During the months of September 2005 to January 2006, numerous youth departments around Australia ran camps for their young people. In March the youth directors met together for two days of review and planning in Melbourne.

A total of 1461 juniors, teens and youth attended the numerous camps that met around Australia and New Zealand, with 541 of the attendees declaring their desire to follow Jesus. In all, 451 made the decision to be baptised.

Of those attending, about half were Adventists and half were non-Adventist. This presented unique challenges and powerful opportunities for the youth directors. North New South Wales youth director Pastor Jeff Parker said, “The non-Adventist kids who came last year booked in early for this year and invited their non-Adventist friends. Some of our youth—who characteristically leave things to the last minute—were having trouble getting one of the available spots!”

Some of the kids have few positive role models. One problem teen was really struggling at the West Australian camp. Assistant youth director Pastor Terry Lambert

(Continued on page 7)
With political-speak, media spin, denial and ignorance, we gloss over the stark reality.

A used bullet

It’s a small, rusty piece of metal. But it gives me a chill when I look at it. While visiting Cambodia recently, my wife picked up this used bullet—not the casing, the actual pointed projectile—amid the gravel on a road through an area that was known as a “blood field,” a place of mass killing and mass burial.

It’s a sobering thing to hold in one’s hand and contemplate its probable history. Given its location and the gruesome modern history of Cambodia, it may well have been the means by which someone was killed.

This tiny piece of metal tearing through his or her body with horrific speed and shattering impact probably destroyed the life of a unique person, someone who had a family, who had hopes, dreams and fears, and who was loved immeasurably by God. All this was ripped away—extinguished—with the crack of a gun and the sickening thud of this bullet: another nameless victim among the millions in the evil and tragic madness of our world.

Still more disturbing is the realisation that this act of brutal and evil destruction is at the heart of the many wars, conflicts and assorted violence taking place in the world at this moment. This lethal fragment of metal and the many, more diabolical, military “technologies” are the means by which the grand causes of the day are “advanced.”

This is the currency—we are told—with which our freedom and prosperity is bought. Contemplating the cold reality of this artefact of a forgotten and horrifying death, we must ask ourselves whether the soul-destroying and life-crushing price is worth the too often self-centred “result.”

Add a single used Cambodian bullet, and the arguments for “just war” seem even more hollow.

At our various days of war remembrance, we ostensibly honour those who have died for their respective countries and this is valid—if that is what we are really doing. But these days are marked most enthusiastically by those in the “victorious” nations. (This should not be read as dishonouring those who have served our countries in this way. They fought for country, home, family and freedom at great personal cost. We must respect that. But as a church we must also reaffirm our status as noncombatants and conscientious objectors and learn from the mistakes of our history.)

The commemorations would be more awkward if we would label them as days honouring those who have killed for their country. That is what we have asked and continue to ask the young people of our various nations to do.

And with political-speak, media spin, denial and ignorance, we gloss over the stark reality of one group of people using high-powered pieces of metal to tear to shreds another group of people—and vice versa. War is death.

Albert Camus summed it up well—“There are causes worth dying for, but none worth killing for”—but he was borrowing heavily from a teacher named Jesus. Jesus said—and showed—there are causes worth dying for. He told His disciples that “the greatest love is shown when people lay down their lives for their friends” (John 15:13*).

But Jesus was not interested in His disciples killing to protect Him from arrest and death (see Matthew 26:51-54). In Jesus’ teaching, not only did He affirm the commandment against killing, He said we should not be angry or hold a grudge (see Matthew 5:21-26) and that we should love our enemies (see Matthew 5:43-48), meaning that we should take active steps to seek their good. This world-changing command is echoed by Paul’s instruction that we should “conquer evil by doing good” (Romans 12:21).

If we are to take Jesus seriously, we need to recognise the power of goodness, the strength of weakness and the force of humility. It seems, ironically, that if we had more people prepared to die for goodness, we would have less need for killing in the name of the various causes we employ to justify the war industry.

Holding that cold Cambodian bullet brings a fresh understanding as to why “those who work for peace . . . will be called the children of God” (Matthew 5:9).

*Bible quotations are from the New Living Translation.
Record enrolment at Mamarapha

KARRAGULLEN, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Mamarapha College, the Bible college run by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries, is enjoying record enrolments this year, with the largest number of students ever coming from the Northern Territory and South Australia. From those regions, 20 people have enrolled, only two of whom are Adventists.

Students range in age from 18 to 70, and come from varied educational backgrounds—some have completed the minimum requirement of Year 8 high school; others have university degrees.

Pastor Gordon Stafford, the college director, says, “Mamarapha College is struggling to fit all the students into the classrooms this year. Twenty-seven students enrolled in the first-year group, and we have had to add extra desks in the classroom.

“Since then another four have enrolled, which will make it both a record and a squeeze. Sixteen students have enrolled for the second and third years, almost filling the second classroom. The seven fourth-year students had to crowd around a table in the library for the first block of study, when all students were in at the same time.

“For the rest of the year, the first-year group will come in separate study blocks to the second- to fourth-year groups, so that the two college teaching staff can handle the load.”

College courses focus on training Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in practical indigenous ministry and enhancing personal spiritual growth.

In addition to the college teaching staff, guest lecturers are often a part of the teaching program. “We are grateful to the Western Australian Conference for their support in encouraging local ministers to give some time as guest lecturers,” says Pastor Stafford.

In exchange for the help of the guest lecturers, college students lead worship services in churches in Perth during the year, as well as helping with visiting and Bible studies in some of the nearby suburbs. Mamarapha also plans to help with an indigenous church-planting project in the state this year.—Adele Nash

The offering collected in Australia this week is for Mamarapha College.

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BIBLE MYTHBUSTERS

◆ Bible Mythbusters is being held monthly at Waitara church, NSW, as a fun and informative program for young people to learn about biblical truths. “Based on the TV program Mythbusters Bible Mythbusters will be looking at issues from a biblical perspective rather than a scientific perspective,” says Daniel Przybylko, assistant pastor at Waitara. “The aim of the program is to expose biblical truths or myths in a fun way. It is also an opportunity where young people can socialise, bring non-Adventist friends or invite people from the local community.”—Intrasyd

◆ The Toowoomba Central church, Qld, together with the Brisbane Korean church hosted the Hanyang KUM Dance Company’s sole Australian performance in Toowoomba’s historic Empire Theatre before an attendance of 990. The 19 dancers, together with seven teachers and Professor Kim Un-mi, the artistic director and the creator of one of the intangible treasures of Korea, were given the honour of a civic reception hosted by the Mayor of Toowoomba, Councillor Dianne Thorley. A community access grant from Toowoomba Council acknowledged the work of the local church in community-support programs.—Focus

◆ Wetherill Park Spanish Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs, NSW, helped out in Clean Up Australia Day on March 5 collecting 35 bags full of rubbish. The local McDonald’s restaurant, associated with the event, gave the Wetherill Park Adventurers and Pathfinders a Certificate of Appreciation and vouchers for a free McDonald’s meal. The Dora Creek church, NSW, has participated in the Clean Up Australia campaign for a number of years and this year a combined effort of church members and local community volunteers collected 50 bags of rubbish while cleaning every street in Dora Creek.—Intrasyd/Northpoint

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THE HOME OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION @ ADVENTIST.ORG.AU
“Circle of courage” journey continues

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA, USA

The “Circle of courage” model for building resilience in young people continues to be a major focus of the South Pacific Division’s (SPD) health ministries, almost a year on from the bike ride across Australia led by departmental director Jonathan Duffy.

“I see the ‘Circle of courage’ as a model to challenge the church with how we represent Christ’s character in being caring, compassionate, nurturing, forgiving and accepting,” says Mr Duffy. “The same things that protect young people from risk behaviour also keeps them in the church and helps churches grow. This is about getting back to basics, representing Christ.”

Continuing his work on this project, Mr Duffy met with the native American originators of the “Circle of courage” model in the Black Hills of South Dakota in March. “I gained a greater appreciation for the depth and richness of their culture,” he reports. “Somehow in today’s modern age we have lost some of the most basic and richest things in life, such as relationships and care for other people.”

Mr Duffy sees the work other researchers are doing complemented by the “Circle of courage” model. “The main theme of resilience is getting adults to connect with young people and become significant in their lives,” he explains. “The ‘Circle of courage’ explains why this simple intervention works. It outlines how a young person’s sense of identity, achievement, being in control over their lives and sense of purpose for their lives are learned from being around caring and nurturing adults. It is a simple and effective model and its links with an indigenous population make it more transferable.”

And he says the native Americans themselves have responded enthusiastically to the stories of the bike ride and other initiatives using the “Circle of courage” model in the SPD. “There is a certain sense of pride that their model is being used and is relevant to the broader population,” he says. “I have found them to be very community conscious and happy to help in any way they can.”

According to Mr Duffy, the recent trip will contribute to the continued work in relation to developing resilience in young people. The interviews were filmed and will contribute to documentary and book projects planned for early next year as part of a larger health department strategy.

“I am currently working with Dr Gary Hopkins and Dr Kiti Freier of Loma Linda University on developing a resource for how churches can reach out to their communities and become leaders in promoting this message and becoming advocates for young people,” says Mr Duffy. “I have never had a message that has been so readily accepted by all levels of community. We have the opportunity to strongly brand the Adventist Church as one that is a good citizen as it reflects God’s character of being loving, caring, nurturing and accepting as a means for people to truly discover the meaning for their existence.”

“We are planning a bike ride through New Zealand next February and March and we hope through television, radio and the print media to impact every home in New Zealand.” —Nathan Brown

◆ Though two-thirds of Carmel Adventist College, WA, students do not have an Adventist background, almost 50 students are currently participating in college-organised Bible studies after a week of spiritual focus. Richie Reid (pictured), assistant youth director for the South Queensland Conference, travelled to Perth to lead out during Carmel’s special week.

◆ In the past 12 months Border Christian College, NSW, has planned and constructed the first of their new high school buildings and commenced senior schooling to Year 12. With the addition of a pre-kindergarten class in the past three years and the growth of the primary school in the past 12 months, the construction of the three-classroom science block has allowed much-needed classrooms in the primary school to be reclaimed. It has also made available a larger classroom for the school’s computing program, so additional computers have now been purchased and put to use. A government grant to build Stage II of the high school buildings has also been received. —Fiona Thomas

◆ A time capsule was placed with the installation of the foundation stone for the new media centre in Europe. The time capsule, placed by Voice of Hope director Pastor Matthias Müller in a March 22 cer-
Schools resiliency program finds continuing success

WAHRONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Mountain View Adventist College has become the second school in Australia to work with a resiliency program to help young people cope with change, stress, anxiety and hardship. The program was piloted at the Kellyville State High School in Sydney (see Rscon, March 4).

Mountain View Adventist College is the first Adventist school to run the program, and one of five schools that will be running the program this year. Introduced at the start of the 2006 school year, the new subject for students from Years 7-12 is called “Resilience Development.” Lessons are based on service-skill development and are also adapted from the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)—Australia’s youth resiliency program, “Getting Connected.”

“We want to help kids develop not just academically, but also in a holistic manner,” says Sharyn Harrington, chaplain of the school and primary developer of the subject. “Teenagers need to be able to cope with life’s challenges and I feel the program will help them become contributing people to society and be healthy people when they finish school.”

The subject is taught once a week and students alternate between the service-skill development and the “Getting Connected” components of the subject every half-term. The service-skill development component will see students “develop skills to use in service to others in society” and cover areas like drama, photography, office work and hospitality.

With the “Getting Connected” component, “students develop resilience skills in a participatory manner, using activities, small groups and peer-to-peer learning. It fosters peer support in the college and develops connectedness, unity and teamwork within each class,” according to Mrs Harrington.

Mrs Harrington says there are also plans to enable students from the senior classes to facilitate the program in the younger classes to develop leadership skills. Students are also expected to take part in various projects within the school and local community as part of their skills development.

The current program involves about 180 students and is envisaged to become part of the school program in future.

Students from Kellyville State High School are enjoying the program, and agree it has helped them feel more confident and comfortable at school. One Year 7 student explained, “It helps you to be more comfortable with yourself. Like if you were overweight or if you are getting bullied all the time. It teaches you that you can tell someone about it and not to be embarrassed. So it is actually really good in that way.”—Melody Tan/ADRA

Nominations are now open for the 2006 National Australia Bank (NAB) Volunteer Awards. Now in its ninth year, the awards are conducted in association with Volunteering Australia. Volunteer groups will share in $A364,000 in awards from NAB, with state and national winners chosen across seven categories. Sha Cordingley, CEO of Volunteering Australia, says volunteers play a critical role in the social, cultural and economic development of our community. “They are integral to the success of the work of more than 700,000 not-for-profit organisations around Australia,” she says. The volunteering movement in Australia continues to grow; in 1995 some 24 per cent of Australia’s adult population was involved in volunteering, by 2004 that had grown to more than 41 per cent. To nominate your community group, visit any NAB branch, call the NAB Volunteer Awards helpdesk on 1800 807 121 or visit <national.volunteeringaustralia.org/community>.

More @ www.volunteeringaustralia.org

STRETCH YOUR HEART AND ATTITUDE @ WWW.ADVENTISTVOLUNTEERS.ORG

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Socceroos get Weet-Bix boost for World Cup

BERKELEY VALE, NEW SOUTH WALES

Sanitarium has extended its support of Australia's national sporting teams through a new three-year suppliership deal with the Socceroos, making Weet-Bix the official breakfast of the team.

The three-year agreement announced on March 30 will see the Australian team through their match against Greece at the MCG on 25 May, the 2006 World Cup in Germany, Asian Cup qualifiers and a host of international matches between now and 2009.

Additionally, Socceroo midfielder Tim Cahill has been appointed as football's new "Weet-Bix kid." Mr Cahill and the Socceroos will feature heavily in advertisements and other promotions surrounding Weet-Bix and its support of football.

Chief Executive Officer of Football Federation Australia, Mr John O'Neill, said, "We are delighted to establish a relationship with one of Australia's great iconic products and health food companies.

"The Socceroos are a great Aussie team with significant national support and I look forward to watching the enormous patriotic fervour they will generate over the coming months."

Mr Cahill said that he was delighted with his new role. "Like most kids in Australia, I grew up on Weet-Bix. To be chosen as a Weet-Bix kid is something I never would have imagined. I am proud to tell my kids that I am one of the faces in the Weet-Bix advertisements."

Mr Cahill adds, "In regard to the World Cup, we're in full preparation mode right now, and it's just great to know we've got so much fantastic support back home not only from companies like Sanitarium but from Australians everywhere."

Sanitarium's marketing manager, Rex Sheehy, says partnership with the Socceroos is a natural progression for a brand that has already enjoyed successful relationships with many of Australia's national teams.

"Like Brett Lee and the Australian Cricket team, Tim Cahill and the Socceroos are down-to-earth, outstanding young sportsmen who bring to life a key characteristic of the Weet-Bix brand—that is, Be Your Best," Mr Sheehy said.—Jaemes Tipple

Andreasen to stay on at Andrews Uni

BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN, USA

Dr Niels-Erik Andreasen will remain as president of Andrews University, the school's board of trustees announced on March 30. In addition, the trustees created a position of provost, equivalent to a chief operating officer for a business, and a search for someone to fill that position will begin.

Dr Andreasen is reportedly pleased with the outcome and said in a statement issued by the university, "It's an honour to be able to continue to serve Andrews University at a time of transition and new directions. I'm pleased, in particular, to be part of a process that will help create a new Andrews for a new century—a process that will rely on the creativity, passion and strength of our teachers, staff, students and friends as we prepare to set forth toward a new and bold future."

The moves cap nearly a month of activity at Andrews, where Andreasen had initially offered his immediate resignation on March 6, which was accepted with regret by the board. He was then asked to continue through to June 30, and agreed. The latest move means that Andreasen will remain as president, a job he has held for 12 years.—ANN

◆ After more than a decade, Johan Huibers is building a working replica of Noah's ark in Schagen, 45 km north of Amsterdam. Johan's ark is calibrated to be able to pass narrowly under every bridge and through every sluice along his planned sailing route, through the interior waters of the Netherlands to the country's big cities. The ark is roughly 150 cubits (70 metres) long by 30 cubits (13.5 metres) high and 20 cubits (9.5 metres) wide. Johan's ark is constructed with American cedar and Norwegian pine—on top of a seaworthy steel hull. While spectacular, it holds only about a fifth as many cubic cubits as Noah's would have. Mr Huibers plans to stock his ark with a collection of farmyard animals such as horses, lambs, chickens and rabbits, plus an exhibition on more exotic creatures. He hopes to set sail in September—displaying the ark as a combination religious monument, museum, and petting zoo. "It will give kids something tangible to see that Noah's ark really existed," Mr Huibers says. "They'll hear the creak of the wood, smell the smell of the dung."—AP

◆ Saddleback church in Lake Forest, California, celebrated their 20,000th baptism in its 25-year history on March 19. “Ever since 1980 we’ve used all kinds of facilities,” says Pastor Rick Warren, minister of the church. “We’ve used lakes and rivers, ponds in the mountains, the ocean. And for a number of years when we didn’t have a building, we used Jacuzzis for Jesus—anywhere we could find water” Until 2004, Saddleback had averaged almost 1300 baptisms a year going back to 1996. The past two years, however, the congregation has averaged more than 2000 baptisms.—Crosswalk

◆ The Jerusalem Post, one of the most widely recognised and trusted brand names for news on Israel and the Middle East, has partnered with the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem to publish a new monthly newspaper targeting the growing evangelical Christian market. The Jerusalem Post Christian Edition will offer Israel’s many Christian friends a product dedicated to their unique interests.—Michael Ireland

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More scholarships for Avondale

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

Avondale College has presented scholarships and awards worth a minimum of $A212,000 to 68 students for this year.

The college recognised the winners during its weekly forum meeting on the Lake Macquarie campus on March 15. Both the number and value of scholarships has increased from last year, when the college awarded a minimum of $A175,000 to 41 students.

For the first time, the scholarships include Avondale Foundation Academic Excellence Scholarships valued at up to $A27,500 each for a four-year course. “We’re interested in scholarships because we’re interested in students,” says foundation president Dr Norman Young. “We have a long history of offering financial help, because we want to see good quality students coming to Avondale. After all, they’re our best assets.”

The merit-based President’s Awards and President’s Scholarships recognise students with excellent citizenship qualities and strong academic performance. Other awards recognise excellence in the fields of business, information technology and overseas volunteer service.

“The increasing number of academic excellence scholarships we presented reflects the increasing number of students of high academic ability who are choosing Avondale as their preferred place of study,” says academic registrar Paul de Ville. “But the really good news is they’re committed, and not just to study. These are well-rounded students, and I’m glad they’re at Avondale.”

Youth decide for Jesus at camps

(Continued from page 1)

spent five hours giving the boy jobs to do and then joining him in his tasks. The boy pulled himself together and was a great kid for the rest of the week, he says. Near the end of the week, when asked why he was different, the teen responded, “Because Pastor Terry cares about me.”

South Queensland associate youth director Richie Reed recounted his experience on “Altar Hill.” Each year kids carry a rock to the top of a steep hill and add it to a huge pile. When they “cast their burden” on the altar they are invited to testify. Mr Reed was amazed as he watched one teen struggle up the mountain with a heavy rock and finally discard it. He was even more overwhelmed as he listened to the young man share his story of how that week had taught him to give it all to Jesus.

Other youth directors around the room told of hours and hours of voluntary testimonies. Pastor Tony Knight, youth director for the Australian Union Conference, was at one event and followed the Holy Spirit’s leading—forgoing his prepared talk to allow the youth to share their faith.

One of the consistent themes that emerged with the youth directors was their desire for regular and structured follow-up to occur in the local church based on the commitments the young people made at camp. “The decisions made at camps are only the first step toward baptism,” says Pastor Gervais Cangy, youth director for the Western Australian Conference.

Pastor Lambert agreed, saying, “The preparation for baptism is the next step and that needs to be done by the local pastors.”

Adventist Aviation delivers delegates in PNG

KIKORI, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The president of South West Papua Mission Pastor Kepsie Elodo is full of praise for the Adventist Aviation Services (AAS) program in Papua New Guinea (PNG) following the recent local mission session, which saw a number of its delegates delivered by AAS.

“We are thankful that the Adventist Aviation plane came into operation just a few days before our session started,” says Pastor Elodo. “If it had not, three-quarters of our K12,000 budget for that session would have been consumed by transportation alone.”

The headquarters of South West Papua Mission in Kikori is accessible only by plane and by boat. The road network in this region of PNG is limited to the two provincial towns and logging establishments. Pastor Elodo said it is difficult to get in and out of Kikori, and sometimes people get stranded there for days.

“We had to reduce the number of delegates to only 40 because we knew that we had no funds to bring in more than that number on the normal commercial flight,” said Pastor Elodo. “The mission plane was operational just when we needed it. In fact, we didn’t know that the mission plane would be helping us during that session. It was a real blessing. We would have brought in more delegates had we known the mission plane would be available.”

He also said the 40 delegates were able to arrive on time for the session and were all able to leave as soon as the session was over.

“This all happened because the plane flew the delegates in and then flew them out as soon as the session was over. If we had moved our delegates in and out by using the normal commercial flights and dinghies, many would have been late for the session. Then they would have had to wait for many days before they could get a seat on the commercial flight or a boat to get back to their various villages.”

Education scholarship winners Alan Stephens and Sarah Forward.

Baptisms were a feature of youth camps.

Tupit Darius/Adele Nash

April 22, 2006
Planning for Melbourne outreach in 2007

BY DAVID EDGREN

From May 18 until July 7 in 2007, Pastor Mark Finley will be the speaker at an evangelistic series in Melbourne, Victoria. Pastor Finley, a vice-president of the General Conference, was in Melbourne recently to talk with ministers and plan for next year’s programs and evangelism training. He also took time to talk with Record.

What will you be speaking about during the evangelistic series next year?
The meetings will be a blend of the practical and the prophetic as we look at the issues facing society today. We believe, as churches become active arenas of God’s grace, that as members reach out and develop relationships with their friends and neighbours, they will be ready for the evangelistic proclamation. I will deal with biblical themes in the context of real Australian life.

Does public evangelism in large venues still draw crowds and results?
Today, society has moved on. It is difficult to recruit with handbills. We need to root all evangelism in solid relationships. Members discover their gifts. They are equipped and trained to serve in varying ministries, developing relationships. That ultimately comes to a more teaching approach in the evangelistic process. So it’s not that evangelism is impossible today. It’s that we need to change our strategy a little bit and really root it in relationships in our local congregation.

If relationships are the key to postmodern evangelism, is preaching still important? The Bible never says not to preach in secular society. The Bible says that by the foolishness of preaching, God wins people to Christ. I have great confidence that Jesus is going to do something special.

So, we need personal relationships and powerful preaching. Is there any other ingredient needed to bring people to Jesus?
I see the local church as the core of evangelism. As I look at the local church, the pastor is an equippers and trainer. They help members discover their gifts and establish ministries in the church. These ministries develop relationships. Members involved in them are vibrant in spiritual life and health. And then the evangelistic meeting becomes a reaping modality for these interests.

Australia is different from the United States. What unique challenges do you see in preaching to Australians?
The big challenge in Australia is meeting the postmodern mind. The only way I know to do that effectively is relationships. Our meetings will stand or fall depending on what happens in the local church—in small groups, Bible studies and others ministry—over the next nine months.

What three things can church members do in preparation for next year?
First, pray. Pray for Melbourne. Pray for seekers. Pray for those planning the meetings. Second, get involved in some ministry for Christ. Get involved in your local church. Finally, come to the meetings. Bring a friend. But be sure to come!

What can our local churches do to ensure we are ready?
The local church needs to become an arena of God’s grace, of loving acceptance, not a judgmental community. Spiritual babies sometimes mess up. If churches are highly critical, they will push these babies out into the street to die. For a church to welcome new members it must be a loving, accepting, non-judgmental community. And make it a priority in other ways. The more we are able to develop a solid financial base for the meetings, the more small groups we can establish, the more flyers we can mail to get people interested in Bible studies, the more Search ads we can put on television, the more advertising we can do.

How do I become that kind of person?
The way you personally can become that kind of person is only through Jesus Christ—it is only as I kneel before Jesus and say, “Help me to be a loving, kind, gentle individual.” Then get involved with people.

What core message will you be hoping to instil into the hearts of those who come to the meetings?
The Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, who came 2000 years ago, can come into your heart today and make your life new. And this Prince of Peace is coming again. Jesus said, “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me. . . . I will come again.” The single message is, Jesus—who came once—can come into your heart today and is coming again to solve the problems of this world.
A health check for your church

BY ALWYN SALOM

E very so often it is good for us to consult with a medical practitioner about our health. The results may be encouraging or they may be discouraging. But such a check keeps us in touch with our physical reality. In church life it is no less important to check regularly the health of the church—both local and corporate.

The most wide-embracing church-health assessment in this part of the world is the National Church Life Survey (NCLS). This assessment is held every five years in tandem with the Australian national census. Another series of both studies is planned for later this year.

The NCLS is second only to the Australian census in size and implications. Some 435,000 church attenders in Australia took part in the most recent NCLS (2001). They came from 19 denominations and from more than 7000 congregations.

For the 15 years that NCLS has been in existence, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has participated in each of the three surveys. The Adventist sample in 2001 consisted of 4354 church attenders from 97 congregations throughout Australia. This has produced a great deal of information for both local churches and the corporate church. The survey will be conducted nationwide this year and it is anticipated that the Adventist Church will participate again in NCLS 2006.

NCLS and the local church

How does the National Church Life Survey really help the local church? NCLS will make available to all participating local churches a full report of their spiritual health. The “Connections for Life” package contains a report of the church’s survey results; a research-based book explaining the survey findings in terms of qualities of vital church life; and a DVD with further resources and planning processes to help you use your report.

The nine vital qualities of church life assessed are: faith, worship, belonging, vision, leadership, innovation, service, faith-sharing and inclusion. The NCLS resource material assists local congregations put these core qualities into practice in the life of the church. In addition, consultants from the Institute of Church Ministry at Avondale College are available to assist churches in this process. All of this suggests that the participation of your church in NCLS 2006 is important. It is a great opportunity to have a church-health check-up.

NCLS 2006

The National Church Life Survey will be held in the second half of this year. And again all Adventist churches are urged to participate. The Adventist liaison with the NCLS is Dr Doug Robertson, director of the Institute of Church Ministry at Avondale College. The coordinator for the Australian Union Conference is Pastor Roger Govender and conference personal ministries directors are the local contact persons. They will be in contact with your church as plans are laid for NCLS 2006.

NCLS and the Adventist Church

Previous National Church Life Surveys have provided a wealth of input for the Adventist Church. The following examples are taken from the 81 pages of tables based on the Adventist responses to the last survey and give a helpful picture of the health of the church:

- Six out of 10 participants indicated that they spend time in private devotions every day and a further 20 per cent spend time at least several times a week. Undoubtedly, this contributes to the fact that they are able to report they have experienced “much growth” in faith over the previous year.
- Eight out of 10 indicate that they have a strong sense of belonging to their local church, but 20 per cent give a negative response. About the same percentages agree or disagree that their spiritual needs are being met in their local congregation.
- Concern for new attenders at church leads 80 per cent of members to seek out and welcome such people when they arrive at church and two-thirds follow up and talk to those who are drifting away from church involvement.
- However, many church members are less ready to discuss their faith with others. One-quarter do not like to talk about their faith or find it hard to express their faith in ordinary language.
- Only one-third take part regularly in outreach activities and only four out of 10 have invited someone to church in the previous year.
- It is encouraging that three-quarters of attenders at Adventist worship services experience a sense of God’s presence and growth in understanding of God, but 13 per cent said they experienced boredom or frustration. Eight out of 10 agree that the preaching is very helpful in everyday life.
- Preference regarding music in Adventist worship services experience a sense of God’s presence and growth in understanding of God, but 13 per cent said they experienced boredom or frustration. Eight out of 10 agree that the preaching is very helpful in everyday life.

Alwyn Salom is a research fellow of the Institute of Church Ministry at Avondale College, Cooranbong, New South Wales.
Thinking on a different church

REVIEW BY JULENE DUERKSEN-KAPAO

EXPERIENCED WRITER, SPEAKER, pastor and editor James Coffin shares opinions and passions on life in A Different Church for a Different World. One-time editor of Record, current pastor at Markham Woods Church in Longwood, Florida, USA, and director of the Global Mission Center for Secular/Postmodern Mission, Coffin’s insights are diverse and fascinating.

A Different Church for a Different World includes a range of articles that address “life’s responsibilities and life’s conundrums as well as ways to more effectively share our church’s spiritual message in our postmodern milieu.”

In “The SDA Difference,” Coffin shares his thoughts on a sign in a New Zealand BP service station reading, “Super New Formula With SDA.” The sign got him thinking about what difference SDA might make in the world. What is the difference? “For me, the SDA difference—Adventism’s ‘new formula’ that makes it exciting and essential—is the way it balances its emphasis on past, present and future,” says Coffin.

From BP stations to Genesis, Coffin shares an interesting insight on the story of Joseph. While many readers focus on Joseph and don’t slow down and read the subplots, it would be wise to do so. “I don’t believe it’s accidental that the narrative about Joseph breaks for an entire chapter (Genesis 38) just to tell us that, while life was hard for Joseph, it wasn’t all roses for Judah,” says Coffin.

We see the meeting of two brothers, forgiveness and reconciliation and the forgetting of the past. Joseph experiences loss, pain and hardship as does Judah. However Judah’s story takes a new direction as Jacob blesses each of his sons, declaring the Messiah in Judah’s lineage.

Refreshing and real, Coffin addresses how different our world is to the one that Jesus walked: “If God were to send a prophet to us today to describe heaven and the new earth, I think the description would not be so much different from what it was for the Jewish peasants to whom Isaiah sent his message of hope.”

Today, cultures clash when Christians face the world. Coffin states, “Influenced by the ‘me generation,’ today’s society looks for instant gratification. Jesus preached that we should sacrifice many desires of the present for greater long-term rewards. In today’s upwardly mobile, performance-based society, people expect to earn everything they get. Jesus says the salvation He offers can’t be earned but must be accepted only as a free gift.”

“Is It OK to Say I’m Better Than Osama Bin Laden?” raises a particularly important discussion on the righteousness of Christians. “Christians believe there’s only one universal category of human: sinners. That group is subdivided into two clusters: sinners who are saved and sinners who are lost,” Coffin says. “I also know that arguably the most revered Christian preacher and writer of all time had a modus operandi almost identical to Osama’s. . . . Had I lived back then, I would never have thought it possible that Saul of Tarsus would one day become Paul, Christ’s greatest proponent.”

Coffin allows the reader to get a bit angry, make decisions and respond to a variety of situations in “You’re the Judge.” Setting the stage for tricky decisions, Coffin outlines five examples of extreme behaviour that non-religious people would be disgusted with—leaving the reader analysing their own though process.

Addressing such questions as “What is the bottom line for salvation?” Coffin discusses the anomalies and texts that make a simple answer to the question impossible. Another fascinating article looks at the cry “The end is near” many Christians hear. “The problem is, with the passing of crisis after crisis that has been declared a sure indicator of Christ’s imminent return, the tendency is to become desensitised. Some give up their faith altogether.” Coffin raises issues worth considering.

Not one to mince words, A Different Church for a Different World will challenge every reader: “What our church needs are people who not only know the rules, but who understand the principles on which the rules are based, and who know how to decide when the morally responsible thing to do is to break the rules.”

On drunks (“Dad’s Finest Hour”), dress codes (“White Robes and Blue Jeans”), America’s Cup (“Winning and Losing”), hurricanes (“Acts of God?”), editing the Bible (“When Bad News Is Good News”) and more, Coffin raises real and complex issues that Christians today will most likely struggle with on a regular basis. Not always full of answers, Coffin leads the reader on a journey through Scripture, Ellen White, his own experiences and insights to truthful solutions.


Julene Duerksen-Kapao writes from Longburn, New Zealand, and is the regular book reviewer for The Edge.
I wish gardening were something that came naturally to me. “To have a green thumb” is a common description of those who do. But if there is an opposite colour to green, then my thumb colouring is proportional.

At times, the joys of gardening are tempered by the mere fact that weeding the designated garden beds is an essential ingredient to establish a vibrant, healthy and attractive presentation.

Don’t get me wrong. I am fully appreciative of gardening, the use of plant decorations and combinations that reflect beauty, serenity and purity.

On many occasions my children have found appropriate excuses not to help me in my time of need in the garden. I enjoy these times but I also enjoy the times when I work along, taking the opportunity to speak with the Lord about various aspects of my life, the world, and other matters on my mind.

Many a time I have seen the small weeds growing but failed to take the recommended action, waiting until the weeds are more predominant than the established shrubs and flowers. Over time, these weeds have established a stronger and deeper root system. Some weeds have the ability to interweave themselves within the shrubs and flowers so as to maximise their water absorption in the summer months and to frustrate my weeding patience.

I either weed around the shrub and leave the weeds in the middle or, due to my impatience, grab a handful of weeds plus portions of my shrubs and flowers. After such an outburst, I have to trim the shrubs and flowers to bring back some presentable form.

How wonderful it is when complicated questions are answered with such simple analogies, where people like me can fully understand answers that are given. I read in the Bible on many occasions when Jesus—the teacher—answered open-ended questions regarding faith, love and Christian principles with simple analogies without confusion.

I believe some of my questions pertaining to Christianity have been answered in my gardening.

I believe some of my questions pertaining to Christianity have been answered in my gardening. A well-manicured and maintained garden highlights purity and peacefulness. Incorporated with vibrant colours, textures and strong growth, we are given glimpses of prosperity, freedom, love, patience, and a living example of rejoicing in God’s love and kindness.

But the persistent invasion of weeds is a constant headache to the pristine beauty of our garden. And at times, this too can reflect our experience of faith. Unchristian attitudes and practices can invade the core of our Christian values and principles within the foundation of our lives and church. And the longer we fail to recognise and weed out these impurities, the stronger they embed themselves within our foundations. How uncanny that some of these impurities (weeds) align themselves closely to the pure truth to eventually degrade the full beauty and pureness of God’s Word. In our last-minute endeavour to rid ourselves of this unnatural growth, our patience runs out and we can be tempted to attack the weeds, inevitably breaking some of the plants.

In maintaining a God-centred approach to living we must realise the importance of remaining vigilant and recognise the infiltration of weeds. They may initially sprout as an innocent and singular intrusion to our healthy and vibrant garden (church and Christian principles), but if not recognised and acted upon, they will take over.

But, as in my experience, we never garden alone. It may not have been by chance that Mary mistook Jesus for the gardener soon after His resurrection (see John 20:15).

So, my fellow gardeners, when those green plants we have ignored seem to fill the garden beds with green foliage, remember that time will reveal their true ugliness. Keep vigilant and work with the Gardener to root out the weeds before they establish themselves in your beautiful garden.

Ross Tanimu writes from Woodcroft, South Australia.
The caterpillar

BY MARITZA MUNOZ

There once was a caterpillar,
Who had a sad life.
He just lived on a leaf
With his two kids and wife.
But don’t feel discouraged;
Don’t sit there and mope.
By the end of the story
The caterpillar has hope.
Well, the caterpillar had everything:
A great job all day;
His wife would housekeep;
And his children would play.

So why was he unhappy?
Why was he down?
He was missing one thing
To turn his life completely around.

The caterpillar didn’t get it
And with a frustrated shout,
Said, “Good grief!
“Why can’t I figure this out?”
Then it finally hit him:
He needed one thing that was good.
For the first time in his life
He finally understood.

The caterpillar needed Jesus
To fill his life with joy,
Not a phone, a computer,
An iPod or a toy.

So that very day
He gave life its new start.
The caterpillar prayed
Asking Jesus into his heart.

And at that very moment
His dream came true.
He burst into colours
Of lime green and blue.

The caterpillar had a new life;
He had left his old ways
And found much better things
To do with his days.

So if Jesus can make
A caterpillar’s dreams come true,
You can never imagine
What He can do for you.

Maritza Munoz is 13 years old and writes from Brisbane, Queensland.
Cre2tion=Sabbath

RON TAYLOR, QLD

In “Just a theory?” (Letters, April 1) the writer makes some good points, but neither in the letter nor in the article he responds to, “Fundamental Beliefs: Creation or Evolution” (Adventist World, February 11), is the full significance of evolution verses creation completely exposed.

Prophetic insight has revealed to the Adventist Church that the final test for earth’s inhabitants will involve the Sabbath, which is God’s memorial of Creation. If there is no Creation, then the Sabbath is meaningless and keeping any day—Saturday or Sunday—would be relegated to the level of folklore and mythology.

“Evolution” arising about the same time as the Adventist Church was called to proclaim the Sabbath truth, seems to have a much more sinister significance and belongs in the armory of the enemy of truth. We worship the God of creation, and anything which seeks to detract from His creation must be recognized as a significant part of the conflict between good and evil.

Retaining youth

TIMOTHY HUMPHRIES, QLD

As an university student, I am disheartened by the steps that are not being taken to alleviate the problems associated with our 70 per cent church drop-out rate within secular universities (see “Stemming the Adventist brain drain,” News, March 4). I support both the mission of Avondale College and the mission of secular universities as it relates to students’ choices in relation to what they choose for their education.

Though spiritual issues are key to taking part in our church, issues like career guidance, counseling and recruitment cannot be overlooked or underemphasized.

Our educators must look at all current church-based students and provide a national strategy underpinned by service expansion that can provide career counseling and recruitment matching for students looking for secular and church-based employment after they graduate.

To retain our students and graduates, our strategy must focus on a more intensive recruitment strategy that will seek, find and match employment opportunities for all church-based students, regardless of their major, course type or specific preference as it relates to church versus non-church employment. If job-matching is improved, church attendance will be improved, to the benefit of the students, the church and the God whom we all serve.

Education based on biblical principles and Spirit of Prophecy guidelines always speaks to “the times.”

Lost in translation

RAY MUDFORD, NSW

Over the past few years our leaders have emphasized that we are a “world” church, not one centralised in the United States, and that we must think globally rather than locally. While I agree, I feel that General Conference actions do not always model this attitude.

This is clearly demonstrated in our Sabbath school Bible-study guide. While many countries have the lessons in their own language, this cannot be said of the Australian pamphlet. Although it is edited in America, it is printed by our own Signs Publishing Company. Can we not have it locally edited to amend the Americanisms and spelling?

We teach our children how to spell at school using Australian English, but at church they experience “foreign” spellings and colloquialisms. I would like to see improvement in this area.

Keep the faith

JOHN MURRAY, VIC

In response to “Keeping the faith” (Feature, February 25), the writer’s reasoning appears a little “fuzzy” in equating the “not relevant” Amish with the critics of Avondale who advocate the good old days.

Could any critics really be advocating such outdated traditions?

Education based on biblical principles and Spirit of Prophecy guidelines always speaks to “the times.” They are always relevant.

The reason for the drift of various church colleges and universities away from their founding faith (as noted in the article) and a “parallel drift away in interest and support for higher education on the part of churches” is analysed by the writer and several other American educationalists. A simple answer and understanding for this might be found in accepting that many Christian denominations have become “Babylon” and we as Adventists could still be in a Laodicean condition. Are we accepting the “proving” of God?

Regarding the “head and the heart” and the perception and appreciation of truth, in referring to Jesus’ comments in John 7:16, 17, Ellen White explains that it “depends less upon the mind than upon the heart.” Truth received into the soul, claiming the will’s homage, will “keep the faith.”

Satellite prayers

TRUUS DE VRIES, TAS

I would like to urge everyone to install the Adventist satellite channels in their home. They are such an amazing blessing. Don’t say, “I can’t afford it” like I did. I prayed earnestly about it and the Lord impressed me to sell my treadmill and my desk, so I could afford it.

I have a list of 12 people that I pray may be able to have satellite ministry in their homes. I was on that list as were two others who now have it installed! My youngest son and family were on the list and, since having the satellite installed, tell me it has changed their life completely. They attend Sabbath school and church now. Their daughter’s attitude has changed and even her boyfriend shows an interest!

I know it will change your life, too.

Note: Views in Letters do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Letters should be less than 250 words, and writers must include their name, address and phone number. All letters are edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author’s original meaning will not be changed. Not all letters received are published. See masthead (page 2) for contact details.
## Anniversaries

Dundar, Charles and Lillian celebrated 60 years of marriage in a gathering of family members at their home in Ellalong, NSW. The couple tied the knot on 23.3.46 at the Ann Street Church of Christ, Brisbane, Qld. They have resided in Brisbane and Mount Isa, and since 1988 in Ellalong where they have belonged to the Cessnock Adventist church community. Their daughters, Janet and Beryl, their husbands, Terry Salmon and Andrew Ross; and grandchildren, Stephen, John, Katherine and Timothy, wish them God’s blessing for their future happiness. Messages of congratulation were received from HRF Quin and the Governor-General and Prime Minister, along with other dignitaries, family and friends.

Mitchell, Don and Jody (nee Ticker) were married on 21.3.56 at the Hurstville (NSW) Adventist church. Their 50th anniversary was celebrated with an afternoon tea, with relatives and friends at the Glen Alps community hall, Sydney, NSW. They have three children, Mark, Christine and Karen; and eight grandchildren.

## Obituaries

### Afu, Mele Maia
Born 22.12.1923 at Fakakahai, Ha’apai, Tonga; died 15.3.06 in Auckland Hospital, NZ. She is survived by her husband, Pastor Petuelli Afu; her daughter and son-in-law, Milika and Allan (all of Auckland); her son and daughter-in-law, Rosa Ville and Amelia (Vaini, Tonga); her seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Mele was a supportive wife, deeply committed to the Lord’s work in the Tonga Mission for 44 years. She will be missed by all who loved and knew her.

### Albo, Armas Adolf
Born 6.2.1928 at Tampere, Finland; died 21.3.06 at home in Brisbane, Qld. On 29.9.51 he married Lyyli. He is survived by his wife (Brisbane); his daughters and their spouses, Irma and Christian Jakes, and Katriina and Clydylee Kyle; his daughter and her fiancé, Anne Alhojarvi and Paul Heiser. Armas came to Australia from Finland in 1959; times were hard but he provided well for his family. He was a good husband and father and will be greatly missed by the grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

### Bergman, Albert Joseph
Born 31.8.1913 at Finch Hatton, near Mackay, Qld; died 20.5.06 in Brisbane. He is survived by his wife, Hermina; his sons, David and Herbert; his daughter, Elizabeth; and stepson, Don. Albert will be remembered as a humble and dedicated Christian, and a loving husband and father. He died with a sure hope in the resurrection.

### Corby, James (Jim)
Born 31.12.1922 at Mansfield, Nottingham, England; died 9.30.06 in Royal Perth Hospital, WA. In 1946 he married Kathleen Gardiner. He is survived by his wife, His children, his grandchildren, his great grandchildren, his great great grandchildren, and his great great great grandchildren. He loved all equally until his death. He always expressed how great his God had been to her for bringing her to the truth.

### Dethick, Alice Elizabeth
Born 11.1.1915 at Armidale, NSW; died 13.3.06 at Ipswich, Qld. In 1935 she married George, who predeceased her. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Zona and John Woodward (Harristown); and her daughter, Shirley Sing (Laidley). Alice was a woman of true pioneer spirit and a farmer at heart. She dearly loved her God and her church. Her unassuming ways and gentle nature, her words and deeds, of encouragement for those who needed a hand will truly be missed.

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### Fifield, Douglas Raymond
Born 8.1.1918 at Timaru, NZ; died 11.3.06 at Greenlakes, Qld. On 28.5.41 he married Elsie Bland. He was predeceased by his son, Jonathan, in 1989. He is survived by his wife (Victoria Point); his daughters, Dr Elizabeth Ostring and Susan Pate (both of Christchurch, NZ). Doug was a great builder of institutions, churches, homes, and gardens; and most of all, he built a beautiful marriage, family and character. He is greatly missed.

### Freyling, Jean Zana (nee Teufon)
Born 27.8.1925 at Toowoomba, Qld; died 3.3.06 at Buderim. On 23.3.48 she married Jack, who predeceased her and is buried alongside her. She is survived by her children and their spouses, Ron and Keran, Valerie and Gary Hope, David and Hard; Mark and Wendy, and Glen and Jody; her sisters, Thelma Davy and Ruth Thompson; her 11 grandchildren; and two great grandchildren. Jean served in her church as treasurer and head deaconess. She also gave many hours of service to the ADRA shop at Lansborough, for which she was posthumously awarded a certificate. She always expressed how great her God had been to her for bringing her to the truth.

### Johanson, Katelyn Rose
Born 5.7.2001 in Cleveland, Qld; died 20.2.06 in Brisbane. Katie is survived by her parents, Chad and Verna; her sister, Maddison, Aunty Renee; Uncle Chuck; her grandparents, Betty Jones and Nerida Johanson. Katelyn was a beautiful and precious little girl, who in the short time she was with us, touched the lives of so many just by living her for the absolute fullest. Now is a time for sadness and tears, but when this time is past those who loved her will honour her memory with love, laughter, happiness and joy, for these are the things she gave every day of her little life.

### Positons vacant

**Director of Care Services—Adventist Residential Care (Rossmoyne, WA)** is seeking a Director of Care Services for its 80-bed aged-care facility located in Perth. The position description and selection criteria may be obtained by emailing Jolynne on jfelix@adventist.org.au; or phoning (08) 9354 4133 during office hours.

**Student Recruiter/Advisor—Avondale College (Cooranbong, NSW)** is seeking a Student Recruiter/Advisor for a three-year period with the possibility of renewal by mutual agreement. The successful applicant will have the ability to relate well to young people; a passion for Avondale and Christian education; a tertiary education qualification, driver’s licence; and experience in sales; marketing, sales or another customer service role. For full position description visit www.avondale.edu.au/staff/vacancies. Applications addressing the selection criteria (including a CV and the names and contact details of at least three referees) should be forwarded to Sonya Muir, Avondale College, PO Box 19, Cooranbong NSW 2325; sonya.muir@avondale.edu.au; no later than Wednesday, May 10, 2006. Phone (02) 4980 2284.

For church-related employment opportunities visit the Employment section on the SFD website www.adventist.org.au.
Robinson, Christine, born 6.6.1954 at Newcastle, NSW; died 13.3.06 in Sydney Adventist Hospital, after a long illness. She is survived by her husband, Frank (Waitara); and her daughters, Carly and Shanna. Christine grew up in Canberra, ACT, and worked for a number of years at the Sydney Adventist Hospital as a pathology technician in the 1970s.

Iola Tooth

Scott, Thyra Janet, born 26.4.1923 at Wahroonga, NSW; died 14.3.06 at the Adventist Retirement Village, Caloundra, Qld. On 17.9.53 she married Philip. She was predeceased by her son, Paul, in 1964. She is survived by her husband (Caloundra); and her children, Joy England and Stephen. Janet was a kind and gentle person, and a faithful follower of the Lord. Sadly missed by all her family and friends.

David Edgar

Walsh, Cameron Ryan, born 24.3.1991 in Melbourne, Vic; died 15.3.06 at home in Murwillumbah, NSW, after a five-year battle with leukaemia. He is survived by his parents, Greg and Patsy; and his sister, Emily. Cameron loved his family and friends, his church and his school, and was a real sportsman. His strength of faith and character during his battle with illness was an inspiration to his family, classmates and friends. He died in full confidence of his salvation and awaits that great reunion day when Jesus comes. He will be sadly missed by all who loved him.

Brett Townsend

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Final Events DVDs and other Amazing Facts products are now available from their Australian distributor, The Story Factory. Contact Darren or Robyn Peckall on (08) 9747 6777, or info@thestoryfactory.com.au.

For private sale—2-year-old brick home, 10 minutes to Gold Coast beach. 3-bedroom, ensuite, on manage-secure estate. Resort facilities $1395,000, currently tenanted $4800 per week. Phone (03) 5448 4538.

Goorangong, NSW—“Ellenborough” Park, a superb new private residential estate set among 45 acres of security-gated parkland. With its huge blocks, it’s the perfect place to build your new dream home. For further info phone Johnson and Britten Real Estate on (02) 4973 6888.

Data projector, screen, DVDs VCRs, PA systems etc. SDAs committed to lower prices for SDA churches, schools etc. Ask for Trish at Rural Electronics (02) 6361 3636; or <ruralele@bigpond.net.au>.

Receive the Hope Channel and 3ABN NOW! Complete satellite kit for just $259 + freight. Full instructions for DIY installation or installers available. Rural Electronics (02) 6361 3636; or <ruralele@bigpond.net.au>.

October 21, 2006

To express interest in receiving the information circular due out in May, please email Susanna Webber <bettysretreat@xtra.co.nz>.

50th Anniversary Whangarei SDA Church

In 1956 many hands were busy preparing the new church in Whangarei for its dedication and its first wedding. If you remember the Norfolk Street days, the move, or have been part of the church program since, please plan to join us Labour weekend.

50th Anniversary Whangarei SDA Church—May 12-14, 2006.

80th anniversary celebration—Ayr SDA church—May 12-14, 2006. All past members, ministers and friends are invited to a memorable weekend of celebration. A special program of worship and social events has been planned. Inquiries contact Dulcie Todd (07) 4783 1303; or Lauren Briston (07) 4783 2838.

Adventist Retirement Villages, Sydney, NSW. Accommodation for those 55+ years. Hornsby—fully self-contained 1 BR units, walking distance to Hornsby station in a tranquil area. Wahroonga—luxuriously-appointed 2 or 1 BR fully self-contained units in a superb bush setting with 24-hour call facilities. Phone (02) 9487 0600; or <www.adventistretirementvillages.org.au>.

Christian Satellite—receive 9 Christian channels 24/7. Equipment and full installation from $4900. DIY kits from $265 + cables and shipping. For more information or to order today visit our website <www.christiansatellite.com.au>; or phone (03) 9704 2266.

Finally

When you praise a child, focus on an accomplishment rather than on the small person. Thus you encourage good works instead of mere egotism.