“Let’s talk” coming to Australia

“Let’s talk” coming to Australia

The Atoifi Adventist Hospital has recently been connecting with others in a variety of ways, with new programs and new equipment making it possible for them to communicate more with those at the hospital and the world outside the Solomon Islands.

In connecting with the people who come to the hospital for treatment, the chaplain’s office designed a program called “Helping a friend to meet my friend Jesus,” which has provided the nursing staff and students with an opportunity to share picture posters of Jesus with patients and their families.

The posters also have the message, “Jesus is coming soon. Are you prepared to meet Him?” on them, along with Bible texts.

The statements are in the local language, Kwaio.

“It’s reported that the patients and visiting friends are really appreciating it,” says Johnie Tango, hospital chaplain. “Students believe it is a good way of sharing Jesus with the patients and visitors. We are not only here to serve people, but also to lead them to be saved.”

This program led to a seminar that ran from July 31 to August 14, where students brought along interested patients to find out more about Jesus.

The hospital and the surrounding area has also recently been connected to the outside world via phone, fax, Internet and (Continued on page 5)
Finding God

Neither of the Christian voices... had mentioned Jesus.

Peter, “Do you love me?” (John 21:15-17).

The claim and sacrifice of Jesus resist and subvert the sludgy, generic spirituality that seems so inoffensively popular. But while He upsets the conclusions of those who merely wish to ignore Him, He must also challenge our spirituality. It is too easy for us to diminish Jesus and His central role in our relation to God.

Jesus is not the happy ending that might get tacked on as an optional extra to our already pleasant and comfortable lives. He is not an answer to be kept in an easily accessible location for the inevitable times of disappointment, loneliness and doubt. Jesus is not a remedy to be applied twice daily to the people different from us, to solve their “problems.” He is not just another cliché among the “nice” ideas available at your local gift store.

Ultimately, the quest for God finds its end in the person, life, teachings, death and resurrection of a poor Palestinian preacher in the first century: “Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. And in human form he obeyed, even on death, his Father’s will, by yielding his life to the death of shame,” (Philippians 2:6-8).

That must be a continuing challenge to our understanding of God and spirituality.

*Wide quotations are from the New Living Translation.

Nathan Brown
School holidays see successful launch of Bible school starter kits

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

An increasing number of churches are investing time and money into running holiday Bible school programs for children as they become easier to organise, thanks to the help of starter kits.

“The kit was an excellent resource that explained very clearly what we had to do to organise a program. Using a kit is so much easier than having to plan one from scratch,” says Areli Cockburn from Wetherill Park Spanish Seventh-day Adventist church, who used the Lava Lava Island kit to organise a holiday Bible school program of the same name for children in the community.

“The program was very successful,” says Mrs Cockburn. “The parents of the participants have indicated that they will bring their children back if we organised another holiday Bible school program next year.”

Fifteen of the 60 children who participated in the Lava Lava Island program were not Seventh-day Adventists.

Papatoetoe Seventh-day Adventist church in New Zealand, which also ran the program, attracted 150 children. At the Brighton Seventh-day Adventist church in Adelaide, 13 children asked for Bibles after attending the program.

“People are making commitments to Jesus as a result of these holiday Bible school programs. They are great evangelism tools,” says Julie Weslake, director of children’s ministries for the South Pacific Division.

“We are attracting children who are not Christians and making connections with the wider community through them. Even STORM Co teams are starting to use the kits to run their Kids Club programs.”

Running a holiday Bible school program will require a huge commitment on the part of the church, according to Mrs Weslake. “The program will only be effective if the whole church gets involved and make sure they continue with follow-up programs.”

The starter kits are produced by the Review and Herald Publishing Association and distributed through Adventist Book Centres. New kits are produced every year and include materials needed to run a one- or two-week holiday program.

“These kits provide churches with an inexpensive and easy-to-use resource that we know can lead children to Christ and provide them with lots of fun. Churches are free to adapt the materials from the kits to suit their needs,” says Mrs Weslake. “I really encourage churches who have not organised a holiday Bible school program to try using the kits.” —Melody Tan

Children doing craft work at the holiday Bible school program run by the Wetherill Park church.

Some of the 60 children who participated in the program at the Wetherill Park church.
Principal meet in PNG to discuss future

LAE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Principals from most of the Seventh-day Adventist-run schools throughout Papua New Guinea (PNG) gathered for the first-ever principals conference in Lae, which ran from July 31 to August 6.

The 45 principals from the church’s colleges, high schools and primary schools gathered to discuss the changes that will occur once they join the PNG unified school system and their teachers are paid by the government.

The church has already engaged in dialogue with the government education department and hopes teachers will be on the government payroll at the beginning of 2006.

“We are also trying to modify our system from the old one to a new one that is appropriate and suitable for the 21st century that we are now in,” says Steve Piez, education director for the Papua New Guinea Union Mission. “One of the main aims of the new system is to maintain the church’s unique education identity, though we are joining the unified education system.”

Mr Piez said the conference also served as a forum to discuss how to integrate faith and learning in the new system. Facilitators for the conference came from the South Pacific Division. Both facilitators, Dr David McClintock and Ken Weslake, have served in PNG previously in the church’s education system and are familiar with the challenges that most of the principals face.

The three-day conference covered a wide range of issues, and all the participants received a handout containing guidelines for Adventist principals.

Although some principals from more remote schools were unable to attend, those who could attended used the conference as a time for open discussion, where they aired the challenges they face and were able to learn from others’ experiences.

“We plan to have this conference as an annual event and hold it at a convenient time for all our principals to attend,” said Mr Piez. — Martina Darius

ADRA helps Tweed region following flooding

CHINDERAH, NEW SOUTH WALES

Practising for a mock disaster, to help the Tweed Disaster Recovery Committee to be prepared, had to be put on hold when a real natural disaster occurred. Following torrential rains that began on June 29, many towns in the area were flooded, and the Disaster Recovery Committee, on which Pastor Adrian Raethel is an Adventist Development and Relief (ADRA) representative, swung into action.

Pastor Raethel, the minister of the Kingscliff Adventist Community church, organised church members and others to help provide emergency accommodation for residents in the area following the floods, with other relief and aid groups from various churches helping to provide food, care and comfort for those affected.

Although there were some challenging moments for the members of the committee and the volunteers who assisted them, the response to the flooding was well co-ordinated and prepared.

The area was declared a natural disaster zone by former New South Wales Premier Bob Carr.

In the past months, three members have become nonagenarians from various churches helping to provide food, care and comfort for those affected.

One should celebrate Karalundi’s 50th anniversary.

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Sanitarium’s “Food for life” program visits Cook Islands

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

The Sanitarium Health Food Company sent a team to the Cook Islands in May as a part of their relief program, “Operation Food for life.” This program aims to provide healthy food for people and teach them better eating habits. With the help of more than 400 volunteers from different Cook Island community groups and Christian denominations, the team of Sanitarium volunteers helped provide free breakfasts at preschools and schools, as well as to prison inmates, hospital patients and house-bound individuals. The Deputy Prime Minister and all the members of parliament, along with members of the religious council of the main island of Rarotonga were also served breakfast during the program.

Community events were also held as a part of the program, including a “Walk for health” walkathon and free health checks on three islands. This year’s program received good local media coverage and gained attention from the Cook Islands government, and the Sanitarium staff who participated enjoyed the experience.

SanCo News

Hospital connecting with people

(Continued from page 1)

email, all of which were connected by Solomon Telkom as a part of the Solomon Islands government’s initiative to connect more of the country to telecommunication services.

“This is one of a few mini-projects that Telkom are working on installing around remote areas in the country, and we are so fortunate that ours is the first one,” says Lenisiloti Tukai, assistant business manager at the hospital.

This project was started last year, but it was delayed for unknown reasons. However, it recommenced earlier this year. The hospital, together with other hospitals in various parts of the country, has received a new computer and internet connection.

Lenisiloti Tukai, assistant business manager at the hospital, says, “This is a great source of information, and our students are so fortunate to have this facility.”

“We believe this new technology will improve communications and the quality education at the school of nursing.”

Recently, the hospital received a large donation of an ambulance, hospital equipment, and new furniture for the people in New Zealand (RECORD, July 30). The containers with the equipment and other items arrived mid-July, and the hospital staff are grateful for them.

“We would like to give a special thanks to David Nunn and the people of New Zealand for this heartfelt donation,” says Mr Tukai.

—Adele Nash

make the best of one’s situation, for there is always someone worse off”—Clive Adams (left), “The Lord has blessed me and brought me through this far”; and Owen Clifton Hammond (centre), “The Lord has been good to me”—Dawn Jerrard

◆ A member of the Eight Mile Plains Pathfinder Club, Qld, received a nomination to be the Suncorp Young Queenslander of the Year from being Australia’s highest fundraiser out of more than 60,000 children in the 2004 MS Readathon. Already topping the fundraiser list in Queensland from 2001 to 2003, Year 8 student Trent Lawson raised $A8,706.85 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society in 2004 by reading 60 books in six weeks—making the total he has raised so far $A24,000. Trent went door-to-door knocking some 200 businesses as well as asked family and friends to sponsor him. Multi-award winning children’s author Paul Jennings visited his school, John Paul College, to officially congratulate him.—David Lawson

◆ The MOSAIC church plant in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, advertises each week in several local newspapers seeking for people with special requests for prayer or spiritual support. Team member Dragana Krnetic says, “We gather every morning to pray for the needs of the people of the city. I cannot tell you how powerful and wonderful it is!”—Peter Roennfeldt

◆ A new web site has been designed to specifically link the worldwide community of Adventist nurses. Produced with a grant from the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Nurses, the site gives information on nursing practice, patient and staff education, Christian job opportunities, career tips, Adventist nursing history, stories, humour, mission opportunities, forum and more.

More @ www.advenstinnursingconnection.org
Church embarks on “Journey of hope”

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, USA

H ope is not an intellectual exercise for me, or an academic topic; it is the essence of life for me,” Seventh-day Adventist theologian Dr Angel Manuel Rodriguez told Adventist News Network, describing the new theme for the 2005 to 2010 quinquennium, “Journey of hope.”

T he theme, which also will be reflected in the 2006 Annual Council and Week of Prayer readings, is one of five for the new five-year period. “Words of Hope” will be the theme for 2007; “Signs of Hope” for 2008; “Mission of Hope” in 2009; and, finally, “People of Hope” for 2010. Each is related to a Bible passage and each focuses on the Christian’s lifelong journey toward an eternal future.

Next News live from SPD session

**WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES**

*The next Adventist News will be a special edition produced live from the South Pacific Division’s five-yearly business meeting, or session.*

“**You’ll get to see the church at work,**” says producer Brenton Stacey. “**We won’t be covering the news per se; the church’s web site and the *Recon* will do that, although we won’t be ignoring it either. Expect to see footage from the strategic focus reports, a face-to-face interview with our church leaders, and to spend a day in the life of a delegate.”*

*Adventist News* is a 30-minute television news-style program covering church news from a mission perspective. Session delegates Linzi Aitken and Mr Stacey will host the program from the Carlton Crest Hotel in Melbourne, providing a seamless link between what are usually self-contained stories. “**The format will be a little different this time, but it will give you a better feel for the atmosphere at session,**” says Mr Stacey. 

**The church’s** Hope Channel will broadcast the special edition of *Adventist News* less than a week after the session ends, on September 9 at 7:30 pm (A Australian Eastern Standard Time). A DVD of the program will be available from the same date. 

*Adventist News* subscribers will receive the program with Mission Spotlight on either DVD or videotape soon after. —*Recon* staff

*More @ <adventist.org.au/spdseesion>.*

Call +61 2 9847 3290 or email communication@adventist.org.au to order the special edition of *Adventist News."

“Let’s talk” coming to Australia in September

**SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES**

*The Seventh-day Adventist young people worldwide who wonder if the church is really listening to them, General Conference (GC) president Pastor Jan Paulsen, says, “Yes.” Pastor Paulsen will continue a series of conversations with young people from around the world for the past two years on September 5 in Sydney, Australia. The program, called “**Let’s talk . . . South Pacific**,” will air live, unscripted and unedited exchanges where a member from church young people are expected to speak with Paulsen about issues that matter to them.

There will be two episodes to be filmed at Adventist Media. One includes students from Avondale College, and the second program will feature a question-and-answer time with an assortment of young people from across the South Pacific.

Both programs will be distributed on DVD and also aired on the Hope Channel. “**I may not have all the answers, but at least we can talk,**” Pastor Paulsen says of the broadcasts.

The broadcasts were started to encourage and set an example for other leaders in the church to listen to young people and get involved in the church. "**This program creates a forum for young people to establish dialogue with church leaders and to raising topics they are passionate about. I would urge anyone with an interest in shaping the future of their church to get involved,” says Behren Schulz, producer of “Let’s talk” in this region.**

Mr Schulz also produced the most recent broadcast of “**Let’s talk**” held at the GC session in St Louis, Missouri, where Pastor Paulsen spoke with young delegates at the meetings on July 7.

“You who are between 15 and 30—a student or young professional— I want you to come in and to partner with the rest of us,” says Pastor Paulsen. “I want to make room for you, for you have energies and ideas that no-one can quite match. If you don’t find the church interesting, you can make it interesting.”

Pastor Paulsen has held these broadcasts in the United States and Germany, and will visit with young people in South America and Africa during next year.

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A long with the broadcasts, Pastor Paulsen’s office has set up a “**Let’s talk**” web site.

Young people can email their questions directly to the Office of the President and receive answers from church leaders. "**We need to do better at talking with our young people. They need to feel that we are sincere about wanting to hear them. We have not done terribly well in giving young people a sense of ownership and involvement in the church,” says Pastor Paulsen.**

*Recon* staff/ANN

*More @ <www.letstalk.adventist.org>.

Adventist Media is keen to hear from young people interested in having a voice on “Let’s talk.” Expressions of interest can be addressed to Behren Schulz, email: <letstalk@ampm.org.au> or phone: +61 2 9847 2222.
Religious liberty in an age of fear

BY KENT KINGSTON

I STARTED WRITING IN RANT MODE:

How can our church remain silent in the face of the blatant disregard for religious liberty and human rights we see all around us? For example, the case of Chinese diplomat Chen Yongling, who recently applied to Australia for political asylum, citing his government's sustained persecution of the meditation movement, Falun Gong. Or how about claims about US intelligence personnel whose "interrogation" techniques at Guantanamo Bay included deliberately insulting the religious sensibilities of Muslim detainees?

What have we heard from church administrators on these issues? Nothing.

Surely "religious liberty" is more than Adventist jargon for official church support of members having "Sabbath difficulties" with their employer or educational institution. Shouldn't our advocacy for religious liberty extend beyond this to the life-and-death situations faced by believers of other faiths around the world?

Well actually, it does.

Pastor Ray Coombe, the South Pacific Division's director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL), kindly returned my email about these issues and pointed to public statements by the church opposing both the Iraq war and terrorism, letter-writing campaigns about religious rights in Turkmenistan and the Adventist leadership of inter-faith organisations such as the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA). Hmmm . . . Funny how inconvenient information can hobble a high horse.

The preferred method for achieving religious liberty is "quiet diplomacy," says Dr Jonathan Gallagher, who regularly represents the world church at the UN Commission on Human Rights.* This has apparently been quite successful, with good relations preserved between the church and potentially antagonistic governments.

At this stage, I was prepared to negotiate my tone down from rant to superior disdain, still disatisfied with the church's unwillingness to make public statements about more current or controversial issues. Suggested column title, subtly barbed: "Shhh . . . Quiet diplomacy at work."

But in regards to Falun Gong, Pastor Coombe noted, "The church has defended their cause [via the UN and IRLA] in a muted way, simply because our members within China itself are afraid of being identified with the Falun Gong by the Chinese government, which would result in the shutting down of our activities there."

I was suddenly reminded that it is easy to wax idealistic on these issues from the comfort of Australia. Is it really for me to recommend that the Adventist Church openly oppose the Chinese Government's religious policies when I am not the one reaping the consequences in terms of persecution? I guess not. These decisions must be left to believers who are themselves at risk.

Individually we can speak out on their behalf, but as a corporate church, we have to be careful," says Pastor Coombe. That is good news for foot soldiers like us who can speak as individuals.

So I will. And you should too. Phone talkback radio when there's a discussion about what is happening somewhere else. Write letters to your newspaper. Challenge the political unwillingsness to mention human rights where trade is at risk. Question the ubiquitous doctrine of "national interest" when the planet's poor are clearly disadvantaged by it. Join A ministry International. Participate in letter-writing campaigns. Sign petitions. Check out web sites and magazines detailing the persecution that Christians face in other parts of the world.

So enough hand-wringing about the activities of our top brass on religious liberty issues. Don't wait for "the church" to make a public statement on an issue of concern. We are the church. You are the church.


Kent Kingston writes from Kuranda, Queensland.

Adventists in Japan remember atomic bomb

BY VICTOR HULBERT

SIXTY YEARS AFTER THE ATOMIC bombing of Hiroshima, two members of the Hiroshima Adventist church have recalled their experience as survivors.

Mrs Kino, now in her late 80s, lived about four kilometres from the epicentre of the blast and missed the main effects of the detonation. Trained in first aid, she spent her time helping those whose bodies were scorched by the heat of the blast.

Today she lives in a retirement home specially for bomb survivors where she retells her traumatic tale to school-aged children. Yet she does not tell it in a sense of bitterness. She工程施工 and how she and her community were protected. She also speaks of the help that she and her family were able to give to others.

"I knew God's promise in the Bible that 'although many fall, I will save,'" Mrs Kino says, "Indeed, I think, I can feel the promise of that fulfilled for myself. I think many things happen in the world, but I think the most important thing is, just forget about fighting. If we become close to each other, hand-in-hand and believe in peace, I think that will bring a bright future."

Mrs Sako was 17 years old at the time. She was only 1.5 kilometres from the epicentre. She says it was a miracle she survived. The military first aid posts refused to treat her, telling her father that they had to leave the blast and missed the main effects of the detonation. Trained in first aid, she spent her time helping those whose bodies were scorched by the heat of the blast.

"Since then," she says, "I really dislike war. I hate war. I really don't want my children to experience what I experienced. I really try to do my best to prevent the thing that happened [happening again]."
“If My people . . .”

BY JAN PAULSEN

This is a condensation of the sermon given by Dr. Jan Paulsen on the final day of the 58th Session of the General Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, USA.

My text is 2 Chronicles 7:11-16, and the setting is the dedication of Solomon’s Temple.

David, the man after God’s own heart, the patriarch of the royalty of Israel, had wanted to build the temple for the worship of God as an act of dedication and expression of his love for the God of Israel. But God said “No, not you. Because you are a man of war and much blood has been shed.” And David understood.

God is present among His people also when He says: “This is not the role for you; not now. I have someone else in mind.” It is not a sign of rejection by God. It is just that God has other plans. God loved David, and He honoured David for the fact that it was in his heart to build the temple, but when God told him that Solomon, his son, was the one who would do it, David did all in his power to rally the people of Israel to support this plan. He teaches me that the cause is always bigger than the individual.

Before David died he offered one of the most moving prayers recorded in the Bible. (We find it in 1 Chronicles 29:14-19.) In it he says to God: “I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity” (verse 17). His humility and devotion is so eloquently expressed when he says to God, no doubt thinking of the temple he had wanted to build, “Who am I to think that there is anything I could bring to you. Everything I have is already yours” (verse 14, paraphrased).

Some of you have said the same to the Lord about your worship and service, and I honour you for it. As an act of worship and devotion you have given much and generously, and you have gone back to find more to give, for that is what love compels you to do.

And so, under King Solomon, a temple of unmatched beauty was built to God. The Temple was finished and the moment for its dedication had come. As the people gathered, Solomon offered a special prayer to God to mark the opening of the dedication event itself. The prayer (in 2 Chronicles 6) is remarkable for the things Solomon said to God—among them the following (as his words played with my thoughts):

You who are too big for the whole universe to contain, will You really come and dwell in this house (verse 18)? Will You be that close to us? We are flawed. What about Your reputation?

When Your people pray in this house, will You hear and forgive (verse 21)? We pray and ask for forgiveness, and then, alas, we go back to our old ways—is it true that You forgive not just seven times, but 70 times seven? When a man wrongs his neighbour, will You side with the innocent one (verse 23) and defend him, for it is so difficult for the one who is innocent to defend himself? When the people are defeated by an enemy, deservedly because they have sinned against You, and they are taken away to a foreign land, and they confess their sins, repent, turn toward this house and pray, will You forgive them and bring them back to the land of their fathers (verse 25)?

As Solomon looks to the future, he knows the frailty of his people, and in this prayer he wants to cover all his bases with God, even to the point of acknowledging the equal right of “strangers” to be heard by God. It is important to understand that God is not owned by anyone. God is a God for all people, and his saving love goes out to all. And His houses of worship are houses of prayer for all people. Mission is about opening doors—and keeping them open.

Then God spoke

The night following the dedication service, God appeared to Solomon in response to his prayer earlier in the day. And it's what He said to Solomon that I invite you to think about next:

The first thing that strikes us is the sovereignty of God. God shows that He is the One who sets the parameters and lays down the rules. But also that He is the one who lovingly reaches out to claim His people and give them assurance of how they can walk into the future with Him.

The image of a father and his wayward child only hints at the strength of God’s involvement with Israel then, and also with His people today.

“If my people, who are called by my name . . .”

Here is a people whom God calls His own. This is the God who loves every human being, and yet, He says: “There is a people who are Mine in a special way.”

Israel of old—the seed of Abraham—were a people who are Mine in a special way. This is the God who loves every human being, and, yet, He says: “There is a people who might one day qualify to be listed as “my people,” but who are “my people” now! What does He see as He looks upon this people?”

If God looks at us today, what does He see? He sees flaws and lukewarmness. And yet, “united and inseparable” though the church is, it is the “one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard” (The Acts of the Apostles, page 12).

Why? Because they are “my people,” says the Lord. And therein lies a wealth of love . . .
and commitment, let us not be reckless or callous in our treatment of the church. God is watching, and He cares. Israel of old failed God primarily because of unbelief. This is the message, sadly, that’s expressed with almost every generation. Their unbelief was seen mainly through their apathy—choosing other gods and other values, and, therefore, with the passing of time, God, the spurned lover, turned elsewhere.

A lie in this we see God’s sovereignty displayed. Neither God nor the people’s status can be taken for granted. He says: “Do not ever question my right to do what I must do.” The clay cannot talk back to the potter; the thing cannot talk back to the craftsman who made it. “If my people will not.” God says, “I will go elsewhere.” And He did, thus opening the door for the Gentiles to come in. That door remains wide open today, giving meaning to our global mission mandate.

A new community

God’s true followers were always a “remnant.” Not biologically of Abraham, but grafted, as it were, into the heritage of Abraham and the promises that God made to him. This would be a community built on faith in Christ. And to this people of God, He makes this commitment: “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9-11). Such an attitude reveals reverence before God, and dependence on Him.

Humility carries with it a softness that cancels arrogance and an abrasive “I-know-it-all.” Humility has no need to boast. It acknowledges frailty and shortcomings. It has an open mind, for it is willing to learn and receive. Humility is a quality that every leader who serves in God’s cause needs and must seek. Said Jesus: “Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart” (Matthew 11:29).

Prayer and humility go together. Wrote the Lord’s servant: “Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power” (Ellen White, Prayer, page 12): “Our prayers should be full of tenderness and love” (ibid, page 26): “I Those who have a humble, trusting, contrite heart, God accepts, and hears their prayers” (ibid, page 33). “When temptations and trials rush in upon us, let us go to God and agonize with Him in prayer. He will not turn us away empty, but will give us grace and strength to overcome, and to break the power of the enemy” (Early Writings, page 46).

God is in effect saying to Solomon and to His people—as He is saying to you and me today: “When difficult times come, as they surely will, remember to talk to Me. When enemies from without or within assail you—and the ones from within are often the most difficult to deal with—do not think that you can take care of this yourself; come, talk to Me! Let us reason together. Partner with Me,” says our Lord. For, He says through His servant, “It is not the capabilities you now possess or ever will have that will give you success. It is that which the Lord can do for you” (Christ’s Object Lessons, page 146).

The presence of the Lord, in response to prayer, does not mean the challenges are fully resolved in one go. Some changes take time, even with the Lord and the Spirit fully present. So, don’t dismay if matters facing you are not fully resolved quickly. “And turn from their wicked ways.” This is reformation. It signals change. The message from God to us as human beings is simply this: Society has gone wrong; humanity has gone terribly wrong; you have gone wrong. Just look at the world in which you live. Look at the indiscriminate violence we bring to innocent people, whether working in the twin towers in...
New York City or travelling on a commuter train in the city of Madrid. Remember Rwanda? Or Bosnia? Or Yugoslavia? Just look at the violence and the immorality that a misguided entertainment industry brings into our homes. We let it in seemingly without reservations and have forgotten that it does not belong in my home and it has no rightful claim to a place before our children.

Then look at the greed of perverted leaders of industry whose plenty hungers for more. Look at nations and multinational corporations who manipulate and exploit the poor, making them even poorer. And look at how we treat each other—at the walls we erect between one another; the doors we shut instead of walking through to become an integrated family.

This world is not a good place and we don't really want to spend a lot more time here. The whole creation, including my own heart and soul, longs and cries, with moans and groans, for the day of liberation, for the day when He who said “Behold, I make all things new” will fulfill that promise.

But while we are here we have to make choices and decisions every day. You cannot run away from them. I want the Adventist family to be known as a compassionate people.

"I will hear . . . I will forgive . . . and I will heal." Here we come to the wonderful heart of the gospel: God says to the people of old and to us: “You cannot walk into the future alone. Stay with me; talk to me; learn of me; make choices instructed by me; and when you do, ‘I will hear . . . I will forgive . . . and I will heal’” (verse 14).

By this the circle is complete. We are His people, individually and collectively. We're called by His name, and have begun our journey with Him. But we've drifted and, for one reason or another, lost our way in the wilderness. Then, remembering the voice of Him who said “If with all your heart you truly seek Me, you shall ever surely find Me,” we've found Him again and have discovered that He had already found us. We came again close to Him, and we stayed to talk with Him; and we heard the sweetest of all words: "I will forgive . . . I will heal.”

Go away from this session with that assurance ringing in your ears, for God is with His people. What I hear God saying to us is: “If with all your heart you truly seek Me, you shall ever surely find Me.” We echo the words of Jeremiah: “You are among us, O Lord, and we bear your name; do not forsake us!” (Jeremiah 14:9).

Praise be to God for His everlasting faithfulness to His people! *Unless otherwise indicated, all Bible quotations are from the New International Version.

Jan Paulsen is president of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Reprinted, with permission, from Adventist Review.
letters

Train up a child

JOHN HAMMOND, VIC

A devout educators are passionate about our distinctive truths. While Gail Webster (Letters, July 16) got it right when she “read with surprise the appeal to Adventist education for a stronger Adventist focus,” the comments by Peter Beamish and Malcolm Coulson (“Appeal for Adventist school Adventist focus,” News, June 11) were directed in a positive and professional sense as a challenge to a group of Adventist teachers who have devoted their lives to bringing the good news of salvation to young people.

As national director of Adventist Schools Australia, I invite church members to contact any of our principals and arrange to spend a day in an Adventist school, learning this for themselves. The focus of who we are and what we believe is a core function of Adventist education. We are proud to be daily proclaiming the gospel and the doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

To TV or not TV?

ALEX STIRLING, NZ

The inference of the editorial “Reality or TV?” (July 16) is that satellite television [Hope Channel and 3ABN] is overemphasised. This is far from the truth. For retired people and those in more remote areas, it keeps us in touch, such as during the recent General Conference session. Every week someone in our church remarks upon something significant they’ve heard on it. Monitoring the six channels, I also hear feedback from others receiving it. So instead of denigrating this Bible information presented by the best evangelists in the world, we should be encouraging people to install it. Watching TV doesn’t necessarily stop you from studying the Bible for yourself or worshipping God with others in church. Rather, it enhances this knowledge of God.

HENK ELSHOF, NSW

When I suggested to RECORD the possibility of including weekly Hope Channel and 3ABN programming, I was thanked for the suggestion. Then I read the editorial “Reality or TV?” which does nothing to promote them. These TV channels are spreading the gospel worldwide, winning souls for the kingdom. I will continue to ask God’s blessings on satellite TV outreach.

DOREEN ALLAN, QLD

Hope Channel and 3ABN are precious to my life, and I choose to watch secular TV. I read my Bible daily and find that being able to watch experienced ministers preaching the Word is a wonderful help. I firmly believe that satellite TV is God’s instrument for spreading truth to millions. Many godly miracles are happening through this medium, and when people are brought to truth through His servants on TV, they’re up to them to continue to read and study the Word. Conversion is the work of the Holy Spirit, and whether the impetus is live or remote is immaterial.

I will continue to ask God’s blessings on satellite TV outreach.

JO GOWANS, VIC

I resonated with “On hold” (Editorial, July 23) because I have had the same question on my mind. How many young representatives had I seen in photos of the General Conference delegates, or the South Pacific Division executive? With the younger generations, we need to remember that they place importance on hearing, on making changes to inspire their peers and in being significant in their faith. Local churches will reap the benefits, if this is where they get their outlet, but how much more could we do if we would allow them on our boards and committees and embrace their ideas. I pray we don’t forget our generation and become so out of touch as an institution that we are irrelevant and inward thinking.

G R STARK, QLD

Congratulation on the incisive editorial “On hold” (July 23), confronting the problem of the lack of young people in church leadership and in particular at the recent General Conference session. I believe the reason for the lack of youth is that the older church hierarchy are determined to maintain control and resist new concepts that might disturb the status quo.

Include the young

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**Anniversaries**

The Summit Adventist church, Qld, celebrated two special wedding anniversaries on 2.7.05. Frances and Marion Botham celebrated their 60th anniversary, while Ronald and Laci Fyfe celebrated 60 years together, with friends and family gathered to celebrate the anniversary with a special lunch at the Summit church.

**Obituaries**

Johnston, Eric L, and Lorna were married 60 years ago on 3.6.45 in the Warburton church by the late Pastor E. Johnson, Sr, father of E. Eric. A family celebration was held on Sabbath, June 4, at the home of one of their two daughters, Donna Scott, along with their other two daughters, Domnna Satterlee and Christine Galland. Also present were five of their seven grandchildren: Darrin’s husband, Barry, and his father, Peter. Messages of love were received from family and friends, along with congratulations from government, dignitaries, as well as from HRH Queen Elizabeth II. Eric and Lorna have served the Lord for many years in various capacities. They have loved his wife and family dearly. We look forward to being reunited with him on the resurrection morning.

Michael Worker

Budy, Dudley Ivy Made, born 25.2.1925 near Gatton, Qld, died 3.6.05 in Brisbane, Qld. She is survived by her husband, Michael Budy, their six children, Ross and Sharene, Mark and Julie, and Cameron and his three grandchildren (all of Brisbane). Dudley has left a life of faith while moving from northern Qld to southern Qld, where she loved his wife and family dearly. We look forward to being reunited with him on the resurrection morning.

Crahan, Hume

Gaines, Godfrey Eric, born 26.8.1923 in Hobart, Tas, died 7.5.05 in Bellerive. The family and friends of Brian and June Hamilton (Fulton College, Fiji) were married on 27.6.05 at the Morisset Capital Chapel, Earth Bairdbridge.

Dwyer—McGrath, Bruce Martin Donald, born 27.11.1943 in Wollongong, NSW, and Fay Depper (Monteiro, Vic), and Maryanne Darlene McCardle (nee Bailey), were married on 31.7.05 in the Lilydale Adventist church, Lilydale, Vic.

Warner—Brown, Bruce Watters, son of Warren and Margaret Watters (8/20 Mallard, Ntl, and L. E., and L. E., and N. L., of Brown (Black Hill), were married on 24.6.05 at Toowoomba, via Gatton, Qld; died 3.5.05 in Oakville, via Gatton, Qld, and his three grandchildren (all of Brisbane). He is survived by his wife, Barbara; his children, Sharon, Mark and Kim, Julie and Cameron; and one great-great-granddaughter; and his three great-grandchildren. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Brown.

Bryce Watters, son of Garth Watters (Ratana, NZ) and Louise Ann Hobson, were married on 2.7.05. Dolly has lived a life of faith while moving from northern Qld to southern Qld, where she loved his wife and family dearly. We look forward to being reunited with him on the resurrection morning.

Bob Craig

Brown, Vic—Christian Charles, born 4.1.1925 in Woodbine, via Gatton, Qld; died 11.5.05 in Brisbane, Qld. He is survived by his wife, Katherine (nee Band), his children and their spouses, Ross and Sharene; Mark and Julie, and Cameron and his three grandchildren (all of Brisbane). Vic had a quiet and gentle faith in Jesus, who loved his wife and family dearly. We look forward to being reunited with him on the resurrection morning.

James Betteridge

Raewynne McGrath, daughter of Neil and Darlene McGrath, were married on 31.7.05 in the Lilydale Adventist church, Lilydale, Vic.

Darlene McGrath, daughter of Neil and Darlene McGrath, were married on 31.7.05 in the Lilydale Adventist church, Lilydale, Vic.

**Positions vacant**

**Administration and Teaching Positions—Seventh-day Adventist School (South Queensland)**

Expressions of interest are invited for the following employment opportunities in our system of dynamic and growing K-12 Adventist schools in South Queensland.

**Principal—Brisbane Adventist College**

An experienced administrator seeking to lead this established P-12 school is required. Applications are invited for the position of Principal—Brisbane Adventist College, PO Box 103, Brisbane, Qld 4009.

**Applications**

Applications should be forwarded to Mr Tony Kent, Director of Education, Seventh-day Adventist Schools, BOC, 409 Napier St, Toowong, Qld 4066.

**Brisbane/Financial Officer (Melbourne, Vic)**

Applications are invited for the position of Financial Officer (Melbourne, Vic). Applications are invited for the position of Financial Officer (Melbourne, Vic). Applications are invited for the position of Financial Officer (Melbourne, Vic).

**Applications**

Applications should be forwarded to Mrs Anna Maitland, General Secretary, 4 Cambridge Street, Epping, NSW 2121; phone (02) 9868 6522; or email <bob-dickens@adventist.org.au>.

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noticeboard

Coom, Noel Geoffrey, born 4.12.1921 in Brisbane, Qld; died 31.10.05 in the Northbridge Retirement Village, Victoria Point. On 31.3.1944 he married Evelyn Louise, who predeceased him in 1990. He is survived by his wife, Eileen, and his children, Richard, Peter and Murray. He was a dear and valued member of the Coom family and a faithful member of the Clearview Adventist church.

Hutchins, George Leslie (Alec), born 9.1.1915 at Southport, Qld; died 22.6.05 at Brisbane. In 1944 he married Mildred Elizabeth (nee O’Donoghue), who predeceased him in 1994. He is survived by his five children, six grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Longburn Adventist College

Longburn Adventist College in 1948. He was a dedicated and devoted teacher and served as a hospital orderly in Palmerston North in 1941.

Morton, Leo Alfred (Ted), born 28.3.1944 in Adelaide, SA; died 27.6.05 in Epping. He predeceased his wife, Iris, on 27.6.05. He is survived by his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Traineeships and apprenticeships


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If you were a member of the fly ‘n’ build team that constructed the school at Ramaga in 1966/67, would you please contact John Morris, 187 Quarter Sessions Road, Westleigh NSW 2120; or 0412 527 381.


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