Start your engines

No, it's not a car show. It's even better.

Adventist Aviation Services (AAS) will be celebrating its 50th anniversary next weekend (February 28 to March 2) in Cooranbong, New South Wales. As part of the jubilee, guests will get the opportunity to experience the AAS planes in action—either from on the ground or, for the more adventurous, in the air—at a special "Fly & Feed" at Cessnock airport on the Sunday. Click here to find out more about this special event.

Speaking of special events, tomorrow (February 22) a special offering will be taken up in churches across our Division in support of Adventist Record. Your generous donations will help us keep bringing the best Adventist news and views to your church every fortnight and television every Friday.
New era begins for Adventist higher education

A new phase in the strategic development of Adventist post-secondary education has begun, with leaders of the South Pacific Division’s (SPD) accredited higher education providers signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Wednesday.

PAU to establish second campus at Atoifi

The South Pacific Division’s (SPD) Board of Education has accepted a proposal for Atoifi Adventist College of Nursing to become a full campus of Pacific Adventist University (PAU).

ADRA volunteers active following Vic bushfires

As residents across Victoria take stock of damaged homes

Who's that man dressed in pink, standing ready at the wicket? Why, it's Pastor Michael Worker, all set for a game of cricket! For more fun and fabulous photographs, visit our Flickr page.

Making headlines:
* Help for Victorian bushfire evacuees
* Darlene Zschech fights cancer
* Debate on Sunday laws in Europe

Also, are Christian motorcycle clubs just kidding themselves about being a "ministry" or are they the real deal? Kent Kingston meets Grant Howard from
and property, volunteers from the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) continue to respond.

More News

In need of support

While the job of a pastoral intern is to support the church he/she is assigned to, the converse is just as true—the church needs to support the pastoral intern.

More Features

Reckless words

“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” If only it were true. Let me tell you, when somebody calls you an “****** Cong” to your face, it hurts. It hurts a lot.

More Editorials

And family life expert Trafford Fischer is worried that many full-time carers may be at risk of burnout. Is there a solution?

Like Record magazine? Want to join in on the online conversation? Find us on Facebook!

Follow us on Twitter!
Aviation has played an important role in spreading the gospel to many parts of our globe. 50 years ago Adventist Aviation commenced in the South Pacific Division. March 1, 2014 will be a special celebration of how God has used Aviation in the SPD for hastening His Coming, over the past 50 years. Come and join in the weekend celebrations.

Venue - Avondale Memorial Church, 586 Freemans Drive, Cooranbong

Full Weekend Program

Friday

7:00pm  Vespers – “What God has done”
Venue: Avondale Memorial Church

Sabbath

9:00am  Sabbath School, Dr Leigh Rice

10:45am  Church, Dr Barry Oliver

12:30pm  Pot Luck Fellowship Lunch
Please bring a plate of food to share if you are able.

2:30pm  The Best of 50 years of Adventist Aviation
Venue: Avondale Memorial Church

6:30pm  Dinner – “Refuelling on the runway”
Join us for a 3 course sit down meal and a fun night of Trivia
Venue: Avondale School Multi-Purpose Centre, 119 Avondale Road, Cooranbong
Cost: $30 per head
Tickets: Click here to purchase your tickets now
RSVP: 21 February 2014

Sunday

9:30am  Fly & Feed
Achieve Aviation (Gary Fraser) Hangar, Cessnock Airport
BBQ Lunch provided
A new phase in the strategic development of Adventist post-secondary education has begun, with leaders of the South Pacific Division’s (SPD) accredited higher education providers signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Wednesday.

The MOU “recognises the value of working together for the advantage of the students and staff, the support of each institution, and the benefit of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific region”.

Signatories of the document included SPD president Dr Barry Oliver, Avondale College of Higher Education president Prof Ray Roennfeldt, Pacific Adventist University (PAU) vice-chancellor Prof Ben Thomas, Fulton College principal Dr Steve Currow, Mamarapha College principal Pastor David Fletcher and Atoifi Adventist College of Nursing principal Humpress Harrington.

Joe Ponduk, Education director for the Papua New Guinea Union Mission, signed the MOU on behalf of Sonoma College principal Isako Esekia, who was unable to attend.

“The MOU is the first of its kind for the Adventist Church in the South Pacific,” said Adventist Education director Ken Weslake. “The signing formalises the working relationship between our higher education institutes and their willingness to support one another moving forward.”

The period of the MOU is five years, with the duration and scope able to be extended by mutual consent.

The document was signed on Wednesday afternoon during the inaugural meeting of the Division’s Higher Education Committee at SPD headquarters in Wahroonga, New South Wales.

On Wednesday, the SPD Board of Education also affirmed a proposal for Atoifi in Solomon Islands to become a full campus of PAU.
The South Pacific Division’s (SPD) Board of Education has accepted a proposal for Atoifi Adventist College of Nursing to become a full campus of Pacific Adventist University (PAU).

The Board affirmed the proposal for the establishment of a second PAU campus on Wednesday during a meeting at Division headquarters in Wahroonga, New South Wales.

“Given PAU’s strong reputation for the nursing program in Papua New Guinea, it is well placed to bringing this same success to the Solomon Islands,” says PAU vice-chancellor Prof Ben Thomas.

The new PAU campus at Atoifi, located on island of Malaita, will offer the Bachelor of Nursing curriculum currently delivered at the Koiari Park institute in PNG.

Atoifi currently receives between 400 to 800 applications annually, but is only able to offer approximately 20 placements each year. Prof Thomas says the establishment of a Bachelors program will allow the school to double its intake by 2018.

The proposal already has the endorsement of the local church mission. The Solomon Islands government, which indicated last year Atoifi would lose its self-accredited status under the forthcoming Higher Education Act, has also voiced its support.

Prof Thomas said he is “very excited” not just at the prospect of catering for more students, but also “the opportunities this new venture brings for fulfilling our mission in this Division”.

“It is through their personal relationship with Jesus that the nurses trained at Atoifi reach out to the people of the Pacific and provide holistic healing, physically, mentally and spiritually.”

The proposal will be presented to PAU Council for approval on March 26, then to the General Conference International Board of Education on March 31.
Wallan, Victoria

As residents across Victoria take stock of damaged homes and property, volunteers from the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) continue to respond.

At the request of a local emergency relief centre in Wallan, ADRA volunteers prepared and distributed food hampers to families separated from outside assistance and emergency centres by road blocks.

“Community members responded quickly to our request for non-perishable food and our volunteers came together to pack them within seven hours,” said Rebecca Auriant, director of ADRA Services for Victoria.

Thanks to the power of social media and the generosity of the community, 50 food hampers were packed, with additional food also distributed to disaster affected people in the region.

This response is the first for ADRA since negotiations began with the Victorian Government regarding a formal role for the agency in emergencies. In New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Western Australia and some parts of Queensland, ADRA holds official agreements with government to facilitate short-term emergency accommodation for people affected by disaster.

For more information about these or any of ADRA’s work overseas and in Australia visit <www.adra.org.au> or call 1800 242 372.
More than 50 theology students graduated from Pacific Adventist University (Papua New Guinea), Fulton College (Fiji) and Avondale College of Higher Education (Australia) in 2013.

For these individuals, the past year would have been particularly challenging and stressful. Study, church, financial, family and personal pressures would have been exceptionally high. The interview process with division and union leaders for students in Australia would also have been daunting. Then there’s the nerve-racking situation of waiting for a “call” from a conference leader. Many of these graduates would have struggled with the uncertainty of not knowing whether they had employment or not.

That’s not to say it’s all doom and gloom. One good point to mention is that these graduates would have completed their studies knowing that God had called them and that He would carry them forward.

Many of last year’s graduates have since commenced work as pastoral interns across the South Pacific Division. However, the transition from final-year student to first-year intern offers little respite. Spouses need to make the transition to a new location, and help the children to settle into a new home and school. They also need to find employment (if that is her/his goal), while trying to set a rhythm for the family and sorting out a host of other things this short article could never capture or address.

For the pastoral intern, a new job comes with much interest and excitement, especially when seeing what God has planned. However, the role also comes with the weight of expectations from the conference, a supervisor to report to and a church that is looking forward to their leadership and expertise.

While the job of a pastoral intern is to support the church he/she is assigned to, the converse is just as true—the church needs to support the pastoral intern. The focus of this article is to suggest ways church members can help and encourage our pastoral interns and their families.

1. Make them feel welcome

The first Sabbath the pastoral intern arrives should be a HIGH Sabbath. The family is to be invited up front, introduced to the church, presented with flowers and a lunch should be held in their honour. This goes without saying but it's sad to see churches that don’t even bother to welcome their new leaders in this way. My family and I have been welcomed like this and it made us feel special, appreciated and welcome.

2. Support them with prayer

This must sound clichéd but it's surely the best we can do for them. As we pray for strength, courage and peace, God is going to do something wonderful in us to strengthen our ministry toward them. The Lord blesses us so we can bless others, and it will be rewarding to see God work in and through the pastoral intern and his family.
3. Affirm and encourage them

Discouragement is one of the main weapons of the enemy. Let us build up the pastoral intern and his/her family with words and acts of affirmation and support. I remember receiving cards and letters from members when I first began my work as a pastoral intern in South Africa. While going through some of my old files the other day, I came across these messages of encouragement from former members. My heart lit up. I’ve kept them for many years because they are such a blessing to me. Open your home and fellowship to the pastoral intern and her/his family. Nothing beats having a potluck lunch and fellowship together on a Sabbath to build the bonds of love and support.

4. Get to know the children

Children often feel isolated and unsure of themselves in a new environment. Going out of your way to be kind and thoughtful to the pastoral intern’s children will be a wonderful way to help. Don’t place unwarranted pressure on these kids. They are just like any other children, so allow them to grow as they learn and make mistakes. Your unconditional love and support are what matter most.

When our son was born our first church gave my wife a beautiful baby shower. We were so blessed with all the beautiful things the church members bought for our son. From time to time one of the ladies would look after our son to give my wife a rest during the service. In another church a dear saint would actually bring toys for my son, take him to the rest room and sit next to him in church as my wife also had our little daughter to care for. These are precious memories of members caring for my family. What a difference they have made. Our son still talks with affection of this individual who looked after him. Our daughter was also blessed by a number of nurturing and loving church members.

As our children have grown, Pathfinder leaders have also played a significant role by offering friendship, guidance and assistance, and providing a nurturing environment for them to learn more about Jesus and how to live in an authentic community.

5. Support the spouse

The spouse needs to know she/he is loved and appreciated by the church. Take the opportunity to acknowledge and affirm her/him publicly on Sabbath morning from time to time. The spouse, if a woman, is often the emotional manager of her family and needs to develop trusted friendships where she can be nurtured and strengthened. She is often left alone with the kids while her husband goes out in the evening to minister to church members. Support her with a friendly phone call to encourage her and let her know she is being thought of.

This type of support isn’t rocket science; it’s simply the kind of support one can expect from a family. The Bible uses the important metaphor of family to describe the church. The writers of the New Testament continually refer to this image because it highlights the central purpose of God—to be one with us.

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household” (Ephesians 2:19 NIV).

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers” (Galatians 6:10 NIV).

The terms “family of believers” and “members of God’s household” suggest belonging, intimacy and connectedness. Most churches, sadly, give glib mental assent and public acknowledgement to the notion that the church is the family of God, while rarely thinking through its profound implications or attempting to practice all that the metaphor implies. When a church functions as a family there's a fundamental shift in how that church looks and acts. Relationships are valued above programs, and understanding above business. There is also a shift from independence to interdependence, and from dominance to servanthood.

The first few years of ministry can drastically affect the course of a pastor’s career. Without the help and encouragement of church members, and a sense of connectedness and belonging, a pastoral intern can quickly become overwhelmed and burnt out. As a church, this is the last thing we want for our young leaders and members of our family. Let’s intentionally support our new pastoral interns and their families as they work to support the church.

Dr Kayle de Waal is senior lecturer in New Testament Studies at Avondale College of Higher Education.
“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” It has always been a nice concept, albeit an almost impossible one to live out. Let me tell you, when somebody calls you an “******* Cong” to your face, it hurts. It hurts a lot.

As an ABC (Australian-born Chinese), I’ve had to deal with a fair share of racial abuse. It has happened several times at the most unexpected places—at the beach, in car parks—and always results in a complex range of emotions, from subtle annoyance to searing anger. One time after a passerby in a shopping centre spat an insult at me I almost lost it. I wanted to have a crack at him. Part of me still does.

I’ll admit such a reaction isn’t very honourable; I’m just being honest. Words hurt. The pain is deep and long lasting. It’s no wonder the Bible describes reckless words as piercing swords (Proverbs 12:18) and deadly arrows (Psalm 64:4).

While being on the receiving end of some racial slander has been painful, I consider myself lucky. Other people have had to endure a lot worse.

Last year, ABC newsreader Jeremy Fernandez endured a 15-minute attack from a woman while travelling on a Sydney bus. After being called a “filthy, black paedophile”—among other things—in front of his two-year-old daughter, Mr Fernandez was kicked off the bus, with the driver claiming the altercation was his fault.

“Anyone who says racism is dying is well and truly mistaken,” Fernandez later tweeted. “It’s a sad thing when a coloured man in 2013 has to show his kid how to hold their nerve in the face of racist taunts.”

Being racist to anyone is shameful. Being racist to a leading Australian journalist is just plain stupid—he’s going to write about it.

These days the phone is even more powerful than the pen. A video of passengers on a Melbourne bus hurling racial abuse at a group of French backpackers went viral in 2012, making headlines around the world. Similar confrontations are posted all over YouTube, giving evidence to the claim that Australia is “one of the most comfortably racist places” in the world, as one popular social commentator recently put it.

Such a reputation is both disturbing and undeserved. In fact, a study released in 2013 by World Values Survey found both Australia and New Zealand to be among the most racially tolerant countries in the world.1 My own experience confirms as much, with the number of genuine, kind-hearted, “fair go” Australians I’ve encountered outnumbering the racial bigots more than a thousand to one.

But it just goes to show the negative impact a few reckless words can have. They not only can cause a great deal of hurt, but ruin the reputation of something really wonderful.

This should serve as a warning for us as Adventists. While we may not be in the habit of hurling racial abuse, we’re not above and beyond attacking each other with our words. I wonder how many people and pastors we have needlessly chased away because of some hurtful
Then there are those among us who take the “remnant” and “chosen” status of the Adventist Church too far, using it as an excuse to speak ill of those who are different from us—Catholics, evolutionists and atheists alike. It all needs to stop. Too much is at stake—not just the standing of our wonderful church family, but also the reputation of Christ.

That’s not to say we need to subscribe to an “anything goes” ideology. By all means disagree, direct and discipline—but do so in a spirit of love. It’s what Jesus did (see Mark 10:17-23, for example), and we are called to do the same.

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen” (Ephesians 4:29 NIV).

The challenge is clear: build up, or shut up. Will you use your words for hurting, or for healing?


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*Linden Chuang is assistant editor of Record—digital.*