Rwandan Adventist reconciles past

RECORD



The clear word on Jack Blanco

In this issue

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MENTIONING THE UNMENTIONABLE

hen I mention the word
"abuse," many will say,
"I've heard enough of that
morbid subject" and turn the page;
or, "We don't have to worry about
that in the church. When people are
Christians, they turn away from that."

Is it our job just to tell the world that abuse shouldn't be tolerated? Or is the church just a reflection of the community, and needs to look at what's happening inside itself?

Unfortunately, the only reason it "doesn't happen in our church" is because we fail see it. Mostly it isn't public or overt. Even spiritual abuse can be covert.

In homes where it's practised, there are often many secrets. Shame avoids the added pain of exposure as the abused heap on themselves the guilt of their situation.

The saddened form of the abused person often takes on chronic self-loathing, which severely limits their development and usefulness. This means that the spiritual or religious dimension of a person can become skewed.

There are many types of abuse that mar the beauty and power of the church—and ourselves as individuals.

I hear the echoes of many young voices. They are those of children and young people misused and abused sexually by others representing themselves as leaders or officers of the church. Their cries have gone unheeded and their lives burned by seemingly pious "soldiers of the cross."

There are the church's sad evacuees who, for example, express disgust at the congregation who for years meekly allowed a senior elder to rule unchallenged. It always seemed that only *bis* ideas were correct, even if they didn't represent the prevailing views of the church. Those who might disagree with the barren and unproductive methods of conducting worship were marginalised and declared to have "departed from the truth"—a cruel excommunication of those whom Christ sought to draw to Himself.

A wife looks tired and demoralised after years of mental subjugation by an unloving husband who's seen as a "good" deacon. Shopping for the weekly groceries meant taking a battering: items she chose were often returned if not on his "approved" list. But such items that he wanted for himself were necessarily obtained. His harassment about how much she "cost" him often deterred her from purchasing things needed for their children. A heavy hand on the table or a raised voice soon silenced her into subjection.

But she felt grateful; she had a friend who would be attacked physically if she dared disagree with the head of her household. In another home the husband remained silent for weeks to punish a wife who failed to yield to his less-than-sensitive advances.

The tables are turned in another household: here a husband is ashamed. His wife, an officer of the church, shrieks her disapproval at his lack of manhood: If he was half a man, he would be the spiritual leader of the home and their children wouldn't have gone the way they have, she complains. She would never have married him had she known how weak he was.

Elsewhere we hear the teenager who's told how stupid he is whenever he makes a mistake. He's regularly reminded that he'll never amount to anything.

Abuse? Yes, all of the above fit. Abuse includes sexual, physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, even financial dimensions of a person. But in the church? Sometimes it's even perpetrated in the name of religion.

I'm heartened that our church is openly addressing the issue of abuse, recognising that it reflects the society into which we are born. We each carry scars of our own history.

I draw my robe of self-righteousness around me, for I tell myself I would never abuse another. But do I abuse, in a sense, through my neglect to follow the scriptural injunctions to "love one another" (John 13:34, NIV); to "encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone" (1 Thessalonians 5:14, NIV); and to "be kind and compassionate . . . forgiving each other" (Ephesians 4:32, NIV)?

Is there a corollary between blatant abuse and doing things that fail to build up, or that deter another from growing spiritually? It's to be hoped that the blatant abuser doesn't draw the comparison for the purposes of self-justification, however.

And let's not neglect our commission to draw people to the foot of Christ's cross with the compassion that derives from being with Jesus, not from just being in the church.

Pam Ludowici Coordinator Cancer Support Centre Jacaranda Lodge

Next week

Here's to life in the fishbowl! Official Paper South Pacific Division ACN 000 003 930

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A BROKEN SANDAL STRAP

by Santo Calarco

was loading my van on a busy street when two policemen approached on pushbikes. They were checking for drug pushers.

"Put your hands behind your head!" they ordered a young man leaning against a nearby shopfront.

"Stand up straight and spread 'em!" It was straight from Hollywood! But this was suburban Australia.

The officer frisked the man. They found what I thought they were looking for—a heroin-filled syringe concealed in his sock. They placed it on the footpath. I waited for an arrest, but it didn't eventuate. They were concerned with pushers—the reps—not users, so they left.

As the police rode off, the young man began to curse and swear, and then laugh. But as I watched him walk away, my attention was drawn to a young woman a few paces along the footpath. She sat crosslegged on the pavement and swayed slowly from side to side. I was shocked and challenged by the sight.

As I watched, I noticed how the crowd just walked by, ignoring her. Even two young, brown-clad and badged missionaries passed her by. Was I going to do the same? I wanted to, but I felt impressed to talk to her. I conveniently pushed the conviction aside, convincing myself I couldn't help her anyway.

I turned and climbed the stairs to get the rest of my gear, hoping she'd be gone when I returned. She wasn't. In fact, she looked worse as she sat there motionless. A vice tightened around my heart. I was a Christian and had to do something.

My heart raced a little as I walked over and stooped down to talk to her. She seemed to be asleep. I noticed the top of her right hand. From a prominent vein appeared an obvious line of syringe-punctures. Again I was stunned, my prejudices challenged.

"Can I help you?" I ventured, softly. "Are you OK?"

She opened her eyes, frightened, assuming I was police, I guess. From my clothes she quickly realised I was just an ordinary worker. Glassy-eyed she looked up at me.

"No, I'm OK."

"What's wrong with your sandal?" I asked.

"Oh, the strap has torn off from the side," she replied.

"Here let me help you," I suggested. So we both endeavoured to repair her broken sandal-strap with masking tape.

We worked silently for about a minute. It was a long 60 seconds for me, as I battled my prejudices. It was long enough to re-examine my own life and priorities.

Suddenly she stopped taping, looked up at me and with asked, "Do you want to have it for \$20?"

Was she a drug pusher?



I said nothing as she looked into my startled face. Confusedly I said, "What do you mean?"

"Do you want me for \$20? For sex. I really need \$20."

Tears filled my eyes. I smiled at her and said, "Look, that's not what I want at all—or what you really need. I just stopped to see if I could help you. That's all."

She went silent again as we continued to work on her sandal. Then, with the warmest of smiles, she said, "I'm OK now. Thanks for helping."

Now I didn't know what to say or do. She continued to gently smile at me as I looked at her. The thought passed through my mind that I should tell her about Jesus. I didn't. I just continued to look at her as she grinned at me.

Again she said, "Thanks for helping me."

I smiled back, said goodbye and walked to my van. I wondered what circumstances had led her to a life on the street, selling herself to support an addiction. I wanted to tell her of the Father's love.

My thoughts were interrupted at the sound of a car horn. I turned back to see a man wave a note at her. She got up and climbed into his car. They drove away.

I wept. Jesus wept.

Later I wondered why God allowed me this experience. I trembled as I realised that God was not yet through with her. But He was teaching *me* a lesson! I thought I'd had it tough. As a result of my hurts, I'd become hard-hearted, bitter and unloving. But when I stooped to help that girl, God also touched me.

It wasn't just a sandal strap that was repaired that day. God was repairing and healing my torn and stony heart.

Santo Calarco writes from Bradbury, NSW. He attends the Parramatta church.

Snap!



■ Officiating at the wedding of Sharon Melana and Neville Taylor (pictured) in Nullagine on February 28 was Western Australian Conference Aboriginal Ministries Coordinator Pastor Keith Godfrey. The wedding was Pastor Godfrey's 13th since October last year. "Tve never had so many in such a short space of time," says Pastor Godfrey.

Quotable

"Alcohol and drugs are in bottles; addictions are in people."

—Theme of the second Australian Conference of Addictive Disorders, held at the Warburton (Vic) Hospital, March 2-5. (See Newsfront, page 10.)

"Churches that still have pews could take a chainsaw to them."

—Trans-Australian Union Conference (TAUC) Sabbath school director **Pastor Rob Steed**, explaining how to make churches more Sabbath school friendly.

Source: TAUC Sabbath school teachers association newsletter

Wrongpoint

■ Pastor Grenville Kent ("Media centre targets new audiences," Newsfront, March 20) is the creative director of the Adventist Media Centre.

Teens sing for theme park tourists



Wisit Sovereign Hill in Ballarat, Victoria, on most alternate Sundays and you're in for a real treat," says Ballarat church spokesperson Rudi Caspersz. The church's teen choir will be singing for the theme park's tourists.

"Walk up the hill of the main street to the Wesleyan church, venture inside, choose a pew and listen as our teen choir goes about the business of a normal choir practise," he says.

The choir is conducted by Fran Thomas. "Fran gives instructions while playing the old organ in the church, which she has to simultaneously pump with her feet," says Mr Caspersz. "Dressed in the costumes of the day, the group blends perfectly with the theme of the park."

After singing, the teenagers are allowed to wander around Sovereign Hill. "Many park visitors photograph the choir as they practise or as they walk in the streets," adds Mr Caspersz.

Pictured (from left) are: Felicity Conduit, Megan Donelan, Deneale Skewes and Liana Skewes.

Another LEs "last days" program

Literature evangelists are once again organising a "Last-day issues" program featuring Adventist Media Centre evangelist Pastor Geoffrey Youlden, this time at the Christchurch Boys High School in New Zealand on May 22. Some 2900

people attended similar programs in Brisbane and Adelaide recently; 45 signed up for the introductory course in literature evangelism. For more information, phone

> John Brereton (pictured), the area manager for literature evangelists in New Zealand, on 025 983 473.



Yes, Helen Hall retired (see Noticeboard, September 19, 1998), but no, not as principal of Eden Valley Academy in Thailand. Confused?

"I was already working as a volunteer," explains Ms Hall (pictured), "so I guess I'm now a retired volunteer."

A retired volunteer with a lot of work to do. Eden Valley, situated for a fifth year—in the Baglore refugee camp near the Thai–Burma bor-



der, is growing.

"We've got students coming this year from a Buddhist camp because their parents wanted them to come to Christian school," says Ms Hall. "The minister sending them is a former Eden Valley student."

With enrolment of 540 last year and a projected 700 this year, the academy is the largest in the 38,000-strong refugee camp.

"We really need sponsors for the extra students," says Ms Hall.

Helen Hall's School Project can be supported through the Adventist Development and Relief Agency.—Brenton Stacey

Briefly

- Thirty-seven members of the Wallsend (NSW) church collected more than 2000 kilograms of rubbish as part of Clean Up Australia day on March 7. "We found needles, a fridge, a dryer and a microwave," says communication secretary Ray Boyce.
- Australian Olympic team member, world number two in judo and former television gladiator **Cath Arlove** (pictured), spoke at Lilydale (Vic) Adventist



Academy (LAA) recently. She then demonstrated basic judo throws on staff member **Michael Colquhoun**, much to the delight of the students, reports LAA spokesperson **David Jones**.

■ Members of the Boolaroo (NSW) church, together with the North New South Wales Conference and the Women's Christian Temperance Union, served 7000 tastings of non-alcoholic wine at the Newcastle Show, March 4-7. "Two alcoholic stands close by did very little business," says spokesperson Mrs M Easthope.

Heritage College groundbreaking

Construction of the new Heritage College (an amalgamation of the Carrum Downs and Oakleigh Adventist primary schools) began at a groundbreaking ceremony in Narre Warren, Victoria, on March 11. The first stage of construction, to be completed by midyear, will cater for 100 students and include four primary rooms as well as teacher preparation and computer rooms. The college, currently located in Carrum Downs, will be extended over the next 10 vears to cater for more than 300 primary and secondary students.

Pacific islands

Betikama makes news

Two Adventists, Sata Sikipetu (pictured, right),



and his wife, Joyce (left), were honoured by the Honiara Rotary Club recently for service to the Solomon Islands. Mr Sikipetu has served for 35 years as the maintenance supervisor at Betikama Adventist High School. Mrs Sikipetu has served for 36 years as a teacher at Betikama and the Burns Creek Adventist Primary School.

 Two Betikama students, Lannelle Sata and Minado
 Paul, have finished first and second respectively in last year's Solomon Islands Year 12 exams. Lannelle is the daughter of Mr and Mrs Sikipetu.

World news

Church aids literacy in Brazil

In 1995 more than six per cent of Adventist Church members in South America were identified as illiterate, a revelation that prompted Adventist education administrators in the area to set a goal to offer 200 adult literacy courses over 10 years. The result? In less than four years, 740 literacy courses were offered to church and local community members. The Educational Census of 1998 shows illiteracy rates among Adventists has now dropped to 1.5 per cent .-ANN

Religious freedom world report released

The Seventh-day Adventist Church released its preliminary dossier on religious freedom around the world.

The report, issued on March 4, places the nations of the world in one of five categories related to the experience of the Adventist Church, ranging from "religious freedom for all" through "restrictive legislation" to "no religious freedom."

"In the main, persecution comes from religious extremists," says the report. "Other sources are governments and governmental institutions.

"Persecution has been particularly violent in India, Indonesia, Iran, Myanmar (Burma), Pakistan and Sudan where the chief religions are Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam. But Christians are not the only people being persecuted because intolerance does not stop at any religious boundary."

Among the countries listed as the worst offenders against religious freedom are Mauritania, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

The report cites a number of other countries for violations of religious-liberty rights and restrictive laws.

"The reason for this report is to highlight the different trends in the area of religious freedom around the world," says General Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director Dr John Graz.

"A number of countries give cause for great concern, and in producing this report we want to call attention to the different problems faced by those whose religion is not that of the majority.

"We are committed to religious freedom as a basic human right, guaranteed by Article 18 of the UN Declaration."

Copies of the final report are available from the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department, General Conference, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904-6600, USA.—Jonathan Gallagher/ANN

ROBERT CALDWELL: FORGOTTEN HERO

by David Caldwell

ad! There's a big black car out the front and a man's coming up the driveway!" I came out in time to meet a well dressed Filipino at our front steps.

"Good morning! Would this be the Caldwell residence?"

"Yes!" I was puzzled.

"Would Robert Caldwell be here, by any chance?"

After faithfully nursing my mother for her last 14 years, Pa—I had always called him that—would stay

Surely here was a prophet who was "not without honour, save in his own household."

with us when he wasn't moving around. He happened to be with us now. He heard the exchange and came to the door.

The two men greeted each other in either Spanish or Tagalog, and warmly embraced. While they fell into animated conversation, the rest of us prepared for school or work.

Within minutes Pa had donned a shirt, tie and coat and was posing for his photograph. Our visitor was pressed for time and soon excused himself. He happened to be a high-ranking bank official who was visiting Australia on some financial mission.

He was also an Adventist. He'd been commissioned to locate my father and photograph him. As he drove off, I caught a glimpse of a diplomatic emblem on the limousine. Pa remained high for days after, and we noticed an increase in his writing activities.

It was some 15 years—long after Pa had died—before we saw the print of that photograph.

In 1976, while I was principal of Kambubu High School, near Rabaul, that the Papua New Guinea Union Mission decided to establish the literature ministry and called a Filipino, Frank Cometa, to help set it up. He visited our school an a recruiting drive.

As we met he paused over my name.

"Caldwell," he repeated. "Would you by chance be related to the Robert Caldwell, who pioneered literature ministry in our country around 1906?"

"Why, that was my father!" I responded

The reaction was electric.

"David," he declared. "You and your wife must come to the Philippines as guests of our publishing house next year [1977]. More than 3000 literature evangelists will gather for their convention. Think how wonderful it would be if you could be there to represent your father!"

After giving it thought, I regretfully told him that it would be most difficult to attend the convention, but if the invitation still stood, we could visit at the end of the following year when our furlough fell due.

He was disappointed, but promised to set wheels in motion for 1978. And so, with the help of a surprise legacy, November found us on our way to Manila.

In a two-week-long tour, we visited eight major centres of the Philippines, escorted by a field secretary, Eddie Demiar. Wherever we went, church members gathered to hear me talk about my father. No expense was spared. We were housed in the best hotels and taken to major places of interest. They even chartered a small plane when a regular flight was cancelled. We soon wilted under an overload of gifts. Never in our lives had we experienced such treatment.

All because of Pa. I would have to make some drastic changes to my estimate of him.

Our last stop was at the hill resort of Baguio, where some 300 recruits were being inducted into the literature ministry. Eddie, our guide, had been replaced by Eli Villaneuva, the manager of the publishing house.

Standing next to us at the window of our hotel room, Eli pointed to a building on a distant hill.

"Back in 1914, when my father was working in that building for the Americans, he purchased a copy of *The Great Controversy* from your father. As a result, he became an Adventist and today all of his children are employed by the church. I am the first Filipino manager of the publishing house."

He turned to me and grasped my hand. "Doesn't that really make us brothers?"

It was a moment I shall never forget.

Back in Manilla, on our last evening, a banquet was held in our honour in the publishing house grounds. I was presented with a mounted metal plaque—"A special recognition award, presented to R A Caldwell, first literature evangelist missionary to the Philippines, for his far-reaching vision and pioneering spirit in planting the seeds of the three angels' message in the

Philippines through the literature ministry. Presented by the Philippine Publishing House at a special reception in honour of Mr and Mrs David Caldwell, held at the PPH Compound, November 7, 1978."

Etched into the metal, in the centre of the plaque was the photo taken 15 years before. A framed enlargement of the same picture hung on the wall of the Philippines Publishing House. I was told that a slide of it was thrown onto the big screen at the opening ceremony of every literature evangelist's convention.

All this naturally filled me with pride, but something was hurting inside; they were honouring someone I'd never known.

The "Pa" I knew was an eccentric "fuddy-duddy" who so often caused me to cringe with embarrassment. Broken in health, he, mother and my sister had returned to Australia in 1919. The church tried to use him, first as preceptor and Bible teacher at Avondale, then attached to an evangelistic team. Neither were his metier and he was soon back knocking on doors with his

books. Finally, as the depression bit hard, he was granted partial sustentation and left to fend for himself

By the time I became aware of things, he was hawking alstromeria roots and flowers around Melbourne, For his poor "blood condition" he mostly prescribed his own medication and diet. This rugged individualism was woven into everything he did; it was

all

flavoured with an Irish humour and Scottish doggedness.

This was not a recipe for domestic tranquillity with my circumspect German-English mother. I vividly recall occasions when she became so exasperated that she would pack a suitcase, don a hat and coat, and storm out of the house. Pa would be sitting somewhere inside blithely singing "Tis love that makes us happy!"

So theatrical—but mother never went further than the front gate.

During my impressionable teen years, Pa rarely attended our local church with mother and me; instead, he would visit around other churches in Melbourne or spend the morning sunbaking in an erosion gully near home. Something or someone in our local church had put his nose out of joint, but I was never able to discover what or who it was. In all my life I never heard him criticise anyone, nor complain about his poor health.

To offset such virtues, on matters of business and things material, Pa was a complete muddler. Most of his bright ideas and plans only became known to us after they'd failed. If he ever discussed things with mother before attempting to carry them out, I never heard about it.

Pa never flagged in his zeal for spreading our message. He kept a notebook full of names and addresses and often sat at the kitchen table with a piece of old literature. After scribbling little personal messages around the margins, he would roll up bundles of them and mail them all over the place. I know of families brought into the church through Pa's seed scattering, but only God knows the real fruitage.

But my Philippines experience opened my eyes. Surely here was a prophet who was "not without honour, save in his own household." Where once he'd been a flaming torch for our message all I'd seen was a bundle of smoking reeds. Had I been standing so close that I couldn't see how tall he really stood?

Denominational writers have approached me seeking material for a book about the "onion farmer from Victoria," but with all his scrib-

bling (which only I seemed able to decipher), there wasn't enough. If only I'd tapped his memory while the sap still flowed.

But there is something I can do admit my error of judgment regarding him. I struggle to swallow a lump that resists chewing. It's the discovery that, in many ways, I'm becoming more like Pa, as those closest to me will testify. What an honour.

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David Caldwell writes from Valentine, NSW, where be lives in retirement.

THE CLEAR WORD ON JACK BLANCO

by Lee Dunstan

ack J Blanco, probably best known as the author of *The Clear Word*, an expanded paraphrase of the Bible, is the principal contributor to this quarter's adult Sabbath school Bible study guides, "The nature of man." Dr Blanco is dean of the School of Religion at Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, Tennessee. He's worked as a missionary to Africa and the Philippines and as a pastor and evangelist in the US.

Dr Blanco holds theological degrees from Union College, Princeton Theological Seminary and the University of South Africa. He has been published in *Adventist Review* and *Ministry* and interviewed previously in the RECORD.

Dr Blanco, why should a person study about "the nature of man" for 13 weeks?

The answer is simple. Why should we study Christ for 13 weeks, or the topic of salvation or the Second Coming? Scripture needs to be studied to see what it says on a variety of topics. I think that the nature of man would be high on the priority list because it was sinful human nature that brought on Calvary.

What was your interest or background relating to this area?

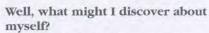
My interest in this topic is this: Unless we understand the depth of our need, we will not appreciate what Christ has done for us as much as we should. I think *everyone* should be interested in this topic.

What did you enjoy most in your time preparing the lessons?

To follow a topic through from Genesis to Revelation and catch the sweep of Scripture, instead of using the proof-text method.

In my studying of these lessons, what am I going to discover about Jack Blanco?

I hope you don't discover anything about Jack Blanco, but understand more about Jesus Christ. And how? By visualising Him talking to you through Scripture, as if you were sitting in the crowd in Palestine 2000 years ago.

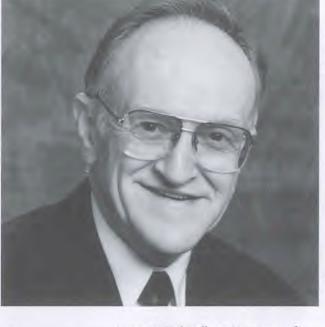


I hope that you'll discover more deeply the depth of your sinful human nature, your inability to spiritually help yourself and that the hope is not in yourself but Christ.

The only way you can totally trust Christ is to totally distrust your human nature. You can't say that you *totally* trust Christ while trying to pull yourself up by your boot straps. The question is not about what you already know, but your willingness to further internalise your awareness of who you are in the deep recesses of your soul.

You spent three years in a prisoner-of-war camp. What did you learn about the nature of man there? Did it differ much from the biblical-theological view you later learned in the seminary?

Correction. It was a Nazi labour



camp. A "Schindler's List" type of camp. In situations like that, you soon develop a survival mentality similar to being thrown into a lion's den—not a concern about the theological or philosophical theories on the nature of man. The tranquil atmosphere of a classroom and unwearied time for reflection gives you an opportunity to reflect on actions past, and to cognitively wrestle with the issues.

Has this experience influenced your views on life and people? Do we see it in the lessons?

My view of life was changed by Jesus Christ. If I may use Paul's expression: "Forgetting those things that are behind, I press forward to the mark of our high-calling in Jesus Christ" [Philippians 3:14]. My experiences didn't even come to mind while writing these lessons, much less influence them. My focus was on Jesus Christ and the testimony of Scripture.

In the introduction to the guides you say one of your hobbies is collecting stamps from times of answered prayer. Please explain.

I'm a collector at heart; not just collecting for the sake of collecting, but to collect meaningfully. This led me to the idea of collecting stamps as a memory album of significant spiritual experiences in my life. From stamps I've switched to rocks, lapel pins and whatever is meaningful to me personally.

What will people who don't study these lessons miss out on?

I'm sure that if people studied this topic from Genesis to Revelation, catching the sweep of what Scripture says about the nature of man, they would miss nothing by not studying *the* lessons. However, I doubt that many have the inclination to do so. So, first, I would say that the quarterly is a tool that provides the *motivation* to study this topic more in-depth; second, the Sabbath

school lessons bring community and interaction on the subject, which you don't experience if you study alone; and, third, studying the same Sabbath school study guide that the church worldwide studies, makes a statement of solidarity with the world church—it's symbolic of the one body of Jesus Christ.

How can a person become more involved in Bible study?

I've observed a definite decline in Bible study in the church and a trend toward what I call an illiteracy of biblical specifics among those who go through our schools.

It does take organisation to form a habit of Bible study and personal devotions, but even a disorganised person can do it. With the Sabbath school lessons a person can either do more serious study, or they can be used devotionally. Whichever the case, the secret is to develop a desire to know Jesus better—and a sense of the importance of doing so.

What works best for you in your Bible study?

Personally, in my devotionals or study of the lessons, I have a pen in hand. It gives me focus and helps me communicate with my Friend. Once the habit of meeting Jesus is programmed into your daily routine, you'll miss not having had met your Friend that day.

You use the term "scripture twisting" in one lesson. This sounds intriguing, what is it? Is it something you've been accused of?

"Scripture twisting" is the taking of a passage of scripture out of context and giving it your own application, contrary to clarifications given to it elsewhere in Scripture. For instance, some quote 1 Corinthians 15—"flesh and blood will not inherit the kingdom of heaven"—as proof that we will not have human bodies in heaven, but be spirit beings. They ignore the larger context, which shows it to mean that corruption shall not inherit the kingdom. They ignore Philippians 3:21, which says that our bodies "shall be made like unto His glorious body."

And, yes, I've been accused of Scripture twisting by well-meaning Christians—of twisting Scripture to support Sabbath-keeping, for instance.

What new ideas about humanity did you discover during the preparation of these lessons?

There are always new insights, new shades and applications of meaning that come to mind when one studies Scripture. The overall insight I gained is the enormity of sin and its invasiveness of human nature. It's a terminal cancer that only the Great Physician can remove. Also, the subtle phenomena of spiritualism adapted so insidiously to the 21st century, which is against the biblical teaching that when a human dies they know nothing.

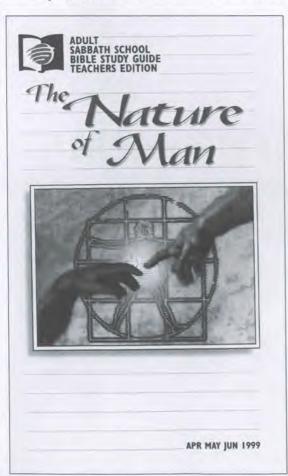
What books would a student on a limited budget want to read to assist them with this quarter's lessons?

I'd recommend the following: The fire that consumes [Edward W Fudge, Providential Press, Houston, Texas, 1982] and Whatever happened to the soul? [Warren Brown, Nancey and Newton Murphy, Fortress Press, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1998]. Both are written by non-Adventists and, considering their perspective, are extremely well-done.

Copies of the adult Sabbath school Bible study guides are available from Adventist Book Centres.

Lee Dunstan is the senior assistant editor of

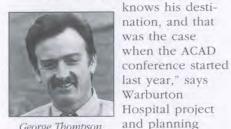
the Record.



HOSPITAL HOSTS SECOND DRUG CONFERENCE

ome 142 delegates, and speak-Pers from Canada, England, New Zealand and the United States met for the second Australian Conference of Addictive Disorders (ACAD '99) at the Warburton (Vic) Hospital, March

"A good traveller never really



George Thompson. Thompson.

"The response was gratifying, and it appears the idea developed at exactly the right time to cover a specific need in our area of expertise-drug and alcohol rehabilitation."

manager George

Sponsors of this year's conference included the Salvation Army and the Victorian Government.

"We built bridges, made new alliances and did a lot of networking," says Mr Thompson.

The conference provided oppor-

tunity for those working in drug rehabilitation to: interact with the world's leading professionals; be exposed to the latest findings, research and study in alcohol and drug-based programs; recognise treatment and recovery needs of specialised populations and ethnic groups; and pro-

vide special focus in abstinencebased treatment.

"I'm sure many delegates went back to their work place with a renewed sense of purpose and direction," says conference organiser Julie O'Donohue, who describes her role as "extremely rewarding."

"It's a credit to Warburton Hospital, and to Mr Thompson,

for their foresight in convening ACAD '99."

> Delegates at the conference included drug and alcohol counsellors, 12-step fellowship members, human resource directors, health department officers, church and community leaders, medical practitioners, nurses, social workers and representatives of the Koori community.

"There were top presenters

and many high-profile personalities at the conference," says hospital chief executive officer Eliot Bolst. "And each segment of the program flowed smoothly into the next."

ACAD '99 audio and video tapes, and a multimedia CD-ROM, are available from Warburton Hospital, PO Box 300, Warburton, VIC 3799.—Sue Marshall



Pictured with Warburton Hospital addictions counsellor Jeff Lucas (centre) are US-based speakers Claudia Black and Jeff Fabey. The couple run a publishing company specialising in multi-media materials supporting the drug and alcohol recovery process.

MUSIC PROGRAM AT AVONDALE HITS HIGH NOTE

vondale College is undergoing a musical revival.

The Avondale Singers have doubled in size from 30 to 60 this year, reports the college public relations director, Philip Knight, making it the largest choir for 30 years.

Directed by Alan Thrift, the singers are already booked six months ahead.

"And it's not only the choir that's grown," says senior music lecturer David Clark, "Some of our music classes have doubled and trebled in size, and we now have a string orchestra and wind ensemble."

Most students took only piano or voice lessons a few years ago.



The Avondale Singers have doubled in size from 30 to 60 this year, making it the largest choir for 30 years.

Now the college employs eight specialist performance teachers to cater for lessons in brass, flute,

guitar, keyboard, violin, voice and theory.

"Adventist schools are sending excellent musicians, and the results of their music programs can be seen in the many talented music students we now have at Avondale," says Mr Clark.

"Their contribution to the musical life of our churches and schools can never be underestimated."

One of the highlights of this year's academic program is a music study tour of Vienna, Paris and London in October, where, says Mr Knight, "stu-

dents will be observing, performing and researching the rich musical life of the great cultural centres."

Lawsuit against church dismissed

The Seventh-day Adventist Church learned on March 12 that a lawsuit against it had been dismissed with prejudice in the Sacramento Superior Court in California, USA.

A lawsuit dismissed "with prejudice" means facts alleged in the suit cannot be filed again by James Moore, a business entrepreneur from Sacramento, California.

Mr Moore originally filed the suit in August 1998, alleging several individuals including former General Conference president Pastor Robert Folkenberg, had defrauded him of assets worth \$US8 million. He also

> named the General Conference Corporation and Inter-American Division of the General Conference in the lawsuit.



The lawsuit filed by James Moore against former General Conference president Pastor Robert Folkenberg (pictured) and others has been dismissed "without prejudice."

> church opposed payment of any money to the plaintiff and opposed the inclusion of a confidentiality clause.

The General Conference has never had any business dealings with Mr Moore, and the Inter-American Division ended all business dealings with Mr Moore in 1989, four years before any of the events alleged in the lawsuit occurred.

"We're grateful Mr Moore has dropped the lawsuit against the church, a suit we have always characterised as frivolous and without merit," says church spokesperson Pastor Ray Dabrowski.-ANN

WORLDWIDE CHURCH USES SOUTH PACIFIC CURRICULUM

econdary school curriculums developed by the South Pacific Division (SPD) is being used by educators around the world.

The General Conference (GC) is distributing a set of 16 curriculum frameworks suggesting how to teach the values, ideas and philosophy of Adventist education to every union, Adventist university and Adventist college. The frameworks have been translated into Spanish and French.

Africa-Indian Ocean Division (AID) associate education director Dr Chiemela Ikonne recently introduced the frameworks to teachers in Ghana.

"The seminar I organised received a headline in the country's major newspaper because it was seen as a major innovation in education," says Dr Ikonne, whose two radio interviews-one a 30-minute featurewere also prominent news items.

The media coverage was the first in many years for the Adventist Church in Ghana.

The frameworks have also finan-

cially saved Adventist secondary school in Norway, reports GC education director Dr Humberto Rasi.

"The government threatened to withdraw funding because our schools were not distinctive enough," says Dr Rasi, "But when representa-

tives were shown the frameworks. funding continued.'

The frameworks are also used by the Chilean government as an alternative syllabus for private schools.

"The curriculum is proving to be cutting edge material for Adventist education overseas," says SPD associate education director for secondary curriculum



AID associate education director Dr Chiemela Ikonne describes the SPDproduced secondary curriculum frameworks as a "major innovation in education.

Dr Barry Hill. "It's a genuine missionary service for the worldwide church."

Aussies reach out to Ukraine

ustralian Adventists, mostly from Logan Reserve (Qld) church, have donated almost

\$A5000 to help with evangelistic work at the 130member Vasilkiv church in the Ukraine.

The church needed a bigger library-members had established nine study groups (five in villages outside Vasilkiv) as a result of their evangelistic program, but

had only enough books for one.

"The money could not have come

at a more appropriate time," says minister Pastor Ivan Minyenko. The Ukrainian currency was devalued,

meaning members could buy twice as many books. "God provides not only wisdom and help, but the manner and timing of such help.

Nearly 100 people are reading the books; several have been baptised; 12 are attending newly

formed home churches; 10 are studying the Bible.



The Vasilkiv, Ukraine, bigh school director helps deliver books purchased with donations from Australian Adventists.

RWANDAN ADVENTIST RECONCILES PAST

Pastor Amon Rugelinyange knows about suffering. He has a personal story to share about his intimate knowledge of the 1994 genocide, and the subsequent efforts to reconcile and rebuild.

"Even before the genocide, the government harassed people they were suspicious of," says Pastor Rugelinyange.

"In 1990 I was arrested and imprisoned. I was supposed to die in prison, but the Lord delivered me. Instead of stopping my ministry, I was able to do even more.

"I was permitted to hold church meetings, and preached twice a day to a congregation of 800.

"When I was released nearly six

"I am a Christian, and can never support actions of revenge and retribution."

months later, the prison director asked me to stay, saying I was needed there! Even now I meet people who were with me in prison."

But this hard experience was nothing compared to the horrors to come, reports Pastor Rugelinyange. The day before the killings started, he left to visit a distant church where he was scheduled to preach.

"On April 20, 1994, they started killing, destroying homes, searching for victims and setting up road-blocks. I was unable to return home, and had no word of the fate of my family.

"The church elder, who was a Hutu, hid me and saved my life. For 40 days I was in hiding, moved around between six different houses—all Hutu church members. God has people in every tribe!"

Tragically, Pastor Rugelinyange lost his family.

"On May 19 soldiers came to the mission where my family lived, and killed my wife, my three children and my nine grandchildren."

Once the genocide was over, Pastor Rugelinyange returned to his home at Gitwe. Friends asked if that was what he wanted to do, thinking of the loss of his family. But he was determined to continue his church work and began the

process of encouraging reconciliation and healing in the community.

"I am a Christian, and can never support actions of revenge and retribution," says Pastor



Rwanda Union Mission president Pastor Amon Rugelinyange lost his wife and three children in the 1994 genocide.

Rugelinyange. "My role now as leader of the Rwanda Union Mission is to work together with all peoples, remembering that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ."

Pastor Rugelinyange says the process of reconciliation and forgiveness is taking a long time, but he is encouraged by the results so far.

"The church is growing-at around 20,000

a year—and now numbers 250,000, with new members coming from the different tribal groups.

"Out of darkness, God is bringing His wonderful light."—

Jonathan Gallagher/ANN

children

Seek and Find

Baby Moses

Can you find 15 crescent moon shapes hidden in the picture?



A crescent moon looks like this





Surely Record should be more sensitive to its readership, which includes the "natives" that are slanderously referred to in this particular strip.

99

Berto's "Christians" upset

CYRUS AND NOLA ADAMS, WA

Apparently Berto has no knowledge or appreciation of what missionaries have achieved ("The Christians," March 13).

We've long since retired—after 21 years—from missionary work in the South Pacific. We formed close relationships with the people for whom we worked and admired their conversion and commitment, despite their background.

We enjoy a joke, but could not take this as such.

Too many Sabbath schools no longer use the *Mission news* and make no reference to missionary work in the South Pacific. Berto's cartoon encourages this negative attitude and discourages the willingness of those who may be prepared to enter that ministry.

There's joy in the challenge of difficult and sometimes dangerous service in isolated places.

JOY BUTLER, NSW

I object to Berto's insinuations. It's a fallacy that missionaries think only of coming back in one piece.

I was reluctant to leave comfortable New Zealand to go to Africa with my three small children. But I went, believing God was with me and whatever happened, including possible death, He would be with me.

Missionaries had recently been murdered in the country I was destined for, a country that had just gone through a seven-year war. The dangers were real.

The early Adventist missionaries who began the work in Papua New Guinea and did such a noble work would probably testify in the same way. What did Jesus mean when He said, "Take up the cross and follow me?" I'm sure most missionaries knew the risks, but were prepared to go with God.

Think carefully before you speak about such "grave" matters, Berto.

BILL TRUSCOTT, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

I found "The Christians" cartoon offensive and inappropriate.

Surely RECORD should be more sensitive to its readership, which includes the "natives" that are slanderously referred to in this particular strip.

In this age of political correctness, the cartoons need to reflect a bigger world view.

Polished blessing

GENNARO COZZI, VIC

What a blessing "All polished; all renewed" (March 13). This is not simply an article, it's a piece of poetry! How many coats of paint indeed, on each one of us!

How precious are we to Jesus, who spelled His concern for us with His blood. Certainly because of that and, according to 1 John 3:2-3, we need to improve ourselves, not for us, but for Him. He deserves to see His image reflected in us.

My disappointed friend

ROSLYN PUMP, SA

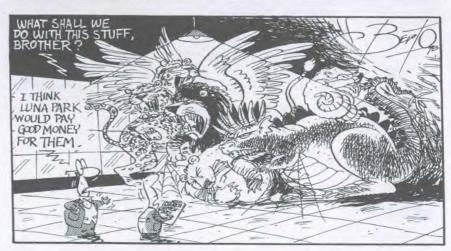
I've had a friend for many years who likes to catch me with funny, curious questions about religion and God. But I could never get him to church or to start Bible studies. My one conquest was on the subject of death.

He's currently going through a devastating marriage break up. He has even contemplated suicide, and once went through the first stages of trying to kill himself.

Then he went to an Adventist church—in another state. He turned up on a Sabbath morning and stood outside. He couldn't bring himself to go inside, he'd only ever been inside a church for weddings and funerals. He told me that if someone had approached him, spoken to him or invited him in, he would have gone in. He needed God.

Nobody approached him. Nobody spoke to him. After quite a time, he turned away and went home.

Just a coincidence



Mail: RECORD Editor, Signs Publishing Company, Warburton Victoria 3799 Fax: (03) 5966 9019 E-mail: editor@al.com.au 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.

Retirements

•Ruby Afamasagaga, Central Pacific Union Mission (CPUM). Job Faole, Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM). •Benjamin Moida, PNGUM. Pastor Ioane Taburmai, Western Pacific Union Mission (WPUM). Pastor Jonah Yorude, PNGUM. OBanisi Ghona, WPUM. Pastor Rayboy Jilini, WPUM. ●Lahese Laejama, WPUM. ●Hen-ry Ngatulu, WPUM. ●Aniani Ollita'a, WPUM OElison Panisi, WPUM. •Maleli Posala, WPUM. Pastor Defe Sifoni, WPUM. Pastor Fililmoni Bernanaliva, OTimothy Lekelalu, CPUM. WPUM. •Piko Likera, WPUM. OPastor Enoch Balik, PNGUM •Maevah Fafe, WPUM. •Sireli Gatu, WPUM. Pastor Sekove Naqio, CPUM. Pastor Saula Ratu, CPUM. Pastor Ripine Rimoni, CPUM.

Anniversaries

Faulkner. Patrick and Beryl Faulkner (nee Mulroy) celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on 14,3.99 at the community hall, Bobs Farm, NSW. Their daughter, Michele, and her husband Garry Duence; sons, James, and his wife, Tricia, and Mathew, were present; their seven grandchildren; Beryl's two sisters, Mildred Brown and Val Dorrington, the bridesmaid at their wedding; and her uncle, Ron Mulroy and his wife, Dorothy. Pat's family was represented by two of his nephews and their families.

Pascoe. Cyril and Marie (nee Eden) celebrated their 60th wedding aniver-



sary at the Yandina church, Qld on the evening of 10.1.99 with the members of the church and many friends. Cyril and Marie were married in the Red Hill church, Brisbane, on 10.1.59. The conference president, Pastor F G Rampton, conducted the service.

At present they both give their services in the closing work of the gospel.

Weslake. Ralph and Enid of Norfolk Island celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 1.3.99 with family and friends at an afternoon tea given by their daughter, Joy, at her home on the island. It was a time for remembering, and anecdotes and stories were laughingly exchanged. Greetings flew into the island from their children, brothers and sisters from around Australia and NZ.

Weddings

Allen—Rumble. Graham Allen, son of Douglas and Heather Allen (Bribie Island, Qld), and Yvette Rumble, daughter of Grant and Loraine Rumble (Tauranga, NZ), were married on 20.2.99 in Cupid Gardens, Deception Bay, Qld.

Arthur Bath

25TH ANNIVERSARY

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SEPTEMBER 18 AND 19

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Barton-Johnson—Hayers. Garth Barton-Johnson, son of Margaret (Hobart, Tas) and the late Kenneth Barton-Johnson, and Kelly Hayers, daughter of Valerie and Denis Hayers (Tas), were married on 14.2.99 in the Rosny Adventist church, Tas. Leigh Rice

Groves—Pearce. Kevin Groves, son of Rod Groves and Margaret O'D-wyer, and Deborah Maree Pearce, daughter of Pastor David and the late Pauline Pearce, were married on 20.9.98 on Rocky Point Island, Balmoral Beach, NSW. Bob Saunders

Hook—Bryant. Milton Raymond Hook, son of the late Raymond and Amelia Hook, and Noeleen Gertrude Bryant, daughter of Pastor Errol and Pauline Pahl (Normanhurst, NSW), were married on 14.5.99 in the Ebenezer Uniting church (Australia's oldest church building still standing).

Huston—Malusova. Matthew Geoff Huston, son of Clive and Vivian Huston (Creswick, Vie), and Katerina Malusova, daughter of Milan and Libuse Malus (Olomouc, Czech Republic), were married on 21.5.99 in the Ballarat Adventist church, Vic.

Kevin Amos

Kavur—Rivera. Jonathan Kavur, son of Ivan and Magdalena Kavur (Loganholme, Old), and Liss Ingrid Rivera, daughter of Humberto and Sonia Rivera (Rochedale), were married on 7.3.99 in the Springwood Adventist church, Old.

Humberto Rivera

McMurtry—Weedon. James Denn McMurtry, son of Laurie and Beth McMurtry (Tamworth, NSW), and Sarah Gaye Weedon, daughter of Richard and Deirdre Weedon (Brisbane, Qld), were married on 21.2.99 in Christ Church, Lavender Bay, NSW.

Laurie McMurtry Barry Oliver, Peter Smart

Mate Paulo—Rimaati. Lapalapa Antonio Rangi Mate Paulo (Rangi) and



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Tereapii Lena Rimaati (Lena) were married on 20.2.99 in Bigge Park, Liverpool, NSW. Robert Craig

Voss—Williams. Richard Nowell Voss, son of Nowell and Roberta Voss (Ballarat, Vic), and Lorretta Williams, daughter of Norman and the late Sheryl Kent, were married on 14,2,99 in the Ballarat Adventist church. Kevin Amos

Woodward—Jenkins. Clinton Woodward, son of Paul and Marilyn Woodward (Lilydale, Vic), and Zanyta Jenkins, daughter of Elwyn and Glenda Jenkins (Atlanta, USA), were married on 3.1.99 in the Gosford Adventist church. Peter Powler

Obituaries

Birch, Margaret Christie, born 24.3.15 at Strathmiglow, Scotland; died 6.3.99 at Fremantle, WA. She was predeceased by her husband, Harry, in 1951. Margaret lived in four countries, Scotland, Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

Romulo Bartolome, Robert Kingdon

Brooks, Newton Owen, born 4.10.25 in Adelaide, SA; died 4.12.98 in the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Brisbane, Qld, after a prolonged illness. He was predeceased by his son, Gregory. He is survived by his wife, Bonney; his daughters, Beverley and Robyn; his son, Russell; his sons-in-law, Trevor and Neville; and his three grandchildren. Newton was a very active lay worker in Trinity Gardens church, SA and Mosman church, Qld.

David Lawson

Kew, Alfred Ernest, born 24.4.18 at Boulder, WA; died 3.3.99 in Hollywood Hospital, Perth, of a terminal illness. He is survived by his wife, Dulcie; his sons, Ronald, Graham and Brian (all of Perth).

Cyrus Adams

Mordaunt, Esme (nee Williams), born 12.1.43 at Oraroo, SA; died 21.2.99 in Adelaide. She is survived by her husband, Gary (Adelaide); her son, Mark Williams (Port Pirie); and her daughter, Connie Williams (Alice Springs, NT). Esme was a quiet Christian lady who will be sadly missed.

Ross Simon, Dariusz Kuberek

Morden, Lorna, born 6,3.12 at Moonee Ponds, Vic; died 27.2.99 in the Adventist. Retirement Village, Victoria Point, Qld. She was predeceased by her husband, Allan. She is survived by her sons, Keith, Ian, Neil (Vic) and Graham (Brisbane, Qld). S A Bartlett, J R Lee

Morgan, Lorna (nee Blackburne), bom 19,3,20 at Benalla, Vic; died 6,3,99 in the Charles Harrison Nursing Home, Cooranbong, NSW. She was predeceased by her husband, Clarry. She is survived by her children, Eric; Ivan, Rita and Roy; her 15 grandchildren; and her nine great-grandchildren.

C R Stafford, Max Mulligan

Rabe, Cyril Henry James, born 7.1.03 at Queenstown, Tas; died 28.2.99 in Goulburn Valley Hospital, Shepparton, Vic. He was predeceased by his wife, Agnus (nee Dangie) in 1995. He is survived by his children, James (Melody Park Retirement Village, Qld), Nancy Mitchell and Patricia Rankin (both of Shepparton), Jennifer Robinson (Warburton, Vic.), Marjorie Campbell and Barbara Richman (both of Hobart, Tas). Claude Judd John Bartlett, Malcolm Reid

Wuatai, Wuleeu (Wally), born 8.8.34 at Puka Puka, Northern Cook Island; died. 30.12.98 while holidaying in North Qld. He is survived by his wife, Noomua (Amosa); his son, Jeoffry; his seven adopted children; and his four grundchildren. Wally was a faithful church member who served as an elder for six years. David Lawson

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Northern Australian Conference Session. Notice is hereby given that the 21st session of the Northem Australian Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will convene at Halliday Park Convention Centre, Leopold Street, Aitkenvale, June 19 and 20, 1999. The first business session will commence at 7.00 pm with registration of delegates from 6.00 pm. Delegates will be appointed in harmony with the constitution of the conference. The business of the session will be as provided for in the constitution, including amendments to the constitution, reports covering all aspects of the work within the conference and the election of officers, executive committee and departmental directors.

D R Potter, Secretary-Treasurer

luncheon-Greater Retirees' Sydney. The autumn fellowship luncheon of the Greater Sydney Retirees' Association is planned for Monday, May 10, 1999 at the Mount Colah church hall (corner of Cowan Road and Pierre Close). Doors open at 11.00 am and the program commences at 11.30 am Contribution toward expenses is \$3.00 per person. Please bring a plate of food to share. Visitors welcome. The guest speaker will be Doctor Norman Gulley of Tennessee, USA. His wife, Leona, is the daughter of the late Pastor E L Minchin. Doctor Gulley is head of Theology at Southern Adventist University and president of the Adventist Theological Society. An interesting meeting is

Azalea Court-retirement living at Hornsby, NSW. (1) Unit 11 is a one BR ground-floor unit with lounge facing east. Has ensuite, bathroom and small veranda. The unit is resident-funded with a contribution of \$A75,300 and maintenance of \$A43.60 per fortnight. (2) Unit 17 is a one BR first-floor unit with lounge facing north. Has ensuite, bathroom and a large balcony with extensive views. The unit is resident-funded with a contribution of \$A99,500 and maintenance of \$A49.00 per fortnight. Azalea Court is close to Hornsby shops, rail and SDA churches are nearby. The contribution is largely refunded when the unit is allocated to another occupier. Contact the resident manager, Mr Kevin Willows, phone (02) 9482 2717.

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Karalundi Aboriginal Education Centre has an immediate vacancy for a Home Economics/Art and Craft teacher with some Upper Primary Maths and Science, starting April 19, 1999. We are also seeking an accountant to care for the financial aspect of our operation, starting in July 1999. The position of principal will be vacant from January 2000 and we are seeking suitable interested persons. Inquiries phone Chris (08) 9981 2937, 0409 405 104 or Des (08) 9981 2933; fax (08) 9981 2953; e-mail <Raec@benet.net.au>

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