

# RECORD

May 30, 2009

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*The South Pacific Division's Children's Ministries department will soon be releasing a flip chart to be used for children's Sabbath-school classes.*

## Pacific kids to "flip" for Jesus

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

**T**he South Pacific Division's (SPD) Children's Ministries department has begun designing A3-sized flip charts to be used as visual tools for Sabbath-school classes in Pacific nations. It is planned that at least 3000 of the "Flip for Jesus" charts will be given to Sabbath-school classes in the Pacific for free.

According to Julie Weslake, director of Children's Ministries for the SPD, Sabbath-school classes in the Pacific have little or no resources because they cannot afford them. "I have seen firsthand the effect visual resources have on Pacific children, where they don't only have to listen to stories told by the

Sabbath school teacher," says Mrs Weslake.

Mrs Weslake emphasised that the flip charts do not replace any teaching guide but "are intended to be used in conjunction with and to encourage their use."

The flip charts have been designed with children aged between three and five years in mind and match the Pacific Gracelink kindergarten syllabus. Run on a two-year cycle, each page features a weekly message, a Bible picture and a memory verse.

The 13th Sabbath project offering in December this year will fund the project, with final prints expected to be ready in mid-2010.—*Melody Tan/Aveline Hernandez*



## CCAS raises money to help devils



I don't have all my answers yet but it has been good for my spiritual journey.

# Project Wednesday

**A**S I WRITE, IT IS WEDNESDAY. THE middle of most people's working week, it is the day when you have already battled through half a week and are farthest from the relaxation the weekend promises. There's nothing special about Wednesday—absolutely nothing—except it's the day I have chosen to conduct my experiment.

The other reason I chose Wednesday is I usually have nothing planned for Wednesdays. Nothing that requires great physical exertion, no weekly events to attend, no-one I particularly need to see. Except myself—and God, especially God.

In all my years attending church, I've never heard a sermon on it. We know the term—maybe even what is involved—but we never spend much time on the concept of fasting. If you haven't encountered the term before, fasting is to go without all or certain kinds of food or drink for a certain period of time, especially as a religious observance.

Before you turn the page, let me give you some simple biblical and experiential evidence.

Fasting precedes some amazing events in the Bible. We encounter it in some of the earliest stories we learn as children. The Jews fasted without food or water for three days before Queen Esther confronted the King, and all were saved from Haman's noose (see Esther 4). When Jonah finally delivered his message (I am sure he fasted in the whale's belly) the people of Ninevah confessed and fasted, so God spared them

(see Jonah 3:6-10). Even evil king Ahab fasted and God delayed his punishment (see 1 Kings 21:27-29).

And this is not just an Old Testament concept. Jesus fasted before embarking on His ministry. The early church began with fasting and prayer. There are plenty of fasting references in the Bible (check out a concordance some time) and many of the references are powerful ones.

Jesus warns us to be wary of pharisaical fasting: "When you fast, do not look sombre as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. . . . But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you" (Matthew 6:16-18, NIV). He does not discourage fasting but He does want to ensure we do it for the right reasons.

While sometimes worthwhile, cutting something out of our lives is not necessarily spiritual in itself. In the Bible, fasting is always accompanied by prayer and humility. The act of fasting is humbling, as we rely on God for sustenance rather than looking to food, TV or whatever it is we are going without for comfort. Today, God's voice seems increasingly drowned out by the overpowering noise of the world, which preaches self-advancement and instant gratification, not humility and love. Fasting is a focusing process that makes us more receptive to God's voice.

Meanwhile, back to my experiment. I had some important decisions to make and I needed God's help. I toyed with the idea of fasting but kept making excuses (it would slow my already slow metabolism; I wouldn't function properly at work or anywhere). After sharing my problems with a friend, they asked me if I had tried fasting. It seemed like a sign and I had nothing to lose, so I decided to give it a go.

I simply began—but decided to do a little research as I went, to understand what I was doing. I found a book online by Lester Roloff called *Food, Fasting and Faith*. The book suggests practical tips for fasting, such as taking the time you're usually eating to study the Bible and donating your lunch money to mission work.

I start the day with a prayer for strength, to fast cheerfully and to walk my day with God. On Wednesdays, I read the Bible much more than usual. I am more productive at work, as I shut out pointless distractions. And the blessings flow through the week. My devotional life has been a lot easier and stronger since I started. I keep a prayer journal, which I write in every Wednesday, to keep track of answers or blessings I receive that day.

It is hard but surprisingly easy. I don't have all my answers yet but it has been good for my spiritual journey. Give it a go. Experiment. You might be surprised.

Jarrod Stackelroth



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Editorial assistant Adele Nash  
Editorial assistant Jarrod Stackelroth  
Copyeditor Talitha Simmons  
Editorial secretary Kristel Rae  
Layout Kym Jackson  
Senior consulting editor Barry Oliver

www.record.net.au

Mail: Signs Publishing Company  
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**know**  
**experience**  
and **share**  
our **hope** in Jesus Christ!

# Adventist youth take country by STORM

## TORRES STRAIT, QUEENSLAND

A number of STORM Co (Service To Others Really Matters) outreach programs were run by Adventist young people around Australia during the recent school holidays.

On April 10, 42 young people from all parts of Australia left Cairns, Queensland, to take STORM Co to Torres Strait, armed with puppets, crafts and games. The 2009 STORM Co team ran three programs on three islands—Hammond, Moa and Thursday Island.

The events were run by youth leaders Amanda Wakelin (NT), Liz Delaney (Proserpine, Qld) and Jared Smith (Port Macquarie, NSW). In addition to the usual outreach work, the program this year in-

cluded an evangelistic series run by the young people, during which a number of people from the communities made a commitment to get closer to God.

According to Pastor David Kelsey, the STORM Co week was a “great success” and all the people involved said they would like to do it again.

Tweed Valley College students from Murwillumbah, NSW, took STORM Co to Tabulam during their Easter holidays. College chaplain Marty Benard says, “That’s right—for a whole week, our students left behind their Myspace, Facebook, MSN and mobile phone reception, and travelled to a rural Indigenous community in Tabulam with intent to serve.”

For six days, the students organised, led and implemented a kids’ club, and worked on community service projects in the village of Jubullum. Elders in the community showed appreciation for the young people and emphasised how important it was that they were doing something positive on their holidays. By the end of the week, more than 40 children were attending the kids’ club.

Mr Benard says, “It was awesome to see our young people stepping up, showing a giving and servant attitude, and making a difference



*Tweed Valley College students went to Tabulam for their STORM Co outreach.*

in the lives of others in their own school holidays.”

Macquarie College students from Wallsend, NSW, also used their school holidays to conduct a STORM Co program at Stuarts Point. The 29 students ran kids’ club activities and helped out in the local community. Children responded positively to the program, with one child telling the students they looked forward to STORM Co visits more than Christmas.

Jacob Wylie, a student who took part in STORM Co, says, “It’s incredible to reflect on the many positive ways giving one week of our holiday impacted on the Stuarts Point community and how, by working together, we made a difference.”—**RECORD staff/Ronda Peres/ Marty Benard/Macquarie College Newsletter**



*A diverse group of Adventist young people went to Torres Strait to conduct STORM Co.*



◆ First-year teaching students at **Avondale College, NSW**, have received a gift from the Seventh-day Adventist Church—the curriculum for the church’s primary and secondary schools in Australia. The Primary Syllabuses and Secondary Frameworks come as a double-CD set, saving each student more than \$A200. “The set is great,”

says Dr Marion Shields, a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Education. “Not only does it promote Adventist education to our students, it also gives the students access to a useful resource at no cost.” Dr Daryl Murdoch, associate director for **Adventist Schools Australia**, visited the **Lake Macquarie campus** earlier this month to present copies of the set to each student. He is pictured with **Adrian Cuff** and **Elisha Davey**.—**Brenton Stacey**

◆ **Ali Heise**, the songwriter behind Adventist duo **Ali &**

**Leighton**, was awarded second prize in the **Gospel/Christian category** of the **UNISONG International Songwriting Contest** for her song “Beyond my plans.” “I just submitted the song for fun and was seriously amazed when it won second prize,” says Mrs Heise. Over the last few months, she and her husband, **Leighton**, have been juggling family and work responsibilities while recording their debut album, which is due to be launched in September this year. The duo head a six-piece band, focusing on pop and acoustic ballads. Mrs



Heise’s songwriting often deals with the joys and struggles of parenthood and marriage, as well as clearly expressing her Christian faith. “Beyond my plans,” says Mrs Heise, “is about God being so much bigger than anything we can dream of or imagine, and his plans for us far outweigh anything we can plan for ourselves.”



# EMU up and running at SAH

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

**T**he New South Wales state government's health minister, John Della Bosca, officially opened a multi-million dollar Emergency Medical Unit (EMU) at the Sydney Adventist Hospital (the San) in early May. The EMU is part of the expansion and redesign of the hospital's busy Emergency Care Department (ECD), which treats more than 20,000 patients every year and currently has 24 beds.

The additional nine beds provided by the EMU are a result of fundraising efforts by the Hospital Foundation and a thorough assessment of how patients have different needs and "journeys of care" when they arrive in the emergency department. Patients will have faster access to triage, medical consultation, diagnosis, treatment, and discharge or admission.

Mr Della Bosca said at the opening, "The number of people being admitted to hospitals via emergency departments is growing across Australia. With more than two million people attending NSW emergency departments each year, the role of the department here at the Sydney Adventist Hospital is an important one that complements and supports our public healthcare system."

Dr Greg McDonald, who has been the direc-



*Dignitaries at the opening of the Sydney Adventist Hospital's new Emergency Medical Unit.*

tor of the ECD since its opening 12 years ago, says, "Experience here at the San, Australia-wide and in international research, has taught us that a well-designed space that allows us to allocate patients to certain areas based on their condition and their needs maximises the care we can give, and also maximises the number of patients we can help in the fastest time."

"An addition to our existing 24 emergency-care beds, the nine-bed EMU is a dedicated space where we will care for patients who will be discharged or admitted into the main hospital within a 23-hour period, after initial assessment, tests and treatment. These patients don't need or want to be where patients with more complex needs are being cared for. Medical and nursing care and efficiency will be maximised."—**Leisa O'Connor**

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

# CCAS students raise funds to help devils

ERINA, NEW SOUTH WALES

**E**verything was black and white at Central Coast Adventist School (CCAS) on May 1 as students dressed in black and white, and ate black and white food in an effort to raise money and awareness for the plight of the Tasmanian Devil, the world's largest carnivorous marsupial.

"Black and white day" was an initiative of CCAS's Year 3 class, who have been learning about Tasmanian Devils and were saddened to learn that a disease is threatening to make the animal extinct—the devil population is being ravaged by devil facial tumour disease.

Students asked their teachers if they could do something to help the animals and after contacting the Australian Reptile Park in Somersby, which has the most successful captive-breeding program of Tasmanian Devils, they decided to hold a fundraiser to help with costs of the breeding program. The total raised was \$A1300.—**Brenton Luchow**



*Presenting the cheque for \$A1300 to Ranger Tim (left) from the Australian Reptile Park.*



◆ **The Friendship Scheme** is an initiative of **North-West Christian School, Tas**, that started on May 8. The scheme is a mentoring program between students and **senior citizens** within the community. A group of 11 senior citizens attended the school to be involved in learning **computer skills**. Overseen by a teacher, each person has a student sitting

alongside them, giving them support. The students and attendees report thoroughly enjoying their time together as they learn and get to know each other. This initiative was developed in response to the school receiving the **Positive Ageing Grant** from the **Tasmanian Government**. —**Natalie Winchcombe**

◆ **Recycling** is an art at **Invercargill's Southland Adventist Christian School, NZ**. The **Year 3 to 8 pupils** have constructed an interesting "**junk tower**," which is displayed near the school's entrance.



The 3-metre high tower, made up of old lawnmowers, computers, a TV, bicycles and other scrap metal, has a large sign in front of it displaying the letters "**RIP**." Senior teacher **Meg Harebottle** said the idea for the tower came after the pupils studied recycling as a social studies topic. The pupils explored different ways junk could be reused, leading them to their artistic inter-

pretation. It took them two weeks of planning and collecting junk, and just two hours to make. The "**RIP**" has a double meaning. Rather than being morbid, it alludes to the junk's rebirth and actually stands for **Recycling In Poetry**, they said. The tower will be dismantled in a couple of weeks, Mrs Harebottle said. A few days earlier, <stuff.co.nz> asked their readers if anyone knew what the strange installation was.—**The Southland Times**

◆ Earlier this year, **Avondale School's Year 12's** (Cooranbong,

# Health emphasised in Solomon Islands

## HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

**T**he eight Adventist churches in the Honiara region held a week-long health emphasis program earlier this month, aimed at dealing with health issues facing young people. The programs were part of Adventist Health Week.

Kukum Adventist church youth pastor George Maenu said each church came up with its own program, in line with the Adventist Church's health message. "The programs focused mainly on biblical healthful living," he says.

The programs also highlighted the dangers of lifestyle diseases, such as diabetes, sexually-transmitted infections and health issues arising from the consumption of alcohol.

"These teachings should help young people recognise the importance of living a healthy lifestyle," Mr Maenu said.

The Adventist Health Association also provided speakers for each night the programs were being run by the eight churches. Local pastors were involved, speaking on the topic "The origin of Adventist health heritage" and the programs,

before working through health readings.

Adventist health professionals also spoke about natural remedies and preventative medicine.

Other Health Week programs saw sermons presented at churches by Dr Silent Tovosia, Adventist Health Ministries director of the Solomon Islands Mission (SIM); George Vann, associate director of Adventist Health Ministries for SIM; and Dr Lester Ross, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services in the Solomon Islands government.

The arrival of "Follow the Bible" coincided with Health Week, and all churches in Honiara held a combined service in Kukum church. SIM president Pastor Andrew Kingston spoke about the importance of studying the Bible, and was followed by Dr Tenneth Dalipanda, who spoke about the importance of activity in helping the body to fight disease.

Mr Vann says, "It was an exciting week because the members are rediscovering the origin of our health message. God's people will need to develop healthy and strong bodies as they await the soon coming of our Lord."—**RECORD staff/George Vann/Solomon Star**

# WA camp-meeting results in membership boost

## MAIDA VALE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**A**lmost 100 people requested membership to the Seventh-day Adventist Church following the annual conference camp-meeting in Western Australia over Easter.

With 2600 present at the Advent Park campground on the Sabbath, leaders of the Western Australia Conference (WAC) say the event was one of the largest in many years.

"We believe one of the reasons for God's blessing was that more than 40 church pastors and members spent an hour and a half praying around the campsite the morning before the event," says Calvin Chuang, WAC's communication assistant.

Pastors and church leaders are now visiting with those who have requested membership.—**Calvin Chuang/Melody Tan**



*Pastors praying at the camp-meeting.*



(NSW) performed a re-enactment of a Jewish wedding as part of their High School Certificate Studies of Religion subject, as Judaism is a major topic of focus. This practical opportunity to learn took place outside the classroom, with all students contributing. The service was complete, with a Reform "Rabbi" as celebrant, appropriate Hasidic clothing and strict adherence

to Orthodox format. Students used objects that represented traditional points of significance in Jewish weddings. An understanding of the typical foods eaten at ceremonies, as well as the specific roles of the bride and groom made for an enjoyable and memorable experience. The research behind and organisation of the event was an application of the students' knowledge of religious practice. The opportunity to design and watch the actual process helps students remember and understand important symbolism and terminology associated with

the practice.—**Susan Rogers**

◆ Eight months after floods devastated large areas of northeastern India, the **Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)** is assisting the region's recovery through **livestock replacement programs, water sanitation projects and livelihood development**. The worst flooding in the region in 50 years reportedly left 75 dead and millions homeless. ADRA's latest efforts in the Supaul district of north-eastern India began this month, providing aid to approximately 20,000

families during the 12-month project. "Now that the waters have receded and families are back in their homes, our attention turns to helping the most vulnerable families recover from the effects of this devastating flood, as well as helping them to be more resilient against future natural disasters," said **Nitin Kenny**, emergency management coordinator for ADRA India. ADRA will provide additional support to survivors in severely affected areas, distributing winter blankets, tarps, anti-bacterial soap, candles and food supplies.—**ANN/ADRA**

# SQC teachers and chaplains meet

BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND

According to Royce McMurtrie, associate director of Adventist Education for the South Queensland Conference (SQC), close to 160 chaplains and teachers attended the 2009 Cape/Case iTeach Conference at the church's Northpine Christian College in Brisbane in late April.

Held over two days in the school's new performing arts centre, Mr McMurtrie says the meetings were some of the largest held for Adventist teachers in Australia. As well as the plenary sessions, teachers were able to choose from a number of workshops, which ranged from classroom management to integrating new technologies.

On offer at one of the many educational booths was a new software package called "Mathletics," which enables student to pit their arithmetical skills with students from around the world. Northpine student Jordan Narayan played "Mathletics" online with students in South America, Japan, and China. Winning most of his age group, Jordan discovered his mathematical skills were equal to, or better than, some students from other countries.



*Almost 160 teachers and chaplains attended a conference in Brisbane, where they explored new concepts in education.*

"Mathletics" is in many Australian schools and is rolling out to another 30 Brisbane schools this month.

The keynote speakers for the conference, Travis Smith from "Expanding Learning Horizons" and Bruce Dixon from "Anywhere Anytime Learning Foundation," spoke about emerging technologies and amalgamating these into curriculums.

Mr McMurtrie says, "One point Mr Dixon made was that Australian students spend about 53 per cent of their learning time on their home computers, and not at school."

Tony Kent, director of Adventist Education for SQC, said the meetings went well and teachers benefited from hearing about new methods, technologies and ways of reaching students, for the benefit of society and God's work.—**David Edgar**

# Papatoetoe church provides redundancy support

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

The Papatoetoe Adventist church in New Zealand has started a free eight-week course to help members of the local community overcome unemployment. The series of evening programs commenced on May 12.

The church decided to conduct "Redundancy Support" in response to job losses that have "become a daily occurrence," and to provide support and assistance to people who feel overwhelmed by the situation they find themselves in.

Aimed at those who have been retrenched as a result of the global financial crisis, the course focuses on three key areas—resume writing, job hunting and interview techniques.

Course participants will learn how to write interview-securing cover letters, understand what their ideal job is, develop job networks, overcome potential fears about job interviews and deal with potential employers.

A support group is scheduled to commence after the course.—**AMN staff**

More @ [www.papsda.co.nz/redundancysupport.htm](http://www.papsda.co.nz/redundancysupport.htm)

◆ **Fiji Touch Rugby** has introduced a new format to its competition for the new season. Fiji Touch Rugby acting president **Inoke Veresa** said the **2009 season** will see teams take part in midweek games for the first time. Mr Veresa said the introduction of the midweek games this season was part of their plans to allow players who are not available on **Saturdays** to participate. He said a large number of players are members of the **Seventh-day Adventist Church** and these players do not play on Saturdays.—**Fiji Times online**

◆ Religious liberty proponents from **13 Latin American** countries met in Santo Domingo recently to discuss historical and current religious freedom trends in the region. The **International Religious Liberty Association congress**, April 28 to 30, preceded the Inter-American Division's first **Festival of Religious Freedom** on May 2, which drew some **13,000 people** to the city's sports arena. **John Graz**, director of the General Conference's department of **Public Affairs and Religious Liberty**, applauded the Dominican Republic for valuing freedom of religion.

Inter-American Division president **Israel Leito** said working to ensure everyone's right to worship freely is vital. "We need to support the person suffering for his religion," he said. "It might be happening to him today but to me tomorrow." Religious liberty scholars and activists are expected to meet in Peru this year for the first **World Festival of Religious Freedom**.—**ANN**

◆ A **Belgian city** is about to become the first in the world to go **vegetarian** at least one day a week. **Ghent** has called for a week-

ly meatless day in which **civil servants** and **elected councillors** will opt for vegetarian meals. The UN says livestock is responsible for nearly one-fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions. Public officials and politicians will be the first to give up meat for a day. **School-children** will follow suit with their own "veggie day" in September. It is hoped the move will cut Ghent's **environmental footprint** and help tackle obesity. Around 90,000 so-called "**veggie street maps**" are now being printed to help people find the city's vegetarian eateries.—**Ananova**

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## Adventist Book Centre managers meet

WARBURTON, VICTORIA

**M**anagers of Adventist Book Centres (ABC) across the South Pacific Division (SPD) met at Jum Bunna Lodge in the Yarra Valley earlier this month for their annual ABC marketing seminar. With 22 managers and assistants coming from the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Western Samoa, Fiji, Australia and New Zealand, the seminar provided an opportunity for professional development, presentations of sales and accreditation awards, reporting and product releases.

Liz Dunstan, Book Department manager at Signs Publishing Company, says, "While the main purpose of the seminar is to introduce new Adventist product for the coming year, with the island mission ABCs represented, it was also team building and more importantly, a time of spiritual renewal, with a focus on the spiritual goals underpinning the publishing ministry."

Also in attendance at the seminar was SPD Publishing Ministries director Pastor Terry Goltz. "It was good to see the passion for mission is alive and well with our ABC managers across this division," says Mr Goltz. "It was great to see them all together."

Overall sales of Adventist products in Australia and New Zealand are running against the current recessionary trend, according to Mrs Dunstan, with a number of ABC managers reporting increases, and one recording a rise in excess of 13 per cent over the past year.

Pastor Dale Galusha, president of Pacific Press Publishing Association in the US, also attended the seminar and says, "We at Pacific Press are excited by what's happening with



*James Bouro, manager of the Honiara and Gizo shops in the Solomon Islands, receiving his accreditation award.*

our Adventist literature in the South Pacific Division; we see a great potential, especially in the island fields, for people to see and hear the good news through the distribution of our Adventist literature."

In addition to an extensive catalogue of overseas book, CD and DVD titles launched, Mrs Dunstan unveiled a "uniquely Adventist" range of "event" packs for ministers and churches, developed and produced by Signs Publishing Company, which will be available through ABCs. The gift bags contain appropriate products for baby dedications, baptisms, welcoming new members and funerals.

"The content reflects Adventist belief and practice that generic cards do not," says Mrs Dunstan. "We're hoping these pre-packaged, colour-coded gift bags will make it easier for pastors and churches to find an appropriate gift for these special occasions."

A number of the mission ABCs attained high levels of accreditation, a process that aims to lift the professionalism and service provided by the mission ABCs. Receiving the highest 5-star award was Dellas Naime from the Madang-Manus ABC. —**RECORD staff/Liz Dunstan**

## Church reaches out to lonely seniors

NAMBOUR, QUEENSLAND

**A** service provided by the Nambour Adventist church has been connecting with otherwise-lonely senior citizens in the area for the past 15 years. The Community Visitors Scheme is part of an Australian federal government initiative. Through it, a group of 15 volunteers befriend a lonely resident each and visit them

at least once a week.

Lindsay Grace, organiser of the scheme for the church, says, "We've had a lot of amazing stories of residents' lives being improved through the scheme. One of our ladies has been successful in encouraging her resident to actually catch a bus by herself, something she was very scared to do and had never done alone before. The resident is now able to venture out on her own." —**Melody Tan**

## College students raise awareness of "invisible children"

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

**T**he rescue of "abducted" Avondale College students and others at Hyde Park Barracks Museum in Sydney on April 26 has raised awareness of "invisible children."

The group of 137 students and young adults from Regeneration, one of the Bible-study groups at the college, participated in "The rescue," an overnight camp organised as part of an international campaign by Invisible Children, a non-profit organisation dedicated to raising awareness of Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which uses child soldiers in an ongoing war in northern Uganda.

"When people are aware of something like this, they are presented with two choices: to act or to ignore," says Josh Brown, an Avondale alumnus and member of the Regeneration leadership team.

On May 2, more than 1000 participants marched from Bradfield Park across Sydney Harbour Bridge to a mock-LRA camp on the Fleet Steps at the Royal Botanic Gardens. The rally simulated conditions experienced by abducted child soldiers. Participants also wrote letters to Australian prime minister Kevin Rudd, foreign affairs minister Stephen Smith and other politicians in New South Wales.

From there, participants marched to the Hyde Park Barracks Museum, where they spent the night waiting for organisers to raise four flags, each signifying a minimum number of letters written, money raised, the arrival of a cultural leader and media coverage. All four flags were raised by 5.30 am on the Sunday, signifying a successful "rescue." —**Lyndelle Lawrence**



*Some of the participants in "The rescue."*

# Managing life

BY RICHARD ARAYA-BISHOP

**W**E ARE ALL DIFFERENT—BUT the inability to deal with life's issues in a constructive way and the emotional suffering inherent in this, according to research, may be the most important factor affecting your life today. Bad habits, not exercising and not eating right are the most evident predictors of illness but just as important to your wellbeing are your personality and outlook on life.

Negative thinking and a pessimistic outlook not only induce anxiety, which can put people at risk of chronic mental illnesses like depression, it may also cause early death and set people up for a number of physical complaints. Unresolved life issues influence the mind to maintain a constant and exhausting state of alert. Finally, the mind gets tired and a series of other issues ranging between the common cold, heart disease, immune disorders, anxiety and depression are the natural consequence of the mind's exaggerated reaction to serious stress.

In the same way, expressed hostility, especially in the form of frequent angry outbursts and rude, disagreeable behaviour, leads to greater cardiovascular arousal, health complaints and illness. For example, hostility predicts health problems even when such factors as smoking, alcohol consumption, weight, general unhappiness and negative life events are controlled.

On the other hand, optimism is associated with a happier and longer life. We need to always remember that looking toward the sun will place all the shadows behind. And a good way to start is following the instructions of the apostle Peter: "So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honour. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you" (1 Peter 5:6, 7\*).

## Personal qualities for wellbeing

The ability to handle the inevitable changes of life depends in part on personality strengths. What type of individual is likely to cope with life's issues adaptively, thereby reducing its impact on illness and mortality? Researchers believe the following three personal qualities can help people remain healthy in the face of life issues and problems:

**Control** is the personality pattern that regards most experiences as controllable. Life is difficult and unpredictable. You can't stop all bad things from happening but you can try to do something about it, even if it is just to change your attitude to remain positive and optimistic toward what is happening in various aspects of your life.

**Commitment** is a personal quality that helps the individual display a committed and involved approach to daily activities. It involves a conscious effort to find interest and meaning in almost everything we do and experience: a firm commitment to pursue our goals.

**Challenge** is a personality strength that helps the individual view life's issues and the changes involved as a challenge—a normal part of life and chance for personal growth. As Benjamin Franklin said, "Those things that hurt, instruct." This understanding of life's issues is not easy, especially because, to a greater or lesser degree, we all fear pain and try to avoid problems and the emotional suffering inherent in them. However, ineffective coping is largely emotion centred, and either impulsive or avoidant. Therefore, procrastinating, hoping problems will go

away—a common response to life's issues—doesn't help.

## From a Christian perspective

Understanding life from a Christian perspective will affect the way we perceive our pain and problems in general. It may also facilitate the development of our potential to deal with life's issues, and be the first step in learning the wisdom and joy of a better life.

### Permission to be human

First, we must understand we were created innocent and holy but were not placed beyond the possibility of wrongdoing. God made us free to choose our destiny. Genesis 1:26 says, "Then God said, 'Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.'"

We were created to be physical beings but that is not what makes us superior to the rest of creation. Our most distinctive characteristic as humans is not physical but mental. We can think and reason. We can talk and interpret language. In the words





of Ellen White, “Every human being, created in the image of God, is endowed with a power similar to that of the Creator—individuality, power to think and to do” (*Education*, page 18).

We are not just physical organisms that respond to stimuli by instinct: we are individuals with the power to think and feel. And this is evident, for example, in the emotional tears that are unique to humans. Further, thinking and feeling is part of what it means to be human but also part of being spiritual, that is, acknowledging and believing in God (see Romans 10:10).

We are capable of appreciating the beauty and blessings of life but, sadly, because sin entered this world, we are also conditioned by our sinful nature to make mistakes and costly errors of judgment. The nature of the human race changed and became sinful (see Jeremiah 17:9; Isaiah 59:1, 2).

Therefore, to face life’s issues we have to acknowledge that we are limited by our humanity. When we feel down—for example, after saying the wrong thing—we need to grant ourselves permission to be human. We need to remind ourselves that not every conversation is going to go the way we want it; sometimes, we will be less than perfect and make mistakes. After all, we are just humans (see Romans 7:15-25).

Accepting our limitations, we may walk safely if we trust in the One who is greater than any human guide, Jesus. He is with us in all our troubles. He fills the gaps in our life. He comforts us in our heartaches (see Isaiah 41:13). He brings light, hope and power (see John 10:28).

### Reconstructing our lives

Second, after realising we are failing human beings, we must also understand that life is not easy. As expressed by Scott Peck, “Problems are the cutting edge that distinguishes between success and failure. Problems call forth our courage and our wisdom. It is only because of problems that we grow mentally and spiritually. . . . It is through the pain of confronting and resolving problems that we learn. Let us teach ourselves and our children the necessity for suffering and the value thereof, the need to face problems directly and to experience the pain involved. . . . When we teach ourselves and our children discipline,

we are teaching them and ourselves how to suffer and also how to grow” (*The Road Less Travelled*).

Is it possible to not have any problems in this life? No, the cemetery is the only place in which there are no more problems. But I prefer the noise and hard work that comes from life and its problems to the peace and tranquillity of the cemetery. Through pain and suffering, we become better and learn to live better.

Peter knew about suffering when he said: “So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you have to endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more pre-

## Accepting our limitations, we may walk safely if we trust in the One who is greater than any human guide, Jesus.

cious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honour on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world” (1 Peter 1:6, 7).

It is through pain that we usually learn best and are able to reconstruct our life to achieve further growth. Again using the example of saying the wrong thing, we can use this bad experience to reconstruct our future, learning lessons for life that teach us how to communicate with grace and mercy.

### Changing perspective

Third, we have to learn how to change our perspective: to become more optimistic about life, not because we believe that everything happens for the best but because we are committed to make the best of things that happen.

Paul was a master of suffering and pain but gives us a great perspective on life: “Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. Don’t

worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:4-7). In general, if we have the right attitude and are able to focus on positives, we cope better with life.

## A new perspective

The singularity of every human being is a gift from God, and our individuality and power to think and do enables us to choose to be happy and relate to others in significant ways. Therefore, if you want roses, you have to plant a rosebush. Compared with gloomy people, those who are happy are more likely to be surrounded by other happy people.

A new perspective toward life’s issues will involve acknowledging that, in the grand scheme of life, one mistake is not going to set us up for failure. This requires balancing our emotions with a new and more positive perspective, because the road to a miserable life is paved with irrational self-talk and beliefs like:

“I’m worthless”; “I’m awful”; “I can’t stand it”; or using words like “always” and “never.” Rather than actual events or problems, such negative attitudes are the main cause of our emotions being out of control: “A cheerful heart brings a smile to your face; a sad heart makes it hard to get through the day” (Proverbs 15:13, *The Message*).

We usually say, “As long as there is life, there is hope.” But the issues and problems we don’t address and solve could become our greatest enemy. When we are suffering and fear the worst, when heartache and loneliness is all we have, a new and more positive perspective may help. As long as there is hope, there is life. As Jesus said, “I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). **R**

*\*Unless otherwise indicated, all Bible quotations are from the New Living Translation.*

**Richard Araya-Bishop pastors the Warburton church, Victoria.**

# PAU strives for BEST

BY NATHAN BROWN

**P**ACIFIC ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY (PAU) is a vital contributor to the mission of the Adventist church in the South Pacific. Set on an attractive campus just outside the Papua New Guinean capital Port Moresby, PAU trains church leaders, pastors, teachers, nurses and other employees, as well as educating people who take up leading roles in societies across the Pacific. PAU has a current enrolment of almost 600 students, coming from across Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Pacific nations such as Vanuatu, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, New Caledonia, Kiribati and Samoa.

Having worked at PAU for almost eight years, Dr Branimir Schubert is in his third year as the university's vice-chancellor. In the lead-up to the South Pacific Division's offering for PAU on June 6, he answered some questions for RECORD.

## What have been the major challenges in adjusting to your leadership role at PAU?

I have spent five years in the classroom here at PAU, lecturing in applied theology. So it's been a change in focus for me. As an administrator, the focus is much broader and the responsibility much more complex. Now I am responsible for the strategic direction of the university. I have to ensure that all our resources—human and financial—are in place, so we can deliver the services to our students and provide for the needs of our lecturers and employees.

I also liaise with government, development organisations, the South Pacific Division (SPD) and other agencies to ensure PAU's interests are considered and met. I provide leadership and articulate the vision for an organisation operating in very difficult circumstances. These are the challenges that keep me and my team on our knees, depending on God for every step we make.

## What excites you about working at PAU?

First, I am excited about seeing our graduates leaving PAU and making a positive difference wherever they go. We are proud of our graduates and the feed-

back we receive from various employing organisations. Our graduates have a reputation for being honest, ethical and principled—values secular universities struggle to impart. There is something special about the “wholistic” approach to education and the character development that is part of the ethos of PAU. We are not just producing “intellectuals” but skilled professionals with values and the passion to serve their community, their country, their church and their God.

Second, I am excited about those who come to PAU as lecturers, administrators and workers. I am deeply touched with the sacrificial attitude of many giving up better-paid jobs elsewhere so they can make a difference here at PAU.

Of course, I get excited about some of the projects we have completed in the past and am looking forward to seeing more projects completed in the near future. But it's the people I value most: our students and our staff.

## PAU celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. What is planned to mark this occasion?

For a quarter of a century, PAU has been educating our young people and this is a milestone worth remembering. For 25 years, God has been our provider and we believe as long as we stay faithful to His vision for this university, He will continue to bless us. So in August, we want to pause to remember the way God has been good to PAU. All are welcome to join in our celebration, scheduled for the weekend of August 29. We will have special programs throughout the weekend and many other guests will be present to share our joy. We hope many who have been associated with PAU in the past 25 years will come and make this weekend memorable.

## PAU has recently been through a process of organisational restructuring. What has this entailed and what have been the outcomes of this?

PAU is a growing and maturing organisation. The main objective of the organi-



*Dr Branimir Schubert, vice-chancellor of Pacific Adventist University.*

sational restructuring was to empower the leaders by increasing the participative style of governance. The role of the vice-chancellor has been adjusted so fewer individuals are directly accountable to that office, while increasing the level of responsibility for other officers. Participation, clear line of accountability and empowerment are the governance objectives we have sought to accomplish by this restructuring.

## PAU is also involved in the SPD's tertiary integration process. What is the contribution of and impact upon PAU in this process?

PAU is a regional tertiary educational institution, serving the Pacific islands and beyond. The SPD leadership has recognised there is strength in strategic cooperation and partnership. After a long period of dialogue and planning, we are now in the process of implementing an integrated tertiary system. This means that—under the leadership of PAU—other tertiary organisations, such as Sonoma Adventist College and Fulton College, will combine resources and build on each other's strengths.

The role of PAU is to lead in this process with the resources and expertise we have developed over the past 25 years. PAU will provide academic support, accountability and strategic direction for institutions affiliated with PAU. This means more work for our academic staff, as there will be a need to liaise more closely with other campuses and provide accountability mechanisms to ensure the academic integrity of programs offered outside of PAU, as well as the administrative processes enabling us to know whether we are making the desired progress.

### How is PAU impacted by economic circumstances?

We have to learn to do more with less. Our academic offerings are expanding, our facilities are developing and the university is growing in every way but the resources available to us are shrinking. The contribution the SPD is able to make is not as large as it used to be. And legislative changes in Australia also resulted in significant funds not being available to us for scholarships.

The increase in prices of goods and services also impacts us in two ways: we have to pay more for things like electricity, water and food; and our students have less funds available to pay fees. It's a big challenge but we are determined to be careful stewards of what we have and are confident that this year will be the third year in a row with a balanced budget.

### What spiritual impact does PAU have on students?

Spirituality is the underpinning value colouring everything we do. Our uniqueness is not so much in the academic offerings but in the impact we hope to have on the character of our students. They graduate from PAU not only holding a degree but also holding values that reflect a biblical world view.

Every year, a significant number of students accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, and baptisms are conducted throughout the year. To promote relevant spirituality on campus, we have diverse, vibrant and participative worship events, regular spiritual programs, personal mentoring and individual devotions. Our curriculum integrates faith and learning in a deliberate manner and our approach to discipline is redemptive. We hope that after four years at PAU, our graduates will continue growing spiritually and will become mature spiritual leaders in their communities.

### How does PAU contribute to the broader community in PNG?

PAU is not an isolated community. We are sensitive to the various needs of our community and outreach projects are an integral part of our existence.

But primarily, we contribute through our graduates who serve in various government, commercial and non-government sectors. All our graduates are "PAU ambassadors"—promoting the values and principles we stand for. We also contribute through partnership in research. Our symposiums and seminars are becoming widely acknowledged as contributing to the PNG society. Our faculty are members of various legislative and other bodies and through their influence, they shape the society we are part of.

### What makes an institution like PAU uniquely Adventist?

I would like to think we are a community of hope: our faculty and students have hope because they see life through the lens of the Scriptures. We are uniquely Adventist because we are able to interpret the present and are prepared for the future, knowing our "prophetic" place in history. Of course, to translate this in the context of the 21st century is a challenge but one of our values is to "Cherish our Christian heritage while contextualising it in the 21st century." This is a process but this is the very meaning of education!

### Every second year, a SPD-wide offering is collected for PAU. How will this money be used this year?

This year, we are targeting two projects. First, we are close to launching the first-ever FM Adventist radio station in PNG. We hope to officially open the radio station during the 25th Anniversary celebrations. The station's broadcast will cover the capital city and surrounding communities. The equipment has been ordered and most of it is already in place but we need additional funds to be able to complete the project and have an impact on our surrounding population.

Second, with the increase of our non-residential student population, we need to provide adequate resources for them to be able to study, socialise, have lunch or relax. We have envisioned a comfortable area with small kitchen facilities, lounges and study areas for students to use during the day when not in the classroom or library.

We really appreciate the support of those who will give generously and help make these two projects a reality.

### What further initiatives or advances would you like to see under your leadership at PAU?

I believe the best years of PAU are still ahead of us. We have a clear strategic plan in place and we know what focus areas we want to concentrate on.

Academically, I would like to see the university mature into a research institution, offering degrees that are relevant to our stakeholders. And I would like to see that all our degrees are of the highest quality and recognised in the region.

In terms of development, we want to see a new School of Business facility built, with the associated student accommodation and faculty housing. And we are in the process of negotiating the development of a Demonstration Secondary School so our trainee teachers can have a place to practice their teaching skills, while at the same time providing much-needed secondary education for the community.

We want to see PAU grow to a "sustainable size" and preliminary studies suggest our enrolment should be around 1200 students. To double the student populations will require additional infrastructure.

Ultimately, I would like to ensure that under my leadership we take concrete steps in fulfilling our vision: to be the BEST provider of quality Christian education in the Pacific islands.

### What does "BEST" mean for PAU?

"BEST" has become part of our vocabulary. We want to be the BEST: Biblically sound, Educationally valid, Spiritually challenging and Technologically relevant. When God gives, He gives the BEST. He demonstrated this in the act of Creation, as well as in the act of Re-creation, giving us the BEST gift in Jesus Christ. In return, we want to give back to Him the BEST we have, and thus to be the BEST is our vision. **R**

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*Nathan Brown is editor of RECORD.*

**Pacific Adventist University offering—next week, June 6**



# The motivators—2

BY GARY WEBSTER

*Last week, we noticed the first of “The motivators” was the love of Christ. Now for the second of “The motivators,” found in 2 Corinthians 5.*

THE GREAT LONGING OF PAUL’S LIFE WAS to be with Jesus, who had forever altered the direction of his life: “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” and “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings,” for “when Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory” (Philippians 1:21; 3:10; Colossians 3:4\*).

Thus Paul sought to order and live his life to please Christ, his forever friend, for he was keenly aware that there was a day coming when he, and every follower of Jesus, must stand before Christ’s judgment seat to receive the reward of what they have done, whether good or bad (see 2 Corinthians 5:9, 10). No way did he want to miss out on being with Jesus forever! But more than that—recognising that it was a fearful thing to stand before the judgment seat of Christ—compelled by the love of Christ, he sought to persuade men and women, boys and girls for Christ (see 2 Corinthians 5:11, 14).

Of all Christians, Seventh-day Adventists should know what time it is! We are living on the knife-edge of eternity, because we are living while the first phase of God’s end-time judgment is in session (see Revelation 14:6-14; Daniel 8:14; 9:24-27). This is, of course, good news for the friends of God. Down through the ages they have waited, longing for God’s judgment—for justice, vindication and deliverance by God (see Psalms 13:2; 94:3; Revelation 6:10).

In Daniel 7, God’s people are being trounced by the oppressive anti-Christian Little Horn but relief comes when, prior to the end, “the judgment is set and the books are opened” (see Daniel 7:9-12, 22, 26). The long-awaited judgment delivers God’s people and grants them the eternal kingdom (see Daniel 7:26, 27). They receive it because

their great advocate—“The Son of Man,” Jesus Himself—goes into the judgment on their behalf, receives the kingdom and shares it with them (see Daniel 7:13, 14, 27). There is no need for the friends of God to fear the judgment, for “there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1). They have absolute confidence in the day of judgment, because in Him they are considered as righteous as Him (see 1 John 4:17).

But while the judgment is good news for those of us who are in Christ, it is not good news for those outside of Christ. Soon, the intercessory ministry of Jesus will cease and those outside of Christ will be lost forever. “If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment. . . . It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Hebrews 10:26, 27, 31). Anyone embracing and clinging to known sin is not covered by the blood of Christ. They have only a fearful expectation of judgment and wrath.

It was this thought that also motivated Paul to persuade people everywhere to be reconciled to Christ (see 2 Corinthians 5:11, 20). If the judgment “to come” also motivated Paul to reach out to lost people, how much more should the judgment that “has begun” motivate Adventists to seek and save the lost?

The great danger for Adventism today is that we forget what time it is and our responsibility in that time! It is judgment day and time is running out for the lost to become the forever friends of Jesus! To discard the belief in a pre-Advent judgment since 1844, or to relegate it to the back seat, is to lose our sense of the urgency of the times, and the casualty is God’s mission to seek and save the lost. Could it be that a loss of certainty by some Adventists in the belief that the judgment is now taking place in heaven is contributing to making us less concerned about—and less effective in—reaching people for Christ than

in previous years?

God Himself has commissioned the proclamation of the gospel of His love to the entire world in the context of the pre-Advent judgment (see Revelation 14:6, 7). As this phase of God’s final judgment comes to an end, all heaven is astir. Angels are seen holding back the winds of strife, while another angel seals God’s servants (see Revelation 7:1-3). Others prepare themselves to pour out the seven last plagues, while yet another lights the entire earth with the light of the everlasting gospel (see Revelation 15; 18:1-3). Finally, God Himself makes a personal appeal for His people to flee from Babylon and sin (see Revelation 18:4).

With all heaven moved by the plight of the human race, how can we continue to be so casual, so pedestrian with our message and mission? We must keep in step with God, letting Him decide what is the best context in which to proclaim His love for a world that is fast nearing the end. If the plight and danger of lost people does not move us into action, can we really claim to be Christians?

It is thrilling to see examples of our Adventist young people catching the passion of God, understanding the times in which we live and becoming involved in God’s end-time mission. The Spirit is surely at work among us. Let us keep in step with the Spirit. Every day brings us closer to the day when mercy’s door will be shut forever. The time demands giving God our best energies and the resources He has placed in our hands. Being reconciled to God, He now calls you and me to be His ambassadors of reconciling love (see 2 Corinthians 5:19, 20). Won’t you respond to His call? The harvest is waiting! **R**

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

**Gary Webster is secretary of the ministerial association of the South Pacific Division, based in Wahroonga, New South Wales.**

# Repackaging prophecy

PHILIP SMITH, WA

I completely agree with the sentiments expressed in "Taking stock" (Letters, May 2) and the *Adventist World* article to which it refers. Conspiracy theories can be likened to Alice's journey into Wonderland. Once you chase the rabbit down that hole, you'll end up in a place where the highly improbable becomes "fact" and reality is greatly distorted.

Many people who believe and propagate these "cunningly devised fables"—including some trained pastors—are educated and sincere people. Nevertheless, other intelligent people have abandoned faith, partly because they grew tired of being bombarded with these "esoteric" teachings, supposedly compatible with the Adventist

prophetic understanding. This is a greater tragedy than most church leaders are prepared to acknowledge. Therefore, we need more "watchmen" to discern the enemy's varied strategies to sow the "bad seed" of deception, which can potentially mislead those who are more easily

seduced by counterfeits of the plain truth of Scripture.

To deploy effective countermeasures against conspiracy theories may require some "repackaging" of our public presentations on prophecy and the end times. People still need to be able to find Jesus and discern the truth for this age from the three angels' messages, without falling victim to the matrix of "esoteric" conspiracy theories that circulate through most of our churches and ensnare members who are new to the Adventist faith. This is not an easy task but one that responsible church leaders must soon address.

## Scepticism unfounded

GRAHAM FRASER, VIC

"Green bandwagon" (Letters, May 16) is right to suggest our main mission is spreading the gospel but its scepticism on the matter of global warming has little support. There are many obvious examples, such as the accelerating retreat of glaciers, the reduced ice in the straits to the north of Canada and the corresponding measured rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. And closer to home, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology has published data on its website that clearly shows the measured change in climate in Australia over the years, with the south-east becoming much dryer and the north-west wetter.

When God finished the work of creation, He called it "very good." We surely have a duty to contribute to the maintenance of the earth in a livable state and to support others working to contain this problem created by humanity.

**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.

## Record Roo



Hi kids!

God wanted to give His people a special set of rules. He called Moses up to Mount Sinai to give him the Ten Commandments. Moses then went and told the people.

### Bible Text

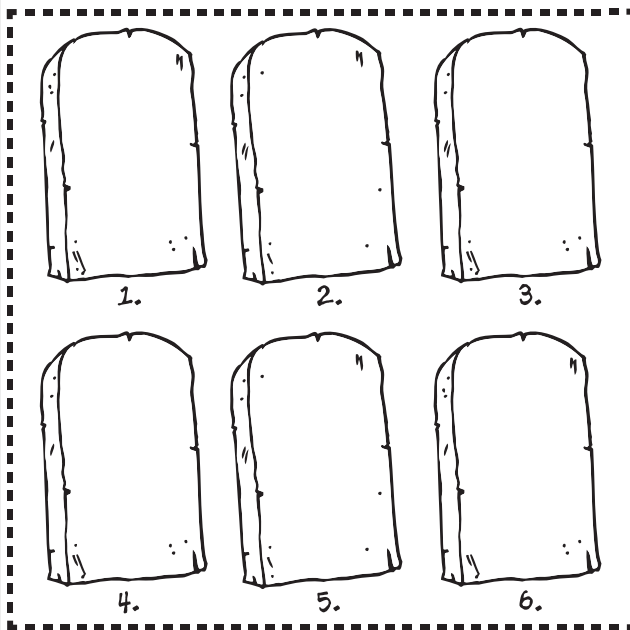
Can you fill in the blanks on the Ten Commandments tablets?

If you need help, look up the answers in Exodus, Chapter 20.



### Word Search

Only two of these stone tablets are exactly the same. Can you find the matching pair?



Answer: Stone tablets 2 and 5 are exactly the same.

## Volunteers!

**Fly'n'Build—Atoifi Hospital, Solomon Islands.** Urgent need to replace roof on Atoifi Hospital (August, 2009). Looking for 15–20 volunteers. For more information, write to Brian Larwood, PO Box 2169, Midland WA 6056. Email <team@project-atoifi.org>.

**Volunteer Team Leader or Small Team—Solomon Islands,** to oversee the construction of the Form 7 Building, Kukudu Adventist College in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands. Foundation dug and building materials already supplied. Just needs constructing with locals willing to assist. For more information, contact Lyn at <volunteers@adventist.org.au>.

Email:

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

+61 2 9847 3275



## Appreciation

**Silver,** John (Dudley Jack). Edith Silver and family wish to thank their friends for the many cards, prayers and loving messages received following the death of their dearly-beloved husband and father, John. Your thoughts and prayers were greatly appreciated.

Lynn Burton,

Rick Brenton-Coward, Harry Pearson

## Weddings

**Benigno—Weslake.** Marion Benigno, son of Salvador and Rosa Benigno (Sydney, NSW), and Leonie Joy Weslake, daughter of Lance and Sandra Weslake (Sydney), were married 26.4.09 in Wahroonga church, Sydney.

Nataníel Pereira

**Bennetts—Brundell.** Jarrod Bennetts, youngest son of Lyle and Rosalie Bennetts (Cora Lynn, Vic), and Courtney Brundell, daughter of Alan and Isobel Brundell (Berwick, Vic), were married 6.4.09 in St Luke's church in picturesque Richmond, Tas.

Andrew Lake

**Bentley—Meintjes.** Clint Bentley, son of David and Lorraine Bentley (Leongatha, Vic), and Nicole Meintjes, daughter of Laurie and Margaret Meintjes (Cooranbong, NSW), were married 28.3.09 in the heritage-listed Union church, Martinsville, NSW. The couple will continue to live in Cooranbong.

Ray Roennfeldt

**Gall—Utting.** Stewart John Gall, son of John and Ann Gall (Geraldton, WA), and Vanessa Anne Utting, daughter of Arthur and Elaine Utting (Perth), were

married 17.4.09 in Dongara Uniting church, Dongara.

Richard Reynolds, Gervais Cangy

**Nicolai—Ikin.** William Andrew Nicolai, son of Glen and Nita Nicolai (Mirani, Qld), and Christie Marguerite Ikin, daughter of Anthony (Tony) Ikin (Brisbane) and Glenda Matsen (Ilbilbie), were married 2.5.09 in Mackay Central church, Mackay.

R E Possingham

## Obituaries

**Ing,** Allan Pui Kee, born 28.2.1965 in Sydney, NSW; died 28.4.09 in Canberra Hospital, ACT, following prolonged complications from heart surgery. In 1990, he married Adelyn in Sydney. He is survived by his wife (Canberra, ACT); and his two sons, Joshua (13) and Marcus (10). Allan will be sadly missed by his family and friends from Canberra National church, where he served in Adventurers. His family travelled from Adelaide, Sydney, Hong Kong and Singapore for his funeral. His work colleagues from 20 years with the Defense Department in Canberra also paid their respects. He now awaits the call of his Master.

Andre van Rensburg, Sid Griffith,  
Clansi Rogers, Ray Hinton

**McQueen,** Elsie Evelyn (nee Cooper), born 8.6.1921 in Perth, WA; died 15.1.09 in Midland Nursing Home. On 23.11.1942, she married William (Bill) Albert McQueen. She is survived by her husband; her daughters and their spouses, Kerry and Rick Brenton-Coward, and Shelley and Harry Pearson (all of Perth); her four grandchildren; and her six great-grandchildren.

Lynn Burton,

Rick Brenton-Coward, Harry Pearson

**Merritt,** Edward (Ted) Henry, born 27.12.1928 at Subiaco, WA; died 16.4.09 in the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Vic. Ted married Laurel Timothy on 11.6.1949 in Ballarat. Ted was predeceased by his daughter, Diana, on 12.1.1991. Two of Ted's grandchildren, James and Paul, have predeceased him. Ted is survived by his wife; and his children, Michael and Mary (Ocean Grove), Peter and Raelene (Ballarat), Alison and John Shreck (USA), Susan and her partner, Rodney Price (Ballarat), and daughter, Nina (Ballarat). Ted had 14 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Ted was a much-loved and well-respected member of Ballarat church. Ted's love of life and happy disposition will be missed by his many family and friends.

Brian Lawry

**O'Grady,** Olave Mary (Pat), born 12.10.1923 at Wollongong, NSW; died 29.4.09 in Knox Private Hospital, Melbourne, Vic, after a short illness. She was survived by her son and his wife, Michael and Rosslyn (Melbourne); and her son, Peter (Melbourne). Pat was a member of Ringwood church, Vic, for many years. She supported and was a foundation member, and also president, of the Legacy Foundation.

Edwin Totenhofer

**Proctor,** Lena Robina, born 8.12.1913; died 29.3.09 at Christchurch, NZ after a short illness. She is survived by her daughters, Adrienne Chrisp (Christchurch) and Diane Watson (Greymouth). Lena was an Adventist for most of her life. She was a member of Ilam church, and was very active and involved in her church.

Greg Evans

**Roberson,** Celia (Seal) Gwen (nee Wood-Stotesbury), born 27.1.1944 in Lahore, Pakistan; died 6.5.09 in Wyong Aged Care Facility, Wyong, NSW. On 1.5.1994, she married Rob. She was predeceased by her sister, Ursula Hedges (2005), and her brother, Dudley (2005). She is survived by her husband (Bonnells Bay); her sister, Rosemarie Kenney (Melbourne, Vic); and her stepson, Matthew Roberson (Ware, England). If in your imagination you could compress into one person a trinity of all that is beautiful, all that is good and all that is mischievous, then you would have known our Seal. Such an exceptional lady needed to meet an equally exceptional man to win her heart and cherish her boundless love. Rob met and matched the checklist. Seal was the godmother of all neighbourhood pets and children, and they flocked to her for treats and shelter. She was a lady with a boundless heart and an instinct for hilarity. The world is already missing your engaging smile. See you on the sunny side.

Alan Saunders,

Allan Hedges, Richard Milne

**Tibbitt,** Peter James, born 27.3.1951 in Brisbane, Qld; died 27.4.09 at Gympie. On 21.10.1990, he married Pearl Winifred Tibbitt, who predeceased him on 8.10.08. He is survived by his siblings and their spouses, Ted and Sue (Byron Bay, NSW), Betty and Reuben Raekowl (Forest Lake, Qld), Paul and Yvonne (Jimboomba); his children, Elijah and LeGrand; and his stepchildren and their spouses, Royce and Audine (Adelaide, SA), Charmaine and Doug Muir (Gympie, Qld) and Donna and Andrew (WA). Peter was a Vietnam veteran, whose websites offered hope, comfort and spiritual guidance for those traumatised by war. He was a quiet achiever who looked forward to God's kingdom, where there will be no more war, pain, suffering or death but everlasting joy and gladness.

Phil Downing, Frank Williams

## Advertisements

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

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

**Medical practitioners** needed for the Logan Adventist Health Association Health Centre. Full-time and part-time practitioners needed. Contact 0428 486 455.

**Quality Christian products.** Books, DVDs, study guides, story CDs and music from suppliers Amazing Facts, 3ABN and others. Register for our monthly specials. Contact **The Story Factory**, freecall 1800 452 133; <www.thestoryfactory.com.au> or email <info@thestoryfactory.com.au>.

**Applications: Volunteer Caretaker beginning mid-August, 2009, at The Log Cabin,** a church-owned and operated camp in the Numinbah Valley, South Qld. A two-bedroom house is available for the successful applicants, together with some payment for travelling expenses. Application forms, plus full details of job description and remuneration are available from Pastor W Price (02) 6672 8667 or <wgprice@optusnet.com.au>. Applications close June 15, 2009.

**Carmel College, WA, 1984–1988 class reunion.** For students who were in Year 8, 1984, to Year 12, 1988. The reunion is scheduled for 10.30 am, September 27, 2009 at Carmel College. For more details, please contact Peter Shuttleworth on 0413 353 592 or email <gromit70@bigpond.com>.

**South Brisbane Church 110th anniversary, August 8.** Past and present members invited. O'Keefe Street, Buranda. Sabbath school 9.30 am. Church service 11 am with lunch afterward. RSVP: PO Box 261, Coorparoo, Qld 4151 by July 20, 2009.

**Sydney Adventist Hospital enrolled nurse class of 1982 reunion.** Sydney, Easter 2010. If you trained, graduated or even attended with the blue class of 1982 (graduated April 1983) you are welcome to attend. Also, if you know the whereabouts of other class members, please contact Esther Krause on <selnoc@bigpond.net.au> or on Facebook.

## Finally

A smooth sea never made a skilled mariner.

—English proverb



# PAU OFFERING

**June 6, 2009**

**Radio Project & Student Centre**



On June 6, 2009 Pacific Adventist University will be the recipient of the South Pacific Division-wide offering.

This offering is dedicated to two projects:

1. The establishment of a community radio station. The FM station broadcasting 97.9 FM will be the first Adventist radio station in Papua New Guinea.
2. Student Centre facility providing a dedicated space for study, relaxation and social activities for our students.

We thank you for your generous support of Pacific Adventist University and look forward to your offering on June 6, 2009.



1984-2009

Celebrating 25 Years in August 2009

Pacific Adventist University  
Tel : (675) 328 0200 | Fax: (675) 328 1257  
Web: <http://www.pau.ac.pg>  
Email: [information@pau.ac.pg](mailto:information@pau.ac.pg)



ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY



ADRA  
AUSTRALIA

**"I want to give my children  
a future free from hunger..."**

**- Alik, participant in ADRA farming project in Zambia**

This is the desire of every parent, yet for many this dream will not come true. Each year, almost 11 million children under the age of five die from poverty-related illnesses.

### **ADRA needs your help to change this!**

By making a tax-deductible donation to the End-of-Financial Year Appeal and helping ADRA raise \$500,000 before June 30, you can help ADRA continue and grow its work in communities affected by poverty and hardship.

**Will you offer your generosity  
to those facing hardship  
and poverty, today?**

**Yes! I want to help ADRA continue to grow its work in communities, the South Pacific, Asia and Africa.**

Enclosed is my gift of ☐ \$10 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ My cheque or money order is enclosed  
(made out to ADRA Australia)

☐ Please charge a ☐ **monthly (9th)** ☐ **one-off** gift to my  
**credit card** ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Diners ☐ Amex

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Card no.

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

(For verification of card)

☐ Please send me  
e-updates on ADRA's work  
(Email address) \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Making a gift by bequest:**

☐ I would like to let you know  
that ADRA is in my will.

☐ I would like more  
information about how to  
include ADRA in my will.

Simply complete this form and mail to: ADRA Australia, Reply Paid 129, PO Box 129, Wahroonga, NSW 2076, Australia or Phone: 1800 242 372 or give online at [www.adra.org.au](http://www.adra.org.au)  
This is a project of ADRA Australia. For New Zealand residents, please ring 0800 4999 111 or visit [www.adra.org.nz](http://www.adra.org.nz) for project and donation information.