The president of the Australian Union Conference (AUC) has expressed deep sadness and grief over the tragic bushfires in Victoria. The death toll from the fires is estimated to be in excess of 200 people, and more than 1000 houses have been destroyed by the fires that burned out of control around the state earlier this month.

“I was stunned by the viciousness, speed and scope of the fires, and join all Australians in mourning the terrible loss of life,” said Pastor Chester Stanley in a statement released to the media.

Pastor Stanley called on church members around Australia to pray for those who have experienced the horror and loss of family, homes and possessions. Speaking in the days following the tragedy, he urged Adventists to also pray for the firefighters, State Emergency Service personnel, police, army and others who are stressed by the enormity and shock of the tragedy, and pray for favourable weather to bring an end to the fires.

Some Adventists have lost property but Pastor Stanley says it is still too early to ascertain whether any church members have been killed or injured.

(Continued on page 3)
Any “answers” are too neat; any questions are too raw.

It is well?

Monday, February 9, 2009, 7:30 am—staff worship, Signs Publishing Company, Warburton, Victoria:

It has been described as the worst disaster in Victoria’s history. Saturday was the hottest day ever recorded in the Melbourne region, following years of drought and weeks of heatwave conditions. Driven by gale-force hot winds, wildfires tore through the surrounding mountains, obliterating whole communities, leaving more than 100 people—and still counting—dead, more in hospitals and thousands homeless.

A billow of smoke had blacked out our sun on Saturday afternoon, showering us with ash, leaves and bark, and filling our homes, clothes and valley with the biting smell of smoke. We felt the same winds and shuddered at the thought of what it might do to stoke a fire. But our fears were not large enough.

A weather change comes and the winds begin to ease. But a late evening sprinkle of rain is more mocking than useful and the few raindrops fall as mud.

With major devastation less than an hour’s drive in a couple of directions, we have our nervous moments, listening intently to emergency radio broadcasts late into the night. And we almost feel intently to emergency radio broadcasts we have our nervous moments, listening to the charred leaves and other debris dropped from the billowing pall that had shadowed the weekend, now under a sky that was almost clear.

And so we arrived early on Monday morning in our cars stained with the sky’s ash, crossed the car park littered with the charred leaves and other debris and checking on further fire reports.

Tonight, “It is well” is definitely a state of my upstairs office. I sit and look out to the mountains above me. Today their usual beauty seems menacing, with just a few wisps of smoke clinging to the distant treetops.

It just doesn’t seem the day for “It is well with my soul.” And I would venture to suggest that “those who mourn” feel neither “blessed” nor “comforted” (see Matthew 5:4). Other promises seem to tear at the heart.

Despite the office phones not working for the morning, the day assumes a measure of everydayness, punctuated by sombre conversations about the weekend’s tragedies and checking on further fire reports.

Later in the day, I watch the spectacular smoky sunset at the end of the valley. But even the red-gilt edges on the clouds look like another fire turning the clouds to ash and another day to blackness—yet another smoking ruin. As well as the tragedies that have been, there are still fires and fears.

Tonight, “It is well” is definitely a statement of faith, rather than feeling. And the hope-filled, God-present conclusion is no less real—but will need to be written another day.

Nathan Brown
Church responds to bushfire tragedy

(Continued from page 1)

No Adventist churches, schools or retirement villages have been damaged or destroyed. Pastor Stanley said the church was on the ground quickly to lend support.

“I’d also like to encourage every Adventist to join other Australians by providing cash donations as being the quickest and most effective means of providing support,” he says.

The Victorian Conference donated an initial $A25,000 from its funds and a special offering was collected in all churches in Victoria on February 14 to be used for immediate assistance of church families.

Pastor Wayne Stanley, general secretary of the Victorian Conference, says, “This offering is an initiative of the Victorian Conference. The money will go directly—and as quickly as possible—to those Adventist family and friends impacted by the fires.”

“I am sure there is not a single person in Victoria who does not feel impacted by the current situation and the devastation caused by the bushfires,” he adds. “At a time like this, we feel helpless and confused as we stand beside friends, neighbours and fellow church members who have been impacted by this disaster.

“At this stage, we are uncertain of the total extent of the damage to the friends, families and neighbours of our church family. We are aware of a number of families who have lost their homes. We are also aware of a number of friends of the Adventist Church who have lost their lives in the fires. Our hearts and prayers go out to these people and their families.”

“Please keep our community in your thoughts and prayers as many continue to battle the flames and sift through the rubble,” he says. “May God be with our firefighters: we thank them for their bravery and pray that God will protect them. Our hearts go out to those who are victims of this tragedy: may God be with them as they rebuild their broken homes, families, hopes and dreams.”

The Sanitarium Health Food Company has delivered Weet-Bix, So Good and Up&Go products to emergency centres operated by the Salvation Army and Red Cross in Whittlesea, Yea and other fire-affected areas.

The principal of Ironbark Christian School, Raelene Devlin, has reported the school is safe. The school, located in Yarrambat, was under no threat at the time of writing but is in an area in which fires have been active. The school has developed an emergency response and evacuation plan. All students, members of the staff and their families are safe, although there was some loss of property for families of the school. Sadly, two former students were killed in the fires.

All 60 Adventist schools around Australia are also taking up gold coin collections from students to assist with the bushfire relief.

Counselling services and emergency accommodation are also being provided to people affected by the fires. Pastor Richard Araya-Bishop, pastor of the Warburton church, is organising and coordinating counselling on request for anyone in the region.—AMN staff

More @ www.record.net.au

◆ The highlight of the Wallsend Pathfinder Club (NSW) Investiture ceremony was perhaps the “Directors Most Improved Achiever Award,” presented to an 11-year-old intellectually challenged boy. Before joining Pathfinders, Stephen Brock had never slept out of his own bed, cooked for himself or put up a tent. During the year, he was most diligent in abseiling, although the leaders could see some of the pain on his face. He attended all of the activities, including the conference expedition at Mt Yengo, the bike day at Glenrock Lagoon, the Myall Lakes fun camp and Clean Up Australia Day at Wallsend. On some of the hikes, they had to do some pushing but he struggled until he succeeded. It was also a farewell Investiture for leader Chris Hawkia, who is moving to Albury for 12 months. The speaker for the day was Pastor Jeff Parker, director of youth ministries for the North New South Wales Conference. —Ray Boyce

◆ The Whyalla church, SA, recently initiated a walking program with the goal of encouraging its members to take 10,000 steps per day. This is equivalent to the recommended 30 minutes of activity on most days of the week, in order to promote heath and reduce the risk of disease. Joy Penman, the church’s health director, distributed pedometers to members and encouraged them to participate in the walking program. The participants determined the number of steps they initially made in a typical week and, if necessary, gradually increased their average daily steps in the following weeks. Emphasis was given to welcoming all opportunities to walk a few more steps into life. —Whyalla News
ADRA Australia responds to Victorian bushfires

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

In response to the tragic and devastating bushfires in Victoria, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia has committed $A150,000 to fund a response in partnership with the government-nominated lead agency, the Australian Red Cross.

This continues ADRA Australia’s longstanding formal partnership with Australian Red Cross federally, and in four states and territories.

ADRA’s response is provided from its Disaster Preparedness and Response Fund. If supporters wish to help replenish this fund, donations can be made to ADRA’s Disaster Preparedness and Response Fund online or by calling 1800 242 372 in Australia.

However, ADRA Australia is unable to accept any material goods or volunteers in this response.

“This is a horrific disaster, and our hearts and prayers go out to all those affected,” said ADRA Australia’s director of emergency management, Chris Olafson. “Healing from this will take some time, as people realise what they’ve just survived and what they need to do to rebuild their lives. So, as the teams on the ground work with each community to determine what the needs are, the response and recovery effort will continue to rollout over the coming weeks, months and even years.”

ADRA Australia will continue to provide updates on its website, <www.adra.org.au>. Individuals wishing to make donations can also do so via the ADRA Australia website.

—Candice Jaques

More @ www.adra.org.au

Makeover for Cook Islands HQ

RAROTONGA, COOK ISLANDS

The Cook Islands Mission (CIM) administrative headquarters in Rarotonga has had a makeover. The recently renovated and extended offices include a large space, which can be used by other community groups.

In January, Dr Barry Oliver, president of the South Pacific Division, and Pastor Jerry Matthews, president of the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference, opened and rededicated the renovated and extended building.

“The facilities are so well presented and representative of our church that even the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands will be envious,” Pastor Matthews said.

Other denominations have already started to book the facility, which includes a kitchen to cater for community functions.

The administrative mission building also includes a communications room for preparing audio and video messages for the new rollout of the Hope Channel to the free-to-air TV network.

The Adventist Christian Bookshop now has a permanent display of books and DVDs, with Sanitarium foods also for sale.—David Gibbons

◆ In a first for Carmel Adventist College (WA), there is now a Year 7 class operating on campus. Taught by Heather Taylor, students are able to follow a modified program in a purpose-designed classroom. Traditionally, students in WA complete Year 7 as part of primary school. Students now cover the Year 7 curriculum but have the advantage of being able to access resources normally associated with secondary education. According to Steve Walker, director of Studies, “Our Year 7 students are able to get a taste of the secondary experience by choosing subject options taken by different teachers. This gives them an idea of what a full secondary education entails.” Increasing numbers of private schools in WA are adding Year 7 to their secondary offer to bring the educational experience of students into line with the rest of the country. The proposed National Curriculum also makes this a prudent move. Year 7 students have their own separate lockers and bag racks in their classroom but have access to the rest of the school, and join the other secondary students for recess, lunchtime and weekly assembly. There is already a waiting list for 2010 and the college is moving toward a two-stream intake for next year.—Gavin Williams

◆ Karalundi Aboriginal Education Centre students paid tribute to Avy Curley, one of the school’s founding members, during the funeral service held at the Meekatharra Shire Hall (WA) on February 6. Mrs Curley’s family and relatives, along with Karalundi staff and students, sang Mrs Curley’s favourite hymn, “Face to Face,” at the funeral. Pastors Eric Davey, Don Fehlberg, Ken Vogel and Karalundi chaplain Dieter Stahl officiated at the funeral service. Mrs Curley, is also known in the Murchison Aboriginal History Timeline for her role in the 1940s protest against the 6 pm curfew in

DAYS AND OFFERINGS:◆ MARCH 7—ADVENT WORLD RADIO◆ MARCH 28—ADVENTIST YOUTH OFFERING
Seven Secrets released as audio book

WARBURTON, VICTORIA

Seven Secrets for Feeling Fantastic by Dr Darren Morton is now available as an audio book on disc—with a copy of the book—at Adventist Book Centres. It is the first audio book to be produced from one of the books published by Signs Publishing Company.

Dr Morton, senior lecturer in physical education and health at Avondale College, recorded the book last year for the South Pacific Division’s Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired (“Secrets available for blind, hearing impaired,” News, June 7, 2008).

“The idea of recording Seven Secrets as an audio book really excited me,” Dr Morton says. “In today’s society, the audio medium is a really popular method for digesting information, so I was keen to have my book available in that format.

“I’m honoured to be the first cab off the ranks and it would be great to see more of the Signs publications available in an audio format.”

Although the audio book only runs a little longer than two hours, it took around 10 hours to record. Dr Morton says, “It was actually more tiring than I thought it would be. Kristin Thiele, the audio technician, was very patient with me when I made mistakes and we had to back up.”

Dr Morton hopes the audio book will help influence the lives of others in positive ways, as the book has done. “Seven Secrets is really my attempt to revitalise our Adventist health message because it has so much going for it,” he says.

“The audio book has a slightly different orientation to the book. The book was written specifically for a Christian audience, whereas the audio version has been slightly modified to appeal to the non-Christian community. The fundamentals are the same and the Dr Morton hopes the audio book will help influence the lives of others in positive ways, as the book has done. “Seven Secrets is really my attempt to revitalise our Adventist health message because it has so much going for it,” he says.

“The audio book has a slightly different orientation to the book. The book was written specifically for a Christian audience, whereas the audio version has been slightly modified to appeal to the non-Christian community. The fundamentals are the same and the Christian themes remain but I wanted to record it in such a way that Christians could offer it to their non-churchgoing friends without reserve.”

“This began as an initiative of Darren and Avondale College as a contribution to Christian Services for the Blind but they have been willing to work with us to share this much more widely, which is exciting, and we thank them for it.”

Dr Morton has also filmed a TV series for Hope Channel based on the material in the book, which will be airing in the coming months.—Adele Nash

More @ www.SevenSecretsForFeelingFantastic.com

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Mt Magnet when she, with a baby in her arms, led a march through the streets against the law prohibiting Aborigines from going out after 6 pm. She was presented the Order of Australia Medal by the Queen in 1980. Steve Piez, former Karalundi administrator, authored the book, What are you doing for us?, a history of Karalundi, titled in honour of Mrs Curley’s question that prompted the founding of the school.—Romela Sanggalan

As part of its contribution toward assisting those affected by the recent flooding, Adventist Development and Relief Agency Fiji has distributed almost 2000 packs of food items to those identified as needing assistance in the Nadroga, Nadi and Ba districts. Director Save Cavalevu says this was a small gesture to alleviate the suffering and discomfort of those families devastated by the flood.

—The Fiji Times Online

TV advertising for a free viewing of the Search videos will screen in the southern regional area of Western Australia on Golden West Network, March 7 to 15.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is launching a new television show, featuring panelists tackling subjects such as the role of women in the church, the influence of media on Christianity, and the relevance of marriage in today’s society. The series, titled “Intersection: Your Faith, Your World,” will begin airing February 6 on the church’s international satellite network, Hope TV. The programs will be available for download at <intersection.adventist.org>. The show is a series of about 100 episodes, which will run Friday nights for two years, with re-runs available at other times of the week. “The programs aim to explore issues we all face in society and as Adventist Christians in our faith community,” says Pastor Rajmund Dabrowski, executive producer and communication director for the General Conference. The program is meant to serve as a starting point for discussions in small groups, Bible studies and Sabbath school classes. The panels will consist of Adventist commentators, academics and professionals.—ANN

SEE CECIL’S LATEST ADVENTURE @ WWW.EDGEONWEB.ORG

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ADRA Australia now part of AUC

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia now sits under the corporate umbrella of the Australian Union Conference (AUC), following changes to ADRA Australia’s constitution at its annual general meeting in November, 2008. Prior to this, ADRA Australia came under the administration of the South Pacific Division (SPD).

This change reflects the growth of the ADRA network in the South Pacific and the need for ADRA Australia to be more closely aligned with the strategic direction of the AUC.

“Twenty-five years ago, when an ADRA presence was first established in the Pacific to care for work across the region, the SPD administered it from one office in Sydney,” said ADRA Australia’s former board chair, Peter Brewin.

“But ADRA has really grown and we now have offices in several Pacific countries to look after the work in each area,” he said. “This growth has enabled the original ADRA office, now ADRA Australia, to focus its work on solely representing the Australian people and government. It was incorporated in 2004, meeting Australian government regulations, and also raises funds from the Australian public and government. Since it now functions only in the Australian context, it is more appropriate for it to be administered by the Australian Union Conference, instead of the South Pacific Division,” Mr Brewin said.

This administrative move to the AUC has not altered ADRA Australia’s project work or any of its daily operations. ADRA Australia will continue to support projects overseas and in Australia.

“Being administered by the AUC hasn’t changed our purpose,” said ADRA Australia’s chief executive officer, Jonathan Duffy. “Our day-to-day work continues as usual, providing support to communities in need in the Pacific, Asia and Africa, as well as here in Australia.”

The location of ADRA Australia’s office will also remain unchanged, with the office remaining in Sydney, although the AUC is located in Melbourne.

ADRA Australia’s administrative move to the AUC has, however, required a change in the agency’s ex officio board positions and a change to how company members are appointed. ADRA Australia’s board of directors will now include Pastor Chester Stanley, AUC president, as board chair; Pastor Ken Vogel, AUC company secretary; and Kingsley Wood, AUC chief financial officer, as board members. Company members will be appointed by the executive committee of the AUC, rather than the executive committee of the SPD.

In response to the growth of ADRA in the South Pacific, the SPD is establishing an ADRA South Pacific Regional Office to support country offices in the region. ADRA South Pacific will not operate or fund projects but will provide country offices, such as ADRA Australia, with support in governance, training, capacity building, licensing and support to meet accreditation criteria. ADRA South Pacific, to be managed by Greg Young, will not be incorporated nor will it have deductible gift recipient status, which means it will not be able to provide tax-deductibility. ADRA supporters wanting tax-deductibility on donations should continue to donate through the ADRA office in their country.

ADRA Australia is one of six ADRA offices in the South Pacific region. ADRA also has offices in New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji. Each ADRA office implements projects within its own country, with ADRA Australia and ADRA New Zealand also supporting projects in developing countries.—Candice Jaques

More @ www.adra.org.au

◆ Underprivileged school children in Albania are learning the official Albanian language, polishing up their reading and writing skills at an educational centre geared specifically toward the nomadic Roma (gypsy) tribe. The centre, established by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), aims to help Roma children from the nearby squatter community successfully transition into the public school system. This was a major achievement for ADRA, since this is the first school in Albania designed specifically for Roma, said Lamar Phillips, country director for ADRA Albania. The ongoing social exclusion of Roma communities across Albania is creating significant gaps and deficiencies in education for thousands of children. —Nadia McGill/ANN

◆ The Vatican has released a statement stating that Charles Darwin was on the right track when he claimed that humans descended from apes. A leading official declared Darwin’s theory of evolution was compatible with Christian faith, and could even be traced to St Augustine and St Thomas Aquinas. The Vatican also dealt the final blow to speculation that Pope Benedict XVI might be prepared to endorse the theory of Intelligent Design, whose advocates credit a “higher power” for the complexities of life.—The Times

◆ Geneva’s International Museum of the Reformation this year celebrates the 500th anniversary of John Calvin’s birth with “A Day in the Life of John Calvin”—a temporary exhibition, which features contextualised 3-D simulations of the reformer’s life. Featuring Calvin in his familiar surroundings and activities will help foster a better understanding of his life and actions, in the manner of a documentary film. Several 16th century engravings, objects and books will also be featured in the exhibition. The museum’s world-class exhibit falls during 2009, the Year of Faith Tourism, designated by the World Religious Travel Association (WRTA) as a year set aside for the promotion of, and participation in, travel by people of faith.—ASSIST news service
Two ordained in NZPUC

MANUKAU, NEW ZEALAND

Two pastors were recently ordained in the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC).

Pastor Russell Puna was ordained on January 29 on the island of Aitutaki, Cook Islands. His wife, Louisa, and son, Russell Jnr, were by his side to celebrate the event.

Pastor Puna graduated from Fulton College in 2002 with a diploma in Theology, then graduated from Pacific Adventist University in 2003 with a BA in Theology. Pastor Puna worked as an intern with Pastor Teina Taivairanga in Arorangi and Titikaveka for two years, and has worked in the Cook Islands, ministering to the three churches on Aitutaki, for the past three years.

He is now working as the youth director for the Cook Islands Mission (CIM).

The Avarua Adventist church on Rarotonga hosted the January 31 ordination of Pastor Taiti Toroma. Pastor Toroma's wife, Rufina, and their children stood by his side during the service.

Since completing his internship on Rarotonga, Pastor Toroma has been ministering to the outer Cook Islands and replaced Pastor Puna on Aitutaki this year.

Pastor Toroma graduated from Fulton College in 1999, and has since worked for churches in the CIM. He worked as an intern at the Arorangi Adventist church under the guidance of the late Pastor Uma Katu. He later returned to minister to the islands of Manihiki and Rakahanga for three years, before being called to look after work on the islands of Atiu, Mauke and Mangaia. The past two years of his ministry have been spent on Mauke island.

Pastor Toroma and his wife have six children and two grandchildren.

Dr Barry Oliver, president of the South Pacific Division; Pastor Jerry Matthews, president of the NZPUC; Peter Lynch, secretary-treasurer for the NZPUC; and Pastor Eliu Eliu, president of CIM, officiated at the two ordination services.

Dr Oliver delivered the sermon for both services. He challenged each pastor to be a spiritual leader in the Adventist Church.

“The church has the right to expect its pastors to be deeply spiritual and live in a close relationship with God,” he said. He also emphasised that ministry is a shared function, saying, “All disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ are called to the ministry of reconciliation, as we’re told in 2 Corinthians 5: 17, 18. The privilege and responsibility of the pastor is to equip the people of God for their ministry functions and to share in the joy of service.”

He prayed for God’s special blessing on the wives and families of each of the pastors. — Jerry Matthews/Eliu Eliu/Adele Nash

First camp-meeting in three years for Tasmania

DEVONPORT, TASMANIA

The Tasmanian Conference has met for a conference camp-meeting for the first time after three years.

The 10-day camp-meeting was held from January 16 to 25 at the Pine Springs Campground in East Devonport for the first time since being closed due to occupational health and safety issues.

Over the past three years, church leadership and members worked to upgrade the area to make it more suitable for camping, as well as user-friendly for disabled people. During this period, church members met over weekends for “mini-camps” and “retreats.”

According to Pastor Wayne Boehm, president of the Tasmanian Conference, regional camp-meetings are vital in creating a “sense of unity . . . and fellowship that [church members] in smaller churches don’t get throughout the year.”

The theme of the camp was “Fuel the flame,” designed to “promote the spiritual disciplines that bring us into connection with God, Who ignites the flame to be His faithful workmen.” Guest speakers for the camp-meeting included Pastor Ben Maxson and Alden Ho.— Kaleb McKay/Melody Tan

More @ http://tas.adventist.org.au

Pastor Taiti Toroma and his wife, Rufina (centre), with church officials following his ordination.

Leading discussion at the Tasmanian camp-meeting.

Young people from around Tasmania at the camp-meeting.
Finding Christ in a Muslim country

BY SHELLEY NOLAN FRESLAND

Our world continues to struggle for freedom of religion. In the past year, two Adventist World Radio (AWR) producers nearly lost their lives because they were discovered making programs that are heard in Muslim areas. Many listeners to “The Voice of Hope” broadcasts suffer in various ways because of their decision to heed God’s call.

But the gospel continues to be heard by people in these difficult areas because of the reach of AWR. Following is a series of email messages we received from one listener. It illustrates not only the harsh reality faced by those who wish to follow Jesus but also the inspiring testimony of a changed life.

First message:
Thank you so much. I really love AWR and its programs. To introduce myself, my name is Amin. I am a boy of 19 years old and I am from [a Muslim country]. Please, will you help me to learn more about Christianity and Jesus Christ? I’m eager to know about this religion and this radio.

Second message—one month later:
How delightful it was to receive your first letter. A great joy filled my heart. But I have some questions.
1. How does Christianity view the other religions?
2. Can a non-Christian become Christian?
3. If yes, what conditions fulfil this conversion?
4. How do I know I am “saved”?
5. What will happen to me if I don’t “receive Christ”?
6. Is it true that all I have to do is “believe”?
7. How do I pray?
8. Can you explain Matthew 10:34-36 and Corinthians 6:3?
May I have a Bible (both of them: Old and New Testament)? I do hope my Bible makes my heart come alive again and my prayers bring light to me.

The message of Jesus Christ is my only hope. I have sincerely trusted in His Word and I am following Him. Really, He was right when He said, “I’m the light of the world. I’m the way, the truth and the life.”
I wish I could find someone to share the Word of God with, and Jesus’ salvation and prayers, because I don’t want to be alone with Satan, especially as I have just begun my new life.

Next message—two months later:
Every day, they abuse me and say, “Let the Christians feed you if they can,” and start laughing. My father tore up my Christian books and said, “If I see one book like those between your hands, I will bury you alive.”

I know that Jesus Christ said, “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven.”

But what should I do if my family kicks me out? Where to go? What to do? Don’t tell me to pray or to read the Bible. I do that every day. I can’t receive any letters now.

Third message—two months later:
I’m very happy to say I have received Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour. My life has just begun.
As a teenager, I wanted to be happy. I wanted meaning in life. I was asking myself, “Who am I? Where am I going?” But when I started to know Jesus Christ, my life has changed.
I know Satan hates me now more than ever but I also know that Jesus is alive to help me live a new life that is pleasing to God. Now I’m a new Christian. Every day, I read the Bible (using the internet). I read some stories and miracles of the Lord. I’m learning more truths. The Word of God makes my heart come alive again and my prayers bring light to me.

AWR offering—next week, March 7

AWR’s ministry is unique in several ways:
• Programs are created in 75 languages by native speakers from each country.
• Several thousand hours of programs are broadcast each day, covering the majority of the world.
• Programs can be heard on AM, FM and shortwave radio, as well as internet podcasts and satellite transmissions.
• Radio can reach more people, for less money, than nearly any other form of outreach.
• Broadcasts bypass political and geographic barriers, bringing the message of hope to people who are otherwise inaccessible.
Matthew: More than a storyteller

BY CLIVE NASH

Most of us like stories and Matthew was a great storyteller. Think, for example, of his account of Jesus’ birth and the wise men; Satan tempting Jesus; calming the storm; the four miracles in Matthew 9—a haemorrhaging woman, the ruler’s daughter resurrected, two blind men healed, and a mute demon-possessed man restored; the events of Chapter 14—the tragic beheading of John the Baptist, feeding the 5000, then Jesus walking on water, inspiring Peter to try it as well. There are many other stories but not least is the account of the final events in the earthly life of Jesus. All of these make the Gospel of Matthew memorable reading.

When we look a little closer, we see that Matthew was not just a good narrator but a craftsman, too. A few things stand out.

First, he seems to have been writing to Jews to convince them that Jesus was the Messiah. He has more Old Testament quotations than Mark, Luke or John. The Jews loved the Old Testament, especially the five books of Moses known as “the Torah.”

Second, we notice that Matthew builds his gospel around five great talks of Jesus. We probably know the first of these best. It is Chapters 5 to 7 and we call it “The Sermon on the Mount.” The other four “sermons” are Chapters 10, 13, 18, and 24 to 25. At the end of each of these talks, Matthew writes, “When Jesus had finished saying these things” (see, for example, Matthew 7:28). This gives us a clue as to how he is putting it all together.

It seems Matthew was saying, in effect, to his Jewish readers, “Here is a new five-section Torah to flesh out the old; here is a new Moses—one greater than Moses and it is Jesus, the long-promised Messiah.”

Third, Matthew’s Gospel seems to be written for everyone: we are his audience; the whole world is his target. It is Matthew, remember, who writes, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19*).

And it is interesting that this Jew—known in Mark’s and Luke’s Gospels as Levi—should distance himself from Judaism and the synagogue by saying, “And [Jesus] went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel” (4:23). He does not write “our synagogues” but “their,” as if to say, “OK, I am a Jew but I am not like those Jews who refused to accept Jesus as the Messiah. They have stayed in their synagogues with their old ideas. I am now a Christian.”

The next time you read Matthew, enjoy its Jewishness but also say, “He wrote this for me.” Especially claim the promise of the closing words, “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). R

*All Bible quotations are from the English Standard Version.
Of music, grace and “being moved”

BY KANDUS THORP

Hope Channel recently completed production of 222 programs during Project Hope Australia, a number of which are now showing on Hope Channel. Among these were 11 new episodes for the ongoing series, My Story, My Song, recorded in Queensland. In one episode for this series, we interviewed Australian musician Geoff Bullock, author of many well-known praise and worship songs including “The Power of Your Love.” The following are excerpts from that interview.

As I’ve travelled around the world, I have heard your music sung in Brazil in the Portuguese language, in Germany in German, and, of course, in South Africa, the Philippines, and all over. So to me, it’s such a blessing to see someone like you—you’ve just done your best right here in Australia but God has taken what you’ve done all around the world.

It’s a funny feeling. I feel like a father who has children . . . children who have left home and they’ve become successful, so for me, I’m just Geoff Bullock, a normal Aussie bloke. It’s the songs that have become well-known and the work has been how God has used the songs.

I’d love to talk to you about your process of songwriting.

Songwriting is a funny thing for me because sometimes it’s hard work. I want the lyrics to be right, I don’t want them to be full of cliches. I want them to communicate something and say something in a phrase that may take a paragraph to understand. I’m trying to get those images across.

So you work really hard first on those words, and then you set them to music?
I can—but other times it all just arrives.

So have you ever been preparing for church and you just needed one more song?
“The Power of Your Love” was written on a Saturday night. We went to a friend’s place for dinner. There was a piano in the house, so I simply sat down and the first line was literally what I was feeling: “Lord, I come to You.” By dinner, I’d written the first verse, and I went home and thought I needed a second verse. The second verse was quite freaky because I just sat there and wrote it out—just wrote it out! It would have taken 30 or 40 seconds. The next morning, I go to church and we did it for worship.

And “The Power of Your Love” has been one of your signature songs.
I think it would be my signature song. It’s the song I think most people know, even if they don’t know who I am. It has certainly travelled around the world.

I would like to explore your walk with Christ. So how has your spiritual journey been?
It’s been up and down. There have been some wonderful high notes. There have been some sad moments. I suffer from deep and dark depression at times. And at other times, my life sort of zips along in an almost uncontrolled manner, and that’s called “bipolar disorder.” It’s been a struggle. Those are dark times. And there are times when you’re almost hoping for hope. You believe there is hope there but you’re just hoping there will be a day when the cloud lifts.

So obviously, in those times, creatively, there’s been a torrent of material and when I come out of it, and when God leads me out or calls me out or—a better way of saying it—“walks with me out” because He’s there with me in the darkness. In those times, I
reflect back and really am amazed at the miracle of how my life has risen.

So you actually do a lot of writing in the times you are experiencing depression?

Yes, a tremendous amount of writing but more so in poetry. I’ve had my experience in these and my prayers for hope. So a lot of writing. I found that my songs began to flow as I started to come out, as I have expressed the rising of a dawn, the rising of hope, the rising of realising that the season has changed.

It is remarkable that God takes people where they are and walks with them.

I love that!

Absolutely. Sometimes, I think we live a Christianity that’s guilt tinged: we judge ourselves harshly, we judge ourselves by what we do rather than what God has done. And so sometimes, we may look at depression in our lives and not understand it’s just a sickness. God has not left us—there is hope. As He walks with us, giving us keys and tools, there is a way through.

And it’s OK to get help for depression.

Yes, absolutely. Obviously, I seek counsellors and medication—and, of course, that is OK.

You wrote a book that was published in 1998 called Hands of Grace. I thought it was so powerful that you say you didn’t fall from grace but that . . . ?

I fell into grace. Grace is there because we’re flawed. There is nothing we can do that can make God love us more. And there is nothing we can do that makes God love us less. In fact, not only do we “fall into grace” but we are always “in” grace because in essence, it’s grace that takes that flaw in us and makes us kids of the kingdom.

So why are you rewriting the lyrics to some of your songs?

Because I think I’ve missed a miracle. I wrote in the “Power of Your Love,” “Lord, I come to You,” and so much about Christianity, about prayers, our praise and worship is about us going to God: “Lord, I come to You; Lord, I’m coming to ask you to do something,” and that’s not the miracle.

The miracle is “Lord, You come to me”—the central message of the Christmas story is God coming out of the eternity of time and space, and shrinking Himself down to join the human race. God comes unannounced to us to show us grace and love.

So we worked a third verse of the “Power of Your Love” into: “Lord, You come to me.” And instead of saying “Lord, hold me close,” again turning around to “You hold me close” and “You let Your love surround me.”

Do your songs mean more to you now?

Absolutely. I suppose now I’ve reworked some of them and rewritten them as if I were writing them now, they say some-thing to me of my journey. In the midst of darkness; in the midst of high times and low times; in the midst of fears and anxiety; He comes to me, He holds me close and He loves me! And I see the songs still working in my life.

I read an article published in an Australian journal some years ago entitled “Beyond Self-centred Worship,” where you wrote “We’ve made worship self-centred instead of God-centred. It’s as if we’re worshipping worship instead of God.”

We’re seeing a cultural revolution based on music and worship songs, and we are seeing that churches have been built on the standard, quality and proficiency of their music and singers.

What worries me about this is that people are now going to church because the music is good and, if the music isn’t good, they’ll change churches and go somewhere else.

What has happened to the church? Have we forgotten why we’re there?

I think it’s sad that when we use the word “worship,” people now immediately think of music. Worship is our response to the life of Jesus Christ: how He touched broken people and came into people’s lives. So worship is a lifestyle; worship is a choice.

So worship is far more than just music.

I would go as far as saying worship isn’t music. I would say worship is the meeting of us and Christ. Worship is this relationship God is having with us, this God—as we’ve been saying—Who comes to us.

What would you say to aspiring young songwriters today?

Be moved by the plight of humanity. Be moved by those who don’t have a voice. . . . Be moved by issues that we should as God-fearing, God-loving and God-who-loves-us people.

“Be moved by the plight of humanity. Be moved by those who don’t have a voice. . . . Be moved by issues that we should as God-fearing, God-loving and God-who-loves-us people.”

What’s your greatest wish for the future, personally?

I think I would like to strive less and be more assured of what I’ve been saying: that this is Christ’s work in me. I’d also like to be stretched so I don’t dismiss the breadth and the depth and the height that is Christ, so I don’t, in my thinking, contain it to what I want to know—and write songs that mirror that. R

Kandus Thorp is Hope Channel’s associate director for international development, executive producer for Project Hope, and producer and host for My Story, My Song.

My Story, My Song is a Hope Channel production, which profiles the stories and music of talented Christian musicians from around the world. The program takes in a range of musical genres from classical to indie, and from violin to steel pans. The thread tying these diverse musicians together is their love for Christ and the inspiring testimonies they share of the way He has blessed them through music.

For more, visit <www.MyStoryMySong.org>.
Visiting Coonabarabran

BY PEEMPAHN HENLEY

We had a big week. I had a final exam and, the following day, we hiked through the Warrumbungles. So we were so glad Sabbath was approaching. When we drove to Coonabarabran on the way to Warrumbungle National Park, we both spotted the ADRA Op Shop, and dropped in to say hello and get directions to the church.

We met Matt and Lisa Revelly (pictured with their family) in the shop. Matt volunteers there two days a week and Lisa, one day a week. Matt is a deacon and Lisa is doing numerous jobs, including bulletin coordinator and treasurer. They live in a smaller nearby town, and by the smiles on their faces, we could tell they enjoy serving the Lord!

At Sabbath school, our young son, Joshua, felt at home with two girls. He played with them like he used to with his friends at Fox Valley church.

Once a month, the members have a potluck lunch together, followed by everyone visiting the local nursing home. There, a group plays music to the residents.

Over lunch, we met Roy Poyser, who shared the history of the church with us. Roy is a bee farmer, who has been living in Coonabarabran for 50 years. At the beginning of the church in the town, there were only two Adventist families. One family donated a piece of land to the church and they started a church school.

After five years, the school couldn't operate anymore so the building was moved into town and used as a church. The building was renovated in 1974, and dedicated in 1975. The church hall, though, came from the old campground in Eraring. The building was sawn in five pieces, and Roy, with the help of Ian Watson, put them back together.

Thank you to Ian's wife, Barbara, who shared with us about the church history, too. She knows my husband Jared’s parents, so we again found some family friends.

Coonabarabran church has recently formed a mothers group to reach out to the community. They meet at 11 am on Thursdays. So far, they have three mothers and pray more will join the group. It would be nice to have more young families coming to church.

It was so lovely to share the Sabbath and Sabbath lunch with the church members at Coonabarabran. When we were far away from family—and “homeless”—we found a home right here in this church.

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Peempahn Henley is from Sydney but is currently travelling around Australia with her family.
Growing in the light

ERICK VAN SCHOONHOVEN, VIC

I was concerned when I read “New light?” (Letters, January 31). It appears the writer thinks “new light”—or new understanding—destroys the pillars of faith but nothing could be further from the truth. On the contrary, it enhances the perception of a doctrine, making it more beautiful and valuable.

In the introduction to the exposition of the Fundamental Beliefs of the Adventist Church, Seventh-day Adventists Believe, the authors state, “We have not written this book to serve as a creed—a statement of beliefs set in doctrinal concrete. Adventists have but one creed: the Bible and the Bible only.” This statement quite clearly allows for further discoveries.

Jesus Himself told His disciples, “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear” (John 16:12, NIV). Then He added that the Holy Spirit would “guide you into all truth” (verse 13).

No doubt, this would take place when the Holy Spirit considered the people ready for more and new light. In other words, if there was no new light, we would have to conclude that the Holy Spirit failed in His responsibility. Jesus’ statement guarantees that new truths would come. The doctrinal pillars will remain but a better understanding of them is guaranteed as time goes on.

In Ellen White’s time, there were some who thought new light would destroy the pillars. She wrote, “There is no excuse for anyone taking the position that all our expositions of Scripture are without error. Because certain doctrines have been held as truth for many years by our people is not proof our ideas are infallible” (Counsels to Writers and Editors, page 35). Indeed, there are a number of examples of beliefs held by early Adventist pioneers that have changed and grown over time, because of greater understanding and “new light.”

Keep it pure

ROSITA FROST, VIC

I agree with “Believe or leave?” (Letters, January 31), where ministers in our church are preaching against a six-day Creation.

The Bible has outlived any book in history and this is a miracle, knowing how it has been attacked and burned. Some other churches teach evolution as if it is the only option. But the theories of evolution led to the slaughter of indigenous people, Hitler’s cruelty during World War II and so much more. Error leads to fanaticism and cruelty. Let’s keep our wonderful teachings pure.

Do we surround ourselves in grey to save a few bucks and demand less of ourselves?

Plant or grow?

JEAN TASKER, NSW

I read “Church funds new church plants” (News, January 24) with interest and some concern. Instead of “planting” a second church in areas where churches already exist, would it not be more productive to assist and maintain already existing small churches, where there are under-utilised church facilities?

In at least some of these small churches, there are prospects for growth, if only the personnel were allocated to assist the few faithful members in their efforts to witness for our Lord.

Yes, it’s good to plant new churches but please don’t neglect those that already exist.

Thou shalt not burn

CHRIS BROOKS, NSW

As an Adventist of a few years now and a career musician of about 10 years, I am astounded at the number of Adventists I’ve spoken to who believe in the validity and importance of the Ten Commandments, yet freely admit to illegally downloading music, movies and other intellectual property.

I have family members and friends who have collections of burnt CDs, DVDs of the latest movies and iPods full of MP3s downloaded with peer-to-peer software. All of this denies the creators and copyright holders the right to an income from their creations.

Music and art are the creations of our God, and He calls many to do it for His glory. While the entertainment industry has countless talented people who are far from having a relationship with God despite having received their talent from Him, are we in a position to decide who makes a living from their craft and who does not?

Many illegal downloaders will justify their choices by pointing out flaws in the entertainment business, greed of the record label moguls and the riches of those at the top of the pile to support their argument. At best, these justifications are self-serving excuses to steal from the up-and-coming songwriters, musicians and performers who aren’t earning large incomes. At their worst, they represent a conscious view that “someone else can pay for it.”

Do we as a church teach that issues like this are black and white? Or do we surround ourselves in grey to save a few bucks and demand less of ourselves?

More loving

DAVID DOWNS, VIC

My wife and I have been attending an Adventist church since 2001, and were greatly blessed and encouraged with our decision to become part of God’s family in joining the church last April. Our life-changing decision has given us zeal and eagerness for the things of our Lord.

However, we feel a sadness as we read long-running sagas of brothers and sisters biting at each other in the “Letters” page of RECORD. Could we please show more love to each other and write articles of encouragement, avoiding so many of these negatives?

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.

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**Anniversaries**

**Falcke, Len and Edith (nee Freeman),** were married 21.12.1948 in Moonee Ponds church, Vic, where Edith began attending as a year 8 old student. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 8.11.08. They were married in the Mildura Lawn Cemetery. On 19.7.1958, he married Joyce Chandler known to his many friends, was laid to rest in the Mildura Lawn Cemetery. On 29.9.08 at Middleton Beach.

**Rusterholz, Henry and Hanni, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends on 23.3.08 in Casino, NSW. Most of their children and spouses were present, and a number of grandchildren, too.**

**Weddings**

**Aston—Hill.** Garry John Ashton, son of John and Margaret Ashton (Sydney, NSW), and Sheree Lynne Hill, daughter of Cyril and Pam Hill (Cowra), were married on 26.10.08 on Catherine Hill Bay Beach.

**Faasif—Oaklands.** Ezekiel Roy Faasif, son of Mereavai and Elekana Faasif (Chermids, Qld), and Lindell Cherrie Oaklands, daughter of Pastor Gordon and Christine Oaklands (Ipswich), were married 1.2.09 at Somerset Dam, Adventist Youth Camp.

**GREY NOMADS CAMP**

Enjoy a Big Camp spiritual experience geared specifically for the Grey Nomads. Special music is planned. Fr Steve Casimy guest speaker from the Greater New York Conference will lead in the evening devotional meetings.

**Place:** NNSW Campgrounds, Stuarts Point.
**Date:** 22 – 31 May 2009.

The ABC shop will be open and will also carry Sanitarium products plus basic food items.

**Additional cabin accommodation is available at nearby public camping area.**

Stuarts Point – (02) 6569 0166
Grassy Head – (02) 6569 0742
Scotts Head – 1800 821 545

Application forms can be emailed or posted. Contact Debbie Head on (02) 4951 8088 or email debbiehead@adventist.org.au

**Martin—Wilson.** Ben Roy Martin, son of Geoff and Jeanette Martin (Burleigh Waters, Qld), and Kylie Michelle Wilson, daughter of Paul Wilson (Graham, Vic) and Kerrie Davies (Queensland), were married on 6.12.08 in the Alpine Chapel, Mt Buller, Vic.

**WILLIS—BAIRSTOW.** Kenneth Lincoln Willis, son of David and Yonnie Willis (Narembeen, WA), and Tasha Nicole Bairstow, daughter of Matthew and Lo retta Bairstow (Albany), were married on 29.9.08 at Middleton Beach.

**Obituaries**

**Ferry, Colin Kelvin, born 4.4.1935 at Mildura, Vic; died 19.1.09 at home, surrounded by his family. Mick, as he was known to his many friends, was laid to rest in the Mildura Lawn Cemetery. On 19.7.1958, he married Joyce Chandler at the Mildura Methodist church. He is survived by his wife; his children, Kristine, Narelle, Naomi, Kelvin and Venise; and his sons-in-law, Craig Urland, Geoff Lambert, Daniel Forbes-Wilson, Peter Lang; and daughter-in-law, Kelly; and his 12 grandchildren (all of Mildura). Mick was an accomplished guitarist and along with other local singers, occupied time singing every Sunday for a number of years on Radio 3MA Mildura. At his graveside service, mourners reminisced as a CD was played of Burk singing a duet “When I get to glory.” The funeral service celebrated Mick’s life and shared the spiritual promises of the second coming of Jesus and the Resurrection.**

**Hunter, Wilfred Douglas, died 24.12.08 in the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane, Qld. He is survived by his wife, Joan; his sons, Graham, Peter, Lloyd and Paul, and their wives; and his nine grandchildren. Remembered as a devoted husband, and a doting and involved grandfather, he is sadly, missed by his family and friends. Wilfred was buried at the Hemmant Lawn Cemetery.**

**Philippa Lewis, Alice Edith (nee Patrick), born 16.3.1927 at Cooranbong, NSW; died 11.12.08 in the Wyong Hospital. She is survived by her children, Arthur, Julie (Mrs Alan Cooper), Carolyn and Barry; her eight grandchildren; and her four great-grandchildren. Alice cherished her grandchildren and her huge family. Alice was predeceased by her beloved husband, a dedicated member of churches such as Geoglo and Dora Creek, and an unselfish neighbour and friend who shared the produce of her garden, her passion for poetry and, above all, her love for God. She now awaits the Life-giver’s call in the Avondale Cemetery.**

**Max Hatton, Arthur Patrick Surridge, Hilda Joyce, born 22.3.1921 at Coburg, Vic; died 2.9.08 in Brisbane, Qld. Joyce was predeceased by her first husband, Allan Blank and Les Ballard. She is survived by her husband, Ern Surridge; and her children, Peter Blank, John and Elizabeth Blank, Tony and Roxanne Blank, Bob Ballard, Ken and Barbara Ballard, and Marilyn and Ray Dickson. She had a large number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren who brought her much joy. Her faith was strong and she was confident that her God had always walked with her. We look forward to**

**Positions vacant**

**Project Manager—Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Solomon Islands**

seeks applications from qualified development professionals for a Project Manager role. The successful applicant will manage the Solomon Islands NGO Partnership Agreement (SINPA) project for ADRA Solomon Islands. The role is to manage a highly motivated team to work efficiently and effectively toward project objectives, where they will be responsible for the management, technical direction and skill development of the team. In addition, they will have the responsibility of building open relationships with SINPA partners, as a basis for increasing learning and improving SINPA outcomes. The position requires a commitment to ADRA and the Seventh-day Adventist Church, relevant academic qualifications and experience in managing community programs in the development context. Strong communication skills and an ability to work with a minimum of access to high-tech facilities is a necessity. For further information, please visit the “careers at ADRA” website at <www.adra.org.au/ getinvolved/careers.htm> or contact David Cram at <dram@adra.org.au>. Applications, including a letter addressing the key selection criteria and CV should be sent to the Country Director, David Cram. Applications close March 6, 2009.

**Receptionist/Administrative professional—Victorian Conference Youth Ministries (Vicyouth)**

is seeking a full-time receptionist/administrative professional to provide a welcoming environment for supporters and staff, care for incoming and outgoing communication, and provide administrative support to the Youth Department. This position requires excellent telephone skills, strong organizational ability, efficiency, initiative and the ability to provide quality customer service skills. Applicants should be competent in MS Word, MS Excel, MS Access and be able to work under pressure. Having experience in office management, event management, familiarity with Adobe Photoshop, and experience in Pathfinders and Youth Ministry would be a decided advantage. For a copy of the job description or to apply, contact Moe Ioane on (03) 9264 7746 or email <moeioane@adventist.org.au>, fax (03) 9264 7743 or post to: Director of Vicyouth, PO Box 215 Nunawading, Vic 3131. Applications close March 31, 2009.

**Volunteers!**

**English teacher—Mispaq Adventist High School, Tonga, requires a teacher for Forms 1 to 5 (equivalent of Years 7 to 11). Please contact Siosala Vaihola <svaihola@adventist.org.to>.

**Yacht owners—Pacific Yacht Ministries,** is seeking sailing vessels and owner captains for its 2009 season in Vanuatu. Vessels should be a minimum of 32 feet in length if monohulls, and should be registered and equipped for international passage. Evidence of hull and rigging surveys within the past two years should be available. Captains should have blue water experience, and preferably offshore skipper qualifications, and should be available between June and November 2009 for a period of at least one month. Work will include health team and patient transportation, as well as transportation of equipment and supplies, and will involve having several people living onboard for extended periods of time.

Email: <volunteers@adventist.org.au>.

For more positions, check the web on <www.adventistvolunteers.org>.

Tel: +61 2 9847 3275

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seeks applications from qualified development professionals for a Project Manager role. The successful applicant will manage the Solomon Islands NGO Partnership Agreement (SINPA) project for ADRA Solomon Islands. The role is to manage a highly motivated team to work efficiently and effectively toward project objectives, where they will be responsible for the management, technical direction and skill development of the team. In addition, they will have the responsibility of building open relationships with SINPA partners, as a basis for increasing learning and improving SINPA outcomes. The position requires a commitment to ADRA and the Seventh-day Adventist Church, relevant academic qualifications and experience in managing community programs in the development context. Strong communication skills and an ability to work with a minimum of access to high-tech facilities is a necessity. For further information, please visit the “careers at ADRA” website at <www.adra.org.au/getinvolved/careers.htm> or contact David Cram at <dram@adra.org.au>. Applications, including a letter addressing the key selection criteria and CV should be sent to the Country Director, David Cram. Applications close March 6, 2009.

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**For more employment options go to hr.adventistconnect.org**
Waters, Winifred Madge (nee Watson), born 4.7.1935 at Koonuya, Tas; died 16.1.09 at Nambour, Qld. Ernie was baptised in 1964 by Pastor R. Abbott. On 30.10.1994, he married Muriel Argent at Moe, Vic. He is survived by his five children, Lois, Roslyn, John, Bronwyn and Malcolm; her grandchildren; her great-grandchildren; and her sister, Catherine. She now sleeps in the certain hope of the Resurrection morning. 

Thomas, Ernie Thomas August, born 4.7.1935 at Koonuya, Tas; died 16.1.09 at Nambour, Qld. Ernie was baptised in 1964 by Pastor R. Abbott. On 30.10.1994, he married Muriel Argent at Moe, Vic. He is survived by his five children, Lois, Roslyn, John, Bronwyn and Malcolm; her grandchildren; her great-grandchildren; and her sister, Catherine. She now sleeps in the certain hope of the Resurrection morning. 

Wolfe, Shirley Annie (nee Duncombe), born 10.9.1926 at Swansea, Tas; died 24.1.09 in the nursing home at the Adventist Retirement Village, Qld. She is survived by her five children, Lois, Roslyn, John, Bronwyn and Malcolm; her grandchildren; her great-grandchildren; and her sister, Catherine. She now sleeps in the certain hope of the Resurrection morning. 

Graham Allen
Travelling where missionaries cannot go. No walls. No borders. No limits.

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