Papua New Guinea has been experiencing rapid growth in church membership. The Tambul region is one example, where 129 people were baptised in two months.

PNG church growth comes with warning

LAE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

More than 150,000 people have been baptised into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Papua New Guinea (PNG) since 2005, according to Pastor Neone Oksene, general secretary of Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM).

However, Pastor Okesene warns that it is not all good news. The figures reveal that while an average of one person has been baptised every three hours over the past five years, as many as 5000 church members leave every year.

“The sad story is that of the many that come in, quite a number also leave the church or just phase out of the church and become missing members,” says Pastor Okesene.

PNGUM has seen great success in its evangelistic efforts over the past five years, with thousands attending and many requesting baptism. Pastor Okesene believes that because the people in PNG have an affinity with spirituality, they respond readily to Christian messages.

“The responsiveness of people to the gospel is such that this is the time to continue the harvest. We mustn’t slow that down simply because there are so many who are (Continued on page 3)
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Billicarts connect local community

LILYDALE, VICTORIA

The 2009 Lilydale Adventist Academy (LAA) Weet-Bix Billy Cart Grand Prix, held on August 30, has been hailed a “great success” by organisers of the event as they celebrated its 10th anniversary.

Thousands of spectators and participants enjoyed the day, which featured a live broadcast from the event by Light FM, Melbourne’s metropolitan Christian radio station. Light FM program hosts interviewed participants and reviewed their own team’s performance. The Light FM team raced in the open division with Lucy Holmes, one half of the “Luke and Lucy Morning Wake Up,” undertaking driving duties.

“It was great to be a part of the Weet-Bix Billy Cart Grand Prix for the first time,” Ms Holmes. “The crowd size, atmosphere, and character were impressive.”

Tim Bronson, manager of Light FM, was also impressed with the event, saying, “[It was a] great job by all involved, and next year we’ll return to defend the title of fifth-fastest Weet-Bix billicart.”

Events at the Billy Cart Grand Prix included “The One-Lap Dash,” “Weet-Bix Billy Cart Grand Prix–Main Event,” “Mitre 10 Mega Challenge” and “Maroondah Credit Union Super Saver Best-Dressed Competition.”

David Jones, coordinator of the event, says, “The response to this year’s Weet-Bix Billy Cart Grand Prix confirmed that the event has become a significant event in the calendar for LAA and the wider community. Participants and their families love the community feel, and opportunity to support each other and have a great time!”

“We believe that with two entities of the church working side by side—education and Sanitarium—we can promote a healthy, happy and rewarding lifestyle, creating a positive impression of our church.”—RECORD staff/David Jones

PNG church growth comes with warning

(Continued from page 1)

leaving the church,” says Pastor Okesene. “But we, as a church, must take responsibility for putting structures as well as personnel in place to be able to retain and reclaim the members of the church. I feel that we can do this together corporately as a church.”

According to Erna Johnson, director of Women’s Ministries for the South Pacific Division (SPD), outreach programs for the Bougainville Mission have been highly successful. So far this year, there have been 10 retreats with 1000 Adventist women and 2001 non-Adventist women attending.

There have also been 50 seminars, eight evangelism campaigns, and many literacy schools, resulting in 201 reclaimed members and five baptisms.

There are nine local missions and one conference in PNGUM. A total membership of almost 240,000, makes it the largest union mission or conference in the SPD. There are also more than 3000 churches and church companies in the country.

—Melody Tan

Avondale mission club transforms school in India

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

The work of an Avondale College student mission club is transforming a school and touching lives in the Indian city where Buddha gained so-called enlightenment. Over the past three years, One Mission has raised more than $30,000 and encouraged teaching students to serve at the AoZora School for poor and orphaned children in Bodh Gaya.

Leader and senior lecturer in the Faculty of Education Andy Matthes returned at the end of July after almost three weeks at the school. He believes the visits have sparked an interest in Christianity. “People can’t help but ask, ‘Why are you doing this?’ Their curiosity allows us to share our faith. It’s been wonderful to see the impact of the Holy Spirit in this place.”

When this year’s team of 22 students—11 study primary teaching at Avondale—painted the outside of AoZora’s rented building, the director and his teachers were keen for signage identifying the school as Christian. The school, which includes a sister school in a nearby village also in a rented building, is now AoZora Adventist Academy. “This represents their belief in the promise that Jesus is coming again soon,” says Mr Matthes.—Linden Chuang/Kirsten Bolinger

More @ www.avondale.edu.au

Children outside the AoZora school.
Church can help the community on alcohol

BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND

Dr John Ashton is proud of the Adventist church’s stand on alcohol and believes the church has something important to offer our communities on this destructive social problem.

Strategic research manager for Sanitarium Health Food Company and adjunct associate professor of biomedical sciences at Victoria University, Dr Ashton spoke as a featured workshop presenter at the South Queensland Conference camp-meeting on September 21, coinciding with the launch of the second edition of his co-authored book Uncorked! The Hidden Hazards of Alcohol.

“I am very passionately concerned that the harm done by alcohol is totally underrated by many in our community and this needs attention,” says Dr Ashton. His presentation also addressed the lies of alcohol advertising and touched on the impact of alcohol on individual health, as well as talking about the social impacts of alcohol consumption.

Dr Ashton is pleased he has been able to produce a second edition of his book, published by Signs Publishing Company, and update some of the information about alcohol’s impacts on society. “There were statistics to be updated,” he explained, “in particular, the teenage drinking problem seems to have become worse—particularly binge drinking among young women, which is especially concerning.”

He also cites statements by Australian prime minister Kevin Rudd last year about binge drinking contributing to an environment in which these issues can be discussed. “This brought immense media attention to the problem of alcohol and has helped create a media acceptability of reporting on these problems,” he says. “Up to this time, the media has been very reluctant to raise the issue, which made the re-release of the book with an update even more important.

“There is no other book like it worldwide that I am aware of that covers these issues,” Dr Ashton adds. “And it’s important that this message gets out to young people in particular.”

Since Uncorked! was originally released in 2004, a number of church departments, ministries and members have used the book to raise awareness in their local communities. This includes Adventist Health Ministries in the Greater Sydney Conference. According to director Malcolm Rea, copies of the book have been donated to approximately 70 school libraries in south-western Sydney.

“When the new edition of Uncorked!, we expect this project will be continued and expanded,” he says. Mr Rea says his “more ambitious plan” is to develop an educational resource package on alcohol for schools in Australia and New Zealand, with Uncorked! as the central textbook.

“Media attention to the problems of binge drinkers and drink-driving accidents has done nothing to reduce access to alcohol, ban advertising or change an increasing social problem in our society,” he says. “The re-release of Uncorked! provides an excellent opportunity for people to raise the issue, stand up and say, ‘We have had enough!’”

Mr Rea suggests church groups and members can use this information to lobby politicians to restrict alcohol advertising, work with like-minded organisations or other church groups, or simply educate their own families about this insidious social problem.—Nathan Brown

Uncorked! is available from Adventist Book Centres.

◆ The General Conference has declared October 24 as Creation Sabbath. The website <www.CreationSabbath.net> was created to help with planning and to provide resources for churches to prepare for this event that honours God as Creator. The site provides sample sermons, informative articles, children’s stories, scripture passages, hymns and responsive readings, as well as other resources and links. As this year is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin and 150 years since the publication of his book The Origin of Species, Adventist churches around the world are emphasising the importance of God as Creator. “Together, we can create a sense of unity by promoting our belief in Creation in a positive light. We can make October 24 a day when we publically worship God as our Creator and thank Him for giving us life and hope,” says Lea Greve, publication manager of the office of the Adult Bible Study Guide at the General Conference. The October 24 issue of RECORD will have a special Creation focus.

◆ Students competing for Avondale School, NSW, recently won gold and silver medals at two major sporting events. Two teams from Avondale School entered the local Lake Macquarie Half Marathon. The girls team won the High School Girl’s relay and the boys team were beaten by 10 seconds, putting them in second place.

Further from home, the ACT All Schools Championships are one of the most anticipated mountain biking events of the year. Seven teams with a total of 23 Avondale School students travelled to Majura Pines, ACT, to compete against 400 students from 30 schools around the state. Avondale School’s teams earned four gold and three silver medals. The assistance of parents who supported the event, as well as sponsor of two years Breakaway Cycles, was greatly appreciated. —Susan Rogers

DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ OCTOBER 24—CREATION SABBATH
That last editorial

BRUCE MANNERS, NSW

Nathan Brown’s last regular editorial as editor of RECORD (“Recommended reading,” September 19) is a deceptively simple masterpiece. He says the editorial is like the “bibliography at the end of the book.” I’m guessing that it’s an abbreviated bibliography on his work as he ends his time as editor of RECORD. That’s clever.

This editorial doesn’t read like a last editorial but it says a lot about him. There’s no reflection on his time as editor. No recognition of change. No force of words to impress. It’s a list! But this is the Nathan Brown way—quietly closing the door and walking away.

The former editor of Adventist Review, Bill Johnsson, once called him the best writer in the Adventist Church. We’ve seen this over the years.

As editor, he’s talked to us in various ways: in pastoral tones; as an encourager; and, occasionally, with a prophet’s voice. They’re all needed. At times, he’s been misunderstood, condemned and even vilified. Of course! That’s not in the job description but it comes with the job.

I’m pleased he’ll still contribute to RECORD but I’ll miss his editorial approach. I wish him success at growing Adventist book production at our publishing house. And, as I reflect on the past six years of RECORD, I say thank you.

Was he hinting at his new life as book editor when his editorial finished with: “Of making many books there is no end . . .”? That’s clever. Again.

Input from human authors?

JOHN RALSTON, SA

“The need to read” (Feature, September 19) gives strong arguments for the importance of wide reading. However, at least three facts should not be ignored:

• The Bible provides us with information about God and the Holy Spirit leads us into truth. This is sufficient for a complete faith, without input from human authors.

• No-one has the time or ability to read all the books available. Therefore, a choice has to be made based on present convictions. Because of biblical truth, some books should not be read.

• It seems arrogant to assume that our human wisdom is sufficient to resist the wisdom of a fallen angel. Satan is a liar and deceiver, and he is a master at his craft. His deceptions are disguised so skilfully and presented so pleasingly that both the writer and the reader can be quite unaware of them.

The history of the Christian Church and the present moral condition of humanity should prove that all the philosophical books written have not had an uplifting influence. It has been quite the reverse—they have directed attention away from God’s plan.

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 3) for contact details.
Positions vacant

Accounts Clerk—Adventist Publishing Ministries, South Pacific Division (Warburton, Vic), is seeking a suitably-qualified or inexperienced accounts clerk to manage our direct debit facility for literature evangelists. The successful applicant will show attention to detail, competent computer skills, a working knowledge of Microsoft Office, and preferably experience with database and accounting packages. This is a full-time position and the role includes liaising with literature evangelists, banks and literature evangelists’ customers.

For expressions of interest, please contact Pastor Terry Goltz, Director of Publishing Ministries on (03) 9565 6314 or 0418 544 690.

Digital Media Manager—Adventist Media Network (AMN) (Wahroonga, Sydney, NSW). The successful applicant will be responsible for guiding and developing the use of digital media at AMN. They will ideally have an interest, skills and experience in: creating solutions maximising online, VOD, mobile and other digital media applications; netAdventist, the content management system used to deliver church websites in the South Pacific Division; web development languages such as Ruby on Rails, ASP.net, HTML, CSS and java script; and experience in the Moodle (Learning Management System) environment. Commitment to quality and service, together with a desire to be involved in ministry using digital media, is essential. For further information, contact Kalvin Dever on (02) 9847 2222 or email kalvin@adventistmedia.org.au. Applications in writing should be forwarded to Kalvin Dever, Corporate Services Director, AMN, PO Box 1115 Wahroonga NSW 2076. Applications close October 19, 2009.

School Principal/Manager—Carrawak Adventist College (North NSW) invites applications from experienced high school headteachers for the position of principal/manager for the new Aboriginal boarding high school near Brewarrina, NSW. The intention is to provide a unique education primarily for Aboriginal young people in a values-oriented, skills-based, Seventh-day Adventist boarding environment. The boarding dynamic will model and develop practical life skills in a stable, secure and caring setting. The curriculum for the education program will be based on the New South Wales Board of Studies courses for Grades 7–10 (stages 4 and 5) with an emphasis on literacy, numeracy, social development and employability skills. Integrated into this program will be a range of culturally-enriching activities and themes drawn from the Indigenous community of western New South Wales. The development of resilience as a vital part of an effective life and the practical values inherent in an integrated boarding/agricultural/educational program will be important points of focus. For further information, please contact Ralph Luchow on (02) 4951 8088 or at <ralphluchow@adventist.org.au>. Applications close October 31, 2009.

Accountant—Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community Inc (Meekatharra, WA) available from December 2009.

Male and Female Dorm Supervisors—Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community Inc (Meekatharra, WA). One immediate start.

Faith/Art/Foal/Breeding/Teacher and Mechanics Teacher.

Primary Teachers—Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community Inc (Meekatharra, WA) including early childhood. Several positions available.

One immediate start. Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community Inc is an independent Adventist-affiliated boarding facility, catering for Indigenous students from Kindergarten to Year 12. It is situated 55 km north of Meekatharra in central Western Australia. Karalundi is an oasis in the desert and includes a swimming pool, staff gymnasium and other recreational activities. Salary package includes subsidised housing with salary sacrifice available. Contact the CEO or Principal on (08) 9981 2000, email <ceo@karalundi.wa.edu.au> or <principal@karalundi.wa.edu.au>. Your CV, with three work-related references, should be sent to The CEO, PMB 6, Meekatharra WA 6642. Positions available in 2009/2010.

Social Worker—Arondale Retirement Village (Cooranbong, NSW), is seeking to appoint a part-time maternity-leave relief social worker (three days per week for 12 months) to provide social work services to residents in both self-care and residential aged care. The position reports directly to the Managing Director and is responsible for: day-to-day psychosocial assessment of residents; counselling support, including some group work; provision of case management, including liaison with outside organisations and other health professionals; and staff training and consultation on social issues. This will be a diverse role for a social worker seeking broad experience in a Christian, community-based organisation. For any inquiries in response to this role, or to request a copy of the job description, please contact David Knight, Managing Director on (02) 4977 0000 or alternatively, resumes can be emailed to <care@aacnnsw.com.au>. Applications close October 16, 2009.

Weddings

Durrant—Kita. Heath Daryl Durrant, son of Ellen and Gino Pascuzzo (Tecoma, Vic), and Naomi Michelle Kita, daughter of Henry and Mary Kita (Silvan), were married 28.6.09 at Roselyn Court Homestead, Essendon.

Migueles Pizarro—Manilla Abril. Samuel Alejandro Migueles Pizarro, son of Luis Samuel and Gladys Carmen Migueles Hendrieriquez (Chile), and Maria Cristina Manilla Abril, daughter of Luis Alberto and Graciela Manilla Rodriguez (Colombia), were married 30.8.09 in Hughesdale church, Melbourne, Vic.

Pereira—Pye. Marcus Philip Pereira, son of Nataaniel and Norberta Pereira (Sydney, NSW), and Vanessa Jane Pye, daughter of John and Ofeila Pye (Sydney), were married 30.8.09 at Annandale.

Obituaries

Barfoot, Stella Rose (nee Matthews), born 13.4.1915 at Auckland, NZ; died 13.8.09 at Victoria Point, Qld. In 1935, she married Henry Mace Harefield, who predeceased her. In 1965, she married Frank Jones at Manly, NSW, who predeceased her in 1973. On 13.10.93, she married Pastor Frank Barfoot, who predeceased her in 2007. She is survived by her brothers, Donald, Keith, Noel and Ian, and Norman Matthews (all of New Zealand). Stella was a kind, gentle and loving person, who was loved and appreciated by all who knew her.

Neil Tyler

Faithfull, Pastor Ronald Rex, born 16.7.1924 at Grey Lynn, Auckland, NZ; died 30.7.09 in Middlemore Hospital, Auckland. He was predeceased by his daughter, Robyn. He is survived by his wife, Joyce (Auckland); his son, Dennis (Australia); his six grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. Ron was not only “Faithfull” in name but mainly in North New Zealand. He commenced his ministry in 1949 and after retirement, he served as the chaplain of the Adventist Retirement village and Bethesda Home and Hospital at Manukau, Auckland. He now rests in the sure hope of the Resurrection, and a reunion with all those who loved and respected him.

Ian (John) Veld, Eddie Tupai, Clive Newson

Fajek, Laszlo, born 31.8.1919 at Besdan, Apatin, Yugoslavia; died 10.8.09 at Stanthorpe, Qld. Laszlo was a member of the Summit church (10 kilometres from Stanthorpe). Now asleep in the arms of his Saviour, he will be reunited with him again on the Resurrection day.

Sofia Seman

McGuire, Vere Lesley John, born 11.3.1925 at Moogara, Tas; died 18.7.09 peacefully at home at New Norfolk. On 30.9.1947, he married Vera in New Norfolk church. He is survived by his wife (New Norfolk); his children and their spouses, Glenda and Ron Fehlberg (Glenorchy), Barry and Jenny (Scottsdale), Hazel and John Sinclair (Meekatharra, WA), Melvin and Maxine (Lachlan, Tas), Dennis and Sharon (New Norfolk), and Lyndon and Stephanie (New Norfolk); and his many grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and great-great-grandchildren. A member of New Norfolk church for 75 years, Vere was a timber worker. He survived a potentially fatal accident at a sawmill and had to relearn many things, including how to walk again. He loved his church and readily gave of his talents to create furniture for the sanctuary. He is sleeping peacefully, waiting for the return of his Saviour.

Damien Ridley

Patrick, Lillian (nee Everett), born 23.2.1923 at Thornleigh, NSW; died 7.6.09 at Wauchope. Lil grew up in Pappinbarra, where, as a young teenager, she met Joe. They were married 18.9.1944. She was predeceased by her husband; and her six children, Pat, Joy, John, Len, Coral and Allan; her 17 grandchildren; her 17 great-grandchildren; and also by her sister, Eva Everett. Lil loved to tell of God’s provisions in her life and to sing songs of praise to Him. She loved and trusted God’s Word and now sleeps in peace
Advertisements

Note: Neither the editor, Signs Publishing Company, nor the Seventh-day Adventist Church is responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised. Publication does not indicate endorsement of a product or service. Advertisements approved by the editor will be inserted at the following rates: first 30 words or less, $A66; each additional word, $A2.75. For your advertisement to appear, payment must be enclosed. Classified advertisements in RECORD are available to Seventh-day Adventist members, churches and institutions only. See masthead (page 3) for contact details.

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Doug Batchelor to feature at Evangelism Convention ’09. This initiative is to inspire and equip people to be soul winners, and proclaim the everlasting gospel to the world. Featuring Pastor Gary Kent and other experienced local speakers, this exciting conference will include powerful messages, informative workshops, inspiring mission reports and cutting-edge evangelistic resources. To be held at the Darling Harbour Convention Centre, Sydney, from October 23–25, 2009. Only $A130 per person, which includes access to all sessions and workshops. For information and to register, please visit <www.fountaininthecity.com.au>.

Wahroonga Adventist Church Television invites all partners, donors, supporters, members and former members to a Thanksgiving Day, November 21, 2009. Starts 9.30 am. Witness the testimonies and miracles, be inspired by the messages, and praise God through the music. For more information, call (02) 9487 1374 or email <lansar@bigpond.com.au>.

New Adventist TV Show: Michael Jackson’s ghost? Get your friends watching this weekly webshow at YouTube/Too good Today or <www.Tooood.com>, or see NZ Television Sky/Freeview Channel 110 on Wednesday 12.30 pm, Friday 8 pm or Saturday 2.30 pm.

Central Coast Adventist School is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Reunite, Remember, Celebrate. October 30–November 1, 2009. For further details and to RSVP, email <40th_anniversary@ccas.nsw.edu.au> or call (02) 4367 1800.

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Wanted—Your stewardship story. Signs Publishing is planning to produce a third collection of stories in the tradition of Ordinary People—Extraordinary God and Ordinary People—Faithful God. Share a spiritual lesson in your own faith experience with God in stewardship of time, means, talents/opportunities, health, the environment, hope or other aspects of the Christian life. Make sure the relationship to the concept of stewardship is clear. Write your testimony in no more than 750 words—the shorter, the better. Make sure your testimony is a story and let the narrative speak for itself. Keep any moral to a minimum. Suggest a relevant Bible text to be placed at the end of your story. Include your contact details and a short biographical note. Send your story to the editor, Signs Publishing Company (see masthead for details), <nathan.brown@signspublishing.com.au>.

Ferntree Gully church 50th anniversary. Friends, past members and ministers, are invited to join us to celebrate God’s leading over the last 50 years, on October 31, 2009. 9.30 am Sabbath school, 11.00 am worship service. “Reflecting on the past, building for the future.” Guest speaker: Pastor Ken Vogel, General Secretary AUC. A light lunch will be served after the service. Corner Lyones Parade and Railway Avenue, Upper Ferntree Gully, Vic.

Position vacant: Asian Aid Australia is seeking expressions of interest for the position of Chief Executive Officer. Applications close November 2, 2009. For further details, go to <http://www.asianaid.org.au/ceoposition.asp> or contact Kerryn Patrick on <kerryn.patrick@asianaid.org.au>; phone (02) 6586 4250 ext 1335.

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