given to the candidate, although personal circumstances or requirements are disclosed. It appears that these needs are not sufficiently taken into consideration when making the final decision to employ people.”¹²

Internship—the first two years of field ministry

Interns also had mixed experiences, as demonstrated by their responses:

●“I had a successful pastor who was not threatened by me and found that this saved me in the ministry. To go straight from college to a church without this would have led to my destruction!”¹³

●“I felt I was very privileged in the internship I had. I was given many opportunities to do evangelism and Bible studies and preaching. I really could not have asked for much more.”¹⁴

●However, these positive comments were the exception rather than the rule. The majority of respondents either did not have any mentoring, or the mentoring was inadequate. Many felt that, in practice, they were left to “sink or swim,” a phrase used many times by the respondents. A number of respondents described their internship as “a joke.”¹⁵

●“I did not have an internship program. I was placed on my own in over three churches. I wish I did have an internship



program.”¹⁶

●“I had no internship pastoral care in my first two years—I went it alone in a mining town—my wife suffered a nervous breakdown! *Advice:* [subject’s emphasis] Don’t put young men *alone* for two years!”¹⁷

These open and honest responses are exactly what the providers of the internship program and those involved in the administration and support of these ministers need to hear. While this information brings them no pleasure, at least they are aware of these unfortunate circumstances and can implement structural changes to improve the situation.

However, administrators are faced with some difficult choices. There is considerable pressure on administrators to provide congregations with pastoral leadership, while at the same time the financial resources available to conferences [the employers of interns] are declining.¹⁸ Tragically this is having a detrimental impact on the opportunities offered to our interns.

These individuals and their families have already contributed tens of thousands of dollars to receive a theological education. The real tragedy lies in the failure to consistently provide these committed individuals with a suitable internship, where they can further acquire and refine their practical skills of ministry.

Currently, administrators and ministerial secretaries of the South Pacific Division, union conferences and local conferences are considering a new internship model. The proposed model aims to provide stronger support and supervision for the intern, with the financial and human resources available to the organisation. Part of the new internship model is to identify, train and resource experienced pastors who have the potential to effectively supervise interns.

Current ministry and satisfaction

“All respondents except one, rated the significance of their call to ministry as being very important, with a mean or typical rating of just under 9 out of 10 for this question.

“A separate question asked whether they

still retained a sense of God’s call in their ministry. Of those who remained in ministry, a large majority said they retained a sense of God’s call, although 14 per cent indicated that that sense was not strong. Of those who no longer had a ministerial position, 43 per cent indicated that they retained a strong sense of call.”¹⁹

Significantly, “Those who had a positive experience of the internship program were considerably more likely to report their call to ministry as significant.”²⁰

The survey also probed the causes of disillusionment among these ministers. The three most frequent responses were:

1. Isolation, lack of communication and support from church administration
2. Restrictions by hierarchy and politics
3. Member apathy, lack of support and attitude toward Christianity.²¹

These three reasons indicate that all members of the Adventist Church, administrators and laity alike, need to be aware of how their attitudes and their functioning within their roles impact on their local pastor.

Reasons for leaving the ministry

The three most prominent reasons why those ministers surveyed had left the ministry were:

1. Burnout
2. Loss of satisfaction with the role
3. Family stresses.

An interesting observation is that the *least significant reasons* for departing from ministry “were ceasing to identify with Adventism and theological differences with the Seventh-day Adventist Church.”²²

Conclusion

The immediate and intentional response to the results of the survey clearly demonstrates that the Seventh-day Adventist Church recognises the vital role of the local church pastor. There is an awareness of the need to provide our pastors with appropriate training and support, particularly during the formative years of their ministry—their internship.

The church also needs to address the issue of providing ongoing support and resources for field pastors. Part of the solution is ensuring that open commun-

ication is available between administrators and field pastors.

With fewer people responding to the call to enter ministry in so-called developed countries, the Adventist Church needs to continue to demonstrate its commitment to supporting, encouraging and developing these valuable individuals. Matthew’s account of Jesus’ observation now appears to be more relevant than at any other time of Christian history: “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”²³ **R**

References

1. 1990 was chosen as the commencement year of those involved in the survey because it correlated with a change of practical training in the theology study program at Avondale College.
2. Christian Research Association, Seventh-day Adventist Minister Survey, Pastoral Research Survey, 2002, page 6.
3. *ibid.*
4. *ibid.*, page 18.
5. These responses were provided in the report to the South Pacific Division from the Christian Research Association, but the identity of those who participated in the survey was protected.
6. Christian Research Association, *op cit.*, page 16.
7. *ibid.*
8. *ibid.*, page 15.
9. *ibid.*, page 12.
10. Students enrolling in the theology courses at Avondale are displaying increasing diversity in their socioeconomic, educational, cultural, ethnic and theological backgrounds.
11. Christian Research Association, *op cit.*, page 22.
12. *ibid.*, page 24.
13. *ibid.*, page 28.
14. *ibid.*
15. *ibid.*, page 29.
16. *ibid.*
17. *ibid.*
18. A number of reasons have been suggested for this decline, notably the ageing of those who are in the habit of regularly tithing and the financial support of independent organisations rather than the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
19. Christian Research Association, *op cit.*, page 38.
20. *ibid.*
21. *ibid.*, page 39.
22. *ibid.*, page 59.
23. Matthew 9:36-38, NIV.

Anthony Kent is the Ministerial Association secretary for the South Pacific Division.

Go One Million challenge

by Brenton Stacey

Training one million Seventh-day Adventists to reach out to others may have seemed ambitious when the church hatched the plan in April last year, but not anymore.



Dr Erika Puni.

The church had aimed to meet the goal before the next General Conference session in June 2005. But according to proposals from each of the 12 divisions, the goal already exceeds one million by 500,000.

Dr Erika Puni, the personal ministries and Sabbath school

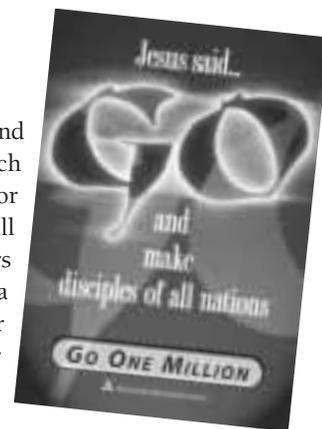
director for the South Pacific Division, is the local coordinator of Go One Million.

What prompted the church to launch Go One Million?

Go One Million is about achieving growth, which is one of the objectives the worldwide church has adopted as part of its vision. But Go One Million is also a restatement of what God calls the church to do, and that's to make disciples of all peoples. We must accept that we can't depend solely on professionals, such as evangelists and ministers, to do the work of discipling. This perspective is critical, given the growth of the world's population.

Will Go One Million lead to baptisms?

Empowering and equipping church members for witnessing will result in others wanting to make a decision for baptism. But our emphasis will always be growing and multiplying disciples.



What excites you about Go One Million?

Go One Million has the potential of changing witnessing from an activity to an experience. This shift is critical. Too often, as a church, we ask people to share their faith, but we don't provide them with the training or the tools for witnessing. Go One Million provides both. Go One Million could also be the vehicle we use for integrated evangelism in the South Pacific.

How will you judge the success of Go One Million?

Each of the unions of the church in the South Pacific has a numerical goal, and many missions and conferences within those unions have already established goals for themselves as well. One of my roles is to monitor the progress of Go One Million and measure the results in 2005. I'll also be interested in the effectiveness of the resources we produce.

How do I join Go One Million?

Speak to your local church minister or personal ministries leader or to your local conference personal ministries director and register for any of their training programs. ☎

Developing tools of the trade

Each of the four unions in the South Pacific Division is producing its own Go One Million resources.

"We've purposely left the development of Go One million resources to the unions because of their proximity to the church members they serve," says Dr Erika Puni, the personal ministries and Sabbath school director for the South Pacific Division.

The church in Australia plans to train 1000 church members and develop 2000 kits.

The church in New Zealand Pacific Union Conference plans to train 1630 members and produce 3200 kits. The kits will include Bibles in appropriate languages, Bible-study guides, videos and training presentations in PowerPoint.

The church in Papua New Guinea plans to train 2600 church members and produce 5200 kits. The kits will include a *Pisin* translation of the Bible, a *Pisin* translation of a series of Bible studies in story form, a book and a booklet.

The church in the Trans-Pacific Union Mission plans to train 500 church members and produce 1000 kits. It is developing a series of Bible studies and will organise seminars focusing on the Bible book of Daniel.

The church in the South Pacific will produce two complementary resources. The first is a set of 24-lesson studies, aimed at reaching the unchurched, entitled "Try Jesus" and written by Pastor Errol Webster. The second resource is a CD of "how to" presentations such as, "How to conduct a Bible study" and "How to teach a Sabbath school class."

Dr Puni hopes the church in the South Pacific can recruit, train and equip 10,760 church members for evangelism. He notes the number of kits churches are planning to produce is 11,400. "This means we should be able to equip 11,400 church members for evangelism."

Brenton Stacey is the news correspondent for the South Pacific Division.

Down by the riverside

by Kay Fatnowna

I admire the homes that have mushroomed along the riverfront, and remember. This is where we as forgotten and unwanted South Sea islanders once lived. The river meanders down from the mountains through the valley of green sugarcane fields and empties into the blue of the Pacific Ocean.

As a people who worked hard under virtually slave conditions to help establish the sugarcane industry, we lived on the fringe of society. We were fringe dwellers. We reached our homes on the river bank through the farmers' cane fields, but when the farmers no longer used their land for growing cane, they developed it and sold their land for riverfront living.

There are no fringe dwellers along the river now. Even the banking institutions support those who want to build in this residential rural development.

When we couldn't afford timber to build our homes, we'd scrounge local timber from the bush. Sometimes the corrugated iron for the roof and walls was rescued from the flooded river. Eventually some families bought building allotments using a monthly payment plan, but it wasn't until the late 1960s to the mid-1970s that bank loans could be procured—with difficulty.

The Federal Government only recognised the plight of the Australian South Sea islander in 1994, and the Queensland Government in 2000. We were among the most disadvantaged people group in Australia. It was difficult to use mainstream services and, legally, we couldn't use Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services because we weren't indigenous to Australia.

To society we were poor, but in hindsight, at least from my perspective, we were rich. God blessed us in many ways. Living on the fringe of society we enjoyed the beauty of the surrounding country, the

fresh country air, home-grown vegetables and heavily laden fruit trees. When we craved for sweets, we simply broke off a piece of sugarcane and chewed on it.

The river teemed with edible fish, caught by cast nets skilfully made by our parents. Our swimming pool was the river and we swam soon after we could walk. There were tin canoes for the boys to paddle in, and boats to row across the river to visit relatives.

There was no rent to pay. We enjoyed good health because we either walked or cycled. No-one was obese.

As I view the upmarket homes built above where we once live, my mind goes heavenward. I claim the many promises the Saviour of the world left for those who accept the shedding of His precious blood for their sins, and who fully desire to follow Him.

●Acts 10:34 gives me equality. God doesn't judge me according to my race and possessions.

●John 14:1-3 promises a heavenly mansion. No loan is needed.

●Revelation 22:1, 2 says there is a river to enjoy and a tree that will bear 12 kinds



of fruit. No-one will ever starve.

●Isaiah 65: 21, 22 tells me I will build a home in the new earth and no-one will ever take it from me.

●John 3:16 promises life eternal.

Do I envy those who are blessed by their riverfront living?

No. I'm looking forward to heaven, the earth made new and eternal life with Jesus. Meanwhile I'll endeavour by the grace of God to spread the good news of salvation by sharing God's promises to others. 📖

Kay Fatnowna writes from Mackay, Qld.

Just for children

These Philistines are heading for Ashdod. What are they taking with them? Read 1 Samuel 5:1 to find out then complete the picture.

Peta Taylor

What is truth?

Paul Richardson, NSW

I want to affirm the writer of “The challenge of ‘present truth’” (Editorial, October 26) for providing a timely perspective of the topic. The principles expressed open our minds to the reality of God, who seeks to be found in the heart of every seeker. This means, in practice, that our expression of God’s ways will ever require a restatement within the cultural experience and language of the hearer.

To offer such a fresh presentation allows Jesus to be seen as *Emmanuel*—God with us. Only a daily experience with the Spirit of God will enable us to present Jesus (the Truth) in a dynamic and empowering way. It was such a message that the apostles took to their world. Their demeanour and clarity of thought was evidence of their connection with Heaven.

Ellen White wrote: “For His church in every generation God has a special truth and a special work” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 78). Such a statement is about meaning and relevance. Might we ever walk in the joy of “present truth.”

Alan A Jones, email

This excellent editorial presented matters of fundamental importance, but it also prompts some questions:

First, what is it that makes any truth a “core truth”? Shouldn’t the emphasis of

Scripture itself be an important criterion? Each vital truth of Scripture is emphasised by generous repetition. There are other criteria, but the application of this one presents a challenge! Second, doesn’t “core truth” need to be constantly reviewed in the light of Scripture? (But, perhaps the illustration of the “closed door” “core truth” answers this question.)

Third, loyalty to the church is important, but which is greater: loyalty to God and his Word, or loyalty to the church? Should one submit to a lower order in the event of apparent conflict? Finally, as our 27 funda-

mentals are not a creed, should we revise our dictionaries to make this clear?

Thanks for RECORD online

Becky Wikstrom, Switzerland

Living in Switzerland, we would probably have lost contact with the church in the South Pacific if not for a dear woman who collects a RECORD each week and posts them to us once a month. She’s done this for several years and we have, of course, appreciated it immensely. But not everyone is lucky to have such a friend. There must be many expatriates who will be delighted

that RECORD is online, not to mention those who don’t attend church anymore. Please advertise this service *big!*

RECORD is online at <www.record.net.au>. Big enough?

Praise for praise

Lorenzo Berry, NNZ

I’ve not heard “Rain Down” (“Adventist youth create worship resource CD,” October 26). But I’m impressed when Adventist

songwriters express their devotion to, and their relationship with God, so others can share the worship experience.

For too many years we as a church have adopted the songs—hymns and more contemporary praise and worship music—of the wider Christian community; sometimes without clear thought as to the theology expressed. As Seventh-day Adventists, we should be delighted at the prospect of reflecting and expressing our unique theology through music—“written by them, for them”—to the glory of God.

Bigger picture

Margaret Wright, NSW

Flashpoint (September 21) mentioned that Pacific Adventist University has been praised for its initiative in introducing the growing of paddy rice. But this is not a first for the church. It was grown by my father, Alf Chapman, at Bautama Mission (near Port Morseby) in 1953-54.

As children, he would take us to see the crop, which was grown behind an electric fence to keep out feral deer introduced by German settlers.

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.

Just a coincidence



Positions vacant

▲ **Calling all Nurses!**—*Sydney Adventist Hospital* is a Christian, acute-care, private, not-for-profit facility. We offer: library and educational assistance on campus; free staff parking; flexible rostering; holistic approach to health care; smoke-free campus; social club with tennis courts and heated pool. Vacancies available in most specialties and EN's are also encouraged to apply. For further information phone Annette Baldwin, Nursing Executive Officer, on (02) 9487 9431 or forward your résumé and covering letter to Anthony Smith, Human Resources Department, Sydney Adventist Hospital, 185 Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga NSW 2076; email <anthonysmith@sah.org.au> or fax (02) 9473 8231.

▲ **Positions available 2003**—*Castle Hill Adventist Primary School (NSW). Prep Assistant.* If you love working with young children, then we are interested in hearing from you. Hours 8.15 am to 3 pm, five days per week. Work involves preparation, general cleaning and working with the children under the supervision of the Prep Teacher. Experience with children and current first aid certificate essential. **Library Teacher.** Teacher required one day per week (4 hours) teaching library. Must have teacher qualifications. **Learning Support (maternity leave).** Qualified teacher required for Terms 1 and 2, approximately 5 hours per week, for individual and small-group tuition of literacy and numeracy. **Applications in writing** (including your résumé) should be forwarded to Mrs Karen Tuitama, Principal, Castle Hill Adventist Primary School, 84-88 Cecil Avenue, Castle Hill NSW 2154; phone (02) 9634 2199.

▲ **Secretary to the Youth Department**—*Western Australian Conference (Gosnells)* is seeking a Secretary to the Youth Department. The successful applicant will be qualified and proficient and will strive to perform their duties at a high level of excellence; also bring enthusiasm, energy and professionalism to their work. A job description is available upon request. **Applications in writing** (including résumé and details of current SDA church membership) should be forwarded to Mr S W Whitson, secretary-treasurer, Western Australian Conference, PO Box 134, Gosnells WA 6990; email <swhitson@adventist.org.au>; fax (08) 9398 5164; phone (08) 9398 7222, no later than November 29, 2002.

▲ **Administrator and farm manager positions**—*Karalundi.* Karalundi Aboriginal Education Centre is seeking expressions of interest for the positions: Administrator and Farm Manager to start immediately. Note: Karalundi encourages people of Aboriginal descent to apply. For further information contact Steve Piez on (08) 9981 2933, fax (08) 9981 2801, or email <administrator@karalundi.wa.edu.au>.

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Weddings

Azzopardi—Stewart. Joseph Johnstone Charles Azzopardi, son of Joseph and Arlene Azzopardi (Canada), and Jodine Mareka Stewart, daughter of Brian and Brenda Stewart (Galston, NSW), were married on 22.9.02 at the Crosslands Youth Camp bush chapel, Galston.

Peter Fowler

Christie—Cox. Brian Alexander Christie (Uralla, NSW) and Merryl Anne Cox (Armidale) were married on 22.9.02 in the gardens of the historic Saumarez Homestead, Armidale. Frank Cantrill

Obituaries

Dowse, Michelle Leanne, born 25.8.1970 at Mordialloc, Vic; died 20.9.02 at Officer. She was predeceased by his brother, Matthew, in 1996; and her sister, Melinda, in 2000. She is survived by her parents, Robert and Maureen (Officer). Michelle was a talented young lady who will be sadly missed by her family and friends. She was baptised in 1999, along with her late sister, Melinda. Barry Whelan

Kilpatrick, James (Jimmie), born 31.12.1911 at Killyleagh, Northern Ireland; died 17.9.02 in the Adventist nursing home, Victoria Point, Qld. On 18.11.43 he married Jean Graham. He is survived by his wife; his children and spouses, Lynette and Alan Hughes (all of Brisbane), Janice and Robert Patterson (Central Coast, NSW), and Andrea and Paul Cosier (Brisbane, Qld); his seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. James was a Christian gentleman who loved his Lord and was deeply dedicated to his family.

Reg King

Avondale College 2002 Graduation

Join the Celebration

Consecration Service for Nursing Students at the Wahroonga Campus at 7.30 pm Friday, December 6.
Consecration Service for all other graduating students at the Cooranbong Campus 7.45 pm Friday, December 6.
Sabbath December 7—all programs on Cooranbong Campus:

8.45 am First Worship Service—College Church

10.00 am Sabbath School

11.30 am Second Worship Service

4.00 pm Music Program—College Church

5.30 pm Presidents Reception, for ticket holders.

Sunday, December 8—in Chan Shun Auditorium, Cooranbong Campus.

10.00 am Graduation Service, entry tickets required.

Enquiries: Rosalie Rickards
Administrative Assistant to the President
Phone: (02) 4980 2101
Email: rosalie.rickards@avondale.edu.au

McCrow, Ivan Francis, born 21.10.1933 at Concord, NSW; died 8.9.02 at Erina after a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Margaret; his children and spouses, David and Ingrid, Colin and Penny, and Jeanette and John; his brother, Max; his sister, Sylvia; and his six grandchildren. A faithful member, who served the local church in many different capacities, Ivan showed great faith and courage during his chronic illness.

David McKibben, Don Madden

Menkins, Winifred (also known as "Nanna"), born 30.10.1905 and grew up in Wallangarra, Qld; died peacefully 21.8.02 in Bowen Hospital. She was predeceased by her husband, Gilbert, in August 1995; also her son, Colin, in 2000. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Mervyn and Alice (Bowen).

Bill Blundell

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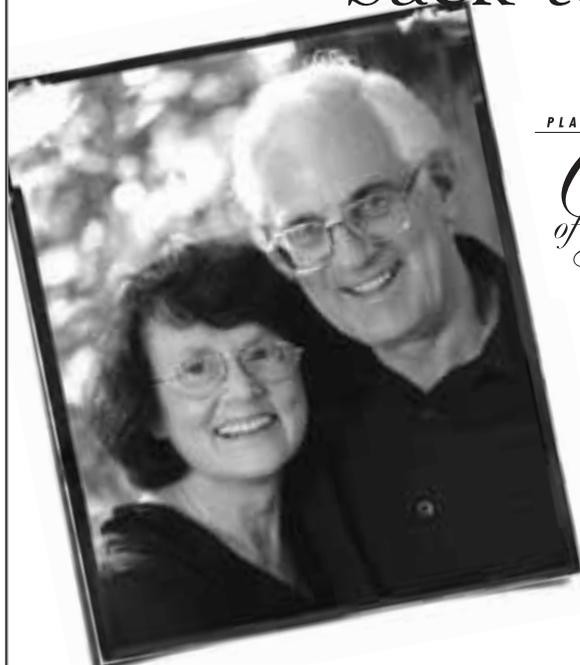
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“With the joys and worries of child rearing behind us, we now have the time, the opportunity and the resources to share the Lord’s blessings with our family and God’s.



PLANNING FOR THE

Cycle of Life

“Avondale College has played an important part in the success we now enjoy and our gifts of time along with our financial contributions to Avondale Trusts and Legacies are just two small ways we have given to benefit the College in training our Church’s leaders of tomorrow.” Owen & Jan Hughes

There are many ways you can assist Avondale College. Please telephone Dr Bruce Youlden, *Vice-President Planning & Administrative Services*.



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Elm Grove Mountain Retreat—Tumut, NSW. Enjoy swimming, bushwalking, relaxation, trout fishing, escorted or tag along 4 x 4 trips. Self-contained houses for rent from \$77 per night, including 5 people. Phone (02) 6947 5766; web site <elmgrovmountainretreat.com.au>.

40th Anniversary, Byron Bay church, Dec 7. Visitors and past members welcome. Sabbath school, 9.30 am. Worship service, 11 am. Lunch provided afterwards. Inquiries: contact Vickie Milgate, church clerk, on (02) 6685 3481.

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For rent—Dubbo. 3 BR house, 1-yr-old in quiet cul-de-sac, ducted evaporative cooler, 2 natural gas points, built-ins, alarm system, single LUG, garden shed, low-maintenance yards. Church-owned bus service to Narromine SDA Primary School. Phone (02) 6885 3112 AH or email <keoz12@aol.com>.

Missionary fellowship lunch. Past and present missionaries are invited to the annual missionary fellowship lunch at College Hall, Avondale College, on Sabbath, December 7, 2002 at 1 pm. Please bring savoury and sweets. Hosts: Sid and Cathy Griffith.

Help youth get to a free youth camp—buy freshly knitted nativity figures—Mary and Baby Jesus, Joseph, three Wise Men, shepherd, innkeeper, sheep, donkey and camel, in colourful cotton storage bag. Figures about 15 cm high, all-new materials. All proceeds to youth evangelism. Price: just \$A40 including postage! For orders phone/fax (Australia) (03) 9439 9684; email <bgpascoe@netstra.com.au>.

Allround Travel Centre tour program 2003. Travel with fellow Adventists: New Zealand coach/Feb; Qld/rail coach/July; P & O Cruise/Enchanted Isles/10 nights from June 10. Contact Anita or Loanne on (07) 5530 3555 or email on <alltrav@bigpond.net.au>.

Friends of Fulton evening. If you have been at Fulton College in any capacity, you are invited to meet for fun and fel-

Volunteers needed

Youth Volunteer—Hamilton church, NNZ, to assist the youth of the church in a variety of areas. Full job description available. Living allowance, accommodation, meals and return ticket provided. Term: 12 months, commencing February 2003.

Youth Volunteer—Southport church, Qld. Full job description available. Living allowance, accommodation, transport, meals, partial ticket provided. Term: 12 months, commencing January 2003.

Youth Volunteer—Kellyville church, NSW, to lead out in teen Bible studies, kid’s church and youth/teen ministry. Married couple requested. Living allowance, accommodation, transport, meals provided. Term: 12 months, commencing January.

URGENT, ESL Teacher—Russia. 1–2 years college experience necessary. Living allowance, shared apartment and full airfare provided. Asap until October 1, 2003.

Blocklayers—Kiribati to join a fly’n/build team to Kiribati, departing January 20, 2003 for 2–3 weeks. Accommodation provided in Kiribati. Pay own airfare.

Mail: AVS, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076
Phone: (02) 9847 3333
Email: volunteers@adventist.org.au
Internet: volunteers.gc.adventist.org



lowship at Hillview SDA church, Morisset, 6 pm Sunday, December 1, 2002. Bring food and drink, photos (if you wish), memories to share and a contribution for Fulton. Inquiries: Phone (02) 4973 6150.

Ladies unique opportunity—boutique style suits and dresses, sizes 10–22; many styles/colours. Fitting rooms available and garments will be modelled. rrp \$A200–\$A270. We’ll sell \$A30–\$A35. Slightly water stained. Garments professionally cleaned are in “as new” condi-

tion. Bring your friends and neighbours. Last sale raised \$A1500 for ADRA. Come and help yourself and ADRA. Nunawading (Vic) church hall, Sunday, December 1, 2002, 11 am –2 pm.

Finally

Talking that is too long is generally the result of thinking that isn’t long enough.

A DISASTER CAN STRIKE

ANY PERSON, ANY TIME, ANY PLACE

ADRA–Australia is assisting Australian and overseas victims of the **Bali bombing**, plus the **Aussie drought** and the **bushfires**.

ADRA–New Zealand is assisting people impacted by the **Solomon Islands civil unrest**.



ADRA

together we can

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Yes, I would like to assist families in need of emergency assistance.

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Address: _____

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(Please supply phone number for verification of credit card)

I would like to donate \$ _____ from my credit card on the 9th of each month.

I am not able to give at this time, but please send me more information about ADRA.

or charge my Bankcard

Visa MasterCard

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Name on card: _____

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Simply complete this form and mail to:

ADRA–Australia Reply Paid 129, PO Box 129, Wahroonga NSW 2076

ADRA–New Zealand Reply Paid Private Bag 76900, Manukau City, New Zealand

Australian Hotline **1800 242 372**

New Zealand Hotline **0800 4999 111**