Adventist Media launches Who Is Jesus

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Adventist Media has launched a new video series, Who Is Jesus, a six-episode series exploring different aspects of the life and teachings of Jesus. "We are confident this is a resource that will assist church members in sharing Jesus," says Pastor Bob Bolst, general manager of Adventist Media.

"The vision was to produce a simple, focused expression of Jesus from the pages of the Bible that would help viewers appreciate Jesus more," he explains. "Free from clichés and dogma, the script is based on the words of Matthew’s gospel."

To do this, the Who Is Jesus series interweaves contemporary, documentary-style presentation with footage from the International Bible Society’s Matthew dramatisation of the life of Jesus.

Bruce Marchiano, who played the role of Jesus in the Matthew series, was excited about the Who Is Jesus project and accepted the invitation to be the presenter for this series. "In playing the character of Jesus, Bruce became convicted that Jesus was real and alive and as a result became a born-again believer," Pastor Bolst explains. "He accepted Jesus as his personal Saviour and has been sharing his personal testimony around the world. (Continued on page 3)
Avondale breaks records—again

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

Enrolment at Avondale continues to break records with 1209 students—the most ever—studying at the college this semester.

The number is almost 150 up on the previous record set in second semester last year. Some 130 more students (1037 in total) are studying on the Lake Macquarie and Hunter Valley campuses and 19 (172 in total) on the Sydney campus as compared to the same time last year.

“There was substantial growth in 2005 and that pattern has been sustained,” says academic registrar Paul de Ville.

First-year nursing students now have the opportunity to begin their study on the Sydney campus, a positive initiative with almost half (30 of the 66) taking up the option.

The Diploma of General Studies (up 63 per cent) and the bachelor’s degrees in primary education (36 per cent), arts and teaching (36 per cent) and nursing (18 per cent) have seen the largest increases in students.

“The most effective marketing tool is a product that satisfies,” says Mr de Ville. “Students at Avondale are satisfied with their experiences here and word gets around.”

Avondale is a place of first preference for most of its applicants, says Mr de Ville, noting the larger proportion of new students who are academic high achievers.

Enrolment looks set to continue growing with 43 per cent of students in bachelor-level undergraduate degrees on the Lake Macquarie campus commencing their first year of study. Avondale’s growth trend is counter to the national trend with enrolment at universities across Australia, particularly in regional areas, on the decline.—Brenton Stacey

Adventist Media launches Who Is Jesus

(Continued from page 1)

According to Andrew Hunt, the producer of the series, Mr Marchiano’s willingness to be involved is just one example of God’s guidance in the production process. “During the filming of the series, we saw God leading many times,” he says.

“A few weeks before filming started, I called the longest serving pastor in our church, and we sat down and discussed the script. He gave me invaluable input, and we were able to achieve a deeper level of understanding of Jesus.”

A few months later, Pastor Bolst was called to the hospital and his wife passed away just days after he arrived. “I was in shock and didn’t believe what I was reading,” he says. “But then I thought, ‘Hey, where was the angel that was so talented? Where was the pastor who was so full of life?’

“I knew that it was an angel, and I thought, ‘He is going to be the one that tells me what I need to know next.’”

“I called Pastor Bolst and told him, ‘You need to come back to us and let us help you.’”

According to Pastor Bolst, the package of DVDs—which also includes a study guide—is ideal for members to use in evangelism or for personal or small-group study to help people know Jesus better.

“It has been some time in the making, but it is now available from Adventist Book Centres,” he reports. —Nathan Brown/Adventist Media
news

PNG church trains health professionals

GOROKA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Adventist health services in Papua New Guinea recently hosted a one-week in-service training for its nursing officers in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province.

The training aimed to upgrade the skills of nursing officers and inform them of the latest changes in the medical field that will help them treat new diseases and respond to patient complaints. Topics covered during the one-week session included detecting abnormalities in mother and child health, major respiratory infections and pneumonia in children, managing head injuries, difficult open wounds and snakebites.

“We want our nursing officers who graduated several years ago to be as competent as those who were trained recently and with the same knowledge of any new medical changes in terms of patient treatment and preventive measures,” says Adventist health program manager James Gahare.

“This training will serve as a refresher course for our nursing officers, most of whom are serving in remote parts of the country and may not be fully aware of changes and new developments in the medical field.”

MacPherson. “The dialogue highlighted the beliefs we share with Islam, such as the return of Jesus as Messiah, as well as the differences, including the Muslim belief that Jesus did not die on the cross and that He is not the Son of God,” says Dr Ostring.

As communication secretary of the Gympie church, Qld, from 1960 to 1980, Ruth Ricketts (pictured, right, with elder Glenice Bosse) was sent copies of local news items from the South Queensland Conference for placing in her local newspaper. Over the years, she accumulated many columns of news about members and activities that appeared in the paper. Mrs Ricketts decided to compile a scrapbook of all the clippings two years ago, and as she nears her 82nd birthday has just recently finished the project, and presented the finished book of memories to the church.

The youth shed leadership team at the Western Australian Conference camp-meeting over the Easter weekend organised a public dialogue with Muslim university students from the University of Western Australia. Contacts with the Muslim university students were made by Dr Sven Ostring, who also hosted the dialogue with Pastor Anthony MacPherson.

SNSW camp honours long-time attendee

GOULBURN, NEW SOUTH WALES

The South New South Wales (SNSW) Conference camp-meeting, held from April 14 to 22 at Goulburn, honoured one of its members who has attended every camp for the past 56 years. Daphne Doble of Oberon came to the first SNSW camp-meeting in 1950, held on the Young Showground. Mrs Doble's three daughters attended camps with her as children and were there to celebrate her milestone this year.

Recognition of Mrs Doble's involvement with the camp coincided with an announcement regarding the future of the Goulburn camp site, with possible changes planned. The main reasons given for this are a proposed housing development surrounding the camp site and the need for upgrades and improvement to facilities.

Daphne Doble with Pastor Bob Manners.

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Cracking the wall that divides

RENE GALE, QLD

With "Out of the mouths of ..." (Feature, April 15), the writer has cracked the glass wall that divides us from contemporary society. A few more well-aimed kicks might shatter the glass and the wall could come tumbling down. How scary is that?

Supporting our youth

COLIN CLARK, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES, SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

I was concerned to read that the writer of "Retaining youth" (Letters, April 22) was "disheartened" by the church's lack of support for our university students. While we can always do more, I would like to mention some of the things the church is doing to support our university students.

At the 2005 South Pacific Division (SPD) session the church voted to direct 50 per cent of the work of the associate director of youth ministries to specifically support our university students. Approximately 20 pastors throughout the division are currently working directly with our university students in chaplaincy roles.

For more than three years the Sanitarium Health Food Company, Sydney Adventist Hospital together with the SPD have financed a budget for a recruitment promotions officer. Leighton Cantrill—a university graduate—currently fills this position and a large part of his work is to liaise with our university students and assist those who have an interest in church-related service. Leighton is a member of the Adventist Students Association (ASA) executive committee and attends student gatherings whenever possible. He encourages university students to register in our SPD employment database, where we currently have more than 300 students registered.

During the past two years the church has widely advertised the availability of scholarships for targeted tertiary disciplines and, to date, has provided assistance in excess of $A 120,000.

Each year our church directly contributes $A 40,000 to the church's student associations throughout the SPD to enable them to run conventions, Bible camps and other activities.

I would like to assure the writer that the church highly values its young people and recognises the need to nurture and support our university students.

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 3) for contact details.
noticeboard

Weddings

Alford—Flynn. Dennis Alford and Janelle Flynn were married on 12.05.06 in the Free- martine Adventist church, Perth, WA. Andrew Skeggs.

Barnard—Shinners. Leonard Herry Barnard (well-known missionary pilot) and Marjorie, Laur- ena Shinners (both of North Perth), were married on 22.05.05 at the Woodville SDA church, North Perth, W. Andrew Skeggs.

Lang—Hamlin. James Andrew Lang, son of Colin and Jill Lang, (Grafton, NSW), and Kathryn Louise Nielsen, daughter of Ruth and Franky Nielsen, (both of Tuncurry, NSW), were married on 16.04.06 at Clarencetown.

Barnard—Overheu. Steven Barnard, son of Noel and Franke Barnard (Mamajum, WA), and Kate Overheu, daughter of Mike and Marilyn Overheu, (Epernay), were married on 23.05.05 at Ironside Memorial SDA church, Mount Pleasant Park.

Weddings

James Andrew Lang, son of Colin and Jill Lang (Grafton, NSW), and Kathryn Louise Nielsen, daughter of Ruth and Franky Nielsen (both of Tuncurry, NSW), were married on 16.04.06 in the Armidale Adventist church.

Weddings

Damon Gerard Skeggs, son of Andrew Skeggs (Seaford), and Trudy Elizabeth Overheu, daughter of Len and Norma Overheu (both of Karrinyup, WA), were married on 16.04.06 at Clarencetown.

Obituaries

Bayley, Dorothy (nee Hedges), born 22.11.1905 at Lambiabrad, South Wales, died 6.06.06 at Bribe Island, Qld. She was survived by her daughter, Di and her four grandchildren. She was a kind and patient woman who was loved by all.

Brown, Hertbert (John), born 10.02.1930 at Orange, NSW, died 12.06.06 in Kincumber Vale nursing H. home. O. D. Cosa.

Carr, Vincent(Neil), born 5.11.1935 at Yamba, Via Currumbin, Qld, died 22.01.06 in Cairns Base Hospital. He is survived by his mother, Opal G. Carr, his brother, Wayne, his sisters, Lillian, Kavilla, Carolanne, Sarah, Henry and Dennis and his demas whom he raised in his area. He was a passionate listener, a man of faith and a gentle soul.

Engel, Elfred (born 17.01.1935 in Vienna, Austria) died 8.04.06 at Armidale, NSW. He was born in 1940 to Otto and Emma Engel, both of Vienna, Austria. Elfred was a kind and gentle soul.

Gul, Karmen James (born 10.11.1944 in Strathfield, NSW, died 13.06.06 at Armidale, NSW). He was a kind and gentle soul.

Johnston, John, born 31.10.1930 in Gibraltar, died 20.06.06 after a period of illness in Mount Law Hern. He was a kind and gentle soul.

Moss, Myrtle (nee Williams), born 23.12.1931 in Melbourne, Vic, died 3.06.06 in the Melbourne Hospital. He was a kind and gentle soul.

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