THOUSANDS TURN OUT TO SHAKE “GIFTED HANDS”

DONATIONS FLOW IN FOR MEDICAL CLINICS

MINISTRY FOR THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE
A heart-to-heart with God
Pablo Lillo

I must admit I don’t spend as much time in prayer as I would like. I blame it on the busyness of life, work, family and social commitments. I wish there were more hours in the day. Prayer is something I need to work on constantly.

I’m anxious to spend more time in communion with God. I need to break away from a bland, powerless, status quo Christianity and put God where He belongs—first in my life. I need the face-to-face and heart-to-heart with the God who loves, heals and forgives.

Until I come to God in prayer and repent of the hurt I’ve done to others, seek His wisdom and ask to be used by Him on a daily basis, none of the things I’m doing will make a difference.

Nothing else I say or do or debate or theorise can bring about the revival of the true godliness I so desperately need, as can prayer. I know what I’m like when I fail to come to Jesus in prayer. I start a downward spiral, believing that life is about the creature—not the Creator. Life is about my wants, my needs, now. How is your prayer life?

As a church we can have all the seminars and books and studies and committees and strategies and plans we want, but until we seek God first with all our hearts, it’s all in vain. We need to seek God in prayer with humble hearts.

In this edition, Pastor Anton van Wyk challenges us with what it means to be a community. In his article (p 14) he makes a bold statement, “we must not assume that just because we occupy the same space that we have community.” Dr Robert Granger (p 10) brings to our attention the extraordinary rise in the popularity of coffee over the past two decades.

Thank you for your feedback and extra support, and we look forward to sharing the latest news with you in RECORD on a fortnightly basis.

CONTENTS

NEWS
05 Donations flow in for medical clinics
06 News in brief
07 Ministry for the people, by the people
09 New lessons help students encounter God

FEATURES
11 Is there a better way?
13 Googling your health
14 Authentic community
16 Beginning to sound

COLUMNS
10 Why I became an Adventist
12 Opinion
13 Recipe
18 Record rewind
19 Kids’ space
20 My church
21 Letters
Thousands turn out to shake “gifted hands”

Jarrod Stockelstroth—Sydney, New South Wales

World-renowned Adventist neurosurgeon and author, Dr Ben Carson, was the keynote speaker for Sydney Adventist Hospital’s focus week in March. Dr Carson came with his wife, Candy, and two of his three sons, Murray and Ben Jnr. It was his first trip to Australia in 25 years, since his eldest son was born here.

During focus week, all the directors and managers of the hospital gather together to reaffirm their mission and revisit their corporate strategy.

“The week is really important in reaffirming the basic philosophy that underpins the hospital,” says Dr Leon Clarke, chief executive officer of Sydney Adventist Hospital. The idea of a devotional aspect to the focus week was borrowed from Florida Hospital, an Adventist institution in the United States.

Dr Carson spoke on topics such as Jesus, the master healer, and the miracles he had experienced during his medical career.

After a stressful few days, Dr Carson arrived in Australia just in time to preach at Wahroonga church, NSW, on March 20. Dr Carson told the story of his life to an overflowing church and the service was also streamed live to Fox Valley Community church.

Dr Carson took worship services at Wahroonga Adventist School and Avondale schools and visited Westmead Children’s Hospital.

“We have very fond memories of Australia,” says Dr Carson. “People are very friendly here. We are travelling to Perth for the weekend and we plan on reconnecting with some of our neighbours.”

Dr Carson’s book, *Gifted Hands*, has sold more than two million copies worldwide. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2008 and has recently cut back his busy schedule after a prostate cancer scare.

Anzac Day morning, 25 April 2010
Youth aim to reclaim, retain and rescue
Neru Nuuialii—Samoa

Samoa Adventist Tertiary Student Association held a camp on March 19–21 at Vailoa Camp Ground in Saoluafata. The theme for the weekend focused upon the worldwide Youth Department theme of Reclaim, Retain and Rescue. Guest speaker for the camp, Pastor Toese Ah Sam, was effective in motivating and encouraging the tertiary students to make a new commitment for the Lord. Assisting the main guest speaker during Sabbath afternoon seminars were Pastor Paulo Pelenato, the general secretary of Samoa, American Samoa and Tokelau Mission, and Tupuola Vaa Potoi, senior lecturer at the National University of Samoa.

“It is amazing to know that 10 students from the biggest island of Samoa in Savaii were able to make it to the program,” says Pastor Neru Nuuialii.

The youth director for Samoa, American Samoa and Tokelau Mission, Pastor Nuuialii organised the camp, with assistance from Steven Pelenato and Savaiki Neville.

Faith of the Anzacs reaches a secular audience
Brenton Stacey/Jarrod Stackelroth—Sydney, New South Wales

The evangelistic It Is Written Oceania (IIWO) program will be aired on free-to-air television during regular viewing hours, for the first time on Anzac day. The special feature “Faith of the Anzacs” presented by Pastor Gary Kent, was partially filmed on location for six days at Gallipoli, western Turkey.

The program will be shown in Australia on Channel 7, Anzac Day morning. Two other Anzac-themed episodes have been produced for the regular IIWO timeslots and will be shown on the Australian Christian Channel, Channel Seven in Australia, EMTV in Papua New Guinea, the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s Hope Channel and TV2 in New Zealand around Anzac Day this year and for the next two years.

Avondale College lecturer, associate professor Daniel Reynaud, wrote the scripts and served as historical consultant for the shows. He has conducted lots of research into the Anzac legend and its representation in early Australian films.

Donations flow in for medical clinics
Jarrod Stackelroth—Wahroonga, New South Wales

The South Pacific Division’s Health Department has sent 10 shipping containers filled with medical supplies to the islands as part of the Adopt-a-clinic program. The supplies include beds, mattresses, linen, blankets, walkers, wheelchairs, medical instruments, stethoscopes, blood pressure machines, gowns, stretchers and more. The items were donated by various organisations, hospitals, nursing homes and individuals from around Australia.

“The impact that this program has had out in the Pacific Islands has been absolutely tremendous,” says Dr Chester Kuma, associate director of Adventist Health.

The program was recently offered new theatre drapes, gowns and linen worth approximately $A1.5million. They are being given not only to Adventist clinics and hospitals but government hospitals in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

“This work has already resulted in baptisms,” says Dr Kuma.

“Governments are very appreciative of improvement seen in our clinics and the help they are able to receive from us. This work is meeting people’s needs, it is breaking down barriers and opening doors and opportunities for mission like we have never seen before.”
C.R.E.A.T.I.O.N Health

God’s 8 Principles for Living Life to the Fullest

Health Offering May 8

brought to you by

Religion ban?
Church leaders in Western Samoa are divided about a government proposal to limit new religions coming into the country. Mainline denominations are generally in support of a ban but other churches, including the Adventist Church, are concerned that restrictions on religious freedom are a step in the wrong direction. —Council for World Mission

Near miss
The head of El Salvador’s Anglican church, Martin Barahona, has been targeted in an assassination attempt. An unidentified man shot at Barahona and two of his colleagues. While the bishop was not injured, his driver was hit, and is now in hospital. —Anglican Communion news service

Save the sheik
An Iranian sheik, Mansour Leghaei, has been declared a security threat by the Australian Government, which plans to deport him. But a coalition of Christian and other community leaders opposes the deportation, saying the sheik is a moderate Islamic leader who is an influence for peace in his community. —ABC News

Hear the Word
Christian organisation, Faith Comes By Hearing, is offering audio New Testaments free for church groups making mission trips to countries where literacy is low. The word-for-word dramatic readings are available in 435 languages. About half of the world’s population cannot read or write. —Mission News Network

Round the world
Two Australian men, Ken Evers and Tim Pryse, will set off on a history-making flight around the world next month to raise $A1 million for the fight against malaria. The funds raised will go to the Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and Pacific and Mission Aviation Fellowship. —www.millionsagainstmalaria.com

Stop the violence!
Church leaders in the Central American country of Belize closed all 25 Adventist schools for a day in protest against escalating police violence. Teddy Murillo Jr (21) died in a police shooting in February, the second Adventist to die in similar circumstances in recent years. —Inter-American Division
Kent Kingston/Jarrod Stackelroth—Wahroonga, New South Wales

Generally planning for youth ministry is done by a small group of leaders and then imposed by others. However the newly elected youth ministries team at Parramatta church decided to take a different approach. On February 13, the youth were invited to share what was important to them and decide on the future direction of their ministry.

With more than 50 young people of all ages present at the meeting, it was clear they wanted their voice heard and to be change agents for 2010. To start proceedings Johnny Murison—assistant pastor—opened with an inspiring devotion and prayer to invite the Holy Spirit to lead. Caryn Landers, newly appointed youth leader, used innovative, creative and non-invasive activities to ask important questions. The main themes to emerge from the planning meeting were the youths’ interest in evangelism, service and personal spirituality, giving everyone a new focus for 2010 and beyond. All involved were elated at what had been achieved and overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of all who came.

New Revelation series reaps results

A new evangelistic toolkit, developed by the South Pacific Division’s Bible Research Committee, has been launched and has already led to a number of baptisms during product trials.

Dr John Paulien, the Adventist Church’s most noted Revelation scholar, has teamed up with Dr Graeme Bradford, retired pastor, administrator and Avondale lecturer, to author the Revelation series, a new DVD series and study guide aimed at both the individual spiritual seeker and a pastor or trainer wanting to lead a group. The package is comprehensive but also flexible. It includes student books, DVDs, presenter resources, supplementary material, special topics, a website and more. Presenters can use the package in a number of ways, from sermon material or an individual Bible study to a full evangelistic campaign.

“For years we have been asking for something like this,” says Dr Graeme Bradford. “The series is very Christ-centred and Bible based.”

Drs Paulien and Bradford say Revelation avoids some of the speculative approaches that have been used to interpret the book in the past. The authors say they have stuck firmly to the text of the book itself, making use of the very best of scholarship available. And the content points firmly to where it should, “the revelation of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 1:1).

Early attempts at using the materials have produced promising results both in terms of feedback and baptisms. “The seminar focuses on revealing Jesus and how to be ready for His soon return,” says Pastor Murray Thackham. “This approach is both biblically accurate and relevant in today’s strife torn world. The seminar helps to lead people into a closer walk with Jesus because He can be lifted up in every session.” Pastor Thackham is one of a number of pastors who have trialled the program in Victoria and he says nine people who have gone through the program have been baptised.

Over 3,000 sets of the Revelation materials are being distributed to the South Pacific Division, Unions and Conferences/Missions, with more demand coming from the United States and other countries.

For more information, visit <www.revelationhope.com>.

Ministry for the people, by the people

Leela Landers—Parramatta, New South Wales

Generally planning for youth ministry is done by a small group of leaders and then imposed by others. However the newly elected youth ministries team at Parramatta church decided to take a different approach. On February 13, the youth were invited to share what was important to them and decide on the future direction of their ministry.

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Abused addict saves others
Popular US television host Cheri Peters is running seminars on how to beat addictions until May in Australia and New Zealand. She told David Gibbons on InFocus that despite having had an abusive childhood, God managed to find and rescue her.

Teenagers declare allegiance to God
Three teenagers became Seventh-day Adventists in Karalundi (WA) despite their lives being threatened by Mamu (Satan). Following a candlelight baptism at the Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community swimming pool, 14 Karalundi students who witnessed the ceremony asked for Bible studies.

—Romela Sanggol

269 request health checks
Visitors at the Hyde Park Festival in Perth, WA, stopped by the health display run by North Perth Church and the Adventist Health Association. Each person was enrolled in the Taking Charge of Your Health correspondence course.

—NewsWest

Pathfinders raise $A10,000 for 2011 Camporee
Cornubia Samoan Pathfinders (Qld) staged a popular cultural concert for 500 people. Ticket sales and donations will enable the children to attend the Australian Pathfinder Camporee.

—Focus

Married then baptised
Torres Strait Islander Brancis Baira was baptised on Hammond Island—wedding dress and all—by Australian Union president Chester Stanley after he married her and Tony on the beach. Brancis is now actively involved in outreach on Saibai Island.

—Steve Piez

Adventist business breaks national records
Peter Sissons thanked God publicly after his real estate business was judged by the Real Estate Institute of Australia the Best Small Real Estate Agency in Australia for 2010. The business, running 18 years in Red Hill, Qld, has been given this top national award for an unprecedented third year in a row.

God surprises estate agents
When Ann put her Melbourne home on the market she knew how much she needed to relocate to Adelaide and help renovate her ailing daughter’s home. She prayed and was in tears when the best offer was $A60,000 more than she had asked for. The buyer also stipulated a date for settlement instead of the usual 60 days. “I bet it’s April 15,” Ann blurted. The shocked agents asked Ann how she knew. It was the same date Ann could have access to her new home.

—IntraVic

Abused addict saves others
Popular US television host Cheri Peters is running seminars on how to beat addictions until May in Australia and New Zealand. She told David Gibbons on InFocus that despite having had an abusive childhood, God managed to find and rescue her.

—he’s no puppet
Brad Thomas (that’s him on the right) enjoys being chaplain at the Landsdale Gardens Adventist School. Brad is an intern and in his spare time, he is pastoring the new church plant based at the school.

—NewsWest

Something old, something new
Until a new church can be built on donated land, the small group of Adventists on the island of Nauru continue to worship in the old, run down Phosphate company church every Sabbath. Church pastor Temau Iaita has just been appointed to the new company which now exists for the first time on the once prosperous island.

—Nos Terry

Cyclone Bell wins over Fulton College
Fulton College, Fiji, was hit by Cyclone Mick then prepared for Cyclone Thomas. But it was “Cyclone Bell” who caught students and staff unprepared. InFocus’s Francine Bell was week of prayer guest speaker. She won their hearts with music, stories and her deep relationship with God.

—David Potter

Schools combine and worship together
Primary students at Avondale and Toronto Adventist schools joined together for a week of Mega Praise. The Toronto school came under the management of the Avondale schools recently, so the students on the two campuses will see more of each other.

—Susan Rogers

Send your pictures and details to news@record.net.au
New lessons help students encounter God

by Nina Atcheson

The new Encounter Bible curriculum has officially been launched. The curriculum will be available to all Adventist schools in Australia and New Zealand. Nina Atcheson, secondary curriculum officer for Adventist Schools Australia (ASA), says, “having done a lot of training and initial writing, it’s really exciting to see the new materials reach the hands of teachers who are enthusiastic about sharing God with their students. Nothing is more important than growing our students’ faith.”

Pastor Ben Maxon authored the spiritual formation model upon which the new curriculum is founded. He will meet with teachers in Australia and New Zealand throughout the year, sharing the foundation of the Encounter curriculum and steps involved in faith development.

The primary unit for every second year level and all of Year 7 is being released this year, with subsequent levels to follow over the next few years. The main focus of Encounter is on connecting students with God in a meaningful relationship. It helps reach “both their heads and their hearts,” says Daryl Murdoch, manager of ASA Curriculum Unit Encounter. “Our curriculum officers are prayerfully working together to help make this happen. The desire of our dedicated team of curriculum writers in Australia and New Zealand is that the teaching materials and resources will assist teachers to connect young people with Christ and call them to service.”

On-Line Training

To ensure all the teachers understood the shift in perspective, an online training tutorial for Bible teachers was developed for them to complete before the new curriculum materials were sent to them. “With rollout taking place in Australia and New Zealand at the beginning of the year, it wasn’t possible to train all Bible teachers face-to-face in such a short timeframe,” says Dr Murdoch.

The Australian Union Conference partnered with Uguru (an e-learning company) to develop an interactive and engaging experience that would not only hold the attention of busy teachers but inspire and equip them to use the new curriculum in their classrooms.

The online tutorial teaches the spiritual formation model upon which Encounter is founded, as well as the transformational planning framework, which explores the cycle of each teaching unit.

During January, more than 400 teachers logged on to the Encounter website. Although face-to-face training will still occur, the online tutorial allowed a large group of people to be trained at the same time in a consistent and professional way. The teachers are also able to go back to the tutorial at any stage in the future if they need clarification.

Considering this is the very first time that online training has occurred within the South Pacific Division’s Adventist education system, it has been received extremely positively. Julie-Anne Truscott, head of the Bible department at Avondale School says, “It is extremely professional. It is better than anything I have personally participated in before. The script and the production are outstanding.”

In addition to sending all schools the new Encounter teaching units, schools have also been given the associated resources for each unit. This includes posters, DVDs, audio CDs and books to ensure the new units are delivered with integrity.

Lanelle Cobbin, curriculum specialist for Adventist schools in New Zealand, is excited to see teachers embracing the spirit of the curriculum. “Teachers are excited by it,” she says, “and that can’t help but make a difference to the delivery of content. Darren Martin, at our secondary school in Auckland, goes to class in military dress to add to the exploration of the theme of the Great Controversy.”

Comment? Go to www.record.net.au
The rise and rise of coffee (part 1)

Coffee has enjoyed an extraordinary rise in popularity over the past 20 years. This beverage falls into the triad of the world’s most popularly consumed addictive substances, together with alcohol and nicotine. Besides its taste and stimulatory benefits, coffee provides a commonality for our social interactions.

This escalating love affair with coffee is also evident within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Preliminary data from the new cohort of the USA-based Adventist Health Study II indicates that almost one in five Adventists in the United States and Canada consumes one or more cups of coffee per week. You find it for sale in some of our institutions.

As a medical doctor and public health professional, church members frequently ask me if the time has arrived for the Seventh-day Adventist Church to revise its recommendations on coffee consumption.

A review of the scientific literature does suggest that caffeine not only possesses a number of health-promoting properties—it is no longer considered a causative agent for conditions such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease and cancer. Did we get it wrong by urging our membership that “The only safe course is to touch not, taste not, handle not, tea, coffee, wines, tobacco, opium, and alcoholic drinks”? Absolutely not. Watch this space.

In the meantime, I urge you to consider a potent alternative: “pure water is one of Heaven’s choicest blessings . . . drunk freely, it helps to supply the necessities of the system, and assists nature to resist disease.”

In fact because you are now right with God—because of what He has done—Jesus assures you that you have already passed from death to eternal life.

As you sincerely come to Jesus, “warts and all”, and throw yourself on His mercy, you will find you are NEVER turned away. Never.

In the meantime, I urge you to consider a potent alternative: “pure water is one of Heaven’s choicest blessings . . . drunk freely, it helps to supply the necessities of the system, and assists nature to resist disease.”

1 White EG, Counsels on Diet and Foods, p 428

Dr Robert H Granger is undertaking specialist training in dermatology at Flinders Medical Centre.
Is there a better way?

by Fredrick Russell

A few Sundays ago I was asked to speak for both morning worship services for a Baptist megachurch. Every so often these kinds of requests come and I view these engagements as opportunities to share the Word but also to give exposure to our Adventist church in the wider Christian community.

As I stood in the greeting line after both services shaking hands with worshippers, they were extraordinarily affirming of the Word they had just heard and the blessing it was to their lives. But a question several of the people asked me left me, frankly, struggling for an answer: “Where is your church?”

I had to explain that I didn’t exactly pastor a church, but was president of a conference. “I’m something like a bishop, but not quite,” I said. “I have oversight responsibilities for a number of our churches in a geographical area.”

They nodded their heads but persisted: “Yes, but where is the church you pastor?” They couldn’t conceive of a pastor not having a church. There was a disconnect in their minds, as even the bishops they were aware of, still led local congregations.

That got me thinking (as I’ve done over the years) about our system of placing pastors in denominational executive positions, effectively separating them from frontline churches where the “heartbeat” of our denomination exists. I don’t have many answers here, but as I sit now as a denominational executive I’m even more convinced that we might need to rethink this system we have of having large numbers of pastors removed from frontline churches and placed into executive positions, many never having the privilege of pastoring again as their careers take them further and further from the frontlines.

While many leaders honestly feel conflicted over this, there aren’t any quick fixes, especially with the gigantic organisation we have worldwide that encompasses very complex entities. Notwithstanding, we might at some point, given the massive mission before us and the brief time to do it, have to take a new top-to-bottom look at how we’re organised for ministry—not just a reduction in force at executive levels, but a healthy, comprehensive look at our entire structure.

Is having a permanent executive class of leaders the most effective structure for ministry? Is there a better way to use our people resources, or as the corporate world puts it, our human capital?

A complicating factor is in the realm of the intangible: the fact that inherent in our organisation is a dynamic that seems to affirm pastors as being more successful when they leave the frontline church. That is problematic in and of itself. Yet some leaders possess skillsets and ministry gifts that equip them to have broader oversight responsibilities. As I said, there are no easy answers. But if the New Testament church offers any advice, it is that even as some apostles (James, Peter, etc) took on oversight responsibilities, they stayed fully engaged with frontline ministry. They kept it simple; their organisation was simple. And no, I’m not naive to the complexities of running a worldwide organisation. But I am convinced that we might have to make it simpler than it is now.

The fact is, as our work moves into its most intense phase yet, we’re going to need “all hands on deck.” We might not be able to sustain a massive executive class, given the times just before us. We will require a fleet-footed organisation, certainly flatter, more decentralised, where what binds us will be our mission.

Pastor Fredrick A Russell is president of the Allegheny West Conference, with headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, USA.
Social capital needed

Young people need social capital in order to journey through adolescence and become mature adults. Social capital is a term used by youth professionals to explain the support, skills and care adults can offer adolescents.

Youth leaders in local churches often play a vital role in offering social capital by supporting and empowering young people. But providing social capital must not be left up to the youth or Pathfinder leaders alone. Every adult can play a part in providing social capital by spending time getting to know the young people in their congregation. A significant study conducted by Dr James Comer of Yale University reveals that the skills needed for successful adulthood are increasing annually as life becomes increasingly complex. However, the support and guidance offered by adults to youth is diminishing, as adults tend to focus more on individual work and lifestyle goals rather than family responsibilities. Comer concludes: “These two trends have created a serious problem in our country, indeed a crisis.” Trends in America soon become trends across the western world, which should cause concern for Adventists in the South Pacific.

Adults who make an effort to get to know the names of the youth in their church and take an interest in their welfare, help to create a safety net that provides social capital for young people. While the youth ministry departments offer excellent ministry opportunities throughout the year that create social capital, young people need the ongoing weekly support of adults and family in their local church.

You don’t have to be a hero to make a difference in the lives of youth. All you need to do is befriend them and let them know your church values them. Every young person attending church is a potential world changer—why not become a part of their success story?

Pastor Nick Kross is director of Adventist Youth ministries for the South Pacific Division.

OPINION POLL

How has your Sabbath observance changed over time?

I’m more careful 18%
I’m more relaxed 58.5%
It’s about the same 23.5%

Next Poll
Should church administrators also pastor a local congregation?

Please visit <record.net.au> to answer this poll.
Googling your health

Today many of us use the internet to look up symptoms, search for treatments and gain support through patient networks. Some of this information is good, other times it is bad and sometimes outright dangerous. Anyone can publish their own insights and opinions about medical issues. So how do you become a smart researcher and find credible, reliable information and learn to ignore the phony?

Step 1: Check the Source
- Is the website from a well-known, reputable organisation? Check the “about us” page.
- Does the website clearly state its mission and purpose? Is it designed to inform or is it designed to sell a product or persuade about a current issue?
- Who is responsible for the content? If an address contains .edu it is a school or university, .gov or .govt it is government, .org is a non-profit organisation and .com it is from a commercial or individual’s site.
- Does the website have a way for visitors to ask questions?
- Who funds the website? Be cautious of sites funded by medical or pharmaceutical companies.
- Is it a local site or an international site? You need to be aware that different countries have different terminology, recommendations and treatments.
- What are the qualifications of the person who wrote the content? Look out for details like university degrees and professional memberships. Confirm details on another website.

Step 2: Consider the Quality
- Does the look of the site suggest a professional effort?
- Is the site free from grammatical and spelling errors?

Step 3: Look at the Evidence
- Does the information include different points of view?
- Is the information based on scientific research? Opinions may not necessarily be wrong, it all depends on who gives the opinion. It is important to know the difference between facts and opinions when looking at different treatments.
- Are references and links provided to support the information and what is the strength of the evidence?

Step 4: Check Timeliness
- Good websites date their content. Avoid websites that only contain old information, as medical advice often changes as new research comes to light.
- Are the links working? Broken links suggest it is an old site.

Step 5: Be a Cyberskeptic
- Do the claims seem too good or too bad to be true? If so, they probably are.
- Are there lots of testimonials on the site? Use your intuition as some testimonials are suspect.
- If you can’t find the information on three other sites then you can assume the information is questionable.

Never use internet information to make a health decision without consulting your doctor—the best source of medical information and the one who understands your medical needs. The internet cannot replace a timely doctor’s visit.

Cauliflower fritters with mint yoghurt

1. Bring a large saucepan of water to the boil. Add cauliflower, bring to the boil and cook for 6 minutes, add peas and cook for a further 3 minutes.
2. Drain vegetables and transfer to a large bowl. Using a potato masher, gently mash cauliflower and peas.
3. Sift together flour and spices. Add to the cauliflower with egg. Mix to a stiff batter.
4. Heat oil in a frying pan over medium heat. Cook 2 heaped tablespoons of the mixture for 3-4 minutes each side or until golden brown and cooked through. Transfer to plate lined with paper towel.

Preparation time: 15 minutes Cooking time: 10 minutes

PER SERVE: 980kJ; 230 Cal; Protein 10g; Fat 11g; Carbohydrate 22g; Sodium 65mg; Potassium 430mg; Calcium 100mg; Iron 1.6mg; Fibre 4g.

PER SERVE: ½ cup frozen peas 1 tsp ground coriander ½ cup plain flour 1 tsp ground cumin ½ tsp turmeric ½ cup low-fat natural yoghurt 2 tbsp oil 1 clove garlic, crushed 2 tbsp chopped mint

Call us for a free cook book. It is full of recipes that you can enjoy with your family and friends. Also, if you would like credible and practical advice about health and nutrition, call the Sanitarium Nutrition Service on 1800 673 392 (in Australia) or 0800 100 257 (in New Zealand). Alternatively, you can email us at nutrition@sanitarium.com.au (Australia) or <nutrition@sanitarium.co.nz> (New Zealand). It’s free and we’d love to hear from you.
The wonder and power of authentic community

Dan nudged me and whispered, “I know that lady.” His eyes directed me to first-time guests sitting just a few rows from us. “I met her on the train. We were on the same train commuting to Wellington for over two years. It’s amazing,” he added.

There was a happy reunion in the foyer that day. Warm embraces followed. During the shared lunch Cynthia shared that regular commuters would always sit in the same place. Their little group started sharing their pre-packed breakfasts. “Scones and muffins just out of the oven,” she exclaimed. “We shared our stories and lives on that train—we laughed and cried together,” Dan quips, his blue eyes radiant.

On the way home I couldn’t help but say to myself, “the marvel of authentic community; nothing beats it in this world.”

Authentic Community—our greatest need

In reference to the many social networking opportunities available on the internet, Jon Ferguson writes, “We can have a false sense of community because we have contact with so many people, but often have no real connections. It is a form of technological isolation.”

Back in 2005 John Hogan said, “America’s love affair with oversized homes on oversized lots is losing luster . . . Yes, bungalows are back. This is part of the growing desire for community.” (Home and Garden, May 22, 2005)

To some extent rugged individualism still taints us all. After all, Frank Sinatra sang, “I did it my way”. The cult of the self-made man lives on. The Lone Ranger is still with us. What is emphasised in individualism is independence. It says, “Stand alone. You are your own person with no intrinsic bond with anyone else. You are free of responsibility to others. You have no obligations to others. Dependence on others is often seen as a weakness.”

Now we all know that our culture isn’t like that in its totality. People still act for the good of someone else, there is commitment in relationships and responsibility for others, and there is often a yearning for more of a community.

However, most would agree that in our age the disease of isolation is rampant and many individuals exist in the border regions of life.

Community exists eternally

God’s own being is made up of a community of three persons, the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit. They are a creative Community, a trune Fellowship and a divine Intimacy. And, He meant for us to live in similar community with each other. Of course, we were created as individuals and we have our unique personalities and characters but we are designed to live in community with Him and with each other. (See also Jesus’ prayer in John 17)

Designed for Community

Community is how we are hard-wired to live. It was the Creator’s original dream. We were made with a human-shaped void. In the midst of His creative bonanza in Genesis a recurring theme appears. In fact six times after He creates, the text says, “and God saw that it was good.” Then on the sixth day humankind comes on the scene. God’s appraisal changes. With His latest addition, things are no longer just good—they are now very good. With the addition of human-kind, God awards His five-star rating.

Then the unexpected happens. After explaining in more details His design and intentions for man, God says, “it’s not good.” Up to this point everything was as it was intended. But in Genesis 2:18 God says that something isn’t right. He says, “It is not good for man to be alone.” At its core this is a statement about the importance of our connecting well with others.

What is striking is that the Fall has not yet occurred. There is no sin, no disobedience, nothing to mar the relationship between God and man. The human being is in a state of perfect intimacy with God. Each word he and God speak with each other is filled with closeness and joy; he walks with God in the garden in the cool of the day. He is known and loved to the core of his being by his omnipotent, love-filled Creator. Yet the word God uses to describe him is alone. And God says that aloneness is not good.

That there is inside every human being a God-shaped vacuum or void that no other person can fill, is true. But apparently, according to the writer of Genesis, God creates inside this man a kind of “human-shaped” vacuum that God Himself cannot fill. No substitute will fill this need in you—this need for human relationships. Not money. Not achievement. Not busyness. Not books. Not even God Himself.

No substitute will fill this need in you—this need for human relationships. Not money. Not achievement. Not busyness. Not books. Not even God Himself.
must grasp the principles Paul elevates in his metaphor of the Body.

**Community-living is part of the greatest commandment**

Jesus offers a solution to the malaise of isolation. One day a man asked Jesus, “What is the most important commandment?” In Jesus’ day, people had taken the Bible and boiled it down to 613 commandments. So the guy is saying, “Help me out here, cut through this information overload and just tell me, which is the most important commandment?” He was asking Jesus, “What is the big idea?”

Jesus responds by saying, “Love your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” In the same breath He says, “And the second is this: Love your neighbour as yourself. No commandment is more important than these.” Why did He give the two most important commands and not just the one? He adds this second thing so that we don’t fall into a “just Jesus and me” kind of spirituality that can lead to isolation. When He says to love other people with the same kind of focus and energy that you love yourself, He is echoing God’s original dream in Genesis. Jesus doesn’t say love your neighbour as yourself because that’s what’s nice and good—what Christian people should do. It’s because it’s how we are hard-wired to live. It’s how we are intended to live. It’s what it means to be a Christ-follower.

**Conclusion**

- We must not assume that just because we occupy the same space that we have community. Communities are not birthed from a shared space but rather a shared life.
- Our challenge is to find ways to consolidate our many diverse community experiences. There is an increasing desire to overlap our many communities into what might be called ‘consolidated communities’ that multiply our sense of community identity and simplify our lifestyles. This challenge is to stop creating more silos.
- Community is developed by focusing attention on what goes on in the heart of the community and not on the form and structure of the community. In other words, authentic community cannot be legislated.

1 Concept gleaned from the work of John Ortberg

Pastor Anton van Wyk mentors pastors in the North New Zealand Conference.
You may have heard the church has a new recording label. RECORD sat down with Psalter’s manager, Tim Burcham, to find out what it’s all about.

**What is Psalter?**

Psalter is a ministry. It has been set up to discover, nurture, promote and record music in the church. We want to give impetus and opportunity to musicians in the church and make people aware that there are Adventist musicians writing good music.

**Why does the church need a music label?**

In the past it’s been “every man for himself”. People paid for their own recordings and it wasn’t always professional. The music was on a local scale and wasn’t widely available to people around the South Pacific Division. Our aim is to boost Adventist music. Whatever it takes to do it.

My philosophy is this. If you’re true to your own culture and develop it, it will then spread to other denominations. There are so many Christian artists already. Why should we—as Adventists—be involved in music production?

To me modern Christian music is formulaic. I’m interested in people thinking and playing outside the square, searching for new ways to make music.

Personally I love the Adventist message. Why not protect the message musically? The time has come for Adventist music to step up. Christians are looking for authenticity and greater depth in music. I think we can offer that. We’ll never succeed by copying other people. To be successful in the music world you’ve got to be yourself. Let’s take our unique sound and message and put it to music.

Most Adventist writers I know are writing contemporary yet reverent music. There is a depth and feeling. We are people who believe we do our best for God. Musically we should be too. Psalter wants to provide good playing, song writing and production.

It’s time we got behind our own people. It’d be great if Adventists supported our musicians by buying their music. It’d be great if we were supported as a ministry too.

**What does Psalter offer?**

Our strategic links worldwide to other Adventist organisations are an invaluable asset. It is a marketer’s dream.

As a ministry we absorb the cost of recording, engineering and mixing and ask the artist to pay for mastering, artwork and duplication. Essentially we’re partnering with the artist.

**What is production like?**

In terms of production, we’ll make sure the music is always to the highest standard. Dale Willis is a fantastic sound engineer and has become a really good producer. It’s a blessing that we have him in the church.

**What are the facilities like at AMN?**

Well, the recording studio was built in the 1960s and they did an amazing job. It is a beautifully acoustic room. But we now have top-of-the-line microphones, a desk modelled on the top five desks ever built and the best outboard equipment. Dale, Kyle Portbury (production manager) and I put together a proposal, which was accepted. We fitted out the studio so we can match any studio in the country and cope with any recording situation.

**How did you come to Adventist Media Network?**

I decided in high school to be a professional drummer. I had no plan B. When I left school I studied jazz at the Sydney Conservatorium. By the age of 21, I was working in six or seven bands. I worked as a professional drummer, doing jingles and orchestral work and later became national tour manager for my band.

I became an Adventist at 25. A year later, I was asked to tour with Jimmy Barnes and run clinics around the country. However I was committed to keeping Sabbath.

I felt the frustration of having a gift and not being able to use it in the fullest way. I met incredible musicians in the church who only ever recycled other people’s music. We have a great message and great musicians. We should be contributing to Christian culture.

**Has Psalter already signed up any artists?**

We have signed four groups so far. The Sapphire singers: People in the Solomon Islands realised a long time ago, a great way of keeping youth involved and in church is singing groups. This has resulted in group after group being so professional. They have a smooth modern gospel sound. Their DVD and two CDs will be available in Adventist Book Centres.

Ali and Leighton: They are one of the best examples of where modern Adventist music should be. Contemporary but acoustic, cleverly constructed song writing, lyrically deeper than much of the Christian music available today.

Leonie Gardner: Is traditional, with her own Celtic flavour. She has attempted to directly translate the Adventist message to music.

The Promise: A vocal ensemble from Avondale College will also be recording with Psalter.

All our artists will have their music available through iTunes and the Psalter website.

**What’s coming up?**

You can see Psalter’s first live event on May 22 at Avondale College church. It will be an amazing night of music. Filmed for Hope Channel, live events are a big part of what we hope to do in the future.

Jarrod Stackelroth is assistant editor of RECORD.
Early Adventism connection in the South Pacific

By all accounts Alexander Dickson was a charitable Christian. During the early 1860s he left his Melbourne commercial interests and sailed to Cape Palmas, Liberia, in west Africa, to assist at an Anglican mission station operated from America.

Hannah More was an American working at the same institution. She was receiving pamphlets from an Adventist acquaintance and read of the Saturday Sabbath, sharing her literature with Mr Dickson. Both accepted the Adventist view and returned to their respective homelands about 1865 after perhaps incurring the displeasure of their employers.

Mr Dickson was instrumental in persuading a small group of friends in Melbourne to observe the Saturday Sabbath with him. In the mid-1870s he journeyed to America, apparently with the purpose of obtaining the church imprimatur for his own pamphlets. He first met Seventh-day Adventist members in California. In May 1875, it seems, he was visiting the Review and Herald office in Battle Creek, Michigan.

During his absence Dickson’s little group in Melbourne apparently ceased meeting together. This unofficial infant mission was stillborn. Mr Dickson himself did not get the imprimatur he sought and he faded from the pages of our records. His visit to America, however, served to inform church members of Australia’s potential as a mission field.

At the time the church mission focus was preoccupied with Europe. It would be another decade before the official thrust took place across the Pacific Ocean, euphemistically called The Millpond.
Hi Wantoks!

Paul and Barnabas were missionaries in the city of Lystra and loved sharing Jesus with the people.

Share Jesus’ LOVE by serving others.

decode and solve the bible text below.

"Galatians 6:2 NIV"

Fill in the blanks with the letter that matches each picture.

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

This month’s Gracelink focus is Service.

Remember!

WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE HELP OTHERS.

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In Matthew 28:19–20, Jesus’ final instructions to his followers were to “go and make disciples of all peoples, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.” He assured them that He would always be with them as they went.

The mission statements of the General Conference and South Pacific Division have been revised. They now more specifically reflect the primary emphasis of Jesus’ words. Our Division mission statement now reads:

Our Mission is to make disciples for Jesus Christ of all peoples, communicating the everlasting gospel in the context of the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14:6–12.

Discipleship is now the primary focus of the mission statement just as it was in Jesus’ words to his disciples. To take the words of Jesus seriously means that we will not be content with “going, baptising and teaching,” as essential as each of these three actions are. We will be disciple-makers, while at the same time being made as disciples ourselves.

Disciple-making is a comprehensive process that lasts a lifetime. You may be one who has been following our Lord for many years. But you are still growing in Christ. You may be one who is just coming to Christ or just entering the waters of baptism. You may be experiencing the exhilaration of a new life in Christ. Wherever we are on our journey of faith we are being made as disciples of Jesus Christ.

The task of the church is to reach up, to reach out and to reach in. That is, to connect with God, to share our faith, and to nurture God’s people. Making disciples is not just a good thing to do. It is Christ’s imperative for the church.

Dr Barry Oliver is president of the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
POLL ON SABBATH
Diana Tanner, WA

Thank you for the great poll question (Opinion Poll, March 20) but I found it very difficult to answer because over the last 35 years I have become both more careful and more relaxed about the Sabbath.

More careful in that I continue to become more aware of just how awesome God is and how important His Sabbath is. More relaxed in that I increasingly see the Sabbath not as a rigid, non-flexible, restrictive, religious requirement, but as a wonderful institution for helping me to grow closer to God.

SABBATH SCHOOL MISSION FOCUS
Kiz Knott, VIC

The Mystery History photo (RECORD, March 6) became our Sabbath School mission focus.

I’d looked at the photo and presumed it was a large Sydney church so I was delighted to be in Sabbath School and be told the story of Pr AJ Gathercole and his association with the building of the Suva church in Fiji.

DIVERSITY IN ADVENTISM
Colin MacLaurin, QLD

I applaud RECORD for acknowledging the diversity of Adventist views about the remnant (Feature, March 6). From one perspective, Dr Rodríguez promoted a traditional view, yet his priorities in describing the remnant as "deeply connected to Jesus" before even mentioning the Sabbath, were a welcome innovation. From another perspective, the online poll admitted many disagree with the traditional position, and Berto’s cartoon poked fun at Adventists for thinking “they’re the only ones that will make it into heaven”.

PARENTAL LEAVE
Name withheld

I find it somewhat humorous that people in our church find it necessary and time worthy to debate the appropriateness of drums in church when there are much more worthwhile and life-impacting matters that affect us.

I have been a full-time employee of the church for a number of years, and I am disappointed our organisation does not support women in the workplace in the form of paid maternity leave. I have a friend who also works full-time for the church and is pregnant. She is planning to take leave without pay in order to embark on motherhood.

It is interesting to note that male pastors in our organisation receive two weeks paid paternity leave yet female ministers receive no paid maternity leave.

I would love it if our church showed how much it valued motherhood. While this was a very interesting and thought-provoking article, he himself uses the quote “young Adventist professionals”.

CLASS DISTINCTION IN OUR CHURCH?
Lee Rankin, VIC

The word professional has become hijacked by certain members of our community to create a social status divide.

The word professional as stated from the Macquarie dictionary and as its first listed meaning is as follows: following an occupation to earn a living or make money by it, example: professional actor.

My point and question is why the Adventist church exhibits the same attitude as the world? I have seen so many published examples of this, the most recent being in Jan Paulsen’s article, “Is the face of Adventism changing” (Adventist World, March 25). While this was a very interesting article, he himself uses the quote “young Adventist professionals.”

How are we going to reach the world telling of God’s unconditional love when we have a developing class distinction within our church? We are all created equal, we have all sinned and we are all in need of salvation and that’s how God sees it. Let’s be as one and start acting as one.
POSITIONS VACANT

- **Nutritionist (Technical)–Sanitarium (Auckland, NZ).** This is a great full-time opportunity for a suitably qualified nutritionist/dietitian with experience of Food Works or similar program, and working knowledge of FSANZ to join its small team of health professionals in the Sanitarium Nutrition Service. Specific responsibilities include compiling Nutrition Information Panel information, making recommendations on product nutrition improvement, advice on health claims and new product development, submissions, food packaging research, consumer resources and nutrition campaigns. The successful applicant will be a confident professional with excellent interpersonal skills and strong attention to detail. They will genuinely respect and proactively support the company’s Christian philosophy, heritage, values and ethics and enjoy working in and helping to create a happy and healthy workplace. Please visit <www.sanitarium.co.nz> to view the full advert and requirements. Forward your resume to: Nutritionist–Technical, Sanitarium Health Food Company Private Bag 92127, Auckland 1142. Email <human.resources@sanitarium.co.nz>. Applications close April 23, 2010.

- **Nutritionist (Communications)–Sanitarium (Auckland, NZ).** Sanitarium invites applications for this exciting full-time opportunity in Auckland. Responsibilities for this position include responding to nutrition related consumer enquiries, developing nutrition resources, delivering nutrition workshops and cooking demonstrations and consumer/nutrition trend research. Experience and key competencies required: formal qualifications in nutrition/dietetics and experience of public speaking and/or workshop delivery. The successful applicant will be a confident professional with excellent interpersonal skills, strong attention to detail and have a passion for food and nutrition. They will genuinely respect and proactively support the company’s Christian philosophy, heritage, values and ethics and enjoy working in and helping to create a happy and healthy workplace. Please visit <www.sanitarium.co.nz> to view the full advert and requirements. Forward your resume to: Nutritionist–Communications, Sanitarium Health Food Company Private Bag 92127, Auckland 1142. Email <human.resources@sanitarium.co.nz>. Applications close April 23, 2010.

- **Church Pastor–Greater Sydney Conference (Norfolk Island)** is seeking suitable applicants for the position of Church Pastor, Norfolk Island. Based on Norfolk Island, the role involves pastoral care of the church and ministry to the local community. The position is for commencement in July 2010, subject to negotiation. This position requires a commitment to the teachings, values and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Pastoral ministry experience is preferable. For more information, or to apply, please contact Pastor Michael Worker (02) 9868 6522 or email <michaelworker@adventist.org.au>. Applications close May 3, 2010.

- **Volunteer–Christian Services For The Blind & Hearing Impaired (Wahroonga, NSW)** requires the assistance of volunteers to help with the computer conversion of its audio books on analogue cassette tape to a digital format for distribution through Vision Australia. This is an important step in the furtherance of the ministry to existing members and in reaching out to others who may not know Jesus. The location of the assignment is at Wahroonga, Sydney. Basic computer skills are required. If you would like to be a part of this key initiative, please email <gregg@adventistmedia.org.au>. Applications close May 30, 2010.

For more employment options go to <adventistemployment.org.au>

**WEDDINGS**

**Briones–Fletcher.** Morris Briones, son of Claude and Carmen Goddard (Chile), and Leesa Kathrine Fletcher, daughter of Pastor James and Rosemarie Fletcher (Windsor, NSW), were married 27.12.09, at Warburton, Vic. Hensley Gungadu, James Fletcher

**VOLUNTEERS!**

**Pacific Yacht Ministries** is seeking health personnel for its 2010 season. Expressions of interest are sought from doctors, dentists, registered nurses and qualified health educators. The season operates July–October inclusive and volunteer service is for approximately two week terms. If you are interested please go to <www.pym.org.au> for further information and to download the application form.

Email: <volunteers@adventist.org.au>
For more positions visit <www.adventistvolunteers.org>

**Regan–Di Florio.** Nathan Regan, son of Tom and Maureen Regan (Perth, WA), and Tenille Di Florio, daughter of Tony and Alison Di Florio (Perth), were married 28.11.09 at Matilda Bay Reserve. Andrew Skeggs

**Walther–Paxman.** Nicholas Walther, son of Ernest and Frida Walther (Perth, WA), and Krystalle Paxman, daughter of Steve and Pamela Paxman (Perth), were married 31.12.09 in Fremantle church. Andrew Skeggs

**OBITUARIES**

**Jammal.** Jay, born 14.3.1996 in Sydney, NSW; died 23.1.09 in Perth, WA. He is survived by his parents, Lee and Denise Jammal; his sister Keara-Lee Hiscox (Perth, WA); his grandparents, Lee and Denise Jammal; his auntCreatedAt 2011-04-03 15:39:08

**Krissansen.** Barbara (nee Atkin), born 27.7.1934 at Remuera, Auckland, NZ; died 1.2.10 in Auckland Hospital. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Graham; her three children and their spouses; Wayne and Cheryl, Garry, Michelle and Dave; her four grandchildren and their partners, Andrew and Jennifer, Brendan and Marie, Breanna, and Kristyn. Barbara was known for her loving hospitality. She will be sadly missed, but has left her family with memories that will be cherished forever.

Daniel McKibben

**Nowlan,** Robert Alexander (Tex), born 8.12.1942 at West Wallsend, NSW; died 16.2.10 at Lightning Ridge. He is survived by his wife, Christine (Lightning Ridge); his brothers, Brian and John; and his children, Lesley, Tharesha, Darren, Donna, Warren and Charmaine. Tex was well-known for his many abilites, especially his way with horses. Some years ago, he attended a Prophecy Seminar held in Lightning Ridge and was baptised as a result. He had a simple but strong faith in the Lord and was a faithful member of the Lightning Ridge church.

Bernice Underwood

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Finally
If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.—Matt 21:22 NIV

Next RECORD May 1

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Director–Brisbane Adventist College
Early Learning Centre (Brisbane, Qld).

Applications are invited for the position of Director of our Early Learning Centre (detailed job description available on request).

Applicants should be practicing Seventh-day Adventists, team focused, and committed to excellence in their work. They should possess relevant qualifications and experience in the childcare industry.

Written applications including detailed resume and references should be forwarded to:

The Director of Education,
Seventh-day Adventist Schools
(South Queensland) Ltd,
19 Eagle Terrace, Brisbane 4000 or
email: tkent@adventist.org.au

Applications close 24 April 2010

Branch of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia.

NOTICE BOARD

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