

# RECORD

July 4, 2009

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*The Australian Union Conference has purchased the land that houses Mamarapha College from the Western Australian government.*

## AUC purchases Mamarapha College

KARRAGULLEN, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**T**he Australian Union Conference (AUC) has purchased the 2.58 hectares of land where Mamarapha College, a tertiary-level training centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, is located.

Mamarapha College has been leasing the former Karragullen school grounds from the Western Australian Department of Education since 2002.

“We wanted to purchase Karragullen because the land suits Mamarapha College very well,” says Steve Piez, director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries for the AUC. “Being out of

town, it is quiet and ideally located. It is also a good size and since it was previously used by the government as a school, there are existing classrooms, administrative offices, a library, recreational facilities and a car park.”

According to Mr Piez, the AUC decided to purchase the property because it recognises that Mamarapha is “core to the work that the Adventist Church does in bringing the gospel to Indigenous Australia, meeting the aims of reconciliation and developing and empowering people to serve within the church and their community.”

*(Continued on page 4)*



We are urged to live and believe  
with courage and boldness.

# Courage

ONE OF THE BIBLE'S DISTINCTIVE catchcries is "Don't be afraid." Often it's the necessary greeting that begins interactions between God and humanity, particularly almost every time an angel appears in a Bible story. For example, "Don't be afraid" is a recurring motif around the birth of Jesus (see Luke 1:13; 1:30; and 2:10), belying the innocuous amicability we often try to scatter around the "Christmas" story.

But it is also a message delivered by leaders, prophets and apostles to God's people throughout biblical history. When facing uncertainty, enemies, sorrows and tragedy, the repeated call is "Don't be afraid." Amid the darkness, doubts and difficulties, we are urged to live and believe with courage and boldness in a world too often dominated by fear.

The call to courage is recognition that such courage is necessary for living well. Most of us are aware of things that are wrong in the world around us. Most of us are aware of things that are wrong in our communities. Most of us are aware of things wrong in the church. We might even complain about them from time to time to our friends and family.

But it takes courage to stand up and speak up on these issues. It takes courage to try to make a difference. Courage is needed because it is so easy to be wrong, to take evil for granted, to merely float with the current. Yet at times, it also takes courage to keep quiet.

It takes courage to believe when so many

voices question the possibility of belief. It takes courage to believe differently and courage to share a message of hope in circumstances in which it is not easy to do so. It takes courage to trust that we don't have to earn credit with God.

It takes courage to choose to "do for others what you would like them to do for you" (Matthew 7:12\*) and to seek the "pure and lasting religion . . . that we must care for orphans and widows in their troubles and refuse to let the world corrupt us" (James 1:27). It takes courage to believe it might be possible to not "let evil get the best of you, but conquer evil by doing good" (Romans 12:21).

Of course, courage without goodness—including humility and generosity—is likely to be misdirected and counterproductive. But conversely, we can't live truly humble or generous lives without a measure of courage. The same applies to all other life qualities. As C S Lewis pointed out in *The Screwtape Letters*, "Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point, which means, at the point of highest reality." Any real goodness requires real courage.

But this courage is not something that comes by locking ourselves away to muster moments of courage from our own limited emotional and spiritual resources. Rather, one of the key reasons for participating in a community of faith is to create and share a collective courage, acknowledging our many fears and doubts but somehow borrowing from the faith, hope and wisdom

of fellow believers.

Paul regularly urged the early Christians to encourage—"to inspire with courage"—one another (see, for example, 2 Corinthians 13:11). He even acknowledges that we do not all have equal stocks of courage, particularly encouraging those who have more to "encourage those who are timid" (1 Thessalonians 5:14).

But even this is not based merely on a collective resource of courage. Our true courage is built on God and His goodness. In relationship with and knowledge of this God, we find courage to live with our fears and doubts, to confront the wrong around us, and to live with humility, generosity and goodness, whatever our circumstances may be. After all, He is the God who is almost always cued onto the stage of history, our lives and our world with a "Don't be afraid" directed to His people.

Luke's retelling of the Sermon on the Mount adds a remarkable "Don't be afraid" statement to the well-known "Seek first the kingdom of God" that many Christians have embraced courageously throughout history. It is perhaps the biggest of the Bible's "Don't be afraid's"—the largest and most profound call to courageous living, believing and serving: "So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom" (Luke 12:32).

\*Bible quotations are from the New Living Translation.

**Nathan Brown**



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

# ATSIM enters new areas

## JIGALONG, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**A**boriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries (ATSIM) used their first visit to communities in the Great Sandy Desert to connect with Indigenous people, from May 28 to June 8.

Pastor Don Fehlberg, associate ATSIM leader for the Australian Union Conference (AUC), joined Pastor Lomani Uilou, who is working from Jigalong to reach out to communities in the region, and Pastor Saia Vea, who ministers to the Newman church a few hundred kilometres from Jigalong, for the visit to the communities of Punmu, Cotton Creek (Parnngurr) and Well 33 (Kunawarritji). Matthew Long, Dianne Brand and Eileen Fehlberg also joined the group.

Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community, the Western Australian Conference and AUC have partnered to provide a pastor for Jigalong, with the aim of reaching out to communities ATSIM and Adventists haven't visited before.

The group met in Newman before travelling to Jigalong, where they spent the Sabbath running meetings.

Pastor Fehlberg says, "From there, we went to Cotton Creek, where there's a man called Jimmy Williams. A number of people had invited us to Cotton Creek, including Jimmy, and when he heard we were com-

ing, he was so excited."

There are a small number of Adventists already in the community and the group spent time making new contacts. They also conducted two meetings. Pastor Fehlberg preached on the life of Jesus and His second coming. "I use the life of Jesus when opening a program in a new area because Indigenous people love to hear His story," Pastor Fehlberg says.

The group travelled from Cotton Creek to Punmu before visiting Well 33 on the Canning Stock Route. "In Well 33, we have an Adventist nurse—Jamie Goldsmith—at the clinic. He'd been praying that we'd come out to visit. Community folk often get him to pray for people—it's good when a man at the clinic can understand their needs. Jamie's really supportive, which is good."

Again, the group visited members of the community and ran meetings. "We had a significant number of the community come to our meetings," says Pastor Fehlberg. "They just love to hear these things about Jesus and at the end of the meetings, one of the chairpersons of the community asked us to have special prayer with him."

The group then returned to Punmu, where they held the first Sabbath worship service conducted by Adventists in the



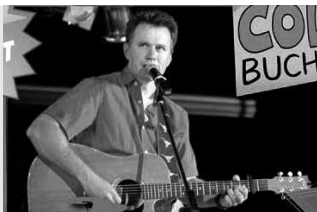
*Pastors Saia Vea (left, rear) and Lomani Uilou (right) with new contacts at Well 33 (Kunawarritji).*

community, according to Pastor Fehlberg. The meeting was held in the yard of Beatrice Simpson. Another meeting was held on Saturday night, which was attended by 27 people.

Pastor Uilou has plans to continue visiting these communities and hold meetings. Pastor Fehlberg says, "The exciting thing is that we've really opened up three more communities where people are wanting us to come and share. If we don't go, others will. The door is open for us at this time."

Plans are also currently underway for a major ATSIM outreach trip through the desert communities in Western Australia and South Australia. Meetings will be held in a number of communities, and it is planned that Bibles in English and local dialects will be handed out. Pastor David Fletcher is working on a Bible study series for the planned trip.—**Adele Nash**

*More @ [www.atsim.org](http://www.atsim.org)*



◆ More than 750 people attended the **North New South Wales (NNSW) Conference Adventurer and Family Camporee** at Stuarts Point, NSW, on the first weekend of May. "A highlight of the program was the spectacular performance by Christian artist Colin Buchanan," says Pastor Bevan Craig, associate director of Youth ministries for the

NNSW Conference. Mr Buchanan (pictured) has a background in teaching and youth work, and has been a presenter on ABCTV's "Playschool" before choosing to go into musical ministry for children. Catering for five to nine year olds and their families, this fun-filled, Jesus-focused event is held every two years to complement the Adventurer programs run in local churches. Starting with an official Adventurer parade, in which the children marched in uniform around the campground, the event also included a range of activities

such as jumping castles, crafts, clowns, go-karts, horse rides and even an animal farm. The program began and concluded each day with worship in the Big Tent, featuring children's worship music from talented duo Ali and Leighton Heise. Pastor Brian Boyland, chaplain at Gilson College, Vic, shared inspiring stories and illustrations.—**Sharlene Guest**

◆ Heritage College, Victoria, is proud of their talented piano student Nathan Iouras. Nathan, nine years old, in Year 4, com-



peted in the Dandenong Festival of Music and Art for Youth. Nathan was rewarded for his efforts, earning third place and also receiving a Certificate of Merit for his original composition for children 12 years and under.—**Maleesa Pascoe**



# AUC purchases Mamarapha College

(Continued from page 1)

“The Adventist Church is serious about Indigenous and non-Indigenous people serving shoulder-to-shoulder as we prepare the world for Jesus’ soon return. There are unique roles that our Australian Indigenous people are best suited to fill,” says Pastor Ken Vogel, general secretary of the AUC. “Mamarapha College is committed to these ends and for that reason, the AUC has stepped out in a faith venture to buy this property, in order to give a stable platform for this ministry into the future.”

Pastor Vogel and Mr Piez also expressed gratitude to the General Conference and “faithful Sabbath school members who have given to 13th Sabbath mission projects from which a portion of the \$A810,000 purchase cost has been sourced.”

Mamarapha College was originally developed to train pastors and lay workers to meet the increasing demands of Indigenous ministry. Since its inception in 1997, it has trained 11 people, who have been employed by the AUC as pastors, over a dozen supported volunteers and global mission workers; and a large number of unsupported volunteers.

In 2008, the college introduced a course in

health promotion to help address the health challenges faced by Indigenous communities. The first of the health promotion course students graduated last year.

“We now have a security of tenure, knowing the property will not be sold by the government at any time,” says Mr Piez. “The site already suits our needs but we can now consider further development as well.”

Every year, more than 30 people enrol in Mamarapha’s Bible and health courses. The college is popular with non-Adventists, many of whom are baptised during the course of their studies.

Mamarapha has four full-time employees, including director Pastor Gordon Stafford, assistant director Lynelda Tippto and registrar Andrea Warren, as well as sessional lecturers.

“They are real visionaries who work round the clock to keep the program running,” says Mr Piez. “We really appreciate what they do.

“We have also been amazed at God’s leading with the work in Mamarapha. Things always seem to work out at the right time. We are looking forward to what God’s got planned for the future.”—*Melody Tan*

More @ <http://mamarapha.adventistconnect.org>

# ADRA assists NSW flood victims

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

When heavy rains caused severe flooding in northern New South Wales in late May, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia provided immediate support to those affected through the activation of its disaster recovery teams, as part of the NSW Government’s Disaster Plan.

Working from numerous evacuation centres throughout the region, ADRA’s teams worked with their disaster recovery partners to provide support for disaster-affected persons and travellers stranded by the floods. ADRA organised emergency accommodation for approximately 500 people from Lismore, Grafton, Ulmarra, Cabbage Tree Island and surrounding areas.

“The coordinated response to this terrible disaster meant residents who’ve had to leave their homes, and travellers who were stranded, were supported and cared for,” says Bruce Prince, ADRA Australia’s disaster recovery coordinator for NSW. “These people have had to deal with a lot over the past few months, so it’s great to be in a partnership that can bring some comfort during such a challenging time.”

—*Candice Jaques*

More @ [www.adra.org.au](http://www.adra.org.au)



◆ Young people from **Pacific Adventist University (PAU), Papua New Guinea (PNG)**, took part in the recent **Walk Against Corruption** on June 14. PAU was represented by seven teams, five from the school, one from administration and one from the teen Sabbath-school group. The event was organised by **Trans-**

## parency International PNG.

The teens were sponsored by a credit corporation from Port Moresby, who supplied them with T-shirts, caps, water and transport. The groups marched more than two kilometres with signs saying “stop” and T-shirts that spelt out “corruption” after the teens sewed large individual letters on themselves.

—*Danijela Schubert*

◆ The **Avondale School Kindy Centre, NSW**, recently experienced a “colour day,” which included a visit to the **second-**



**ary school art room** to make clay creations. Helped by the **Year 11 Visual Arts students**, the Kindy class worked clay as part of their focus on the letter “C.” They made special creatures that are being fired and will be glazed before being taken home to show their parents. The children performed a “thankyou” song for the Year

11s to show their appreciation. They also had a colour crazy kingdom, with clowns and a number of different activities focusing on colour. They mixed colours, made colourful sun catchers, counted coloured counters and wrote descriptions of their colourful outfits. There was even a coloured jumping castle.—*Susan Rogers*

◆ A recent **exit survey** sent to the **parents** of all students who completed Year 12 last year at **Carmel Adventist College, WA**, has revealed strong

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ JULY 4—WORLD MISSION BUDGET OFFERING

# Victorian youth leader commissioned

NUNAWADING, VICTORIA

The Victorian Conference's first female director of youth ministries, Moe Ioane, was commissioned to gospel ministry on May 9.

Ms Ioane joins a small but growing group of commissioned women ministers in the South Pacific Division. The commissioning held added significance, as Ms Ioane is the first Samoan woman to be commissioned.

Ms Ioane's commissioning was attended by family, friends, church leaders and members, with congratulations coming from Pastor Erika Puni, director of stewardship for the General Conference, among others.



(Back row, from left to right) Pastors Eddie Erika, Rob Steed, Denis Hankinson, Graeme Christian and Chester Stanley with Moe Ioane and her fiancée, Adrian Stiles.

During the service, Pastor Eddie Erika, a fellow Samoan minister, spoke about the commissioning's historical significance and recalled his visit with Ms Ioane to Samoa several years ago, to introduce church members there to the concept of female pastors.

Ms Ioane spoke about how she came to accept the call to work in the Victorian Conference and that it was "God's direct answer to prayer" for where He wanted her to be.

Recently engaged, Ms Ioane put her fiancée, Adrian Stiles, on the spot by offering him the microphone during her response. He pledged his ongoing support to Ms Ioane throughout her ministry.

Pastor Rob Steed, ministerial secretary for the conference, said, "It's very exciting to be part of Moe's commissioning. She's a first-class young minister who will continue to contribute significantly to God's church."

Ms Ioane has touched the lives of many Victorians through her music ministry, chaplaincy and work as a pastor, as well as in her role as director of youth ministries.—**RECORD staff/IntraVic/Rob Steed**

support. Parents were asked to anonymously rate the college program in a number of key areas, including overall satisfaction with the educational program and the academic achievement of their child in their final year at Carmel. In addition, parents were asked to comment on whether they would recommend the college to others. The mean scores on a five-point scale were very positive, with the most pleasing result being received for the question relating to the recommendation of the college

to others. On this question, the majority of parents gave the highest-possible rating. Parents were also given the opportunity to make comments and offer suggestions as to how Carmel can continue to improve. These have already been shared with College Council members and teaching staff.—**Gavin Williams**

◆ In May this year, **Dorrigo church, NSW**, installed and started transmitting **Christian radio** in **Dorrigo**. The signal covers the entire town and some of

the surrounding area. It will be a blessing to those members who cannot attend church due to age or health. The **Dorrigo** members pray that others will be led to listen to it and accept Jesus as their Saviour. Appropriate advertising will be put in the local paper, telling the community that Christian radio is available for them to hear.—**Graham Chesher**

◆ With the **Jewish Passover** in April and the feast of unleavened bread spanning the traditional **Easter weekend** this

# School collects cans for community

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

In late May, Avondale School sent a truckload of cans of food to the Cooranbong Community Service Centre for their winter food drive. The non-perishable food items were donated by students, staff and families, and the activity was seen as an active approach to learning the value of compassion.

Principal Dr David Faull initiated the program as a practical way for the school community to help those who are struggling economically. "The generosity was fantastic," he says. "The students and parents really responded. The thought occurred to me that we have desperate families in the community, and the community centre was out of canned foods and dried noodles."

A casual day also saw \$A590 raised to purchase more canned food.—**Susan Rogers**



Students with some of the cans collected.

year, **Living Waters Community church, Vic**, hosted a passover brunch on Shabbat, April 11, for almost **100 people**. **Barry Buirski**, from **Celebrate Messiah**, was the featured speaker, graphically illustrating the salvation provided by Jesus Christ, our Passover Lamb and Messiah. Members invited almost 30 friends, with Jewish friends delighted to find the **Gilson College Living Waters Centre** decorated just like a **kibbutz** for Passover. Their interest in the Messiah was further awakened by this event.—**IntraVic**

# Ordination in Greater Sydney

SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES

On the evening of May 30, Richard Reid was ordained at Wahroonga Adventist church. The Mamarapha College graduate has served in ministry roles for a number of years, including volunteering as a youth pastor on the Gold Coast in the South Queensland Conference (SQC), working as chaplain of Northpine Christian College and as associate youth ministries director for SQC.

Pastor Reid moved to Sydney after he met his now fiancée, Bec Pye, at the youth congress held in Fiji at the beginning of 2005. He has been working as the chaplain of Sydney Adventist College for the past year and a half.

Friends and family from around Australia attended the ordination service, which was also attended by a number of pastors and church leaders from the Australian Union Conference (AUC), South Pacific Division, Greater Sydney Conference (GSC) and SQC.

Pastor Reid shared his story of how God has led in his life and gave special thanks to his parents, who took him into their home as a young child.

"I see in them the unconditional love God has to take in a foster child. That's given me a picture of His love, in a sense," says Pastor Reid. "I publically thank my parents for their



*Richard Reid and his fiancée, Bec Pye, at his ordination.*

care. They're the reason I'm in the church today and why I'm in ministry."

His other reason for being in ministry is the example set by Pastor David Lawson, who was the minister at the church he attended when younger. Pastor Reid says, "He took me under his wing in a church with no other young people. I base my youth ministry on the ministry he provided to me."

Pastor David Blanch, president of GSC, prayed over Pastor Reid and Ms Pye, with another 20 ordained ministers laying their hands on him in prayer.

Steve Piez, director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries (ATSIM) for the AUC, says, "Richie's the third Mamarapha graduate to be ordained, so in terms of ATSIM, it's a very big deal."—*Adele Nash/Darren Garlett*

# Swansea church celebrates 50 years

TINGIRA HEIGHTS, NEW SOUTH WALES

Swansea Adventist church celebrated 50 years since its inauguration on May 2, with more than 80 past and present church members attending the anniversary program.

North New South Wales Conference president Pastor John Lang was the guest speaker for the event and Pastor Gordon Smith led out in the Sabbath school program. Ruth Wallace, a member since 1963, and her daughter, Karen, gave a presentation about the history of the church. Past and present members also took the opportunity to share memories and anecdotes from the church's history.

The celebration was tempered by sadness, however, as Harry Wolfenden and Fred Hall, both church elders, passed away in the week before the anniversary. Mr Wolfenden had been a founding member of the church and was looking forward to the event.

His wife, Daphne, attended the afternoon service and cut the anniversary cake. Two other long-standing members, William (Rollo) Wallace and Neville Mackaway, also took part in the cake cutting.—*NorthPoint*

◆ **Megachurches** are most attractive to **younger adults**, and almost all who arrive at their sanctuaries have darkened a church's door before, a new survey shows. The study by **Leadership Network** and **Hartford Institute for Religion Research**, released on June 9, found that almost **two-thirds** (62 per cent) of adults who attend Protestant megachurches are **younger than 45**, compared to 35 percent of US Protestant congregations overall. Researchers found that just 6 per cent of those attend-

ing a megachurch—defined as a congregation attended by 2000 or more each week—had never attended a worship service before arriving at their current church. Almost half (44 per cent) had come from another local church, 28 per cent transplanted from a distant congregation and 18 per cent had not attended church for awhile. The new study was based on responses to questionnaires by **24,900 attendees** at **12 megachurches**. **Scott Thumma**, co-author of ***Not Who You Think They Are:***

***The Real Story of People Who Attend America's Megachurches*** says he was surprised at how much megachurch attendees invite others to worship with them: just **13 per cent** said they had not invited anyone in the past year. In comparison, a different survey by the Hartford Institute found that 45 per cent of attendees of Protestant churches had not invited anyone in that same time frame.—*Adelle Banks*

◆ After 78 years of broadcasting the pope's message around

the world, **Vatican Radio** is to break with tradition and take paid commercials for the first time. The move to mix jingles and advertising with religious programming will help balance the books at the station, which employs 500 people, broadcasts in 47 languages and costs more than **\$US27 million** a year to run. But officials insisted only "ideologically" sound ads will be broadcast, after first being filtered by an Italian communications firm that specialises in advertising through **Catholic media**.—*Tom Kingston*

IS YOUR CHURCH DOING SOMETHING EXCITING, INNOVATIVE OR INSPIRING? EMAIL [RECORD@SIGNSPUBLISHING.COM.AU](mailto:RECORD@SIGNSPUBLISHING.COM.AU)



# “Operation Open Heart” treats 47 people in Fiji

SUVA, FIJI

A team of 50 Australian medical volunteers, representing 16 hospitals, performed heart surgery on 47 people in Fiji in May as part of “Operation Open Heart.” The project was developed by the Sydney Adventist Hospital in response to seeing the problems caused by untreated heart conditions in the Pacific islands.

This was the 18th “Operation Open Heart” visit to Fiji. Volunteers pay their own way, with Fiji’s Ministry of Health assisting with local costs.

The team performed the surgeries at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva. Team coordinator Melanie Windus says, “Every patient was different and special, and they are getting better after operations. There were 47 operations done, of which there were 35 valve implants.”

Other surgeries performed included work on cardiac defects and congenital conditions, such as holes in the heart.

It was estimated that the total cost for the heart operations would have been around \$A1.2 million. Ms Windus says, “It’s really expensive but we’re fortunate to have the financial support of the Sydney Adventist Hospital, which has made the trip possible.”



Two members of the “Operation Open Heart” team performing surgery.

Dr Ian Nicholson, from the Westmead Hospital in Sydney, said the high cost showed the level of operation being carried out in Fiji was of the same standard as those done in other developed countries.

Australian high commissioner to Fiji James Batley praised the visiting team for the work they performed. He told them and patients that, at the age of five, he had surgery for a hole in his heart.

He said, “This is a group of Australians who have given their own time to come to Fiji and to other parts of the region to perform these very valuable operations. They are also working in partnership with local professionals and staff at the hospital, passing on skills that will remain here.”

—RECORD staff/Fiji Times

## PAU hosts single parents retreat

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

A single parents retreat was held at Pacific Adventist University (PAU) on May 31, with 14 people attending.

The retreat was initiated by Dr Aaron Lopa and his wife, Elizabeth, under the Family Life Department of the church at PAU, in order to meet the needs of a number of members. The university’s student services department is currently running a program for married students, and Dr Lopa thought a program for single parents would complement this.

“After we came up with the idea, we enlisted the expertise of PAU faculty to be our guest presenters,” says Dr Lopa. The presenters spoke on topics including coping with emotional stress, solving family conflicts and letting God lead.

Participants expressed their appreciation for the retreat. Goa Gagari, one of the participants, said the event was “an eye-opener” and felt it to be spiritually enriching.

Dr Lopa encouraged participants to continue to build a single-parents support group for prayer, support and encouragement.—Harina

More @ [www.pau.ac.pg/harina](http://www.pau.ac.pg/harina)

## New walking track a “gift to community”

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

A new walking track in Cooranbong will not only provide physical activity benefits but also protect biological diversity, say the brothers responsible for its opening.

Drs Darren and Jason Morton opened Sandy Creek Walk during a ceremony near the swing bridge on the Avondale Estate on May 28. The 1.5 kilometre track begins at the bridge on the north bank of Dora Creek and ends behind Avondale College women’s residence Ella Boyd Hall on the west bank of Jigadee Creek.

“I love to run and when I first came to Avondale 15 years ago, I thought, *What a great resource we have here,*” says Darren Morton, a senior health and exercise science lecturer in the Faculty of Education. However, the track did not exist in any formal way and few people used it. “Now we hope it becomes a resource not only for staff and students at Avondale but also for those in the community.”

Jason Morton, a lecturer in the Faculty of Science and Mathematics, wanted to fence and weed it to help protect biodiversity. “We have a remarkable variety of habitats on the estate but the cattle we graze here and the proliferation of weeds were destroying some of these,” he says.

Jason was successful in obtaining a \$A20,000 grant from the Hunter–Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority to protect and regenerate the native riparian and wetland vegetation. With help from students and others, the brothers completed their work in about 10 months.—Christel Price

More @ [www.avondale.edu.au](http://www.avondale.edu.au)



Dr Jason Morton (right) leads the opening of the new Sandy Creek Walk on the Avondale Estate.

# Involving children in mission

BY LINDA MEI LIN KOH

**S**HOULD CHILDREN BE INVOLVED IN missions? Are they too young to be missionaries? Is it a waste of our time and effort training them? I believe not. Research studies have again confirmed the importance of the early childhood years as crucial to character development. In fact, the basic traits of a child's character are formed before age 6 and major interests in life are taking permanent shape by age 12. Hence, it is vital we help children develop attitudes and habits of service and mission that will impact them all the way to adulthood.

In the most recent Barna Research studies on the spiritual growth of children, the Barna Group found children between the ages of 5 and 13 have a 32 per cent probability of accepting Jesus Christ as their Saviour. That likelihood drops to 4 per cent for teenagers between the ages of 14 and 18. In the area of mission, George Barna said, "Children are most likely to hear God's call to full-time Christian ministry (missionaries, ministers, etc) between the ages of 4 and 14" (*Christianity Today*). Some missiologists refer to this period of time as the "4/14 Window."

Ellen White echoed a similar message: we need to encourage children to be missionaries. Notice she writes in *That I May Know Him*: "Whole armies of children may come under Christ's banner as missionaries, even in their childhood years. Never repulse the desire of children to do something for Jesus. Never quench their ardour for working in some way for the Master" (page 42).

In the area of compassion, Ellen White again writes: "The principles of heaven are to be brought into the government of the home. Every child is to be taught to be polite, compassionate, loving, pitiful, courteous, and tenderhearted" (*Child Guidance*, page 143).

## So why involve children in mission?

**1. Children are sensitive to God.** They can begin to learn about God's heart for mission

at an early age. I once told a mission story about African children whose homes were destroyed by the floods, and they had no food to eat or clothes to wear. Many children raised their hands to say they would give their unused clothes and toys to these African children.

**2. Children can easily understand the concept of compassion** when they are given an opportunity to respond to the needs of their world by participating in projects to help less fortunate children. When children saw reports on TV of how a tsunami killed thousands of adults and children in southeast Asia, many were moved to tears. Children in some churches enthusiastically packed health kits to be sent to help these victims. I know some children gave their allowance or savings to help these unfortunate people in this disaster. Getting children involved in such compassionate service can help develop them into caring adults.

**3. Children learn to identify the needs of others and share the love of Jesus with them.** Children who get involved in mission learn to empathise with others, sharing not only their material things but also the love of Jesus with them. They become more conscious of the needs of others, rather than just their own needs. They feel they can make a difference in the world.

**4. Generosity in giving.** Parents whose children have been involved in missionary projects or mission trips testify that their children became more sensitive to the needs of the less fortunate, and are more generous in donating their allowances or pocket money to help. In fact, they are more enthusiastic and passionate in fundraising for mission projects.

**5. Appreciation of other cultures.** Missionary kids—like Brad Milligan, who



Enid Harris and Jenny Wigglesworth led a group of nine children in the Mission Institute kids program, run at Avondale College by the South Pacific Division in January.

has lived in Zimbabwe, Rachel Schupack in Kyrgyzstan and Lisa Frist in Brazil—agreed unanimously that living in a foreign land with cultures so different from their own has many benefits. Growing up among kids from other cultures has helped them appreciate people of diverse cultures, customs and languages. In fact, they have grown quite fond of their adopted cultures and homes. Hence, involving children in missions can deepen their appreciation of other cultures.

**6. Trust in God.** When children participate in mission projects at home or abroad, they may be confronted with problems in some situations when they have to trust God to find a solution for them.

## Jesus' commission

Jesus' commission for us to preach the gospel throughout the world includes children. We must sow seeds of mission interest at an early age if we expect to reap missionary recruits and strong mission supporters in the years ahead. It isn't too early to involve them now. Tomorrow's missionaries begin with today's children! **R**

*Linda Mei Lin Koh is director of Children's Ministries for the General Conference, based in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA.*



# “Seek and you will find”?

BY ROD BAILEY

WHILE ATTENDING A MINISTRY retreat in the Czech Republic recently, I lost my wallet. Credit cards, licences, cash—it was a small thing but extremely inconvenient. And it became an experience with one of God’s promises that really challenged me.

I prayed about it. I also appealed to the retreat delegates to pray for the return of the wallet and to keep their eyes open for it. Many came up to me over the next couple of days fully confident it would be returned. They shared experiences in their own lives where God had honoured their prayers and returned lost items. We were sure God would answer our prayers and return my wallet.

God’s word is full of promises. But can they be trusted? Are these promises so sure that you are able—or even willing—to stake your life on them? What do we do with such broad sweeping promises as Mark 11:24\*—“whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours”? Does Christ really mean what He says?

In each break between meetings, I retraced my steps—wherever I had walked before I discovered my wallet was missing. This was a challenge, as my tracks crisscrossed the creeks and gentle slopes of the surrounding Czech forest.

After a few days, I was impressed to claim a specific promise. I chose Matthew 7:7: “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” With my Bible in my hand, I prayed, “Lord, I am asking. I am seeking. I present your promise here, where You say that if I ask, You will give, and if I seek, I will find. You say You stand behind every promise You make with Your personal and faultless guarantee, and I believe You. I look forward to the fulfilment of Your promise—that Your will may be done and You may be glorified. Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.” Many times each day, I kept asking, I kept seeking and I kept claiming this same promise.

At the beginning, people would come to me with expectant faces and ask if I had found my wallet. When I said “No,” they would respond with expressions like, “That’s OK, I am sure you will find it soon. Have you searched through your suitcase again?” Others would say, “Sometimes God allows these things to try our faith for a while before He answers.” Still others suggested, “Maybe it is not God’s will that you find it.”

I knew that they could be right, yet I kept claiming.

But as the days wore on and the retreat was coming to a close, fewer people asked if the wallet had been found. And when I answered negatively to those who did ask, they said things in a wistful, disappointed voice like, “Oh, that’s too bad” or “He doesn’t always answer our prayers in the way we would like.”

Only a few retained a rock-like assurance that it would be found before we left, and only one had complete confidence that God would answer our prayers and fulfil His promise—“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find . . .”

The retreat was to finish on Sabbath evening and I would leave at 7 the next morning. On Sabbath afternoon, I decided to spend time alone with God, praying, claiming His promise and again walking the now-familiar forest paths. Late in the afternoon, I decided to retrace our steps of the previous Sabbath, where we had all walked to a nearby lake. Much of this distance was beside a busy road. The side of the road dropped sharply down a bank to a ditch. As I walked and prayed, my eyes continually scanned the steep grassy bank and the edge of the ditch. I found many surprising items but no wallet.

I walked all the way to the lake and when I turned for home, the sun was low in the



sky. The temptation was to quit looking and just walk quickly back to camp, admitting that God had other plans regarding my wallet. Despite His promise, it seemed He had another purpose in this instance.

But I was impressed to continue to scan the bank as I walked home. And about one kilometre from the campsite, halfway down that unmown grassy bank, my eyes were drawn to my wallet, the corner peeking out from under some thick grass.

“Why should the sons and daughters of God be reluctant to pray, when prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven’s storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence?” (*Steps to Christ*, pages 94-5).

So what are we going to do with God’s promises? Or maybe we should ask ourselves, what are we going to do with our hesitance to boldly claim them? Have we become so sophisticated with our faith that we have practically lost it? And “when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8).

“I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24). **R**

*\*All Bible quotations are from the New International Version.*

**Rod Bailey writes from Rollands Plains, New South Wales.**

# Why I believe in God

BY LIMONI MANU O'UIHA

**W**E HAVE ALL OBSERVED THE recent resurgence of critical and direct media attacks against God and religion. A string of books by atheist writers, such as Richard Dawkins (*The God Delusion*), Daniel Dennett (*Breaking the Spell*), Sam Harris (*The End of Faith*) and Christopher Hitchens (*God is Not Great*), are all intended to make a mockery of God and religion.

As Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we must admit right off that we cannot put God into a test tube and prove His existence by scientific methods. God is beyond proof. Our ability to understand God may only be in proportion to the extent of His self-disclosure to us. Among others, God chooses to reveal Himself to us: (1) in Creation (see Genesis 1:1); (2) through the natural world (see Psalm 19:1); (3) through morality and the innate longing for God; and (4) through Jesus Christ, the apex of God's self-disclosure (see John 1:14).

God makes no apology for who He is. While God allows us room to doubt His existence, He also provides us with sufficient evidences to believe in Him, so every person is without excuse (see Romans 1:19, 20). Allow me to briefly share a few reasons why I believe in God.

## 1. The beginning of all things

Think for a moment of the beginning of life. Who says life on earth began with God? Well, God says so. God claims direct responsibility for creating the heav-

ens and earth (see Genesis 1:1-3; Isaiah 45:12, 18). He claims to have put in place the foundations of the earth and marked off its dimensions (see Job 38:3-5). He created the living creatures of the sea, the flying birds in the air, all the animals that traverse the land (see Genesis 1:20-22) and human beings as well (see Genesis 1:27; Psalm 139:14). To accept the divine origin of life based primarily on the Word of God that He is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe demands 100 per cent faith (see Hebrews 11:1).

Many today still choose to believe otherwise. On September 10, 2008, thousands of scientists from 80 countries gathered at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) facility in Switzerland to switch on the world's most powerful particle accelerator, known as the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). The experiment was intended to prove the big bang theory and inadvertently refute the biblical teaching of divine origin.

The outcome was not as scientists had expected and contrary to what some had feared, there was no explosion. No black hole swallowed up parts of the region, nor

did the world come to an end.

## 2. Consider the evidences of the natural world

The earth has more than 11 million species of animal life, including humans; 300,000 species of flowering plants; 20,000 species of birds; and 5000 reptiles, including snakes and alligators.

Planet Earth itself is a fascinating example of extreme complexity: it must be just the right size, and its angular velocity must be precise to ensure seasons and land-water ratios are in balance. The slightest interference to this complex cosmic function of things would mean death for all living



things. Did all of these, including micro-organisms found in living things and the universe, begin by chance? What are the chances that all this complexity just happened? Remote! There must have been some intelligence behind all this—Someone or Something we could call “God.”

While revelation in the natural world cannot lead a person to a saving knowledge of God, it is nevertheless valuable. The glory of God is declared in the heavens and in the skies (see Psalm 19:1). While wordless, this testimony is eloquent. And the unmistakable and inevitable conclusion is that God must be the Creator of this complex universe. Although human beings may be warped and corrupted by sin (see Acts 17:27), we can still see an exhibition of God in the natural world (see Romans 1:19, 20; Psalm 19)—and be saved.<sup>1</sup>

### 3. Morality and the innate longing for God

People at all times and in every place have some sense of morality. Even in the remotest and most heathen places of the world, where a person is ignorant of the Ten Commandments, the law is still embedded in their conscience (see Romans 2:11-16). Everyone, for instance, knows it is wrong to hate or murder another person. Where did this sense of right and wrong come from?

God is the basis of all morality. And God is intensely interested in right conduct, in fair play, love, unselfishness, courage, mercy, good faith, honesty and truthfulness (see Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:3-12).

Like morality, the belief in the existence of a spiritual world, God or gods is also a universal phenomenon. All peoples show some form of devotion or worship. Some worship the Unknown God, as Paul noticed on the Athenian altars on Mars Hill of those who worshipped in ignorance, superstition and idolatry (see Acts 17:22, 23). The innate divine instinct is the direct consequence of God having “set eternity in the hearts of men” (Ecclesiastes 3:11, NIV), inevitably making humankind incurably religious (see Acts 17:26, 27).

To this end, the French mathematician, philosopher and physicist Blaise Pascal wrote, “There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by

God, the Creator, made known through Jesus.”

### 4. The testimony of Jesus

Even though the natural world and human life points us toward God, they are insufficient to help us know God fully. The pinnacle of God’s revelation comes to us through Jesus Christ (see Hebrews 1:2). More than 300 references in the Old Testament alone establish Christ’s credential as

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the Messiah. Jesus Christ is the seed of the woman (see Genesis 3:15), born of a virgin (see Isaiah 7:14) in the town of Bethlehem (see Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1; John 7:42). He was to be called Lord (see Psalm 110:1; Luke 2:11), Son of God (see Psalm 2:7; 1 Chronicles 17:11-14; Matthew 3:17; 16:16; Mark 9:7) and Immanuel (see Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23). His betrayal by a friend was predicted (see Psalm 41:9; Matthew 10:4)—for 30 pieces of silver (see Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:15). He was to be forsaken by His disciples (see Zechariah 13:7; Mark 14:50) and crucified among thieves (see Isaiah 53:12; Matthew 27:38). And, on the third day, He was to be raised again from the dead (see Matthew 16:21; 17:9, 22, 23; 20:18, 19).

His life, death and resurrection are well accepted facts of history. But what makes Jesus Christ unique and distinct from all the other religious leaders, including Buddha, Muhammad and Confucius, is that none of these religious leaders ever claimed to be God. But Jesus did (see John 5:17, 18; 8:58; 10:30-33). What we then believe of Jesus Christ may mean life or death for us (see John 3:36).

### What options do we have?

There may be three: Jesus may be a liar, a lunatic or God.<sup>2</sup> If Jesus knew He was not God and deliberately lied to deceive others, He was an evil hypocrite for luring people to trust in Him for their eternal destiny (see John 14:16).

On the other hand, if Jesus was sincerely convinced He was God and was honestly mistaken, He would have been a lunatic for believing what He was not. If, however, the claims of Jesus as God are true, each of us is without excuse. We, then, will have to choose either to accept or to reject Him as Lord and King.

You may be thinking that there is really nothing we can be 100 per cent certain about. We can’t even be absolutely sure God created the world. Why? Because no human eyewitness was present when the world was created. And, yes, you are right. We cannot prove by scientific methods that God created the world or that He exists. But the evidences supporting the existence of a loving and salvific God, who created and sustains the universe, are overwhelming.

Like boarding an airplane, we are often prepared to make 100 per cent commitments with less than 100 per cent proof of a safe passage. But our heavenly journey is sure; God is the architect and builder of that glorious abode (see Hebrews 11:10, 16). And Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life (see John 14:6).

For me, the providential evidences of God and Jesus Christ are sufficient to warrant 100 per cent of my commitment to Him. Undoubtedly, I would rather pledge 100 per cent allegiance to God than to stand 100 per cent against Him. For believing in God and Jesus Christ is to have life and life eternal (see John 17:3). **R**

1. *Ellen White, The Desire of Ages, page 638, notes that there will be people in heaven who may have never heard the gospel, yet they have responded positively to the testimony of nature and the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and will be recognised as children of God.*

2. *The following ideas are summarised from Josh McDowell, Evidence That Demands A Verdict: Historical Evidence for the Christian Faith, Vol 1, Here’s Life Publishers, 1986, pages 103-107.*

**Limoni Manu O’uiha pastors the  
Wanganui Adventist Church, New  
Zealand.**



# Grumpy woman

BY CHRISTINE MILES

HE SEEMED TO BE JUST A GRUMPY OLD WOMAN BUT THE impact she made on my day far exceeded anything I offered her.

We'd passed each other several times in our separate journeys around the supermarket. I was squeezing last-minute shopping for a camp in between dropping children at school and going to work.

Her face was long, her mouth turned down, her eyes—I thought, as I loaded my trolley with sponge cake, icing sugar and lollies—condemning.

She joined my queue at the exact moment I realised I'd forgotten strawberry jam. Would I get my head bitten off if I left my trolley and dashed to the other end of the supermarket? Was it worth it for a jar of jam?

The jam won. I needed it on the camp and no way was I planning to visit the supermarket again before leaving town. With a tiny smile at the grumpy woman, I squeezed past. I was certain—absolutely certain—that I'd get a firm reprimand on my return.

She spoke as I squeezed past her trolley on my return. "Are you having a party?"

*Oh God, I pleaded. Please don't send someone to tell me my trolley is full of unhealthy food! It's for a special project! I'm not promoting it as a lifestyle.*

"Not really." I smiled feebly, hoping to avoid any recriminations. "I'm going on a camp with a group of 11 year olds and they're all going to decorate cakes."

She smiled at me then.

"Those kids are so lucky," she said, "to have someone who wants to make happy memories with them."

A brief conversation ensued and we went our separate ways.

I had made a huge judgment call on this woman. In my opinion, she was someone to be avoided lest I get berated. It seemed she wasn't worthy of my time because she didn't look as though she'd brighten my day.

I wish I'd been a contagious Christian earlier; I wish I'd been the one to make the first friendly overture. I wish I'd been more like the One I claim to follow and set out to brighten her day without waiting for her to brighten mine.

I wish I'd remembered Jesus' charge to His disciples—"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house" (Matthew 5:14, 15, NIV).

Sometimes it's hard to be a light: I'm too tired; I'm too busy; I want to chill out and forget I am to be a bright light shining in a dark world. Jesus is the light but He passed the responsibility to us. We need to let His light shine through us. **R**

Christine Miles writes from Auckland, New Zealand,

## Record Roo



Hi kids!  
The Israelites were camped in the desert of Paran and God had a special mission in mind for the tribe leaders. He gave instructions to Moses...

### Bible Text

The Lord said to Moses, "Send some men to \_\_\_\_\_ the land of \_\_\_\_\_, which I am giving to the \_\_\_\_\_. From each \_\_\_\_\_ tribe send one of its \_\_\_\_\_."  
Numbers 13:1-2 NIV

### Word Puzzle

Joshua, son of Nun, was one of the leaders that explored the land of Canaan. Moses gave him the name "Joshua." What was his name before that?  
Write the answers to the following questions in the grid below. The letters in the circles spell Joshua's old name.

### Questions

1. During the day, the desert is this.
2. An oath.
3. God's chosen leader of the Israelites.
4. Valley of \_\_\_\_\_. The place where the big cluster of grapes was cut from. (See Numbers 13:24)
5. A person who is in charge.
6. God sent this every day for the Israelites to collect and eat.

1.		○			
2.		○			
3.		○			
4.		○			
5.		○			
6.		○			

Answers: 1. Hot, 2. Promises, 3. Moses, 4. School, 5. Leader, 6. Manna.

## Doing more

FELICITY JOHNSON, VIC

I read “A day that can’t be forgotten” (Insert, June 6) and its account of ADRA success stories in Zambia. But, as Matt admitted, these stories are only a drop in the ocean compared to the need of so many thousands more.

Maybe Matt could go from church to church and, face to face, rev up God’s people “to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with [our] God” (Micah 6:8, NIV). If a million people gave just \$1 each, what a wonderful act of love and mercy toward our “brothers and sisters” of Mambwe this would be.

May God richly bless us all as we humbly do our part for the ADRA Appeal.

## Only “probable”?

JAN T KNOPPER, NSW

“Paul’s missionary colleagues” (Feature, June 6) does not convince that women in the time of Paul were ordained by the laying on of hands. It makes it clear that women were involved in the church’s ministry—no objection. But were they “ordained” as we understand it? Please make that crystal clear with a “Thus says the Lord” or “It is written.” We do not accept terms like “probable” or “most likely.”

## Isn’t it time?

AVRIL LOCKTON, NSW

What a joy it was to read “Paul’s missionary colleagues.” I have always appreciated the references in the Gospels to Christ’s words and actions that affirmed women as worthy recipients of His healing power and the good news of salvation.

But Paul was problematic. He baptised Lydia and stayed at her home in Philippi but was reluctant to allow women to teach or “have authority over” a man. And Paul’s teachings have been used to deny women ordination to ministry in some Christian churches today.

How refreshing to see the apostle Paul acknowledging the major role women played in the early church. Paul recognised the role of women in the church’s mission

with such titles as “apostle” and “deacon,” as well as considering them equal labourers with himself.

With such strong recognition given to women in the early church, isn’t it time the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the 21st century ordained female theology graduates who have responded to the call to ministry and are currently serving their church as ministers of the gospel?

## How refreshing to see the apostle Paul acknowledging the major role women played in the early church.

## Another belief

OSSIE BRUNNER, NSW

“Scepticism unfounded” (Letters, May 30) laments scepticism about climate change caused by global warming. But to label a person a sceptic is to suppose that the person is expressing disbelief in a belief system. And the concept of global warming has become a belief system because it has no real basis in scientific fact. Instead, a few minor glitches in climate records have been taken by dreamy-eyed conservationists, who nurture their own egos by believing they are personally responsible for saving the planet.

Many august bodies, academics and researchers state categorically that the carbon dioxide content in the atmosphere has little influence on worldwide climatic conditions. Volcanoes and water vapour in the atmosphere contribute 90 per cent of climate alterations, and cosmic rays are also significant.

Besides all that, the climate has been constantly changing since Creation for many and varied reasons. God foresaw this, of course, when He put it together and built a system of checks and balances into the atmosphere. He did this so whatever happens while we are on this earth, it will never become uninhabitable. Moreover, He made this promise to Noah when he came out of the ark (see Genesis 8:21, 22).

So the hysteria being poured out by conservationists can be considered irrelevant to our mission of spreading the Three Angels’ Messages. It is no more than a distraction from the main task at hand.

## The PAU example

PHILIP SMITH, WA

I was encouraged to read “PAU strives for BEST” (Feature, May 30). The interview with Dr Branimir Schubert, vice-chancellor of Pacific Adventist University (PAU), was a refreshing account of how God is building a vibrant institution of

learning with a vision to serve the church’s mission in Papua New Guinea.

But the “best” news is that PAU’s community impact is about to increase manifold with the activation of a new radio station to cover the capital, Port Moresby—a city of a quarter of a million people.

My research has revealed that PAU’s new one-kilowatt FM radio station and studio will require about a \$A250,000 to be properly installed for broadcasting. That’s about a dollar for every person within range of the signal—a good benchmark for investing in any radio outreach venture. Adventist World Radio has already contributed and the South Pacific Division offering on June 6 also helped toward funding this.

Meanwhile, there are about 250 low-power FM licences in Adventist ownership across Australia. More than one million people are now within range of these “little preachers” spread across all states. While church members privately own most licences, there is certainly scope for increasing support to conference-owned radio networks.

And if PAU can establish a full-power radio station, there really is no excuse for Avondale College not setting a course to achieve a similar outcome. Avondale’s leaders must begin to believe in this possibility—the sooner the better. With God, nothing is impossible!

**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.

## Positions vacant

▲ **Account Manager (Foodservice/Route)**—*Sanitarium Health Food (Queensland)*, is seeking a highly-motivated person to join our Away From Home (AFH) team. The successful applicant will deliver exceptional customer service, implement revenue growth strategies for specific markets and customers, deliver sales targets, product sales, prepare business reviews and presentations, and prepare and track business plans and promotions. The position requires an individual with a minimum of five years sales experience, strong negotiation skills, the ability to work at a fast pace while maintaining attention to detail, and work independently or in a team, with strong computer skills, multi-tasking skills and the ability to show initiative in presenting and implementing creative new ideas. Apply online at <[www.sanitarium.com.au/company/employment.html](http://www.sanitarium.com.au/company/employment.html)> or send resume to Group Human Resources, Sanitarium Health Food Company, Locked Bag 7, Central Coast Mail Centre NSW 2252. Applications close **June 15, 2009**.

For more employment options go to  
[hr.adventistconnect.org](http://hr.adventistconnect.org)



## Anniversaries

**Cobbin**, Rex and Win (nee Heaton), celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with most of their original wedding party, family and friends on 8.3.09. Both parties shared in the great joy of the journey they had together as they have experienced life in ministry in many parts of the SPD—from Perth to Pitcairn. South Australia was their first posting, with Rex's involvement in evangelistic outreach in numerous towns leaving just



enough time for family (all four children Dexter, Darleen, Kerralyn and Kendell were born in these first eight years of ministry). The family was privileged to live in many cultures of the Pacific where Rex's ministry led them. It was in serving others that such richness of life experience was unwrapped. The memories of service added so much to the joy of the celebration of this momentous occasion. The family has extended over the years, with 13 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren becoming participants in this wonderful lineage of God's blessing.

**Ford**, Malcom and Marie (nee Halkett), celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 23 with three generations of their family. They met at Longburn College, NZ, in 1947, and were married in the first Whangarei Adventist church



(Norfolk Street) on May 26, 1949. They thank the Lord for His many blessings through the years.  
**Goldstone**, Dave and Doreen, were mar-

ried on May 25, 1959, in the old Tauranga church by Pastor Potter. Their golden wedding anniversary was celebrated in a restaurant with 38 family and friends. Several musical items were rendered. Among those present were Les Goldstone, their best man, and Heather Puky, a bridesmaid.

**Griggs**, Des and Joan, were married on May 21, 1949, at the Presbyterian church in Pahiatua, NZ, by Reverend Lane. Close family met for a celebration at a restaurant in Dannevirke. Joan's sister (bridesmaid) and Des's brother (best man) were



able to be present. Since then, two more celebration gatherings were held at their granddaughter Natalie Brock's home and with Des's sister at Cambridge.

**Low**, Irwin and Yvonne celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their family on 8.5.09 at Wentworth Falls, Blue Mountains, NSW. The couple met in Brisbane, Qld, at Pastor Ken Lowe's evangelistic series where Irwin was helping out as an usher. At the time, Yvonne was working as a secretary for the Sanitarium Health Food Company. Irwin was on his way to Canada to take up a teaching position but after meeting Yvonne, decided to stay and took up a position with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They married a year later on May 4, 1959, in Wahroonga church, NSW. Irwin worked as a school principal/teacher for a total of 44 years, 40 of which were spent working for the church. Irwin and Yvonne were blessed with three children, David (Silverwater), Peter (Gold Coast, Qld), and Lynelle King (Sydney, NSW); as well as nine grandchildren. A recurring theme throughout their lives is the love they have for God, each other and their family.

**Marta**, Leo and Enid, were married April 18, 1949, at Hawera Anglican

church, NZ. They celebrated with an open home for friends and a celebration meal with their family the next day.



## Wedding

**Joseph—Sousanis**. David Benjamin Joseph, son of Robert and Florence Joseph (Wetherill Park, Sydney, NSW), and Katerina Jean Sousanis, daughter of George Konidis and Sandra Sousanis (Fairfield Heights, Sydney), were married 26.4.09 in Parramatta church, Sydney.  
*Bruce Shield*

## Obituaries

**Blenkiron**, Sylvia Joyce, born 11.5.1938 on Kangaroo Island, SA; died 14.5.09 at Bordertown. On 22.2.1987, she married Torry Blenkiron at Mount Barker. In 1987, she was baptised in Mount Gambier. She was predeceased by her son, Peter Zilm, in 1982. She is survived by her husband; her sons, David Zilm (Wyndham Vale, Vic), Andrew Zilm (Adelaide, SA), Leslie Zilm (Bordertown); her daughters, Susan Bartlett (Vic) and Carol McDonald (Warrnambool); her 14 grandchildren; and her eight great-grandchildren. Sylvia loved the Lord and looked forward to the blessed hope. She was much loved by all who knew her, especially her husband, her children and Pam, who looked upon Sylvia as her mum. Sylvia will be sadly missed.

*George Hirst, Andrew Wilson*

**Daff**, Joyce Elizabeth, born 7.11.1924; died 30.5.09 in St John of God Hospital, Ballarat, Vic. She is survived by her husband, Alan; her children, Bruce and Narelle; and her grandchildren, Kerstin and Belinda. We miss her very much. She was laid to rest in the Creswick Cemetery to await Jesus' return and the Resurrection.

*Alan Daff and family*

**Hansen**, Lucy Paton (nee Snelgar), born 24.6.1912 at Kaitaia, NZ; died 14.5.09 at Whangarei. In 1937, she married Peter Edward Hansen, who predeceased her in 1966. Lucy was greatly loved by all who knew her because of her generosity, cheerful disposition and loyalty to friends and her church. She will be most greatly missed by her very close friends and confidants, Aurthur and Evelyn Clover, and Dianne Beatrice. The Lord she loved will reward her faithfulness on the Resurrection morning.

*Ken Curtis*

**Parkin**, Ernest Albert Walter (Ernie), born 27.11.1914 at Prahran, Vic; died

## Volunteers!

**Volunteer Team Leader or Small Team—Solomon Islands**, to oversee the construction of the Form 7 Building, Kukudu Adventist College in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands. Foundation dug and building materials already supplied. Just needs constructing with locals willing to assist. For more information, contact Lyn at <[volunteers@adventist.org.au](mailto:volunteers@adventist.org.au)>.

**Volunteer Teachers—Tonga**. Teachers required for Tonga in 2010 for 12 months. Mizpah School needs an English, Science and Maths teacher for Form 5. Beulah College needs an English teacher for Forms 5 and 6, and a computer teacher. For more information, please email Siosaia Vaihola, <[svaihola@adventist.org.to](mailto:svaihola@adventist.org.to)>.

Email:

<[volunteers@adventist.org.au](mailto:volunteers@adventist.org.au)>.

For more positions, check the web on <[www.adventistvolunteers.org](http://www.adventistvolunteers.org)>.

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27.4.09 in Warragul Hospital at 94 years of age. In 1942, he married Eunice Outhred, who predeceased him in 1980. In 1982, he married Lola Robertson at Traralgon. He was also predeceased by his sons, Neil and Desmond. He is survived by his wife; his children, Alan, Gordon, Marie and Brian; and his stepchildren, Sheila Fatchen, Irene Baxter, Janet Robertson and Glenda Morrison. Ernie was a loving, cheerful Christian, who was a member of Moe church for 60 years and Warragul church for 21 years. He loved the Lord and went to sleep to await the coming of Jesus.

*Bill Doble, Duane Haora*

## Advertisements

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*Collinsvale church, Tas, 120th anniversary, August 1, 2009.* Sabbath school, church and afternoon programs. Buffet lunch, bring plate of fingerfood if possible, also memorabilia and memories. RSVP Judy (03) 6239 0317. <http://collinsvale.spdwebministry.org.au>.

*Western Australian Conference Constituency meeting.* Notice is hereby given of the regular Constituency Meeting of the Western Australian Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, to be held at Carmel Adventist Col-

lege Auditorium on the weekend of August 29 and 30, 2009. A combined Sabbath program will commence at 10 am, with reports presented Sabbath afternoon. The business of the meeting will commence at the conclusion of the closing Sabbath program on August 29, concluding August 30. The meeting will receive reports from the Secretary and Treasurer, vote on various appointments and consider constitutional changes, all in accordance with the Conference Constitution. Further information is available from the Conference Secretary <warricklong@adventist.org.au>.

*Medical practitioners* needed for the Logan Adventist Health Association Health Centre. Full-time and part-time practitioners needed. Contact 0428 486 455.

*Mount Gravatt church, Qld.* Calling all past and present members and pastors of the Mount Gravatt church to the 50th anniversary on September 5, 2009. Commences with Sabbath school at 9.15 am. RSVP to <jbpwalker@gmail.com> or phone 0422 745 602.

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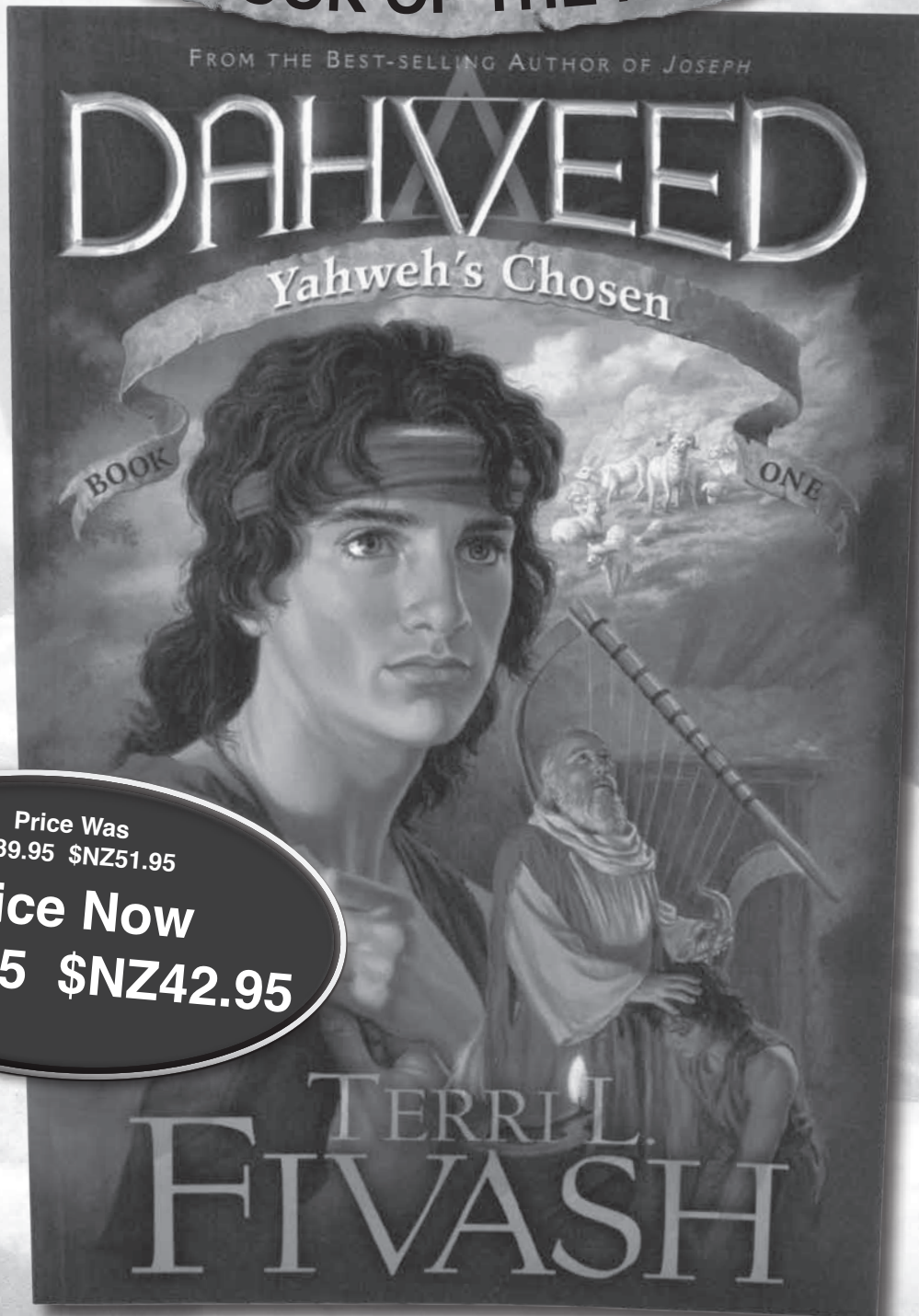
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