On October 22 in Lae, Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM) administrators, local mission presidents and others, together with Pastor David Lawson, Cliff Morgan, Nick Brightman and management of Ela Motors, participated in an impressive handover ceremony and dedication of 26 Yamaha 125cc four-stroke motorcycles.

Ela Motors management arranged the 26 motorcycles around the walls of their main showroom. They expressed their appreciation for the good working relationship developed between their company and the Adventist Church in Papua New Guinea (PNG). They also said they had never delivered so many motorcycles in one day in this country.

The motorcycles are for use by district pastors in local missions of PNGUM. A further six motorcycles will be delivered in late November. Together with the motorcycles placed in 2006, this will bring the total PNGUM fleet to 42 (“South Queensland youth get ‘revved up’ to help,” News, April 7).

Pastor Lawson was able to purchase the motorcycles for just over 50 per cent of the retail price. Funds needed to cover the (Continued on page 4)
T
he world around us is changing rapidly in every way. Technological capacity is doubling every two years, now enabling us to communicate with anyone, anytime, anywhere.

People are much more informed on issues and are prepared to express their views. And this generation is more interested in outcomes, efficiencies and mission than structure. They demand answers to the social, economic and environmental issues confronting the human race.

It is clear the media will become increasingly important as a way to interact with this and future generations. For example, a project launched in 2005 aims to provide laptop computers to the estimated two billion children in developing countries. Kids who never held a textbook will access the world. At the same time, more than 70 per cent of four-year-old children in the US have used a computer.

The internet, radio and TV, printed and electronic media, mobile phones and a host of associated technologies still being developed provide an unprecedented avenue to communicate our message to the world. The potential for this to happen is limited only by our inability to comprehend and grasp the opportunities that exist.

But we also face challenges within. According to recent surveys, only about two-thirds of our membership regularly attend church. This means that, instead of a reported division membership of 396,500, there is only about 263,900 active members. And this figure does not take into account young people who have never been baptised and have left the church.

These statistics highlight the tremendous challenges facing the church—the need to become involved in a huge reclamation initiative along with an unprecedented nurturing program. This task is of such magnitude that it demands a commensurate allocation of resources and a different kind of thinking to address it.

One of the challenges facing any entity that has been in existence for a long period of time is that of retaining its distinctive identity and reason for being. The risk is that, with the passing of the decades, an institution may lose the focus of its mission, becoming outdated and irrelevant. So the questions are:

• What does it mean to be an authentic Seventh-day Adventist?
• What gives us our unique identity?
• What are the core characteristics and qualities that make us Adventists?
• What are those beliefs and values that define who we are?

In response, if we are to be true to the teachings of Jesus, we must care for the suffering, destitute and abused, visit the imprisoned and befriend the marginalised. But none of this activity must be seen as a substitute for fulfilling our primary reason for being brought into existence. Let us be under no allusion—we are a raised-up, called-out people, here to proclaim a special end-time message to prepare the world for the glorious return of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

In the context of the world in which we live and the challenges and opportunities we face, what kind of a church are we creating for this and succeeding generations? There is much we could include in a response to such a question but if the church is to be effective in its witness, it will be a church that:

• Pulsates with passion for reflecting God’s character and extending His kingdom;
• Provides a warm, nurturing and accepting environment for all;
• Responds practically to the plight of the needy, oppressed and disadvantaged;
• Provides a safe haven for the hurting, broken, bruised and marginalised—male or female—from all backgrounds;
• Challenges the world to adopt a healthier, happier and more holistic way of life;
• Proves faithful in calling men and women to repentance and an acceptance of Jesus Christ as their Saviour;
• Faithfully proclaims to the world those special truths that it has been made custodian of.

This is a golden moment for the church. We dare not take our eye off the ball or allow the goal posts to be uprooted and shifted. While staying true to our mission, we need to dream bigger dreams. And if we build a dream, the dream will build us.
Western Highlands Mission celebrates 50 years

MOUNT HAGEN, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

More than 15,000 church members camped for a week, braving rain and mud outside Mount Hagen, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Western Highlands Mission (WHM) in the middle of September. The mission, which is the second largest in PNG and the South Pacific Division, has 60,500 church members.

Special guests at the celebration included Pastor Laurie Evans, president of the South Pacific Division, and missionary trailblazer, Pastor Len Barnard. Pastor Barnard, who introduced the church into Western Highlands Province through the establishment of a leper mission in Togoba, returned for the celebrations after being away for 30 years.

Two other special guests at the celebrations were Pastor Cliff Maberly, whose mother and sister were the first white women to set foot in Enga, and Geof Grieve, whose father built the first mission station in the Southern Highlands.

According to mission president Pastor Benjamin Hap, WHM was officially organised in 1953, which means that its 50th anniversary was in 2003. However, the decision was made to postpone the celebration until a new office had been built to commemorate the event.

When Pastor Barnard left Laiagam in the early 60s, there were only 3000 church members in the region under his supervision. He was surprised to find that there are now more 40,000 members in the region.

The celebration attracted people from as far away as Telefomin and Oksapmin in the Sandaun Province, and Lake Murray in the Western Province.

Each morning, national and expatriate pioneers thrilled the audience with stories of how they entered new areas with the gospel.

One high point of the week-long celebration was the parade through the streets of Mount Hagen. Led by the youth band from Baisu, hundreds of church members, dressed in the colours of the various provinces that make up the local mission, held up traffic for a couple of hours as they marched to Kimininga.

The organisers could barely squeeze the crowd into the mission compound, where they participated in the opening of the new office complex.

The dedication of the new WHM office complex was attended by a number of dignitaries, including the governor of the Western Highlands Province, the Honourable Tom Olga, who cut the ribbon in the official opening ceremony.

Pastor Evans took the worship service for the dedication, saying, “Blessed are your eyes for they have seen what others longed to see. The pioneers longed to see what you are seeing today. They died in faith as they looked forward to what you are seeing.”

He told the audience that the building was more than an office—it was an extension of God’s throne, to speed up the spread of the gospel in the region. “God’s presence should be seen in the lives of the people who work in here,” he said. “This place should be where the good news is everybody’s business. The people who come to this office should sense that it is a different place. They should sense God’s presence when they enter the building. May this be the place for His glorious presence.”

—Matupit Darius

Central Papua to become conference

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The Central Papua Mission (CPM) is the first Pacific island mission to be recognised as a conference, following a vote of the South Pacific Division (SPD) executive committee on November 14. The decision is the culmination of an intensive five-year process and was recommended to the executive committee by the Papua New Guinea Union Mission and SPD administration.

“This is an historic occasion,” commented Pastor Laurie Evans, president of the SPD. “The church has been working in Papua New Guinea and particularly in Central Papua for 100 years, and it is high time this kind of development and growth has taken place.

“We have 22 missions across the Pacific and hopefully, this will be the forerunner of a number of other missions making this kind of progress,” he added.

Pastor Peter Oli, president of the CPM, was a guest at the SPD executive committee meeting and, following the vote, was presented with a certificate acknowledging this milestone by Pastor Ray Coombe, director of Adventist Mission for the SPD.

“I can still remember Brad Kemp [then director of leadership development for the SPD] coming into my office in 2002, talking about our mission becoming a conference,” said Pastor Oli. “We looked at each other and said, ‘this is an enormous task.’”

Pastor Oli thanked the wider church for its support in this process, and paid tribute to the pioneers and missionaries who have contributed to the establishment and growth of the church in Central Papua. “This is the result of what they planned back then,” he said. “We need the church’s continuing help and thank the Greater Sydney Conference for partnering with us in mission.”

The Central Papua Conference will maintain its headquarters in Port Moresby, and will be inaugurated with more than 26,000 members in 101 churches and 123 church companies. The administration of the Papua New Guinea Union Mission will convene a constituency session in the near future, at which a conference constitution will be adopted, leaders elected and the new conference launched.—Nathan Brown
Laity festival a success in Karamui

KARAMUI, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Several hundred church members walked for up to four days over some of Papua New Guinea’s most rugged terrain, to attend the week-long Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission laity festival held in Karamui, Simbu Province.

Personal ministries director for the Papua New Guinea Union Mission, Pastor Samuel Silas, was the guest speaker for the festival.

Nelson Kasa, the Eastern Highlands Mission’s personal ministries and Sabbath school director, was very pleased with the success of the festival. He thought few people would make it to the festival because of the remote-ness of Karamui but was proven wrong by the 2000 people who attended.

Pastor Silas added that it was the first time the local mission had staged a major program in Karamui and it had a big impact on the community, which is predominantly Adventist.

Pastor Silas said the open-air program was a big spiritual feast for the participants, who sat through pouring rain and hot sun to hear presentations from the Bible and the experiences of other church members. The practical activities, which included cooking and sewing, were scheduled to end each afternoon at 2 pm but continued till 5 pm because the participants were so eager to learn.—Matupit Darius

Mission motorbikes handed over in Lae

(Continued from page 1)

cost of the motorcycles have been raised from Church member sponsors (mainly in South Queensland), the “Quiet Hour” in the United States, the South Pacific Division, PNGUM, local PNG Missions and proceeds from three books Pastor Lawson has written.

While the motorcycles will be used by district pastors, they will be owned by local missions, who will supervise maintenance. Ela Motors, the national Yamaha distributors in PNG, have sale centres and workshops in the main city of each mission.

They will also carry a full range of spare parts exclusively for the PNG Mission, to avoid delays if replacement parts are needed in the future. Local district directors, who will receive the motorcycles together with mission presidents, will sign a 14-point agreement on receipt of them.

Motorcycles will bear the name “SDA Mission,” and an annual report on each motorcycle will be compiled by the PNG Union Secretary. A copy will also be sent to Pastor Lawson, the programme coordinator.

PNG administrators are so thrilled with this project they have asked Pastor Lawson if he can continue it in 2008.

—RECORD staff /David Lawson

◆ The Seventh-day Adventist Ex-workers Association, Fiji, has expressed its desire to acquire land for a retirement village, at its recent combined meeting in Suva, on November 3rd. Established August 20, 2006, the association has about 100 members. Fiji Mission’s former director of communication, Peni Dakua, says the association’s purpose is to fulfil the gospel commission in each member for their entire life, rather than only until retirement age. Although temporarily accommodated at the Fiji Mission compound, it cannot be guaranteed permanent residence status there. “We’re moving ahead in faith and looking for funding, either locally or from abroad,” says Mr Dakua.

—Tiko Kabu

◆ The Tenagau church, East Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, earned $SB23,000 at a recent fundraising drive. Church elder Alick Mouli said the money will go toward building materials to complete the church before its dedication. He said there is still a lot of work to be done and urged people to continue donating toward the church project. Hundreds of people from Tenagau and neighbouring villages gathered for the fundraising drive.—Jeremy Irifini

◆ Mountain View Multicultural church, Doonside, NSW, has celebrated the 100th birthday of Tagisia Fepuleai (pictured right). Born October 10, 1907 on Savai’i, Western Samoa, she married the late Taalolo Fepuleai on July 6, 1937. Together they had 11 children, nine of whom still live. On December 10, 1937, they were baptised. “Ask me what her recipe is,” says volunteer pastor, Tai Mokoroa. “I have sensed her passion and her love for God, and I see her as a sister, living on prayer as the foundation of her faith. I do believe that is her recipe.”—IntraSyd

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—IntraSyd
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Applications in writing to Human Resources, Seventh-day Adventist Church (SDP) Ltd, Locked Bag 2014, Wahroonga NSW 2076, Australia; email: hr@adventist.org.au; or fax (02) 9489 0943. Applications close December 14, 2007.

▲ Associate Director of Education—Curriculum—Adventist Schools Australia (ASA) (Melbourne, Vic) is looking for a suitably qualified person to provide the necessary direction and support to ensure that the Bible curriculum in Adventist schools reflects the values and beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The applicant will also provide management and support of the particular body of practices and teaching that sets Adventist schools apart from all others. For more information, contact Dr John Hammond, National Director, Adventist Schools Australia <schools@adventist.edu.au> or (03) 9871 7518. Applications in writing close December 5, 2007.

▲ Caretaker/Manager—Ankara Youth Camp (South Australia) is situated at Walker Flat, on the banks of the Murray River. House and car supplied. Available March 2008. Expressions of interest to Gary McIver <gmicer@adventist.org.au>

▲ Sales Representative—Sanitarium Health Food Company (Wollongong, NSW). Sanitarium is seeking a highly motivated person to join our NSW sales team. The position requires someone with a high level of responsibility and ownership. A focus on customer service, the ability to introduce and drive products in assigned sales areas, and manage and implement shelf management at store level. The successful applicant will have sound negotiation and interpersonal skills, the ability to work quickly and in detail, the ability to work individually and in a team, as well as computer literacy skills and a current drivers licence. Apply online at www.sanitarium.com.au/company/employment.html or send resume to Group Human Resources, Sanitarium Health Food Company, Locked Bag 7, Central Coast Mail Centre NSW 2252. Applications close December 21, 2007.

▲ Book Department Support Officer—Signs Publishing Company (Warburton, Vic). The successful applicant for this full-time position will possess strong Microsoft Office skills together with database experience. They will be a team player in a busy, efficient and happy workplace environment. Customer service is paramount, as is commitment to the church and its values. Flexibility and enthusiasm is essential. For more information or position description, contact Book Department manager Liz Dunstan <elizabeth.dunstan@signspublishing.com.au> or phone (03) 9965 6300. Applications close January 31, 2008.

▲ Business Manager—Route—Sanitarium Health Food Company (Negotiable between Bella Vista or Berkeley Vale, NSW/Namawading, Vic) is seeking an experienced person to join the Away From Home sales group and lead the Route Sales team. The successful applicant will manage all national P&C account relationships, develop growth strategies for specific route markets, deliver sales budgets and strategies targets, as well as prepare shared business plans and shelf management strategies for key route and P&C customers. Requirements include five years executive experience in FMCG industry, management/leadership skills, ability to work quickly and accurately, strong business acumen and computer skills. Apply at www.sanitarium.com.au/company/employment.html. Written applications to Group Human Resources, Sanitarium Health Food Company, Locked bag 7, Central Coast Mail Centre NSW 2252; fax (02) 1439 6099; or email <humanresources@sanitarium.com.au>. Applications close December 14, 2007.

Advertisements

Weddings

Araya-Bishop—Scheermeijer. Geordy Herbert Araya-Bishop, son of Richard and Edna Araya-Bishop (Melbourne, Vic) and Josie Andrea Scheermeijer, daughter of John and Lian Scheermeijer (Melbourne) were married on 30.9.07 at Poets Lane Receptions, Melbourne. The happy couple left on a visit to Scotland, and Heizy Araya-Bishop, daughter of Richard and Edna Araya-Bishop, married on 24.6.07 at Marybrough Receptions, Melbourne. Richard Araya-Bishop

Obituaries

Clark. Isabel Alice, born 24.8.1916 at Goulburn, NSW; died 25.10.07 at Morisset. On 25.3.1941, she married Eric Clark (later pastor), who predeceased her in 2001. She is survived by her children, Leon (Sydney), David (Martinville), John (Melbourne, Vic) and Colin (Cooranbong, NSW); their wives and her grandchildren. A family gathering of relatives and friends gathered at Avondale Adventist Cemetery on 30.10.07 to show their deep love and respect. Isabel spent her life supporting her husband, Eric, in his ministry, and caring for her four sons and their families. Even after the death of her husband, Isabel made a number of trips to Vanuatu to continue the work they had begun at Aore Laymen’s Training School. She faced her death with a quiet assurance that she would soon see her Saviour face to face. She was laid to rest in that blessed hope.

Rosa Goldston, Eilidh Heise

Hokin, Douglas Albert Munro, born 21.4.1920 at Eudunda, SA; died 7.11.07 in Sydney Adventist Hospital. On 29.8.1945, he married Mamie Brun. He is survived by his wife (Cooranbong); and his sons, Dennis and Bevan (Central Coast). Pastor Doug Hokin’s busy and varied life was celebrated by family and friends on 12.11.07 at the Funeral Chapel at the Avondale Cemetery, Cooranbong. His years in youth ministry, education (both in Fiji and Australasia), and as an ordained pastor following his successful ministry to the Maori church in the far north of New Zealand, highlighted Doug’s versatility and dedication. Pastor Doug is remembered for his integrity, his commitment to his calling, his commitment to his extended family and his commitment to God. He died in the sure hope of soon being “forever together.”

Rosa Goldston, Lyell Heise

Volunteers!

Builder and Plumber—One Mission. Needed for a trip to the Solomon Islands in January, 2008. For more information, please call Hayley on (02) 9847 3275.

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Homeschooling? Considering? SunLight Education can provide a wide range of supporting materials. Bible and EGW, primary and secondary, many US and Australian sources. Contact SunLight on (02) 6550 6180 or <sunlight@tsn.cc>.

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