Brisbane concert raises awareness

BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND

More than 500 people attended a concert in support of “Vital Connection,” a welfare service agency of the South Queensland Conference. “It’s Time You Asked” was organised to raise awareness of the problems faced by homeless people, as well as funds for their care.

Peter Butler, an Adventist musician and songwriter, organised the concert, held on October 14 at the Brisbane City Hall.

The concert title was taken from the chorus of Mr Butler’s song “Life in the River City,” which asks the question “What are you willing to do for what’s happening?”

Independent musicians and a drama group donated their time and money to perform in the concert, after hearing about the work done by “Vital Connection.”

“I attempted to pull natural gifts together because as a group, we can achieve more than as individuals,” says Mr Butler.

The concert was designed to coincide with national Anti-Poverty Week activities, which ran from October 14 to 20, as well as the United Nation’s International Anti-Poverty Day on October 17, to have the strongest impact.

(Continued on page 6)
In the midst of any election campaign, it does not take long to hear politicians of all stripes wanting to claim “family” as a marker of their cause. From an appeal to “working families” to the ubiquitous “family values,” this terminology is invoked—however vaguely—to urge the importance of our voting behaviour. As Amanda Lohrey puts it, “family is the most powerful metaphor in politics today” (“Voting for Jesus,” Quarterly Essay, No 22).

The focus on family seems so wholesome and indisputable. But the two primary meanings behind this terminology are not necessarily as Christian or family friendly as is so easily assumed.

The first use of family is little more than an appeal to sanctified selfishness. We can easily disguise—even to ourselves—the blatantly “what’s best for me” self-centredness that dominates much electioneering with the seemingly semi-altruistic “what’s best for my family.” C S Lewis described family as “the first step beyond self-love” but urged that we should also move beyond “family selfishness” (The Four Loves).

The Bible repeatedly urges us to order our lives—and society—beyond a narrow focus on our own interests and (usually economic) wellbeing (see, for example, James 5:1-5). In the context of a contemporary electoral process, this must mean voting on larger issues—even sometimes to our own detriment—for the good of others, particularly the marginalised and oppressed.

The other primary use of family is more complex but perhaps no less misleading, loaded with an array of conservative political and social assumptions.

In Families at the Crossroads, Rodney Clapp surveys how the accepted understanding of family—working husband, stay-at-home mother, with a couple of children—developed in the 20th century among the conservative United States middle class, and how it has been maintained and championed by both Christian and political figures because of its political and economic usefulness. But, he argues, beyond this recent popularity, this concept of family has little credibility, historically, cross-culturally or biblically.

Clapp describes the “widespread impression that those who would question aspects of the industrial, middle class family are disputing Scripture and departing from a way of family that is thousands of years old, even based on the order of nature itself. . . . The mistake of evangelical traditionalists begins when they look around and see that the family they promote is not supported by the wider society. Then they assume that their position is ‘biblical,’ whereas positions of (apparently) more recent vintage are ‘cultural’ and non-Christian.”

There is a place for Christians to stand up for their values through political processes, remembering that imposing such values on a multicultural, multi-faith society may be quite unchristian. But instead of hiding behind the assumptions of “family values,” they should have the courage to do so openly and accept responsibility to justify their “values” by honest and careful use of the Bible.

And, at some stage, whatever our political leanings, all of us must question whether our identification of faith with a certain way of political thinking springs from our primary political persuasion—with our faith tacked on. In her essay, Lohrey traces an example from the current Australian parliament, where various votes were claiming the family motif, concluding that “the whole ‘family values’ rhetoric had dissolved into a slush pond of meaninglessness.”

Jesus was not much of a “family values” campaigner. In statements such as Matthew 12:46-50, 19:28-30 and Luke 9:59-62, 14:26, Jesus emphasised a different set of values, focused on His kingdom as it will be when He returns and as it currently is in this world. As Clapp urges, “The family is not God’s most important institution on earth. The family is not the social agent that most significantly shapes and forms the character of Christians. The family is not the primary vehicle of God’s grace and salvation for a waiting, desperate world.”

This may be a disappointment to our politicians and other “family” campaigners. The values of God’s kingdom will have an influence on how we vote and how we interact in society—but they are more politically awkward than expedient.

Nathan Brown
SPD women appointed to WTCU positions

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Adventist women from the South Pacific Division (SPD) were appointed to a number of positions at the recent triennial World Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (WWCTU)’s 37th World Convention.

Glenda Amos from Tasmania was appointed world department leader for the children’s section of the WWCTU. Gail Ormsby, from New South Wales, was recruited as a member of the resolutions committee for the WWCTU. Marica Tokalau, director of Women’s Ministries for Trans-Pacific Union Mission, was appointed president of WCTU for Fiji.

The convention, held in Indiana, USA, from September 10 to 14, attracted more than 400 women from 36 countries. Adventist members travelled from Australia, Fiji, Ivory Coast, Kiribati, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Thailand, Tuvalu, Samoa, Vanuatu and Zimbabwe.

The theme of the conference was “United in Christian Love,” with the sub-theme of “Fitting the pieces together for a drug-free world.”

In her opening address, the world president of WWCTU, Sarah Ward, called for members to once again promote the total abstinence stand in local churches throughout the world. She also stressed the importance of focusing on the preventable issues of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, where babies are born with brain damage due to the mother’s ingestion of alcohol during pregnancy.

Joy Butler, SPD director of Women’s Ministries, has been the Christian outreach superintendent for the past three years. Her current role is field officer for Africa, where she is raising up more branches of the WCTU.

Mrs Butler held four workshops, focusing on “Christian outreach” and “Resilience in children.” She raised concerns and issues regarding drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and encouraged the importance of being united in prayer while teaching and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. “We are called to invite people to come out of these situations, and to have a clean and productive life,” she said.

In the Sabbath morning address, Mrs Butler stressed the need for prayer. “Pray without ceasing,” she said. “Prayer is the weapon, prayer is the key and prayer is the work.”

In her success with outreach work, Mrs Butler has already established WCTU branches in the Ivory Coast, Zimbabwe and South Africa, and will soon be involved in expanding Unions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone and Kenya.

Samuele Bacchiocchi, a retired Bible scholar from Andrews University, also gave a well-received presentation entitled “Wine and the Bible” at the convention.

New resolutions were made to target tobacco, foetal alcohol syndrome, youth binge drinking, child labour and the need for peace. The Adventist women left the convention impressed to do their part in their churches and communities, to help revive the message of temperance where it may have been hidden.

The next world convention is planned to be held in Norway in 2010.

—Kristina Malarek

◆ Avondale College church was packed to capacity on October 20, as Avondale Schools, Central Coast Adventist College and Macquarie College joined to take part in the first combined schools choir performance at College church. Under the direction of Benton Craig, Diane Greive, Jonathan Hughes, Marion Hankins and Lisa Toepfer, 250 energetic voices filled the stage, as proud parents and teachers crammed into the pews. The event has been in planning since May this year, with teachers and choir directors at each school guiding students through each of the pieces separately. In the closing weeks, the three schools joined for two combined practices, adding polish to their performances. “This is without doubt the best experience I’ve had in my teaching career,” says coordinator Mr Craig. “The kids have done a great job.”—Braden Blyde

◆ A former associate director of Health Ministries for the South Pacific Division, Dr Harley Stanton (pictured), has been elected as president of the Asia Pacific Association for the Control of Tobacco (APACT). More than 500 delegates from 40 countries attended the 8th APACT conference in Taipei, Taiwan. More than five million people a year die from tobacco diseases— one in 10 adult deaths worldwide, with more than half coming from the Asia-Pacific (including India and Pakistan). Speaking after his election, Dr Stanton said “We plan to give regional focus to overcoming the barriers to a smoke-free future for Asia, during a major conference in Sydney in October 2010, and are pleased to have this first opportunity to bring the conference south of the equator.” Dr Stanton was associate Health Ministries director for 14 years, prior to working with the World Health Organisation.

—Asia Pacific Association for the Control of Tobacco
Kauma Adventist school provides more than education

KAUMA, KIRIBATI

Kirma Adventist High School, Kiribati, is not only educating its students but bringing them closer to God.

More than 100 students will be baptised before the end of this year, with 25 more expected in the near future. Last year, the school celebrated its highest record when it baptised 98 students in a day.

Iobwebwe Ientaake, secretary-treasurer of the Kiribati and Nauru Mission, attributes these baptismal numbers to the school’s chaplain and staff. “[Kauma Adventist High School] is the main engine of the Kiribati Adventist Mission for soul winning,” he says.

Pastor Nos Terry, director of Sabbath school, personal ministries and Global Mission for the Trans-Pacific Union Mission, was guest speaker at the school’s recent “Week of prayer” event in late September. Some 68 people, including four villagers, were baptised at the end of the week.

“Some of those baptised were non-Adventist students studying at Kauma, who decided to become Adventists after sitting in Bible classes,” says Pastor Terry. “This school has been the evangelistic centre of the mission for many years, producing more baptisms than anywhere else in the mission.”

Two of the students baptised in September were from Nauru, an island without any Adventist presence. Pastor Terry, who plans to launch a Global Mission project on Nauru next year, believes “God is opening doors with these two students.”

There are 300 students at the Kauma Adventist High School and a third of them are non-Adventists.—Melody Tan

Avondale Foundation enjoys best-ever year

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

At the Avondale College Foundation’s (ACF) annual general meeting, held at Avondale College on October 21, the treasurer, Chris Akroyd, informed the members in attendance that financially, 2006-2007 was the best year ever for the foundation.

He was grateful to all who deposit funds with ACF Investments, as this business is the main source of the foundation’s income. The foundation has now grown the equity in its businesses to $A5 million.

This endowment will underwrite the foundation’s gifts to Avondale College in the future, regardless of the profitability of the businesses it operates. Mr Akroyd concluded his report by saying that it was “a pleasure to have a small part in advancing the cause of Avondale College.”

Though the college’s needs are beyond the capacity of any single body to fulfil, the president of the college, Dr John Cox, responded by thanking the foundation for the significant role it plays in helping Avondale and its students.

Foundation president, Dr Norman Young, thanked all those who had contributed to the foundation’s success, especially God.—RECORD staff/Norman Young

◆ A young couple at Stanthorpe church, Qld, Brad and Monica Whitaker, recently received a handmade quilt for their son, Caleb. The quilt is comprised of 12 patches—each one contributed by individual church members as a gesture of love and support for the Whitakers. This quilt is the fifth such project coordinated by Gale Wright over the past few years for new parents in Stanthorpe church, and represents many hours of sewing, applique, handpainting and embroidery. —Susan Johnstone

◆ The 9th Annual Weet-Bix Billy Cart Grand Prix, run at Lilydale Adventist Academy (LAA), Vic., was a great success. This year saw the number of competitors participating pass 700, with more than 3000 spectators in attendance. With the event becoming a regular fixture on the regional calendar, local schools have built programs into their curriculum, based on students developing leadership skills and physical fitness. Middle School students from LAA used the event as an opportunity to raise awareness for the “Operation Orphan Fill” project of sending a shipping container to a Kenyan orphanage. Students in Years 7/8 were divided into teams, giving each a name and designed T-shirts. Students then went into the community and raised money for the laps that they ran around the circuit. They also decided any prize money they won would go straight to the orphanage. In all, $A640 was raised by their efforts.

◆ A Grade 12 student from Pine Rivers church, Qld, has won the National Secondary Award for the Queensland section of a World Vision art competition called “Stir your world”—an Art 4 Aid endeavour. The competition aims to publicise the fact that 30,000 children die each day as a result of extreme poverty. Elaine Lapitan attends Morayfield State High School and

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ♦ DECEMBER 8—MISSIONS EXTENSION OFFERING
Camp exchange builds Fiji–NNSW partnership

STUARTS POINT, NEW SOUTH WALES

Exchange visits to campmeetings in Fiji and the North New South Wales Conference (NNSW) have laid the foundation for a “partnership in mission” between the two regions.

Pastor Aseri Sukanabulisau, president of the Fiji Mission, was a guest at the NNSW annual convention in early October. “We are starting to revive the campmeeting idea in Fiji and we held the first one in September,” says Pastor Aseri.

NNSW president Pastor John Lang participated in that regional meeting in Suva, Fiji’s capital, which attracted 7000 church members. “It really opened my eyes to realise that here’s a little island with twice the membership of our conference,” reports Pastor Lang. “It was awesome to experience their hospitality and commitment.”

Both presidents anticipate that NNSW will help Fiji toward becoming a self-sustaining conference. “We are trying to put things together financially and reorganise the structure of the church,” says Pastor Aseri. “With the uncertainty in Fiji, these are big challenges.”

“We will need to sit down with them and consider what we might be able to contribute,” Pastor Lang explains. “But I’ve got a feeling we might learn more from them than they will from us.”

According to Pastor Aseri, the church in Fiji is continuing to grow steadily. “One of our visions is to have an Adventist presence in every island and village by 2010,” he says. “It’s great that we can become partners in mission, to work together and help each other in fulfilling the gospel commission the church has been given.”

—Nathan Brown

“A Seventh-day Adventist pastor has been voted president of the Christian Research Association, Australia’s premier Christian research organisation. Recently, Pastor Rob Steed, as a co-opted private member, was voted president of the association. “This is a real privilege,” says Pastor Steed, “that such a significant organisation would invite a Seventh-day Adventist to chair its management committee.” Formed in 1985, the organisation provides up-to-date, reliable information about religious faith and church life in Australia. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is one of 14 senior members, along with more than 400 associate member organisations, including churches, schools and individuals.

More @ www.cra.org.au

“Objective criticism” deemed a right

NEW YORK, NEW YORK, USA

Following intense debate at the United Nations over what constitutes religious defamation, UN special rapporteur for Freedom of Religion or Belief, Asma Jahangir, said “objective criticism” of religion is a human right. But, she said, there is a difference between criticism and outright defamation.

Many religious people believe they alone have the truth, convinced that “[their] religion is superior,” said Mrs Jahangir, speaking to members of the UN Non-Governmental Organisation Committee for Freedom of Religion or Belief on October 25. That mentality can lead to the defamation of other religions or belief systems, she said. She also expressed concern that in addressing defamation, officials not go so far as to include mere criticism of religion.

If such a definition of defamation was adopted, she cautioned, “social norms based on religion could not be debated. Defamation is an issue of civil law,” she said.

Jonathan Gallagher, liaison to the UN for the General Conference, asked how Mrs Jahangir planned to carry out her duties as special reporter. She called for broad support and assistance with research.—PARL/ANN staff

spent three days completing the piece for the competition. Her work will soon be exhibited at an exhibition in Melbourne.—Glen Mickan

◆ A member of Wahroonga church, NSW, was so touched by her mission trip to Africa that she plans to relocate there permanently. Earlier this year, Kelly Adams went to Kenya for three weeks with fellow church members Troy Robinson and Mechelle Irvine, all nursing students at Sydney Adventist Hospital. The trio stayed at the Nakuru Baby Orphanage, started three years ago by an Australian couple, Ivan and Mary Budulica, who sold everything they had and moved there. The orphanage cares for 28 children between the ages of two weeks and six years. Miss Adams and Miss Irvine are planning to return next year with a group of nurses and builders. “We want to undertake several projects such as renovating the children’s ward at the local hospital, donating badly needed medical equipment and supplies, running a ‘medical camp’—a week-long free community education program that gets all the villagers involved—giving them free health assessments and vaccinations, and teaching them about HIV/AIDS and water treatment,” says Miss Adams.—Tracey Bridcutt

◆ A Seventh-day Adventist pastor has been voted president of the Christian Research Association, Australia’s premier Christian research organisation. Recently, Pastor Rob Steed, as a co-opted private member, was voted president of the association. “This is a real privilege,” says Pastor Steed, “that such a significant organisation would invite a Seventh-day Adventist to chair its management committee.” Formed in 1985, the organisation provides up-to-date, reliable information about religious faith and church life in Australia. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is one of 14 senior members, along with more than 400 associate member organisations, including churches, schools and individuals.

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

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Brisbane concert raises awareness

(Continued from page 1)

The event was registered on the Anti-Poverty website as an official activity of the week and the group has received a formal “thank you” from the National Anti-Poverty Agenda. Money raised has allowed the organisation to expand into suburbs and commence new projects.

Brian Beadnell started “Vital Connection” soup kitchen to feed homeless people 12 years ago in Brisbane, and from there, the service has grown to three teams of volunteers who operate three nights per week to provide hot meals to the homeless under the Turbot Street Bridge in the CBD.

Local businesses donate food and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) has provided Mr Beadnell with a van for transportation of food.

The organisation hopes to benefit more people with a longer term emphasis, with programs that not only combat social ills but also prevent them. Plans are already underway for a drug and alcohol rehabilitation community centre, based near Natural Bridge in the Gold Coast hinterland. The “therapeutic community” will provide counselling services, including adventure therapy programs. The programs will target young adults aged between 18 and 35 years.

“They are less set in their own ways and need support,” says Mr Beadnell. He believes young people are the leaders of society’s future, yet are most vulnerable to alcohol and drug addiction.

Many private enterprise companies have supported “Vital Connection.”

“It is very encouraging to be able to come together to support those in need,” says Mr Beadnell.

“Vital Connection” is an ADRA-supported project. Sponsors include Spiritual Health Food Company and a range of Queensland businesses.—Kristina Malarek

More @ www.vitalconnection.org

ASDAH students in world-first program

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Sports students at Auckland Seventh-day Adventist High (ASDAH) are the first in the world to take part in a program specifically designed to add value to school sports for elite student athletes.

The program was developed by Noah Hickey and the Auckland University of Technology (AUT), and rose out of the “Maximise Opportunity, Value Education” program.

Called “SHINE,” the program covers areas such as goal setting, communication, leadership, sponsorship, motivation and pathways—study, sport and career—including ongoing support from specialist staff at AUT. One of the main aims is to encourage students who excel at sport to also focus on their academic performance.

The privileged group of student athletes at ASDAH are setting the standard, exceeding expectations with their participation, attitude and preparation so far, according to Mr Hickey. Ralph Koopman and Diana Lama, two sports teachers at the school, help with the program.

The “SHINE” program is expanding to cover 31 schools in the Auckland area and currently assists around 500 students.—Fitu Ah-Young

◆ Mel Gibson has been named the “most powerful Christian” in Hollywood by the multidenominational website Beliefnet. The Catholic director of hit movie “Passion of the Christ” topped the Beliefnet Power Dozen list of Christians who “have the clout to choose their career direction, while keeping their faith and even injecting it into their work in subtle or not-so-subtle ways.” Many attribute Gibson’s blockbuster movie, which aimed at providing an authentic portrayal of Jesus Christ’s crucifixion, even featuring Hebrew and Aramaic languages, as the spark that helped Hollywood rediscover the Christian and faith market. Trailblazing Gibson on Beliefnet’s list was Denzel Washington, dubbed the second most powerful Hollywood Christian, followed by Patricia Heaton. Washington and his wife, Pauletta, have lent their voices in the recently released Old Testament version of The Bible Experience, in which they narrate “The Song of Songs.”—Elena Garcia

◆ Ian Worby, head of United Christian Broadcasters, visited Yarrawonga, Vic, to “flick the switch” on Vision Radio Network’s 300th station on August 29. Vision’s aim is “Connecting faith to life” and does this through a mix of contemporary music plus positive, practical talk on life issues. Before receiving Christian radio in their own town, the combined churches of Yarrawonga raised the funds to put Vision’s 200th station on the air in Yulara (near Uluru, NT) on Australia Day, 2005. More than two years later, the day finally arrived for the believers of Yarrawonga to receive their own Vision station—and significantly, it was the 300th station.—Vision Radio Network

◆ In the lead up to the Australian election, the Australian Christian Lobby have put 25 questions on key issues of concern to Christians to each of the Australian political parties, publishing their results on the internet. The website contains the parties’ responses to questions and showcases their attitudes to Christian concerns, as well as their responses to specific questions on pro-life, pro-family, refugees, climate change and many other issues, allowing the user to compare and contrast the parties’ positions.

More @ www.alc.org.au

IS YOUR CHURCH DOING SOMETHING EXCITING, INNOVATIVE OR INSPIRING? EMAIL RECORD@SIGNSPUBLISHING.COM.AU
Adventists feature on
Australian national radio

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation’s (ABC) Radio National, the largest broadcast network in the country, featured the Seventh-day Adventist Church in October. This was a direct result of the second Australian Conference on Spirituality and Health that Dr Rachael Kohn—host of the ABC Radio National program “The Spirit of Things”—attended, both as a delegate and guest speaker. The conference was held in August and was organised by the South Australia Conference’s department of Adventist Health.

Dr Kohn interviewed several key Adventist speakers for the conference for her Radio National program. They were Jonathan Duffy, director of Adventist Health in the South Pacific, Dr Gerald Winslow, vice-president for spiritual life at the Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Centre, and Dr Peter Landless, associate director of Adventist Health Ministries of the General Conference.

The program, which first aired on October 21, also featured Pastor John Gate, director of media ministries for the South Pacific Division. He introduced ABC Radio National’s listeners to the origins of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Adventist “spiritual appreciation of health” that encompasses the social, family, physical, emotional and mental aspects, as well as the reasons for the seventh-day Sabbath and how Adventists observe it.

In the program, Dr Kohn observed that the Adventist Church “is highly conservative but is also at the forefront of providing medical care through its network of hospitals . . . Adventists are a good example of how specialisation, even in religion, can produce great things.”

She also explored the Adventist health system and how it related to patients who are not Adventists, with Mr Duffy, Dr Winslow and Dr Landless.

Dr Kohn further examined Adventist health practices and the work it has done in the community with youth resiliency programs and in the area of HIV/AIDS relief in various countries.

As Dr Landless concluded about Adventist health, the prime reason for existence “is to be of service, to be the hand of healing and to make people whole.”

—Melody Tan

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/2b77h5> to download the program.

Australian ordained at GC

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, USA

An Australian communicator was ordained to gospel ministry at the General Conference (GC) on October 13. Gary Krause has worked at the headquarters of the worldwide Adventist Church since 1996 and currently serves as the director of the Office of Adventist Mission.

Pastor Krause, with his wife, Bettina, and daughter, Bethany, was welcomed to ministry by church leaders in a service held as part of the GC’s Annual Council meetings.

After graduating from University of Newcastle and Avondale College, Pastor Krause served as an editor at Signs Publishing Company in Warburton (1987 to 1992) and creative director for the Adventist Media Centre in Sydney (1992 to 1996). In 1996, he was called to be communications director for Global Mission at the GC (1996 to 2004).

He was then elected as director of the Office of Mission Awareness, before being elected to his current role in 2005.

Pastor Krause says he feels privileged to follow in the steps of his grandfather, his two uncles, his father and his brother in being ordained to ministry. He reflected that his upbringing set the direction for his ministry. “As a young person, the call to ministry was ever before me,” he comments. “And, born in Fiji to missionary parents, mission was always central to our spiritual lives.”

—Nathan Brown
The following scenario is described with apologies to the apostle Luke. It is based on Luke 16:19-31.

There was a certain Seventh-day Adventist family. Its members dressed well, lived in a fine home by world standards, owned nice cars and, in any given year, spent more on pets than the average Indian family had to live on in that year. The Christian family’s phone bill each month could have supported a missionary in a developing country or immunised dozens of children.

Although home was on a quiet, leafy street, the world beyond was brimming with tragedy. Fortunately, the family lived in a lucky country. High wages, good health care and democracy allowed them to worship freely and live well.

A time came when, in the blink of an eye, the family passed away. Despite all airbags in their car deploying, the outcome was shocking and sudden. Crash investigators were mystified.

Five crosses stood forlornly on a bend of a busy highway, erected by loved ones. Eventually, weeds grew among the crosses, their white paint faded under the heat of the sun and eventually they disappeared. With the passing of decades, all memory of the family was lost.

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Five crosses stood forlornly on a bend of a busy highway, erected by loved ones. Eventually, weeds grew among the crosses, their white paint faded under the heat of the sun and eventually they disappeared. With the passing of decades, all memory of the family was lost.

Despite the passing of earthly seasons, in what seemed like another blink of an eye, the family found itself before the judgment seat of God. Miraculously, its members found themselves together for the final reckoning at the end of time.

The pain and fear of the accident felt like it had occurred only seconds ago, yet it was also far away—as if from another time and place. Each member of the family saw clearly that the accident was not something they now had to fear. The man stood by his wife and three daughters.

“Why do you look at us like you do?” the father asked, noting something in Abraham’s face that he could not quite understand. “Is something wrong?”

What they saw surprised them.

Beside Abraham stood some of the world’s most destitute. There were children who had died for want of a 50-cent rehydration kit—theirs faces aglow with health. Young girls who had been sold into prostitution hugged each other, knowing they would never be used again. Men and women who had endured lives of degrading slavery rejoiced in their freedom. Cripples stood patiently, rubbing healed legs. Mothers hugged babies who had not survived below, yet now lived! Those who had been mentally ill were sane.

Many recognised among the saved some they would never have expected. Rejoicing swept through the masses gathered there, stretching into the distance as far as could be seen.

Thank God, thought the father in the family to himself. Thank God we are here together. How I had hoped and prayed for this.

He had read this very prophecy and now tears began to trickle down his cheeks.

As he dried his eyes, the head of the family became aware of a strange noise. The lament of a wealthy man echoed from somewhere beyond, crying out for a share in this missed venture. His mournful cries were disturbing, yet only slightly louder than something more.

As the man listened, he realised that underlying that one wail were millions of others, washed together in a great ocean of sorrow and regret.

Abraham welcomed the family, his wide smile tinged with sadness. “My children,” he said. “I welcome you. You are precious and wonderful, and I praise the Lord that you are here.”

“Why do you look at us like you do?” the father asked, noting something in Abraham’s face that he could not quite understand. “Is something wrong?”

“Not wrong,” Abraham said. “There is nothing wrong here. I am glad you have come. Soon you will cry no more over earthly things.”

“Then what?” the father asked. “You
look... almost sad.”

“Do you really want to know, my child?”

“I think so.”

“Well,” Abraham said. “This I now tell you, although I do not do it to make you feel guilty. The time for that has passed. My sorrow is not for what is. It is for what could have been and is not.”

“What do you mean?”

“You were made by the master to seek all that is good. While you sought earthly comfort, He was hoping you would comfort others. While you ate with the saved, He longed for you to dine with the lost. You cared, it is true but more about your safety than the Lord’s work.”

The family members looked at each other. Each saw in the other’s eyes that it was true.

“Sabbath became a day for you, not for God. You were blessed with material things so much that at times you forgot it was on loan to bless others. You did lead good lives and for that I am glad. Your belief in the Father provided a spark of light in a dark world and I thank you for that.

“He did great things with the little you gave, more than you ever imagined! If only you could have given more. Like so many good families, in seeking purity you avoided getting dirty. You were so preoccupied that you often forgot you were in the midst of a war.”

The man’s wife nodded. She remembered all her efforts to provide security and safety. His daughters nodded too, recalling their dreams of happiness and stability.

“So many perished. So many of my children are not here with me that I cannot help but wish I could welcome more. Oh my children, I am so glad to see you.

I am overjoyed to have you here and soon the Master will welcome you personally. Forgive my sorrow, for this too will pass. In the time to come, there will be no regret or pain.

“But, oh that more could have focused through Kingdom lenses upon their lives before this Gate.”

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The lost child

BY MITCHELL STRAHAN

One day, as I was walking through a store, I heard the sound of a lost child. I glanced in front and behind me, to my left and my right but I could not discern the source.

Then I listened inside me. There I heard the sound of a lost child crying—The lost child of innocence.

Have I grown up too fast? Have I entered the adult world too quickly? Perhaps not. After all, there is a time for each of us. However, was I supposed to be looking after a younger me?

A me who did not care for material, A me who was considerate to my rivals, A me who fully embodied the kindness Only a child can muster.

I searched and searched through the dark corners of consciousness, the library of memories—The computer programming of character.

At last I came to a man who, though hooded and cloaked, I felt I recognised. He told me that my search alone for this child was fruitless. He told me that only He could help me. He extended a scarred hand to offer me guidance.

As I was searching for the child, I heard the overjoyed cries of the father who, having found his lost son, carried him in his arms, through the checkout, home.

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Brad Watson is a lecturer in International Development Studies at Avondale College, Cooranbong, New South Wales.

Mitchell Strahan is a high school student, who writes from East Gosford, New South Wales.
Nature deficit disorder

BY ERIC WHITE

Several years ago, while camping with a youth group on the top of Mount Oxley in western New South Wales, we spent our evening worship time lying on our backs, looking at the brilliant night sky.

We located significant stars, planets and constellations, and learned how to find south from the Southern Cross. We discussed the power of our Creator, who holds the universe in order. I explained to the young people that this same power was available to each of us in our lives.

Years later, some of those young people, now adults with their own families, expressed how life-changing an experience that night was for them.

As a family, over the years we have treasured time spent in nature. Now our grandchildren enjoy looking at the birds and flowers. They enjoy the peace of being outdoors.

Worship times on family camping trips are often led by the children, who set up a nature trail, have a Bible reading from the Psalms, and a poem or prayer. We usually conclude by giving each one some kind of natural object, such as a piece of topaz. We call these “Jesus Gems,” because they remind us of this special time spent in His creation.

At a recent youth leaders training program, I had the opportunity of sharing the revised nature segment for the Pathfinder Leadership Award. As we enjoyed a variety of experiential activities in the bush, many of the leaders expressed their enjoyment of the experience. Time alone and using different senses to become aware of the natural world—hearing different sounds, looking to discover hidden camouflaged creatures—were just a few of the activities.

There is a renewed interest in the natural world as a way of increasing the mental, physical and spiritual healing and wellness of body and soul. But it is not something that is new to us as Christians. “Nature and revelation alike testify of God’s love,” wrote Ellen White in Steps to Christ.

Emphasis is placed on the written Word of God. However, the natural environment can also be a powerful way of coming closer to God.

Yet Richard Louv, in his book Last Child in the Woods, suggests that many of our children are in danger of being the first generation to be raised without a meaningful contact with the natural world. For too long, we have taken the child–nature connection for granted.

In my contact with parents and children, especially in Pathfinder and youth ministry, it is becoming increasingly evident that our children are growing up spending more time with electronic gadgets and TV, risking health problems because of sedentary lifestyles. Research is beginning to emerge suggesting that direct exposure to nature is essential for physical and emotional health.

Recent studies suggest exposure to nature may reduce the symptoms of attention deficit disorder and can improve cognitive abilities, increasing resistance to negative stresses and depression. Nature deficit disorder describes the human costs of alienation from nature, diminished use of the senses, attention difficulties and higher rates of physical and emotional illness.

Fortunately, our church’s Pathfinder and Adventurer programs have potential to reverse symptoms of nature deficit disorder. Families that spend quality time in natural environments are blessed emotionally and spiritually. Many youth leaders use wilderness ministry as a tool to enhance their work with young people. They find that these experiences help young people learn lessons for life through immediate consequences of choices. It also builds self-esteem and trust.

Many characters of Bible times were blessed by exposure to nature and the wilderness, where they sought refuge and gained new perspective. Moses, Elijah, David, Jesus and His disciples are examples of those who went into the natural environment at critical times, to quiet their spirits through meditation and prayer. Here, they grew more resilient and courageous as they encountered the harshness and dangers of the outdoors. Jesus used nature as object lessons as He shared the truth about His kingdom. It must have given Him great joy to use things He had created to illustrate His teaching.

By experiencing the joy, wonder and awe of nature, it is possible to soothe and heal our senses, putting them in tune with our Creator. Amid the busyness of life, take a break! Share the joy of nature with your children.

As George Washington Carver said: “Never a day passes but that I do myself the honour to commune with some of nature’s varied forms.”

Eric White is a retired youth director who writes from Castle Hill, New South Wales.
Compressing your content

BY SCOTT WEGENER

The benefits of compressing the files available on your website include quicker download times for guests, quicker upload times for webmasters and slower filling of the allocated storage space for your website.

The following tips will help reduce the size of your files.

**Images**
- **jpeg**—This file type is good for images with many colours, as it gives a low file size and high image quality. When saving, choose the lowest settings that give acceptable image quality.
- **gif**—This file type is good for logos or artwork with only a few colours. Reducing the numbers of colours reduces the file size.
- **Dimensions**—The width of an image should be 500 pixels or less, unless maximum detail is required.
- **Image Resizer**—This free application is good for compressing multiple images. Once installed, select the files on your hard drive, right click and choose resize.

**Audio**
- **mp3**—The mp3 file is especially good at compressing audio file sizes with minimal loss of quality.
- **Bitrate**—For music files, stay at a bitrate of 64 to 128 kbs. For sermons and speech, you should experiment with 32 to 56 kbs.
- **<www.iTunes.com>**—iTunes (free software) can convert audio files to compressed mp3 files.
- **<www.xilisoft.com>**—This is another useful tool for converting many different audio file types.

**Video**
- **Flash**—A Flash file type (.flv) is compatible with most web browsers and reduces the size of video files considerably.
- **Bitrate**—The higher the motion, the higher the bitrate required. A frame rate of 10 fps should be adequate.
- **Dimensions**—Unless there is important visual content, choose a small screen size.
- **youtube**—If you use youtube to store your videos, you not only bypass using up your storage space but are also witnessing to the world through youtube’s database of videos.
- **Tools**—Xilisoft (PC) and VisualHub (Mac) are two fantastic tools for video conversion.

**Documents**
- **pdf**—The pdf file is excellent for sharing documents, as it keeps the original format, however it is viewed.
- **Acrobat PDF Settings**—You can reduce the quality of the pdf considerably. Change the file settings to “smallest file size.”

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Scott Wegener is associate electronic media officer for Adventist Media Network.

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**Record Roo’s**

Hi kids,
The Bible tells us that Jesus came to live among us for a good reason. Do you know what the reason is? You can find out by completing the first part of this week’s puzzle.

**Fill in the Blanks**

...I have come that ______ may have______, and have it more__________.

John 10:10 NKJV

**Word Search**

Can you find all the words from the list in this puzzle?

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X E M N H L J Y T M V F D T Z
L C J H Z W X D A Z O Q T B O
I D J L O H R S F R I N F J Z
F B E L J E E A G P C P A F S
E P L E H A I V Y C E L F M H
F O E P K R Z E E A W C Q F E
F F E Q G Q R D N J E S U S E
Q H N B A B U N D A N T L Y P
S P W S S H E E P F O L D Z U
P K O A G Y A J C A L L S N L
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JESUS SLEPER
SHEEP HEAR
VOICE CALLS
NAME FOLLOW
SAVED LIFE
SHEEPFOLD ABUNDANTLY

**Colour In**

Colour in the Good Shepherd and his sheep.
Renewing the vision
FRANCO GIARRAPUTO, QLD

Thank you for the refreshing, inspiring and timely article “Seeking peace in a time of war” (Feature, October 27) regarding our church’s historical and biblical stand on the issues of slavery, war, military service, conscientious objection and the noncombatancy officially adopted and recommended to our fellow Adventist believers till the relatively recent times of compromise and ambivalence.

It was with great pride that I read about these courageous early Adventist brothers and sisters—young people mostly—who took such a consistent, deeply biblical stance against the prevailing political and religious views of the day, with a willingness to accept ridicule and persecution. They did this with such wisdom and dignity, emboldened both by the Scriptures, Ellen White’s extraordinary leadership, and the clarity of an uncompromising prophetic vision and purpose pursued in the society and time in which they lived.

What sadness and disappointment they would have felt at our current ambivalent and ambiguous “official” and unofficial positions espoused by our contemporary church and some fellow believers. I am proud to consider myself part of that noble, dynamic and surprisingly radical tradition of Adventism and, indeed, of Christianity.

This brings me to the one criticism I have of the article: its incompleteness and failure to place the issues and our historical position in the wider Christian community and historical context of which our church is a part.

I would like to encourage other Adventist scholars to continue to contribute to the debate with high quality, accessible articles such as this, to inspire us to regain our church founders’ prophetic and heroic vision in this area. It is a vision I believe is desperately needed in the challenging times in which we live.

Work of Satan?
BRUCE JACKSON, NSW

In “Progress on WIM?” (Letters, October 6), the question was asked “How long is it going to take church members to get over the problem of considering women unequal believers?” This begs another question: how long will it take church members to understand that equality is not the issue?

The issue in ordination of women is whether this is a God-given role. No one can deny that God created men and women to be equal. Nor can anyone deny that God gave the leadership role to the male. Satan has played havoc with the human household and forced many women into a leadership role. This is not God’s order or intention. Is Satan now trying the same strategy in the household of God?

It was with great pride that I read about these courageous early Adventist brothers and sisters.

R E WEBBER, WA

In response to Pastor Paulsen’s comments that the church has never conceded the “concept” of ordaining women is not biblical (“Include young people in church, women in ministry, says church president,” News, October 6), I submit that the General Conference’s (GC) official website still has, after 12 years, the full report and rulings of the 1995 GC session, which overwhelmingly ruled “not to allow world divisions of the Church to ordain individuals without regard to gender.” The lack of any clear biblical evidence to proceed on the issue was the main reason for the rejection of ordination requests at both the 1990 and 1995 session.

The GC in session is the highest authority for dispute this church has and the GC itself is subordinate to the GC session rulings, according to our constitution. Therefore, the church—by not resubmitting the issue to the GC session since 1995, as it legally should—undermines the GC session’s authority, and thus the purpose and integrity of our church system. That is exactly what Satan wants in this enlightened age!

A global view?
BILL MANCER, NZ

The editorial of October 27—“Best or less?”—is thought provoking. We do have an obligation to consider all of our decisions in the light of our faith. However, the overall thrust of the editorial could be considered biased toward the protection of Western world employment at the expense of the welfare of global citizens.

While many organisations outsource to developing countries at the cheapest price, there are also many that ensure minimum standards are adhered to for the working and wider environment. The church needs to ensure minimum standards are adhered to, rather than create a default proxy position that deprives the global worker of income in preference to the local worker.

For example, the impact of global work on the average incomes of people in the Delta region of China have risen faster than in other parts of China. What would be preferable—for me to donate my money as aid or to provide an increased income to the global worker?

Further, nowhere in Scripture is an obligation placed on the church to provide jobs for its members. We are required to support ministers financially and care for the widowed and the poor but this does not translate to creating sources of income for our immediate church neighbours. The purpose of the church is not to build an organisation that provides incomes.

Who is my neighbour? In this globalised world, everyone is my neighbour. And cheapest is not usually a bargain.

KEITH JOHANSON, VIC

Thank you for the very timely editorial of October 27 (“Best or less?”). I hope it is carefully read and considered by all our church administrators, both locally and internationally.

RUBY HOSKINS, VIC

What an excellent editorial (“Best or less?” October 27). It was spot on!

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 manager—Trans-Pacific Union, (Fiji). The Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Ltd is seeking to appoint a qualified and dedicated information technology manager for the Trans-Pacific Union head office in Suva, Fiji. For more information, please visit the South Pacific Division’s Human Resources website at <http://hr.adventistconnect.org>. All written applications, including your CV, three work-related referees and the contact details of your church pastor, must be forwarded to: Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (Pacific) Ltd, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076, Australia; email <chr@adventist.org.au>; fax: (02) 9489 1943. Applications close November 28, 2007.

▲ Chief Operations Officer—Adventist Retirement Village (Victoria). This is a newly created position to assist the CEO in the operational functions of the three retirement villages across Victoria. The villages are located in Bendigo, Warburton and Nunawading. Reporting to the CEO, the COO is responsible for providing operational support to the staff and management team at each site. The position is based at Nunawading. For a position description, selection criteria or general information about the position, contact Ruth Welling at <rwelling@adventist.org.au> or (03) 9259 2108. Applications close November 23, 2007.

▲ Youth Secretary—Western Australian Conference (WA). A proficient, qualified individual is required for the position of secretary of the Western Australian Conference Youth Department. The successful applicant will strive to perform at a high level of excellence and bring enthusiasm, energy and professionalism to their work. Their primary role will be to provide support to the youth directors and youth department during office hours. A job description is available upon request. Forward applications, along with church membership details, to Warrick Long, Secretary Treasurer, Western Australian Conference of the SDA church, PO Box 134, Gosnells WA 6906; email <wlong@adventist.org.au>; fax (08) 9398 5164; or phone (08) 9398 7222. Applications close November 30, 2007.

▲ Graphic Designer—Signs Publishing Company (Warburton, Vic) is seeking an enthusiastic graphic designer for a full-time position in their busy, modern presses department. The successful applicant will be skilled in the Mac environment; proficient in electronic design and layout, and have experience in commercial electronic design. Any other connected attributes will be favourably considered. Commitment to quality and service, together with a respect for Christian values and ethics are essential. For further information, contact Ray Porbury on (03) 5965 6300 or ray@porbury@signspublishing.com.au. Applications in writing should be forwarded to Production Manager, Signs Publishing Company, 3485 Warburton Highway, Warburton VIC 3799. Applications close November 26, 2007.

▲ Apprentice cook—Avondale Retirement Village (Cooranbong, NSW). Two enthusiastic apprentices with a passion for cooking are sought for our new facility, commencing January 2008. You will gain experience in large scale food preparation, a small retail food outlet, kitchen teamwork and more. Please forward your resume, marked “Apprentice cook,” to Avondale Retirement Village, PO Box 105 Cooranbong NSW 2265. Applications close December 10, 2007.

▲ Academic registrar—Avondale College (Lake Macquarie Campus). Commencing late 2007 or early 2008. The successful applicant will have a higher degree and a previous higher education or public sector management position will be viewed favourably. For additional information, contact Dr Vivienne Watts on (02) 4980 2120. For a job description, visit <www.avondale.edu.au> “staff” and “vacancies.” Applicants addressing selection criteria, including CV and three referees, should be sent to <employment@avondale.edu.au> or Human Resource Officer, Avondale College, PO Box 19, Cooranbong NSW 2265. Applications close November 21, 2007.

▲ Personal assistant—Victorian Conference Youth Ministries (Victoria). The successful applicant will have good communication skills, be well organised and be competent in using computers, especially Microsoft Office. Publisher and Photoshop experience in event and office management, graphic design and a working knowledge and experience in youth ministry would be an advantage. Looking for someone with a vibrant Christian experience, integrity, self-motivation, a passion for working with youth, teens and juniors and an understanding of youth culture. For more information, call Wayne Boehn on 0438 771 944 or (03) 9264 7740. Your application, with current CV, can be sent to <wboehn@adventist.org.au>, faxed to (03) 9264 7743 or sent to Director of VicYouth@Wayne Boehn, PO Box 215, Nunawading Vic 3131. Applications close November 28, 2007.

Appreciation

Dunn, Joan. We thank friends and church members for their prayers, flowers, cards, support and phone calls in response to the death of Joan—loved wife of Vic, mother, grandmother, sister and auntie. Vic, Rod, ney, Margaret, Judy, Peter, Vicki, David and families.

Weddings

McDougall—Rosendahl. Benjamin David McDougall, son of Eric Bergemann (stepfather) and Toni Maria Bergemann (Imbil, Qld), and Kimberley Rebecca Jan Rosendahl, daughter of Edward John Rosendahl (Sydney, NSW) and Yvonne Mary Rosendahl (Gympie, Qld), were married on 7.10.07 at Imbil, Qld. Phil Downey

Skeldrick—Topperwien. Calvin Skeldrick, son of Vic and Ethel Skeldrick (Pottsville, NSW), and Debra Topperwien, daughter of Lindsay and May Topperwien (Lismurdie, WA), were married on 7.10.07 in the Rose Heritage Cafe, Carmel. Steven Good

Stampton—Williams. Greg Stampton (Qld) and Gwenda Williams (Smithton, Tas) were married on 5.8.07 at the Riverbend farm, Smithton, by family and friends. Peter Mccrustie, Karl Winchcombe

Vatavu—Ninkov. Stefan Gabriel Vatavu, son of Gheorghe and Ana Vatavu (Romania), and Svetlana Ninkov, daughter of Svetozar and Desanka Ninkov (Brisbane, Qld), were married on 14.10.07 in a garden ceremony in Cornubia, Qld. Jorge Munoz

Watkins—Pope. Andrew Watkins, son of Ian (deceased) and Margaret Watkins (Townsville, Qld), and Meredith Pope, daughter of Norm and Val Pope (Port Lincoln, SA), were married on 30.9.07 at McClelland’s lookout, Paluma, Townsville. Bob Pongourah

Obituaries

Bridge, Edith, born 13.8.1912 in New Zea-

land; died 8.9.07 in Alawara Seventh-day Adventist Retirement Village, Bendigo, Vic. She is survived by her sons, Malcolm and Michael (NZ). Edith was baptised in New Zealand. In 1977, she moved to Australia and soon to Bendigo. In 1978, she began to work as a volunteer cook at Alawara Nursing Home. In 1987, she began paid employment as a working activities coordinator at Alawara before retiring in 1992. She enjoyed gardening, was an active thinker and had a clever wit about her. Edith loved life. She had an unshakeable faith in her Saviour and awaits the certainty of the Resurrection morning.

David Batcher

Dobler, Ada Julia (nee Arrowsmith), born 29.7.1908 in Melbourne, Vic; died 3.10.07 in Coronella Nursing Home, Nunawading. She is predeceased by her husband and infant son. She is survived by her nieces, Marjorie Munyard and Rose Surbeck. Julia was a devout, sweet woman who loved her Lord supremely. She was tenderly cared for by Marjorie, Hazel, Russell Standish, Ray Chehade Theo Surbeck

Cornish, Noela Joan (also known as Emily Joy Merzidon ), born 16.7.1951 in Temoana, NSW; died 17.7.07 at Bendigo. She was predeceased by her husband. She is survived by her children, Matthew Cornish and Michelle Maugus; and her six grandchildren. Noela (Joy) was an Adventist for approximately 25 years. Despite her ill health, she was a person who always showed gratitude and thanks for even the smallest of things. Noela faithfully supported church programs and enjoyed learning of her Saviour. She loved colour

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Bookings close March 2008.

November 17, 2007

13
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Email: <volunteers@adventist.org.au>
For more positions, check the web on <www.adventistvolunteers.org>.

ACF Investments (02) 9989 8355

Johnson, Jeanne Rita Lise, born 10.3.1922 on Mauritius; died 15.8.07 in Charles Harrison Memorial Home, Cooranbong, NSW. In December 1943, she married Harold, who predeceased her in 1985. She was also predeceased by her son, Lloyd, in 2005. She was baptised on Mauritius in 1944. She is survived by her children, Doris Felix (Bonnells Bay, NSW), Cilmene Appave (Canberra, ACT), and Stella Leggeriet (Blue Haven, NSW); her nine grandchildren; and her eight great-grandchildren. A true mother and grandmother, who cared about and gave of her means to others. For many years, she served her church as welfare leader. A quiet, unassuming lady of quality character, who will be greatly missed by her family. She waits for Jesus to call at her tomb, to wake her and make her new again.

Adrian Craig, Eddy Johnson

Kervin, John Russell, born 12.1.1923 in Melbourne, Vic; died 6.9.07. He is survived by his wife, Lorna; his son, John; his daughter, Pamela Hankin; and his grandchildren, Alicia and Andrew. John was a loving and caring family man. He loved his wife, children and grandchildren. He will be very much missed by all.

N Pereira

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Brian and Daphne Townend: Booked in

Then—for as long as he can remember, Brian had a desire to serve God as a missionary teacher. These ambitions were fuelled by mission stories, Sabbath school and camp-meetings.

He met Daphne Wishart at Longburn College, and it was at a regional meeting that Brian and Daphne realised their friendship had blossomed into something more.

Brian then headed to Avondale College to complete his teacher training studies, while Daphne was employed in the NNZ Conference. He returned to Auckland to begin teaching—and of course married Daphne. The next few years were spent both as a teacher at various schools and also as an evangelist in the Taranaki region.

Brian was able to realise a long-term dream to work as a missionary teacher when he and Daphne moved to Fiji to teach at Fulton College and Vatuavu School for 15 years. They returned to Australia where Brian took on the role of librarian at Avondale College for four years. His next appointment was as Primary Schools Supervisor for the TTTUC for seven years, and then they returned for a further two years at Fulton College.

Brian was then given the opportunity to study at Pacific Union College in California for a year to gain his MA. Then they returned to Australia to begin work setting up the library for Pacific Adventist College in Papua New Guinea. He and Daphne travelled to PAC to set up the library onsite. Brian then returned to Avondale College as librarian, a position he held for nine years until his retirement.

Now—Brian and Daphne have been residents at Avondale Retirement Village for 11 years and can confidently say that after setting up 19 different homes over the years it has been wonderful to finally settle in the village. Here they have enjoyed association with many friends from former years as well as the opportunity to make many more. They are both involved in village activities and absolutely love village life.

Yes, they recommend retirement living at Avondale!

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 2100:
Bendigo, Nunawading and Warburton

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