

# RECORD

June 23, 2007

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*Pastor Mark Finley presents one of his 180 sermons in the eight-week "Discoveries" series in Melbourne.*



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# Melbourne churches alive with Discoveries

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

What has happened in Melbourne is a tribute to pastors, to administrators and to church members," says presenter and General Conference vice-president Pastor Mark Finley of the "Discoveries in Revelation's prophecy" evangelistic series. "It shows what happens when you unite for a single purpose—sharing Christ."

Beginning on April 21, the "Discoveries" series wrapped up on the weekend of June 9. The programs were presented in three separate venues across suburban Melbourne, giving participants a choice. "It has been far more successful than I initially

thought it might be," says "Discoveries" project manager Pastor Greg Evans. "In our opening programs, we had up to five repeat sessions in one location."

"And people's lives have been changed," adds project coordinator Pastor Peter Roenfeldt. "Having regional meetings, rather than one central city venue, has been very effective. While it has been a much more difficult program to manage, it has been the key to our success."

Due to the multiple venues and repeat presentations, the number of sermons took Pastor Finley by surprise.

*(Continued on page 7)*



Surely we believe that the devil must flee when we work together with God.

# Why bother with the world?

**C**HRISTIANITY IS HAVING A TOUGH time sharing the good news with that segment of the world's population loosely referred to as the secularised West. While these nations have a heritage of Christian faith, most people in these regions live with no acknowledgment of such heritage—as if God could not have an impact on the course of history or their own lives.

For us to communicate with this culture more effectively, we need to think carefully about our mission and how we go about it, beginning with how we view the world around us. Conservative Christians have emphasised that the world is the domain of the devil. In this, we are responding to the clear teaching of the Bible. We have no choice but to continue to proclaim this simple truth if we are serious about the commission God has given us.

But we are faced with a dilemma. This world was created by God Himself and, in John 3:16, we are told He loves the world so much that He was willing to come here Himself and risk eternal loss for the sake of eternal gain. And, by virtue of creation, the image of God remains in every human being. Those people who have been brought under the power of the devil are those for whom He was willing to give His life.

While we have rightly emphasised separation from the world, we may have given too little attention to the New Testament theme of engagement with the world for the sake of the gospel. Paul clearly recog-

nised the imperative of engagement when he reminded the Corinthian believers that he had “become all things to all people” so that he “might by all means save some” (1 Corinthians 9:22, NRSV).

Throughout the biblical record, God did not choose to remain isolated, separated, and hidden from His creation, despite the ravages of sin. Rather He chose to take a risk and submit the eternal gospel to the variants of time, human expression and education, working through the prophets in order to communicate Himself to humanity. Our doctrine of inspiration tells us that God decided what He wanted to communicate but He did not obliterate the language, personality, or culture of the chosen instrument. Each used his or her own faculties freely but without distorting the divine message or intent.

Then, when “the word became flesh”—the climax of God's self-communication—the same process occurred. Christ became small, weak, poor and vulnerable; a first-century Palestinian Jew who experienced pain, hunger and exposure. Yet when He became one of us He did not cease to be Himself. He remained forever the eternal Word—God Himself—yet incarnated in human form. Christ's incarnation enabled Him to identify with us in our humanity, while retaining His identity as God (see John 1:1-3). As such, Jesus is our mission, our motivation and our model.

The earliest major issue debated by the New Testament church was the question

of whether a gentile had to become a Jew in order to become a Christian. Today, the church is called to answer a complimentary question that has crucial implications for our mission—to what extent does a “Jew” have to become a “gentile” in order to lead the gentile to Christian faith? Just as the struggle of the early Christians was intense and sometimes heated, the contemporary church will also struggle to address and answer this difficult question.

The world may be the domain of the devil but it is still the creation of God. Surely we believe that when we go into the world in mission we are embarking on God's mission. Surely we believe that when in obedience we go, we meet Him who has gone before us and together we engage in this great work. Surely we believe that no power is greater than the power of God and that the devil must flee when we work together with God.

Can we be content to shun the secular world because we believe it to be the domain of the devil? For how long will we fail to realise that the power and grace of God must be demonstrated in that very arena as we witness the great victories of good over evil? For how long will we remain content to let the devil maintain the ascendancy over any territory that rightly belongs to God?

**Barry Oliver**  
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South Pacific Division



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**know**  
**experience**  
and **share**  
our **hope** in Jesus Christ!

# CPM recommended for conference

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

A South Pacific Division (SPD)-appointed evaluation committee, which recently visited the Central Papua Mission (CPM) in Papua New Guinea (PNG), has recommended that providing a few conditions are met by the end of this year, CPM be approved to form as a conference.

This decision came after a two-day evaluation visit and assessment of the CPM's governance, strategic plans, financial sustainability and maturity by a six-member team.

CPM began the process toward conference status in 2002, and after an evaluation in 2005 highlighted some areas of weakness, CPM leadership requested another evaluation from the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) this year. Such an evaluation involves interviews with mission administrators, departmental directors, pastors, district directors, school teachers and key church members, as well as an accreditation process.

Members of the team, which included SPD and PNGUM administrators, visited Toule District School, Bisiatabu, Carr Memorial School (Port Moresby) and Gordons, Koki and Gerehu churches.

"The leaders of Central Papua Mission have shown real maturity and responsibility in church management and strategic planning," says Dr Barry Oliver, chairman of the Evaluation committee and general secretary of the SPD, "and the mission shows all the signs of being a viable conference."

For many years, CPM has been financially sound and self-reliant, not depending on any appropriations from the PNGUM. "Their strategic plan—printed and released to all church elders earlier this year—is a model that other conferences could well follow," says Dr Oliver.

The evaluation committee shared its report and recommendations with members of the CPM executive committee and the Conference Steering Committee in Port Moresby on May 17, where Dr Oliver congratulated President Pastor Peter Oli on the successful result.

This recommendation will be submitted for further consideration by SPD administration, the PNGUM executive committee and eventually by the annual meeting of the SPD executive committee in November. If



Leaders of the soon-to-be Central Papua Conference: (left to right) president, Pastor Peter Oli; general secretary, Pastor Gilbert Egu; and chief financial officer, Max Lassah.

successful, the recommendation means that next year the CPM will start working on a conference constitution, preparing for a conference constituency meeting later in the year, at which time it will become the first island mission to achieve conference status in the South Pacific.

"This will be a fitting achievement to mark the centenary celebrations of the church in Papua New Guinea in 2008," comments Pastor Ray Coombe, director of Adventist Mission for the SPD.

Other island missions are also working toward conference status. "The fact that Central Papua has achieved this will be encouragement to other island missions currently in the process," says Pastor Coombe.—**Ray Coombe/RECORD staff**



◆ The old **Apia church**, Samoa, has been used for 30 years—but is being replaced by a new church with seating capacity for more than **1000 people**. The new church is expected to be finished by the end of 2007. Most of the funding has come from members and the building will become an important part of the infrastructure needed to assist the Samoan mission in its

goal of reaching **conference status** by 2010.—**Paulo Pelenato**

◆ **Mountain View Adventist College (MVAC)**, Sydney, NSW, has begun its "**Pray for 50**" campaign in an effort to have **500 students** enrolled by the end of the year. The school recently saw the need to build a new Middle school block, catering for students from Grades 5 to 8. Plans to further develop the college by building a much needed administration block after the Middle school building is completed at the end of July were planned but due to limitations in

funds, the development cannot go ahead until 50 new students are enrolled at MVAC, and there are sufficient funds to continue the building project. The concept was envisioned by MVAC chaplain, **Pastor Jean-Pierre Martinez**, who is excited by the possibilities of God's intervention.—**Fiona Lelilio**

◆ Prep students from **Carlisle Christian College, Mackay, Qld**, received two visits from the **fire brigade** to learn about fire safety and "Stop, drop and roll". The first visit on May 18 was fairly uneventful but on the second visit,



May 26, the firemen were called to an accident. They returned to the school but while students were looking through the fire engine in the car park, the firemen were again called to a fire. The students enjoyed the visit, especially using the fire hose to put out a pretend garden fire.—

**Terry Rogers**

# SPD members register online for Adventist jobs worldwide

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Church members in the South Pacific with a college or university degree now have more employment opportunities with Adventist institutions around the world, thanks to an agreement made between Adventist Employment in the South Pacific Division (SPD) and the Adventist Professionals' Network (APN).

The APN works similarly to the SPD Adventist Employment database, where church members can upload their CV and profiles online for review by potential Adventist employers around the South Pacific.

"Being a member of APN means they can now be reviewed by Adventist employers around the world," says Leighton Cantrill, recruitment promotions officer for Adventist Employment in the SPD. "It also means we will have the opportunity to hire people with highly specialised skill sets that are unavailable in the South Pacific."

The APN is the only global electronic registry of Adventists who hold a college or university degree in any field. It was launched by the General Conference's Department of Education in partnership with



institutions such as the Adventist Development and Relief Agency International, and Andrews University.

It currently has almost 13,500 members and 24 employing Adventist institutions, including Adventist Employment in the SPD. Other employing institutions include Loma Linda University in the United States, Antillean Adventist University in Puerto Rico and Mission College in Thailand.

Adventist Employment in the SPD represents institutions such as Sydney Adventist Hospital, Sanitarium Health Food Company and Adventist Media Network.

Any Seventh-day Adventist who holds a college or university degree and has an email address is invited to register with the APN for free.—*Melody Tan*

More @ <http://apn.adventist.org>

## ASA recruits for student ministry

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

The Adventist Students Association (ASA)—the national Adventist university ministry in Australia—has launched a drive to encourage students to get involved in leadership in this ministry, ahead of the ASA annual general meeting next month.

"The vision of ASA is to develop a vibrant and growing network of Adventist university student groups," explains current ASA president, Dr Sven Ostring. "Over the past three years, the ASA team has been developing a progressive strategy for making this vision a reality."

"By joining our ASA team, you will have the opportunity to transform the lives of university students on campuses all around Australia."

The annual general meeting of ASA will be conducted as part of the ASA Symposium in Canberra (ACT) on July 3 to 8.—*RECORD staff*

More @ [www.myasa.org.au](http://www.myasa.org.au)



◆ The Duke of Edinburgh weekend camps have seen 19 Avondale School students (Cooranbong, NSW) experience the challenges of the Australian bush. Half the students ventured south to Tasmania's Cradle Mountain on the last weekend in May, hiking through the rugged wilderness in rain, high wind and the occasional sunny period. The highlight of the weekend

was walking to Marion's lookout, although bad weather stopped them climbing to Cradle Mountain's peak. The other 10 students spent the weekend riding through the Watagan Mountains, NSW, on pushbikes as part of their bronze-level award. They completed 65 km during the weekend, including steep climbs and rugged descents but students were blessed with no injuries or mechanical failures. Bill Ward, coordinator of the program, is already planning to make the trip an annual event for those going on to silver and gold levels of the award.—*Braden Blyde*



◆ Residents and staff of the Avondale Retirement Village, Cooranbong, raised \$A512 for Australia's biggest morning tea on May 30. The staff of the Kressville Hostel letterboxed the independent-living units with invitations to the tea. The residents contributed more than \$A400, while staff donated the rest. Funds raised go to

the Cancer Council.—*Margaret Manners*

◆ The latest visit to Kiribati Mission by the Trans-Pacific Union Mission director of Adventist Health, Dr Lester Ross, has sparked a new initiative for living a healthy lifestyle amongst Kiribati church members. Following the health-assessment program, Dr Ross found obesity and high blood pressure are a concern. As a result, a competition has been proposed between the four main churches on the Tarawa Atoll, Korobu,



# ADRA marks MDGs half-time

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

In 2000, all 189 member states of the United Nations signed on to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)—a set of eight targets aiming to halve world poverty by 2015.

This year, 2007, is the half-way point but many countries are more than halfway behind their intended targets. The goals can still be met but we all need to work together to win in the second half.

Recognising the importance of this time, and the need to keep momentum in alleviating extreme poverty, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia is promoting events and activities to raise awareness of the issues of poverty.

ADRA Australia's website provides information on events that individuals, churches, schools, and community and youth groups can get involved in.

The events, organised by the "Make poverty history" (MPH) campaign and "Micah challenge," include;

- **Seven weeks of stories and prayers**—10-minute stories and prayers for churches, schools and Bible study groups;
- **Face up to poverty**—Speak up for the poor; add your face to this photo petition;
- **The world's biggest banner**—Join your



banner with those from around Australia to create the world's biggest banner to make poverty history;

- **07:07:07 Half Time sports event kit**—All you need to know to run a half-time activity at a sporting event: a drama script, a DVD, whistle and other resources.

ADRA Australia is a member of both the MPH campaign and "Micah challenge." MPH is a coalition of non-government organisations, community groups and celebrities that form part of the "Global call to action against poverty." This worldwide alliance calls on governments and international decision-makers to fulfil their public promise and achieve the MDGs.

"Micah challenge"—a sister campaign to MPH—is an alliance of Australian churches and Christian groups that aims to deepen churches' engagement with the poor as an integral part of the Christian faith. It is based on the call in Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God" (NASV).—**Candice Jaques**

More @ [http://www.adra.org.au/getinvolved/Events\\_to\\_Join](http://www.adra.org.au/getinvolved/Events_to_Join)

## ADRA teams up with *The Edge* to connect with youth

WARBURTON, VICTORIA

For a fourth time, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Australia has collaborated with *The Edge* to produce a special issue of the magazine.

"We do it to encourage the interest many young people have in the world around them. They have a lot of power in being a voice for the poor," says Candice Jaques, communication coordinator for ADRA Australia. "This is about engaging them and getting them interested in helping others, both in their community and around the world."

"Young people *do* want to make a difference," agrees RECORD editor, Nathan Brown. "We hope this magazine will encourage that."

*The Edge* is the South Pacific Division's magazine for young people in Australia and New Zealand, published seven times per year as a supplement to RECORD. Look for the ADRA issue of *The Edge* in churches this week.—**RECORD staff**

More @ [www.edgeonweb.org](http://www.edgeonweb.org)



**Bikinibeu, Betio and Bairiki.** A follow-up assessment by Dr Ross will be made during his next visit in 2008 and the healthiest church will receive the prestigious **Healthy Trophy**. The potential winner will be the church that has the highest number of members with a normal Body Mass index and normal blood pressure levels. The week-long visit included programs on the Adventist health lifestyle, non-communicable or chronic diseases, nutrition, HIV/AIDS and the importance of regular exercise.—**Lester Ross**

◆ **Seventh-day Adventist physician** and graduate of Pacific Union College and Loma Linda University, **Colonel Loree K Sutton**, is poised to become the **highest-ranking Adventist woman** serving in the **US armed forces**. Colonel Sutton, a psychiatrist by training, was nominated to the rank of **Brigadier General** by US president **George W Bush** on May 10. She has been commander of **Carl R Darnall Army Medical Center** at Ft Hood, Texas, since 2005. Colonel Sutton has received numerous

awards and has served in a variety of operational positions both in the USA and overseas, including a deployment to Operation Desert Storm.—**Adventist Review**

◆ It took just **70 hours** for hundreds of students at **Colombian Adventist University** in Medellin, Colombia, to read the Bible from cover to cover. The historic reading, which was streamed live on the internet, was one of many events scheduled this year to celebrate the university's **70th anniversary**. Themed "**The voice**

**is ours but the Word is God's**," more than **400 students** and dozens of faculty and staff participated in the reading, which took place from May 18 to 21. "It was so enriching because there are so many parts of the Bible that I had never read or heard," said **Nancy Lopez**, a senior business major. Days before the Bible marathon took place, students received special conferences on the study of the Bible to help prepare them spiritually for the event, organisers said.—**Adventist News Network**

# Philippine leader visits NZ Sanitarium

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Sanitarium New Zealand has cemented a closer relationship with the Philippines, with a Memorandum of Understanding signed in conjunction with the New Zealand Department of Agriculture on May 30. This coincided with a lunchtime visit to Sanitarium's Auckland manufacturing site by Philippine president, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The memorandum paves the way for the export of Sanitarium products to the Philippines and the reciprocal import of raw materials from the Philippines. This also allows for exploring ways Sanitarium can play a part in improving the health and wellbeing of the people of the Philippines, through the provision of nutrition education.

Pierre van Heerden, general manager of Sanitarium New Zealand, said they are looking forward to working in partnership with the Republic of Philippines and improving the health and wellbeing of the Philippine people.

"We are honoured and excited to discuss partnering with the Republic of Philippines. This opportunity has come from an



*Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, president of the Philippines, meets staff at Sanitarium's Auckland manufacturing site.*

acknowledgement of Sanitarium's genuine commitment to improve the health and wellbeing of our communities," he said.

"This is also an exciting development in the trade relationship between our two countries, representing increased opportunity for future trade and employment in New Zealand," Mr van Heerden said.

Mrs Macapagal-Arroyo, accompanied by senior Philippine government officials, discussed the Memorandum of Understanding with Sanitarium management representatives. This was followed by a tour of the factory and an opportunity for the president to meet and greet management and employee representatives, including some of the company's 23 Filipino staff.

—Jaemes Tipple

# Adventist university wins Imagine Cup

MANDEVILLE, JAMAICA

Charged with finding real-world solutions to real-world problems, students from Adventist-owned Northern Caribbean University (NCU) beat out 4000 other registrants in the region's Microsoft Imagine Cup technology competition for students.

Under the theme of "Imagine a world where technology enables a better education for all," the team has designed a software program to close the gaps in distance education.

Kenrie Hylton, chair of the Department of Computer and Information Sciences at NCU and the team's advisor, says while he doesn't believe in "praying to win" he does believe studying in a Christian environment played an important role in the group's success.

"More than anything else a personal relationship with God is a factor for this team," says Mr Hylton. "Throughout the whole competition we could see God leading us. The Lord helped us to do our best and the students got very good feedback.

The NCU team were also regional winners in 2005 and will compete in the international finals in Seoul, South Korea, on August 5 to 10.—ANN Staff

◆ **Mars Hill**, a Christian radio network based in Syracuse, New York, USA, will not accept paid advertising for an upcoming Christian evangelistic series because a **female pastor** is participating. "We can't comfortably promote women in the role of pastor," said **Wayne Taylor**, the general manager. Mars Hill's nine-member, all-male board of directors voted unanimously on May 22 to accept an interpretation of Scripture that prohibits women from serving as church elders or pastors. That means the network of four stations will not advertise or promote the two-day

City Wide Crusade, which features an appearance by televangelist, **Pastor Paula White**. "It's a doctrinal issue," Mr Taylor says. "It's not about women preaching. It has to do with a woman taking on a pastor's role." He also knows the board's decision will not be popular.—**Religion News Service**

◆ The **Holy Bible** has avoided being classified as an **indecent** publication in **Hong Kong**. Hong Kong's Television and Licensing Authority (TELA) received more than **2000 complaints** about the Bible's sexual and violent content,

including rape and incest. Hong Kong authorities recently classified a sex column in a student magazine as indecent. A protest website campaigned to have the Bible similarly classified, claiming its content went beyond that of the column. TELA said in its statement that the Bible had not violated standards of morality, decency and propriety generally accepted by reasonable members of the community.—**Australian Christian Channel**

◆ The **\$US27 million Creation Museum** (Flashpoint, April 28) opened to capacity crowds, a large

worldwide media presence and a small group of demonstrators in Kentucky, USA. Crowds began lining up more than an hour before the doors opened, with nearly 500 people in line by 10 am. By day's end, more than **4000** individuals had toured the museum. As had been threatened, two groups of protestors combined for a "**Rally for Reason**" outside the front gates of the museum, with about **50 participants** present. The protest remained peaceful, with local church groups offering water and snacks to the protestors.—**Australian Christian Channel**

IS YOUR CHURCH DOING SOMETHING EXCITING, INNOVATIVE OR INSPIRING? EMAIL [RECORD@SIGNSPUBLISHING.COM.AU](mailto:RECORD@SIGNSPUBLISHING.COM.AU)

# Melbourne churches alive with Discoveries

(Continued from page 1)

"In the past eight weeks I have preached more than 180 times," he says. "I preached 14 times in 48 hours over this last weekend!"

Yet, while the public program has been gruelling for those leading out over two months, the planning and training has been happening for two years. Both Pastor Finley and his wife, Ernestine, have visited Melbourne numerous times to prepare people for the campaign.

"Mark has done a lot of training over the last 18 months in preparation for this program," says Pastor Evans. "When Mark and Ernestine go home, the training remains here in Australia. Even if no-one was baptised, and the figures didn't look good from the program, our existing members would have grown spiritually and in their skill base."

Focused prayer ministry has been in operation for two years, and a group of 16 Bible workers were recruited from around Australia and have been in Melbourne for most of 2007. Local churches ran health, archaeology and prophecy programs to prepare community members for the "Discoveries" program.

"Mark Finley is a 'guru' in evangelism" says Pastor Zeny Bidacak, from Salisbury (Qld), who has worked with the "Discoveries" program as part of the church's Institute of Public Evangelism. "Training three times a week with Mark and his wife has been very helpful," he said.

"The Institute of Evangelism have also

brought their evangelism experience with them," says Pastor Evans. "They have been passing their skills onto the Bible workers, ministers and church members. It is a field exercise for them, so they are learning too but they are blessing us as well."

And after all this preparatory work, the people have come to the meetings. "Evangelists are often criticised for emphasising numbers," says Pastor Finley, "And I concur with that criticism, if indeed the evangelist is interested simply in numbers—you prostitute your calling and you miss the fundamental essence of what evangelism is all about. But if every number stands for a person who has been redeemed by the grace of God, then I am all for numbers!"

Through a computerised registration system, the statistics show the program has attracted 3580 registered attenders. Of those, 2497 did not identify themselves as Seventh-day Adventists. By the last week of Pastor Finley's presentations, 342 people had requested baptism and another 117, rebaptism. As new people have been intentionally invited to local churches, more than 150 of the decisions for baptism were made in local churches during Sabbath worship programs.

A key part of this success has been personal visitation. "We went and visited every contact," reports Pastor Bidacak. "No contact was left unvisited—even if they came only once."

And the "Discoveries" program has had an impact beyond Melbourne. The presentations have also been broadcast on Hope Channel and watched by thousands of people around the South Pacific.

"Our small group members have been watching the program in their homes and talking about it when we get together," says one small-group leader. "One of our non-Adventist members is giving videos of the downlink to his family!"

And for many of those involved in the public series, as



*Pastor Finley (right), with his wife, Ernestine (centre), was introduced to aspects of Australian culture by Pastor Wayne Boehm, director of youth ministries for the Victorian Conference.*

well as those watching at home, "Discoveries" will mark the beginning of a journey, not its end. "The Discoveries program doesn't actually stop [when Mark finishes]," says Pastor Evans. "It continues in the form of Revelation Seminars, which go through our beliefs in more detail. This allows friendships to develop with the church members in local communities."

"People who have been baptised are each given a spiritual guardian. So, through friendship evangelism and local church experience, these new people will be retained in the local church."

And church pastors in Melbourne are seeing the results of working together. "We had been quite a fragmented bunch," says Pastor Darren Slade, who pastors the Wantirna church. "But working in each other's pockets for seven weeks does something! The unity has been tremendous. It's been a wonderful boost to kick-start us in a round of baptisms and new studies."

"Melbourne has shown," says Pastor Finley, "that when a team of people work together—pastors, Bible instructors and church members—even in a postmodern secular society with a diverse culture—men and women will still respond to the gospel. They will still respond to doorknocking, Revelation Seminars, health seminars, archaeology seminars and to a workmate showing compassion and love, and sharing a piece of literature. If the Seventh-day Adventist Church will ever fulfil its destiny, the single most important thing is recapturing its mission."—**David Edgren**



*The Karralyka Centre in Ringwood, suburban Melbourne, was one of three venues for the "Discoveries" series.*

# Local church: Palmerston North, NZ

BY CHRISTINE MILES

**T**HE PALMERSTON NORTH SEVENTH-day Adventist church, in Manawatu, New Zealand, is an old church, and a young church at the same time. The church has survived extraordinary social stressors; yet it remains a church determined to grow.

There are the stalwarts—families who can trace their Adventist heritage back to 1894 when the church was first organised with 14 charter members; and the transients—students from Longburn Adventist College, who are transported by bus every Sabbath morning into Palmerston North, and students from all over the world who study at nearby Massey University.

Adding to the complexity, the Palmerston North Adventist church is three churches under one roof.

## Three churches?

Yes, three churches—all worshipping at the same time on Sabbath morning, with their own pastors, worship teams and congregations. There is, inevitably, some movement between the congregations, especially when one has a special program but for all that, there are still three distinct churches.

Several years ago, a group of primarily

younger members felt that others weren't tolerant of their music style. They were further frustrated because their perceived role was to sit in church with little opportunity to provide leadership. Many of the older members had provided financial support for decades and saw little need to change the way they "did" church. Around the same time, the Sanitarium Health Food factory, which provided employment to many church members, closed. And the Longburn Adventist College church also closed its doors, with members and students joining the Palmerston North congregation.

The then-pastor proposed a separate church service, which further disenchanted the stalwarts and fanned the flames of fervour among the young people. There was a lot of change—and a lot of hurt.

Pastor Anton van Wyk, who has pastored at Palmerston North since 2002, says of that time, "I arrived as everything blew up. It was a huge milestone. As I see it, the church split over the style of worship rather than difference in missional objective, which made moving forward a challenge for all. However, a lot of good things can come from pain if you steer it that way. We've moved on and focused on mission.

"We are on track now because we're duplicating leadership training and involvement. We try to involve more people."

## Contemporary

Pastoral intern Daniel Herrera has led the contemporary church for the past year. "When I arrived, Pastors Anton van Wyk and William Arama had been



*The Palmerston North church building.*

rotating between the different congregations," Mr Herrera says. "Now we each pastor one congregation. The plan for the contemporary church was in place and I worked with continuing that plan."

"The plan," says church elder Stan Walsh, "is that our congregation be a biblical church community. We want to be more than just programs."

With approximately one-fifth of their congregation of 140 people boarding students from nearby Longburn Adventist College and from Massey University, the contemporary church has a specific ministry focus—young adults.

"We want to paint a picture of working for God in service and study of the Word. When students leave our congregation we want to have influenced them to make a difference wherever they go," says Mr Walsh.

"The plan for the future," adds Mr Herrera, "is to have a greater impact in the community, to grow our own people into disciples of Jesus and to become more independent."

Church member Julene Duerksen-Kapao believes the church encourages participation. "As individuals get involved and find their niche in ministry," she says, "not only will their faith grow but so will their ability and desire to share their faith with others.

"One thing I love about our church is that at least one sermon a month is taken by a woman," says Mrs Duerksen-Kapao. "It sounds small but, being one of the women who takes the sermon, it's empowering and



*Palmerston North pastors: (left to right) Daniel Herrera (contemporary); Pastor Anton van Wyk (administration and Samoan); and Pastor William Arama (conventional).*



exciting to be called to ministry in this way. I had never felt so welcome and part of something until I began to worship here.”

A highlight for Mr Herrera was an “accidental” introduction to a group of Spanish-speaking people. An Adventist student at Massey University lived in a hotel managed by Chilean people. She introduced Mr Herrera—who is bi-lingual—to her landlords, and he now meets with as many as 15 Spanish-speaking people every Wednesday to study the Bible.

Fellowship is a key ingredient at Palmerston North contemporary church. Once a month a themed church lunch provides opportunity to mingle with other members and invite friends. “‘Fellowship @ Ferguson’ is fun, creative and the food is awesome!” says Mrs Duerksen-Kapao.

## Samoan

If there’s one church that feels the impact of the “three churches under one roof” structure most, it is the Samoan congregation. Made up of approximately 50 people and their children, their young people are extremely valuable to them. Yet the young people inevitably gravitate to the contemporary service. The Samoan church counteracts the loss by networking within their communities to add more worshippers.

The Samoan church has been an officially recognised congregation for eight years. They provide their own children’s Sabbath-school programs using pamphlets printed in Samoan; and they know that to survive they must be missional.

Pastor Anton van Wyk is the lead pastor for the Samoan congregation and is enthusiastic about their role. “Many of the con-

gregation are involved in prison ministry,” he says. “They are actively seeking a new location for their church to meet, with each family putting aside money on a regular basis to one day meet the costs of having their own church building. On a Friday afternoon, there are usually four or five women ‘doing the flowers’—the whole front of the Holder room in which we worship is bedecked with a stunning array of fresh flowers. There is a youth program every Sabbath afternoon and vespers every Friday evening.

“The Samoan group are celebratory in their meetings,” says Pastor van Wyk. “Their music is fantastic—a mix of country, contemporary and conventional. Once a year, the Samoan congregation hosts a meal to which all their Samoan friends and family are invited. Not only is it a great meal, it’s also a great program emphasising our Christ-centredness. Together, we pray for the sick and for family members back in Samoa. There’s praise and worship, sharing time, a concert and laughter.”

## Conventional

Pastor William Arama has been at Palmerston North for three years and leads the 200-strong conventional congregation. “They are a group who are willing to do God’s work,” he says.

“The church,” says member Rex Ussher, “is purpose-driven. The objective is to spread the gospel.”

“What’s working really well right now is that we are praying in small groups in our homes for a spiritual revival and the Holy Spirit to fall on our own hearts,” reports Pastor Arama. “Our vision is to build disciples for the Great Commission and to see new people worshipping with us.”

By all accounts, the congregation is a presence in its community. There is a strong focus on health education and prophecy seminars as a step through the church doors. A recent initiative has been “market evangelism”—a table at the local weekend market with a display of free materials relating to the church, including Adventist media resources, Discovery lessons, giveaway copies of *Steps to Christ* and *The Great*

*Controversy* and promotional material for Adventist TV. Pastor Arama estimates they speak to 30 people each week.

For the past five years, the “Voice of prophecy” has aired on AM999 six days a week, immediately following the BBC news. In its first two years, more than 100 people registered for the “Focus on prophecy” Bible studies.

The church offers a three-month trial of satellite dishes tuned to Adventist TV stations. Russell Blair, in his 90s, installs the dish and three months later the homeowner is invited to purchase it. Another church member donated 60 numberplate surrounds, advertising 3ABN radio.

Health outreach is a primary focus of the conventional congregation. Health assessments are performed at local shopping centres and participants are invited to do correspondence lessons or attend health-related programs. Several members of the church now attend as a direct result of the many health outreach programs conducted over the years.

Margaret Strawbridge stocks three *Signs* racks throughout the city. She visits them regularly and asks church members for sponsorship. In all, 220 magazines are distributed each month.

“It’s not often we get any feedback from this mission,” says Mrs Strawbridge. “But we did receive a letter from a traveller, thanking us for providing something decent to read when he gets on the plane. He provided a donation to help with the costs.”

A highlight for Pastor Arama occurred when a group of girls asked him to study Bible prophecy with them. They had attended church for years but suddenly developed an enthusiasm for this aspect of Bible truth. “The girls were so excited to learn all these amazing things. They shared their enthusiasm with high school and university friends, and several baptisms resulted,” says Pastor Arama.

“The good thing about our church now,” says Mr Ussher, “is that we don’t have the angst [of previous years], we have better communication and there is acceptance between the three groups of people. By the grace of God it will continue to improve.” **R**



Palmerston North contemporary church members enjoy “Fellowship @ Ferguson.”

*Christine Miles is a regular contributor to RECORD, who writes from Auckland, New Zealand.*

# Whose image?

BY DAVID PETRIE

SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE, SOMETHING beginning with . . . S!” After uttering these words, the owner of the voice—a boy, about eight years old—looked expectantly at his father. His father patiently played along with the game.

I was observing this scene while seated a few rows back, across the aisle in the Intercity train carriage on the trip from Sydney to Newcastle. It was three o’clock on a Monday afternoon and I was travelling alone.

The family—mother, father, son and daughter—were seated at the end of the carriage in two three-seaters, facing each other. On the seat that faced me—and the rest of the passengers in the carriage—was the father, with his daughter of about five years old lying next to him on the seat. She was fast asleep, with one of the most peaceful and contented expressions on her face that I have ever seen. Sitting opposite the father was the mother with her back to me—I did not see her face—with her son next to her, bursting with energy.

I don’t like judging by appearances but when you have nothing else to go on it is inevitable that you notice them—and then wonder what a person is really like. The father wore open sandals, knee-length jeans, a loose-fitting shirt, sported short-cropped hair and an earring in his left ear. Despite a few colourful phrases, his gentleness toward his family was immediately apparent when he spoke. His son seemed to exude an innocent enthusiasm. In this snapshot of their life, this family radiated a harmony that can be difficult to come by.

The carriage was almost full. Apart from the family’s energetic son, everyone else was quietly reading or dozing—and one fellow traveller was not so quietly sleeping! Ordinarily I would have been irritated by the disruption the boy was causing to my reading—and initially I was. But then I started to take more notice of the family.

As it happens, I was reading the Adult



Bible-study guide for the week of October 14-20, 2006, titled “The early earth.” Since I was to be the teacher in my Sabbath-school class that week, I was doing some preparation while travelling on the train. I had yet to realise it but the scene I was witnessing had great significance to the topic I was studying.

For my lesson plan, I decided to explore what it means to be made “in the image of God.” Usually when we think about the image of something, we think in the literal or physical sense. However, the great themes of the Bible are not primarily focused on the physical but on the relational.

The Bible describes how we were made perfect, with a perfect relationship with God. It then tells how we broke that re-

lationship when we sinned. It goes on to explain how God put in place a plan to redeem that relationship—and us—from ultimate destruction, and how he will finally restore and recreate the perfect relationship that was lost in Eden. In the interim, our time on earth is spent wrestling with imperfect relationships. As Christians, with Jesus’ help, we strive toward better and more harmonious relationships with Him and each other.

Given the Bible’s focus on relationships, is it possible that when God says He made us in His image (see Genesis 1:27), He might be talking about relationships, not just physical resemblance?

In explaining what He means, there are no physical descriptions but there are descriptions of relationships—the three

relationships that form the core of what it is to be human.

If we are made in God's image and at the core of our being are these three relationships, these relationships must be an "image" of relationships God has. In other words, our relationships should resemble God's relationships, and by experiencing them we gain more of an understanding of God.

So what Godly relationships do ours reflect? A closer examination of Genesis 1 and 2 reveals three distinct relationships God created and promotes in human beings, mentioned in three consecutive verses:

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground'" (Genesis 1:26-28\*).

In these verses, God tells us that He made us in His image, reflecting Him in three special relationships:

### 1. Human beings and the earth:

In Genesis 1:26, God gives Adam and Eve the responsibility to "rule over" all the animals. In verse 28, God says to "subdue" the earth. In Genesis 2:19, God brings the animals to Adam to name, further reinforcing his dominion over them. It is clear humanity was to have a lordship role over the earth—and a responsibility to care for it.

God created all things and has ultimate dominion and control over everything in the universe. By delegating that role to us in relation to the earth, it becomes an image of His relationship with the universe. So the way in which we exercise that relationship should reflect the care and compassion God shows to all His creation. People should be able to see in us a care and compassion for the environment, as well as for the animals that inhabit it.

### 2. Parent and child:

In Genesis 1:28, God says to "be fruitful and increase in number" and to "fill the

earth." Thus the parent-child relationship is established.

God has a special relationship with all sentient beings, whether humans, angels or inhabitants of other sinless worlds. In humans, the relationship God has created between parent and child is an image of the relationship God has with us. God created us and He created in us the ability to create children.

The care with which God treats us should be reflected in the way we treat our children. This is a powerful relationship, and God uses it time and time again in the

## I kept thinking about this snapshot of a family's life that I had witnessed.

Bible to the extent of calling Himself our "Father." God created us with the ability to experience parenthood and He wants us to understand Him in that context.

### 3. Husband and wife:

Genesis 1:27 states that humanity was created as "male and female." This thought is further expanded in Genesis 2, culminating in verse 24, which states that a man is to "leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."

Concentrating on the relational aspect rather than the physical, this directive promotes a deep unity between husband and wife—a bond that was to be permanent. If we go back to the description in Genesis 1:26, 27, the language God uses in reference to Himself is plural—"Let us make man in our image" . . . male and female he created them." From this, it seems plausible that the male-female relationship is an image of the internal relationship God experiences as the Trinity. God is one—a unity. But God is three-in-one.

This relationship is so harmonious and tightly bound that God can be referred to as one God, even though three distinct personalities make up God. The relationship of a husband and wife will never reach this level of unity but to the extent it does, it is an image of God's Trinity relation-

ship. Think of the couple married for 40 or 50 years who can finish each other's sentences.

### In His image

So what can we learn from these "image" relationships? To begin with, we gain an appreciation for the sacredness of these relationships: our caretaker-ship of the earth; our responsibility for our children; and the bond between husband and wife. And, by observing God in His relationships, we can apply lessons learned to our own. For example, the way He treats us as His children, we can apply to our own children.

And remember, when Jesus was on earth He would take regular time out to be alone and talk with His Father. While this is a good example for us in our prayer time with God, for Jesus this "time out" was also strengthening and maintaining His Trinity relationship within the Godhead.

So if God actively and regularly maintains the Trinity relationship, should the same not apply for husband and wife, whose relationship is to be an image of that relationship? This involves regular time spent together away from all other distractions, with a focus on building and maintaining the marriage relationship. To do this is not selfish; on the contrary, to do so is to honour the image of God found between husband and wife.

Later that week after my train journey, I was adding the finishing touches to my notes on the Sabbath-school lesson. But my thoughts were continually drawn back to that train journey. I kept thinking about this snapshot of a family's life that I had witnessed. The collaboration of mother and father; the peaceful expression on the face of the daughter; the patience of the father toward his son; all these things combined to form such a compelling scene. It was an image that stuck in my mind.

I asked myself, Why is this such a powerful image? And then it struck me: This is a powerful image because it is the image of God. **R**

*\*All Bible quotations are from the New International Version.*

**David Petrie writes from Thornleigh, New South Wales.**

# The stench of sin

BY CHERIE WATTS

COULD SMELL THEM AS SOON AS I ENTERED THE EMERGENCY department. It took a moment to locate the smell, because it was breathtakingly potent around them for a radius of at least 20 metres, but to my dismay I discovered the patient chart in my hand corresponded to the source of the stench. Two homeless people—my patient and her fiancé—looked up expectantly as I approached.

I talked briefly to my patient to find out why she had presented, and then couldn't get away quickly enough. I mumbled an excuse about having to find some equipment to examine her before escaping to a far corner of the department for a breath of fresh air. I was completely and utterly repulsed. As I was riffling through the linen trolley looking for a long-sleeved gown to cover my clothes while I examined her—a measure I would not usually resort to—I sent up a quick prayer asking God to help me show them the kindness He would show them if He were in my place.

And then I had a moment of epiphany. Their stench was like my sin, completely abhorrent to anyone who was untainted by it. They were oblivious to their condition, as I frequently am to my own cherished sins. Their stench was a guarantee of their exclusion from polite company, as my sin is a guarantee of separation from God.

I had no desire to exchange their stink for my orange-blossom cologne, so I covered myself in a long-sleeved gown to minimise my physical contact with them. But my Lord didn't do that. He entered a world foul with the stench of sin in order to exchange my sinful stink for His perfect cleanliness. Unlike me, He was not afraid of contamination by association.

I still wore the gown and sadly no miracle took place to temporarily suspend my sense of smell. But my heart was thankful as I contemplated all that Jesus has done for me.

My patient and her fiancé went back to the street and I imagine they will make no effort to shed their odour.

But what of me? I can only beg like the leper, "Lord, if You choose, You can make me clean."

And His response? "He stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, 'I do choose. Be made clean!'" (Matthew 8:2, 3 NRSV). **R**

*Cherie Watts is a medical doctor, who writes from Brisbane, Queensland.*

## Record Roo's kids corner



Hi Kids,  
Imagine you are 12 years old.  
What would you be doing?  
Going to school or playing with your friends? When Jesus was 12 he and his parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover. During the journey home Mary and Joseph realised Jesus was missing! They finally found him in God's temple having discussions with the teachers and scholars!

RR

### Fill in the Blanks

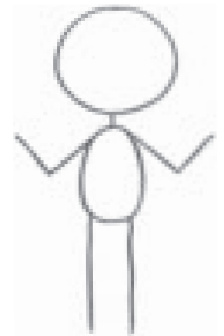
When Jesus' parents found Him, what did Jesus say to them? Complete the text below to find out.

And He said to them, 'Why did you \_\_\_\_\_ me? Did you not \_\_\_\_\_ that I must be about my \_\_\_\_\_?'

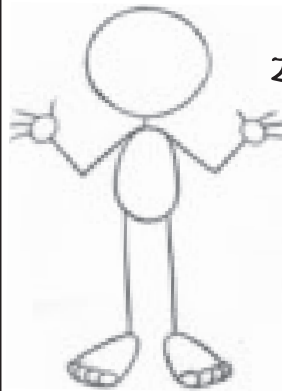
Luke 2:49 NKJV

### Draw

1. Sketch a big circle for the head and a big oval for the body. Add lines to show where the legs and arms go.

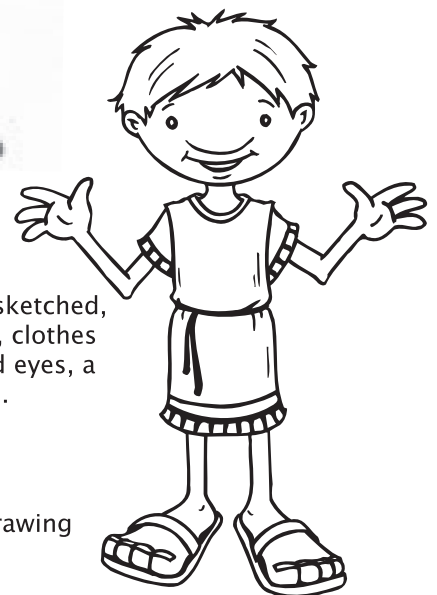


2. Add small circles for the hands and toes, with big oval shapes for the feet. Add lines to show where the fingers go.



3.

Outline the stick figure you have sketched, drawing the hair, clothes and sandals. Add eyes, a nose and a smile.



### Colour In

Colour in your drawing of the boy Jesus.



## The plane facts

**RUSSELL STRAHAN, NSW**

I think comments on the purchase of the new aircraft reported in “New AAS aircraft dedicated to service” (Cover, June 9) are inaccurate. Pastor Roger Millist is reported to say the new PAC 750XL is the first acquisition since 1977.

Adventist Aviation Services in Papua New Guinea purchased two second-hand aircraft in the early 1990s. They were purchased to augment the services of P2-SDC—the well loved and recently retired “Charlie”—and to replace P2-SIA and another aircraft that had been recently sold. The two Cessna 206s were brought into service under the registrations of P2-SDA and P2-SDB. I note with interest that the new PAC 750XL also uses the registration P2-SDB.

This new aircraft will be well appreciated in PNG, where flying is sometimes the only real alternative in reaching many remote villages. This is a vital and unique outreach opportunity in PNG.

**RESPONSE: ROGER MILLIST, CEO, ADVENTIST AVIATION SERVICES, PNG**

This is the first *new* aircraft purchased since 1977, which is in fact what I said. In 1992, AAS purchased two second-hand TU206 aircraft, which were 1980 models that replaced two pre-1975 model 206s, sold in 1992. Prior to 1977, the church always purchased new aircraft like we do with cars and computers. At last, we are getting back to where we started in 1964 and entering the 21st century at the same time.

## Lest we ignore

**HANS VAN NIEUWENHUIJZE, NZ**

It took me almost a whole lifetime of “experimenting” with various beliefs and denominations before joining the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Most other churches do not have the problem of people talking and carrying on during worship services. But, as suggested in “Lest we forget” (Letters, May 19), we are certainly guilty of it.

We worship God once a week on His Sabbath, yet sometimes it seems we can’t even conduct ourselves reverently for a couple of hours. We pray earnestly for the

Holy Spirit to be present to bless us, yet are distracted by talking and mobile phones.

I have rarely sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit in an environment where the pastor’s message is accompanied by whispered conversation somewhere behind me. Like most others, I am not going to stay away because of the insensitivity and lack of respect. After all, didn’t the Lord teach us to be tolerant toward others and to forgive them? Instead, we can only pray for them, that the same Holy Spirit will convict them of the inconvenience they cause others and the spiritual harm they do to themselves.

## Wouldn’t it make sense that worshipping God is included somewhere in all this?

### Incidental worship?

**SEAN WEIR, QLD**

Even though there may not be direct instruction in the Bible to worship at church on Sabbath (“Sabbath gathering,” Letters, May 19), it is quite clear that not only Jesus but also the apostles worshipped at the synagogues (see Acts 14:1; 16:13; Luke 4:16).

After all, if we go somewhere to pray, sing hymns and listen to a sermon on spiritual matters, wouldn’t it make sense that worshipping God is included somewhere in all this? Of course there would be fellowship after the worship service, and people usually learn something from the sermon but I do not think we should rely on this to feel uplifted.

## Whose command?

**CLAUDE WILTSHIRE, NSW**

The recent debate in RECORD about military service has brought home to me how careful we must be not to question the relevance of the Ten Commandments to modern life.

This is not about some debatable point of doctrine; this is one of God’s “Thou shalt nots,” set in stone—if you’ll pardon the pun. We should each have a copy of the Ten Commandments on our fridge door as a daily reminder of where we are in our Christian walk.

Recent world events have meant that fundamentalism has become synonymous

with extremism in the minds of many people. We have been given the commission to show that it is possible to live a fundamental Christian life, even when surrounded by increasingly more militant extremism in both the secular and religious spheres of life.

**ANNETTE JONES, NSW**

The Pharisees confused their idea of what a Messiah should be with what the real Messiah was. Their idea was not God’s idea; values and morals in God’s world are not the same as those held in

this world. God’s kingdom is an upside-down kingdom.

When you see a value this world holds, turn it on its head and you are likely to be closer to God’s truth. God’s idea of peace is not as this world sees it. This world sees peace as a “right,” and one that has to be enforced with violence and death to all who would interrupt my right to “my version” of peace. In other words, to maintain my peace I must destroy someone else’s peace. God’s peace is not of this world (see John 14:27); our peace is in Christ (see John 16:33).

The one who has won our peace for us is Jesus. Don’t confuse worldly peace for godly peace; the two are poles apart, and the provision and enforcement of the two are also worlds apart. The question is: “Whose world do you belong to?”

## More of those

**JEAN ROBERTS, NZ**

I recommend that everyone read “An inconvenient moral truth” (Feature, May 19). It was a most interesting article and much appreciated. We need more such articles, for everyone’s sake.

**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

▲ **IT Lecturer/Dean, Department of Business Studies—Fulton College (Fiji)** is seeking to appoint a lecturer in Information Technology who will also be head of the Business Studies Department. Applications close **June 29, 2007**.

▲ **Department Assistant—South Pacific Division (Wahroonga, NSW)**. The South Pacific Division head office seeks a capable departmental assistant to help facilitate an efficient department by undertaking various clerical and administrative tasks. Applications close **June 28, 2007**.

▲ **Deputy Vice-Chancellor—Pacific Adventist University (Papua New Guinea)**. The Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Ltd is inviting expressions of interest for the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the second ranking officer at PAU. Applications close **July 18, 2007**.

For more information please visit the positions vacant section of the SPD website at <<http://spd.adventist.org.au/employment>>. All written applications, including CV, three work-related referees and the contact details of your church pastor, should be forwarded to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Limited, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076, Australia; email <[hr@adventist.org.au](mailto:hr@adventist.org.au)>; fax (02) 9489 0943.

▲ **Teaching Supervisor—Footsteps Christian Community Preschool (Christchurch, NZ)** is seeking a permanent, full-time Teaching Supervisor to lead a small but effective teaching team. The suitable applicant must have a Dip Tch (ECE) and be provisionally registered for New Zealand. They will provide leadership and direction to teaching staff, and continue our vision for the care and education of the children, working with an experienced centre manager to help with curriculum development and expansion. **Applications in writing to The Chairman, Footsteps Christian Community Preschool, 5 Grants Road, Papanui, Christchurch or email <[footsteps@pre.school.nz](mailto:footsteps@pre.school.nz)>. Applications close July 13, 2007.**

▲ **Accountant—Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) (Australia)** is seeking a CPA/CA qualified accountant to manage its accounting functions. Reporting to the CFO and directing the work of the Assistant Accountant, the successful applicant will be committed to ADRA's mission and values, hold a relevant academic qualification in accounting, have at least five years relevant experience, and be proficient with accounting systems, spreadsheet and database software. A passion for social justice and community-service delivery is essential, as are strong communication skills and the ability to keep current with industry trends. Applications close **July 6, 2007**.

▲ **Program Manager—Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) (Australia)** is seeking a Program Manager for a major AusAID-funded food security and AIDS project in southern Africa. The position will likely be based in Blantyre, Malawi; initially for six months with a possible extension for up to 18 months. The successful applicant must have an understanding of project management, including analysis, design, assessment, resourcing, implementing, monitoring and evaluation. Budgeting, teambuilding and networking skills are also vital. They must have a relevant qualification, at least 3 years experience in a development setting and the ability to take initiative and work autonomously. Applications close **June 29, 2007**.

For more information please visit the positions vacant section of the SPD website at <<http://adventist.org.au/employment>> or contact Cindy Cox on (02) 9489 5488. Applications should be forwarded to Human Resources, ADRA Australia, PO Box 129, Wahroonga NSW 2076; e-mail <[ccox@adra.org.au](mailto:ccox@adra.org.au)>.

## Weddings

**de Silva—Potts.** Denham Noel de Silva, son of Pastor Errol and Corinne de Silva (Melbourne, Vic), and Jenni Angelina Potts, daughter of Pastor Desmond and Susie Potts (Melbourne), were married on 4.3.07 in a garden ceremony at Poet's Lane Reception Centre, Sherbrooke, Dandenong.

*Desmond Potts, Errol de Silva*

**Finnegan—Douglas.** Neil Jeffrey Finnegan, son of the late Wallace Finnegan and Iris Finnegan (Melbourne, Vic), and Julie Maree Douglas, daughter of Pastor Robert and Nerioli Douglas (Sydney, NSW), were married on 27.5.07 in St David's Uniting Church, Melbourne, Vic. *Bob Douglas, Mladen Kiklec*

**Flyn—Toa.** Adrian Flyn (WA) and Kataraina Toa (NZ) were married on 8.4.07 in the beautiful Japanese Gardens, Gosford, NSW. *David Bertelsen*

## Obituaries

**Butler, Douglas Neve**, born 30.3.1936 in Melbourne, Vic; died 20.5.07 at Kureelpa, Nambour, Qld. On 23.8.1973, he married Katherine Parnell, a Canadian. He was predeceased by his brother, Terry, and sister, Maureen Johnson. He is survived by his wife; his son, Andrew; and brothers, Clif and Will (all of Qld); and numerous nephews and nieces. Doctor Butler spent most of his working career as a professor of organic chemistry at York University, Toronto, Canada. He made a very passionate, earnest and sincere return to the Adventist faith of his ministerial parents in the final year of his life, and now awaits the call of the Lifegiver. *Mike Brownhill*

**House, Hilda Emielie Maud**, born 11.11.1916; died 15.4.07 in Melbourne, Vic. On 22.12.1941, she was married to Pastor



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Len House, who predeceased her. She was also predeceased by her first child, Carolyn, who died at birth. She is survived by her sons, George (Dimboola), Dudley (Melbourne), Colin (Perth); and her sister, Etna (Bendigo, Vic). Hilda was a bright, outgoing person with great faith in God. A moving service was held at Horsham church, which all her family attended. With generosity and selflessness, she cared for and nurtured people all over New Zealand and Victoria. Her family are comforted knowing she rests in the love of God.

*Mike Browning*

**Larsen, Alter May** (nee Carter), born 4.8.1910 at Romney, Wales; died 17.5.07 at Sunshine Coast, Qld. In 1935, she married Harold Larsen, who predeceased her in 1985. She is survived by her children and their spouses, Jan and Pastor Ross Parker, Harold and Beverly Larsen, Jeanine and Barry Cook and Rodney Larsen; 10 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. Alta arrived in Australia on the last ship before World War I broke out. In 1930, her sister paid her fees so she could attend Australian Missionary College (now Avondale College) for three years. She will be sadly missed. *Jorge Munoz*

**Salmond, Jessie Gwendoline**, born 14.7.1914 at Alstonville, NSW; died 25.3.07 at Lismore. On 11.7.1932, she married Herbert, who predeceased her in 1993. She was also predeceased by her son, Ron, in 2002. She is survived by her daughters, Yvonne Church (Evans Head) and Valma Fields (Sanctuary Cove, Qld); her son, Colin (Beerwah, Qld); 13 grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren. Gwen was small but tirelessly served others. She was a talented singer and needleworker. Sadly missed but awaiting her reward. *Ernie Krause*

**Smith, Carey Lester**, born 28.6.1954 in Melbourne; died of stomach cancer 17.5.07 in Sydney, NSW. On 25.5.1976, he married Cherie Mitchell. He is survived by his wife; his daughter, Tennille Smith (Sydney); and his son, Morgan (Sydney). Carey graduated from Avondale in 1978 and was a missionary teacher in Vanuatu from 1979 to 1983. He taught at Strathfield Adventist High School for 16 years and organised

the Adventist basketball competition in Sydney for 28 years. Both his children now teach in Sydney. Avid cyclist, basketballer and volunteer for 2000 Olympics, Carey loved worship at Kellyville church and was editor of *FYI*, a monthly paper printed by the church. He rests in peace now, waiting for the Resurrection morning.

*Alex Currie, Andre Afamasaga  
Bob Saunders, Martin Vukmanic*

**Watts, Arthur Guy**, born 3.7.1912 at Midland Junction, Perth, WA; died 11.5.07 in Fremantle Hospital. On 14.10.1940, he married Phyllis Stanley, who predeceased him in 1989. He was also predeceased by their adopted daughter, Diane, in 1985. He is survived by his sons, Ian (Sydney, NSW), Barry (Melbourne, Vic), Neil (Brisbane, Qld) and Warren (Perth). Arthur was Mr Valiant for truth, and had a heart full of love and compassion for others. Rest now 'til morning comes. *Phil Rhodes*

## Advertisements

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**Wanted—your stewardship story.** Signs Publishing Company is planning to produce a second collection of stories of *Ordinary People—Extraordinary God*. Share a spiritual lesson in your own faith experience with God in stewardship of time, means, talents/opportunities, health, the environment, hope or other aspects of the Christian life. Make sure the relationship to the concept of stewardship is clear. Write your testimony in no more than 750 words—the shorter, the better. Make sure your testimony is a story. Let the narrative speak for itself. Keep any moral to a minimum. Include a suggestion of a relevant Bible text to be placed at the end of your story. Include your contact details and a short biographical note. Send your story to the editor, Signs Publishing Company. (See contact details on masthead, page 2.)

**Greater Sydney Conference.** Notice is hereby given that a 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 Rd, 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, that is, the consideration of proposed Constitutional changes will commence at 9:00 am.



# Homecoming

*Reminisce. Worship. Relax.*



*It's just wonderful, it's the same without you.*

**The Idea of North in concert**  
James Morrison describes The Idea of North as "the best contemporary a cappella quartet in Australia." The quality of the Idea of North's sound and arrangements will impress. The relaxed presentation and endearing sense of humour of each member of the quartet will entertain.  
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1937, 1947, 1957, 1967, 1977, 1982, 1987 and 1997.

## August 24-26, 2007

**Receive the Hope Channel and 3ABN.** Complete satellite kit \$265 + freight; prime signal areas in Australia only. Full instructions for DIY installation. Installers available. Rural Electronics (02) 6361 3636; or <ruralele@bigpond.net.au>.

**Data projectors, screens, DVDs VCRs, PA systems etc.** Lower prices for SDA churches, schools etc. Australia only. Rural Electronics (02) 6361 3636; or <greenfields@netconnect.com.au>.

**50th anniversary of Central Church, Brisbane, Qld** will be held on Sabbath, September 15, 2007. Previous pastors and members especially welcome. Come and enjoy our special multicultural family and food. Contact Ross Baines <rbaines@adventist.org.au> or Mel Lambert <petermel24@gmail.com>.

**Free Rent** 2bdrm self-contained unit LU garage in exchange for property maintenance of small acreage, north NSW. 5 minutes town/church/Adventist school. Phone (02)6672 2448.

**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.

**Amazing Facts, Your Story Hour, Empowered Living Ministries and 3ABN products.** Visit The Story Factory on-

line store for quality Christian products <www.thestoryfactory.com.au>; email <info@thestoryfactory.com.au>; or contact us freecall 1800 452 133.

**10th anniversary ADRA sacred concert, Sydney, NSW—June 30, 2007.** 3.00 pm Parramatta church, Hammers Road, Toongabbie; 7.30 pm Wahroonga church, Fox Valley Road. Don't miss the best ever. Be early! Featuring sopranos, Yola Mielczarek, Susan James, Simone Easthope; baritone, Douglas Gibbs; tenor, David Fuentes; lead violinist, Sohyen Eastham; "Outreach" male quartet; brass ensemble; Graham Fletcher, marimba; vocal duets, piano, organ etc. Proceeds to ADRA.

**Giant Booksale.** 75%=\$3. Lay preachers, SS teachers, readers a must. 5000 books, theology, E G White, Christian novels (adults, youth), Bibles, biographies, music: CD and LP records; SDA, classical and more. Non-alcoholic wine. Quality plants \$5. Make calendar note now. Nunawading church, Central Road. Sunday July 1, 11 am–3 pm.

## Finally

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing. He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.

## Wal and Dorothy Fowler: Builders in God's work

**Then**—Even Weet-Bix Kids get older and eventually retire. Just ask Wal Fowler, whose career with Sanitarium Health Food Company spanned more than 40 years until his retirement 1984. Through his experience and skill in business management, accountancy and sales, he made an immeasurable contribution to building the work of Sanitarium in Sydney and New Zealand, finally assuming the role of Australasian retail manager.

Instead of slowing down and moving into a retirement village, Wal volunteered to restore and rebuild one. Coronella was struggling to make ends meet when he was invited to manage its business affairs. The place has never looked back, and neither have the Fowlers. Some 10 years later, Wal and Dorothy moved into one of the 40 units he had been responsible for building. (That's a great advertisement for the quality of the accommodation.)

**Now**—This time around, the Fowlers have actually retired, though you could hardly say they have put their feet up. They value their independence, are surrounded by friends and enjoy fellowship and a lifestyle that leaves nothing to be desired. After 13 years living in their Nunawading home, Dorothy says, "I wouldn't be anywhere else. It is such a lovely place to live." You could say they are two happy little Marmites.

Building and restoration is one of the dominant themes of the Bible, culminating in the founding of a city whose builder and architect is God. Builders have a special place in God's work. After a lifetime of strengthening the church, these "builder folk" now enjoy the benefits of their labour and look forward in faith to their next project—an incredible mansion.

**Most seniors look for somewhere appropriate to live in their advanced years. Wal Fowler built his retirement unit. In fact he built half the village, and all this after he had retired. And he did it all as a volunteer.**

**Adventist Retirement Villages are located in:**

**South Queensland Conference** (07) 3218 7777: Caloundra, Capricorn, Melody Park and Victoria Point

**North New South Wales Conference** (02) 4951 8088: Alstonville and Cooranbong

**Greater Sydney Conference** (02) 9487 0600: Hornsby, Kings Langley and Wahroonga

**Victorian Conference** (03) 9259 2000: Bendigo, Nunawading and Warburton

**South Australian Conference** (08) 8269 2177: Morphett Vale

**Western Australian Conference** (08) 9398 7222: Busselton, Nollamara and Rossmoyne



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*If donations for a particular fund or project exceed those needed, ADRA reserves the right to reallocate surplus funds to other ADRA projects without further notice to the donor. ADRA will reallocate these surplus funds to similar projects or to where ADRA Australia determines it is needed most.*

Simply complete this form and mail to: ADRA Australia, Reply Paid 129, PO Box 129, Wahroonga, NSW 2076, Australia or Phone: 1800 242 372 [www.adra.org.au](http://www.adra.org.au)

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