More than 1000 literature evangelists, from four divisions and 23 countries, attended the first Asia-Pacific Literature Evangelist Congress in Bangkok, Thailand, from April 26 to 28.

Representatives from the South Pacific Division (SPD) were joined by participants from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, the Southern Asia Division and the Southern Asia-Pacific Division.

The theme for the congress was “Keeping the vision alive” and many literature evangelists throughout the congress shared how God had performed miracles in their work—from opening new areas to amazing conversions to the Adventist faith.

“The Bangkok congress was a highlight for all who attended,” says the associate director for the Adventist Publishing Department in the SPD, Pastor Kevin Geelan. “It was a mixture of inspiration, learning, cultural exchange and sightseeing.”

The main presenter was Pastor Howard Faigao, publishing director of the General Conference, who shared that there are currently 38,000 literature evangelists worldwide. The challenge was laid down of “one church, one literature evangelist,” which would result in 55,000 literature evangelists worldwide.

(Continued on page 5)
due to the Spirit-filled leadership of Nehemiah, the people of Jerusalem achieved a great amount—the city wall was rebuilt in just 52 days. Jerusalem’s corrupt leaders were ousted and the people had come together for registration. Jerusalem’s glory was renewed!

In response, the people gathered, built a platform in the city square and called for Ezra, their priest, to read them God’s law. The people longed to worship.

“Ezra stood on the platform in full view of all the people. When they saw him open the book, they all rose to their feet.

“Then Ezra praised the Lord, the great God, and all the people chanted, ‘Amén! Amen!’ as they lifted their hands. Then they bowed down and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground” (Nehemiah 8:5, 6*).

Then Ezra began to read. He recited the scriptures “from early morning until noon. . . . All the people listened closely to the scriptures “from early morning until noon. . . . Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don’t be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!” (verses 9, 10).

The joy of the Lord is your strength. Have you ever pondered Paul’s meaning when he wrote, “Always be joyful” (1 Thessalonians 5:16)? Is it really possible to be joyful always? Even when facing your true nature. The joy of the Lord is your strength.

Or what about Jesus, hanging on the cross? He couldn’t have been joyful as he endured such pain, could he?

Where did Jesus get His strength as He endured the cross? Paul presents the answer: “Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross” (Hebrews 12:2).

Joy? Yes! Jesus looked beyond the cross to the joy of the eternal kingdom and received the strength to endure His temporary suffering. His own future joy, and the joy of His Father, gave Him strength.

But, that’s only the last half of the text. Paul had a reason for painting a picture of joyful Jesus on the cross. The first half of the text offers us the same opportunity for transformation in worship experienced in Nehemiah’s new Jerusalem.

We know our sinfulness, and we have witnessed our sinless Saviour suffer on our cross. The chasm seems too great. And we weep. How are we to go on? We must mourn, we think. We must bear the burden of His death. How can we endure?

Paul—our Nehemiah—steps forward and proclaims, “We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honour beside God’s throne” (Hebrews 12:2).

Jesus, the joy of the Lord, is our strength! Eyes fixed on Him belong to a people of joy. And to a world searching for strength, such joy is irresistible. So, be joyful always!

*A all Bible quotations are taken from the New Living Translation.

David Edgren
ADRA delivers clean water in PNG

LAE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Village leader Leah Gibson, of Eec village, in the Nawaeb district of Morobe Province, shed tears of appreciation during her speech at the opening of the village’s new water supply. The water supply was constructed by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and was funded by the European Union (EU) under its rural water supply and sanitation program in Morobe Province.

Speaking on behalf of the women in the community, Ms Gibson said that for years her people had to walk more than a kilometre upstream in search of drinking water. “Every morning and every afternoon my people had to carry water containers to fetch water for drinking and cooking. We are proud of what we have achieved together and can only thank God for bringing all of us together to accomplish this project.”

ADRA provided the village with two shower taps, two laundry taps, eight multipurpose taps and five toilets. The EU community-development specialist for the rural water supply and sanitation program, Phillip Appleton, urged the community to care for and sustain the water supply after the training they had received.

ADRA water and sanitation officers Relly Yosi, Naomi Darei, Scholly Masueng and project manager Neale Bookall were on hand to witness the opening and join in the celebration.

The project started in December 2006, when ADRA’s water and sanitation community facilitation team made its initial visit to the village. The team conducted health training for 65 villagers on proper sanitation and good water practice as well as HIV/AIDS awareness in January.

The project cost K20,000 and construction was completed in early March. Under ADRA’s partnership with the EU, eight village water supplies have been constructed since October last year. Currently, four water-supply projects are under construction and 24 other water-supply projects are planned this year.

And ADRA can now conduct its own site water testing at its new project sites throughout the Morobe Province. ADRA’s Morobe rural water and sanitation program has purchased a set of Hach portable water-testing kits from Meddent to monitor and collect accurate analytical results of the quality of water at its project sites.

Previously, water samples were taken from project sites and delivered to the National Analysis Laboratory at the University of Technology for testing at the initial stage of the project.

“After the completion of the water construction we will carry out two additional tests: one will be right after completion and the other one six months later,” said health manager Merilyn Gairo.

A four-day training session was conducted by Meddent’s technical officer Vivianne Kanawi for five of the water and sanitation program officers on how to use the testing kit. —RECORD staff/Martina Darius

◆ Noeline Lang, a member of Orange church (NSW), was awarded the NSW Midwife of the Year, an award sponsored by Johnson & Johnson, on May 9. She completed her general nursing training at the Epworth Hospital, Melbourne, Vic, and was trained as a midwife at the King George V Hospital in Sydney, graduating 40 years ago.

She is still at the Orange Base Hospital maternity unit where she has worked since 1973. Ms Lang says it’s the best job in the world. After 33 years of working as a midwife, she still finds it exciting and emotional to be involved with people during the birth of their children. “I love seeing miracles occurring every day and being part of the joy and tears of each birth,” she says. “I feel very humble about receiving this award and for me, after a long career as a midwife, it’s the icing on the cake.”—Trish Moffitt

◆ Rick Ferret, senior pastor of Mackay church, Qld, graduated on April 29 with a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the Sydney College of Divinity. Dr Ferret (pictured here with his wife Jenny) entitled his thesis “Charisma, sectarianism and institutionalisation: Identity issues in Seventh-day Adventism.” (See Feature, “Exploring the Adventist journey,” March 3.) As well as being the first to graduate with a PhD in the college’s 23-year history, he was also the recipient of the Beth Blackall Prize, awarded to the student presenting a dissertation of excellence at graduate level.

Dr Ferret also received congratulations from Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir, Governor of New South Wales, and Dr John Cox, president of Avondale College.

—Will Ferrett
TPUM’s youth leadership strengthened at convention

TAILEVU, FIJI

he first ever Trans-Pacific Union Mission (TPUM) Youth Leadership Convention saw 350 young people and youth leaders from all six missions of the TPUM converge on Fulton College, Fiji, to learn how to “retain, reclaim and rescue.” Held from April 5 to 9, the young people and leaders came to learn how to effectively minister to current members, support those no longer attending church and reach out to other young people.

The main speaker for the weekend was Pastor Jean Noel Adeline, who is currently working as an evangelist and church pastor in the New Caledonia Mission. Other presenters included Pastor Gilbert Cangy, director of youth ministries for the South Pacific Division (SPD) and his associate, Pastor Nick Kross, as well as Ms Litiana Qiose from the SPD.

Special guests, the Honourable Taito Waqa, Fiji’s permanent secretary for Labour, Industrial Relations, Tourism and Environment, and Pastor Lawrence Tanabose, strengthened at convention.

Participants enjoy close fellowship at TPUM’s first ever youth leadership convention.

TPUM president, were present for the official opening ceremony. Pastor Aseri Suka, Fiji Mission president, officially closed the convention.

Participants said they wished the weekend was longer and that another similar convention would be held next year. The next TPUM Youth Leadership Convention will be held in 2011, at a venue yet to be decided.

A similar SPD-wide training program will be held from August 10 to 14, 2007 (see “Youth leaders to move with the power,” page 7).—Sione Ausage

PAU remembers tsunami victims

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

embers and friends of the Solomon Islands community in Port Moresby gathered together at Pacific Adventist University (PAU) on Sunday, April 22, to hold a service remembering those who died in the recent tsunami disaster that hit the Western and Choiseul Provinces of the Solomon Islands.

The service featured a comforting message from Professor Aaron Lopa from PAU’s school of theology and more than K1700 was collected in offerings for the victims.

Special guest at the service, Solomon Islands High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, His Excellency Batani’sa, was joined by all the Solomon Islands students from the University of Papua New Guinea, Bomana Seminary College and PAU.

The tsunami left 54 people dead and more than 20,000 homeless.—Edna Worri

Clean-up continues in the Solomon Islands.

Hollywood came to the Lidydale Adventist Academy (LAA) with actress Jessica Alba and her entourage making a lengthy visit to the school on Sunday, May 6. Travelling from the city by helicopter, Ms Alba touched down at LAA, where she was met by 150 excited fans. After receiving flowers from LAA students, she walked the red carpet on her way to a waiting limousine. Ms Alba then travelled to a nearby spa retreat before returning via the academy to her waiting helicopter.—David Jones

Nunawading Christian School has just received $A70,000 for the development of their squash courts into a performing arts centre, under the Australian Government’s “Small projects investing in our schools” program. This complex will serve both the primary and high schools and is the latest in a series of upgrades at the school. The school is currently refurbishing its classrooms and building a new arts complex, while oval development is scheduled for later in the year. In all, the current capital works program at the school is close to $A1.3 million, $A800,000 of which has been funded by government grants.—Jacques Calais

At ACF Investments Ltd’s first meeting for 2007, Avondale Foundation president, Dr Norm Young (right) welcomed Stuart Tippie (left) and Dr Norm Carlsten (centre) onto the board. “Mr Tippie’s experience as principal of the Gosford law firm, Brennan Tippie Partners, and Dr Carlsten’s as senior lecturer in finance and information technology in Avondale College’s business faculty, will bring invaluable expertise to the board,” says Dr Young. ACF Investments Ltd is part of the Avondale Foundation and has more than $A60 million in deposits. Profits are used to help students attending Avondale College.—Norman Young

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ JUNE 9—PACIFIC ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OFFERING ◆ WOMEN’S MINISTRIES EMPHASIS DAY
Asia-Pacific LEs share renewed vision

(Continued from page 1)

Pastor Orville Parchment, assistant to the president of the General Conference, and Pastor Laurie Evans, president of the SPD, shared devotions throughout the congress. Participants were challenged in their ministry and inspired by stories of others like them. “Divisions of the world church that attended were diverse, but the one challenge common to all is reaching a secular or conservative religious world with the unique message for the end-time that has been committed to us as Seventh-day Adventists,” says Pastor Geelan.

The weekend began with a colourful opening ceremony during which representatives from each country, led by Australian couple Andrew and Sue Johnson, marched in their national costumes with their national flags.

Before the Sabbath worship service, a multicultural Sabbath school was hosted by Suzanne Sugrue, unit leader in Adelaide. On Saturday night, all of the countries presented samples of their diverse cultures in a cultural concert. Sunday was a day to explore the floating markets and get a taste of the city.

During the congress each division was given the opportunity to share what they were doing in their local areas. The SPD Adventist Publishing Department used the opportunity to launch the first book of a new, 10-book children’s series called the Moose Stories. Written by Shaun Hepworth, a literature evangelist from the Central Coast (NSW), and illustrated by member Sophie Risuleo, the books are written in rhyming verse and feature Bible stories like the good Samaritan.

A number of awards were given to literature evangelists from each division. In the SPD, Andrew Johnson was honoured for 39 years service; Aaron Fuller for 33 years in the Pacific islands field; Joe Paola for 44 baptisms; and Marcel Doom for the highest value of sales for 2006 with $A152,000. One Japanese literature evangelist was recognised for giving 57 years of service.

The congress provided participants with “a tremendous sense of togetherness, oneness in purpose and faith,” says Allan Patterson, Australian Eastern Area manager. It also provided “the warmth of meeting new people from all different countries and cementing existing friendships, a deeper sense of mission and commitment to the literature ministry and, finally, a greater love for their Lord and Saviour.”—RECORD staff/ Allan Patterson

◆ The first baptism at Palmerton North contemporary service, NZ, occurred over the Easter weekend when Longburn Adventist College teacher Lisa Laney was baptised in front of family and friends. Ms Laney began her journey while working at New Zealand Post with Fiona Sio. Their friendship led to Ms Laney visiting the church, which "instantly felt like home."—Julene Duerksen-Kapao

◆ Two Adventist acts have made it through auditions to join the final 120 contestants of the new British show “Britain’s got talent,” hosted by Simon Cowell. The Animated Gospel Choir is a choir made of puppets from the Walthamstow church; and 13-year-old Jeharna South is a young singer from the Wolverhampton Pendeford church. Ms South says she has been singing into hairbrushes since she was three and loves that she gets to meet new people through her talent. Both acts hope to take the gospel to the community using all forms of modern media and are thankful for the opportunity the show will provide them.—BUC News

◆ First immortalised when former United States’ president Harry Truman presented him with the prestigious Congressional Medal of Honour, the late Corporal Desmond Doss’s story of faith and service lives on in Veterans Memorial Park, Collegedale, Tennessee, USA. Doss, an Adventist World War II medic, was recognised for single-handedly rescuing 75 fellow soldiers from a jagged escarpment amid enemy mortar fire on the Japanese island of Okinawa. In 2004, Adventist film-maker Terry Benedict’s documentary The Conscientious Objector charted Doss’s journey of faith and service. A smiling, saluting Doss—sculpted in bronze by Georgia-based sculptor Gregory Johnson—now joins a collection of other military-inspired sculptures in the park. Mr Benedit, who delivered the keynote address at the dedication says, “Doss’s greatest achievement was not saving lives on the escarpment, but his trial by fire—enduring two-and-a-half years of harassment and abuse, yet getting up on the battlefield and being able to save the very people who had persecuted him.”—Elizabeth Lechleitner/ANN
ADRA launches new-look website

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia has launched a new website at <www.adra.org.au> that provides supporters with easy access to new resources, activities and giving opportunities.

“ADRA's new website allows our supporters to keep informed, be involved and change a life with every visit,” says ADRA Australia’s director of marketing and public relations, Michelle Oetman.

“It provides the latest news updates from our projects or disaster response, activities for people of all ages and free resources—especially for schools and churches. Visitors will also have the opportunity to donate to a specific project and read success stories to learn how their donations are making a difference.”

ADRA Australia’s user-friendly website now also has The ADRA Shop where ADRA merchandise like T-shirts, mugs, pens and more can be purchased. In addition, the website lists upcoming events to join such as Anti-Poverty Week activities, volunteering for the ADRA Appeal and other one-off events, such as those in support of the Make Poverty History campaign.

Through the website, ADRA supporters can choose from a variety of new giving schemes, such as direct-debit donations, workplace giving and bequests. The website also provides instant confirmation of online donations.

“ADRA’s new website also allows supporters to stay informed by listening to ADRA’s World Radio weekly broadcasts, featuring interviews with ADRA’s staff around the world. Visitors can also read clippings of media articles that feature ADRA and sign up for free email updates to receive ADRA’s latest news,” says Ms Oetman. —Candice Jaques

More @ www.adra.org.au

Tree-planting marks 100 years of youth ministry

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, USA

With the planting of a tree on May 15, Seventh-day Adventist young people—who make up an estimated 70 per cent of the church around the world—celebrated the 100th anniversary of youth ministries.

Several General Conference (GC) leaders and church members gathered at the Washington Seventh-day Adventist Spanish church in Silver Spring, Maryland, at 3 pm—the exact time the Adventist Youth Ministries Department was created 100 years ago in Gland, Switzerland.

While planting several hundred trees across the globe is good for the environment, Baraka Muganda, GC director of youth ministries, said planting trees has a symbolic purpose as well.

“When the next generation asks what this tree is for, we want them to know that this church cares for young people,” he said. “Because of that care—that spiritual care—the church created a special department to nurture young people according to their needs and challenge them to participate in the mission of the church.” —Taashi

◆ Nearly a quarter of Australians aged between 13 and 24 attend church at least once a month, according to Dr Phillip Hughes, the senior research officer at the Christian Research Association (CRA). In his latest survey, Dr Hughes pointed out that 80 per cent of young people in this nation were less “militant and secular” compared with their parents. Dr Hughes explained 30 per cent of all Australian young people attend a church-run school but many fall away from the church once they leave. Between the ages of 13 and 24, 14 per cent of young people attended church at least once a week or more. More than 80 per cent of young people said that, at least sometimes, they found it hard to know what to believe about life.

◆ Archaeologists at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem say they have found the tomb of Herod the Great, the ruthless ruler mentioned in the Gospel of Matthew. Governor of Judea during the time of Christ’s birth, he also led a massive expansion of the Second Temple. The tomb was found about 16 kilometres south of Jerusalem in an area called Mount Herodium, where Herod built a palace. Ehud Netzer, a professor at Hebrew University who led the discovery, said he is certain the tomb was Herod’s.

◆ Dr Netzer first started working at Mount Herodium in 1972. The find will probably not have a large impact on New Testament studies but will be a major boost to the study of the early Roman period in the region. —ASSIST News Service

◆ Thousands of South Korean Christians are in training to take the gospel to North Korea and plant churches there when the country finally opens up. One Christian, who asked not to be identified said, “We believe that because of world pressure, North Korea will soon have to open up to get much-needed foreign currency. We have many ready and willing to move in there with the good news of Jesus Christ.” They are aware that the country could be open for a short time and then closed again, leaving them trapped inside.—ASSIST News Service
Youth leaders to move with the power

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

If our church was set up simply as a network of local churches with no common vision and goals, we would not need this kind of event,” says Pastor Gilbert Cangy, director of youth ministries for the South Pacific Division (SPD), reflecting on “Move with the power.” “But we are a large organisation with the capacity to achieve incredible things for God’s kingdom. Coming together for events like ‘Move with the power’ creates this sense of belonging to a significant movement of God that can combine forces to pursue some ambitious goals by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Pastor Cangy is obviously excited about “Move with the power,” which is planned to run from August 10 to 14 at Watson Park Convention Centre, just north of Brisbane (Qld). “‘Move with the power’ is an SPD-wide youth-leadership convention, designed for all volunteers and professionals involved in aspects of youth ministry,” he explains. “It is a highly spiritual and inspirational event that provides a launching pad for the vision and objectives for youth ministry for this quinquennium.”

The first “Move with the power” training program took place in March 2000, at Stanwell Tops, south of Sydney (NSW). “It was a moment in history, as it brought leaders from all aspects of youth ministry from the four corners of the SPD,” says Pastor Cangy. “It was highly inspirational, motivational and empowering. It ignited the imagination of our leaders in regards to who we are as a people of God and what could be accomplished by His power. And it created wonderful memories.”

Since that time, various youth-leadership and ministry-training programs have been run by the youth ministries departments of the union conferences and union missions under the “Move with the power” banner (see “TPUM’s youth leadership strengthened at convention,” page 4). And Pastor Cangy appreciates these programs that have been held to further equip youth leaders.

“Leaders on the front line need to be continually equipped and inspired,” he explains. “They are ministering in the context of a rapidly changing society and an evolving youth culture. While the core needs of young people are the same, they face new challenges and new approaches have to be devised to meet them.

“Leadership training provides an ideal networking setting for leaders to compare notes and foster solidarity. Most importantly it is a chance for us to revitalise and motivate.”

The specific focus of this year’s training program will be the launch of the major ministry objectives for SPD youth ministries, formulated as “Retain, reclaim, rescue.” In conjunction with youth ministries departments at unions, conferences and missions, the SPD has formulated a comprehensive strategic plan around these key objectives. Elements of this plan have already been put in place, with a census of current levels of participation by young people in church events conducted in April and May. According to Pastor Cangy, these figures will be retained as a statistical measure against which larger objectives can be assessed. It is planned that another such census will be conducted in 2010, at the end of the quinquennium.

Pastor Cangy says the August training program will focus on resourcing youth leaders to meet these objectives in their various areas of ministry.

“We all recognise that for the best part of our ministry time we are focused on our local scene—and that is how it should be,” he reflects. “But if from time to time we do not find ourselves in the company of other like-minded leaders, our world can become small—and so can our vision. ‘Move with the power’ is an opportunity to reignite that vision and reinforce the notion that we are part of something big for God. We can access the best of training and resources. It is a real shot in the arm that can keep us in good stead for years to come.”

And Pastor Cangy is sure there will be many highlights from “Move with the power.” “The whole event is set up as a continual series of highlights,” he says. “From the worship and creative arts to the choirs and our keynote speaker Dick Barron, there will be some major highlights. The times of prayer in the evenings will be special, as new friendships are forged between leaders from around the Pacific. A host of expert presenters giving the best of themselves, the celebration of 100 years of youth ministry on Saturday night, the launching of ‘Retain, reclaim, rescue,’ and the experience of being with 800 other leaders from a diversity of cultures will all constitute highlights.

“The mission of our youth departments is ‘to lead young people into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and help them find their place in God’s service,’” says Pastor Cangy. “As youth ministries departments, we can’t do that by ourselves, and so we work to ‘inspire, train, resource and empower’ our youth leaders to share in this sacred trust.’

“That’s what ‘Move with the power’ is about. This event is open to all professional and volunteer youth leaders, anyone involved in youth ministry or who has a passion for ministering to and with young people.” —Nathan Brown

More information and application forms for “Move with the power” are available from Adventist Youth Ministries Departments of conferences and missions across the South Pacific Division.

More @ www.spdyouth.com
The Struggle for the Prophetic Heritage

REVIEW BY ARTHUR PATRICK


Ellen White was born on November 26, 1827, and served Sabbatarian Adventists in a public role from December 1844 until near the day of her death. Visitors to her “Sunnyside” home in Cooranbong can appreciate something of the pressures under which she toiled there from 1895 to 1900: writing letters, helping plan institutions that became Avondale College and Sydneyn Adventist Hospital, conferring with church leaders, speaking at camp-meetings and conferences, and writing books like *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, The Desire of Ages, Christ’s Object Lessons and Testimonies for the Church,* Volume 6.

Ellen White returned to California in 1900 at 74 years of age and purchased her last home, near Pacific Union College. She loved the small farm with its elm trees and longed for a retirement retreat, so she gave it a promising name, “Elmshaven.”

However, “Elmshaven” was always far too busy to be thought of as a haven. For instance, in 1910, Ellen White employed 15 people there in a range of support roles. Since the untimely death of her husband, James, in 1881, her son, William Clarence White—she always called him “Willie”—helped with the involved processes of editing and publishing her writings. As Ellen White moved into her 80s, Willie’s supervision became even more important; her 1912 “Last Will and Testament” named him one of five trustees.

Then, on July 16, 1915, Ellen White died, aged 87. After 70 years, feeling God was constantly speaking to them through His messenger, Adventists held three large funeral services and tried to come to terms with the harsh reality of another White family grave in Battle Creek’s Oak Hill Cemetery.

Some Adventists felt Ellen White’s work was done, that the doors to the building housing her letters and manuscripts could be locked and her staff dispersed. It was natural for Willie White to be the principal custodian of his mother’s writings, in liaison with the other appointed trustees scattered far away. No-one knew the precious writings more intimately or cherished them in quite the same way as Willie did. And he legally owned some of them, according to his mother’s will. He envisioned how they continued to speak on issues that were arising in the turbulent 20th century.

But Willie White was on the geographical rim of the Adventist wheel. Even the hub of the wheel was no longer in the Midwest city of Battle Creek; it was in the distant capital of the nation. Urban Washington, DC, was a world away from rural St Helena. Willie’s vision for making unpublished counsels known in the growing church didn’t always coincide with the perceptions of appointed leaders.

Portraits of two of my favourite Adventist leaders from the early 20th century, Willie White and an Australian, Charles Henry Watson, appear on the cover of Dr Valentine’s book. Watson was not yet an Adventist when Pastor White was a leader in “The Australian Mission.” But from 1930, Watson was appointed president of the General Conference in Washington, DC. Both men treasured the writings of Ellen White. And their “struggle for the prophetic heritage” was as real as the conflict Paul and Barnabas experienced over John Mark.

I first rejoice in Arthur White’s *Prophetic Guidance* lectures during December 1957 and January 1958. At that time he was apt to comment on the long years during which his father, Willie, experienced marginalisation on the US West Coast. Arthur White valued his location in the General Conference building and his responsibility as a trustee of the White Estate after the death of his father in 1937. The last sentence of Dr Valentine’s epilogue focuses the message of his book: “The resolution of the struggle for control over the prophetic heritage achieved in the 1930s by the General Conference, on behalf of the community of advent believers, asserting its ultimate spiritual stewardship of the collection continues to undergird the present relationship between the White Estate and the General Conference” (pages 143-4).

Dr Valentine is not only a superb historian, he is also a loved pastor and a wise teacher. This is a narrative of commendable empathy told with a clear understanding of the problem, the related issues and the outcomes. All of us who value free access to the writings of Ellen White, including tens of thousands of pages of letters and manuscripts, need to read this illuminating book. R


Arthur Patrick is an honorary senior research fellow of Avondale College, Cooranbong, New South Wales.
feature

A heart decision

BY SHARYN BRADY

Recent research by the Heart Foundation suggests that 61 per cent of Australians wouldn’t call 000 if they thought they were having a heart attack.1

At first glance, the statistic seems bizarre. Understandably, the Heart Foundation is alarmed by the results—after all, heart attacks are a serious business. In fact, heart disease is the single leading cause of death in our country, killing more than 24,000 Australians each year.

Australia’s emergency number—000—is specifically designed to deal with these kinds of situations. You simply pick up the phone, dial 0-0-0 and you will be connected with operators who will send an ambulance to assist. Emergency operators are on stand-by across the nation, ready and waiting to take the call.

So with this emergency service in place, why would the majority of Australians choose not to make that call? Some 35 per cent of respondents said they wouldn’t call for help because they didn’t want to waste anybody’s time. After all, what if they were just imagining the symptoms? What if it was just a false alarm? They didn’t want to be a bother. Another 15 per cent said they were simply too embarrassed to call for help.

It seems irrational that so many people wouldn’t utilise the life-saving help that is available. Yet how often do we make the same mistake when it comes to our spiritual health?

We may not be having a heart attack—but the Bible tells us we are all suffering from a different kind of heart problem. In Genesis 6:5, God observes of humankind that “every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.”* In Romans 3:23, the Bible clearly states that we have all sinned. Sin is a disease from which none of us are immune and it is 100 per cent fatal if untreated.

Paul reminds us in Romans 6:23 that “the wages of sin is death”—but that’s not the end of the story. In the same sentence as this depressing diagnosis, Paul gives us the good news—“but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” There is a solution to our heart problem. But before we can begin treatment, we need to acknowledge that we have a problem—and ask for help from the only One who can cure us.

God says, in Jeremiah 33:3, “Call to me and I will answer you.” So what prevents us from making that call? Perhaps we are in a state of denial about our spiritual health. We choose to ignore the symptoms of sin, and instead convince ourselves we can handle our problems on our own.

Or maybe we feel embarrassed about our weaknesses. Perhaps we are hesitant to admit we need help. Yet Jesus is already aware of our need and He’s promised to be there for us. Hebrews 4:16 instructs us to “approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

Sometimes, though, it’s hard to be confident when we approach God. Maybe we feel as if we don’t want to bother Him with our problems. Yet throughout the Bible, God expresses the love He has for each of us, and His desire to help us. Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

Jesus recognised the need to be in constant communication with God. During His time on earth, He continually talked with God through prayer. Similarly, the Psalms chart David’s spiritual and emotional journey, from his dizzying highs to the depths of his despair. Sometimes he praises God; sometimes he questions Him. But, always, he communicates with Him. David understood the need to call on God for the things that only He can offer: “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10).

The same cure is available to us. It’s a life-saving treatment, and it’s also a life-changing one. The only way we can be cured of our heart problem is by having a complete transplant. God promises, in Ezekiel 36:26, “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.”

All we have to do is ask. He’s standing by to answer our call.

“All Bible quotations are from the New International Version.


Sharyn Brady is a student in English at Avondale College.
We can’t ignore it

BY ESTELLE ALSOP

I was walking down the street the other day when out of the corner of my eye I spotted a $50 note lying on the footpath. I looked around to see if anyone could have dropped it but the street was almost deserted. I bent down and picked up the note. I could have ignored it and walked by but it was $50. I suppose even if it was $5 or $10 I still would not have ignored it. We don’t usually ignore money lying on the road. But when it comes to adverse human experience, sometimes it seems easier to ignore what is going on around us. We often choose to ignore difficult issues. We don’t face up to issues like domestic violence or child protection. It is easier to pretend that it doesn’t happen.

Why is that? What does it mean for the church family to acknowledge that someone in our congregation is a perpetrator of violence? What does it mean to ignore it? Ignoring often seems the easier option. If we don’t say anything, it might go away. We don’t want to question what it is about our church community or an individual that makes it possible for violence to occur.

Her story

Julie is a member of the Adventist Church. For a long time Julie ignored her own experience of violence because she thought it was normal—that’s just what happens. She had grown up in a church family where being controlled and dominated was normal. As a child, she experienced verbal and physical abuse and no-one questioned it. As a child, she just thought that was what parents did. But today, Julie wonders how no-one saw what was happening.

Julie married an Adventist man. They settled down and had a family. She did not question her husband’s physical and verbally violent behaviour or the fact that she had no control over finances or her own social activities. One night her husband attempted to drive the car off the road into a tree. An accident occurred and the police were called. Her husband had tried to kill her and her children, the ultimate abuse of power. When the police asked her if she wanted to press charges she wondered why—she thought her husband’s actions were acceptable.

How many people in our congregation still think experiencing violence is a normal part of life? If no-one questions it, victims may not know that violence is not OK. They might continue to believe it is something they should expect. When facing up to violence in our church community, are we being disloyal to the church? No, we are acknowledging people’s real-life experience.

Taking notice

To acknowledge that domestic violence is happening in our church is the beginning of reducing this violence. I recently met a woman at a training session I was running, whose husband came from an Adventist family. She told the group about some of her Adventist extended-family members and the severe abuse that was happening to a wife, and the children in the family. She stated that when she stood up and said that this was not OK, she was told that it just happens. Her reply was then, “Why is my husband not violent to me?”

If we do not acknowledge that violence exists, we will miss the signs that may be present in our fellow church members and children. Let’s open our eyes as a church community. Let’s be proactive and face up to the violence tearing some of our families apart. Let’s show the broader community that we don’t condone violence.

Christianity is the legacy of a Man who loathed hypocrisy, was fearless in the face of evil, had an unwavering compassion and the ability to be just and merciful. For us, as Christians, to aspire for these same qualities we have to face the fact that domestic violence does exist in our church—first, by not ignoring it. Jesus illustrated how we should live. We can’t continue to pretend domestic violence is not happening in our church.

Domestic violence is not just physical abuse, but also verbal, emotional, sexual, financial and social abuse. Indicators that you may see in people experiencing domestic violence may include:

**Victims:**
- Have injuries that don’t fit the cause or the history given
- Bruising and other injuries during pregnancy
- Anxious and depressed
- Low self-esteem
- Socially isolated
- Submissive and withdrawn
- Seldom/never make decisions without referring to partner
- Fear reprisal
- Frequent absences

**Perpetrators**
- Admit to some violence but minimises
An Adventist woman in Port Moresby approached me recently with a question. She regularly prays with—and for—other Christian women. But some of them, when they pray, shout and babble and do not speak naturally to God.

Besides urging her to be kind and patient, my advice to her was to remember and emphasise that prayer is like speaking to a friend. As a rule of thumb, I should always, when praying, ask myself, “Is that the way I would talk to a friend?”

As Ellen White put it, “Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him” (*Steps to Christ*, page 93).

Let me share with you a seven-point introduction to prayer:

1. **God is your Friend: You know Him through Jesus.**
   - God is a Person.
   - You know God through Jesus.

2. **The Holy Spirit helps you see Jesus.**
   - The Holy Spirit inspired the biblical writers to tell us about Jesus.
   - The Spirit does not focus on Himself, but on Jesus.
   - You don't know the Spirit as a person the same way as you know Jesus.
   - In the Bible, the Spirit paints the true portrait of God in Jesus.
   - Don’t let your own intellectual prejudices or emotional experiences trick you to reject or change that portrait.

3. **When you speak with God, listen to what He tells you.**

4. **Converse with God.**
   - Prayer is part of speaking together.
   - It is not meaningless babbling or shouting.

5. **Focus on Him, not on your own emotions.**
   - You don’t speak with God for your own sake, but in order to get to know Him and enjoy His fellowship.
   - Human emotions vary, depending on circumstances.
   - The goal of prayer is not to get an emotional “high.”

6. **Pray for others: God is their God, too!**
   - When praying, acknowledge who God is!
   - He is the Creator—He owns everything and everyone.
   - Seek the best for His creation.
   - Pray for others.

7. **Cry for His kingdom to come.**
   - God’s kingdom of grace is here in Jesus.
   - God’s eternal kingdom of glory is yet to come.
   - Pray for His kingdom:
     - For others to experience His grace and join the kingdom;
     - For Jesus to return and the suffering of the world to end.
   - Let your prayers influence the way you live. R

**Prayer keys:**

**Prayer as personal communication**

BY PAUL PETERSEN

A

Petersen is associate coordinator of prayer ministries for the South Pacific Division.

**Estelle Alsop works as a trainer–educator in the areas of violence, abuse and neglect. She has been a member of the North New South Wales Conference’s Domestic Violence Taskforce over the past two years.**

**Someone you know?**

If you think someone in your church is experiencing domestic violence, don’t ignore it:
1. Ask if they need help or support.
2. Believe what they tell you.
3. If they ask for help, these phone numbers may be of use:
   - Domestic Violence Line: 1800 65 64 63
   - Lifeline: 13 11 14
   - Department of Community Services Helpline 132 111

**Taking action**

In a recent article, Ardis Stenbakken wrote about the need for recognition that abuse exists in our church. We need to encourage church leaders to become aware of abuse and learn how to help. Our church is starting to raise the issue of domestic violence and acknowledge that victims and perpetrators participate in our congregations.

The South Pacific Division has a taskforce that meets to look at ways to raise the issues of domestic violence in our church community. It is great that this is happening and we as a church need to support the aims and objectives of this taskforce. R
Entertaining angels

BY DIANA SMITH

My husband has always made me promise never to pick up hitchhikers in my car, but one day I saw a woman walking along the side of the road with a small suitcase in her hand. She certainly was not a hitchhiker, but curious to know how far she was going and wondering if I could give her a lift, I stopped and spoke with her. She told me she had just been dropped from the city bus as the driver said if she walked down this road she would be able to follow signs to the hospital. True enough, but we were at least four kilometres away, so I said I would be happy to drive her there.

She then told me she had come from Melbourne and had travelled to our country West Australian town because she wanted to visit her father in our local hospital. I suggested I drop her at the place she was staying so she could freshen up and I would wait to take her to the hospital.

She said she was planning to find a motel close to the hospital so she could walk to see her father. But as there is no accommodation close to our hospital, I suggested if she would like a bed at our house she was welcome to stay there, within walking distance of the hospital. She accepted readily. I was happy for her to stay, although I was working full-time and not able to entertain her. I would give her a key so she could come and go as she wished.

Soon after she entered our home she realised we were Christians and said she was one as well. Then I discovered she was a teacher from one of our Adventist schools in suburban Melbourne. What joy we experienced then! We had such a happy time of fellowship during her stay, and when leaving, she gave us a gift we still use every day. It is a constant reminder to keep her in our thoughts and prayers continually.

Over the years, this remarkable Christian woman has become a dear and precious friend and, while distance separates us, our contacts and phone conversations have been so helpful in times of family troubles, illness or when extra prayer is needed. She has become a true earthly angel to me, and I feel sure our first meeting was not by chance but through divine intervention. The Bible says: “Don’t forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realising it!” (Hebrews 13:2, NLT). This is such excellent advice for us all.

Diana Smith is a pseudonym for a church member in country Western Australia.

**Record Roo’s**

Hi Kids,
When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, He received some special visitors. Do you know who the visitors were? Read Matthew chapter 2 to find out.

KK

Fill in the Blanks

Now after Jesus was born in__________ of__________ in the days of Herod the king, behold, ________ from the East came to__________, saying, “Where is He who has been born__________ of the ________? For we have seen his__________ in the East and have come to ________ Him.”

Matthew 2:1,2 NKJV

Spot the Same

Can you find two pictures of this wise man and his camel that are exactly the same?
Future parenting

JOHN KNIGHT, NSW

I am filing John Ashton’s excellent article (“Another side to the beer ads,” Feature, May 5) to give to anyone inquiring about the negative impacts of alcohol. In my non-church circle of friends, I am the only one who does not drink.

I believe the best way to reduce alcohol intake is by family education starting at infancy and by parental example. My grandfather drank heavily. Due to the abuse, my father—who later entered the ministry—did not drink. Nor do I or any of the 50 or more children from four generations that followed, all influenced by Dad.

Commiserations

SUSAN JOHNSTONE, QLD

I agree with “Praising ‘Lament’” (Letters, May 12). We do need more acknowledgement of the pain and heartache experienced by our church members. However, I would like to challenge her conclusion that “church is not the place to be sad.”

In the small country town where I attend church, we are well aware of poverty, drought, financial struggles, health problems, depression and suicide. Our church members have a range of personalities but it is not unusual to share tears as we pray and fellowship together. This is not a sign of weakness or pessimism, but a realisation that life is hard!

To be like Christ, we must empathise with others’ troubles. We must feel and hurt and suffer. If we can’t comfort one another in church, how can we be loving and helpful to those who don’t have our hope in God?

Ministers of music

GRAEME OLSON, SA

Reading the two letters titled “Revival or attack?” (May 5) by two retired pastors made me think, Where do they spend their time?

There is a fresh, new breeze flowing through the church young people and with it will come a change in music preferences. Sure, from time to time we will have our eardrums tested, but with a little love and encouragement instead of last-century-style judgment, our young people will be a dynamic force moving into church leadership.

In the contemporary church I attend, I’ve been blessed as I have listened to the testimonies of the young people. Of course, when they get carried away with the volume—and they do at times—I resort to switching off my hearing aids.

We have a church with mainly young married couples with families, all positive in their witness. They are not afraid to talk about their experiences among themselves and to those outside the church. Young children are encouraged to perform important parts of the service, which they do with no hint of reticence or boastfulness.

One letter suggests repetition in songs and music is somehow sinful and heathen. Does this mean the heavenly beings of Isaiah 6 and Revelation 4 are sinful? They repeat their praise of “Holy, holy, holy” and never stop, day or night.

We old ministers may be yesterday’s men, but let us not be a roadblock to real revival!

NAME SUPPLIED

I do not agree that there will be a new revival through the present modern music in the church (“The sound of revival?” Letters, April 14).

A great revival will be accompanied with our greater consecration as we withdraw from the world and sing the godly hymns from our songbook.

Thank you to the two writers of “Revival or attack?” (Letters, May 5) for your sound explanation.

We old ministers may be yesterday’s men, but let us not be a roadblock to real revival!

JUDY MCANULTY, NZ

Praise the Lord! Pastor Jan Paulsen (“Serving our world, serving our Lord,” Adventist World, May 12) has restored my faith in what I perceived to be a God-given call to work in the area of public policy. I was struck particularly by the statement, “Christ continually reached out His hand to improve the quality of life—both spiritually and physically of the people around Him.”

One of the most effective means of achieving this is through public policy: “Human rights, religious freedom, public health, poverty, and injustice—these are some of the areas in which we have a God-given responsibility to advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves.” Our compassionate service to humanity is an integral part of being a Christian and cannot be replaced by quoting more Bible texts or teaching more Sabbath school lessons, laudable though those activities may be.

The lack of understanding of the importance and validity of public policy ministry within the Adventist Church discouraged me and led me to fulfil my calling in another agency. But Pastor Paulsen’s message is encouraging and inspiring to us all.

Sailing heavenward

ROBYN BLAKE, NT

Limoni Manu’s article “The silent threat” (Adventist World, May 12) is very apt for all Christians. Like the sailor, we have to keep our eye on conditions about us. We are all at peril of drifting in the currents of life and becoming lost. We must daily consult our chart and keep things shipshape. Finding ourselves in deep water doesn’t always happen quickly—we get there by small slips in the tide, gradually. As the remnant church, let us be vigilant against unbelief, familiarity and independence as outlined in the article.

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.
Positions vacant

**Maintenance Manager Position**—Lilydale Adventist Academy (Victoria) is seeking an experienced Maintenance Manager. The position will commence July 2, 2007. Hours will be determined by negotiation. Salary commensurate with experience. The role includes coordination of major maintenance, implementing OH&S policy and procedures, conducting regular minor repairs of Academy rental properties, coordinating essential services requirements and assistance with event management. Please direct your expressions of interest to the Academy Principal, Dr Daryl Murdoch by Friday, June 15, 2007. Phone (03) 9728 2211; email <dmurdoch@adventist.org.au>.

**Obituaries**

**Armstrong**, Lauris Mary, born 06.7.1929 at Geelong, NSW; died 13.4.07 at McDowall, Brisbane, Qld. She was survived by her son, Dr Colin Armstrong. Lauris was a member of Central church, Brisbane, with her son Colin. Her theme was "Jesus first, others second, self last." She loved music, and had two chihuahuas and many birds. She appreciated good music and looked forward to the Resurrection day and reuniting with her only son.

**Darby**, Alma Evelyn, born 10.7.1909 at Eungai Creek, NSW; died 17.4.07 in Charles Harrison Memorial Home, Cooranbong, NSW. She was predeceased by her sons, Robert and Richard. She was survived by her children, Lenna, Patricia, Gloria, Elaine, John, Yvonne, Graham and Rodney; and their spouses; 20 grandchildren; 40 great-grandchildren; and 14 great-great-grandchildren. She studied with John and Mary Trim, who became her dear friends, and joined the WallSEND church with her family. She was much loved and will be sadly missed. A sleep in Jesus.

**Drysdale**, Barbara Marce, born 13.2.1950 in Sydney, NSW; died 08.3.07 in Naringa Hospital, NSW. She was survived by her son, Grant (Sydney); and daughter, Danielle (Sydney). She was baptised at Waitara in 1998. Barbara was a special person, a committed and faithful Christian and a devoted mother. Her church family will indeed miss her.

**McClure**, Lucy Isabel, born a twin 30.11.1930 at Merton Park, London, UK; died 25.4.07 in Lake Macquarie Private Hospital, Gateshead, NSW. On 04.04.1954, she married Donald McClure, who pre-deceased her 1996. She was survived by her two sons and their wives, Malcolm and Kathy (Balodlyn), Andrew and Helen (Wellington, NZ); and her daughter, Fiona (Cooranbong, NSW). Isabel was a strong supporter of her husband's ministry and served with him in Scotland, England and Northern Ireland. They continued in ministry after emigrating to Australia in 1980. A resident of the Avondale Retirement Village, Cooranbong, she was baptised with Ron in 1956 by Pastor Parmenter. She moved to Alstonville from Geelong where she taught both children and adult Sabbath school. She loved God, church, people, music and houses. Sadly missed, but awaiting the Resurrection.

**Simmons**, Meryl Isabel Lillian (née Ivory), born 20.8.1916 at Benalla, Vic; died 28.3.07 at Ballina, NSW. On 31.10.1942, she married Ronald Simmons. She is survived by her husband (Alstonville); her brothers, Roy and Tom Ivory, and their wives (Geelong, Vic); her son, Daryl, his wife, Kerry, and their children (McLeans Ridge, NSW). Meryl was baptised with Ron in 1956 by Pastor Parmenter. She moved to Alstonville from Geelong where she taught both children and adult Sabbath school. She loved God, church, people, music and houses. Sadly missed, but awaiting the Resurrection.

**Advertisements**

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**Noticeboard**

**Special constituency meeting.** The special constituency meeting of the Greater Sydney Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be held in the auditorium of the Sydney Adventist College, 159 Albert Road, Strathfield, on Sunday, July 22, 2007. The program will commence with registration at 8.00 am. The seating of delegates and the constituency meeting agenda, which consists of one item, the consideration of proposed constitutional changes, will commence at 9.00 am.

**North New South Wales Conference triennial session.** Notice is hereby given that the 54th Session of the North New South Wales Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be held at the Macksville High School Auditorium, Boundary Street, Macksville. The business session will commence at 9.00 am, Sunday, September 9, 2007. Delegates will be appointed in harmony with the Constitution. The business of the session will be as provided in the Constitution, incorporating the presentation of reports and financial statements for the triennium 2004–06. The officers, departmental directors, executive committee and standing nominating committee for the conference will be elected.

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**CD ministry—** used CDs needed. Adventist Media Network (AMN) is developing plans for a radio program service to be heard in most countries of the South Pacific region. Christian and classical music CDs are needed to build up the music library. Donations of CDs are gratefully received. Send to AMN, PO Box 1115, Wahroonga NSW, 2076.

**Finally**

Groanings which cannot be uttered are often prayers which cannot be refused.—Charles Spurgeon

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