

July 13, 1996

RECORD

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Centre Offering
Next Week



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Moldova—11**



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Century Churches Support *Signs*

There are century churches, which sponsor 100 or more *Signs of the Times*, in almost every conference in Australia and New Zealand, reports the *Signs* Ministry Coordinator Pastor Des Hills.

In addition there are 25 churches supporting more than 200 *Signs*; and 10 sponsoring more than 300. Joining them is a father-daughter team in Victoria who send over 100 *Signs* to non-Adventist ministers.

Pastor Hills says that churches become century churches due to several factors, including:

- When the pastor gives full support to *Signs* ministry and to placing *Signs* racks.
- When a church member becomes convicted of the value of *Signs* ministry and "makes it happen."

Margaret Page of Glenhuntly church, Vic, is just such a person. She produced a brochure for church members, showed the video during the *Signs* campaign last year, gave talks, canvassed members and personally sponsored 10 *Signs*.

●When the church members respond to *Signs* ministry and subscribe for family and friends, and sponsor *Signs* through ministry projects.

Pictured is Lesley Clark from Wantirna church, a century church in Victoria. She cares for a *Signs* rack placed in the Vermont shopping centre near the church, where some 160 are taken each month. During June, *Signs* sponsorship increased at the church from 277 to 382.

Bandaging Pneumonia?



Art Gallery, Sydney

A teacher asks 30 senior primary children to sit in front of a painting of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. "Well, children," she says, "how many of you have heard the story of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba?" Nobody raises a hand. "Well, it's a story from the Old Testament of the Bible. Who's heard of the Old Testament?" Only two hands.

ABC Radio National

A panel of educators express concern that many Year 12 English students don't have a clue about basic biblical ideas and themes that run through books on their reading list.

Melbourne Bank

Pastor Peter Roennfeldt is arranging a draft for the Bible Society. The young teller, in her late 20s, asks, "Do you spell it B-i-b-a-l?"

She has never heard of the Bible. Peter explains that it's the main book of Christians.

"I never knew that!" she responds.

La Trobe University

A linguistics lecturer uses biblical examples for language change. After the lecture some students ask her about the Bible: "That's the big black book isn't it?" At the next lecture they tell her they've found a "Holy Bible" and wonder if it's the same thing.

The Bible?

Most today don't believe the Bible. Many have never heard about it. They're not concerned whether the Bible says something is right or wrong. They don't care about theology or "truth." They don't worry whether Saturday or Sunday is the correct Sabbath. They've never kept any day holy. They don't worry whether life after death starts immediately after death or after the resurrection. They have to be convinced there is any life after death.

Groggi, the Sick Monkey

Paul White tells the story of Groggi, a sick monkey. Pilli, the studious monkey, was studying the book *Medicines and First Aid for Monkeys and Others*. He took a bandage from his black bag and bound up Groggi's leg, exactly the way the book described it. Meanwhile, Groggi was coughing and shivering.

Twigga, the giraffe, was watching and asked, "Can't you do something for his cough, Pilli?"

"How are you supposed to bandage a cough?" Pilli scoffed.

"The whole of health is not wrapped in bandages," warned Twigga.

The next day Pilli returned to work on Groggi's legs.

"Oh monkey," said Twigga, "do you not think medicines might be found to bring peace and comfort to the chest of your relation?"

Pilli wasn't impressed, and continued with his bandaging.

Three days later Groggi was dead. Pilli was angry. "This cannot be so," he said. "I bandaged his legs daily with skill."

Twigga commented sadly, "Might it be that bandaging a leg is not the best treatment for pneumonia?"

Scratching Where It Itches

Today millions of voices jostle through television, newspapers, magazines, radio and the Internet. The Christian voice is rarely heard. We can speak as we have always spoken, but people may not listen. We can share books we've always shared, but people may not read. We can preach as we've always preached, but people may not understand. We can give the trumpet a certain sound and speak the truth with conviction. We can recite the complete 27 Fundamental Beliefs. But if no one listens, we haven't communicated.

The Challenge

Our task is to translate, to convert eternal principles in the Adventist message into people's immediate context. That means getting our message "dirty" by leading into it through *their* mind-set and circumstances, not *our* mind-set and circumstances. It means exploring *their* culture, not placing *our* culture on them. It means working through *their* interests, which may not always be *our* interests.

Missionaries learn the language of the people so they can share the good news effectively. Perhaps we need to learn the languages in our own society. That's the method used by Jesus and the apostle Paul (see 1 Corinthians 9:19-23).

The Media Centre

The Adventist Media Centre's annual evangelism offering will be taken up next week. Please pray for the media centre and all avenues of outreach as we explore ways to effectively communicate the unchanging truth in a changing world. Thanks for your support.

Gary Krause,
former Creative Director,
Adventist Media Centre

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Next Week:

Sanitarium's CEO talks about the company's current position and future directions.

Cover Photo: D Hills

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Internet Church?

As usual, Berto stimulates us to deeper thought, this time with his cartoon of the Internet devotee going to church on the Net (June 22).

As a recent newcomer to the Net, I have been impressed with a number of websites regarding Adventists: the General Conference homepage, SDAnet, SSnet (Sabbath school lessons on-line,) SSnet forum (a global senior Sabbath school class) and even one of our local high schools—to name a few. News items from Adventist News Network have been shared during the mission outreach segment at Sabbath school.

My family and I have been enriched by the use of this medium.

However, one thing the Net will never provide is that essential ingredient with which God has blessed the Christian church from its inception—*koinonia*—the joy of fellowship, sharing or participating as we meet together, not only with Him, but with fellow believers.

Attempting to worship at home alone, no matter how interactive our computer terminal may become, is not worshipping. We lose out on the uplifting experience that God intended corporate worship to be. Let us not give up meeting together (see Hebrews 10:25).

The cartoon also impresses on each church the importance of ensuring that our worship style appeals to those within and without the church in an age of rapidly changing communication formats. Our message of the good news and the One who enables it can never change. However, as the 20th century closes and a new era dawns, there will be a need to repackage our proclamation of the message as the society for whom it is intended changes.

Or will a computer terminal in every pew be the answer to our dwindling church growth? Randall Duffield, Qld
rfduffield@msn.com.au

Mad Cows and God

The recent outbreak of mad cow disease in the UK has some interesting side issues for the church's stand over the eating of

clean and unclean meats.

In some circles this outbreak has been blamed on the feeding of meatmeal and the use of growth hormones to promote fast food production. When God gave Noah (and the human race in perpetuity) permission to eat the clean animals, He also gave Noah the definition of unclean and clean animals, although this was not specifically spelled out until it was defined in Leviticus. The basic difference seems to be that unclean animals were scavengers and carnivores (the horse appears to be the exception).

By feeding meatmeal to the bovine, humans have moved these into the unclean category. As far as I'm aware, meatmeal feeding of cattle isn't practised in Australasia.

A large proportion of the frozen chicken found in supermarket freezers have been force-fed on meatmeal mash and growth hormones. One can only wonder how long before we hear of mad chook disease!

Those who disregard God's specific instruction regarding this matter and argue that it applies only to the Jews forget this command was given to Noah long before the Jewish nation was formed. Only those who are not descendants of Noah can safely partake of the unclean foods. Corran Vincent, New Zealand

Heartfelt Thanks

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to an unknown, kind-hearted friend, R Hook, for his/her help in a time of need. It is 26 months since this person helped me fulfil God's plan for my life.

In 1994 I was in my second year in the ministerial course at Sonoma Adventist College, Rabaul, in Papua New Guinea. I was running into financial difficulties for fees and living expenses when he/she came to my rescue.

I praise and thank God for him/her. The help given has made a great difference in my life of preparing for the ministry.

Helping someone you have never known is a sign of genuine Christianity. I have heard sermons on brotherly love, but now I have seen one. I pray that he/she has claimed the promise in Acts 20:35: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

This is my first year in ministry, and I pastor three churches around the city of Lae, Papua New Guinea.

John B Varey, Papua New Guinea

Views expressed in Letters do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Letters should not exceed 250 words and should be mailed to Record Editor, Signs Publishing Company, Warburton Victoria 3799 (CompuServe 74617,726; Internet 74617.726@compuserve.com). Writers must include their name, address and telephone number. Letters received more than three weeks after the date of the issue carrying the article to which they respond will normally not be printed. All letters will be edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author's original meaning will not be changed. Not all letters received will be published.



30-Somethings Rally

A first-ever rally day specifically devoted to the baby boomer generation in the South Pacific Division was held in Auckland on June 15, reports North New Zealand youth and family ministries coordinator Pastor Gervais Cangy. "The event proved a real hit, with almost 200 people aged 30 plus attending." Speaker for the event, Pastor Ian Sweeney, of Sheffield, England, challenged the boomers to seek out a new relationship with God.

One Big Family

Church members from the Summerland (northern NSW) area combined for a day of regional meetings on May 18. Despite heavy rain the Lismore church was filled, reports Lloyd Coe, communication secretary of the church. Featured were recently returned missionary Pastor Sid Griffith and the president of the North New South Wales Conference, Pastor Peter Colquhoun, pictured with Lismore minister Pastor Mike Browning. "There



Photo: L. Coe

is no better way to strengthen our love and friendship in Christ than in a big family get-together," says Mr Coe.

PACIFIC ISLANDS Church Growth

A group of Fijians are working as fruit-pickers in NSW and Queensland to

earn money to build a new church bordering Fulton College, Fiji. They plan to dedicate the new church to the memory of Arthur Dyason, who worked as a missionary in Fiji. The new building—the "Dyason Memorial church"—will be double the seating capacity of the old timber building, which three times had its roof blown off by cyclones.

WORLD CHURCH Officer Attacked

The executive secretary for the church in West Zaire was recently attacked by robbers, shot twice in the abdomen and suffered damage to his spine. The robbers escaped with his car keys and briefcase, although the car was not taken in the attack. Pastor Nshimba underwent nearly eight hours of surgery, but doctors are unsure if he will be paralysed.—*ANN*

Belgrade Meeting

Church leaders, including the General Conference president, Pastor Robert Folkenberg, recently met with government ministers in Belgrade, in the former Yugoslavia. One government official expressed gratitude to the church for the role the Adventist Development and Relief Agency played in bringing relief to refugees. In turn the delegation expressed concern for students who are required to attend school on Saturday.

Space Camp in USA

More than 90 churches within the Florida Conference participated in the church's first satellite camp-meeting May 24-June 1. Because the event was uplinked live on the

Retirement by PAC Head of Theology



Photo: P. Harrold

Pastor Len Tolhurst, pictured with his wife, Valerie, retired on June 27 after more than 12 years as head of the Theology Department at Pacific Adventist College (PAC), Port Moresby, PNG. He was farewelled by present and past students, and staff, at a feast prepared in their honour at PAC. During the celebration well-wishing theology students laid hands on the couple in blessing, wishing them a healthy and happy retirement. In September the Tolhursts will travel to Hong Kong where Pastor Tolhurst—as a volunteer—will serve as head of theology at Hong Kong Adventist College, Clearwater Bay, Kowloon.

Adventist Communication Network (ACN), a satellite-television network, thousands of other Adventists across the North and Inter-American Divisions participated in the meetings while at home.—*ANN*

NEWS EXTRA Street Christians

An estimated 70,000 Christians New Zealand—

wide took to the streets of some 90 towns and cities across the country in the second global—and most ecumenical yet—March for Jesus in May. For the first time the Roman Catholic church was represented. It reflected a growing spirit of cooperation among New Zealand churches, said Mr Gideon Hoekendijk, the march coordinator.—*Challenge Weekly*

Did You Hear . . . ?

. . . That a group of Christian denominations is planning to change the Lord's Prayer? In upcoming ecumenical worship services celebrating 2000 years of Christianity, a group of denominations led by the Church of England will drop the injunction to "Lead us not into temptation" with the plea to "Save us from time of trial." Although the idea is being resisted by traditionalists who say there is no need to meddle, proponents argue that the rendering is more faithful to the original Greek texts.—*Herald Sun*

Has Noah's Ark Been Found?—Part 2

by David Merling

Ron Wyatt says he discovered Noah's ark at the Durupinar site; that the only explanation for the formation is that it was Noah's ark; and that he had located the ark's anchors. None of these claims are true.

Chemical Analysis

It has been claimed by Wyatt that chemical analysis has proved that the Durupinar site is a decomposed wooden boat. His evidence is two lab reports that show the carbon percentages are different within the formation (4.95 per cent) and outside the formation (1.88 per cent). He claims this "positively prove[s] it to be composed of very ancient wood and metal" (page 12, no 3, pages 7, 8, and his charts on pages 27, 28).¹

What Wyatt doesn't tell his readers is that both of these carbon percentages fall within the normal bounds of soil. Such percentages do not show evidence of ancient wood.

According to John Morris, the rocks in this formation were once molten, cooling to become an "ophiolite belt"—meaning the Durupinar site contains rocks and dirt that have been altered due to the molten process.² It is this phenomenon that has elevated the carbon percentage of the Durupinar site's soil.

This same chemical process is also responsible for deceiving Wyatt into believing he had found "metal brackets and rust." According to Morris the site has many manganese nodules that are high in iron, which could be mistaken for iron by someone ignorant of geology.³

Petrified Wood

Previous explorers of the site concluded that, since the Durupinar site did not contain wood, petrified or otherwise, it was a natural rock formation. This conclusion was reached because the rocks of

the Durupinar site give no evidence of any organic material, since there is no visible structure in the rock, such as tree-rings. Wyatt, on the other hand, claims that the Durupinar site contains "train-loads" of petrified wood (page 13, no. 5).

Since his "petrified wood" has no growth rings, he concludes that the Durupinar site proves that trees before the Flood had no growth rings (pages 15, 16, 73). To strengthen his point, Wyatt uses a quote about a tree identified as *Sigillaria* as "proof" that pre-Flood trees had no growth rings (pages 15).

Sigillaria, like much of the pre-Flood flora and fauna, are not known in the post-Flood world. Scientists have, however, catalogued over 200 species of petrified trees, many of them related to trees of today, and these trees all have growth rings.⁴

Harold Coffin writes, "Wyatt refers to extinct giant club mosses that do not have growth rings as evidence that pre-Flood trees do not have growth rings. The giant club moss, *Sigillaria*, could be compared with papaya, or banana or other fast-growing trees with pulpy wood. Yes, it does not have growth rings, but that is not evidence for pre-Flood conifers or deciduous trees. They do have good growth rings."

"I have spent years studying petrified trees in various areas of North America, in Patagonia [sic], and in Australia. They have growth rings if they are trees that normally are expected to have rings."⁵

The lack of growth rings, in what Wyatt thinks is wood, is evidence that the Durupinar site was created by molten rock not made of wood. His speculation about pre-Flood trees is based on his ignorance of petrified wood.

Molecular Frequency Generator

Wyatt claims that his results with radar scan "showed what can only be identified

as a keel, keelsons and bulkheads from a boat of tremendous size" (page 18).

Others have attempted to reduplicate Wyatt's results with radar scans without success. Tom Fenner, of the Geophysical Survey Systems Inc (GSSI), also mentioned by Wyatt (pages 17, 18), says, "In 1987 I performed an extensive GPR [ground-penetrating radar] study in an attempt to characterise any shallow subsurface features in the boat-shaped formation at the site. . . . A great deal of effort was put into repeating the radar measurements acquired in 1986 by Wyatt and Fasold. . . . After numerous attempts over a period of one-and-a-half days we were unable to duplicate their radar records in any way. . . . I was never convinced the site was the remains of Noah's Ark. In fact, the more time I spent on the site, the more sceptical I became."⁶

John Baumgardner, a creationist and geophysicist, was an early supporter of the Durupinar site being Noah's ark (and is still featured in one of Wyatt's videos). Since then he has had the opportunity to evaluate the site by performing his own tests. Instead of proving the formation to be Noah's ark, he discovered additional evidence that it is a natural formation.

Baumgardner's seismic tests found an outcropping of stone that runs below the surface and diagonally through the formation, which shows that the Durupinar site is really a relatively shallow phenomenon not consistent with any type of man-made structure.

"Although formerly convinced that this formation was probably the remains of the ark, Dr Baumgardner now believes there is less than a 10 per cent chance that anything man-made is present."⁷

To further examine the Durupinar site, Wyatt has also used what he calls a "molecular frequency generator." According to Wyatt this "new type of metal detector" discovered "a distinct lin-

ear subsurface pattern" or "striations" on which "metal readings were positive while the spaces between were totally negative" (page 17). These "striations" supposedly reveal the outline of the ark's structure.

The reader should know that a "molecular frequency generator" is an upscale dowsing rod (that is, sticks used for "witching" or divining for water). In this case, brass rods are supposed to be able to detect metal. Dr Baumgardner attempted to use a metal detector to double-check the molecular frequency generator, with no success.⁸

Durupinar Is Not Noah's Ark

The Durupinar site is an intriguing phenomenon that was discovered in 1959 by a Turkish army captain. It lies within the ancient Uratu territory, as one would expect of Noah's ark, and it is even roughly the same length as one would expect the ark to be.

On the other hand, the Durupinar site is not the width of the ark as specified by the biblical account, nor does it fit the Bible's description of the ark's resting place—as one of the higher elevations in its region. In addition, Wyatt's characterization of the small difference of the carbon content within and without the formation is proof only of his lack of geological training, as is his attempt to rewrite all geological understanding to explain why his "pre-Flood" wood has no growth rings.

His reports of the results of his subsurface radar have been disputed, even by sympathetic scientists who have attempted them.

In short, Wyatt's "train-load" of evidence is in reality speculation based on imagination, not evidence. The Durupinar site is undoubtedly a natural formation. Noah's ark has yet to be found.

Guidelines for Evaluating Claims

The Institute of Archaeology at Andrews University regularly receives letters from those who make claims of discoveries. For example, during the past few years several have claimed they know exactly where the ark of the covenant is located—all proposing different places! Yet, all are positive as to its whereabouts.

Sometimes these individuals claim that they have been divinely led in their dis-

coveries and, occasionally, they even warn us that if we fail to help it may lead to God's disapproval.

The following guidelines are useful in evaluating claims of discovery:

1. The difference between a claim and evidence.

Sometimes people ask me why I don't spend more time disproving false claims. The truth is, it's easier to make a claim than it is to prove or disprove the claim. To make a claim one only needs to wish something true and tell people it is true. On the other hand, it is expensive and time-consuming to check a claim for truthfulness.

A few years ago some church members wrote to the General Conference about a newspaper account that the Ten Commandments had been found. That claim eventually came to my desk. The claim sounded very definite. A certain Israeli archaeologist, supposedly in the government's Department of Antiquities, was quoted in the article as being excited about finding the Ten Commandments.

To check the reliability of this story I had to telephone the Israeli Department of Antiquities. Not only did that archaeologist not make such a claim, there was no one in the department of antiquities with that name, nor did they know any archaeologist with that name in all of Israel. Probably some newspaper person, on a slow day, decided to make me waste some of the church's funds trying to verify a false claim.

Anyone can claim anything. Evidence is something that can be verified.

2. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

One person who spoke to me about Noah's ark said, "If Noah's ark has been found, why isn't it mentioned in the newspapers and on television?" That's a good question. Of course, Wyatt might reply that it was on television and in the newspapers, because his hometown newspaper interviewed him and he was featured on a scandal-style television program.

The finding of Noah's ark, the ark of the covenant, chariot wheels in the Red Sea, or the "real" Mount Sinai, would be



stupendous news that would be front-page news on every newspaper and electronic media in the world.

A discovery of this magnitude would fill the news for days, weeks and months, with reports following reports. You wouldn't learn about any of these discoveries from itinerant presenters. And money would pour in from every academic and government source to investigate it further.

3. See the evidence before you believe.

Reliable sources provide the evidence before they ask you to believe. Wyatt says he has discovered the building techniques of the pyramids, but "it will be published in our forthcoming book" (page 31). He has discovered the location of ancient "Succoth," but he gives no evidence (page 31).

He has discovered chariot parts from Pharaoh's army, but "the details, photographs and analysis are included in our forthcoming book" (page 32).

He has discovered the burial crypts of giants, but "the facts and photographs of this discovery will appear in our forthcoming book" (page 33).

He has discovered the location of the ark of the covenant, but "it will be necessary for you to wait for the details and photographs of our discoveries" (page 34).

He has discovered the real Mount Sinai, but he gives his readers no evidence to substantiate his claims. As I write this article it has been eight years since Wyatt has published these words: "We are

presently finishing the full-sized book on Noah's ark, complete with all the details of the search and final verification."

Where is that book?

I'm especially suspicious of what I call "the-dog-ate-it evidence." Many would be "discoverers" would show the evidence, but the government stole it or the film didn't develop right or they lost it, and so forth. In Wyatt's case, he would have the evidence of Pharaoh's chariots, and the location of the ark of the covenant, but he got a sunburn and had to catch his plane (pages 33, 62). Always see the evidence before believing any claim.

4. Check the evidence with someone not involved.

Wyatt admits that he has been criticised for his research methods. I know why. Researchers are put off by those who make claims that are ridiculous. For example, Wyatt writes, "However, the years of studying every piece of ancient history and archaeologically-related research had brought me to the brink of several other startling discoveries" (page 30, emphasis mine).

I know of no professional who would claim he/she had studied every piece of information in his/her discipline. There is just too much scientific information for any one person to have studied it all.

As an archaeologist, after reading Wyatt's claims for himself and seeing his elementary and obvious archaeological errors (for instance Habiru, page 32, and Joseph and the Step Pyramid, page 54), it is difficult to take seriously any of his claims. Harold Coffin's response after reading Wyatt's book was, "Naturally I have no problem with the discovery of Noah's ark, but the multitude of inaccuracies and errors certainly turns off one who has some information."⁹

In short, consult with those who can evaluate the knowledge of the "discovered" and his/her claims.

5. Do not worry about a "cover-up."

Every false would-be discoverer would show the evidence, but there is a big "cover-up." Usually, it's because the scholars who are fearful that if the discovery were known, it would "disprove their atheistic theories." For a long time, ark searchers were able to blame the Russian government who was afraid that Noah's

ark would be found. Human nature is such that if Noah's ark (or the Ten Commandments or the ark of the covenant) is found even by an atheist, he/she will want the credit for finding it.

Finding Noah's ark will not change anyone's mind about the Bible, or make them become Christians. Jesus said if people reject the message of the Bible they will not listen, even if a cadaver came to life (Luke 16:31).

6. Sincerity is not "proof."

Most of those who make claims of discovery seem sincere, so sincere they are willing to break laws or endanger the safety of their friends or families. Wyatt sees the laws of Saudi Arabia are of little importance compared to his mission. He just breaks their laws (page 44). What he considers badges of honour ("gaoled as a spy, shot at by terrorists, beaten, robbed and persecuted"—see back cover of his book), appear to be evidences of poor judgment. When you are analysing a report, remind yourself that sincerity can never replace reliable evidence. Someone can be sincerely wrong.

7. Can God be wrong?

Most of those who claim to have found "amazing discoveries" seldom do it alone. They claim to be "agents of God." Sometimes they have discovered secret codes in the writings of Ellen White or the Bible, or at other times God has openly spoken to them.

Wyatt tells his readers that the Lord elected him as an act of mercy (page 90), that he prayed for an earthquake that occurred after his prayer (page 7), that his words and body are sometimes involuntarily controlled by God's power (pages 33, 34), that the way he made many of his discoveries was by being "impressed" by God (page 42), that his "discovery" of the building techniques of the pyramids came from a dream (pages 53, 54).

Much of his book is designed to convince the reader of Wyatt's unique relationship with God.¹⁰

I believe in the gift of prophecy, but I never accept the claims of those who profess that power before I evaluate their evidence. I accept or reject their claims because of the evidence provided and then I know if they really are God's messengers (2 Timothy 4:3). □

Footnotes

1. Unless otherwise noted, all references in this article are to Ron Wyatt, *Discovered: Noah's Ark*, World Bible Society, Nashville, 1989.

2. John Morris, "The Boat-Shaped Rock," *Creation Ex Nihilo*, Vol 2, No 4, page 18.

3. *ibid.*

4. Harold Coffin, *Origin by Design*, Review and Herald Publishing Association, Hagerstown, MD, 1982, page 213.

5. Letter to the author, dated January 13, 1993.*

6. Andrew A Snelling, "Amazing 'Ark' Exposé," *Creation Ex Nihilo*, Vol 14, page 30. This statement was verified by the author in a telephone conversation with Tom Fenner on January 13, 1992.

7. Morris, *ibid*, pages 18, 19. On April 22, 1993, I spoke with Dr John Baumgardner by telephone. During our conversation I asked him whether or not he still believed that the boat-shaped form was Noah's ark. His answer was no. He explained that when the "dust [from the initial excitement] settled" he began to consider the evidence. It was then he realised that there were natural explanations for the boat-shaped form. He specifically mentioned the ridge of rock that runs through the formation as consistent with a natural occurrence.

8. *ibid*, page 18. In my conversation with Dr Baumgardner I asked him to describe a molecular frequency generator. He said, "It is a form of dowsing."

9. Letter written to David Merling, dated January 13, 1993.*

10. Wyatt has an entire chapter entitled "My Testimony," which has the primary purpose of declaring how God has uniquely led his life through dreams and "impressions." See pages 53-66.

*Letters marked with an asterisk can be obtained by writing to the Institute of Archaeology, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104, and ask for the "Durupinar File."

David Merling writes from the Institute of Archaeology at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan, USA. He is the curator of the Horn Archaeological Center.

Adventist Media

Broadcasting

HOPE

NEW DISCOVERY OFFERS

This year the media centre is offering the following audio cassettes and reading guides on radio and TV throughout Australia and New Zealand: *You Can Cope* audio cassette, *Coping with Preschoolers* audio cassette, *Live Longer* audio cassette with health reading guides, *Archaeology* audio cassette with *Digging Up the Past* reading guides.

DISCOVERY FOLLOW-UP

So far this year there have been more than 7000 responses to *Discovery* offers. "One of the exciting things is the high level of follow-up requests," says media response director Pastor John Gate. "For every four people who receive one of our offers, at least one of them will go on to request other reading guides or audio cassettes."

ADVENTIST MEDIA GOES WORLDWIDE

The electronic age has ushered in a new and challenging era for the media centre. Courses will soon be available on the World Wide Web, and the now outdated title, "Correspondence School," will be known as Adventist Discovery Centre. Currently, there are an estimated 40 million Internet users. This will skyrocket to 500 million by the Year 2000. The Internet will provide an entirely new audience.

YOUR DISCOVERY SCHEDULE

WIN TV (Cairns, Townsville, Darwin); TV3 (Auckland); Channel 10 (Brisbane, Toowoomba, Rockhampton); WIN TV (Wide Bay); WIN TV (Canberra, Wagga Wagga, Bathurst, Orange); Channel 7 (Brisbane); Radio 4KQ (Brisbane); Channels 7 and 10 (Sydney); Radio 2UE, Radio 2GB and Mix 106 FM (Sydney); NBN 3 (Newcastle); NTD 8 (Darwin); Imparja TV (Alice Springs); Channel 7 (Adelaide); Radio 5AD-FM (Adelaide); CTV (Christchurch). In August campaigns will be run on Channels 7 and 10 (Perth); 6PR and 61X (Perth); GWN 9 (Geraldton, Bunbury and regionals); SES 8 (Mt Gambier); Radio 1ZB (Auckland); Channels 7 and 10 (Melbourne) and WIN TV (Hobart).

AMC EVANGELISM ACTION

In February 1996, 40 non-Adventists in Hamilton, New Zealand, asked to be baptised as a result of a series by Adventist Media Centre evangelist Pastor Geoff Youlden. On July 6 he baptised 17 of these people. Follow-up continues.



"It was the flyer that first grabbed our attention. A Bible seminar. Now that sounded interesting and different! But it was the topics that challenged our curiosity. The seminar was 'mind-blowing,' providing us with an excellent opportunity to be exposed to the true teachings of the Bible and providing us with an excellent foundation to what Adventism was all about. Each lecture left us more speechless than the one before. The history evolving through the ages correlating to God's Word was fascinating! The proof was overwhelming, especially to those of us who had never studied the Bible. By the end of the week all the puzzle pieces were slotting together. Praise God we had the exposure to the truth we need to know before it's too late!"—*Dr William and Rose Varty*



"David and I greatly appreciated the knowledge, research and biblical truths that came with the lecture series. Geoff returned to New Zealand in July to baptise, along with several others, our 13-year-old daughter. I had thought that the greatest joy in this world was to hold each of my four daughters immediately after birth. However, this joy is exceeded when we witness our children reborn into the eternal family of God."—*Narelle Dawson-Hayes, consultant in clinical psychology*

"I went to the Youlden lectures when a friend invited me. I found that Geoff discussed in a factual, but agreeable fashion, the issues he presented. I had recently begun, for the first time, to read the Bible. The girl I am going to marry gave me a copy for my birthday. Much of what I heard at the lectures made me somewhat sad because many good people still haven't heard these truths. At times I laughed inwardly because I recognised a lot of what was being said was irrefutable. I learned a great amount. I'm grateful to have attended."—*Dr Karl McElhinney*



"My children and I attended Geoff's programs and I enjoyed his plain, straightforward teaching style. Most thrilling for me was seeing my dear friend come to understanding the seventh-day Sabbath and other Bible truths."—*Margaret Fletcher, mid-wife*

NONLINEAR EDITING SUITE

The Adventist Media Centre recently acquired a Media 100 nonlinear digital video system. This editing system provides high-quality images, effects and audio, in a very flexible system. Rather than using tape like a Betacam editing suite, it digitises material and works from a computer's hard disk storage. Based on a Power Mac 95000-150, it has the ability to render 3-D animation and many other special digital effects. The media centre has chosen to lease the equipment because of its cost.

"The Media 100 gives us a second on-line edit suite that gives us a high-quality result," says the production manager, Pastor Kevin Townend. "Added to our existing on-line editing suite, it allows us to have two projects happening at the same time."



Dean Nurscher (right), from Animation Design, instructs Pastor Anthony Mitchell, David Gibbons and Pastor Russell Gibbs on the new Media 100 system.

HAMILTON'S FOLLOW-UP

●Some 45 non-Adventists enrolled in a follow-up Prophecy Seminar, which was run by Bryan Vickery and two laypeople—Brent Jones, Hamilton's Bible worker, and Anthony MacPherson.

●Every month each interest receives a *Signs of the Times* magazine with a sticker that says: "Compliments of the Hamilton SDA church. Proud sponsors of the Geoffrey Youlden Lectures."

●The church plans a major outreach program every two months. They include a seminar on Christian apologetics, a health seminar and series of vegetarian cooking demonstrations.

●Every time the church runs a special program or outreach activity, each contact receives a personal invitation.

●The church encourages people who have been baptised to join cell groups that go through the lessons "To Know God."

●Bible worker Brent Jones spends 30 hours a week keeping contact with the 90 interests that came from the Youlden program.

VITAL INGREDIENTS

"Pastor Youlden ran an intensive eight-day series that pulled no punches, and the topics were distinctively Adventist. The church wanted the program and the follow-up was enthusiastic and thorough. Geoff was a very good team player. He made it very clear to the church that it was their program, and he was keen to involve the youth. Hamilton church strongly recommends these Adventist Media Centre outreach programs to any other church that is genuinely interested in outreach. But you need the vital ingredients: the Holy Spirit and a preparedness to engage in systematic, loving follow-up."—*Bryan Vickery, Hamilton church*

SS Teachers Learn Lessons



Photo: K Buttery

Among those attending the Sabbath School Teachers Association convention were (from the left): Pastor David Price, Dr Jim Zackrison, and Pastors Robert Steed and John Kingston.

Almost 100 guests attended a convention of the Sabbath School Teachers Association organised by the Trans-Australian Union Conference (TAUC) at Howqua, Vic, over the weekend of June 7-10. The principal speaker was Dr Jim Zackrison, the General Conference Sabbath School Department director.

Other speakers included Pastor A David Currie, TAUC president, Dr Gerhard Pfandl, field secretary for the South Pacific Division, Dr Allan Lindsay from Avondale College, and Pastor Robert Steed, the director of church mission and development in the TAUC.

Pastor Steed, TAUC Sabbath School Department director, said that the purpose of the convention is to provide training for teachers and to raise the profile of the role within the church.

Dr Zackrison spoke of the importance of developing a regular study program in order to teach effectively. He also fielded questions relating to the content and presentation of materials in the *Lesson Quarterly*.

The convention also included workshops designed to enhance effectiveness of the Sabbath school in reaching the needs of '90s congregations. They covered such topics as: Generational Issues, Diagnosing Group Problems,

Current Theological Issues, and Creative Sabbath School Outreach. The only complaint: "There just wasn't enough time to hear them all," says Jann Barnett, a Bickley church member, who travelled from Western Australia to attend.

"There was no single thing that made the weekend special," she says. "Rather, it was a combination of good Victorian weather, tasteful cuisine, the good humour of participants, and the good organisation by Pastor Rob Steed and Kym Buttery, his secretary.

"We have come back to our churches inspired. We will pass on every piece of the motivational material. It will be a happy memory for a long time."

Pastor Steed says the Association, through its quarterly newsletter and conference network meetings, will continue to support the new vision that has been created for the teachers. Association membership information can be obtained from local conference Sabbath school directors or by phoning Pastor Steed at the TAUC office on 03 98301766.

Dr Zackrison also attended a separate TAUC Sabbath School Advisory prior to the convention. Pastor Steed says the Advisory's main purpose is to focus on "relevant Sabbath school ministries that meet the needs of contemporary life."

Loved Children's Author Dies

Etta B Degering, author of the *My Bible Friends* series of books died, on March 13, in Dayton, Ohio, USA, at the age of 98. Mrs Degering was well-known and admired for her writing talents, says Cassandra Nesmith, reporting for Adventist News Network.

In addition to her role as author of several children's books, Mrs Degering was one of the first sighted individuals to be certified as a braille transcriber. She had a commitment to make Christian literature available to all children, which she did through her work with Christian Record Services (CRS). CRS provides library services for both the deaf and the blind.

My Bible Friends was among the first children's literature available in full-vision format, which displays braille and printed text together, enabling visually impaired parents to read picture books to sighted children.

ADRA Cares for Zaire Gorillas in the Mist

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Zaire is helping to develop a program that will eventually see some 400,000 trees planted as a buffer zone to protect the environment of the Silverback Gorilla, which live in the Virunga National Park in northern Zaire. Part of the story of these gorillas was shown in the film *Gorillas in the Mist*.

The reforestation zone will supply wood for one million refugees and indigenous population whose need for firewood has eaten away at the home of the endangered animal.

Currently they are fewer than 650 Silverback Gorillas in the world.

This program will provide wood for refugees and future generations so that the park can regenerate and the Silverback can continue to survive in a protected area, says Beth Schaefer for Adventist News Network.

Opportunity Grasped in Moldova

A new church in Kishinev, Moldova, a republic of the former Soviet Union, has been named after the sponsors of a mission outreach to the city that resulted in more than 160 baptisms. Local conference officials named the church the "Adelaide City Church—Kishinev" in honour of the Adelaide City church, SA, whose members donated some \$A45,000 and sent an evangelistic team to the city.

Pastor Raymond Stanley, a member of Adelaide City church and retired evangelist, led the team and conducted the meetings. Two other Adelaide City members—Brenton Wilkinson and Ben Liashenko—joined in at their own expense.

During Pastor Stanley's four-week-long campaign some 2000 Bibles and 4000 Spirit of Prophecy books were given away. Between 800 and 900 people attended each meeting.

Most of the money raised came from a "\$100-note" offering on December 9 last year. In addition church members and

their friends across Australia and New Zealand gave generously. "The program in Kishinev was inspiring," Pastor Stanley says, "and the church leaders and pastors were most grateful. Both church members and the hundreds of interested people say, 'Thank you, Australia!'"

Pastor Stanley said the meetings attracted all classes of people, including many young people and professionals. Many were students and staff of the local university.

A feature of the meetings was a "Bible says . . ." segment, which ran prior to the main meetings. Some 400-500 people attended these Bible studies, which consisted of 30-40 smaller Bible-study



Photo: J R Stanley

A new church in Moldova has been named after the Adelaide City church in SA. Retired evangelist Pastor Ray Stanley (inset) conducted an evangelistic series there recently that resulted in 160 baptisms.

groups.

In addition to the baptisms, more than 300 people have shown a desire for further study in preparation.

"Pray for the people of Moldova," says Pastor Stanley. "Their needs are great. The church is growing rapidly. It is a day of opportunity for us."

WA Women Enjoy Time-out Together

Women of the isolated Western Australian wheatbelt church of East Narembreen spent the weekend of May 3-5 in a women-only retreat. The women, who ranged in age from 33 to 80 years, spent the time in "sharing and caring, and with the Lord," reports Margaret Harders, an elder of the East Narembreen church.

The weekend commenced with Sabbath opening and a communion service and meal on the Friday evening. The Sabbath day was spent in Bible study. The women also gave time to encouraging each other, which was the theme of the weekend, following the admonition of Hebrews 10:25 to "encourage one another." Saturday night the group celebrated three birthdays and cut a collective birthday cake. The Sunday morning was used to learn a new craft skill, before they returned home.

"The weekend had been a wonderful time of spiritual refreshing, fun and friendship," said Mrs Harders—Bruce Lang.



Photo: D Willis

Women from the East Narembreen (WA) church who attended a women-only retreat included (left to right, at back): Rhonda Ashmore, Wendy Booysen, Nerrilyn Agius, Yonnie Willis; (centre) Glen Ashmore, Marilyn Findley, June Lang, Margaret Harders, Margaret Lever; and (front) Diane Major, Debbie Major and Alma Lang.

Chief Marcel's Dream Comes True

My name is Feze Ngandjong Marcel, chief of the village of Bandenkop, in Cameroon, West Africa. Recently my people, the Bamilikes, experienced a joyful celebration, the opening of a Seventh-day Adventist church in my village. It is a dream come true.

It has not always been a dream for us. In fact, my people have been resistant to Christianity from way back. We grew up animists. But years ago a simple act of kindness began to warm our hearts.

The 1960s were years of war for my people. When our village was bombed and burned during the struggle for independence, we fled to safe havens. Upon our return we had incredible challenges to face. One was to get our children back into school. None of the local schools would accept our children without their official papers—yet ours had been burned up during the war.

There was one school, however, that opened its arms to our children and youth—the Seventh-day Adventist high school in Yaoundé, the capital city. This impressed my father, who was the village chief at the time. In fact, he vowed that someday there would be an Adventist church in our village. That was his dream. Unfortunately his dream was unfulfilled at the time he died.

At his death I became chief. My reign, however, lasted only a short time before war began again, forcing my family and me to leave the country. During our exile, which lasted 20 years, a small group of Adventists in Yaoundé met and prayed that God would open a way to reach my people with His love. I never knew that they were praying for us then.

When I returned to Cameroon in 1988, there was a choir at my inauguration. They were Seventh-day Adventists! They sang beautifully and even prayed with me



There are 575 churches in Cameroon. Chief Feze Ngandjong Marcel's is one of them. The work of the 65,000 Adventists in Cameroon maintain two secondary schools, two hospitals and a publishing house.

personally, asking God's blessing on my reign. This touched me.

Several years later I travelled the three hours to Yaoundé and saw the good work that the Adventists were doing. Dr Perry Burtch and his team of well-trained dentists even helped take care of a tooth of mine. I was so touched by their caring that I invited them to conduct a medical clinic in my village and gave them a piece of land so that my father's dream of a church in his village could be realised.

Many of my people came to the clinic—some 400 in one week—for dental care. But more important, they received a message of good news far different from our animistic superstitions and magic. Twenty people accepted Christ at the end of that first set of meetings. More followed.

Today there is a church of some 40 members. Many more are attending and planning for baptism. I thank God for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.—*Adventist Review*

CHURCH NEWS

Southport (SQ): On May 4 the congregation celebrated **20 years of worship** in their church. It was a notable day, says church member Phil Cameron: "More than a metre of rain fell in the days preceding the Back-to-Southport weekend and many former and present members were unable to



Photo: J Karanda

attend." The worship service was taken by Pastor Phil Starr, now retired of Redland Bay, Qld, and the lesson by Pastor Bob Trood, from Cooranbong, NSW, who was the church's minister at the time it was officially opened.

Kanwal (NNSW): Destroyed by fire on May 21, 1994, the church has **continued undeterred** running an active Pathfinder club, and Mark Finley and Quit Now! programs. Currently the church is running **two prophecy seminars** and has some attending church as a result. "God has richly blessed Kanwal church this past year," says communication secretary Doug Williams.

Camden Haven (NNSW): The church has just celebrated the **10th birthday** of its first-ever meeting. It was attended by ADRA-Australia director Pastor Harry Halliday (at podium); former North New South Wales Conference president Pastor Rex Moe (second from right); and the church's pastor at its inception, Pastor Ross Goldstone (right). The church plans



a further **celebration** on **February 8** next year to mark its official opening.

Kauma High School Gets Water—and Health

The South Pacific Division's most distant mission school, the Kauma High School, on Abemama, Kiribati, now has a viable and maintainable garden supplying fresh vegetables to the students, thanks to Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) volunteers Watson Leeming and Bill Miller, from Queensland.

The two men installed an underground-water supply for the largely hydroponic gardens (originally established in 1982 by another volunteer, Brian Baltitude, now of the NSW North Coast), but which fell into decline and were abandoned.

Mr Miller, who, as a volunteer, taught at Kauma in 1991, feared for the health of the students and staff because of water-borne diseases, the result of the school's limited rainwater storage and delivery system.

"Hopefully the improvement in diet [as a result of the improved vegetable supply] will lift the general resistance level of staff and students," says Mr Miller.

Mr Leeming and Mr Miller visited Kauma last August to reestablish the "greens" gardens and returned earlier this year to install the watering system. Shadecloth has been added to protect the crops from the harsh tropical sun, providing a more temperate climate appropriate to vegetable production. The garden contains leafy greens, cucumbers, beans, zucchini, rockmelons, watermelons, eggplant and corn.

Kauma High School was established in 1949 by Mrs John Howse as a primary school. It now has some 500 stu-



Photo: W. Leeming

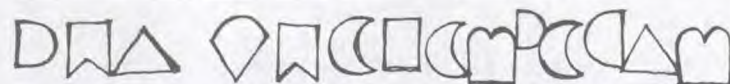
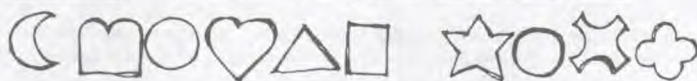
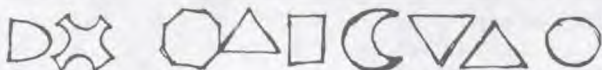
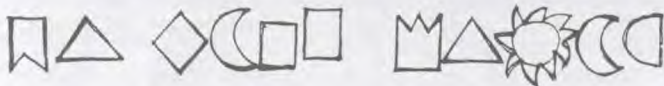
Students assist in the Kauma High School food gardens, recently overhauled and made productive through an improved watering system.

dents to Year 11 (Form 5) and is planning to add Year 12 (Form 6) in 1997.

CHILDREN

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Anniversaries

Nash, George and Isabel were married on 10.5.46 at St Paul's church, Hay, NSW, and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with as many as possible of the family. They lived in Hay for a short time after their marriage. They then made their home in Tamworth, where they still reside today. They are members of the Tamworth church, and Isabel has also had a long association with the Salvation Army. George is a retired carpenter, and has been on several fly'n'build trips. They have six children, Beryl, Joan, Carol, Diane, John and Mark; 13 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Roll, Chris and Meg recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in Bundaberg, Qld, with about 40 family members and friends. They were married on 1.6.36 in the Presbyterian Church and became members of



the Adventist Church in 1955, through the ministry of Pastors Otto, Sleight and Cherry. Being active in the Bundaberg church, they held the positions of treasurer, senior elder and

senior deaconess for many years. Chris worked for most of his life for Qunaba Sugar Mill. He began work as a "billy boy" and retired as manager of Windermere Cane Plantation. They have three children, Marjorie, Maurice and Shirley; 11 grandchildren; and 29 great-grandchildren.

Weddings

Stuart-Rayner. Conway Athol Stuart, son of Ernie and June Stuart (Warburton, Vic, previously of Tasmania), and Julie-Ann Marita Rayner, daughter of David and Marita Rayner (Warburton), were married on 5.5.96 at Warburton SDA church.

Ray Southon

Alt-Kadareanu. Michael Andrew Alt, son of Kenneth and Margaret Alt, and Rozmarina Helen Kadareanu, daughter of Alex and Helen Kadareanu, were married on 8.4.96 at the St John of God chapel, Morisset, NSW.

David Kadareanu, Anthony Mitchell

Moore-Cocks. Ian Stuart Moore, son of Greg and Noeline Moore (Newcastle, NSW), and Danielle Monique Cocks, daughter of Graham and Mauvereen Cocks (Adelaide, SA), were married on 28.4.96 at College Park Adventist church, Adelaide.

Anthony Mitchell

Pone-Upson. Dean Lui Pone, son of Lui and Ailie Pone (Doonside, NSW), and Laurita Jane Upson, daughter of Don and Glennys Upson (Victor Harbour, SA), were married on 9.6.96 at Kellyville SDA church, NSW.

B C Grosser

Obituaries

Wormleighton, Shirley Joan, born 10.4.23; died 17.1.96 in Adelaide, SA. Married Frederick (Fred) Wormleighton on 15.4.44 at Pirie Street Methodist church, Adelaide. He predeceased her on 17.2.95. Shirley was baptised on 20.11.59 at Port Adelaide church. A loved and loyal member of the Para Vista church, for years she worked for the Dorcas welfare and as a deaconess. She is survived by her son, Terry (Adelaide); and daughters, Ann Richards (Qld), Sue Norris (NSW) and Cindy (Adelaide); and grandchildren.

William Grobler

Advertisements

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Karalundi Camp, "Praise Our Lord" 10th Anniversary, 1986-1996. Commences on Thursday, September 26, with the official opening ceremony of the new school buildings and facilities. ●Camp concludes on Monday, September 30 (in the middle of WA wildflower season). ●Located 60 km north of Meekatharra, WA, and 820 km NE of Perth. ●If you are a past, present or future friend of Karalundi, this is YOUR invitation to attend this fun and fellowship-packed spiritual retreat. ●Plan early and book NOW. For accommodation and camp details

contact: Pastor Keith Godfrey, c/- Western Australian Conference Office, PO Box 134, Gosnells WA 6110. Phone: Receptionist (09) 398 7222. Mobile 015 997 485.

Yarrahapinni Ecology Centre. North NSW Conference is seeking proposals for the "Ecology Lease" at Yarrahapinni Ecology Centre, Mid NSW Coast—commencing 1997. The lease is for school excursions, conferences etc. The lessee being responsible for obtaining clientele, ecology lecturing and catering. Proposals may include other relevant fields. Qualifications/experience needed in all areas. Further information: NNSW Conference Secretary or Youth Department on (049) 51 8088. Closing date August 9, 1996.

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Teacher-Librarian. A new library to open at rapidly developing Macquarie College, Newcastle, requires the services of a librarian to establish and operate full library services to 365 pupils in years K-12. Expressions of interest are invited, along with statements, qualifications and experience. Please write to: Education Director, North NSW Conference, PO Box 7, Wallsend NSW 2287.

Position Vacant December—La Mancha Health Centre for one or two people with experience in some of the following areas: Cooking, massage, hydrotherapy, health education. For details phone (066) 29 5138.

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Inquiries should be directed to:
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Applications and CV should be addressed to:
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Funds Needed: For the Dyason Memorial church in Fiji, to replace the old timber building, which has had its roof blown off three times. The new building will be of concrete blocks with steel frame—hurricane proof. Donations to Dyason Memorial Trust, Greater Sydney Conference, PO Box 99, Strathfield, NSW 2135.

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