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LAUTOKA, FIJI

Student ministry by the Adventist Students Association (ASA) in the Trans-Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) will become more focused in its efforts to support Adventist young people in the future.

A working document outlining the structure of the ASA and its relation to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, as well as a list of strategic plans has been drafted to "strengthen and provide the direction of tertiary students ministry in TPUM," according to Pastor Nick Kross, ASA chaplain and South Pacific Division (SPD) associate director of youth ministries.

Pastor Waisake Raiubi has been appointed as the new ASA chaplain for the Adventist Church based at the University of the South Pacific (USP) in Suva, and other campuses in the TPUM. He will replace Pastor Tabua Tuima, who will be leaving his role at the end of the year. Pastor Raiubi will work in conjunction with the youth directors at the TPUM and the various missions in the region.

Upcoming plans for ASA in TPUM include nurturing and establishing formal student groups in countries such as Vanuatu, Samoa and the Solomon Islands, where
We protect our children with passion and ferocity.

The animal parade

In first grade I was in an animal parade on a Sunday afternoon. While my classmates brought dogs, cats, birds and even rabbits, I had the show stealer—a goose.

“Goose-Goose” wasn't just any goose—she had a unique passion that took her to the top of the class when it came to animal parades. Goose-Goose was in love with my little red wagon. (Every boy has a little red wagon, right?)

Wherever I pulled my little red wagon Goose-Goose was sure to follow. While other students dragged their humiliated cats around the circuit on leashes or waited for their rabbits to decide to take another hop, Goose-Goose happily continued her love affair with my wagon as I leisurely pulled it along. Waddling unaided a few webbed paces behind the wagon and quacking with gusto, Goose-Goose easily stole the show.

In Isaiah 11:6-9 the prophet tells us about the new earth. It is a place where leopards and goats will nap in each other’s embrace, wolves and lambs will share space, cows and bears will have lunch together (and not at the cow’s expense!), and if you want to see the show stealer, just wait till the children show up!

Isaiah reveals with amazement, “A little child will lead them.” Can you see it? No fences. No leashes. Just kids who are finally allowed to play with the big animals! Can you hear the kids? “Mum, Dad, you have to come to the animal parade! All of us kids are in it!”

Snakes will even be fair game for the little ones. Isaiah says, “The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper’s nest” (Isaiah 11:9). It doesn’t seem realistic, does it? No wonder the much loved children’s Sabbath school song says “Heaven is a wonderful place!”

But while we wait for Jesus to return and take us to His beautiful home, we remain wary of the wild—sin remains. We protect our children with passion and ferocity—they are our precious possession, our righteous responsibility. This is the parents’ charge: “Impress them [the commandments] on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up” (Deuteronomy 6:7).

It is our daily plod and plight that reveals the wild that caused Jesus to cradle a child close to His heart and say, “If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea” (Matthew 18:6). God is in the business of judgment.

And thus it is so hideous that lions, wolves and snakes abide unabated in our homes and churches. It was such horrors of the wild that caused Jesus to cradle a child close to His heart and say, “If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea” (Matthew 18:6). God is in the business of judgment.

More so, God is in the business of forgiveness. Paul promised, “I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you” (Acts 13:38). Jesus lives (and died) to create new hearts. Through the prophet He demonstrated His passion for new-hearted people: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26). If God can make the lion eat straw like an ox, it stands to reason that He can do even greater things with those created in His image.

Perhaps today is the day for you to seek the healing Jesus is offering, or to encourage someone else to do so. Abusing children is not OK. Hiding it doesn’t heal it. Ignoring it damns the offender, devastates the child and delights the devil.

Parents, a day is coming when your children “will be taught by the Lord, and great will be your children’s peace” (Isaiah 54:13). We must do our utmost to protect the children until the trumpet sounds and all people are changed by the brightness of His coming. Then we can be at peace, knowing that our children cannot be harmed.

I am excited about the day when my children can walk through the streets of the New Jerusalem pulling a little red wagon. I wonder what peaceful giant will follow them. I can’t wait to watch the animal parade!

*Bible quotations are from the New International Version.

David Edgren
Festival lights up Sydney

SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES

More than 2,500 people from 69 Seventh-day Adventist Churches from the Greater Sydney Conference gathered at the Sydney Entertainment Centre on the last weekend of October to celebrate and worship together at the Festival of Worship.

“There is a need to join together as a unified city church,” says Pastor David Blanch, president of the Greater Sydney Conference. “Let us focus on venturing into the unentered suburbs of the conference that desperately need the warmth of God’s light.”

During the opening night on Friday, Pastor Brendan Pratt, director of the Stewardship, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Departments of the Greater Sydney Conference, challenged everyone to think what life would be like when God’s light is shining in and through them.

Spreading and sharing the love of God was the focal point of the festival on Sabbath, themed “Light Your World.”

Keynote speaker Ty Gibson from America addressed attendees with what it means for the church in Sydney, “Pastor Blanch

was some $A1,400—complete with heaps of fun and laughter.—Sanco News

◆ The Aranui church, NZ, on a corner of a main thoroughfare and seen as a light on the hill, commemorated their 50th anniversary on October 28 with a special service of celebration, along with the baptism of Warren Morrison. Many previous members returned and caught up with old friends—reliving old memories. Pastor Jerry Matthews led in a service of celebration and thanksgiving that was followed by a lunch and cutting of a cake.—Alien Matthews

◆ On Sunday, November 12, Singleton church, NSW, pastor Clive Nash led out in a public prayer service for those affected by drought. With more than 90 per cent of New South Wales and much of eastern Australia in drought, prayers were offered in an interdenominational service. Other clergy leading out were from the Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian, Uniting, Baptist, Evangelical and Salvation Army Churches.

◆ Pastor Peter Roennfeldt has enjoyed supporting and equipping church planters and pastors in some 50 countries. Now he’s sharing his experiences and discoveries via a blog. His internet presence has been made available to help others “create new environments for people to have a relationship with God and their communities and explore possibilities for biblical and relevant expressions of church that will honour God and reach friends with the gospel.”

More @ http://newchurchlife.blogspot.com

Pastor Blanch says, “We have a strategic plan that came from the pastors who want to see a 10 per cent growth in church membership in Sydney. There is so much to do and we need a concerted effort to reach the people in the city.”

Attendees of the Festival of Worship were also blessed with music from individuals and groups such as the Mile-End Quartet, The Promise from Avondale College, The Essence and Bridge.—Melody Tan

AVONDALE COLLEGE, DEGREES WITH A CHRISTIAN FOCUS @ WWW.AVONDALE.EDU.AU

December 2, 2006
Adventist Students Association formed in South Australia

ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

A leadership team to initiate the Adelaide branch of the Adventist Students Association (ASA) has been formed during a dinner hosted by the South Australia youth ministries.

“It is very exciting to see young people step up for leadership,” says Pastor Nick Kross, ASA chaplain and South Pacific Division associate director of youth ministries.

“We will continue to support them as they continue to grow in their ministry.”

A group of about 45 mostly Adventist tertiary students met with ASA representatives from Sydney over the last weekend in September, and decided to formalise a group in Adelaide that will minister to their peers.

Stacey Panozzo, a PhD student in psychology, Wilson Chee, a sixth-year medical student, Adrian Peterson, an engineering student and Tanya Davidson, who is in her second year of pharmacy, make up the newly formed leadership team in Adelaide.

Wilson Chee (left) participating in a game during dinner with other South Australian Adventist Students Association members.

“Studies show that we are losing 70 per cent of our tertiary students from church attendance,” says Pastor Kross. “We at ASA have a desire to help our students maintain their faith relationship with God and their alliance to church.”

According to Pastor Kross, he believes there are more than 3000 Adventist tertiary students in Australia, many of whom are unknown to him. “I have a desire to touch base with all of them in order to support them and create a safety net for them,” he says.—Melody Tan

Three divisions. Prescott Primary Southern achieved a silver medal for their Division One performance. Following their award-winning performance the students again performed at Morphett Vale church. —Mitsy Bullas

Mr Lyndsay Hiscox and the agricultural students of Darling Downs Christian School, Qld, maintain an organic vegetable garden that provides for their tuckshop and wider school community. Students pick the vegetables on tuckshop mornings and, within the hour, fresh salads are produced. The newest acquisitions for the garden are Indian runner ducklings that will help to keep pests out of the garden—the natural, organic way. The school’s organically fed free-range hens also provide the eggs used by the tuckshop. —Debbie McKay

Rising sea levels concern for Pacific

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The impact of climate change on Kiribati is a major concern, according to researcher John Corcoran, who spoke about the issue to students at Pacific Adventist University (PAU) during a recent colloquium.

“The impact of climate change is affecting everyone and every country. The atoll people are really feeling this,” he said. “Since the 1970s, there has been the frequent occurrence of cyclones, tidal waves and floods due to the rise in sea levels. This has affected the small islands of Kiribati, resulting in flooding of villages and roads.”

Mr Corcoran and his wife, Lupe, are currently involved in a joint research project between PAU and the University of the South Pacific on the impact of climate change on low-lying atolls, with the case studies being those of Kiribati and Tuvalu.

Funded by the Oceania Development Network, the objective of this research is to examine and evaluate what climate change is doing to the economy and people of low-lying atoll states. This research will contribute to current knowledge on climate change, as well as environmental policies.—Jennifer Faraimo

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: FEBRUARY 11—SOUTH PACIFIC RECORD OFFERING
Philosopher endorses Avondale’s greater vision

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

A Christian philosopher has endorsed the greater vision philosophy of education at Avondale College during a series of speaking appointments in November.

In a four-day visit to the Lake Macquarie campus, November 1-4, Dr John Mark Reynolds from Biola University (La Mirada, California, USA) presented four lectures, spoke at a colloquium and preached at two worship services.

Dr Mark Reynolds is a philosopher (and founder of the Torrey Honors Institute at Biola) whose desire is to see the evidences for Christianity promoted more strongly. A theme among his presentations would be that in tertiary institutions and the Christian life there needs to be a combination of the “head, heart and hand.”

Dr Mark Reynolds spoke critically of universities focused solely on producing technicians or people with knowledge and skills in narrow fields. They were not developing well-rounded people, he said. At the colloquium, he called for Avondale to use a holistic approach in its training—to educate for the head, heart and hand. In this way, while “you may be small, you can be great,” he said of the college.

He visited the college with his wife, Hope. The two were sponsored by and travelled with Dr Bernard Branstater, a retired anaesthetist from Loma Linda (California, USA). Dr Mark Reynolds is a member of the Primitive Adventists, a group that grew out of the Advent Movement of the 1840s—the same roots as the Seventh-day Adventists. “Standing tall in a real world,” the convention held at the Lautoka Teacher’s College had Pastor George Munoz from the Eight Mile Plains church in Brisbane as keynote speaker.

“We wanted to allow students to network and fellowship,” says Pastor Kross, “as well as catch of vision of the ministry potential that is on campus while they attend university.”

Students at the convention also took on a service project at the nearby Lautoka Adventist Primary School, where they cleared the school grounds and created gardens.

“The first Adventist youth group to appear on the television show Virtual Memory has become the highest scoring team in the show’s history. Virtual Memory is a Bible trivia game show for teens between the ages of 13 and 18 on TBN—America’s most watched faith channel. They scored an all-time high 5100 points (scores usually average 1500 to 2500 points). “It was a divine appointment,” said Edye Campos, leader of the youth group. “One of the producers called our church by mistake. Before I knew it, I asked if he would allow some of our youth to appear on the program. He began laughing and said, ‘We’ve never had an Adventist youth group on our station!’ He extended the invitation and we accepted. As a result of the hugely successful appearance, other Adventist youth groups have also been contacted to appear—Edye Campos/Edina Maye Gallington

Tertiary students receive TPUM support

(Continued from page 1)

informal networks have already been set up. Regular meetings, newsletters and websites can also be expected.

“We want our young people to meet regularly to help them establish their identity as Adventist young professionals,” says Pastor Kross. “Coming together will also help them be inspired and encouraged by the testimonies of what other students are doing on their campus for Christ.”

Plans for a more focused effort on student ministry in the TPUM came at the end of the annual ASA Convention in Fiji, attended by more than 200 students from the nine tertiary institutions in the country.

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news

“Hymns and Songs” airs on Hope Channel

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

Hymns and Songs of Praise” will find a new audience when it appears on Hope Channel this month.

The program, recorded in the Avondale College church in October, features a 45-piece orchestra, the Salvation Army’s Sydney Staff Songsters and the college’s Contemporary Choir.

“He has the power in music to give the message to the world,” says Dr Lawley Heise, director of the South Pacific Division’s Institute of Worship. “The program also shows hymns are not old fashioned but, with creative arrangements, have continuing power in a contemporary culture.”

Dr Heise said the contemporary choir, designed to appeal to business people, had various features to look up including: An introduction giving a biblical perspective on leadership, ethics, truth and honesty, wealth, temptations, sin and forgiveness, and being ambassadors in our work; testimonies; and a list of biblical texts to look up in various life circumstances. Christian business people have been encouraged to buy multiple copies to use as corporate gifts.

A new “Business Bible” has been produced as a joint venture by the Bible Society and Australian Marketplace Connections. Printed by the Amity Press in China (where Bibles were once banned), it has various features designed to appeal to business people, including: An introduction giving a biblical perspective on leadership, ethics, truth and honesty, wealth, temptations, sin and forgiveness, and being ambassadors in our work; testimonies; and a list of biblical texts to look up in various life circumstances. Christian business people have been encouraged to buy multiple copies to use as corporate gifts.

Adventist Review editor receives achievement award

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, USA

On October 14, William Johnson was bestowed the Society of Adventist Communicators 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr Johnson, who has served as editor-in-chief of the Adventist Review for 24 years, has contributed much to communicating the gospel message to the world, including writing 20 books and more than 1000 articles and, in 2005, starting a new church magazine called Adventist World (with a circulation of 1.3 million copies worldwide).

Dr Johnson, also a highly regarded voice on theological issues, was one of five nominees and was “deeply honoured” to receive the award. In his acceptance message, Dr Johnson said he was “impressed by the youth, creativity, and energy of the participants.” He encouraged his fellow professionals to “go from strength to strength, remaining Adventist but always open to fresh air.”

Dr Johnson plans to retire at the end of this year. Adventist Review’s assistant editor Kimberly Luste Maran accepted the award on his behalf.—Adventist Review

◆ Indian Christians have recently been forced to worship Hindu deities in Karnataka. When Hindu villagers in Kururandikere noted that local Christians had not participated in the annual Deepavali festival, they demanded that Pastor Naik and the eleven families of his congregation worship Hindu deities. Eight of the eleven families in Pastor Naik’s congregation gave in to the demands. The local council chief ordered the three families who refused to cooperate be ostracized from the village. Hindu militants also forced Christians in the village of Bevainahalli to bow down before Hindu deities. Christians who questioned their orders were slapped, marched to the temple and forced to bow down before the gods.—Voice of the Martyrs

More @ www.persecution.net

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◆ Australian Prime Minister John Howard proposes to place government-approved chaplains in Australian schools, handing out $20,000 to employ a chaplain, to fill what Mr Howard says is a void of spiritual and pastoral guidance available in Australian schools. Mr Howard says the $400 million scheme will be open to chaplains of many faiths and is not designed to discriminate in favour of one religion. Democraft leader Lyn Allison said the program risked blurring the line between church and state. “We say government schools should be secular and this money would be much better spent on school counsellors or youth workers.”—Col Stringer

IS YOUR CHURCH DOING SOMETHING EXCITING, INNOVATIVE OR INSPIRING? EMAIL RECORD@SIGNSPUBLISHING.COM.AU
Ordinations around the South Pacific

WARBURTON, VICTORIA

A number of ordinations have taken place within the South Pacific Division in the past few months, from Vanuatu to Kyogle.

Pastor Eddie Mackie

Eddie Mackie was reordained on June 17 at the Alstonville regional meeting. Pastor Mackie serves as the volunteer minister for the Casino and Kyogle churches in the North New South Wales (NNSW) Conference.

After a period of time away from ministry, Pastor Mackie’s commitment, with support from his wife, Ruth, has been acknowledged and reaffirmed.

Assisting in the service with Pastor John Lang, president of the conference, were Pastor Graeme Christian, Australian Union Conference ministerial secretary, Pastor Murray Chapman, NNSW ministerial secretary, and a number of ordained pastors present on the day.

Pastor Ericson Simon Peter Restuetune

Ericson Simon Peter Restuetune and his wife, Dorothy, celebrated his ordination on October 7 in the Sarakata church on Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu.

Pastor Restuetune began church work in 1992, serving as assistant church pastor at Santo. As well as pastoral duties in a variety of churches, he also taught and worked as boys dean at Aore Adventist Academy.

Pastor Lindsey Wells

On September 2, Lindsey Stuart Wells was ordained at the Glenorchy Adventist church, Tasmania. Pastor Graeme Christian led out in the ordination service and was assisted by Pastor Kevin Amos, president of the Tasmanian Conference, and Pastor Karl Winchcombe, ministerial secretary of the conference. Pastor Amos says, “Lindsey has a strong desire to empower people into meaningful ministry.”

At the beginning of 2006, Pastor Wells and his wife, Tanya, a primary schoolteacher, with their three children, transferred to Hobart, Tasmania, where he has been ministering with the Glenorchy and Colinesvale churches, and serving as chaplain at Hilliard Christian School.

Pastor Wells graduated from Avondale College’s theology program in 1998. After working for a number of years in volunteer positions, the family moved to New Zealand, where Pastor Wells commenced his internship at Gisbourne.

GC president and women set time to talk

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, USA

While there is no doubt that women have contributed greatly to the world and their churches in general, “women feel they are not being heard,” said Heather-Dawn Small, director of women’s ministries for the General Conference (GC).

“We don’t think change will happen until the leadership at the highest level talks to us,” she added.

On December 14, Pastor Jan Paulsen, president of the GC, will talk with women about issues they are dealing with in their personal and church life.

In “Time to talk,” Pastor Paulsen—who has long supported and encouraged women to play active roles in the church—will take advantage of a live television format to talk specifically to Adventist women. The participants will come from all walks of life and will include pastors, mothers, professionals and others, and will represent the church’s diverse global community.

“I want to know what’s on their minds, understand their concerns, hear their ideas,” said Pastor Paulsen. “The women of our church embrace such a diversity of cultures, backgrounds, education and interests. And yet there are certain significant issues that transcend lines of nationality and language, and these are what I hope we will focus on during our time together.”

Although the broadcast will be unscripted, Mrs Small says she anticipates some of the questions will involve “some very serious issues that women are dealing with: abuse, poverty, health issues, community involvement and leadership opportunities within our own church. These are community issues and they are global issues that impact the church.”

“Time to talk” is based on the “Let’s talk” series of talks with young people of the church, and will be broadcast on the Hope Channel. Broadcast times are available on their website, <www.hopetv.org>. —Taashi Rowe/ANN

December 2, 2006
Paul states emphatically, "It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. . . . Use your freedom to serve one another in love" (Galatians 5:13-15, The Message).

Peter backs up this call to service: "The end of all things is near. Therefore, be clear minded. . . . Above all, love each other deeply. . . . Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. . . . If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised" (1 Peter 4:7-11, NIV).

There are dozens of ways you can serve others with the gifts God has given you. ADVENTIST VOLUNTEER SERVICE (AVS) provides some of these. Those who serve discover the miracle of giving: that “it is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35, NIV).

10 ways you can get involved in the adventure of service in 2007

› STORM Co. Every conference and a number of missions in the SPD run STORM Co trips each year. They change communities and change lives. Get involved in one. It might change yours! Contact your local conference or mission youth department.

› Fly’n’builds. If you have never been on one, you should. It is a great opportunity to visit one of the Pacific nations you have heard so much about in mission stories and reports. You will build friendships for life, and make a real contribution that is always very much appreciated. There are huge needs for help in the Pacific right now. Why not join a team or, for the truly adventurous, start something new in your church. Those that go usually keep going. Service to others is addictive! God meant it to be so. Contact your local conference short-term mission coordinator, keep an eye on the RECORD, or call us at AVS.

› Fly’n’ preach/teach/mentor. These are often done in conjunction with fly’n’builds, but there is also a large need for skills training and support. No matter your trade or profession, the gift of your life experience and technical knowledge for a short time can make a huge difference.

› Your own backyard. There is no need to go overseas to serve. Many are the needs in your own backyard, with many churches and local communities needing support. You could make a real difference at home.

› ADRA lend-a-hand. Go to www.adralendahand.org.au for dozens of ideas of ways you can be a helping hand in your community. Imagine if every one of us committed to giving 2 hours of our week to serve others in our community each week? It would change our church. Let’s be the light, salt and yeast Jesus intended us to be in the places we live and work.

› Longer-term service through AVS. For hundreds of long-term opportunities around the world go to www.adventistvolunteers.org. Many have done it, and counted it as the best year/s of their life.

› Be a “HisHands” volunteer through AVS. For more info go to www.adventistvolunteers.org and follow the link to HisHands, a new worldwide initiative that invites each church to be a sending church and where any member can be trained and sent by their church as a missionary.

› Be a Global Mission pioneer. For more info go to www.global-mission.org.

› Be a tentmaker missionary. See www.andrews.edu/partners/index.htm for how you can use your trade/profession to be a tentmaker missionary in an unentered area, particularly in the “10-40 window.”

› Be a financial and prayer partner of missions and missionaries, and of great organisations like Asian Aid, International Children’s Care, Volunteers in Action, Sonship and OneMission.
2007 service opportunities

Short Term

- PNG: Qualified builder to oversee the work of building the mission headquarters at Kokopo.
- PNG: The Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission are needing some assistance to renovate/restore the first permanent material church built in the Highlands. The church is located at Kainantu and there is a team of local builders ready to assist but they would like a qualified person to supervise and assist in the work. The money for materials is in hand and they want to commence asap. The work involves restumping the whole building, reroofing, replacement of some weatherboard walling, replacement of some floorboards, replacing plywood ceiling and wall lining, repainting interior and exterior.
- PNG: Builder/plumber/electrician to carry out the approved maintenance work on the Adventist Aviation houses at Goroka. The work involves a bathroom renovation including new bath/shower and vanity, a kitchen renovation including cabinets and cupboards, a laundry renovation, the building of a carport, cement work, plumbing and electrical upgrading, some painting and security fence construction.
- PNG: Sonoma College have an urgent need right now for the renovation of their cafeteria. The needs are as follows: Tiles for the floors, replacement of tables and chairs, a new cooking area that will be connected to the main building, proper cooking equipment for 400 students, the main building has to be restructured to have a better flow of students during serving times, expansion of the dining area to increase capacity (the maximum capacity at the moment is for only 200 students).
- Cook Islands Mission: A major maintenance project at the mission administration office.
- Cook Islands Mission: Renovation of a house to be used as a transit house.
- New Caledonia: Building a church for 200 members in the south of New Caledonia. “With the prices of land being so high and our funds quite limited, we would welcome any volunteer labour available to help us build a church for our Lord.”

Longer Term

- Youth pastor—Murwillumbah church. Commencing asap for 12 months. Involvement in Bible studies and visitations; youth leadership and Pathfinder chaplain.
- Nurse—PNG Union Mission. Commencing January 2007 for 24 months. Duties include: coordinate all PNGUM HIV/AIDS mainstreaming plans and activities; support all local missions and educational institutions HIV/AIDS mainstreaming coordinators. Organise, conduct or support health workshops, seminars or conventions, as authorised by the PNGUM health director. Network with the division Health Department, union departments, government and non-government organisations as required. Maintain professional growth and expertise in one’s own health specialty and keep current with the latest relevant health research, government policies and community needs.
- Teachers needed—Thailand, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Russia, Botswana, Indonesia, Micronesia, Peru and many more countries! Commencing January 2007.
- Marketing/design/communication assistant—Newbold College, United Kingdom. Commencing asap for 12 months. Should be able to do graphic design projects using Quark Express/Photoshop/Illustrator. Be proficient in Microsoft Office suite applications. Must be competent in digital and SLR photography, coordinating on and off campus events, mail-outs, newsletters, along with copy for adverts, brochures, research ability, and teamwork. The ability to have a professional approach.
- Assistant deans needed in: United Kingdom (commencing ASAP) and Denmark (commencing July/August 2007).
- Maintenance assistant—Helderberg College, South Africa. Commencing January 2007 for 12 months. Duties include: mainly carpentry duties; at times, to assist with building construction.
- Asian Aid positions available: music coordinator at Blind School, India. Volunteer teacher at school for hearing impaired, India. Assistant to orphanage director, India.

For more information about any of these service opportunities and others not listed, contact your local conference or mission, or Hayley on +61 2 9847 3275, email volunteers@adventist.org.au or mail to Adventist Volunteer Service, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga, NSW 2075, Australia.
When do we reap?

**BY JOHN GATE**

Harvesting — people making decisions for Jesus and being baptised — seldom happens by viewing videos alone. Effective video ministry aims to network with other outreach ministries, and often a person is led to a decision for Jesus and baptism in another context, for example, in a seminar or in a small group.

Our witness is to be a loving and lovable Christian (being) and also go and share the good news (doing). There is no tension between Christian living and outreach or witness. The two go together and are not separate. Our commission in Matthew 28:19, 20 is to go and make disciples and to baptise. So, as followers of Jesus, we are looking for all possible ways of connecting with people, leading them to a positive decision and to demonstrate their decision through baptism.

Jesus promised He would make us fishers of men (see Matthew 4:19) and, at Pentecost (see Acts 2), with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, God launched the church into that ministry.

In setting our strategies for outreach, Jesus encourages us to be “as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves.” We are to work with people’s cultures and behaviours, rather than against them, in winning their confidence (see 2 Corinthians 5:20). God makes His appeal through us.

God gives us a strong mandate in our outreach, to put the question to people to accept Him and to follow Him in life, and to demonstrate it in baptism.

In video ministry, we need to look at ways that we can take the initiative to invite people to follow Jesus. Our divine strategy says that, although Jesus started His outreach in a social way by mixing with people as one who desired their good, He finished by inviting them to “Follow Me”—that’s harvesting.

And we need in all of our outreach to include events or programs where people are invited to accept Jesus and to give their lives to Him. This requires a lot of prayer — prayer for the video minister and prayer for the people who are watching the videos. It requires a sensitivity to how people are responding and developing in what they are watching.

We need to be bold in the Spirit in asking people whether what they have heard is new, is it clear, and is it doable? The devil will do all he can to stop us from putting these questions to people, because so often they respond positively.

A powerful communication tool in post-modern culture is storytelling. Jesus has encouraged us to tell our story of what God has done for us. This is our testimony. It is a great way of encouraging others and leading them to make a decision for Jesus too.

We can move toward the reaping by turning questions into Bible studies and leading people to accept Jesus through His Word. On the basis of the video friendship, people can be invited to join a small group. They can be invited to a video ministry Sabbath school class where they’re being prayed for. They can be invited to a reaping evangelistic campaign or to a satellite program. We need to pray that God will guide us in providing these opportunities for people to respond to what they are seeing on the videos.

“I believe in video ministry because it is one of the best tools in soul-winning.” — Pastor Graham White, Capalaba, Queensland.

This is part of a series of articles exploring video ministry and how it can work in your community.

Paul Petersen is the field secretary for the South Pacific Division.

**Teaching and praying**

**WITH PAUL PETERSEN**

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you, teaching them to pray to the Father in my name by the help of the Spirit. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20, NIV).

Here is the gospel commission. Surely the words in bold do not belong. Jesus did not say that, did He?

True. He did not. That is not how Matthew records the farewell speech of Jesus. But my added words are really unnecessary. Prayer is already part of the teachings of Jesus.

This is sometimes forgotten. Prayer is perceived as part of some spiritual sphere unrelated to teaching and doctrine. Such dichotomy is not biblical. It creates an unhealthy understanding of both prayer and doctrine. Preaching without praying is sterile. But praying outside the context of the teachings of Jesus does not lead to the God of the Bible, and the resulting spirituality may very well be caused by another. Jesus is the one who teaches how to pray (see Luke 11:1).

Addressing God in prayer assumes a basic understanding of His character. Wrong doctrine leads to wrong concepts of God. Belief in hell brings fear. Rejecting creation leads to doubt in His care. True doctrine helps us to know Him as He is. Sabbath highlights God as a person, trusting expresses trust in His ongoing providence, and the Second Coming reminds us that God is for real.

When praying, the Bible paints the true picture of the God we address. We see Him in Jesus and understand who He is by what He teaches. Praying and teaching go hand in hand.
The church has often done God a disservice by presenting the stories of Bible people almost as if they were fairytales.

In these retellings, the stories of people like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Gideon, Esther and David often have the human weaknesses and failures left out.

When Jesus came He called Matthew, a dishonest man and a social outcast, to be among His close followers. In His ongoing association with people like Matthew, Jesus explained, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners” (Mark 2:17, NIV). He may have been reflecting on much of Old Testament history.

Esther was not following many biblical teachings when she joined the king’s harem, and yet God, through Mordecai, used her.

We overlook the fact that David lived in the equivalent of the “wild west” where he had to kill or be killed while he was fleeing from Saul and others, waiting for the right time to take the throne of Israel.

The fact that God chose Solomon, son of Bathsheba, to succeed David as king, demonstrates the extent of God’s forgiving grace in view of David’s total repentance. God gave Solomon the name Jedidiah, which means “beloved of God.”

Jacob, having gained the birthright by trickery, got some of his own medicine when he was married to Leah instead of Rachel, but God used it all for His own purposes even so. Jacob, as Laban’s son-in-law, became a wealthy man due to God’s blessing and it was Jacob’s sons who became the fathers of the 12 tribes of Israel.

Gideon’s putting out his fleece was really a demonstration of his failure to believe God’s instructions, rather than the opposite, as is so often represented when his story is told. But Gideon finally succeeded because God was merciful and patient.

We think of Abraham as a misty-eyed patriarch leaning on his staff, and overlook the fact that at one stage he grabbed his sword and jumped on his horse and went off as the leader of a marauding tribe to deliver his nephew, Lot, from his enemies. And Abraham clearly saw the blessing of God in this because he is paid tithe on the plunder he had gained on his marauding expedition.

Isaac was the obedient child who did as his father told him. We see Isaac devoted to the purposes of God when Abraham is instructed to sacrifice him, but he became a weak father, playing favourites, when he had the responsibility of being the patriarch.

Moses deserves our commendation as well as the Lord’s for his 40 years as a leader of the rebels in the wilderness, but he was a grumpy old man. Whether he was beating on the Egyptians or beating on the rock, it was all the result of bad temper.

This should encourage all of us “warts and all” Christians to have faith in God and to live our lives in the light of His love; without us having to concentrate on the idea of being perfect.

Martin Brown writes from Toowoomba, Queensland.
letters

Love the Outlaw
ELVIRA SEAMANN, NSW
I liked the editorial “The heart of an Outlaw” (October 28). We never know what is hidden in the heart and mind of another person. Good or bad experiences play a part in our life. To peel off the crust of a person sometimes takes a long time and a lot of patience.

We all try to build a wall of protection around us because we don’t want to get hurt. I felt sorry for the guy—he tries to hide his pain behind a facade of strength. If we would take more time to get to know people, we could help them. It is possible the heart of that bike was touched by those few moments of conversation.

God on My Side
CAROLE FERCH-JOHNSON, NSW
I breathed a sigh of relief when I discovered the thrust of the review of Andrew Denton’s God on My Side (Perspective, November 11). Well done!

But, has nobody told Doug Batchelor that Adventists are not fundamentalist Christians? Our tradition is evangelical! We depart significantly from fundamentalism in our views on inspiration, the nature of man, the state of the dead, the millennium, heaven, hell, prophetic interpretation, the law of God and the Sabbath—to name a cluster of significant doctrines.

It is true that too many of us lost our way a bit during the first half of the 20th century, particularly on the issues of inspiration and biblical interpretation and found ourselves influenced a little too much by fundamentalism. But since the 1960s most of us have been recovering from that detour and embracing a healthier evangelical Adventism.

God on My Side is an intentionally provocative title, but taken at face value it is a dangerous claim. Better to make sure, I think, that I am on His side.

RUSSELL SCHULZ, NSW
Thank you for your review of Denton’s film. It would be interesting to know what Doug Batchelor said to Denton. He certainly is a fundamentalist Adventist—so from the Denton perspective, that is fairly right wing. Like many tele-evangelists, Batchelor takes an extreme position, and then uses his personality to defend it. That is not a good analytical approach.

The American Religious Right is a powerful lobby, and the Texas tele-media convention that Denton used as the focus for this film must have had a big share of odd and larger-than-life characters—in their white suits. I hope Batchelor was wise enough to see the excess around him at this convention. It disappoints me that we go to places like these Bible-belief tele-evangelist right-wing “conventions” to promote our Adventist programs. It just opens up the possibility of being aligned with all the oddballs.

Despite the hype that “Amazing Facts” self-generates, not much of their 1990s-style evangelistic content remains in our churches today, although 3ARN seems to depend on it. We have allowed our spokesmen to denigrate other religious groups for too long. Yes, Catholics, Muslims and others can be as fundamentalist and wrong as we can be. What we may need is a paradigm shift to understand that they can be as compassionate and caring as we attempt to be—and as committed to God.

My vote
DANIEL MATTEO, QLD
A quote from Gospel Workers is often used to imply that Adventists should not vote (“Voting question,” Letters, November 11).

In context, the counsel was to not vote for men who promote Sunday worship.

Writing elsewhere on the involvement in political voting, Ellen White stated, “The advocates of temperance fail to do their whole duty unless they exert their influence by precept and example—by voice and pen and vote—in favour of prohibition and total abstinence.” (Gospel Workers, pages 187-8).

Let us also not forget the advice given by Jesus in Matthew 22:21: “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s” (NIV). It is obvious we have a civil duty. To shirk this responsibility is to invite eventual tyranny. Whether it is a duty to perform on the Sabbath or not is up to the conscience of each individual Christian.

MICHAEL DOBESCH, QLD
To everyone who doesn’t believe in being involved politically, consider again what the Bible says about it. Look at Joseph and his political position, Daniel and his three friends, King David and the many other Bible characters who took political posi-

We have allowed our spokesmen to denigrate other religious groups for too long.

No kidding
MARGARET LOVE, NSW
The November 4 RECORD cover “Kids’ health study points to mums” should read “Children’s health study points to mums.” I believe we had children, not “kids.”

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

Safidich. Howard and Ethel were married on 22.10.06 in Nanango, Qld, and have recently celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary with their family, Howard, aged 99 and Ethel, aged 96 have four sons, Livick, Geoff, Barry and Helens and eight great-grandchildren. This wonderful Christian couple are an inspiration to everyone who meet them and loved members of the Ipswich church.

Appreciation

Kent, Tim, Philip, Sharleen, Kylie, Brandon and their families would like to extend their sincere gratitude to all who offered support and encouragement following the passing of their much loved son, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Joan. The love shown by the many phones calls, floral arrangements and beautiful cards was greatly appreciated.

Weddings

Arnold—Prokop. Jonathan Ernest Avea- lis, son of Fernando and Rita Arevalo (For- estville, Tas), and Benita Alison Vidler, daughter of Slawomir and Danuta Prokop (Bundaberg, Qld), and Ewelina Joanna Prokop, daughter of Andreas (nee Wood, Cooran- bong, NSW), and the late Gabi- nel Prokop. 

Gardens, Yeronga.

married on 17.9.06 at Wanganui River Qld), and her two sisters and their spouses, Martin and Dr Ian Wilkinson (Cooranbong, NSW), Heather and Glynn Mack (Wal- laree, SA), and their families. Julie was a non-stop mummy, but also a great encourager. Not only to her family and friends, but to the wider community. She slept in the knowledge of meeting family and friends at the end of The Table.

Obituaries

Grace Shirley, born 28.4.1924 in East Maitland, NSW, died 21.11.06 at Royal Perth Hospital. She was predeceased by her parents, her husband, her two children, her grandchildren, and her great-grandchil- dren. Merv had a bright personality, a keen mind, and a deep love for his God, his church, her family and friends.

Eveline, born 13.6.1924 in Coonabarabran, NSW, and her children, George and Lee, and their families. Eveline was a give much love and greatly missed, she are a great friend to all.

Robert Porter

Barry Whelan

barang, NSW), and her siblings, George and Lily. Eveline lived a long and fruitful life and we look forward to sharing with her in eternal life at His soon return.

Merilyn; her two granddaughters (all of Co- orange). Judy was a “Mum” and friend to many. She was predeceased by her husband, her son, Barry’s daughter, Jodie; her mother, Hella; and her six grandchildren; and her six grand- children.

Barry Whelan

munity through the ADRA Op Shop, and was a church musician.

Sharon—Coles. The late Richard Harold Carr, son of Pastor Peter and Mary Stojanovic (Mandurah, WA), married Mary Winifred (nee Pennell), born 30.6.1910 at Guyra, NSW; died 24.9.06 at Port Pirie, SA; died 23.10.06 in Holywood Hos- pital, Perth, WA. On 24.3.49 he married Joyce, born 13.10.1921 at Col- linfarne, Tas, died 22.10.06 in Coorangbong, NSW. Melva graduated from the Sydney Adventist Hospital before marrying Ray on 28.12.37. Ray predeceased her in 1997. She is survived by her daughter, Marc Colyer; her son, Peter (both of Coorangbong); her six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchil- dren. Melva had a contagious smile, a great sense of humour and a genuine ability to make everyone feel welcome. She影响了人们的生活，总是乐于助人。

Debbie and Malcolm, Adrian and Rose, and her six great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, her son, Peter Saunders, and her six grandchildren.

Merilyn, her two granddaughters (all of Cooranbong); her six children, and her great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, her son, and her four grandchildren.

Barry Whelan

Mike Parker, Neil Lawson

Debbie and Malcolm, Adrian and Rose, and her six great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, her son, Peter Saunders, and her six grandchildren.

Melva had a bright personality, a keen mind, and a deep love for her God, her church, her family and friends. Greatly loved and greatly missed, she are a great friend to all.

Robert Porter

Barry Whelan

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Barry Whelan
Ebert, Marian, born 9/10/22 at Sydney, NSW, died 17/10/06 at Lismore. On 19/3/38 she married Ivan E. He is survived by his wife, Marian; his sons, Peter, Charles, and Steven; and his daughter, Karen (Perth, WA). Marian was predeceased by her husband, Pastor Stan Winter. For more information and the submission of expressions of interest please contact the Director of Education, Gary Maguire, phone (02) 9988 7222, email gmaguire@adventist.org.au.

Lee, Stanley Charles, born 31/1/1912 in Melbourne, Vic; died 28/10/06 at Flinders Medical Centre, SA. Survived by his wife, Joan; his sons, Ken and Brian; his grandchildren, Ken, Brian and Steve; his great-grandchildren, Kym, Kim and Kira; and his great-great-grandchildren, Tom and Jack. He was predeceased by his brother, Betty. For a position description: email <coronella@adventist.org.au>. Applications in writing (including résumé and details of two professional referees) should be forwarded to Mr Greg Fowler, Assistant CFO, North NSW Conference, c/-Salvation Army, PO Box 7, Wallaroo, SA 5576; phone (08) 4951 8088; no later than 14 December 2006.

Kosmeier, David, born 26/6/1910 in Banksia, NSW, eldest of nine children. Died 12/10/06 at home in Sydney. He was predeceased by his father, Pastor Stan Winter. For more information and the submission of expressions of interest please contact the Director of Education, Gary Maguire, phone (02) 9988 7222, email gmaguire@adventist.org.au.

Balogh, Andy, born 27/5/1949 in Budapest, Hungary; died 17/10/06 at home in Melbourne. He was predeceased by his parents, Mr and Mrs József Balogh. For a position description: email <coronella@adventist.org.au>. Applications in writing (including résumé and details of two professional referees) should be forwarded to Mr Greg Fowler, Assistant CFO, North NSW Conference, c/-Salvation Army, PO Box 7, Wallaroo, SA 5576; phone (08) 4951 8088; no later than 14 December 2006.

Positions vacant

▲ Accountant—Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care (Western Australia) Limited is seeking an Accountant to join the team at its Retirement Village/Nursing Homes complex at Rockingham, Perth. The successful applicant will hold a degree in business accounting and/or an accounting qualification (CA, CPA), and have suitable experience and knowledge of accounting/payroll packages. They will also have a commitment to the church and its mission. Applications in writing should be forwarded to the CFO at 314 Webb Street, Rockingham, WA 6168, or by email <chellina@adventist.org.au>; by December 8, 2006.

▲ Health Care Coordinator—Manukau College (Karangapoi, WA) is seeking a full-time coordinator commencing March/April, for a new Health Care Services course in 2007. The successful applicant will be deeply committed to Christ and the SDA Church, balanced in theology and lifestyle, sensitive to indigenous people, issues and cultures, and with formal qualification in health science. Applications in writing (including résumé, references, copies of qualifications and details of current SDA membership) should be forwarded to Human Resources, Manukau College, 198 School Road, Karangapoi, WA 6111; phone/fax (09) 9593 7244; no later than 23 December 2006.

▲ Business Manager—Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care (North New South Wales) Limited is seeking a Business Manager for the care-giver operations of the church in northern NSW. Those interested in this senior management position must be team-oriented and capable of developing and maintaining the financial operations in accordance with the objectives of the company. CAG or CPA (Highly regarded). Applications in writing (including details of current SDA church membership) should be forwarded with your resume to Mr Greg Fowler, Assistant CFO, North NSW Conference, c/-Salvation Army, PO Box 7, Wallaroo, SA 5220; phone (08) 4951 8088; no later than 14 December 2006.

▲ Clinical Services Manager—Corryong Retirement Village Nursing Home and Hostel (Narooma, Vic) is seeking a Clinical Services Manager for the overall management of the quality of clinical care in our high and low care (L/H/L) facilities. The successful applicant will have current Victorian Nursing Board Registration and at least five years postgraduate experience in clinical nursing, two of which are in a management position. For a position description: email <corryong@adventist.org.au>. Applications in writing (including résumé and details of two professional referees) should be forwarded to Alexander Belke, A/BV, Operations Manager, 181-185 Corryong Road, Narooma, Vic 2546; cbelke@adventist.org.au; no later than 14 December 2006.

▲ Seventh-day Adventist School (Western Australia) Limited has the following vacancies available for 2007: (1) Principal/teacher of Upper Primary, Esperance Christian Primary School; (2) Teacher of Early Childhood, Esperance Christian Primary School; Teacher of Middle Primary, Landcruiser Christian School (Perth). For further information and the submission of expressions of interest please contact the Director of Education, Gary Maguire, phone (08) 9988 7222, email gmaguire@adventist.org.au.
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December 2, 2006
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