The South Pacific Division’s (SPD) Department of Adventist Children’s Ministries and Signs Publishing Company are making changes that will benefit children in the Pacific and Papua New Guinea. Pacific editions of Sabbath school study guides for juniors and teens will be replaced with the PowerPoint Bible-study guide commencing in the final quarter of this year.

The PowerPoint Bible-study guide is part of the GraceLink curriculum developed by the General Conference. It has been used worldwide since 2000. Production of the old guides, in circulation for more than 15 years, will cease.

GraceLink is a 12-year curriculum comprising 624 lessons, grounded in Scripture, the doctrines of the church and supported by the Spirit of Prophecy and the SDA Bible Commentary. Each story has been selected to develop one of the four faith dynamics: grace, worship, community and service.

“The lessons focus each Bible story on a central message based on one of the four faith dynamics,” says Julie Weslake, director of children’s ministries for the SPD.

“The activities provided allow the children to be engaged in their learning and experience the story.”

(Continued on page 4)
“Let woman realise the sacredness of her work and . . . take up her mission.”

Touch a heart

T
ouch a heart—Tell the world—is the motto for women’s ministries during the next quinquennium—and until Jesus comes.

Predictions about the world environmentally, socially and spiritually are not good and many people despair. Yet hundreds of women whom I have been privileged to meet recently from across the world, have committed to touch others with a message of hope. Women and young people are saying it seems that “those times” Joel spoke about are upon us (see Joel 2:28, 29). They are speaking, writing, preaching, teaching and praying wherever I go and it is exciting to be aware and part of it. They have purposed to do evangelism and ministry in a more direct way.

Women’s Ministries Emphasis Day every year is an opportunity to remind the church that this department is here “to lift up Jesus Christ that through His transforming grace, women will be nurtured, valued and empowered to have an effective ministry in the home, church and community.”

There are women and children throughout the world who hurt and women’s ministries focuses our attention on six major issues:

● The World Health Organisation reports that around the world one in every three women suffers some form of abuse.
● In many parts of the world women shoulder the primary responsibility for 90 per cent of all agricultural work.
● The United Nations estimates that almost one billion adults cannot read and the majority of this number are women.
● Women who globally represent 50 per cent of the world’s population do two-thirds of the work and unpaid work, earn 10 per cent of the money in the world and own 1 per cent of the world’s property.
● Globally the health of women is deteriorating and 1600 women die every day due to complications in pregnancy and childbirth.
● There is a growing need in the church for more women to be involved in leadership. Considering we are a church that began with women in prominent leadership positions, the state of affairs now is lamentable. Therefore women’s ministries attempts to help the situation by providing specialised leadership training.

If we have the heart of Jesus, we will weep too. God calls us to “speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy” (Proverbs 31:8, 9, NIV). If we have a mind like Jesus, “we may safely say that the dignity and importance of woman’s mission and distinctive duties are of a more sacred and holy character than the duties of man.” Let woman realise the sacredness of her work and, in the strength and fear of God, take up her mission.

Reports at the recent women’s ministries advisory meetings in Australia, Fiji and Papua New Guinea revealed stories and examples of women addressing these six focus areas. Women in the South Pacific are planting churches, leading prayer ministries, reclaiming lost members, marching and singing, teaching and preaching, giving instruction on radio and TV, providing prayer and support groups for women in government, conducting literacy and health programs, training leaders and touching the poor in body and spirit.

In the Sydney Adventist Hospital chapel recently, after three days of prayer, study and strategic planning, 20 women committed their lives to Jesus to be maid servants and leaders. They returned to their homes and workplaces across the South Pacific region, focused and committed to touch hearts and tell the world. Will you join with them in this mission?

1. June 10 is Women’s Ministries Emphasis Day.
2. South Pacific Division Women’s Ministries Spiritual Vision Statement.

Joy Butler
Director of Adventist Women’s Ministries, South Pacific Division
AUC launches *Code* evangelism

RINGWOOD, VICTORIA

The Australian Union Conference (AUC) launched an evangelistic strategy responding to *The Da Vinci Code* at the studios of Adventist Media on May 22. The $A 450,000 project includes *The Code* DVD series (see "Adventists respond to *Da Vinci* challenge," News, May 20), seminars to be conducted in local churches, television advertising and letterbox invitations.

"The AUC was contacted by the Greater Sydney Conference with a suggestion that the AUC produce some resources to respond to the claims made in Dan Brown's book, which unfortunately have been taken as fact by many who have read the book, and no doubt the movie will be even more influential in sabotaging fundamental elements of the Christian faith," recalls Kingsley Wood, AUC chief financial officer and executive producer of *The Code* series and seminars. The evangelistic resources have been jointly funded by the AUC, a number of local conferences and the South Pacific Division. The project will also be the beneficiary of the Adventist Media Offering to be collected on July 22.

The AUC is working with the Adventist Discovery Centre to offer free viewing of the first episode of *The Code*. According to Pastor John Gate, director of the Discovery Centre, two million letterboxing cards have been printed for distribution by church members and a series of 12 television advertising campaigns has been booked with regional stations around Australia.

"The intent of this series was to allow church members to be able to distribute it on the basis of a call-in—like we have done with *The Search* series—in response to TV advertising and letterboxing," says Mr Wood. "It was also intended to be something that could be retailed to church members and the general public. And we would like to see if we can distribute it overseas as well; a couple of divisions have expressed an interest."

"We see this as an opportunity to engage the community and particularly those coming from a secular point of view," he explains. "We feel this is a great opportunity because people have become interested in the issues raised by *The Da Vinci Code* book and movie."

"It's not about attacking anybody but we are saying this book has impacted the world—whether it's right or not—and this is a response from a Christian perspective."

The DVDs will come with discussion and study-guide material to prompt thought and reflection. "We have also prepared notes for seminar presenters," reports Mr Wood. "We would like to see churches and church members using these in various ways. It could be one-to-one contact or it could be a series run in a local church."

I think this will be a valuable resource for church members. We are making this available very inexpensively for use in local churches but it would be great if church members would like to buy it for themselves to use in their homes, share with friends, use in Sabbath school groups or youth groups."

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*More than 90 school chairs were recently donated and shipped to the Port Vila Adventist School, Vanuatu, thanks to donations from Pastor John Gate, director of the Discovery Centre.*

*Lists of the birds sighted around the grounds of Pacific Adventist University (PAU), PNG, can be traced back to 1985—its second year of operation. Pastor Len Tolhurst, then head of the theology department, pioneered the bird lists and continued for 11 years until he left PAU. In 1998 the interest was taken over by Dr Michael Tarburton, the former dean of the School of Science and Technology and ornithologist by profession. Their combined work has enriched the biology department with information to study. Also a bird sanctuary, PAU has spotted some 190 species on their grounds. —Harina*

*On April 30, the group of Russians who have their worship service in a room at Bishopdale church, NZ celebrated God's goodness by having a harvest festival. More than 70 Russians attended on the day, which included a large harvest display.—Peter Burton*

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Students front Avondale appeal

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

One current and two former Avondale students are the faces of the college's 2006 appeal to raise money for a new residential complex.

Boris Ambrus, Braden Blyde and Kate Hollingsworth have featured as part of the appeal's DVD and print-advertising campaign. The theme is that of providing a spiritual home for students.

Mr Blyde, the Avondale Student and Faculty Association president, explains the advantages of being an indoor as opposed to an outdoor student. "Students who live on campus are given more opportunities to participate in spiritual activities," he says.

Ms Hollingsworth now serves as the youth and communication secretary for the Northern Australian Conference after graduating in 2003. She says studying at Avondale helped develop in her a "deep passion to serve God." "Living in a place that has a spiritual focus, with students who are spiritually focused, it rubs off."

The quality of education at Avondale and the context in which the college offers it appeal to students applying online this year. "We're concerned students will be forced to live in unsatisfactory circumstances off campus if we cannot provide housing on campus where proper spiritual and academic nurturing can take place," says president Dr John Cox.

"You've helped us in the past provide a spiritual home for students, and we thank you for that," says Dr Cox. "Would you consider helping again?

SPD adopts new kids' lessons in Pacific

(Continued from page 1)

"The whole hour of teaching is focused on the central message. Not only do the children understand a Bible story, but they also apply it to their lives and learn how they can share it with others."

SPD president Pastor Laurie Evans comments: "I am delighted to know that the churches in Papua New Guinea and the Trans-Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) will soon be able to use GraceLink. The message of grace needs to be the foundation of our church. These resources will be a great blessing to our children."

Marica Tokalau, director of children's ministries for the TPUM, is also excited about this initiative. "Many of our children will benefit," she says. "At the moment only a few can afford to buy the children's Bible-study guides. It will be lovely to have it in colour. It will attract the parents as well."

"I encourage parents and churches to order these important children's Sabbath school Bible-study guides. It will be lovely to have it in colour. It will attract the parents as well."

"Children need to be given the opportunity to develop a strong faith."

The guides will be available through Adventist Book Centres and will retail for the same price as the current guides. —Record staff

◆ Woodland Adventist Christian School, northern California, USA, students competed in the annual Kids Can Food Drive recently and of 413 schools participating, in 14 counties, Woodland placed second. Though Woodland is a one-room school with only 12 students in grades one to eight, the winners were based on an average of food items per student. Woodland had an average of 112 items per student. More than 300 tonnes of canned and non-perishable food items were collected by the schools. —Tyler Kraft

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Weddings

Clark—Jennings. Lyndan Maurie Clark, son of Helen (Lily) Clark (Amadea WA), and Melanie Kellie Jennings (Perth), were married on 30.10.05 at Karrinyup Botanical Golf Gardens, Wanneroo. Jimmy Tonkin

Janetki—Polonski. Glen Janetki, son of Jeff and Lyn Janetki (Wheatfield Hill, Vic), and Kristyn Polonski (Newcastle) were married on 23.5.06 at Peats Lane, Shenton. Moniek Jecg

Pankhurst—Murphy. John Anthony Parkhurst, son of Geoffrey Parkhurst (Inverell, NSW) and Janet E ughes (Toomee, and Ta-more), and Elyse Murphy (Perth), daughter of Lyn and Julia Gall (Bribanea, Qld), were married on 7.10.05 at 2.40pm in Inverell Adventist church. Phillip Bishop, Ken E Love

Potto—Muggardige. Michael Potts, son of Ronald and Coral Potts (Wauchooe, NSW), and Rosemary in Leggidge, daughter of Lynn and Julia Gall (Bribanea, Qld), were married on 25.9.05 at Sydney Adventist Hospital. Scotts, NSW. David Erickson

Robinson—Adams. Cameron Allen Robinson, son of Allan and Pamela Robinson (Kings Langley, NSW), and Lili Jane Adams, daughter of Rodney and Neyse Adams (Urnans, Qld), were married on 14.5.06 at Milsons, Pelican, NSW. Braun Craig

Whitney—Adams. Bradley Paul Whitney, son of Victoria Mescallau (Qld), and the late Bruce Whitner, and Miranda A dams, daughter of Roy (Bribanea) and Janetuett A dams (Toomee), were married on 23.4.06 in the Stanthorpe Adventist church. Reg Harts

Obituarys

Drennan, Dessie Goldner, 2431365 in Sydney, NSW, died 27.5.06. Funeral and other arrangements are being made by the family. Joanne and family

Fimney, Kathleen Maiav (nee Tiller), born 2393822 at Broken Hill, NSW, died 31.10.05 in Inverell H hospital. In 1996 she married Ronald, who predeceased her. She is survived by her children, Joan, Robert, and Irene H anner and her family; Brenda H anner; Evelyn M bhams and Fred Tiller. Kathleen was a kind and loving woman who will be sadly missed by her family and friends. Barry Wright

Finney, Kathahwe Majno (nee Tiller), born 2393822 at Broken Hill, NSW, died 31.10.05 in Inverell H hospital. In 1996 she married Ronald, who predeceased her. She is survived by her children, Joan, Robert, and Irene H anner and her family; Brenda H anner; Evelyn M bhams and Fred Tiller. Kathleen was a kind and loving woman who will be sadly missed by her family and friends. Phillip B inoph

Moore, Miriam Alice, born 267.3181 in Wellington, N.Z., into the family of Joseph and Ellen Redward of Ormondville, where Edna and Irwin were her siblings; died 5.10.05 in the Gosford Hospital, NSW. On 20.12.34 she married Gilbert, a graduate of the M bourgmetoical School. She supported him in his ministry in the Sydney Adventist Hospital and in Adventist hospitals in Singapore and Malaysia. Dr Gilbert McLev at predeceased her on 20.12.81. She is survived by her children, Margaret, Thomas, and her grand-children, whom she “nuep” and call her blessed, and other who mourn her loss. Austin Feter, Ross Gididbon

Pendleton, Ruby (nee Nobbs), born 30.11.1930 in Norfolk Island, died 195.06 on November 31. On 25.3.02 she married Bruce. She is survived by her husband (Gympie, Qld); her stepson, lan; her mother, Sylvia Nobbs; her siblings, Les, Al, L, Roy, Jo, and their spouses (all of Norfolk Island). Ruby now rests from her prolonged illness and awaits the call of her precious Savior. She was a silent sufferer and shared her pleasant nature and her gentle characteristics. George Porter

Pankhurst, Joanne, born 15.12.1935 in Tam- worth, NSW; died 30.06.06 in Milton. She is survived by her husband (Gympie, Qld); her stepson, lan; her mother, Mairy Dean (Mullumbimby, NSW); and her broth- er and sister-in-law, David and K abby, Joanne was baptised in 1905 by Pastor Arvin Cotton. She was the eldest child of Charles and Sylvia Nobbs, who all “rise up and call her blessed,” and others who mourn her loss. Melba

Schirmers, Henry Joseph Conrad, born 6.6.1915 at Rockhampton, Qld; died 10.05.06. On 20.12.34 he married Bettee James, who died in a car accident. They had four children. He was predeceased by his daugh- ter, Loriee Streetfield. On 26.68 he married his wife, Valma (Cook). He is survived by her father, and half-brother. He was a gentle, quiet man dearly loved by his family, who went to sleep as gently as he lived. Jim Tonkin, Andrew Stegg

Shongha, Tatenda, born and died 7.10.05 in Bomaderry, W.A. She is survived by her par- ents, William and Patience Schongha, and her brothers, Yvette (all of Madibunda). She was a competent, committed and Christian school Principal. The successful applicant will have sound negotiation and interpersonal skills, a high level of self-motivation, the ability to work at a fast pace while maintaining attention to detail, computer literacy (Microsoft O ffice) and a current driver’s licence. A qualifications in writing (including a degree) should be forwarded to Group H uman Resources, Sanitarium, Locked Bag 7, Central Coast Mail Centre NSW 2252, email: humanresources@sanitarium.com.au; fax (02) 4489-6999, by Friday, June 23, 2006.

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

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Positions vacant

Principal—Karalundi Aboriginal Education Centre (Meekatharra, WA) is seeking a competent, committed and Christian school Principal. The successful applicant will have sound negotiation and interpersonal skills, a high level of self-motivation, the ability to work at a fast pace while maintaining attention to detail, computer literacy (Microsoft O ffice) and a current driver’s licence. A qualifications in writing (including a degree) should be forwarded to Group H uman Resources, Sanitarium, Locked Bag 7, Central Coast Mail Centre NSW 2252, email: humanresources@sanitarium.com.au; fax (02) 4489-6999, by Friday, June 23, 2006.

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