

RECORD

August 25, 2007

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Pastors and church members of the E'pauto Adventist church (front row) with 42 baptismal candidates—the result of a month-long Revelation Seminar.



“Mission possible” outreach

Church members lead Vanuatu evangelism

PORT VILA, VANUATU

Church members have been taking an active role in evangelism in the Vanuatu Mission as part of the “Tell the world” initiative, which encourages members to become involved in some form of evangelism as a way of bringing people into a relationship with God.

Recently, a three-week evangelistic series in Luganville, which was conducted by local church members Howard Aru and Louis Kalpal with the support of other church leaders, resulted in the baptism of 245 people.

Among the group baptised was Van-

uatu’s most-recognised self-supported ministry evangelist, John Bule. He and his wife were rebaptised after being strongly convinced it was the right time to return to the church.

A three-month “nurturing” program is being conducted following the baptisms and Mr Aru says, “I’m very excited what Vanuatu may be about to experience. It’s time God’s church in Vanuatu moved forward more proactively than ever before. We’re living in a very interesting time.”

On June 2, the church at E'pauto and its company churches celebrated the baptism

(Continued on page 5)



If you were able to enter a room with your three greatest heroes . . .

“Pray continually”

WHEN WE WERE LIVING IN TASMANIA, I took my three children to an animal park called Zoo Doo. After the bus ride, where we fed ostriches and saw a variety of animals, we came back to the main building.

Inside, we gathered around a racetrack. All the kids were given a ticket, stuffed monkeys were strapped to the backs of Shetland ponies and the gates flew open. The race caller shouted out the horse names and placements as they ran one quick lap. As the announcer shouted out the winning horse’s number, I looked down to see that Mikey—my middle child—had won.

Mikey is an extremely active and talkative boy. I expected him to go crazy and run in tight circles shouting, “I won! I won!” But he didn’t. He just stood there, glanced at his number and quietly slipped it into his pocket.

The other two were so busy complaining about their misfortune that they didn’t notice Mikey’s lack of response. I put my hand on his curly mop of hair and said, “Mikey, you won!”

To which he half-heartedly replied, “Yeah, I know.”

“Are you going to get your prize?” I asked. “If you take the number to the shop, they will give you a free Freddo Frog.”

He nodded and we walked to the shop. After claiming his prize, we drove home. He sat in silence, not eating his chocolate.

“Mikey,” I said, “you can eat your chocolate. You won it.” He quietly opened the

wrapper and ate in silence.

When I put Mikey to bed that night, I commented on his behaviour. “Mikey, I am proud of you. When you won, you didn’t show off or make fun of your brother and sister. You were very thoughtful.”

“It’s not that,” Mikey responded.

“Well, what is it Mike? Why were you so quiet when you won?” I asked.

He glanced up at me and then down at his hands. “I cheated,” he whispered.

“Cheated?” I asked, “You were only given one ticket. How could you cheat?”

“I prayed to Jesus and asked Him to make my horse win,” Mikey confessed.

I smiled and hugged him. Only a child—with unbridled faith—would consider a prayer cheating! No wonder Jesus said “the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Matthew 19:14*).

Prayer is an amazing thing. We have access to the God of the universe anytime. We can ask for our heart’s desires. Jesus promised, “You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it” (John 14:14). And yet, we let life race by so often, rarely asking God for a win. He cares deeply for each of us and longs to hear from you.

My favourite definition of prayer came from a contact in Collinsvale, Tasmania. Each time I swapped a video with him, he would invite me to sit and talk. Having just watched a video on prayer, he commented, “Do you know what I think prayer is?”

“Tell me,” I responded.

“You Adventists believe in the Trinity,

right?” he asked.

“Yes, we do.”

“Well, the Trinity is God the Father, God the Son and God the Spirit all living together,” he explained. “They think, act and live as one. It’s like they are constantly in conversation with each other. I think prayer is us joining the conversation.”

I was dumbstruck. What an amazing understanding of prayer! It’s no wonder God said, “Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). How else could a human respond, when entering the Trinity-inhabited sanctuary for prayer, than like Job: “I put my hand over my mouth” (Job 40:4).

If you were able to enter a room with your three greatest heroes and were given an hour with them, how much time would you spend talking? How about listening? Prayer is that room. But you can enter anytime you like and stay as long as you wish.

Paul placed prayer at the heart of joy and thanksgiving: “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). And it’s no wonder. You have a friend “who sticks closer than a brother” (Proverbs 18:24).

When you pray, Jesus is there. When you ask, He answers. When you listen, He speaks. When you cry, He holds you. When you laugh, He smiles. Let’s pray.

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

David Edgren



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Our vision is to...
know
experience
 and **share**
 our hope in Jesus Christ!

Camp mission offerings on the increase

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

A renewed interest in mission and enthusiastic support for a new mission plane for Papua New Guinea resulted in a healthy “spike” in camp mission offerings this past year, according to Pastor Ray Coombe, director of Adventist Mission for the South Pacific Division (SPD).

Camp offerings and pledges totalled \$A235,000 during the past financial year, up by an extra \$A30,000 on the previous year’s total.

“This result assured the purchase of the new PAC 750 XL aircraft, which is now in operation in Papua New Guinea, and has transformed the efficiency and safety of Adventist Aviation Services,” says Pastor Coombe. “We are delighted in the revived support for mission giving, which had reached a low point in 2004.”

This year’s total is attributed to outstanding offerings and pledges in the North New South Wales, Western Australian and South Queensland Conferences, where \$A79,000, \$A61,000 and \$A32,000 were the respective totals from camp mission giving. Even some of the smaller conferences almost doubled previous totals.

The SPD has announced that the mission projects for the next round of camp-meet-

ings are just as exciting and important as a mission plane. Forty per cent will fund an expansion to the Pacific Adventist University (PAU) library and development of an E G White Research Centre at the university, and 60 per cent will repair and equip health clinics throughout the Pacific.

A recent visit by the SPD director of Adventist Health Ministries, Jonathan Duffy, and Dr Chester Kuma to health clinics in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu revealed that many of these primary healthcare facilities are languishing for want of repairs and equipment. Camp mission offerings will help to raise funds that will support this important medical outreach.

“Expansion of the PAU library is our most pressing need on the university campus,” says PAU’s vice-chancellor, Dr Branimir Schubert. “The library, with its related facilities and services for research, study, heritage collections and internet access, is the very hub of the university.”

“Christian education and medical outreach have always been a traditional focus for mission work in the Pacific,” says Pastor



The Viru Clinic in the Solomon Islands Mission, which is desperately in need of repair.

Coombe, “and the projects this next year provide a real challenge in both areas.”

While some members will see a need to provide an E G White Research Centre for Pacific island leaders, others will feel an emotional attachment to the medical needs of poorly resourced and isolated areas. Dr Kuma hopes that some churches or individuals will actually become partners and sponsors of health clinics, committing personally to ensure their survival.

Pastor Coombe hopes that the generous response to camp mission offerings this past year will continue and provide another record-breaking result next year.—**Ray Coombe/RECORD staff**



◆ Fiesta was the theme for the latest **Vacation Bible School program** held during the July school holidays by the **Morphett Vale (SA)** church’s children’s ministries team. A new dimension was added to the program this year, with the children being encouraged to participate in a community project. With adult supervision, the children made

20 blankets to give to a local charity’s winter blanket appeal. The blankets will be distributed via **AnglicareSA** and **ADRA** to children in need, including refugees. On the last day of Fiesta, the children brought a gold-coin donation to help cover the cost of the materials for the blankets. The opportunity of making a donation was extended to the church members the next Sabbath in church. Any money left after costs were covered will be donated to ADRA. The total amount of donations received was **\$A255**.—**Mitsy Bullas**

◆ **TV advertising** for a free viewing of *The Search 6* videos will screen in **Tasmania** on WIN Television, **September 8-16**.

◆ Stanthorpe, Qld, has the reputation for being the coldest place in Queensland and August 4 was no exception. Despite the cold weather, the women’s ministries team hosted a day of prayer and fasting. Women from Stanthorpe and Warwick churches joined together in the decorated hall for a time of bonding, sharing spiritual insights and interaction. Without the distraction of having

to provide lunch, the whole day was spent in interactive Bible study, singing, as well as experiencing differing styles of prayer, which set the tone for an uplifting Sabbath. At the conclusion of the program an adaptation of the Jewish closing-Sabbath ceremony, Havdalah, was shared.—

Mary Fedorow



“Mission possible” for Philippines outreach

HOXTON PARK, NEW SOUTH WALES

On April 5, 22 members of the Hoxton Park Adventist church, ranging in age from eight to 60, arrived in the Philippines to run a Vacation Bible School (VBS) and evangelistic outreach program in Basud, a town eight hours drive east of Manila.

The programs conducted by the Hoxton Park church group came following a request six months earlier from people in the Philippines. At the time, the church did not have the funds to do so but the young people were keen to go. They conducted fundraising activities and with the support of church members, \$A12,000 was raised.

“The children’s program was a huge success,” says Pastor Edgar Reyes, minister at Hoxton Park church. “The initial estimate of 150 children attending the VBS ended up being more than 300 by the end of the week.”

Showbag-style bags were prepared for the children, complete with pens and pencils, for the final day of the VBS. There were “miraculously” 25 bags left over, according to Pastor Reyes, and this was just the right number to give to children

in a remote village visited by the team the next day.

The evangelistic program, called “Unlimited possibilities,” was conducted by Pastor Reyes each evening and started with more than 100 people attending. By the end of the week, numbers had swelled

hours away in the Bicol region. The group handed out food parcels and conducted a STORM (Service To Others Really Matters) Co program for the children in camps set up for those affected by the November 2006 typhoon that caused landslides and killed hundreds.

On their return to Manila, the group was invited to a youth detention centre for 15- to 18-year-olds, where they spoke about the power God has to change lives. Pastor Reyes says, “Unfortunately interaction between the group and the young people was limited and so we will have to wait to see what the outcome will be when we get to heaven.”

The group also conducted a STORM Co program at an orphanage with 12 children aged between six and 15 who had suffered abuse, including forced child labour. They spent a morning with the children, who quickly learned the hand actions for the songs presented and enjoyed having their faces painted. Gifts were distributed and the group left with pleas from the children to return soon.

Pastor Reyes says, “God had indeed provided and made the ‘impossible’ possible.”—*RECORD staff/Edgar Reyes*



The Hoxton Park church group conducted a Vacation Bible School for children in Basud.

to more than 300 and 72 people were baptised on the Sabbath.

One of the baptismal candidates was a tribal elder from a village on the outskirts of Basud and the baptism also included some of the people from his village.

At the end of the program, the next stop was Legazpi, a town situated four



◆ **Greymouth church**, one of the smallest churches on the South Island of New Zealand, has led the first hospital chapel service by Adventists at **Greymouth Base Hospital**. Normally it is taken by other churches on a roster but the Adventist church now has a permanent slot. Other initiatives include the church running its own website

<www.sdagreymouth.org.nz> for a number of years (**averaging 790 hits a month**) set up with an evangelist theme. Recently the church also set up **HopeFM on 107 FM**, which covers 90 per cent of Greymouth, and they also plan to set up a radio site in Westport. Dial-a-Prayer is another feature that operates with support from some church members from Christchurch. In addition to these outreaches the church is redecorating its interior with new paint, carpet and lighting.—*Phillip Hawken*

◆ The proposed merger between **Amazing Facts** and **3ABN** (see “Amazing Facts and 3ABN to unite ministries,” News, May 19) is now unlikely to go ahead. A statement was posted on the Amazing Facts website on August 2. “After several months of prayer and careful research regarding structural dynamics, Amazing Facts and 3ABN have decided not to move forward with a merger or alliance at this time,” says **Pastor Doug Batchelor**, president of Amazing Facts.

◆ Well-known Blacktown (Syd-

ney, NSW) artist **Leo Wright** has won two prizes for **Aboriginal art** in Western Australia. He won first and second prizes for his paintings—one of three turtles, the other of three fish—at a horticultural show in **Kununurra, WA**. He and his wife, Colleen, are training to become Seventh-day Adventist church pastors in Kununurra. From the Dhungutti clan, of Kempsey, the couple opened Blacktown’s first self-funded Aboriginal art shop in Doonside. Mr Wright is a volunteer support worker and counsellor at a medical centre in Kununurra. He

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ AUGUST—SIGNS MONTH

SQC adopts new constitution

BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND

Delegates to the 73rd South Queensland Conference (SQC) session voted to accept all proposed amendments to its constitution on August 5.

In harmony with the requirement of a two-thirds majority, changes include a modernising of the term “session” to “constituency meeting,” as well as alterations to the categories of eligible delegates. One difference is that conference employees are now elected by their local churches rather than appointed as delegates-at-large.

As well, only the conference officers and the executive committee will be elected at the three-yearly constituency meetings. All others—including associate and assistant officers, departmental personnel and association secretaries—will be chosen by an “appointments committee.”

This body, consisting of executive committee members plus another six elected members, will also fill midterm vacancies between constituency meetings.

Under the amended constitution, the new “appointments committee” is elected by the constituency meeting upon the recommendation of the selection committee—the selection committee is still



Pastors Murray Hunter and Richie Reid at the South Queensland Conference session.

made up from members elected from local churches.

Prior to this session (now constituency meeting), conference officers conducted advisory pre-session regional meetings to explain the finer points of the amendments. These meetings assisted the delegates to understand the issues and helped achieve a positive outcome.

All SQC officers—including Dr Neil Watts, president; Pastor Malcolm Potts, general secretary; and Scott Hopkins, chief financial officer, as well as assistant officers and departmental personnel who indicated their availability to serve the conference for the next triennium—were returned.—*David Edgar*

Church members lead Vanuatu evangelism

(Continued from page 1)

of 42 people who were brought into the church as a result of four church members conducting a month-long Revelation Seminar.

Joseph Thomas, the personal ministries leader for the E’pauto church, coordinated the seminar. Materials and Bibles were donated by friends in Australia, which helped them to conduct the program.

A group of 14 lay preachers have been involved in conducting public evangelism for a number of years, although they have never had theological training, so a school of evangelism was conducted in Port Vila from May 21 to 27 to enhance their skills.

The training was conducted by Pastors Nos Terry, Sabbath school and personal ministries director for the Trans-Pacific Union Mission (TPUM); Paul Cavanagh, ministerial director of the TPUM; Lawrence Tanabose, president of the TPUM; George Fafale, ministerial director for the Solomon Islands Mission; and Dexter Lilo, general secretary of the Vanuatu Mission.—*Pacific Waves/Nos Terry Mailalong*

hopes to preach God’s words in the Kimberley next year. “We’ll continue to use Kununurra as our base while working for our church,” he says. “I shall continue to paint and create artworks during my free time and spread the words of God full-time.”—*Blacktown Sun*

◆ A Romanian criminal, once labelled the country’s fourth most dangerous, is choosing to forgo parole after becoming a Seventh-day Adventist—he would rather remain in prison to share his new-found faith.

Valeriu Curin was one of eight life-term inmates to step into a portable baptismal tank on July 21 in a prison in the city of Craiova and declare commitment to a Christian life. Pastor George Uba, director of personal ministries for the Romanian Union Conference, said Curin, an avid reader, finally picked up a Bible in his cell, gradually immersing himself in the power of God’s Word. Among Romania’s Protestant denominations, Adventists were among the first to begin prison ministries. There are no official Adventist prison chaplains in Romania, but

Adventist evangelists have now established programs in 42 of the country’s 46 prisons.—*Rajmund Dabrowski/ANN*

◆ A report by ANN, shows that immigrants are sustaining Adventist Church membership in many regions of the world. “Without immigrants the Adventist Church in England would be reduced significantly,” says Pastor Aris Vontzalidis, director of church growth for the South England Conference. “Now that immigrants have come in, [our] churches have been given life

again.” More than 80 per cent of the Adventist Church’s membership in England comes from other countries, according to Pastor Vontzalidis, who himself is originally from Greece. The non-native membership of Dutch Adventist churches has grown to 45 per cent of the country’s 4600 members. Some fear that native Adventism will disappear or greatly diminish in five to 10 years. Pastor Vontzalidis says many immigrant church members are not recent converts but those who belonged to the Adventist Church in their home countries.—*Taashi Rowe/ANN*

Retirees ramble on New Zealand's South Island

BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND

From April 14 to May 1, 50 people over 50 toured the South Island of New Zealand. The "South New Zealand autumn tour" was organised for Australian retirees by Pastor David Lawson, president of the South Queensland Retired Adventist Church Employees Association.

As well as seeing many of the major tourist attractions of the South Island, including glaciers, the Arrowtown Autumn Festival and hot springs, the group spent time worshipping with Adventist church members in Dunedin and Christchurch.

The group of retirees took the Sabbath school and worship services at the churches, as well as an afternoon program. Pastor Lawson says, "In Dunedin they had not had so many in their church for Sabbath for many years—extra seats had to be brought into the church to accommodate the worshippers."

The Ilam and Papanui Adventist churches combined for the Sabbath program in Christchurch, which saw the Ilam church filled to capacity.

Pastor Lawson says, "This is the third



The "South New Zealand autumn tour" group in Christchurch.

tour I have enjoyed organising and is the first to include retirees from other conferences. The first was to Norfolk Island, which had 10 participants. The second was to Lord Howe Island, where there were 23 participants.

"I have been organising these trips for a number of reasons. It makes it possible for our older church workers to visit places they have dreamed of seeing—but could not afford the normal tourist costs."

He adds, "While the price is kept to a minimum, if there are any funds left over from the tour they are donated to the 'Motorbikes for District Directors in the South Pacific Islands' project that I am caring for."—*Adele Nash/David Lawson*

Untrained teachers in Vanuatu upgrade their skills

PORT VILA, VANUATU

The first of three upgrade sessions for untrained teachers in Vanuatu was conducted in early July, with 63 teachers participating in the program—around a third of the untrained teachers in the country.

The coordinator of the program, Peter Roberts, says, "All the teachers are very enthusiastic and ready to learn."

An example of the desire to be involved with the upgrade process was explained by Joses Seth, the education director for the Vanuatu Mission. He says, "Two male teachers turned up without our notice and when questioned, I discovered they came from a very remote school in the middle bushland of Santo. They paid for their airfare to come to Vila, only to be told their names were not on the list. However, I spoke with Peter and we decided to accept them into the program."

Australian-based volunteers Peter and Glenda Roberts, Dawn Hankinson and Hazel Eaton helped to lead out in the upgrade program.—*David McClintock/Pacific Waves*

More @ www.adventist.org.vu

◆ Almost six out of every 10 Christians around the world feel their hectic schedule prevents them from spending more time with God. When it comes to pastors, the statistics are just as sobering. Michael Zigarelli, an associate professor at Charleston Southern's School of Business, polled more than 20,000 Christians of all ages from 139 countries about the busyness of their lives and how it affects their relationship with God. Based on profession alone, pastors are the most likely to say they often or always rush from task to task, exceeding business owners,

lawyers, teachers and salespeople. While a whopping 72 per cent of Christian lawyers said their overloaded pace of life interfered with growing in the Lord, almost two out of every three pastors made the same claim, writes Pastor Marcus Yoars.—*ASSIST News Service*
More @ www.ministrytodaymag.com

◆ Pope Benedict has said there is substantial scientific proof of the theory of evolution. The pope also said the human race must listen to "the voice of the Earth" or risk destroying its very existence.

In a talk with 400 priests, the pope spoke of the current debate raging in some countries, particularly the United States and his native Germany, between creationism and evolution. "They are presented as alternatives that exclude each other," the pope said. But he said evolution did not answer all the questions and could not exclude a role by God. His comments appear to endorse the doctrine of intelligent design.—*Reuters*

◆ The Christian Reformed Church (CRC) biannual synod voted 112 to 70 in June to remove the word

male from its requirements for church office. A separate vote allowed women to serve as delegates to CRC synods. However, local church bodies may "set restrictions on women serving as delegates" to their meetings. The compromise follows decades of CRC debate about women in ministry.—*Christianity Today*

◆ The film *Amazing Grace* has opened at number five on the box-office charts in Australia and slipped to number seven in its second week, grossing over \$A1 million.—*www.boxofficemojo.com*

IS YOUR CHURCH DOING SOMETHING EXCITING, INNOVATIVE OR INSPIRING? EMAIL RECORD@SIGNSPUBLISHING.COM.AU

Christians encouraged to embrace state

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

A Christian academic has challenged Seventh-day Adventists to become more involved in public life and the political process to capitalise on the “retreat” of secularisation.

Dr Stuart Piggin, director of the Centre for the History of Christian Thought and Experience at Macquarie University, described Catholic social theory as a “healthy discipline” and the Uniting Church as inheriting “Wesley’s love for the poor and Methodist identification with the needy,” during the annual Murdoch Lecture at Avondale College on July 10. Then the sting: “But most of us in the evangelical tradition . . . have created our own universe, parallel to, but unengaged with, the secular world. We don’t even try to communicate Christian perspectives in the marketplace of ideas, and so we do not know how to do it.”

Dr Piggin adapted a phrase from William Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar* as the title of his lecture—“Taken at the flood: cherishing our Christian heritage, the surest foundation for Australia’s future.” “There is a tide in the affairs of men, but it’s high tide now—the tide is at the flood, and it’s a king tide,” he said.

Dr Piggin and a colleague visited Canberra in 2005 to explore the feasibility of holding a National Forum on Australia’s Christian Heritage. They were “amazed” at the interest Australian Members of Parliament showed in Christianity and the support they gave to the forum. “It is almost as if, in the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, we have the two pylons of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, representing, on the Liberal side, the family values dimension of the faith, and, on the Labor side, the social justice dimension.”

Dr Piggin also used the “robust” debate about the teaching of Australian history at a summit in Canberra that followed the forum as evidence of his claim. “All the delegates were united in their desire for students to examine religion’s role in shaping society and supported the weaving of religious history into the narrative.”

However, a confidence about what our faith can offer our country is important, said Dr Piggin. He shared two convictions: the gospel generates social capital and raises the quality of citizenship; and Christianity is the key to national greatness and to greatness of character.

Dr Piggin demonstrated his first conviction statistically. The religious dimension of the Australian Values Systems Study (1983) showed people who go to church are more tolerant; supportive of the family; likely to be married; likely to have children; likely to take the opinions of others seriously; determined to make a contribution to society; and inclined to think life is meaningful and purposeful. Citing more recent research, Dr Piggin reported that Australians live in a paradoxically secular and multifaith society but the examples they give of the generation of social capital are almost exclusively Christian.

Dr Piggin traced his second conviction back through history, to the Franco-Prussian War in 1871; to the publication of a book by French aristocrat Alexis de Tocqueville in 1835 and 1840; and to the Roman Empire. The French, who were humiliated, contrasted their instability and weakness with the stability and strength of the British, finding Methodism prevented revolution. De Tocqueville wrote, after touring the United States, “Not until I went into the churches . . . did I understand the secret of [America’s] genius and power.” And Eusebius, a church historian, argued the empire would become safer with every person who became a Christian. “When the kingdom of God comes into contact with the kingdoms of this world, the best interests of the latter are served,” said Dr Piggin.

He concluded by asking Christians to learn three things from history: “Christianity is not a crusading religion—it is a missionary religion”; Christians should not shed any more blood in the defence of the faith because “the violence of the cross is to bring all other violence to an end”; and Christians should not avoid the contested areas of public life because “contests require peacemakers.”—**Brenton Stacey**

Time to play politics again?

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

The efficient campaigns by Adventists to influence Australia’s constitution and the religious stances of the emerging Commonwealth are better known since historian Richard Ely wrote *Unto God and Caesar*, claiming: “For a church that so rigorously and with such determination believed in the separation of Church and State, the Adventists played politics very well” (1976, pages 44-5).

In his Murdoch Lecture, Dr Stuart Piggin challenges us to invest similar thought and effort into shaping Australia as a “good society.” Dr Piggin is a careful observer of our movement, especially since he attended an important Adventist History Symposium at Monash University in 1985. He is now, in essence, asking us to consider if our emphasis on the separation of church and state causes us to undervalue the roles of modern Josephs and Daniels in government.

We must ask ourselves, anew, if we are effectively demonstrating how much we care about Christian values, social justice and human wellbeing. We must ponder at depth this urgent appeal as a healthy challenge to study again all that the Scriptures say about the responsibilities of those who govern and those who are governed.

Adventists are for Christian values. We are against coercion in matters of faith. So high are the stakes in the contest between good and evil that every initiative for good must be intelligently embraced. Christians are to bear the good news “to every nation, tribe, language and people” (Revelation 14:6, NIV), including Australasians.

Ellen White urged us to defend religious liberty and the vulnerable; without her we would not have “played politics” nearly so well.

White also helped to found Avondale College and completed her classic on the life of Christ at her Cooranbong home, “Sunnyside.” The Jesus of *The Desire of Ages* was “strong to think and to do.” Her commission to us is explicit: “Of all professing Christians, Seventh-day Adventists should be foremost in uplifting Christ before the world” (*Evangelism*, page 188).—**Arthur Patrick**

Fishing with Jesus



BY IAN GRICE

SIMON AND HIS MATES WERE NOT WITH the crowd following Jesus as He walked around the lake shore that day. They were washing nets after an unsuccessful night fishing. “One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret [Galilee], with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, he saw at the water’s edge two boats, left by the fishermen, who were washing their nets” (Luke 5:1, 2*).

They barely paused to survey the crowd following Jesus; people are naturally curious when a crowd gathers. These were practical men whose goal was survival and they quickly returned to the job at hand.

But Jesus approached them and asked Simon to row Him onto the lake. He’d decided to lay the hand of ordination on this unlikely candidate for the ministry. Simon Peter was a rough diamond and used colourful language. Religious leaders wouldn’t have welcomed him into their society but Jesus brushed aside Simon’s negative externals. Simon left the nets and responded, slowly working the oars against the current while drinking in the words Jesus directed to the crowd gathered on the beach.

Then He turned and addressed Simon: “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch” (Luke 5:4).

Fishing is like any other occupation and needs a strategy to be successful. Fishermen know where and when fish gather to feed, how tides impact and what to look for to see if it’s safe to venture into deep water. But

knowledge is useless if a fisherman doesn’t venture out and let down his net.

Jesus the carpenter now advised Simon the fisherman how to fish. The dumbest Galilean fisherman knew it was nonsense to go fishing at that time of day, but Simon headed for shore, collected a net and did what Jesus asked.

Have you ever launched out for the Lord, suspecting what you were being asked to do didn’t make sense? Who among the antediluvians had seen it rain before? Noah hadn’t! Who’d seen the Red Sea parted before? Moses hadn’t! But something in Jesus’ command demanded compliance.

Preparation for action

Simon responded, “Because you say so, I will let down the nets” (Luke 5:5).

Simon had a dim awareness of Jesus’ miracles, but reports hadn’t prompted him to become part of the adoring crowd. Yet a voice within suggested it would be alright to respond and the impossible could become possible. The Holy Spirit was at work.

Simon had taken a giant step in launching out; now he was ready to use the net. He would fish again! He felt the familiar pull on his net as it caught a shoal of fish, and this catch was extraordinary. He was straining to hold the net in place while the boat rocked violently.

What kind of power did this Jesus possess? Even fish responded to His command! Startled at Jesus’ power, Simon fell at His feet and worshipped.

Source of power

What was the source of Jesus’ power? He was divine but laid aside divinity to understand our pain, challenge sin and struggle with its reality. This was serious business; human salvation depended on Him. So, “at daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place” (Luke 4:42).

He needed heavenly power, and that could be provided only by God the Father. At daybreak Jesus met with the Father in prayer. He was filled with the Father’s power, and exercised that power on God’s behalf. He knew these fishermen could access that same power, but much had to be done to prepare them for a sacred calling.

Simon’s friends had watched as he steadied the boat while Jesus preached. They saw him take his net and beckon to them. Jesus pointed to a spot on the lake. Grabbing their nets, James and John threw them in. They watched as Simon cast the net and laughed when he began to struggle as the boat rocked violently. Was Simon up to his old tricks and acting the clown? No, those were real fish!

Boats are purpose-built. If they’re meant for a large catch, they’ll be built accordingly. The usefulness of a boat depends on the vision of an owner. Big vision—big, safe boat. Small vision—small, limited boat. These fishermen had limited vision, so their boat was inadequate and began to sink. And when we launch out in obedience to the Lord, we need to be sure resources are adequate.

Simon and his friends were astonished. Their experience hadn't prepared them to deal with a miracle. They were used to a small catch and couldn't visualise an extraordinary one. They were unable to comprehend a result that pushed all boundaries. Without Jesus, they were mediocre fishermen, but for the first time in their lives they saw their potential when partnering with God.

A chain is as strong as its weakest link, and this applies to nets too. At the beginning of this episode we found the fishermen down at the beach washing their nets so they didn't deteriorate. Fishermen inspected their nets for flaws, for sometimes knives were used free the fish, and damage must be repaired. The net and boat were resources. Nets shouldn't be damaged as livelihood would be affected. Spiritual resources need to be examined and kept ready as the Holy Spirit directs souls to the harvest.

Call to ministry

Ellen White comments on the calling of the disciples: "Peter was unmindful now of boats or lading. This miracle, above any other he had ever witnessed, was to him a manifestation of divine power. In Jesus he saw One who held all nature under His control. The presence of divinity revealed his own unholiness. Love for his Master, shame for his own unbelief, gratitude for the condescension of Christ, above all, the sense of his uncleanness in the presence of infinite purity, overwhelmed him. While his companions were securing the contents of the net, Peter fell at the Saviour's feet, exclaiming, 'Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord'" (*The Desire of Ages*, page 246).

Simon's emotional outburst while holding firmly to Jesus' feet ensured Jesus didn't take that call seriously. Thankfully, Jesus always listens to our heart rather than our words! When people of the Asian subcontinent meet one of honour, they will kneel and touch their feet. Culture requires this be done. This is performed at a time when children greet parents, students their teacher, and is an expression of respect and devotion. Then the parent lays hands on the head of the child, or teacher the head of the student, signifying acceptance and love.

Peter had been overwhelmed. He treated Jesus with respect as he clasped His feet, but Jesus extended the hand of an elder brother and gently said, "Don't

be afraid" (Luke 5:10).

This act of loving acceptance melted Simon's heart. With wonder he looked up to search the face of Jesus for confirmation of this love. Could there be a personal relationship between Divinity and a sinful human? This clasping of feet was more than an act of worship. It became an expression of love and acceptance, felt mutually by Jesus and Simon. They were family.

Simon's companions watched spellbound. They saw him kneel at the feet of Jesus and the hand extended in response. They felt an intense desire to have that same relationship with Jesus and thrilled at the words, "From now on you will catch men" (Luke 5:10).

Then they "pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him" (Luke 5:11), to share joys and sorrows in ministry. His presence during the three years of discipleship inspired them, but they weren't prepared for the crisis when religious leaders made their move. The disciples fled from the Garden of Gethsemane when soldiers arrested Jesus. Disappointment followed, testing their belief and confidence. Simon denied his Lord; and the little band plumbed the depths of despair at the Crucifixion. The practical fishermen returned to their trade.

The call renewed

"Afterwards Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the sea of Tiberius [Galilee]" (John 21:1). The disciples were emerging from the confusion of the Crucifixion. They were grieving for their friend and Master. They were under threat from religious leaders, and faced ridicule from a mercurial population who'd crowded worshipfully around the disciples and their Master just weeks before but were now taunting them. Jesus rose and appeared to the disciples, but they yearned for the constant association of the past few years and couldn't see a clear role for themselves.

The despondent disciples didn't seem to be successful fishermen anymore, either. One gets rusty when away from their trade, but at least activity is therapeutic. Exercise releases endorphins, a necessity in getting one's spirits back on track. The disciples were depressed as they waited for fish to bite, but now their skills reactivated.

They couldn't help thinking of the night they'd caught nothing and the Master had worked a miracle for them. He'd said follow!

How? Where? They missed Him! They'd looked forward to the defeat of the Romans, and the Son of David on an earthly throne with them as ambassadors. They headed for the shore, home and breakfast.

In the clearing light of dawn they heard an inquiry from shore: "Caught any fish?"

Unhappily, they responded, "No."

"Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some" (John 21:6).

Nets were cast again and they felt the press of a catch tilting the boat.

"It's the Lord!" John cried.

Simon Peter reacted. He'd felt naked that first time in the presence of the Divine. He again felt naked. His outer garment had been removed, so hastily covering himself he jumped into the water. He couldn't approach the Holy One without a covering garment. He was returning to Jesus!

The disciples were close to shore, yet Jesus directed fish to the nets. The boat didn't sink under its heavy load this time, though neglected during the time the disciples were in training. The net didn't tear.

Their hearts lifted as they sat at the feet of Jesus once again. "Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish" (John 21:13).

Jesus is the supplier of all humanity's mental, physical, social and spiritual needs; the miracle worker, remover of hurt and sadness, friend of the lowly, and provider of all good things. This same Jesus again spoke of the commission. He had to first rehabilitate and restore Simon Peter while the rest of the disciples looked on. Jesus signified His willingness to restore the family connection, to make them partners in the salvation process.

How do we respond to this Jesus today? Do we accept His willingness to be our elder brother and our need for the covering of His righteousness? Are we familiar with heavenly resources available when He directs us to the catch? Are we willing to fall at His feet, not in fear but in response to His love for us?

Are we prepared to go fishing with Jesus? **R**

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

Ian Grice writes from Little Mountain, Queensland.

Children and domestic violence

BY KITTY THOMAS

I HAVE NEVER PREVIOUSLY WRITTEN ABOUT what my clients tell me during therapy. With permission, I am writing part of Jane's* story, because we believe it needs to be told.

Jane came home from work one day to find her two boys—aged seven and nine—making themselves an afternoon snack. As she walked into the kitchen she was preoccupied but noticed a blanket on the floor with a lump in the middle of it. She went over to investigate the scene, only to be told calmly by her eldest son, "Don't look under there, Mum—Dad has hurt Sally [the dog]." She looked around the kitchen and noticed the walls were covered with blood, and a closer look at the blanket revealed blood soaking through there as well.

I won't continue with the rest of the story, as it is not one you would care to read.

Jane had been the victim of domestic violence since becoming pregnant with her eldest son 10 years earlier. Until that day, her partner had only threatened, beaten and intimidated her infrequently, so she did not think it was affecting her sons.

Her sons' reaction to the mutilation of her dog was so matter-of-fact that for the first time, she realised the huge impact the violence was having on them. For them, this was the sort of thing that dads did. She recognised that her sons' aggressive, bullying and destructive behaviour at school and at home was related to the violence they witnessed.

She left the family home that afternoon and went to a refuge. That was four years ago. Today, her sons are still struggling with controlling their behaviour at school and at home. They see their dad on fortnightly

access visits.

"Children are the victims of domestic violence in a number of ways. They may be physically, emotionally and/or sexually abused similarly to their mothers and they may even be murdered. They may be witnesses to the violence inflicted on their mothers and get caught up in trying to protect their mothers by running for help or lying when interrogated by their fathers about their mothers."¹

Seventy per cent of children living in violent domestic situations are also the victims of violence.² Children from homes with domestic violence are 15 times more likely to be abused or neglected, as compared to the average child,³ while abused women are eight times more likely to abuse their children.⁴

It has also been found that children who come from violent homes exhibit similar post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms

While living in a violent home children learn that:

- You can love and yet hurt someone at the same time;
- There are few consequences for abusive acts;
- It is legitimate to use physical force to maintain power and control over others;
- Inequality in relationships is normal;
- You don't need to respect women;
- Violence is an appropriate tool for conflict resolution.

Every time you HURT her . . .
they HURT too



as child refugees from the Pol Pot regime in Cambodia.⁵ In addition, children who have witnessed domestic violence but have never been physically abused have higher rates of post-traumatic stress than children who have been sexually assaulted.⁶

Children's reactions to domestic violence vary widely, depending on their age, sex, birth order, personality, social support network, the intensity and duration of the abuse, and the mental health of their mother. When children live in an atmosphere of fear, chaos and uncertainty, instead of a safe, nurturing environment, their health and wellbeing will suffer.

Children from families where there is domestic violence show decreased cognitive abilities, poor school performance⁷ and reduced interpersonal sensitivity.⁸ Preschool children from these families are also likely to exhibit psychosomatic disorders and aggressive behaviours.⁹

Girls from violent families tend to have more internalising symptoms, such as depression, anxiety and low levels of social competence. Boys from violent families display more externalising symptoms, such as arguing, poor concentration, restlessness, hyperactivity, cruelty, bullying and impulsivity. They also display some internalising symptoms such as sadness, worry and depression.¹⁰

For children to be able to break the silence that surrounds domestic violence, they need to realise that anything—no matter how awful—can be talked about with someone. They must also learn that nobody has the right to hurt another person and that domestic violence is a crime. Children have the right to feel safe in their own home. They need to be aware of the early warning signs that tell them when they are not feeling safe, and they need to know who they can tell when this occurs.

Child witnesses of domestic violence, who are able to break the silence about abuse at home, have a good chance of becoming healthy survivors of domestic violence—with intervention. By empowering children with safety strategies and good self-esteem building skills, they can find a path to recovery. **R**

**Not her real name*

1. *Women's Coalition Against Family Violence*, Blood on Whose Hands: the Killing of Women and Children in Domestic Violence Homicides, *Brunswick, Victoria*, 1994.
2. *A Cahn*, Forum on Youth Violence in Minority Communities—Intervention in Early Childhood Public Health Report, *May–June, 1991*, pages 258–63.
3. *National Women's Abuse Prevention Project*, 1989.
4. *Stark and Flitcraft*, "Women and Children at Risk: A Feminist Perspective on Child Abuse," *International Journal of Health Services*, 18/1, 1988.
5. *Kinzie et al in A Blanchard*, "Violence in Families: The Effect on Child Witnesses," *Fourth Australian Family Research Conference*, 1993.
6. *KKilpatrick*, unpublished research conducted for *Master in Social Work*, *University of New England*.
7. *Westra and Martin*, "Children of Battered Women," *Maternal and Children's Nursing Journal*, *Spring 1981*, 10 (1), pages 41–54.
8. *Rosenburg*, *DOCAP Training Manual—DV Partici-*

pants Handbook, *New South Wales Department of Community Services*, page 38.

9. *B E Carlson*, "Children's observations of interparental violence," quoted in *A R Roberts*, *Battered women and their families: intervention strategies and treatment programs*, *Simon & Schuster*, *New York*, 1984, page 39.

10. *Jaffe*, "Children of Battered Women," *Developmental Clinical Psychology and Psychiatry*, *Sage Publications Inc*, 1990.

Today is Abuse Prevention Awareness Day.

Kitty Thomas is a pseudonym for a psychologist with many years experience working with victims of abuse and violence.

Statutory bodies for the protection of children:

New South Wales: Department of Community Services 132 111 (24 hours)

Victoria: Department of Human Services 131 278 (24 hours)

Western Australia: Department of Family and Children's Services 1800 199 008 (24 hours)

South Australia: Department of Human Services 131 478 (24 hours)

Queensland: Department of Families 1800 177135 (24 hours)

Northern Territory: Child and Family Protective Services 8922 7111 (office hours)

Tasmania: Department of Health and Human Services 1800 001 219 (24 hours)

ACT: Department of Education and Community Services 6207 0720

New Zealand: Department of Child, Youth and Family Services 050 832 6459

Ways you can help a child who has witnessed domestic violence include:

- Telling them the violence is not their fault but that family violence is an adult problem;
- Giving them an opportunity to talk about the violence;
- Helping them make a safety plan they can follow;
- Letting them know that others have had similar experiences;
- Consistently reinforcing that violence is unacceptable;
- Teaching nonviolent problem-solving techniques;
- Providing the opportunity to connect with positive male role models;
- Providing experiences for the development of healthy self-esteem;
- Encouraging and supporting the grieving over losses that result from leaving home, pets, friends, school etc;
- Phoning and discussing the situation with domestic violence and/or the Child Protection Unit to find out how else you can help.



High alert

BY MALCOLM FORD

THEY STOPPED HIM AT THE border—
Tore His passport up
And wouldn't let Him in.
Though He bore himself with

majesty

And said He was the King,
With Pilate's note to prove it.

Something about the beard and nose,
The Eastern desert clothes
And, on close examination, His
fingerprints

Exactly matched the fingertips
On the handle of the whip.
Then the scarred wounds,
Deep in His hands and sandalled feet,
All marked Him as Imposter:
Terrorist turned Evangelist?

False witnesses turned up
And yelled abuse and quoted Him—
"I can destroy towers and the Temple,
And at a whim
Rebuild them in three days!
Or launch an insurrection
With ten thousand troops,
And even if condemned to death
Could stage a resurrection!"

They stopped Him at the border—
Tore His passport up
And wouldn't let Him in.
But the Word got out
(Slipped past the guards)
And billions worship Him. **R**

*Malcolm Ford writes from Whangarei,
New Zealand.*

Targeting the public with your website

BY MELODY TAN



YOUR CHURCH WEBSITE PROVIDES your church with an internet presence but it is only effective if it reaches people in the community who are “searching.” Here are a few tips to maintain healthy communications with the public.

Say what?

Stay away from Adventist jargon when writing for the public. Instead of “Sabbath school” use “small-group Bible study.” Don’t assume people know about Ellen White but explain that she is one of the church’s early pioneers. See <<http://web.adventistconnect.org>> for phrases and words you can use to replace Adventist jargon.

First impressions

Your welcome message is the first thing visitors see, so keep it up-to-date and accurate. Give them a glimpse of what’s happening at your church in the coming week and invite them to come along. You can include a two-minute video of a church member’s testimony or a welcome message from the pastor.

Let them know when your service times are and provide a brief description of what they can expect. You can also include snippets from the church bulletin or promote seminars or events.

What’s in it for me?

Create pages on youth activities, kids clubs and church programs, to give visitors detailed information on ways they can participate and benefit from your church. Don’t make public announcements for events such as church working bees or leadership training programs. Instead, make these member-only content.

Stuff happens here

People like to get an idea of what a church is about before attending. State what the church has achieved, by including regular news regarding church social events and activities that church members have done in the community.

What about God?

Include links to online Bible studies such as the Discovery Centre courses. The <bibleinfo.com> module is also helpful for those searching for answers on a particular topic. You can also add articles from *Signs* and *The Edge* magazines, to provide visitors with information on the Bible and lifestyle issues. Insert the prayer requests module to give people opportunity to request prayer. Even if they never enter your church, they will at least be pointed toward God.

Getting there

Give visitors the opportunity to contact your church. Your website should include information, such as the church’s address, phone number, church pastor’s name and a map reference.

Need help? Visit <<http://web.adventistconnect.org>>. **R**

Melody Tan is public relations coordinator for Adventist Media Network.

Record Roo's Kids corner



Hi kids,
Many people heard about Jesus’ great miracles and came to Him for help. You can read about the centurion who came to Jesus, asking Him to heal his servant, in Matthew 8:5-13.

RR

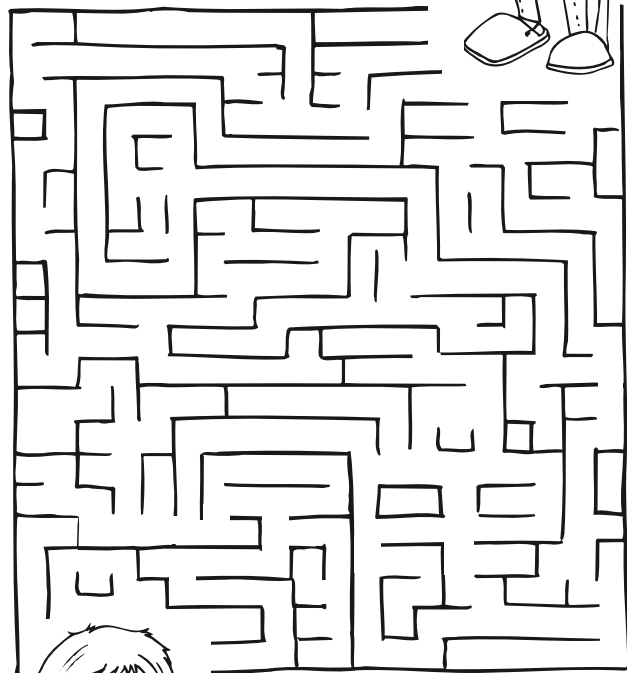
Fill in the Blanks

Now when _____ had entered _____, a _____ came to Him, _____ with Him, saying, “Lord, my _____ is lying at _____, paralysed, dreadfully _____. And Jesus said to him, “I will come and _____ him.”
Matthew 8:5-7 NKJV

The centurion was very humble and had great faith in Jesus. He knew Jesus could heal his servant without Him even going to see him.

Maze

Can you help the centurion get through the maze to Jesus?



Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.”
The centurion’s servant was healed.

Beyond legalism

JIM BEYERS, QLD

“Not legalism” (Letters, July 28) is correct that the word *legalism* is not in the Bible. Even so, the principle is there. I was a legalist when I became an Adventist half a century ago. I went to Avondale College and gravitated to a like-minded group, all of us striving to be totally obedient to the commandments as the surest way to become Christ like and to get right with God.

But another student, Graham Allen, now a retired pastor, took me under his wing and opened my eyes to the sad truth that all my righteousnesses—even my best acts—are like filthy rags. Through his kind and patient guidance, I learned that Christ alone is my righteousness.

Graham showed me a simple prayer found in the *Testimonies*: “Lord, save me in spite of myself, my weak un-Christ like self.” It is based on Romans 5:20, where Paul urges that where sin abounds, God’s amazing grace abounds much more. That does not mean I can do anything and get away with it. Instead, I just lean on His everlasting arms and let Him work in me to do His good pleasure.

WIM “answers”

PAUL DOBROTA, EMAIL

Dr Petersen began “Women-in-ministry questions” (Feature, June 30) with the basic statement that “we believe God has spoken through Christ and the Bible.” His statement is true but his explanation of the purpose of the Word of God speaks against the statement. God expects us to apply His principles from the Bible everywhere and to the end of the age—not just 2000 years ago.

In saying, “But historical description is not divine prescription,” Dr Petersen called the Bible a sort of historical book. But the Bible is the Word of God. Everything written in it has a deep meaning.

Dr Petersen states that Paul, in 1 Corinthians 14:34, 35, apparently asks the women in that church to keep quiet for the sake of order, because some women in that congregation caused disturbance. So what about Paul’s other letters? Paul addressed them to churches 2000 years ago. We live in the 21st century, so we don’t need to worry

about those letters, do we?

And Pastor Jan Paulsen on the question of ordaining women (July 7) included the comment, “Although we may not see a clear biblical reason that ordination may not happen . . .” What about this reason: “I do not

I just lean on His everlasting arms and let Him work in me to do His good pleasure.

permit a women to teach or have authority over a man” (1 Timothy 2:12, NIV)? Is that not clear enough? I am quoting the Bible. Don’t complain to me, complain to the Author of the Bible.

JOHN RALSTON, SA

It is sad to see that, in this debate about the ordination of women, the basic difference between Christ’s principle of “service” and the world’s principle of “position and reward” has been forgotten. One does not have to be a theologian to see that in the Bible, men and women have been chosen by God for different kinds of ministry. But none of them desired or demanded ordination as we understand it today. They just tried to be faithful to the work God called them to do. It is more pleasing to our inherent egotism to fight for position and status, to demand the title and the remuneration—but how much more beneficial and unifying it would be if the God-given ministry was just followed. The best reward is always the one given by the Master Himself.

A school question

NAME SUPPLIED

I wish to inquire from the church education system, when are we going to take the needs of our children who are disabled into account? I have a child within the average IQ range. However, due to his medical conditions, his social and behavioural skills are quite challenged. The Adventist school I approached to educate this child has denied him the privilege of attending. Instead he is forced to attend a state school, while a sibling attends the Adventist school.

Why can’t we, as a church, develop a system where these children are sponsored with a full-time aide? Why aren’t our teach-

ers, as part of their education, taught how to manage children with different abilities and behavioural difficulties? And why can’t we, as a church, also develop a program for our sons and daughters who have below-average IQs to attend our schools

with support?

These are the children Jesus would have reached out to while He walked here on earth. Why do we constantly reject them—and their families—just because they do not fit within the norm and are a bit more challenging than other children?

RESPONSE: DR JOHN HAMMOND, NATIONAL DIRECTOR, ADVENTIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA

Adventist schools work hard to provide support to students with disabilities. Not knowing the school or the circumstances of the person writing the letter, I can only note that some of our schools have made enormous sacrifices to enable severely disabled children to attend school.

However, it can be very costly. The whole independent school sector in Australia is urging the state and federal governments to provide the same level of financial assistance to parents of these students as that provided to students with disabilities attending government schools. Students with disabilities attending independent schools in most states receive only one-quarter the amount of financial assistance that they would get by attending a state school. We do not begrudge the money going to students with disabilities in government schools; we simply want the funding to follow a student wherever they choose to attend school.

With an Australian federal election looming, it is quite an important issue within the independent school sector.

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

▲ **Assistant Accountant**—*SDA Aged Care (NNSW) Ltd (Cooranbong, Australia)*. A position exists for a degree-qualified assistant accountant with 2 years experience, the ability to multitask, who enjoys working to deadlines and is a team player. Duties include processing resident charges, asset register maintenance, managing employee salary packaging, account reconciliations, processing the monthly BAS, backup for payroll and assisting with the preparation of annual financial statements. The successful candidate must have advanced Excel skills, good communication skills, and demonstrate accounting and reporting systems experience. To apply, send resume and a brief cover letter to <r_isaacs@aacnsw.com.au> or call (02) 4977 0152 for more information. Applications close **August 31, 2007**.

▲ **Public Relation and Marketing Director**—*North New South Wales Conference (Newcastle, Australia)* is seeking a person to establish a new position which will serve the church, schools and aged care ministries. This position will form part of an exciting new plan for evangelism throughout the conference. Emphasis will be given to both internal and external public relations. The ability to implement marketing strategies and create effective communication material, such as the conference news, will be essential. Experience and pertinent training will be highly regarded in the selection process. For more information phone (02) 4951 8088 or email <rdale@adventist.org.au>. **Applications in writing** to General Secretary, PO Box 7, Wallsend NSW 2287. Applications close **September 30, 2007**.

▲ **Coordinator/Trainer-Safe Place Services**—*Australian Union Conference (Wahroonga, Australia—may be negotiable)*. Successful applicant will receive allegations and complaints of child sexual abuse or sexual misconduct; coordinate investigations and risk assessments; write policy; and assist with education and training. Tertiary qualifications essential in one or more of the following: psychology, social work, counselling, law or policing. Experience in child protection, sexual abuse and misconduct issues, and consulting with police and other government departments necessary. For full position details and criteria, email <safeplaces@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **August 31, 2007**.

▲ **General Manager**—*Lisa's Healthy Foods (Auckland, New Zealand)* offers an exciting opportunity to get involved in a high-growth company at senior level. The successful applicant will be responsible for commercial success and development of Lisa's Healthy Foods in New Zealand by strategic focus, enhancing sales growth, improving profitability, expanding market share and providing management direction. Focus is on integration and consolidation of four businesses. Ideally with previous experience at senior/general management level, preferably in FMCG industry and must have relevant tertiary education. **Applications in writing** and resume to Human Resources, Sanitarium Health Food Company, Private Bag 92127, Auckland NZ 1023 or email <carol.obrien@sanitarium.co.nz> or visit <www.sanitarium.co.nz>. Applications close **August 27, 2007**.

Weddings

Elliott—Lisona. Aldon William Elliott, son of David Elliott (Launceston, Tas) and Leonie Brazendale (Liffey, Tas), and Elma Lisona, daughter of Elpedio and Edith Lisona (Mindanao, Philippines), were married on 18.3.07 in the Dipolog city church, Philippines, by conference president, Pastor Luciano Nermal.

Kwan Matautia

Greenaway—Farmer. Michael Greenaway, son of Earl and Maureen Greenaway (Seymour, Vic), and Annique Farmer, daughter of Warren and Sue Farmer (Brisbane, Qld), were married on 17.6.07 in Nagambie Anglican church, Vic.

Stephen McGuire

Mitchell—Axthelm. Clinton Mitchell (Wales, UK) and Susan Axthelm (Mooroolbark, Vic) were married on 2.8.07 at Inglewood Estate, Kangaroo Ground.

Morie Krieg

Vagenas—Radovanovic. Nicholas Vagenas, son of Constantine Vagenas and Sophia Constantinos (both deceased), and Suzana Radovanovic, daughter of Joco and Andjeika Lazic (Sydney, NSW), were

married on 6.8.07 in Elizabeth Bay House, Sydney.

Geoffrey Youlden

Obituaries

Eisma, Eufelina (Fely), born 25.3.1919 at Cavite, the Philippines; died 25.6.07 in the Mount Olivet Hospital, Kangaroo Point, Qld. She is survived by her husband, Michael Murphy, (Brisbane); her daughter, Fe Mojica; her son and his wife, David and Marilyn (Philippines); and grandchildren, Arvine, Aldwin and Precious. Fely was a long-time member of Eight Mile Plains church (Qld) and will be sadly missed by the church family. One of Fely's favourite Bible passages was Psalm 23, and we look forward to the time when we will dwell together with Fely in the house of the Lord forever.

Jorge Munoz

Tyler, Patricia Edith (Pat), born 16.1.1919 at Portsmouth, England; died 6.6.07 in the John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, NSW. She is predeceased by her husband, Mervyn in 1988 and her son, Robert, in 1963. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Elaine and Ted Stewart (Brisbane, Qld); her son and daughter-in-law, Colin and Lynette (Sunshine Coast); her son, Bruce (Newcastle, NSW); grandchild-

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dren and great-grandchildren. Pat came to Australia at the age of three, the eldest of nine children. She will be remembered as a person with a keen sense of humour and a hearty laugh. A strong commitment to welfare work at Charlestown church saw Pat attending the Tuesday welfare meeting up until a couple of weeks before her death. She also gave approximately 15 years service to the Charlestown Meals on Wheels. She rests now with her husband and son, and awaits the call of the great Lifegiver.

Mike Faber, Colin Tyler

Woods, Heather Mary, born 11.4.1920 at Lismore, NSW; died 30.7.07 in the Charles Harrison Nursing Home, Cooranbong. She is survived by her husband, Pastor Ralph Wood (Cooranbong); two sons and their wives, Alvin and Lynette (Brisbane, Qld), and Vernon and Valerie (Bonnells Bay, NSW); five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; two sisters, Ruth Rowling (Beaudesert, Qld) and Ethel Newman (Port Macquarie, NSW); and her brother, John Salmond (Brisbane, Qld). When the roll is called up yonder, we believe this dedicated lady will be there.

Jim Beamish, Alex Currie

Advertisements

Note: Neither the editor, Signs Publishing Company, nor the Seventh-day Adventist Church is responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised. Publication does not indicate endorsement of a product or service. Advertisements approved by the editor will be inserted at the follow-

ing rates: first 30 words or less, \$A49.50; each additional word, \$A2.20. For your advertisement to appear, payment must be enclosed. Classified advertisements in RECORD are available to Seventh-day Adventist members, churches and institutions only. See masthead (page 2) for contact details.

South Australian Conference Triennial Session. Notice is hereby given that the 73rd Session of the South Australian Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be held at the Prospect International church hall, Ballville Street, Prospect, commencing with registration at 3 pm, Saturday October 20, 2007, and concluding in the afternoon of Sunday, October 21, 2007. Business will include presentation of reports from administration, departments and schools, the election of president, secretary/treasurer, executive committee and appointments committee for the ensuing triennium, and proposed changes to the conference constitution with the introduction of minor changes to comply with General Conference policy.

Shepparton church 50th anniversary, October 27, 10 am. All former members and friends are invited to celebrate with us. Bring any memorabilia. Luncheon will be provided. Enquiries—Russell Bryan (03) 5824 1739.

North-West Victorian "Bush Camp," November 2–5 at a "bush" site next to the river near Wentworth, approximately half-hour drive from Mildura. Basic camping facilities will be available for caravans and tents, with power, water and ablution facilities

ONLY
15 days to register
Don't miss out!

Volunteer Celebration

If your volunteer service was processed through our office, we invite you to a gratis weekend to celebrate your contribution.

Picturesque Jindabybe is the setting, expert presenters are the stimulus and all we need is you!



September 28 - October 1, 2007

02 9847 3275; volunteers@adventist.org.au

Sponsored by Adventist Volunteers

on site. Speaker for the weekend will be Eddy Hypolite, a native Jamaican from England. The camp is open to all members in Victoria, as well as the rest of Australia. The focus for the weekend will be a relaxing weekend for families, with spiritual refreshing as well as social activities, including water sports and family fun in a bush setting. For more information, contact Pastor Graham Chapman on 0421305851 or email <chappie77@bigpond.com>.

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>.

Real Estate. Thinking of buying or selling in Cooranbong or Morisset? Come in and talk to Xanthe Kalmar at LJ Hooker Morisset for good old-fashioned friendly service. Phone (02) 4970 5222 or 0423 213 162.

Advent Funerals—an Adventist business serving our church community. Sydney/Wollongong/Central Coast/Newcastle. Prepaid and payment plans available. Phone 1300 791 182; fax (02) 4648 0166; email <adventfunerals@aol.com>.

Gourmet Vegie D'Lites distributes in SE Qld "Go Veg" products. Enjoy our range of pies, meals, patties, schnitzels, pastries, quiches,

strudels and crumbles. Contact Leslie on 0433 792 866 or email <sales@gourmetvegiedlites.com.au>. Check out our website <www.gourmetvegiedlites.com.au> for our monthly specials.

EP urgently requires a full-time bus driver between the ages of 25-35 to join the team from August 2007/2008. Applicant must have a medium rigid licence. Auditions are now being taken for vocalists (male/female) and musicians (drums, bass guitar, electric guitar) to get our 2008 team ready. If you want to experience road ministry at its fullest, contact Sandra Maletin on (02) 8783 7000 or email <ep@epraise.com.au>.

Housing for elderly. Our non-profit Christian based organisation called Medi Aid Centre Foundation (est 1973) has home unit accommodation available for elderly persons who can care for themselves but may have financial problems. Epping, Eastwood and Ryde area, Sydney. No ingoing charges. Close to shops and transport. Monthly rental about half of normal commercial rates. Contact Anne (02) 9858 6105, email <anne@kghurst.com.au> or write PO Box 120, North Ryde, NSW 2113.

Finally

The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.—*Mahatma Gandhi*

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