

RECORD



Adventist young adults from Australia have helped build a landscaped patio at La Sierra University as a tribute to contemporary heroes.

Aussies pay tribute to contemporary heroes

Karin Schilt, Riverside, California, USA

Seventh-day Adventist young adults from Australia have helped build a landscaped patio at La Sierra University as a tribute to contemporary heroes.

The patio, shaped like Australia, is the first of seven—representing each of the world's continents—that will make up the university's Path of the Just.

The path commemorates those whose lives of altruistic service have fostered human rights, individual empowerment or religious toleration and social justice. Initial honourees include Adventist nurses Fernando and Ana Stahl, Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, Mother Teresa and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The young Aussie adults poured concrete for the patio. Students from La Sierra then shaped dirt, placed boulders, planted greenery, including several Australian native plants, and added bark chip.

Cheryl Nickel, a landscape artist who is directing the project, says using volunteers to build the path "is in keeping with the vision of inclusiveness and participation we have all had for the project from its inception."

(Continued on page 7)

In this issue

Kids go Underground in New Zealand

Why people do not go to church

Church growth in Africa leads to new division



Keep running the race

Midnight at the masquerade

When writing an editorial, I like to write from my heart and share something of myself. At times that's scary, for it allows strangers to access my personal world. It's even scarier with people who know me personally. What if they discover my actions don't match my words?

Sometimes I think it would be easier to share theoretical material instead of personalising things. I mean, some may even misconstrue my approach as being self-absorbed. But I'm willing to take that risk.

My motive is simply to share as a fellow traveller on life's journey. To attempt to show that being Christian is not about

children to befriend you, as if that would give them some sort of spiritual booster shot.

Then there were those who felt that PKs were always worse than everyone else's kids, and would discourage their kids from getting too close. Meanwhile, I'd try to fit in and just be myself.

While barely out of the honeymoon stage of our marriage, my man and I felt God's call to be missionaries. For those who knew me well, the feeling was it must have been a call from God because it was so not me. I was an independent city girl, and here I was getting fired up about relocating to a remote mission campus, a two-hour,

Taking off the mask

If we think who we really are is *not* what the people want, it's tempting to put on a mask that makes us appear who we perceive they want us to be. This attitude is prevalent in society, and perhaps even more so in Christian circles.

In the Christian world, there's an added dimension that's not usually present in the secular world. There are higher expectations for a Christian, and a more judgmental attitude within and outside the church. That should make us more reliant on Him to help us be who we are and who He can make us.

It's dangerous to dare to be anything other than authentic. Listen as Jesus speaks to His disciples: "Watch yourselves carefully so you don't get contaminated with Pharisee yeast, Pharisee phoniness. You can't keep your true self hidden forever; before long you'll be exposed.

"You can't hide behind a religious mask forever; sooner or later the mask will slip and your true face will be known. You can't whisper one thing in private and preach the opposite in public; the day's coming when those whispers will be repeated all over town" (Luke 12:1-3, *The Message*).

Let's get real. It's time we gave up the fancy-dress-ball mentality and dared to be authentic. Then as the clock strikes midnight and it's time to take off our masks, those around us will see—we're the real thing.



Kellie Hancock

It's time we gave up the fancy-dress-ball mentality and dared to be authentic.

knowing all the right answers. It's about knowing Jesus, and applying that practically in life.

All of us like to present our best image, our public face, to the outside world. And if we, or those we associate with, consider certain characteristics to be good, our tendency is to attempt to make them part of who we are, even if it means hiding the reality. This tendency to mask our true selves comes from every human's chief desire—to be loved and accepted.

The realities of life

Growing up as a pastor's kid (PK) taught me early in life about living up to other people's expectations. We moved a lot when I was in school. Making new friends brought in an extra element when you arrived as the new PK. There were always those who encouraged their

four-wheel-drive trip away from the nearest town, in Papua New Guinea.

On top of dealing with culture shock, tropical diseases and no job opportunities for me, we also came face to face with other people's expectations of us. Fellow campus staff (national and expatriate) each had their ideas of acceptable behaviour or lifestyle choices for us. That made living in close proximity with them, at times, a real challenge. Remaining true to ourselves without offending those of other cultures was also tough at times.

Then our friends and family held certain ideals of what a missionary was and did. And the pressure was on to present a positive image and experience to everyone. Those expectations were hard to live up to as we grappled to deal with the challenges and changes involved in what is really a major life and lifestyle upheaval.



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

- Record fundraising results for ADRA
- Pathfinders hunt treasure
- Students produce musical
- Prayer focus in Sydney
- Jazz virtuoso goes to Sabbath school
- VBS in Auckland
- Jamaican Adventist honoured
- Teens worship
- Sheepshearing record broken
- and more

● The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) continues to set **fundraising records**. Giving to the relief agency this past month (October) amounted to \$A639,000, compared to \$A414,000 in October last year. Appeal donations are up from \$A277,000 in October last year to \$A305,000 this year. The **number of new donors** is also **growing**, with ADRA adding 900 since July this year. “It looks like we’ll meet our goal of raising \$A5 million this year,” reports **Lorelle Evans** of ADRA’s marketing and donor relations.—*daVision*

● **Nunawading Pathfinder Club**, Victoria, recently endured a **survivor camp**. The weekend was filled with **team challenges**, such as standing on buckets for three hours straight, in an attempt to earn a treasure map for their team. It was the “Mellow Yellow” team (pictured) that were first to discover the hidden treasure chest buried in the icy Howqua River. It contained food rewards and \$A300 worth of 50-cent coins, which were donated to ADRA—Australia.



Two ministers = eight baptisms

Karalundi is currently reaping the benefits of employing two full-time chaplains. Seven high school students and one teacher (Naomi Namakadre, pictured right with Pastor Jim Fitzsimmons) were recently baptised.

Having an additional minister on the Karalundi payroll has occurred because of initial shortages in the WA Conference budget. The decision made was to withdraw the local minister from the Wiluna, Meekatharra and Cue churches in 2002.

Karalundi administrator Steve Piez felt the growth of the church and its work would suffer if this were to happen, as the need for consistent pastoral care remains vital. As a result, Karalundi’s executive, with local conference approval, decided to employ James Alagappan to minister and continue the work in these areas.

At the conclusion of Week of Prayer, organised by the two chaplains David Fletcher and James Alagappan, many students requested baptism. Pastor Jim Fitzsimmons from Kalgoorlie was one of the speakers for the week and performed the baptismal service.

As a reminder to each student of their decision to follow Jesus, the chaplains presented them a gift—a T-shirt with the word “Reborn” printed on it.—*Kym Piez*



● Students, staff and parents saw the culmination of seven months of singing and acting practice with the recent **musical production of Esther** by students from **Carmel College, WA**. The musical involved some 70 students across all year levels and was attended by 500 people. School principal **Brian Mercer** said that the musical was a credit to the teachers and students. “School is about providing varied learning opportunities,” he said. “While consuming a lot of staff time, the musical production showed our commitment to total education.”—*News West*

● The Greater Sydney Conference has many **prayer groups** in action. Some 40 people attend a prayer meeting every

Sunday morning at **Waitara** church with a focus on new members, families and the sick. “The church is bulging,” reports **Myrna Fenn**, “and we need more room. The Sunday prayer meeting has definitely made a difference!” Some 30 men and women also meet for prayer at the **Mount Druitt Samoan** church. “Praying together is very valuable,” says **Fua Gaia**. “It keeps us together, and warm toward others.”—*Uplink*

● **Youth Sabbath school** was packed with more than 200 youth at **Wallsend** church, NSW, on November 2 as **James Morrison** slipped in to **join the worship band** for the day. Church member Steve Marshall invited Mr Morrison (pictured centre) to come to play in the band and share his testimony. He

also shared how he used to help his father (a preacher) write sermons when he was a **teenager**.

Steve and James have been in partnership for some years now, developing an “electric” trumpet, which James demonstrated on the day.—*Bevan Craig*



● Some 37 of the 90 participants at the **New Lynn Samoan church’s Kids for Christ Vacation Bible School** held in Auckland, NZ, came from non-Adventist families. Two of these children are **still attending the church**.

● **Adventist World Radio (AWR)** is stepping up its presence in South-East Asia with **new programming** to reach the more than 12 million people of **Cambodia**. The broadcasts in Khmer, the primary language of Cambodia, began airing on October 27 from AWR's Guam station. Khmer is considered a "mission language" by AWR because fewer than 5 per cent of the country's population is Christian. Cambodia has been ravaged by guerrilla war—a conflict that lasted for almost two decades and killed more than one-fifth of

the country's population. In 1975, when the Khmer Rouge regime took power, there were 33 Adventist members, but most of those were killed in the subsequent upheaval. But a number of Cambodians who had fled to the safety of Thai refugee camps joined the Adventist Church. When the war ended in 1993, 600 of these new believers returned to Cambodia. In the years since, interest in Christianity has grown and there are **now some 4000** Adventist Church members.—ANN

Adventist selected for youth roadshow

A member of the Palmerston North church, NZ, has been selected from NZ-wide auditions to be part of the Y-One touring ministry (run by Youth for Christ) during 2003. As a full-time volunteer for the year, Gareth Walsh (pictured) will minister to 11 to-14 year-olds



throughout New Zealand and the Pacific.

The team uses music and drama to bring the gospel to their target audiences

through schools, and also teaches life skills. The Y-One team is well known by schools in New Zealand. Many schools request them to come back because of their high standards, relevance, entertainment and integrity.

Mr Walsh attended the Excel School of Performing Arts in Auckland, where he majored in bass guitar; was selected as part of a touring team to present a full stage musical and outreach programs in Russia, the USA and Canada; has been involved in his local church in the areas of music, cell group, and youth ministry.

He hopes to raise \$NZ5000 to take part in the Y-One ministry next year and is excited at this opportunity to use his gifts to glorify God.

● A Seventh-day Adventist church member in **Jamaica** was honoured by the Governor-General of Jamaica, Sir Howard Cooke, on October 21. The ceremony was broadcast by radio and television from the Governor-General's residence. The **Commander of the Order of Distinction** award was presented to **Leon B Wellington** for his "distinguished service in the field of religion." Pastor Wellington, vice-president and communication director for the Inter-American Division, has served the church for more than 25 years.—ANN

● Some **1000 teens** met together at the Emmanuel Centre in central London for a "**Teens Day of Worship**" organised by the Youth Department of the South England Conference in September. A 45-minute play carried a strong message and **Dr Emil Peeler** from California reiterated what the play visually portrayed. He spoke truthfully about the struggles he knew the teens faced every day, and openly questioned them about their lives with God and their lives without God. Some **300 youth** came forward at the **altar call**.—BUC News

● A new Australian web site, **<www.soulsearch.ws>** is aimed at reaching people who are searching spiritually. It encourages people to explore their beliefs in a safe, non-judgmental environment.

Days and offerings

December 7—Stewardship Day

Off the record

● **Joe Dodd**, father of Patrick, a Year 8 student at Prescott College, Adelaide, SA, has just broken the **Australian Endurance Sheep-shearing** record by 12 sheep and now **holds the world record** as well. In the first 24 hours, Mr Dodd sheared 659 sheep and continued for a total of 35.5 hours, shearing a total of 1001 sheep. This event was achieved in Mount Gambier, in the south-east of South Australia, and raised money for the Leukaemia Foundation.—Vernon Bullas

● Girls from **Brisbane Adventist College's (BAC)** open **volleyball team** are pictured celebrating their recent success in the **combined schools championships**. More than 70 schools entered the competition and BAC girls placed **second overall**.



"The team is regarded by the opposition coaches and players as having a fair and positive attitude on the court," says their coach and BAC principal, Gavin Williams.

● The Adventist Discovery Centre recently received this letter from a **Search video viewer** in WA: "My husband and I have finished viewing the *Search* videos and have **decided to set aside Saturday** each week **as the Sabbath** and intend to study one [Discover] guide each week."—*Discovery Newsletter*

● **Mont Albert** church, Vic, celebrates **80 years** with a commemorative service on **December 14**. Lunch will be provided. Contact **Pastor Ian Royce** on (03) 9259 2180 to ensure catering is sufficient.

Kids go Underground in New Zealand

Kellie Hancock

Kiwi kids went Underground as part of a 10-night program designed by the South Pacific Division (SPD) Children's Ministries Department for children aged five to 10 years to run concurrently during the REZ10 satellite program (Newsfront, July 13).

Otara church in Auckland, North New Zealand, ran Kids Underground at the same time their youth watched REZ10 on video, October 6-18. Emma Tavai, the youth and family ministries secretary for the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC) and also a member of Otara, led a team of four women to transform their church hall into a craft area and a mine shaft leading into the worship area. Music by



Children from Otara church, North New Zealand, entered into the adventure of Kids Underground through a "mine shaft." The creative entry way got participants in the mood for something different.

MaxiPraise, storytelling, crafts and prayer journaling were included in the program.

"Both the children and the leadership team were excited to have special guests

Pat Habada, General Conference children's ministries director, Janet Rieger, SPD children's ministries director, and Julie Weslake, NZPUC children's ministries director, visit on the first Friday night," reports Julene Duerksen, NZPUC youth and family ministries volunteer. "Mrs Habada and her husband were amazed at the enthusiasm of the children and the creativity of the program," she adds.

More than 20 children participated in the program, with several visitors over the 10 nights. Two visitors, brothers, attended nearly every night and received Bibles on the closing Friday night.

"Transportation was the hardest thing for these little kids," says Ms Duerksen. "They so badly didn't want to miss out on anything, that one little boy begged his mother to take him, saying, 'Don't you want me to learn more about Jesus?' How could anyone argue with that?"

When asked if they had anyone they wanted to invite who didn't know about Jesus, a little girl quietly said, "I want to bring my cousin.

He doesn't know about Jesus and I want him to be in heaven with me." Another child was overheard saying, "Now I want to tell my friends about Jesus."

The last night was created as a party, and the children were asked to fill out a card with what they wanted to do as a result of their Underground experience. Every child recorded that they wanted to attend church to continue the enjoyment they had experienced during the Kids Underground program.

Mrs Rieger, the creator of Kids Underground, says, "It was great to finally see and participate in a Kids Underground program in action."

Prayer and compassion for AIDS victims encouraged

Brenton Stacey

World Vision is asking churches in Australia to pray for HIV/AIDS victims in the lead-up to World AIDS Day, December 1.

The scale of devastation wrought by the scourge of the disease demands a committed, united response, says chief executive Lynn Arnold. "The bombing of the nightclub in Bali was a tragic waste of 184 lives, but more than that number die of AIDS every hour of every day. This must compel us to action, and the most profoundly significant action Christians can take is to join together in prayer."

HIV/AIDS has killed more than 22 million people. Some 13.2 million children worldwide have lost one or both parents, with the number expected to grow to 40 million by 2010, reports the US Center for Disease Control.

"Even Seventh-day Adventists in the South Pacific have died from the disease," reports the South Pacific Division's associate health director, Dr Percy Harrold. "Our response must be compassionate, helpful, personal, practical and redemptive," he says. "We are to love and care for those with HIV/AIDS just as Jesus loved and cared for the sick of His day."

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Papua New Guinea spent almost a quarter of its budget last year on HIV/AIDS education and prevention. "Knowledge about the disease is power, and people here have never had access to that knowledge," says director Michelle Abel.

One of her HIV/AIDS volunteers admits it is hard to talk about sex in Papua New Guinea, "but a married couple are encouraging me to keep educating people. They say, 'If you shut your mouth, plenty of people will die.'"

ADRA in Australia is donating \$A1 million over two years to the Armed Forces College in Malawi for HIV/AIDS awareness and home-based care programs for those with the disease. It is also donating \$A300,000 over three years to raise awareness among high school students in Honiara, Solomon Islands, of HIV/AIDS.—with World Vision Media



Creative participation was encouraged throughout the Kids Underground program.

Why people do not go to church

Alwyn Salom, Institute of Church Ministry

While it is important to listen to what church members think about their own church (as in “Profile of Adventists matches community,” *RECORD*, August 3), it is also important to listen to the non-churchgoing public to understand what they think of the Christian church today and why they are not influenced positively by its message and lifestyle.

This information is revealed in a recent report on the Australian Community Survey (John Bellamy, et al, *Why People Don't Go to Church*, Openbook, 2002). The Australian Community Survey (ACS) was conducted by Edith Cowan University (Perth) and the National Church Life Survey Research. Eight types of Australian communities were included and people were chosen at random from electoral rolls and the survey sent to 20,000 in 400 post-code areas.

The respondents were divided into three categories:

1. Nonattenders: Those who attended church practically never or, at most, once a year.
2. Infrequent attenders: Those who attended church a maximum of several times a year.
3. Frequent attenders: Those who attended church a maximum of more than once a week or a minimum of once a month.

Most have no connection

In this respect, the survey produced similar results to other recent research. Nonattenders accounted for 60 per cent of the Australian population; infrequent attenders accounted for 20 per cent; and frequent attenders for 20 per cent. Thus 80 per cent of the population of Australia has little or no connection with church. These results will provide no great surprise to those who have studied the church scene in Australia over recent decades.

The ACS asked respondents to give reasons for not attending church. Nearly half of the nonattenders and infrequent attenders indicated their major reason as

“boring or unfulfilling church services.” This was followed by “beliefs of the churches”; “churches’ moral views”; “no need to go to church”; “prefer to do other things.” Other responses to this question which ranked high were: “the way churches are organised”; “bad experience with church people”; “not enough time because of work”; “uncomfortable with church people”; and “family or friends don’t like church.”

What can we learn?

Whatever we may have thought are the reasons for Australians not being part of the life of the churches, we must consider their own stated reasons. “There is no one stated reason that people stay away from church. It is not simply because people don’t believe or view the church as anachronistic,” says the report.

There are a number of strands. Some reasons point to the influence of social and other factors on their process of choosing to attend church or otherwise; and some of their reasons (not all of them) are changeable.

As Christians, we have a responsibility to discover what lies behind the amazingly low rate of population involvement in church life, and to find ways of speaking to the real needs that exist among these people.

Earlier studies of the role of demographics in church attendance have revealed that the following groups are under-represented in church life: young adults; men; “blue-collar” occupational groups; people who are divorced, separated or in de facto relationships; and people with a secondary education only.

The ACS revealed some rather unexpected further insights into why people do or do not attend church. Those who read nonfiction books and journals are more likely to attend church frequently. And part-time workers are more likely to be frequent attenders than full-time workers.

Church attendance varies greatly by occupation. Farmers, agricultural workers and professionals working with people are

the best sources of frequent church attenders. Occupations where people are less likely to attend church include employers or managers, professionals working in technical fields and people working in skilled trades.

These demographic factors show, says the report, that “while churches may see the gospel and church attendance as being equally available to all, in practice some sections of the population are much less likely to attend church than others.” The reasons may lie in the values expressed by churches themselves. Many of these values are central to what the churches stand for and thus will not be changed just to win more people to the church.

There are also some expected results from the ACS. Those who are widowed or are currently in a first-time marriage are more likely to be frequent attenders. The same is true for women and for people who are 60-plus-year-olds.

Building sensitive churches

While it is not possible for churches to influence demographic factors in the community (for instance, a person’s age), it is possible for churches to be sensitive to the fact that 20- to 29-year-olds have very different needs than 60-plus-year-olds. It is also possible to improve the level of relevance of worship to meet the needs of nonattenders. And, whereas many nonattenders have made their decisions because of bad experiences with church people, it is possible for church members to examine their lives to discover how they may lift the level of their relationships.

It is evident that the reasons why a higher percentage of the general population is not part of church life are more complex than we may have thought. It also presses home the truth that we cannot depend solely on yesterday’s strategies for winning today’s secular Australians.

This important survey report is recommended for thoughtful reading by church members—it can be ordered through an Adventist Book Centre or from a Christian bookstore.

New church division created

Nathan Brown

A key structural decision made at the 2002 Annual Council held in Washington, DC, during October was the reorganisation of the African divisions. The restructure was precipitated by the dramatic church growth in Africa. The council's action saw the creation of a third division based solely on the African continent—the East Central African Division.

The creation of a new division also necessitated the election of division leaders, and Pastor Geoffrey Mbwana, currently president of the Tanzania Union Mission, was chosen to head up the newly formed division.

Pastor Mbwana, 46, is a native Tanzanian. "I'm a pastor's kid," he says, "so I was born into the church and have stayed with it all my life." He has led the Tanzania Union for the past three years and before that he was the president of the North-East Tanzania Conference.



Pastor Geoffrey Mbwana (pictured right), president-elect, and Blasopis Ruguri secretary-elect, of the newly formed East Central Africa Division.

As the worldwide church's newest division president he steps into leadership of what will be the largest division, including seven unions across 10 countries with a membership of more than 2.2 million.

"I'm still a union president," says Pastor Mbwana. "I am a division president-elect—but given that we have to get started on January 1, there is a lot that must be accomplished between now and then," he adds. "In terms of thinking, there is a big shift right now, given the magnitude of the work that awaits us. I've found myself taking much time in terms of thinking and planning for the new division and we have to get some things started right now."

The East Central Africa Division will be based in Nairobi, Kenya. The General Conference has identified a plot of land for the construction of the new offices.—*Adventist Review*

Bold plan to reach the world launched

Wendi Rogers, Adventist News Network

Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders have approved a new evangelistic initiative to reach one billion homes around the world by the end of 2003. "Sow 1 Billion" is a joint effort between each of the church's 12 divisions, and leaders say the far-reaching project will require cooperation and participation at all levels of the worldwide church.

The goal of "Sow 1 Billion" is to distribute one billion special brochures, or "tracts," inviting people to study the Bible with an Adventist pastor or church member, or through an Adventist Bible correspondence school.

General Conference president Dr Jan Paulsen presented the initiative to international church leaders gathered for the Annual Council, saying the concept was "maybe bigger than we can grasp right now."

The church is growing by one million people annually, while the world's population is growing by some 130 million people every year.

Organisers estimate that the plan has the potential to reach two-thirds of the world's population. Each small tract will include space to list the addresses of Bible correspondence schools, and each division or union will provide their Bible school address where people may write to receive lessons by correspondence.

An Internet address will also be provided where people can visit and choose Bible studies from among several languages.

"Sow 1 Billion" will complement "Go One Million," the church's initiative to mobilise, train and equip one million church members for evangelism by the next Adventist General Conference session in 2005.

Organisers will encourage church members involved with "Go One Million" to be a support group for "Sow 1 Billion" participants.

Aussies pay tribute to contemporary heroes

(Continued from page 1)

Australians who live in Southern California joined the president of the university, Lawrence Geraty, to celebrate the induction of the patio. This followed the annual Stahl Center for World Service worship service at La Sierra University church, on October 26. The service affirms God's call to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly.



Dr Arthur Patrick presents the homily during a worship service to celebrate world service.

Dr Arthur Patrick, an Australian who is a visiting professor in the university's School of Religion, presented the homily during the service. The Los Angeles Tongan Church Choir sang.

The young adults from Australia were returning home from a mission trip to Lima, Peru, where they had built a playground for children in the community.

"We found serving in Southern California after serving in South America quite sobering," says Go Peru 2002 leader Pastor Tony Knight, the youth director for the church in Australia. "We enjoyed building the patio, but it has encouraged us to serve again in developing countries."—with Brenton Stacey

Video promotes freedom

Bruce Manners

The producer of the well-known Kenneth Cox series *Dimensions of Prophecy*—and other video evangelism videos—Carl Branster, Sr, has just released a documentary drama, *Maybe on Sunday*. The video series examines the history of the Christian church and uncovers the origin of many so-called Christian traditions, exploring the facts and exposing myths.

The dramatic scenario presented illustrates the possibility of religious laws. A farmer, David Bannister, is apprehended for breaking a Sunday law and travels to Europe to seek help from a historian, James Arrabito.

They journey through Europe to discover the origin of Sunday legislation and learn that the Christian church became two distinct movements: One, a religio-political powerbroker that enforced its dogmas; and the other, a movement of faith-driven individuals determined to preserve religious liberty and Scriptural integrity.

The main presenter, Jim Arrabito, was a personal friend of Mr Branster, and *Maybe on Sunday* was one of the last projects he worked on before being killed in a plane accident. As a result, it has taken several years to complete the project, requiring further conceptualisation, scripting and production, says Mr Branster. He feels it delivers a vital message to a world harassed by terror, resulting in the insidious erosion of civil and religious liberties.

He says the three-part series should prove helpful in pre-evangelism. It explores many aspects of Christian politics and has an impact on religious freedom. The videos are available at Adventist Book Centres.



A scene from *Maybe on Sunday*, with Jim Arrabito (left) and Terry Branster.

Seaside ordination during PNG meetings

Brenton Stacey

Pastor Martin Sungu was ordained during the final Sabbath of the Sepik Mission Ministers Meetings and Partners in Ministry (PIM) Congress at Wom Beach, near Wewak, Papua New Guinea.



Pastor Martin and Brenda Sungu.

Accompanying Pastor Sungu at his ordination service were his wife, Brenda, and his parents.

His mother was recently baptised and his father is currently receiving Bible studies in preparation for baptism. Pastor Sungu is the director of the Personal Ministries, Sabbath School and Stewardship Departments for the Sepik Mission.

During his 15 years of ministry, Pastor Sungu has distinguished himself as a minister with outstanding skills in evangelism, pastoral care and lay training.

The picturesque Wom Beach provided an ideal location for Pastor Sungu's ordination. The seaside setting was an appropriate reminder of much of the New Testament ministry that occurred by the seaside. Wom Beach has also been the site of an inspiring youth congress hosted by the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM).

As well, it was a significant site during the closing days of World War II, where commanders of the two opposing forces met and agreed on the terms of peace and cessation of hostilities in the Sepik region.

Those involved in the service included: Pastors Wilson Stephen (PNGUM president); John Hamura (Sepik Mission president); Kove Tau (Sepik Mission secretary); and Anthony Kent (South Pacific Division Ministerial Association secretary). Mary Stephen, the PNGUM PIM coordinator, welcomed Mrs Sungu as a Partner in Ministry.

Anthony Kent

Bringing new life to the Word

Bruce Manners

Biblical storytelling is the name given to publicly presenting the Bible text in an active way. At the recent South Queensland Conference camp, a workshop in Biblical Storytelling culminated with the Sabbath-morning presentation of the story of the invitation to the wedding feast, before the preaching service.

Workshop leader Stephenie Bailey says, "I've trained in spontaneous theatre production for 15 years and here these creative people come raw to the work and produce this telling with only a couple of hours with the script. They're fantastic!"

An Adventist, she has worked with various denominations in teaching this craft and says, "I'm proud to say that I've found Adventists more readily able to do



Stephenie Bailey.

this work than other church groups I've facilitated." God's Word is powerful, she adds. "When we learn the Scriptures in our hearts word for word; when we ask how it looked, sounded, smelt, tasted and felt; when we sink into God's intention, we're taken to the depth of the story. And we are changed."

She has been invited to a conference in England to teach biblical storytelling techniques.

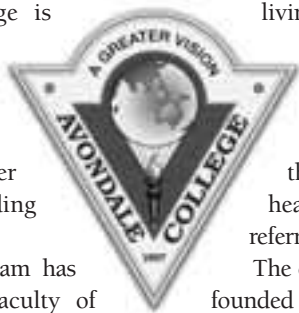
Parish nursing now by distance education

Alan Gibbons, Avondale College

After two successful on-campus programs in parish nursing (sometimes known as faith community nursing), Avondale College is offering this program as an individual subject by distance education. The subject is open to nurses and people from other caring professions (including those in ministry).

The parish nursing program has been developed by the Faculty of Nursing and Health at Avondale College, with the Sydney Adventist Hospital. It is designed to complement the health ministry of the church.

A parish nurse is an appointed member of a church's pastoral team. These positions



are usually voluntary, involving the nurse leading out in activities such as: health screening; health-education programs; counselling in matters of healthful living; offering spiritual and emotional support; advising on treatments and health conditions; visiting people in hospital or their homes; coordinating health services and making referrals.

The concept of parish nursing was founded by Granger E Westberg, a former hospital chaplain. On appraising the spiritual dimension of a patient's illness, he identified that illness was holistic in nature. He concluded that, in view of the complexity of illness, the most appropriate health carer to work with a pastoral team in

order to adequately meet the patient's complex needs was a nurse.

The subject in parish nursing/health care can be credited to postgraduate studies offered by the Faculty of Nursing and Health at Avondale College.

For more information contact Dr Alan Gibbons on (02) 9487 9601 or email <alan@sah.org.au>.

Tithe increases in Western Solomons

Brenton Stacey

Tithe giving to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Western Solomon Islands has increased, despite the province's crippling economic, political and social problems.

Members have given 50 per cent, or \$SBD506,000 (\$A135,000), more tithe to the church this year than at the same time last year. Total tithe is \$SBD1,543,000 so far.

The increase does not surprise James Kent, the treasurer of the Trans-Pacific Union Mission. "We've been promoting vigorously the giving of tithe," he says. In a cash-based society, such as in the Solomons, that means collecting tithe in person.

John Turner, the new treasurer for the Western Solomon Islands Mission, is the catalyst for the increase. "He gets in his boat and visits church members in their villages," says Mr Kent.

Mr Turner is the former deputy business manager of the church's Tailevu, Fiji-based tertiary institution, Fulton College.

Tithe giving has also increased by up to 15 per cent in Kiribati, Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu.

Mr Kent recognises the sacrifice of church members, especially in the Western Solomons. "Thank you for your faithfulness and stewardship in what has been difficult times, both financially and spiritually," he says.

Young musicians win fans

Bruce Manners

A highlight of the recent Avondale College homecoming concert were the violinists Luisiana and Sarah Fischer. From Kuraby, Qld, they are identical twins, aged 15, and have been playing the violin since the age of three.

And they are used to the stage, having performed four major concerts with their mother, Hildegard Stefani-Fischer, in NSW and Qld at the age of eight.

Since then they have performed in a variety of venues, including the Sydney Opera House, and were in a national television commercial for St George in 1999, playing their violins at the top of a cliff. They completed their AMusa Diploma in 2001 and are currently working on their LMusa Diploma.

Music is not their only interest. Both girls enjoy sport. Luisiana has a special interest in volleyball and soccer, while Sarah plays for the A Cricket team for her school—a team currently coached by former test cricketers Ian Healey and Greg Ritchie, who have daughters at their school.

Mrs Stefani-Fischer says her girls are fun-loving and energetic, and have a passion to make other people happy. They look forward to making a CD very soon.

A need they do have, says fellow musician Tom Mitchell, are new violins. He's currently helping to raise funds for them (including with sales of music—see this week's Advertisements).



Luisiana and Sarah Fischer.

Running the race

by Darren Morton

Recently I decided to run a marathon. That's right, 42.2 heartbreaking, leg-pounding kilometres.

Without a doubt it was the most physically demanding ordeal of my life. I recall tears welling in my eyes as I finally struggled over the finish line, almost three hours after I set off.

But it was out on the course that I developed a greater appreciation for why Paul so often likens the Christian life to running a race. I came to learn that the secrets to successfully running a marathon are the same secrets the New Testament advocates for successfully running the Christian race.

1. Be destination oriented.

For any journey to be a success you need to be clear about where you're headed. How can we ever be purposeful in our direction if we have no destination in mind? Right from the start you need to orientate yourself; you need to begin with the end in mind.

The course of the Melbourne Marathon followed alongside the bay from Frankston to Melbourne. In the distance—and what a distance!—I could see the tall buildings of Melbourne, and they became my reference. Along the entire course they guided my journey.

As Christians, we need to orientate ourselves toward our goal. And it isn't enough just to glance at the map once at the beginning of the journey and then expect to remain on course. We need to constantly update our coordinates and keep check that we are still on target.

Jesus, our example, did exactly that. He “never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God.”¹

As I pounded the pavement I can remember longing for the finish. In the



same way, we need to long for the destination promised us. It's true that you will always move toward what you focus on—so let us fixate on our true home.

2. Be prepared.

A couple of years before attempting the Melbourne Marathon I tried to run the Sydney Marathon without training and preparing for it properly. It remains one of my most terrible experiences. As I passed through the 30-kilometre mark, about three-quarters of the way through the event, my body decided it didn't want to play the game anymore. I learned the value of being prepared.

If you want to run a marathon, you need to be physically fit. And if you want to run the Christian race, you need to be spiritually fit. For this reason Paul advises us to “exercise daily in God.”² In other

words, if we want to go the distance we need to keep in contact with the coach. Through regular study, prayer, music, sharing and serving others we build our spiritual muscle.

3. Be focused.

One of the worst mistakes you can make when running a marathon is to not run your own race. It's easy to be distracted by other runners. I always find it intriguing at the start of a race as, unfailingly, some runners are enticed to sprint off with the leaders, only to be left exhausted part way along the course.

We can be similarly distracted in the Christian race. What other runners wear, how they run, the pace they set and the way they train can become more important to us than remaining on course ourselves.

Here's the secret: “Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”³

Sometimes we can become entangled when we really think we're helping. For example, it's noble to guide another runner along the course, but if the one we try to guide becomes the object of our attention it's easy for us to lose our way.

How often as Christians are we distracted by fellow runners? Let's lift each other up when we fall, encourage each other when we grow weary, but in the end it's a race that no-one can run for us. The way has been paved, but we must tread the course.

4. Be persistent.

They say that the first 30 kilometres of a marathon is physical and the final 12 kilometres is something else. I recall approaching the 38-kilometre mark along the course and, as my legs screamed at me

Never quit!

Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it.

Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever. And now he's *there*, in the place of honour, right alongside God.

When you find yourself flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he ploughed through. *That* will shoot adrenaline into your souls!—*Hebrews 12:1-3, The Message*

to stop, it occurred to me that there was nothing I could have done to prepare myself for what I was enduring.

Sometimes as Christians we can do everything right—be destination oriented, keep spiritually fit and be focused on running our own race—but at times we're confronted with a part of the course that calls for more than we can muster.

At times life serves us something we couldn't have possibly prepared for. At times like this it's all we can do to place one foot in front of the other. But at times like this, placing one foot in front of the other is all that's required.

To finish the race calls for persistence. "Strip down, start running—and never quit!" is the instruction.⁴ And there's some excellent advice to help us do just that. "When you find yourself flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item. . . . *That* will shoot adrenaline into your souls!"⁵

The only thing that kept me running as I neared the end was remembering how far I had come and the thought of being able to rest if I pressed on just a little further. As Christians, when times are tough we would do well to recall the occasions God has led in the past—go over that old story again! Remember the certainty of His leading in the earlier stages of the race, and

it will give you confidence to hope in the certainty of His leading to the finish line.

If your stride has been reduced to a painful plod; keep going! Hang in there. It *will* be worth it.

Finishing the race

In my dehydrated and exhausted state it was easy to wonder if the finish line really existed. But eventually I saw it in the distance and it injected me with new enthusiasm. Finally came the moment when my hopes were realised and I crossed under the banner—the pain to be forgotten, the achievement to remain.

I have a token to remember the experience—a medallion awarded to all who finished the race. But I look forward to the day when I will receive a crown of much greater value, awarded to me by One who ran a far more challenging course. On that day, the runners will join in chorus with Paul in saying, "I've run hard right to the finish, believed all the way. All that's left now is the shouting—God's applause!"⁶

I look forward to celebrating with you at the finish line. ☪

References

1. *Hebrews 12:2, 3, The Message.*
2. *1 Timothy 4:7, The Message.*
3. *Hebrews 12:1, NIV.*
4. *Hebrews 12:1, The Message.*
5. *ibid.*
6. *2 Timothy 4:8, The Message.*

Darren Morton writes from Avondale College, where he is director of the Avondale Centre for Exercise Sciences.

The Gift

by Carrie Unser

I was a tattered stranger,
Destroyed and broken,
Dirty and ragged.
I stumbled upon Your door
Unsure and troubled.
I came looking for something;
I wasn't sure what it was,
But I knew that I was missing
something from my life,
A huge thorn had torn apart my heart;
Despair and sorrow had filled my soul.

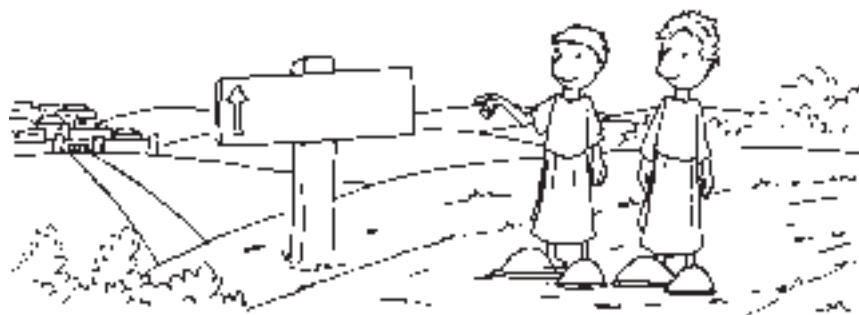
Amazingly You opened Your door,
Accepting me for who I am;
There was no catch to Your kindness
It was genuine and true.
Your love was pure and clear,
Your forgiveness and grace
Beautiful and without blemish.

You took me in as Your own,
Created me anew,
You clothed me in Your cloak of
righteousness
Stain-free and new just for me.
You traded my heart of stone
For a heart full of willingness
And sincerity without compromise.
You gave me the ultimate gift—
Sweet amazing grace. ☪

Carrie Unser is a 14-year-old from Mudgeeraba, Qld. She wrote this to describe what it feels like to have been "given that awesome amazing grace."

Just for children

God sent these two angels to which city?
Read Genesis 19:1 to find out and write the name on the signpost.



Peta Taylor

View of the stars

George Tasker, Vic

I'm puzzled as to how the writer of "An old earth: Theory or fact?" (Letters, November 2) arrived at his conclusion that the earth and sun were already in place when God began His creative work on Earth. The Genesis passage says God created two great lights in the sky and the stars as well. That indicates God created *all* the stars on the fourth day.

The distance of stars from earth is measured using triangulation, which is good to only around 300 light years, with greater distances measured using the "red shift" of light and assuming that the greater the red shift, the further a heavenly body is from earth. But this method extrapolates beyond available data and isn't good science. Add to this evidence that the speed of light is growing progressively less and the scientific argument for the size of the universe falters.

The letter appears to ask the reader to choose between the infallible authority of the Bible and the well-known fallibility of science. It's easier to exercise faith in the word of Someone who was there at Creation than in the word of someone who uses assumptions and opinions to extrapolate back into a past about which we know zip.

Andrew Ostapowicz, NSW

I was saddened by this letter because of its content and its tone of absolute certainty. I wonder how the fourth commandment fits with this view—where it says God created, in six days, the heavens along with the earth, the sea and all that is in them? How God did it we do not know, although we can make some good, scientifically sound guesses.

Drug cures

Leo Hamulczyk, Vic

One of the letter writers under "Drugs: A variety of views" (November 2), asks, "Are the thousands of policy makers, drug counsellors and social workers . . . blind dupes of a gigantic conspiracy?" Well, we should take conspiracy theories with more than a grain of salt, as they usually contain a

significant amount of truth.

Having been involved in "harm minimisation" as a pharmacist, I know its success rate is low. Harm minimisation may be better than nothing, but it isn't the best by a long shot. As to the statement that "not every drug user is willing or able to go cold turkey or enter a residential program," I say not every drug user may be willing—but they sure are able.

Bali thoughts

Derek Walsh, SA

I applaud the balance in the editorial and the statement from the church regarding

traumatic stress, as did many servicemen in Vietnam.

☞ *The comment came from media reports.*

Touching stories

Tim Humphries, Qld

In a world plagued by uncertainty and fear in the aftermath of the Twin Towers tragedy and Bali, it is encouraging to read stories of deliverance through the power of prayer. Thank you for Phil Ward's story ("My parents prayed," November 2). It reminds us that no matter what faces us, God is always there. The story touched and

The letter appears to ask the reader to choose between the infallible authority of the Bible and the well-known fallibility of science.

the Bali bombing (November 2). As a Vietnam veteran, I've noted the comparisons made between Bali and the Vietnam War. To see youth killed and cut down with horrific injuries is distressing—in war or peace.

But I question the source of the statement "that the Australian death toll will be greater than that created by the Vietnam War." Australian losses in Vietnam were more than 500 killed and 3100 wounded over 10 years. But it matters little if the deaths were on a single day or spread across 10 years, the loss still hurts, even 30 years on. And the survivors of Bali, like those of Vietnam, will most likely suffer post-

inspired me to become more reliant upon God through faith and prayer.

Olive McCleary, SNZ

Thank you for "A simple story of God's leading" (September 28) by Pastor Al Riggins. We need more such narratives to maintain our faith. Can he be persuaded to write a concluding episode?

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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Weddings

Brownhill—Thoral. Tom Terrence Brownhill, son of Vince and Marie Brownhill (Terranora, NSW), and Delphine Marie Thoral, daughter of Michel et Marie Thoral (Lyons, France), were married on 21.9.02 at the Calypso Beach Resort, Coolangatta, Qld. *Mike Brownhill*

Goods—Murray. Brett Goods, son of Cecil and Barbara Goods (Horsham, Vic), and Denise Murray, daughter of Betty (Murray) Stellmaker (Martinsville, NSW) and the late Ralph Murray, were married on 1.9.02 in Everglades Garden, Leura. *Graeme Christian, Steve Goods*

Holyoake—Young. Stephan Holyoake, son of Jo-anne Holyoake (Brisbane, Qld), and Lavinia Young, daughter of Cameron Young (Brisbane) and Renea Sterling (Saudi Arabia), were married on 20.10.02 in Mount Coot-tha Gardens, Brisbane. *Ken Lawson*

Meyers-Metekingi—Meyers. Leonard Hemi Meyers-Metekingi, son of John and Marie Metekingi (Brisbane, Qld), and Tara Danielle Meyers, daughter of Robert and Christine Meyers (Mackay), were married on 1.9.02 at Tamborine Mountains. *Arthur Faro*

Pitches—Ralph. Colin Pitches and Elsie Ralph (Coronella Retirement Village, Nunawading, Vic) were married on 15.9.02 at Nunawading Adventist church before their children, grandchildren, family and many friends. *Kevin Ralph, Ken Mead*

Ratcliffe—Van De Ven. Daniel Edward Ratcliffe, son of Frank and Lyn Ratcliffe (Melbourne, Vic), and Cherie Therese Van De Ven, daughter of Peter and Elizabeth Van De Ven (Central Coast, NSW), were married on 29.9.02 at Cooranbong Park, Cooranbong. *Peter Fowler*

Resnik—Burton. Filip Resnik, son of Tony and Stephanie Resnik (Perth, WA), and Sarah Burton, daughter of Lynn and Christine Burton (Perth), were married on 8.9.02 at the WA Rowing Club, Perth. *Steve Goods, Lynn Burton*

Stewart—Benefield. John Stewart, father of Ken, and May Benefield, mother of John and Elizabeth, were married in the chapel at the Victorian Conference office, Nunawading, Vic. *Ross Miller*

Uljarevic—Mladjen. Benjamin Michael Uljarevic, son of Michael and Dorothy Uljarevic (Brisbane, Qld), and Ivana Jennifer Mladjen, daughter of Dragan and Marica Mladjen (Brisbane), were married on 6.10.02 in the Springwood Adventist church. *Chester Stanley*

Webb—Franks. Peter Stanley Webb, son of Allen (Tuckurimba, NSW) and the late Jocelyn Webb, and Pamela Gayle Elizabeth Franks, daughter of Arthur and Joy Franks (Goulburn, NSW), were married on 12.10.02 at Canberra, ACT. *Dale Arthur, Aaron Jeffries*

Obituaries

Austin, Alfred Gavin, born 9.9.1913 in SA; died peacefully 15.8.02 at Wisteria Lodge, Nerang, Qld. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn (nee Banks); his son and daughter-in-law, Garry and Aileen; his two granddaughters and their spouses; his six great-grandchildren; three stepsons and their families. Alf was a well-respected Christian gentleman and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. *Don Bain, Clive Butcher*

Collett, June Irene, born 1.1.1931 at Dunedin, SNZ; died 23.6.02 in the nursing home at Ngaio Marsh Retirement Village, Christchurch. She is survived by her children and their spouses, Ross and Linda, and Lynette and Peter Hughan; their families; her brother and sister-in-law, Noeleen Facer; and her sister-in-law, Beverly Facer. *Neil Thompson*

Hanley, Vera, born in 1909 at Edenbridge, Kent, England; died 20.9.02 in Mona Vale Hospital, NSW. She was predeceased by her husband, Percy, in 1983. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, June and Dr John Court (Bayview); her four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Vera served the Albion church in Brisbane for many years; she was a highly esteemed senior deaconess and dearly loved by all who knew her. Love was the central theme of her life. She will be greatly missed and fondly remembered. *Russell Kranz*

Hooper, Albert William, born in 1914; died 22.8.02 at Merivale, Christchurch, SNZ. He is survived by his wife, Joy (nee Priestley); his daughter, Teresa Hefford; and his grandson, Zac Cox. His funeral service, which celebrated Al's life, was held at Bishopdale church, Christchurch, on 26.8.02 and was conducted by family friends. *Angela Dowle, Jean Simpson, Robert Granger*

Jones, Alfred Edwin (Ted), born 24.9.1919 at Rockhampton, Qld; died 20.9.02 in John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, NSW. In 1942 he married Ivy Crosthwaite. He is survived by his wife; his children, Robert (Melbourne, Vic), Pauline (Philadelphia, USA), Peter (Gosford, NSW) and Dean (Mount Kuring-gai); his 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Ted graduated from theology at Avondale College in the mid-forties. He then served in Fiji for three years; Vanuatu for three years, Adventist Book Centre manager, SA, in 1957; business manager at Avondale College for 10 years; Rabaul for seven years; Esda Sales and Service, Sydney, in 1973; purchasing officer at Sydney Adventist Hospital for three years; and sustentation manager at South Pacific Division office from 1977 to 1982. He then retired at Bonnells Bay, NSW. Ted was greatly appreciated and loved by his church family; always friendly, helpful and deeply committed to the church he loved. Both family and friends will miss a genuine and wonderful Christian. *Roger Nixon, Bert Godfrey, Russel Stanley*

Nuualitiia, Louisa, born 27.10.1945 at Leauvaa, Western Samoa; died 2.8.02 at Mount Druitt, NSW. She is survived by her husband, Matamuli; her children, Steed, Lino, Josh, Liva and Johnny; and her four grandchildren. Louisa was honest, hardworking and totally dedicated to her Lord, her husband, family and the whole Mount Druitt Samoan SDA church. She was loved and respected by all who knew her and will be sadly missed. *Ativale Mulitalo*

Taylor, George Samuel, born 8.5.1912 at Tea Tree Gully, SA; died 6.9.02 in John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, NSW. In 1945 he married Irene. He is survived by his wife (Abermain); his daughter and son-in-law, Helen and Carl Stone; and his three grandchildren. George was an avid music lover, and from a young man he led the choir in the Prospect church (SA); and later was involved in the music at Cessnock (NSW) church until his death. *Max Mulligan*

Williams, James, born 10.10.1912 at Ynysybwll, Glamorgan, in Wales; died 9.10.02 in Gosford Hospital, Central Coast, NSW, after a brief illness. He was predeceased by his wife, Beatrice, in 1992. A dear and much-loved friend of Stuart, Cherie, Jaemes and Anthony Tipple, Jim will be greatly missed by his church family at Erina. *David McKibben, Stuart Tipple*

Advertisements

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CD Christmas specials by Tom Mitchell (TM) and others. **Profits to help young musicians.** (1) **Autumn Leaves**—Warburton Ensemble. Soloists—Marshall Kelly, Ray Dickson and Geoff Dean. Music by TM (piano/organ) plus lyrebird calls. (2) **Bavarian Castles**—TM playing originals at the Steinway, Newcastle Town Hall. (3) **22 popular old-time brass band marches.** CDs \$A20 posted. 3 for \$A50. TM Productions, 357 Main Road, Noraville NSW 2263.

Manjimup, WA—Sabbath, July 12, 2003—centenary celebration of the Manjimup SDA church. Plan now to attend. Contact PO Box 1148, Manjimup WA 6258 or email <giblettdn@wm.com.au> for further information.

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—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.

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.

ESL Teachers—Taiwan to teach conversational English to children and adults. Degree required. Living allowance, accommodation and travel expenses provided. Term: 12 months, commencing January 1, 2003.

Primary School Teacher—Costa Rica. Living allowance and accommodation provided. 1–2 years college experience necessary. Term: 1 year, commencing asap.

Youth Pastor—Nerang/Southport churches (Qld) to coordinate ministries, social activities, Underground/STORM Co trips between youth at these churches. Accommodation and living allowance provided. Term: 1 year, commencing asap.

Volunteers needed—Ile-Ife SDA Hospital, Nigeria to continue building the Residency Training Program: Specialists in Internal Medicine; Paediatrics; Obstetrics and Gynaecology; and General Surgery. Short-term volunteers needed in other physician and non-physician areas such as nursing, nursing education, physiotherapy, laboratory technology, pharmacy, public health, medical records, carpenters, electricians, plumbers and fundraising. In-country travel, accommodation and food provided.

Volunteer—Youth Department—NZPUC. The NZ Pacific Union Conference Youth and Family Ministries Department is looking for a talented, committed and eager young person to serve as a volunteer for the North NZ Conference. This position holds heaps of excitement, fun, learning and responsibility. Term: 1 year, commencing January 2003. Accommodation and transportation provided. The successful applicant will be a committed Seventh-day Adventist Christian leader; and be required to assist the youth directors and secretary in the planning and implementing of the NNZC youth program. This will involve networking with youth and Pathfinder/Adventurer leaders around the conference; supervising various programs and assuming extensive responsibility.

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



Retirees luncheon—Greater Sydney. All SDA retirees, whether previously denominationally employed or not, are most welcome to attend the fellowship luncheon of the Greater Sydney Association of SDA retirees on Tuesday, December 10, at the Mount Colah church hall, corner of Cowan Road and Pierre Close. Program commences at 11.00 am. Guest speaker: Dr Allen Steele, representing Adventist World Radio. Contribution is \$A3 per person and finger food to share. Come, enjoy the fellowship.

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" condition. 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.

Accommodation available. Female wanted to share with one other—inner west Sydney area. Phone 0414 238 022.

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>.

Calling all ex-western suburbs Crusaders (Sydney) and members of the mission choirs under Pastor Ken Mead's baton between the years 1945 and 1954. A reunion is planned for February 15, 2003, and we would love to hear from all ex-members who can attend. Please acknowledge by phone Meryl Watson (02) 9631 3854 by December 31, 2002, or by mail 12 Lower Mount Street, Wentworthville NSW 2145.

Papatoetoe church, NNZ—80th anniversary weekend—March 15, 2003. A celebration of God's leading in the history of our church and His leading in our future. Details at <www.papsda.co.nz> or phone (649) 278 7786.

Positions vacant

▲ **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.

▲ **Diagnostics Marketing Coordinator—Sydney Adventist Hospital** is seeking a person to enhance business relationships and promote diagnostics services to the Medical Practitioners in the area. The successful applicant will have a proven sales/marketing track record, and previous experience in a clinical setting, particularly in pathology or radiology, would be an advantage. **Further information** should be obtained from Geoff Andrews on (02) 9489 9850 or Margaret Duffy on (02) 9489 9409. **Applications in writing** (including résumé) should be forwarded to Malcolm Gorham, HR Department, Sydney Adventist Hospital, 185 Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga NSW 2076; email <malcolmg@saah.org.au>; fax (02) 9473 8230 by December 11, 2002.

For church-related employment opportunities visit the Employment section on the SPD web site <www.adventist.org.au>.

The Retired Workers Fellowship—Vic invites Victorian and interstate members to be present at their year-end luncheon to be held at Nunawading church on December 2, commencing at 11 am. The SPD president and secretary will be guest speakers. For further information phone Ken Killoway, president (03) 9801 8986.

Bundaberg Adventist Primary School will celebrate its 20th anniversary in June 2003. We would like to contact all persons who have been involved with the school in any way (eg teachers, pupils) and invite them to a celebration. If you know of anyone who may be interested or if you are personally interested, kindly contact Marilyn Atkinson on (07) 4157 4227 or write to Marilyn at PO Box 1414, Bundaberg Qld 4670.

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Alps 2003—Waldensian Valleys, Italy, May 22—June 1, 2003. Alpine Lifestyle Program and Spiritual Retreat. Inspiration: Dr Allan Lindsay, author/speaker, "Keepers of the Flame" on 3ABN. Nutrition: Dr Winston Craig, Andrews. Lifestyle: Dr Jeff Gates, others. Tours, museums, hikes, cultural sacred music. Reformation tour available. <Alpinewstart.com>; (706) 820 0325; <bsher68@aol.com>.

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Good education is a necessary requirement for successful future careers. The **Australian Scholarships Group** works with parents to motivate, encourage and financially prepare for their children's success. To find out more about this not-for-profit cooperative, call Choon Yap on (02) 9899 4377 or 0416 106 285.

Say congratulations with flowers! Avondale College graduation is Sunday, December 8. We have available lovely fresh flowers and would be happy to assist you—contact Cooranbong Florist, phone (02) 4977 2547.

Finally

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Doug Batchelor is senior pastor of a large church in Sacramento and also president of Amazing Facts, an evangelistic ministry. Previous books include *The Richest Caveman*, *To See the King*, *Seven Steps to Salvation*, and *How to Survive and Thrive in Church*.

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