Acquired or Inspired?

Members of the Maitland church in NSW explored community and creativity on March 12 as Brendyn and Kellie Hancock facilitated a day with a difference.

Eighty people attended a multisensory worship service that focused on Body Life. “God created us with five senses,” says Mrs Hancock, “and I believe people are impacted more profoundly when presentations involve them on many levels.” The service included scripture readings from the front on attributes of the body of Christ and community participation through singing and reading scriptures. To rediscover the lost art of “one anothering,” various New Testament verses that spoke of the early believers’ life together were read out by church members. As each “one another” verse was shared, various shapes of bread were placed on a table at the front. By the end of the service, a body took shape on the table, as the aroma of a freshly baked loaf of bread filtered through the room.

To conclude, new members Lawrence and Sharon Smith, and their children, Timothy and Joshua, were welcomed into the community. Pastor Damien Rice presented them with a hot loaf of bread straight out of the bread machine.

(Continuation on page 4)
Outback kids “get up and go”

CHARTERS TOWERS, QUEENSLAND

November last year saw the dream of Allan and Pat Hutchinson from the Yarrahapinni Adventist Youth and Ecology Centre come to fruition with the assistance of Sanitarium, Adve...
Acquired or Inspired? dedicated at Signs

WARBURTON, VICTORIA

Signs Publishing Company launched a new book with a dedication at the Warburton factory on March 23.

Acquired or Inspired? by Dr Don McMahon was then publicly launched at the Victorian Conference camp-meeting on March 26.

A cordial to Book Department manager Elizabeth Dunstan, the dedication of new release books is regularly done by the church’s publishing houses in other parts of the world. “To mark the launch of a new book in this way highlights that this is not just another book to be printed and sold,” says Ms Dunstan. “Rather, it is part of our mission as a church publisher.”

The dedication—led by Pastor Terry Goltz, director of publishing for the South Pacific Division—acknowledged the contributions to the project by Signs staff through the planning, production and distribution process.

Author Don McMahon attended the dedication and shared something of the story behind Acquired or Inspired? with Signs staff. “My research grew out of setting an argument in a Sabbath school class,” says Dr McMahon. “But also out of concern for the decline in the practice of what has been known as the Adventist lifestyle. I wanted to answer the question of how we got this lifestyle.”

Dr McMahon recalls that a number of people—including his wife, initially—tried to discourage his plan as he set out on the research that grew into the book. “They were worried about what I might discover,” he recalls.

Acquired or Inspired? closely examines the health and lifestyle statements made by Ellen White and compares these statements with those of other health writers who were her contemporaries in the mid-to-late 19th century. Dr McMahon shares his journey through this research and analysis. He admits he encountered a number of surprises.

Dr Percy Harrold, associate director of Adventist Health for the South Pacific Division, assisted Dr McMahon at stages of his research. “Don McMahon has done an excellent thing,” says Dr Harrold. “It is a project was initially fraught with danger, as he may have unearthed results that could have destroyed both his faith and that of others. It has been sometimes misunderstood by others and frequently criticised.”

“This is not a book in judgment on Ellen White, but a highly critical investigation, which validates her position in Adventist belief and practice.” — Nathan Brown

More @ www.acquiredorinspired.com

DAYS AND OFFERINGS:

APRIL 16—LITERATURE EVANGELISM RALLY DAY

APRIL 23—UNION INSTITUTIONS OFFERING
Church gets creative in Hunter Valley

(Continued from page 1)

This was to symbolise them joining this body of Christ. A label wrapped around it stated the bread was the Maitland Adventist brand and contained the warning: “This loaf may sometimes include traces of unchristian behaviour and the occasional nut.”

After sharing a meal together, the group continued to explore spirituality and community in the afternoon workshops. The interactive and experiential environment used music, creative expression and dialogue to provide a space where participants could examine their relationship with God and their spiritual journey, both as individuals and as a community.

“Society in general, and the church in particular, tend to operate from the left brain,” says Mrs H Hancock. “Things are taught and processed in a rational, logical, analytical and objective way that looks at parts. This is a very modern way of approaching things. Utilising our God-given senses and creativity allows us to tap into our spirituality through the right brain.

“This gives us knowledge and experience that is intuitive, holistic, subjective and looks at wholes. These are methods valued in a postmodern generation.”

Mrs H Hancock believes the church as a whole, and its members as individuals, are struggling to effectively minister to postmodern people.

“Until we value both methods of teaching, learning and processing, the church will continue to miss connecting with today’s culture,” says Mrs H Hancock.

The afternoon concluded with Mr and Mrs H Hancock praying a blessing over the Maitland community.

For the second consecutive year, Preston church, Vic, has successfully presented the 10-part “Life after life” outreach series in the Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre, concluding in the Preston church on March 5. Some 16 people indicated their desire for baptism after witnessing the baptism of Gideon Kambu (pictured) and Evelyn Andoh-Okai (conducted by series presenter Pastor Greg Evans). In 2004, 13 people made the same decision. The success of the series, which is followed up with a prophecy seminar, has made “Life after life” an integral part of Preston’s plans for outreach.—George Wilson

Losawai, a little branch church started by Pastor Samson Genum, derives from the Balagi church in Kavieng, PNG—about 20 minutes walk away. The members of this new church are mostly children along with five adults. The small shelter used to worship in (pictured) was once a marketplace; however plans to build a building are underway.—Taitara Sevau

On the first Sabbath after the Asian tsunami, the members of Hamilton church in country western Victoria immediately voted to send $1000 of church funds to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to help in their relief operations. In the following weeks, the congregation of some 18 members, primarily pensioners, gave personal donations amounting to $1725. It was felt more could be done so a garage sale was organised. Not only was a further $4700 raised, the town’s awareness of ADRA has grown. “It also helped to bind our members together,” says Hamilton church clerk Lynette Webb.
Dear Editor,

Regarding your recent editorial on the role of Ellen White, I must express my strong disagreement with the claim that she is the greatest of all the prophets. The title is not appropriate, not only because it elevates her status over other great biblical prophets, but it also contradicts her own modesty and humility.

Ellen White herself would have rejected such a title. She clearly acknowledged her role as a lesser light, intended to draw attention to the greater Light, Jesus Christ. If we claim Ellen White to be greater than Christ, this claim is tantamount to blasphemy.

Moreover, such extremism has contributed to the perception of Adventism as a sect on the fringes of authentic Christianity. This publication, claiming to speak for historic Adventism, risks perpetuating this damaging image.

Instead, let us move forward on a solid biblical foundation, where truth is not confused with subjective opinions or doctrines not grounded in the Word of God. Let us avoid the pitfalls of extremism and the resulting heresy.

Sincerely,

JOHN RALSTON, SA
Positions vacant

Ⅰ. Marketing Communications Manager—Sydney Adventist College (Stratfield, NSW) is seeking a full-time Communications Manager with three years’ experience in a similar role to lead the marketing team. The position involves leading the development and delivery of a comprehensive communications strategy to support the College’s marketing and communication goals.

For further information contact Murray Chapman (02 9744 3200) <murray.chapman@adventist.org.au>.

Ⅱ. Teacher—Macquarie College (Wallacia, NSW) is seeking a dynamic, innovative, and well-qualified teacher for a primary position. The position is for a full-time role from January 2006. Applications in writing should be forwarded to L. A. Allard, Principal, Macquarie College, Wallacia, NSW 2285.

For church-related employment opportunities visit the employment section on the SPD website: www.adventist.org.au.

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<jas@adventist.org.au>
Brisbane Adventist High School class reunion 1976–80. Forty classmates graduated out of high school in 1976 and 12 completed Year 12 in 1980. During those 5 years, students were part of our class generation. We would like to say ‘hi’ to all of you. Please mark the date: October 1 and 2, 2005. Ladies and gents, contact: Debra Clarke (nee Bailey) 0416 290 863 or <badclarke@bigpond.com> and gentlemen contact: David Boyle 0411 862 863 or <david.boyle@fphcare.com.au>.

Jowett (02) 9487 9129; or email <lena@sah.org.au>.

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New Zealand      0800 442 458
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Freecall phone numbers

Adventist Support Line

Notice is hereby given that the 23rd session of the Northern Australian Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will convene at the Riverina Convention Centre, Lavington Street, Albury, on the first day of October 2005. The first business of the conference will be the reading of the call to order and the election of officers, executive committee and departmental directors. The business of the session will be as provided for in the constitution, with registration of delegates from 8.30 am. Delegates will be appointed in harmony with the constitution of the conference. It is anticipated that the business will include motions and reports, 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.

If you see a familiar face,不认识 him or her, ask: "Do you remember me?"—Harry Emerson Fosdick

Finally

The world is moving so fast these days that the person who says it can’t be done is generally interrupted by someone doing it.—Harry Emerson Fosdick

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