HIV awareness takes to the road in PNG

LAE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The first-ever HIV/AIDS roadshow along Papua New Guinea’s Highlands Highway ended at Kerowagi in Simbu Province on March 9 after spending six days on the road.

Supported by Adventist health ministries and sponsored by AusAID through its church partnership program with Adventist Development and Relief Agency, the roadshow started at Yonki in the Eastern Highlands Province and stopped at every marketplace along the highway until it reached the border between the Simbu and Western Highlands Provinces.

Thousands of people followed the group to where they were making presentations and distributing information, including brochures and posters on HIV/AIDS.

The group was made up of 30 peer educators from the Eastern Highlands and Simbu Provinces and were from a number of churches, including the Adventist, Salvation Army and Lutheran churches.

The educational tour was conducted during the country’s current election period. According to the roadshow’s organisers, many people along the highway said with the elections coming up, a lot of people are attracted to places where they interact.

(Continued on page 3)
Prayer retreat at Busselton

BUSSELTơn, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Members of a number of churches in Western Australia gathered at the Busselton Youth Camp on February 20 and 21 for a prayer retreat.

This event concluded the Western Australian Conference’s 10 days of prayer.

The 34 people who attended the retreat learned how to pray through the Lord’s Prayer, other prayers included in the Bible and conversational prayers. Gathering in groups of three to five people, time was spent in prayer for around an hour five times each day.

One evening, everyone participated in a prayer walk along the beach and “claimed” the area for God and His kingdom.

The highlight of the retreat was considered to be the hour of silence reflecting the “Be still, and know that I am God” prayer in Psalm 46:10, which gave people time to withdraw and listen to God’s voice. Many of those who attended shared what God had blessed them with during this time.

Prayers for Australia and the Adventist Church within it to connect with God were also made, as those at the retreat reflected on ways in which the church needs to look outwards to reach the community, as well as giving young people who attend the freedom, encouragement and guidance to build them up to be future church leaders.—NewsWest

HIV awareness takes to the road in PNG

(Continued from page 1)

with those they don’t know, which has the potential to lead to risky behaviours.

Moses Irafa, who runs a care centre for people living with HIV/AIDS in Konigi, Daluo District, says people were involved in a lot of risky behaviours due to the amount of money around in the community during previous elections.

With the increase of HIV/AIDS, it is more risky this time and those who visit campaign houses should take care of themselves,” says Mr Irafa. “We have seen a lot of marriage break-ups, affairs, unplanned pregnancies and domestic violence, and we want to educate people so they can avoid these situations.”

At each stop during the evenings, the peer educators continued to carry out awareness through sharing of dramas, testimonies of those living with HIV/AIDS and showing HIV/AIDS documentaries and videos.

Nina Frazer, organiser of the roadshow and Adventist health ministries director for the Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission, says many areas in the provinces still need to be educated about HIV/AIDS.

“A lot of people have misconceptions about the virus in areas the media has not reached, and we should try to access these areas to talk to these people,” says Mrs Frazer.—Martina Darius

Females top males at awards ceremony

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

Female students at Avondale College have received almost twice as many scholarships and awards as their male classmates this year.

Some 52 students received scholarships and awards—with a total value of $A150,000—during a forum on the college’s Lake Macquarie campus on March 14. The most valuable scholarship, at up to $A27,500 each for a four-year course, is that presented by the Avondale Foundation to recognise academic excellence.

“We are delighted to give 10 scholarships to high academic achievers, and we regret not giving out all 15, but where are all the blokes?” said president Dr Norm Young.

However, five of the six winners of the first-ever scholarship for ministry to children, which traditionally appeals more to females, were males.

Most of the scholarships, worth up to $A5110 per year, are merit-based and cover the fields of business, education, music, science and theology. The President’s Scholarships and Awards recognise high school students from Australia and New Zealand who achieve or who are likely to achieve tertiary entrance rankings in the top 10 per cent of their state, territory or country.—Ur-sula Borgas

Clairessa Free receives a scholarship for academic excellence from Avondale Foundation president Dr Norm Young.
Pine Rivers enjoys outreach

PINE RIVERS, QUEENSLAND

People from most conferences in Australia and New Zealand joined Pine Rivers Adventist church members to attend a week-long Bible worker training course hosted by the church from February 25 to March 3.

The church’s pastor, David Stojcic, says, “A combination of hands-on training and an evening evangelistic series open to the public was a very powerful start to Pine Rivers’s outreach for 2007 because people can see the results of the training almost immediately.”

Guest speaker for the week was Pastor Louis Torres, former bass guitarist with rock groups Bill Haley and The Comets as well as The Vampires. On the opening Sunday night, 360 people filled the expo hall at Watson Park to hear the testimony of Pastor Torres.

Every weeknight, 250 to 300 people attended the series, with 400 on the Friday night and 500 on the final Sabbath. “About 10 to 15 per cent were not church members,” Pastor Stojcic says.

During the day 140 members attended the training program “How to bring a person to Jesus.” Local retired pastor Bruce Price, who presented three sessions, assisted Pastor Torres in the outreach program. On the Thursday afternoon those doing the training put the theory into practice by going door to door in the outreach program. On the final Sabbath approximately 360 people filled the expo hall at Watson Park to hear the testimony of Pastor Torres.

At the end of the week 18 people had requested baptism. On the final Sabbath afternoon, eight people were baptised in the outdoor font in front of Pine Rivers church.

Pine Rivers was planning to run such a training program every two years but there was an “overwhelming response” to the idea of having one every year, according to Pastor Stojcic. He adds, “Training programs increase motivation of our people to actively engage in the mission of the church, and increased zeal for soul winning will result in accelerated church growth.

“A new vision is emerging at Pine Rivers church to be a major hub for lay evangelism and leadership training. There is a great deal of excitement among our people.” —Glen Mickan

Weet-Bix given gold-label rating

BERKELEY VALE, NEW SOUTH WALES

Australia’s favourite breakfast cereal, Weet-Bix, has received a gold-label rating in the new “Australian Healthy Shopping Guide.”

Featured on the March 21 broadcast of Channel 7’s Today Tonight, the “Australian Healthy Shopping Guide” lists 1300 products by type and brand and features foods low in fat, sugar and calories, and high in nutrients and fibre.

Ranking products in three tiers, gold, silver and bronze according to their nutritional value, Weet-Bix, together with Light-Bix, was given a gold rating and Weet-Bix Hi-Bran was given a silver tick of approval in the breakfast cereal category.

Sanitarium’s group brand manager for cereals, Andrew Hewson, says it would have been hard to go past Weet-Bix as a gold-label breakfast option.

“Weet-Bix has been the number one breakfast cereal for almost 40 years. It’s high in fibre and wholegrain content, is low in fat and sugar and is low GI when served with milk.

“We are thrilled for Australia’s favourite breakfast cereal to again be recognised as a great way to start your day.” —James Tipple

◆ Students and staff at Nunawading Christian College, Vic, have had a “hair-raising” experience. By shaving or colouring their hair, participants raised $A800 for the Leukaemia Foundation’s “World’s greatest shave.” Organised by the student leadership team, the day began with a pancake breakfast. Initially many of the staff had their hair coloured but as more money came in Mr Lonsdale lost his 20-year-old beard. Mr Stiles (pictured) and school principal Jacques Calais agreed to have their heads shaved when funds reached the $A550 mark. The fundraiser was important to students and staff as a former teacher at the school had recently lost her battle with leukaemia. Next year students hope to raise $A1000. —Jacques Calais

◆ TV advertising for a free viewing of the Who is Jesus? videos will screen in Wagga Wagga on WIN Television, April 28 to May 6.

◆ A literature evangelist in Kimbe, New Britain, Papua New Guinea, has gone to extraordinary lengths for a book sale. Eli Pundu received a phone call at 1.30 am from a contact who said he was in desperate need. Mr Pundu read the man a passage from Steps to Christ and then said a prayer for him. He asked for Steps to Christ to be delivered immediately. So, at 2 am, Mr Pundu delivered the small book, worth just K5. —Record staff/Eli Pundu

◆ A member of the Albury church, NSW, Daniel Brinsmead, was awarded first prize for the Best Gospel Song in the youth category at the Australian Gospel Music Awards, held in Canberra, ACT, on March 8. Mr Brinsmead, a first-year university student studying vocal performance and composition, wrote the song “Look up” after his grandmother, Grace Mitchell, passed away in February 2006. —Beverley Hogg

DAYS AND OFFERINGS:◆ APRIL 21—UNION INSTITUTIONS OFFERING
A simple solution

RANDALL IBBOTT, QLD

I really appreciated “The shallow end of salvation” (Editorial, March 24). Too long has our beloved church been divided over issues of faith and works, law and grace, polarising into camps we sometimes call “liberal” or “conservative.” Each proclaims an element of truth, but the intense focus on what they champion has a tendency to subordinate other vital truths.

In the end, perhaps the solution, penned more than 100 years ago and oozing biblical principle, is simple: “The heart that rests most fully upon Christ will be most earnest and active in labour for Him” (Steps to Christ, page 71). In other words, fall in love with Jesus.

The sound of revival?

PHIL WARD, QLD

I would like to add a comment to “The church music question” (Feature, March 24). Research shows that every Christian revival in history has been accompanied by its own new form of religious music. So we must make sure we do not oppose new forms of music. It may be the marching music of the next revival. And if we crush the music, we may crush the revival.

A “post-grace” rectification

DALLAS O’CONNOR, SA

I agree with the question in “Equal, but . . .” (Letters, March 24): “Can we not be satisfied with our God-appointed roles on earth?” But what are these roles?

Prior to the Fall, Adam and Eve were co-equals and complementary to each other (see Genesis 1:26-30). Neither “ruled” over the other; their God-ordained role was to co-rule in their care of the natural world and to reflect within their marriage a taste of the unity and equality that exists within the Godhead (see Genesis 2:24).

Of course, after sin this changed. But the letter makes it sound like God had two responses to “Eve’s sin.” He demoted women and placed them under men. Then He installed men to be priests in the house. This suggests Adam was “promoted” for listening to Eve!

Surely, a post-Fall consequence of sin that led to male “rulership” over women was not part of God’s original creation and, post-grace, should be rectified. Perhaps our women who wish to be ordained as pastors are taking their cue, not from “Babylon,” but from the example of Jesus and the teachings of the New Testament.

While an ordained female pastor wouldn’t be an equal within a congregation, neither is an ordained male pastor. They would both be servants. God’s appointed “ruler” within the “body” has never been an ordained pastor—male or female—but Christ. Everything else under Him is submission.

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.
Positions vacant

- **Management Accountant—Sanitarium (Auckland, NZ)** is seeking a Management Accountant, reporting to the Commercial Manager—supply chain based in Berkeley Vale, NSW. The successful applicant will be tertiary qualified and preferably holding professional status such as CA or CPI; standard costing experience; proven analytical skills; and a good team player. Applications in writing (including résumé) should be forwarded to Management Accountant Vacancy, Private Bag 92127, Auckland, NZ; fax +64 9 625 4293. Apply online at <www.sanitarium.com.au/company/employment.html>. Applications close April 20, 2007.

- **Accountant/Accounts Clerk—Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community (Meekatharra, WA)** is seeking an Accountant/Accounts Clerk. The position requires competence in all aspects of management accounting, including a good understanding of GST, MYOB, payroll, preparation and lodgement of BAS etc. For further information regarding Karalundi and the above position, contact the Administrator on (08) 9981 2935; email <admin@karalundi.wa.edu.au>. Applications in writing should be forwarded to The Administrator, Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community, PMB 6, Meekatharra WA 6642. Applications close May 18, 2007.

- **Country Director—ADRA Solomon Islands** is seeking a Country Director to provide visionary and strategic leadership to the work of ADRA in the Solomon Islands. For further information please phone ADRA Solomon Islands on (677) 53737. Applications in writing (including your résumé, three work-related referees and the contact details of your church pastor) should be forwarded to SIM President, Andrew Kingston, PO Box R145, Honiara, Solomon Islands; or email <akinston@adventist.org.sb> with all supporting documents. Applications close May 11, 2007.

**Weddings**

De Waal—Smith. Jardene Hendrina De Waal, son of Henk and Marianne De Waal (Nerang, Qld), and Catherine Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Bill Smith (Brissbane), were married on 18.2.07 at Rosser Park, Ashmore. Wes Tolhurst.

Muller—Fehlberg. Daniel Stefan Muller, son of Reiner and Jutta Muller (Geelong,Vic), and Cara Elise Fehlberg, daughter of Philip and Raewyn Fehberg (Warranita), were married on 11.3.07 at Camp Howqua, Howqua. Lyman Ritchie.

Obst—Gotts. Daniel Edward Obst, son of Eric and Julie Obst (Looton, SA), and Kathleen Yvonne Gotts, daughter of Heath and Regina Gotts (Looton), were married on 4.3.07 at Media House Gardens, Looton. Robert Porter.

Ramsay—Odgers. Dale Simon Ramsay, son of Robert and Julie Ramsay (Geelong, Vic), and Shelley Aomi Odgers, daughter of Darrell and Diane Odgers (Newcastle, NSW), were married on 18.3.07 at The Tree House, Brunkerville. Brad Medлевель, Garth Bainbridge.

Selent—Olszewski. Daniel Karol Selent, son of Stan and Hilda Selent (Warraqul, Vic), and Anna Jessica Olszewski, daughter of Tomasz and Irena Olszewski (Melbourne), were married on 17.12.06 at the Reception Centre, Lyrebird Falls. Jan Pellok.

Stewart—Williams. Toli Duane Stewart, son of Brian and Brenda Stewart (Sydney, NSW), and Rachelle Williams, daughter of Brian (Central Coast) and Julieann Williams (Wagga), were married on 3.3.07 at Broken Head, Tergill. Wes Tolhurst.

Trow—James. Philip Trow, son of George and Jocelyn Trow (Brisbane, Qld), and Colleen James, daughter of Noel and Dawn James (Warwick), were married on 25.2.07 in the Warwick Adventist church. Keith Grosmann.

**Obituaries**

Bland, Irene Hazel (nee Behrens), born 27.2.1915 at Warburton, Vic; died 16.2.07 at Rosnyoune, WA. On 15.3.43 she married Pastor Maurice Bland, who predeceased her on 29.10.02. She was also predeceased by her daughter, Ngereta Bland, on 11.1.04. She was survived by her sons, Kyrill (Whakatane, NZ) and David Bland (Redlands, California, USA); their families; and her sister-in-law, Eva Behrens (Warburton, Vic). Irene taught in our SDA schools for 12 years at primary, secondary and tertiary levels; and was later a preschool teacher for two years. Pat Downey.

Cuthmore—Weatherall. Kydelesha Robyn Ruth, born 28.12.06 at Armidale, NSW; died just two hours later. This little child of God is sorely missed by her parents, Dujuan (DJ) Cuthmore and Katherine (Kamarla) Weatherall; her brother, Wayne, and the extended family. Longing for the resurrection morning.

Kevin Brown.

Folkes, Patricia Helen (formerly Ashcroft, nee Fehlberg), born 5.11.1924 in Hobart, Tas; died 14.2.07 in Box Hill Hospital, Vic. In July 1944 she married Richard Ashcroft, who predeceased her in 1993. She was also predeceased by her second husband, All Folkes, in 1991. She is survived by her children Noel (Daretone, NSW), David (Hornetville, Vic), Helen (Montrose, Annette Robinson (Bright), Brian (Toowomba, Qld) and Peter (Red Hill); and their spouses, 20 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren. Patricia worked in the bindery of the Signs Publishing Company, before going to Avonlea College. She was dearly loved by her family and will be sadly missed.

Ken Mead, Darrell Croft.

Haycock, Lindsay Owen, born 1.11.1921 in the Rangikikei area of the North Island of NZ; died 18.9.06 at Taumarunui. He was predeceased by his wife, Alma. He is survived by his wife, Irene; his five daughters and their spouses; his many grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and two stepchildren. He spent most of his life farming in the Western Bay, Tauranga area. He will be greatly missed by all, but died in the hope of the resurrection morning.

Kayle De Waal.

Holmesby, Edna May, born 20.4.1914 in Adelaide, SA; died 31.01.07 at Oaklands Residential Care, Oaklands Park. She is survived by her nephew, Ian Brown. Originally from Victoria, she worked for Sanitarium in helping establish a factory and distribution warehouse in Adelaide, SA. She was a longstanding and active member of the Brighton church.

Dave Hamilton.

Kelly, Ella June, born 14.6.1964 in the Kempsey district, NSW; died 28.2.07 at Armadale. She was predeceased by her mother, Maisie Kelly. She is survived by her father, Clive Kelly; her children, Irene, Andrew, Madlene and Tara. Ella will be sadly missed by her children, many siblings and their extended family until the day Jesus returns.

George Quinlin.

Darren Garlett, Kevin Brown.

Kim-Davis, Carol Rose, born 5.5.1959 in Kempsey, NSW; died 3.10.07 in Sydney. She was predeceased by her parents, Leslie and June Davis; also her husband, Stephen Kim. She is survived by her children, Natasha-Jo, Marion and Stephen. Carol’s children are all the family miss her and are waiting to be re-united at the coming of Jesus.

George Quinlin.

Kevin Brown.

Merritt, Paul Michael (Mezza), born 28.8.1982 at Geelong, Vic; died 15.2.07 in the Geelong Hospial. He was predeceased by his brother, James, in 2001. He is survived by his parents, Mick and Mary; his sister, Melanie; and his brother, Anthony. This close-knit family are mourning his loss deeply. Without the long arm of God’s compassion and the promise of the resurrection morning it would be too overwhelming.

John O’Malley, Quinten Liebrandt.

Advertisements

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Volunteers!

**English Teacher—Wisdom Bank Language School (Taiwan).** To teach elementary classes as well as assist with the local church evangelism and youth program. Fantastic opportunity! Term: 12 months, commencing July 1, 2007. For more information contact Hayley.

Email: <volunteers@adventist.org.au>

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**Allround Travel Centre, Qld.** Friendly service—excellent rates. Specialists in individual or group travel, Contact Anita on the phone (02) 5530 3555; or email <alltrav@bigpond.net.au>.

**Amazing Facts, Your Story Hour, Empowered Living Ministries and 3ABN products.** Visit The Story Factory Online Store for quality Christian products <www.thestoryfactory.com.au>; email <info@thestoryfactory.com.au>; or contact us freecall 1800 452 133.

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**China tour—October 16–31, 2007.** Travel with an Adventist group and see Beijing at its best before the Olympic Games, the Great Wall etc in five cities. Vegetarian meals. Sabbath worship with Chinese believers. Contact Simon on (07) 9276 5817. Numbers limited. Art soon.

Finally

Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.—Mother Teresa.