

# RECORD

October 17, 2009

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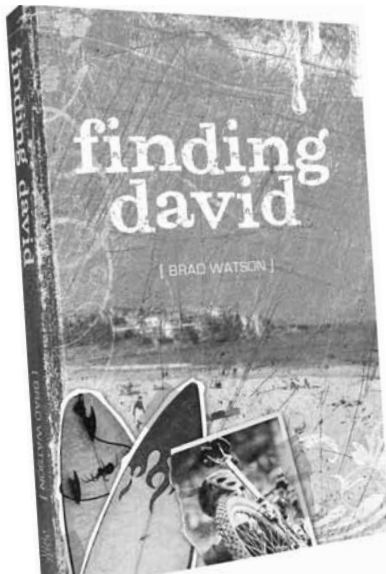
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*Residents salvage items from their homes and businesses in Pago Pago, American Samoa, after the tsunami struck on September 29.*

## Church responds to Samoa tsunami

APIA, WESTERN SAMOA

Seventh-day Adventists are among more than 150 people killed by a tsunami, triggered by an underwater earthquake registering 8.0 on the moment magnitude scale in Samoa on September 29. The tsunami's waves measured between four and seven metres and swamped towns in American Samoa, Samoa and Tonga.

Pastor Uili Solofa, president of the Samoas-Tokelau Mission, says, "This is the longest earthquake I've experienced. It went on for more than three minutes. Then the country was hit by waves from the tsunami. Most of the families [in the areas affected]

have lost their homes and, in some villages, only two or three houses are still standing. According to reports, there are more than 100 people who have lost their lives and we have received news that an Adventist family has been killed."

The family was reportedly made up of a woman around 70 years old, along with her children and grandchildren. A number of other Adventists are believed to have also perished in the tsunami.

According to Aitui Fanene, pastor of the Glenala and Riverview Samoan Adventist churches in Queensland, Australia, "One

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Families have to be more intentional about discipling their children.

# Game plan

I AM PROUD TO BE A NEW ZEALANDER. I'm sure you will understand when I say the "All Blacks" are the best rugby team in the world. I love to watch them play, especially when they win games.

All sports teams make a commitment to put in long hours of hard training. They have a purpose for their playing. They don't train just because it is enjoyable to be together and play. They train because they want to score tries, kick goals and win games.

The All Blacks' coach is responsible for leading the team, analysing and assessing skills, and helping each player grow and explore new possibilities. The coach also develops an action plan for the team and holds each player accountable.

In a similar way, God has plans for all His children. He wants them to be His disciples, to serve Him and honour Him. Our primary goal should be to teach our children of the loving God we know and understand. As coaches, we need to seek God in prayer so we can work hand-in-hand with the Master Coach.

In Deuteronomy 6:4-7, Moses challenges parents to be disciples of Jesus, to love God with all their hearts, with all their souls and with all their strength. Therefore, making disciples of children should be the primary focus of every family.

In his book *Think Orange*, Reggie Joiner comments on Moses' words and says that families have to be more intentional about discipling their children. They need to be "more conscious about creating a rhythm

that transfers an everyday faith, more deliberate about establishing visual reminders of God's power and presence, and more innovative about how and when they tell God's story."

Joiner states that there is danger of a "compartmentalised faith." There is the tendency "to segment God into an isolated category instead of viewing Him as the integrating force that influences all life."

Parents have a far greater influence than any church program. The highest place of impact on faith development in children is not the big memory event or church camp. It's the people they spend the most time with—their immediate family.

Children come to know God by experiencing love, trust and forgiveness from people they live with. They're always watching and know whether we trust God, communicate with Him through prayer, read the Bible, and serve Him with joy and passion. Children develop faith by watching our actions, attitudes and behaviours.

The church needs to support families and empower them as disciple makers of children by providing a spiritual community. The local church needs to be a safe place where children feel accepted, loved and welcomed. Our church needs to be a place where strategic discipleship happens—where children are involved in ministry, worship and mission.

In September, the Solomon Islands Mission ran a Children's expo for 1000 delegates. Under the leadership of Janette

Kingston, delegates were taught how to "let the children come" to Jesus. The delegates determined to have a "game plan" for their children. They planned to make children their priority by putting them first in their homes and churches.

On the Sabbath, Pastor Bevan Craig made a call to parents to have their children dedicated and rededicated to Jesus. Hundreds of parents came forward with their children in their arms and standing by their sides. We prayed that God would bless the children, their parents and our churches as we disciple them.

In the Book of Acts we come across the persecution of Stephen. The apostles travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, preaching only to the Jews. But some of them spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. Inspired by the story, Mrs Kingston challenged the delegates at the Children's expo. I make the same challenge to you: "Many people went and spoke only to adults. I challenge you to go to the four corners of the Solomon Islands and South Pacific to speak to children." That's a game plan for success.

My prayer is that the Holy Spirit will help you initiate a "game plan" to empower this present generation to be disciples of Jesus *now!*

*Today is Children's Ministries Emphasis Day.*

**Julie Weslake**  
Director of Children's Ministries  
South Pacific Division



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Our vision is to...  
**know**  
**experience**  
and **share**  
our **hope** in Jesus Christ!

# ADRA project partners with church in Vanuatu

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) commenced a new Church Partnership Program in Vanuatu in September, to work with Adventist churches and institutions to improve the living standards of local communities.

The project, funded by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), will work with Adventist departments, institutions and churches to strengthen their ability to deliver vital services to the community, primarily in the areas of health and education.

“We’re excited about this new project for Vanuatu, and the opportunity it provides for ADRA to partner with the church to meet community needs,” said Jonathan Duffy, ADRA Australia’s chief executive officer. “Our partnership with Adventist entities will increase our reach in poor communities and enable us to help even more people escape the unnecessary hardships caused by poverty.”

ADRA’s project in Vanuatu will provide a range of activities to improve the Adventist Church’s ability to meet community needs. These will include training Adventist health staff to assess the health status of communities, present health

awareness workshops and produce health promotion materials.

Other activities include training Adventist education staff in improved teaching methods and how to administer education departments. This training will provide “great benefit” to local community members as staff use their new skills throughout the community.

ADRA’s Church Partnership Program in Vanuatu is part of a wider AusAID program that, in addition to providing services for communities, aims to encourage greater collaboration between church groups and to strengthen their participation in national policy decision making.

AusAID’s program includes six other Christian groups in Vanuatu, including the Presbyterian Church, the Church of Melanesia (Anglican), the Church of Christ, the Apostolic Church, Assemblies of God and the Vanuatu Christian Council. The program’s other Australian aid partners are Uniting World, Anglican Board of Mission, Baptist World Aid and Act for Peace/National Council of Churches.

The program in Vanuatu follows on from the success and strong support of AusAID’s first Church Partnership Program in Papua New Guinea, which was established in 2004.

These programs reveal the growing



*ADRA has commenced a new Church Partnerships Program in Vanuatu.*

awareness by many government and non-government organisations of the significant role Christian churches play in the development and growth of a number of Pacific nations. The programs are unique in the field of international development because they provide for direct collaboration between Christian churches, national governments and non-government organisations, such as ADRA.

ADRA’s Church Partnership Program in Vanuatu is a partnership between ADRA Australia, ADRA Vanuatu and the Vanuatu Seventh-day Adventist Mission. ADRA is fully accredited with AusAID and is signatory to the Australian Council for International Development Code of Conduct.—*Candice Jaques*

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



◆ Fourteen Indigenous students from **Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community** led the countdown before **25,000 messages** were sent on August 28 to the nearest earth-like planet outside the solar system. The students were invited to do the countdown as part of their annual excursion to Canberra, ACT. The messages were

transmitted about midday from **Tidbinbilla Deep Space Communication Complex** outside Canberra from 195 countries. Each message, not more than 160 characters long, was collated on a website, sent out in a giant twitter-like message and transmitted through an antenna beaming to 302 gigawatts, which is equal to the energy of 302 billion mobile phones. The students’ excursion was the first time many of them had been on a plane. Other places the students visited included both the old and new Parliament

Houses, the War Memorial, Questacon, National Art Gallery, the High Court of Australia, the National Zoo of Australia and the Telstra Tower.—*Romela Sangalan*

◆ **Riverside Adventist Christian School, Townsville, Qld**, recently received the **Townsville City Council 2009 Creating Inclusive Communities Award** and the **2009 Umbrella Network Inclusive Award** as part of **Celebrating Disability Action Week**. The school was nominated by **Tanya Rogers**,



a parent of one of the Prep students who has Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Mrs Roger’s son has been accepted by the staff and students in the school, and has made good progress this year. Pictured: school principal **Sharon Littlewood**, with the Umbrella Network Award and banner.—*Sharon Littlewood*

# Church responds to tsunami

(Continued from page 1)

adult and four children, members of our church at Saleaumua who lived at Lalomanu, have been confirmed dead.”

Pastor Solofa says the country currently needs food and medical assistance for those who are injured.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) New Zealand and ADRA Australia are responding to the disaster. Dayan Eager, international coordinator for ADRA NZ, has been sent to Samoa to assess the needs of the people impacted by the tsunami and will formulate any necessary response. Updates from him will be available on the RECORD website.

ADRA has several offices in the region and is currently evaluating the effects of this disaster on communities, especially those in low-lying coastal areas. ADRA will work with affected communities to determine the best way to support their response efforts.

“It is sad to hear of this disaster and how it may be affecting communities in the region,” says Chris Olafson, ADRA Australia’s director of emergency management. “Many of these communities are poor and remote, so communication can be difficult, especially at times of emergency like this.

We are working with partner ADRA offices, government bodies and fellow humanitarian agencies across the region to determine how we can best support them. Our hearts go out to those affected.”

ADRA Australia’s response will be provided from its Disaster Preparedness and Response Fund. Donations to this fund are most welcome, according to ADRA Australia, and people can subscribe to their e-updates via their website.

Church leaders and members, including Pastor Neru Nuiialii, youth director of the Samoas-Tokelau Mission, are also traveling to the Aleipata region to help survivors.

Students and staff of Samoa Adventist College, located in Lalovaea, have been evacuated to safer grounds on Mount Vaea.

“Please remember the Samoa tsunami victims in your prayers,” says Pastor Eddie Erika, director of Sabbath school and prayer ministries for the Victorian Conference.

Dr Barry Oliver, president of the South Pacific Division, has also responded to the disaster and released an official statement: “Church members in the South Pacific Division are profoundly saddened by the Pacific earthquake and tsunami on September 29 that has claimed so many lives in Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga.

“I grieve, along with our extended church family, for those church members and others who have lost families and friends. There are more than 7000 church members in the Samoas-Tokelau Mission and many more throughout the South Pacific.

“Our thoughts are with those who are still missing, and their loved ones who are waiting to hear from them.

“The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in New Zealand and Australia have teamed up to provide a joint response to the disaster. An emergency management expert has been sent to Apia to conduct an assessment. ADRA New Zealand and ADRA Australia are also receiving donations, which will be directed to those in need of assistance.”

He adds, “We will continue to pray for the people of Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga. We are petitioning God that they will receive the comfort and assistance they so desperately need.”—**RECORD staff**

Donations for the relief efforts can be made to ADRA Australia and ADRA NZ via their websites, <[www.adra.org.au](http://www.adra.org.au)> or <[www.adra.org.nz](http://www.adra.org.nz)>.

**More updates on the Pacific tsunami @ <[www.record.net.au](http://www.record.net.au)>.**



◆ **Twenty-one young people** made a stand for baptism and 23 others expressed a desire to study the Bible further at the conclusion of the city youth evangelistic meetings at the **University of Melbourne, Vic.** The series, entitled “**Search For Certainty**” <[www.searchforcertainty.net](http://www.searchforcertainty.net)>, was planned, organised and executed by the youth at **Gateway**

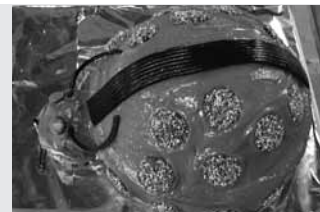
## Adventist Centre, Melbourne.

“We are so blessed with so many people accepting Jesus, making commitments to keep the Sabbath and many coming to all 11 lectures,” said **Sky Chew**, evangelism coordinator and president of the Adventist student club at the university. The lectures were Bible-based presentations, answering tough questions that are relevant for today. The speaker, **Dr Samuel Sidharta**, a recent medical graduate, was able to connect to a largely student-based audience. He started each session with a question and

answer session, covering questions from the audience regarding the previous session’s topic. Various Christian musical talents from Gateway also performed special items prior to the lectures. More than **200 community** members came to the meetings.

—**Johnny Wong**

◆ **Cairns Adventist College, Qld**, recently raised **\$A1500** for classroom resources by hosting a cake auction night. The **cake auction**, held on September 5, was attended by more than 40 people from the college



community and local churches. Most who attended said that it was the first time they have ever experienced a cake auction and that they thoroughly enjoyed the evening, which included a light dinner. College students also rose to the occasion when they led the worship service at Cairns church earlier in the day.—**Clinton Bond**

**DAYS AND OFFERINGS: ◆ NOVEMBER 7—WORLD MISSION BUDGET OFFERING**

# Writer's message to teens: "Never give up"

ERINA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The strength of a story about a boy and the challenge of adolescence has seen an Avondale College lecturer choose who would publish his first story for young adults.

Brad Watson received offers from three publishers to produce *Finding David*. One offered an initial print run of 10,000 copies. Mr Watson describes the experience as "unique" because imaginative Christian narratives "can be hard to find a market for."

The successful offer came from Signs Publishing Company. "When I first read *Finding David*, it really got me in," says Nathan Brown, Signs book editor.

He spoke during the launch with Year 10 students at Central Coast Adventist School on September 30 about how the story had moved him almost to tears. "I appreciate Brad's ability to tell a good story, as well as his passion to use a story like this to make a difference.

"Storytelling is such an effective way of connecting people with issues and ideas. We've been pleased to work with Brad on this project to produce something that's not only a good story but can also be used as a resource for schools, teen church groups and even mentoring groups like those described in the book.

"And not only is Brad a good storyteller, he is also involved in his local community in some of the ways he describes in his book, which gives the story an extra element of credibility."

*Finding David* follows the story of a character called David as he moves to a new school and meets a new group of friends. It deals with bullying, romance and a mysterious family tragedy, the details of which do not become clear until later. The issues addressed include relationships, resilience and faith.

"*Finding David* doesn't preach to kids about God but covertly and realistically walks the reader through what it's like to be a teen today," says Nina Atcheson, the curriculum officer for Adventist Schools Australia (ASA). ASA has provided \$A2000 to produce resources for teachers.

Marilyn Hansen, associate executive director of Adventist Education for the North New South Wales Conference, describes *Finding David* as "not like other teen books" because "it provides a way out." She told the students at the launch how much she enjoyed reading the book.

Students at four high schools read the book and provided Mr Watson with feedback during the writing process.

"It taught me heaps . . . about trusting God, and practising self-discipline and re-



Ann Stafford

Brad Watson with Year 10 Central Coast Adventist School students at the launch of *Finding David*.

spect," says Catrina, then a Year 9 student at Northpine Christian College. Her classmate, Caroline, writes, "I liked the way David turned back to God—it is something many teens wouldn't do."

A former student of Mr Watson's helped inspire him to write *Finding David*. "Teens such as Joel deal with some pretty tough stuff but they do the best with what they've got," says Mr Watson. He includes Joel's story in the afterword. "Joel is passionate and strong, and he looks out for his mates."

Mr Watson feels God is working through him to inspire and encourage teens. "My message to them is this," he says. "There's also hope. Never give up."

*Finding David* is available at all Adventist Book Centres.—**Tammy Zyderveld/Brenton Stacey**

More @ [www.avondale.edu.au](http://www.avondale.edu.au)

◆ The North Perth Children's Ministries department has identified more than 140 children that the church now has regular contact with. This is up from the 46 children who were on the Sabbath school rolls 15 months ago, and includes children of attending members and visitors, as well as children of non-attending members, family and friends. Each child receives birthday cards and quarterly lesson pamphlets from their church family. A simple "Welcome Baby" pack, consisting of a CD of Christian music and prayers, baby soap and talk, and knitted bootie/

bonnet sets, is sent to the parents of each new arrival. In the words of newly-appointed Children's Ministries co-leader Dana Gallop, this ministry is "an eye opener!" —**Diana Tanner**

◆ There was an unexpected audience during a mission trip in July to Papua New Guinea by Adventist church members from Western Australia. The team of 19 had planned to run kids clubs, teach craft lessons, repair sewing machines and hold a public evangelistic series for the local town members during the 20

days in Ramu. More than a thousand church members turned up for the activities, some having walked for two days. Twenty people, including two team members, requested baptism at the end of the evangelistic series conducted by Derek O'Hare. The team also gave supplies and leftover craft resources to the local Ragiumpun Adventist School. The mission trip was part of a Partners in Mission initiative. —**Melody Tan**

◆ The Burns Creek Adventist Contemporary Choir from the Solo-

mon Islands visited Suva, Fiji, for a concert to raise funds. Money from the concert and DVD sales will be used to build a youth centre in Honiara. Music director Sherwin Rore said they were looking at raising \$S100,000 (\$F25,777) from the concert and DVD sales. The 37-member choir fundraised to come and perform in Fiji. "Where we come from in Honiara, Burns Creek, is known for criminal activities committed by youths. With a youth centre, we will be able to keep the youths busy and not involved in criminal activities," Mr Rore said.—**Fiji Times**

# Leaders elected for WA

CARMEL, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**P**astor Lionel Smith, director of stewardship and trust services of the Western Australian Conference (WAC), has been appointed to the new position of assistant secretary.

As assistant secretary of WAC, Pastor Smith's responsibilities include overseeing the church's campgrounds and administrative meetings, as well as being part of the Easter camp committee and departmental meetings. Pastor Smith's role is similar to that of general secretary in other conferences.

Pastor Smith was appointed during the 75th Western Australian constituency meeting in August. He will also retain his position as director of stewardship and trust services, and coordinator for occupational health and safety.

The 268 delegates who attended the meeting also voted to reappoint Pastor Glenn Townend as president and Warrick Long as secretary-treasurer of WAC.

"The future direction for WAC is clear," says Pastor Townend. "The constituency meeting wants us to keep focused on our vision, mission and fulfilling the purpose of renewing the Adventist movement, creating significant lives and transforming communities."



*Pastor Lionel Smith.*

Delegates also voted to adopt the model constitution of the Australian Union Conference, ensuring a consistent approach to how WAC is governed and uniting the country's nine conferences.

The number of people on appointment and nominating committees has also been changed, and there is now a four-year term between constituency meetings.

According to Mr Long, the meetings have helped WAC move closer to attaining its 20/20 vision of 20,000 Adventist disciples, 2000 small groups and 200 churches ("2020 vision" focus of Life Renewal 2009, News, August 29).

Reports from the meeting also revealed that tithes between 2006 and 2008 reached milestones of \$A5 million and \$A6 million, and baptismal growth increased by almost one per cent.—*Calvin Chuang/Glenn Townend/Melody Tan*

# Education specialist praises Adventist church in Solomons

MAROVO LAGOON, SOLOMON ISLANDS

**A**n education specialist has spoken in praise of the Adventist Church's role in the education system of the Solomon Islands.

Bernard Rapaisa, head of the Technical Vocational Education Training program in the Solomon Islands government's Ministry of Education, was speaking at the mid-September opening of new classrooms at Batuna Vocational Training School. The training school is run by the Adventist Church.

Mr Rapaisa commended the church for taking the initiative and said churches are "pioneers of vocational schools that are now providing much-needed training for school leavers. Churches first saw the need to provide skills training for school dropouts, which resulted in them setting up vocational training schools."

The Solomon Islands Mission administers a number of education facilities, including high schools, a community college and the vocational school.—*Solomon Star*  
More @ <http://missionsb.spdwebministry.org>

◆ Publishers of the **Seventh-day Adventist Church's magazine** in **Germany** announced they will provide the **monthly publication free** to all members in the country, a move amid declining subscriptions they say will help better connect church members. Starting in January, the magazine *AdventEcho* will be available to the approximately **24,000 Adventist households** in Germany. Current circulation is about 5000. Church officials said they had considered the move for several years but couldn't find a way to pay for it. The new plan will be funded by publishing house

**Advent-Verlag**. Circulation has declined during the past 20 years as many long-term subscribers have aged or passed away. Also, younger members are reluctant to subscribe to a magazine and the current economy may be causing families to cut back on spending. The magazine will be reduced to 24 pages, down from its current 44 pages. A page of advertising will also be included to help offset production costs. The church is also exploring a magazine partnership across two nearby borders—German is also spoken in parts of Switzerland and Austria.—*ANN news*

◆ **Seventh-day Adventists** in **Paraguay** hope the forthcoming launch of their country's first church-run university will help alleviate a nursing shortage in the South American nation while strengthening the church's ministry there. The school—currently awaiting approval in Paraguay's National Congress—would help staff the country's two church-run hospitals and offer Paraguayan students the option of a local education. The Adventist university closest to Paraguay is located in neighbouring Argentina. But Para-

guayan students, whose country has one of the lowest cost-of-living indexes in South America, often find higher education costs prohibitive, especially when it requires travel, says **Jan M Nick**, a certified nurse educator and professor at **Loma Linda University School of Nursing**. For those who do enrol, many—drawn by better working conditions and higher salaries—seek jobs in countries such as Italy and Spain after graduation. Ms Nick estimates up to 60 per cent of the country's nurses are leaving the region.—*ANN news*

IS YOUR CHURCH DOING SOMETHING EXCITING, INNOVATIVE OR INSPIRING? EMAIL [RECORD@SIGNSPUBLISHING.COM.AU](mailto:RECORD@SIGNSPUBLISHING.COM.AU)

# AMN web team nets award

WAHROONGA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Adventist Media Network's Web Ministry team was awarded a \$US5000 netPrize at the Global Internet Evangelism Network (GIEN) at Orlando, Florida, US, on September 15. The web team developed a way for conferences and ministries to easily promote themselves across the netAdventist website network.

"Our division is already getting use out of what we've created," says Daniel Lewis, programmer of the winning "Promotions" extension. "The prize money was a nice bonus. We'll most likely put the funds toward further development of new netAdventist features."

The \$US15,000 grand prize was awarded to the Pacific Union Conference (PUC), California, US, for their creation of "PubAssist," an extension of netAdventist that allows a magazine to be output to print and/or website at the click of a mouse.

"We were about to develop something similar for our division until we saw the PUC had already done most of what we wanted to do," says Mr Lewis. "We're now in the process of adding even more features to their development so we can use it for our magazines, like RECORD and Signs. We're



AMN web team members Scott Wegener (left), Daniel Lewis (centre) and Danny Houghton, one of the visionaries of netAdventist and the netPrize.

starting to see the benefits of this global system, which we can all use to collaborate instead of going in a parallel direction."

The GIEN was a collection of presentations and workshops focused on using the internet for evangelism. It was attended by more than 100 communicators and web developers from all over the world.

"We were able to share in our experiences, ideas and innovations in development and resources to seek new and creative ways of spreading the message online together," says Mr Lewis. "Our church is heading toward a bright online future of letting our light shine."—**Scott Wegener**

More @ <<http://gien.adventist.org>> or <<http://web.adventistmedia.org.au>>.

# Avondale lecturer recognised for work

COORANBONG, NEW SOUTH WALES

An Avondale College lecturer has received a \$A10,000 citation from the Australian Learning and Teaching Council in recognition of his contribution to student learning.



Dr Daniel Reynaud.

Dr Daniel Reynaud's citation is for "enthusiastic and creative teaching, especially evidenced through the innovative use of wargaming scenarios that have inspired students to a better understanding of history."

"I put the students in the position of commanders who can use only the information available at the time," says Dr Reynaud, a senior lecturer in history in the Faculty of

Arts. "They get a much better understanding of why the commanders did what they did, particularly those in World War I whom we perceive as being poor leaders. Invariably, the students fail. Then I give them more information and they fail again. I'm replicating the process by

which the generals discovered what they needed to know to succeed. It works much better than me saying it in a lecture and it's more fun."

Dr Reynaud received his citation during a ceremony in the New South Wales Art Gallery in Sydney on August 11. He is one of 206 recipients of the \$A10,000 grant.

—**Kirsten Bolinger**

More @ [www.avondale.edu.au](http://www.avondale.edu.au)

# MVAC officially opens middle school

DOONSIDE, NEW SOUTH WALES

The Honourable Roger Price, chief Australian federal government whip and representative for the seat of Chifley, and Mountain View Adventist College (MVAC) principal Jenny Gibbons officially opened the MVAC Middle School building in August.

Although MVAC Middle School has been operational for a few years through necessity, MVAC officially celebrated the completion of the new wing in a ceremony on August 28. Attending the presentation were students and staff members, as well as representatives of the Greater Sydney Conference (GSC), including president Pastor David Blanch; Graeme Drinkall, chief financial officer; and Dr Peter Kilgour, executive director of Adventist Education. Fabian Carrasco, head of middle school, was also in attendance.

Mrs Gibbons extended her thanks to Mr Price on behalf of the college for the funds the government has made available to schools and colleges throughout Australia. She also took the opportunity to thank GSC for their contribution, support and ongoing funding of the school.

The guests at the official opening were treated to musical items presented by students and staff. Susan James, MVAC's music teacher, sang "How great Thou art" and three young MVAC students performed an item they had composed.

The items were followed by comments from Pastor Blanch and Mr Drinkall. The plaque commemorating the day was then unveiled by Mr Price and Mrs Gibbons, with college chaplain Pastor Jean-Pierre Martinez closing proceedings with prayer.

—**Michael Heath**



Delegates and guests at the official opening of MVAC Middle School.

# Vitamin D: The sunshine vitamin

**V**ITAMIN D IS AN ESSENTIAL NUTRIENT but it is only found in small amounts in the diet. Adults consume approximately two to seven times less Vitamin D than they need. The majority of the body's Vitamin D requirement is usually provided by the action of sunlight on the skin. It is therefore important that we balance our Vitamin D intake with safe sun exposure.

## Vitamin D and our Health

Vitamin D is found in foods like oily fish, eggs and enriched products, such as margarine. Vitamin D has a wide range of roles in the body.

The best-known role for Vitamin D is to regulate calcium absorption and maintain strong, healthy bones. A deficiency of Vitamin D means the body is not able to use calcium properly, resulting in bones fracturing easily and becoming misshapen.

More recently, a link has been found between low blood levels of Vitamin D and diabetes, cancer (colon and breast) and some autoimmune diseases, including psoriasis, Crohn's disease and osteoarthritis. Vitamin D also supports the immune system, and may have positive effects on mood and depression in some people. While it's best known to maintain strong, healthy bones, most of Vitamin D's function is now thought to be related to these other roles.

With little Vitamin D coming from dietary sources, we need to make sure we spend adequate time in the sun to make up the shortfall. Keep in mind that the sun-safe message has been delivered to us with good reason, because overexposure to the sun brings its own dangers.

## How much sun is enough without putting ourselves at risk?

- Cancer experts recommend people expose their face, hands and arms to a daily dose

of sunshine for about 10 minutes in summer, 15-20 minutes in spring and autumn, and 30 minutes in winter.

- People with naturally dark skin and the elderly do not produce Vitamin D in the skin as quickly, so longer exposure times may be needed.

## Who are most at risk?

People most at risk of having low Vitamin D levels include those who:

- Completely cover their bodies for cultural or religious reasons;
- Are immobile due to sickness or injury, and have limited or no exposure to the sun, or
- Are in their middle years or older.

## Tips for maximising your Vitamin D status:

- Use Vitamin D-fortified margarine and include eggs in your diet.
- Spend short amounts of time regularly sunning yourself, outside of peak UV periods.
- Everyday activities like going outside during your lunchbreak, taking a short walk to the shops, hanging out the washing or gardening will help top up Vitamin D levels. **R**

*If you would like credible and practical advice about health and nutrition, or if you're just looking for healthy meal ideas for you and your family, contact us at 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!*

**Sanitarium Nutrition Service,  
Berkeley Vale, New South Wales.**

THE HEALTH FOOD COMPANY

**Sanitarium**  
**nutrition**  
*healthy for life service*™



## Mini vegetable frittatas

- 2 teaspoons oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 large carrot, grated
- 1 large zucchini, grated
- ½ cup drained canned corn
- ¼ cup grated low-fat cheese
- ½ cup wholemeal self-raising flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 3 eggs, lightly beaten
- ¼ cup oil
- 2 tablespoons sunflower kernels

1. Heat oil in a frypan and sauté onion until soft. Place in a large bowl.
2. Add carrot, zucchini, corn, cheese, flour and salt to the bowl.
3. Combine eggs and oil, and stir into vegetable mixture.
4. Spoon mixture into lightly greased muffin pans. Sprinkle with sunflower kernels and bake in a moderate oven, 180°C, for 30 minutes. Makes 12.

*Per Serve: 560kJ (130cal). Protein 5g. Total Fat 8g. Saturated Fat 1g. Carbohydrate 8g. Total Sugars 1g. Sodium 220mg. Potassium 120mg. Calcium 47mg. Iron 0.8mg. Fibre 3g.*

# It's Really All About God

REVIEW BY NATHAN BROWN

IN OUR INCREASINGLY PLURALISTIC SOCIETIES, one of the most urgent questions facing Christianity is how we relate to those who believe differently. Too often, the traditional approach seems to have been to dismiss these others—anyone and everyone who does not believe as we do. But our increasing interaction with those of other faiths forces us to re-examine these assumptions. Life is often not as black-and-white as we might like it to be.

Samir Selmanovic is one voice who can help Christians—and particularly Adventists—wrestle with these issues. Writing overtly as a Seventh-day Adventist Christian and pastor, his book *It's Really All About God* is published by a large mainstream press, Jossey-Bass, but highlights a number of distinctly Adventist contributions to Christian faith and how these also connect beyond Christianity.

In his introduction, Selmanovic is careful to emphasize the Christian foundation for this project. He acknowledges that some of his friends claim they are able to embrace four faiths—Muslim, atheist, Jewish and Christian—simultaneously but expresses his doubts that this is either possible or sustainable. Instead, he acknowledges that he “would not have become or stayed Christian without the blessings of Islam, atheism, and Judaism.”

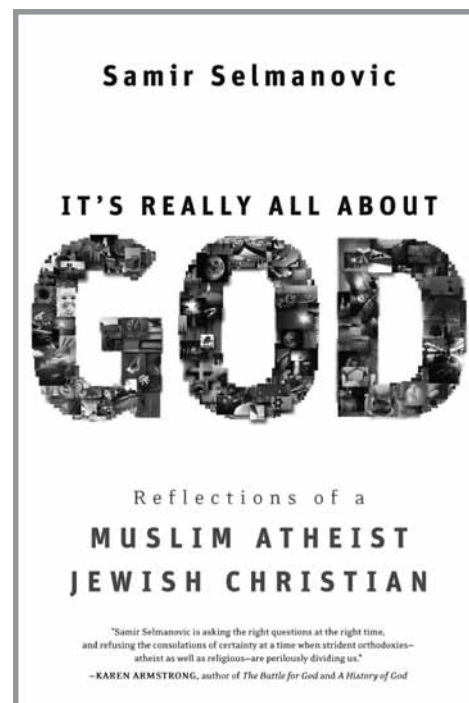
Yet, at the same time, Selmanovic maintains that it is his Christian faith that inspires him to seek good in and for other believers. It is precisely because he seeks to follow Jesus that he reaches out to others and has something of value and beauty to share with them. Applying such basic Christian tenets as the Golden Rule, he urges that we use these principles to guide us toward treating other religions as we would like them to treat ours—listening with respect, learning from their wisdom, standing up for their freedoms and serving

their needs. Rather than watering down Christianity, Selmanovic seeks a more radical, costly and sometimes difficult engagement with our faith and each other.

Regular readers of *Signs of the Times* will be familiar with Selmanovic's writing style and perspectives on the interaction of life and faith. He has sought to model this approach to those of other faiths in the form of Faith House Manhattan, a multi-faith ministry project he founded in New York City. Described as “an experiment in the kingdom of God,” Faith House seeks to create a space in which believers from the world's three major monotheistic religions can worship together, learn from each other's traditions and serve together in the world.

As someone who has spent portions of his life in a number of these faith traditions, Selmanovic is not merely a philosopher or theologian. He grew up in a nominally Muslim family in then-Communist Yugoslavia. When he became a Christian and Seventh-day Adventist while completing compulsory military service, Selmanovic was expelled from his family for a number of years. He eventually completed doctoral studies at Andrews University before pastoring on both coasts of the United States, including ministering in New York City at the time of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

*It's Really All About God* takes its narrative direction from this story, with Selmanovic's own realisation of God, growth in faith, slowly repairing relationship with his family and life experience escorting readers through a similar journey. As such, the book is part spiritual memoir but with added depth of reflection and engagement with other religious traditions and literature. Appropriately, the climax of the story is perhaps a seemingly-small moment, bringing together Selmanovic's family and church family, reading of which



is rendered more poignant in light of his father's recent death.

*It's Really All About God* is both deeply philosophical and profoundly pragmatic. One of the book's recurring statements is “Life wins”—meaning that our beliefs or theories about life and God must have practical applications and benefits, or risk fading into irrelevance.

Although it's easy to be distracted, *It's Really All About God* is really a book about God—as the title suggests. Any authentic discussion about religion must ultimately be about the God we are seeking to worship and serve, and what He is like. And that is the book's greatest achievement.

Through his sometimes funny, sometimes moving and sometimes poetic reflections, Selmanovic points us back to a God Who embraces, Who stoops to serve, Who pursues us relentlessly but lovingly, Who weeps at the tragedies, heartaches, fear and brokenness of our world, and Who is truly “our Father” to all His children. This is the God Who calls us to join with Him in serving our world, to value each other, and participate now in the wonderful and mysterious kingdom He offers to us all. **R**

*It's Really All About God: Reflections of a Muslim Atheist Jewish Christian* by Samir Selmanovic, Jossey-Bass, 2009, hardback, 320 pages.

More information at <[www.samirselmanovic.com](http://www.samirselmanovic.com)>.

Nathan Brown is editor of RECORD.

# Ten promises to our children

BY KAREN HOLFORD

**T**HE GREATEST EVANGELISTIC potential of any church is its mission to the children who sit in its pews for the worship service each week. A captive audience of young and energetic minds, the children are exploring, tasting, and wondering if church is relevant, caring, meaningful and enjoyable for them, or whether it is just tolerating them until they grow up and get baptised. If we don't welcome them, if they don't feel safe, if their questions aren't answered and their gifts aren't used, we may be inadvertently turning their hearts away from their loving Father in heaven.

The sad truth is that each week, many children in our churches across the globe decide that church is boring and irrelevant. Some sit as still as angel statues but have resentment running rampant through their veins. They may look as if they're listening but often their minds are drifting in a dozen different directions. Some children experience church as the place where adults are continually reprimanding them for moving too quickly, for fidgeting, for drawing with a pencil, for speaking too loudly, for dropping things and so on. Some have already decided that church has nothing to offer them and that as soon as they are old enough, they'll find a way to stop attending.

Fortunately, an increasing number of churches and small groups are becoming more aware of the needs of children. They are involving them in their services and worship designs, keeping the needs of the whole congregation in mind. Many

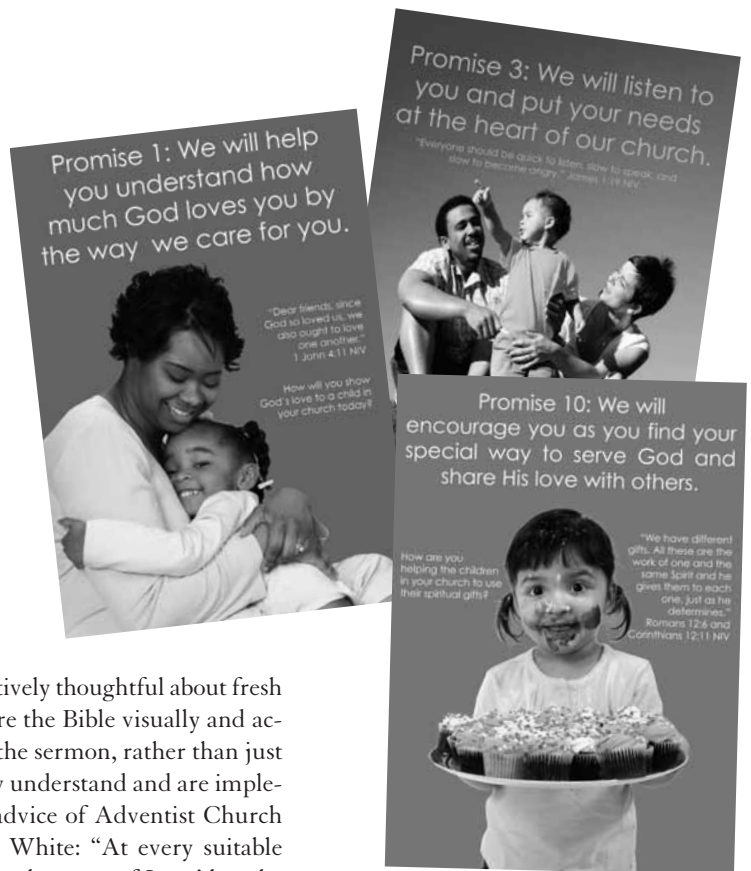
are being creatively thoughtful about fresh ways to explore the Bible visually and actively during the sermon, rather than just verbally. They understand and are implementing the advice of Adventist Church pioneer Ellen White: "At every suitable opportunity let the story of Jesus' love be repeated to the children. In every sermon let a little corner be left for their benefit."<sup>1</sup>

## An eye-opening exercise

If you want to know what church is like for many children, try this simple exercise:

Sit on a table facing a blank wall. You will then be experiencing what it is like for children as they sit in church pews on Sabbath morning—their feet can't reach the ground and their backs are unsupported. Then listen to a sermon in a language you don't understand. You can easily download one from the internet. Listen to the foreign-language sermon for at least an hour and don't get off the table until the hour is up. During that time, imagine someone has taken you to a church in which you are unable to understand the sermon. You sit there for an hour and however wonderful the sermon is, you are unable to make any sense of it.

Then envision that someone invited you to come again next week. How would you respond? Would you want to go back? What if someone took you to that church every week for 10 years, then asked if you would like to become a member of the church? After completing this simple exercise, how do you think a child would respond?



## Creative resources

There are many other ways local churches can reflect on the experiences of the children in their congregations and communities. The Children's Ministries Department of the South England Conference has created a special resource to help local churches consider their mission to children. Called "Ten Promises for Our Children," the pack contains 12 colourful and appealing posters. The first poster lists 10 promises that all churches need to consider making to their children; the next 10 posters explore each of the 10 promises in turn; the 12th is a welcome poster. On the reverse of each poster is a study guide to help adults.

In the church, reflect more deeply on the promise to understand what the children need and make a difference in ministry to children. The 10 promises are:

1. We will help you to understand how much God loves you by the way we care for you.
2. We will help you to feel welcome every time you come to our church.
3. We will listen to you, and put you and your needs at the very heart of our church.
4. We will make sure you always feel safe, comfortable and special.

5. We will be happy with you in your happy times and comfort you in your sad times.
6. We will welcome you when you use your special gifts in our worship services.
7. We will help you learn that Jesus loves you, died for you, forgives you and is making a special place for you in heaven.
8. We will be here when you wonder about life and God. We will listen to you and help you find answers.
9. We will be here to guide and support you as you learn how to follow Jesus in your everyday life as a Christian.
10. We will encourage you as you discover your special way to serve God and share His love with others.

Across the world, Adventist churches are using the "Ten Promises for Our Children" in different ways. Some churches are taking time during their weekly prayer meeting to examine and discuss the study guides that come with the posters. The resulting ideas are leading them to pray about developing a spiritually-nurturing church for their children. Another church is basing a sermon series on the guides.

Others are focusing on one poster a month, and making them the basis of prayer and worship during 2009—the Year of the Child. And still others are using the resource to plan 10 Sabbath-afternoon programs for the entire congregation.

## An inspiration for change

The "Ten Promises" are already inspiring change. One pastor invited the children and teens of his church to speak to the church board about their needs and concerns.

One young member said he didn't feel comfortable bringing his friends to a church with the name the church had chosen. When he explained why, the church board decided to change the name of their congregation.

Another young person said she had decided to leave that particular church and was going to try to find one that cared more about its young people. After being invited to speak to the church board, however, she decided that her church really did care after all.

Other churches are actively involving children and their creative ideas in every worship service. Children who have been brought to church by their grandparents are now inviting their parents to come and see what they are doing in church. Several congregations now hold monthly all-age services that use multisensory techniques to explore Bible stories in ways that meet the needs of the children and their families.

If we truly want to win people to Jesus, we need to start in our own congregations with our own children. The promises we make to nurture their spirituality will help us to build thoughtful, caring, nurturing, and creative congregations in which people can experience even more of God's all-encompassing and loving grace. **R**

1. Ellen White, *Child Guidance*, page 552.

The Children's Ministries department of the South Pacific Division is making the "Ten Promises" available to every church in the South Pacific. To download these resources, visit [www.secadventist.org.uk](http://www.secadventist.org.uk) and click on "Departments," then "Children's Ministries." Reprinted, with permission, from *Adventist Review*.

**Karen Holford is associate director of Children's Ministries for the South England Conference.**

# Record Roo



Hi kids!

The Israelites had reached Jericho. God gave Joshua a very strange set of instructions for the soldiers. Complete the puzzles below to find out what they were.

## Bible Text

Now \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ shut up because of the \_\_\_\_\_. No one went \_\_\_\_\_ and no one came \_\_\_\_\_. Then the Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have \_\_\_\_\_ Jericho into your \_\_\_\_\_, along with its \_\_\_\_\_ and its \_\_\_\_\_ men." Joshua 6:2, NIV.

## Mix Up

God gave Joshua special orders about how to defeat Jericho. Put these instructions in the correct order by writing number 1, 2, 3 or 4 in the circles beside them.

1.  March around the city seven times with all the priests blowing the trumpets.

2.  Have all the people give a loud shout.

3.  March around the city once with all the armed men.

4.  Have all the people run up into the city.

Answers: 2, 3, 1, 4.

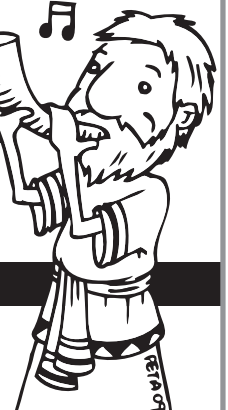


## Colour In

Colour in this picture of the priest blowing on the ram's horn trumpet.

## Read

Read the whole story of the walls of Jericho falling in Joshua, Chapter 6.



## Pour out my Spirit

**BERYL CARPENTER, WA**

Bruce Price (“Two responses,” Letters August 22) is quite correct when he says that God did not have women as priests in the Old Testament. The main work of the priests was to offer the daily sacrifices of a young male sheep representing Jesus—a male—Who gave His life for us. The priests represented the work Jesus was to do.

Yes, only the heathen used priestesses. But God used women in various ways. For example, Deborah—a married woman and a prophetess—lead Israel in both war and peace. In Judges 4, you will find that God used two women to defeat enemies of God’s people.

With the death and resurrection of Jesus, the temple system ceased to have any significance. Priests were no longer needed to slay animals. In the Book of Acts, we find that God poured His Spirit on both men and women on the day of Pentecost, both men and women have been anointed by the Holy Spirit ever since.

It is the Lord Himself who speaks to us in Joel 2:28, 29: “I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days” (NIV). God chooses both men and women to work in His vineyard, and He is no respecter of persons.

## Laboured with me

**JOANNE PLANT, NSW**

While it is true that God did not call women to be priestesses (“Two responses”) in the Old Testament, the New Testament affirms many women in ministry. Consider the following examples:

Paul begs his yokefellow in the church at Philippi “to help those women which laboured with me in the gospel” (Philippians 4:3, KJV). These labourers elsewhere included Tryphena, Tryphosa and Persis (see Romans 16:12).

In the original, Pheobe is commended as a “*diakonos*” or deacon of the church at Cenchrea (see Romans 16:1) and the members of the church at Rome were requested

to give her every assistance (see Romans 16:2). Specifically, Priscilla, Apphia and Nympha were among the women house church co-leaders or leaders (see Romans 16:3, 5; Philemon 2; Colossians 4:15).

It’s evident that the title wasn’t just honorary, since Priscilla and her husband Aquila were serving at Ephesus. The Bible

## Let us stop squabbling about rights and allow God some space to work through the unique gifts He has given to women.

records that Priscilla and Aquila were both involved in teaching the mighty preacher Apollos (see Acts 18:24, 26). In fact Priscilla was so eminent that her name is placed before her husband (see Acts 18:18; Romans 16:3; 2 Timothy 4:19), an unusual placement for those times.

Junia is listed as an apostle of distinction (see Romans 16:7).

These commendations of Paul make it obvious that his caution in 1 Timothy 2:12 is situational. The instruction and examples given in the Bible is that we should cooperate and support women in ministry.

## Gifts are neutral

**IAN RANKIN, NZ**

I, too, think the argument over rights to ordination is a “red herring” (Letters, September 19). What needs to be faced and worked through is that the church pastor’s job description,—hopelessly inadequate as it is—is framed solely in terms of male characteristics. This means women in pastoral positions are forced into trying to be better than men. This is ridiculous. Spiritual gifts are gender neutral, but gender is not neutral, it is gloriously distinctive.

For goodness sake, let us stop squabbling about rights and allow God some space to work through the unique gifts He has given to women.

## Three meals a day

**HARLEY AVELING, QLD**

I cannot but wonder how the writer of “Snack attack” (Feature, September 19) can reconcile the concept that snacking

has benefits for adults and children, when the counsel of Ellen White plainly teaches otherwise. *Counsels on Diet and Foods* says, “Three meals a day and nothing between meals, not even an apple, should be the utmost limit of indulgence. Those who go further violate nature’s laws and will suffer the penalty” (page 182).

## Reading into doubt

**ADRIAN CONTANT, QLD**

In response to “The need to read” (Feature, September 19), I have to agree that reading widely can be good. But not so with religious books. I have seen many good Christian friends read themselves into doubt and become critical, losing their faith. That is just how Satan wants it.

There is only one religious book that we should read, the Bible—God’s Word. Other religious books express earthly writers’ opinions. Be very, careful you don’t lose your spiritual anchor.

## The value of time

**MIKE SUTTON, QLD**

I would like to compliment “Love takes the time” (Feature, August 29) as an elegant and perceptive article. The appropriate reference to the story-line of a popular film focuses attention to the cultural theme that time is a valuable resource to be handled with Christian care. It’s a timely reminder to prioritise our lives for that which is important.

As a postscript, a glance through your letters page reveals that RECORD is blessed with an involved and proactive readership, which is an indicator of the standard of Adventist thinking today.

**Note:** Views in Letters do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Letters should be less than 250 words, and writers must include their name, address and phone number. All letters are edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author’s original meaning will not be changed. Not all letters received are published. See masthead (page 2) for contact details.

## Positions vacant

▲ **Deputy Director of Nursing—Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care (Greater Sydney) Ltd.** It takes someone special to make a difference. Are you someone who cares about other people's needs—someone who can organise, implement and inspire? Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care Wahroonga provides high-quality care for frail, sick and elderly people in a loving, caring, Christian environment. It is located in a delightfully peaceful bushland setting. We are looking for a highly-skilled and motivated Deputy Director of Nursing to join our management team. We have 94 beds covering both high and low care. If you have a passion for aged care and would like to work in a supportive, resident-focused Christian environment, contact manager Brian Swanepoel, by phone (02) 9487 0600 or email <brianswanepoel@adventist.org.au> for an Application Form and further information. Applications close **October 31, 2009**.

▲ **Primary School Principals—NZPUC (Auckland and Napier, New Zealand)**, seeking suitably-qualified and experienced primary school principals for 2010 at South Auckland Adventist Primary School and Parkside Christian Adventist School (Napier). We are looking for inspirational, passionate leaders with the energy and vision to uphold and promote the special character of Adventist Education in our schools. For further details, see our website <http://www.adventist.school.nz> or email Director of Education Owen Ellis at <owenellis@adventist.org.nz>. Applications close **October 30, 2009**.

▲ **Accounts clerk—Seventh-day Adventist Church (Greater Sydney Conference) Ltd (Sydney, NSW)** is seeking to appoint an experienced accounts clerk to support the financial operations of the Treasury department. The successful applicant will be expected to perform general clerical duties including bank reconciliations, accounts payable/receivable, petty cash and data entry. All written applications, including your CV, three work-related referees and the contact details of your church pastor, must be sent to Graeme Drinkall, Chief Financial Officer, Seventh-day Adventist Church (Greater Sydney Conference) Ltd, 4 Cambridge St, Epping, NSW 2121, email <graemedrinkall@adventist.org.au> or phone (02) 9868 6522. Applications close **November 2, 2009**.

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

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

▲ **Farm Manager/Horticulture Teacher and Mechanics Teacher.**

▲ **Primary Teachers—Karlundi Aboriginal Education Community Inc (Meekatharra, WA)** including early childhood. Several positions available. One immediate start. Karlundi 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. Karlundi 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.

▲ **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 Calvin Dever on (02) 9847 2222 or email <kalvin@adventistmedia.org.au>. Applications in writing should be forwarded to Calvin Dever, Corporate Services Director, AMN, PO Box 1115 Wahroonga NSW 2076. Applications close **October 19, 2009**.

▲ **School Principal/Manager—Currawah Adventist College (North NSW)** invites applications from experienced high school teachers 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**.

For more employment options go to  
adventistemployment.org.au



## Volunteers!

**Volunteer teachers—Tonga.** Volunteer teachers required for Tonga for 12 months in 2010. Mizpah school needs an English teacher for forms 5 and 6. Beulah College needs English and Maths/Science teachers. Beulah Primary School needs a Primary schoolteacher. For more information, please contact Siosaia Vaihola <svaihola@adventist.org.to>.

**Volunteer Manager—Medical Boat Ministries (Solomon Islands).** To supervise the operations and maintenance of medical clinic boats and buildings, and to provide monthly financial statements and reports to Sonship. Husband and wife team preferable. House, transport and stipend provided. Term 12 months. Commencement January 1, 2010. Captain's licence for large vessels an advantage but not essential. Contact Trevor Oliver on 0419 773 336.

Email:

<volunteers@adventist.org.au>.

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

+61 2 9847 3275



## Weddings

**Blockley—Donnarumma.** Scott Allen Blockley, son of Steven and Christine Blockley (Brisbane, Qld), and Sarah-Jane Donnarumma, daughter of Steven and Sharon Williams (Brisbane) were married 20.9.09 in the gardens of Stamford Bowls Club.

Andre van Rensburg

**Da Fre—Baron.** Sergio Jack da Fre, son of Sergio da Fre (Brisbane, Qld) and Grace Kavon (Brisbane), and Josie Anne Baron, daughter of Clive and Faye Baron (Brisbane), were married on 13.9.09 in Logan Reserve church. The couple are on their honeymoon in Europe.

Gabriel Ontanu

**Russell—McConnell.** Evan Butler Russell, son of Mervyn and Desma Russell (Pakuranga, NZ), and Estelle Joy McConnell, daughter of Maurice and Mavis McConnell (Nelson), were married 26.6.09 in Sandringham Community Centre, Auckland.

Jaqe Ormsby

**Stiles—Ioane.** Adrian Stiles, son of Alan and Carolyn Stiles (Vic), and Pastor Moe Ioane, daughter of Moana Vaaelua and Toloumu Ioane (Vic), were married on 24.8.09 in Potters Receptions, Warrandyte.

Richard Araya-Bishop

## Anniversary

**Faro,** Pastor Arthur and Florence (nee Pieterse) of the Adventist Retirement Village, Kings Langley, Sydney, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 11.7.09. They were married by Pastor AC Butt on 5.7.1959 at Elsie's River church in Cape Town, South Africa. Arthur entered the organised work as a teacher in 1954, then later as a pastor and was ordained in 1976. The family emigrated to Australia in 1979 with their two sons. There is now a daughter-in-law and five grandsons. Arthur continued pastoral work in Australia. Florence, a registered nurse, always assisted in Arthur's pastoral work. The main celebration was a service of thanksgiving and praise for God's leading in their lives with beautiful music, scriptures and testimonies in the Blacktown church, NSW. This was followed by a sumptuous dinner and wedding march. Family and friends came from South Africa, Perth (WA), Mackay (Qld), Melbourne (Vic), Dubbo (NSW), and the Central Coast. Arthur and Florence are still active in the Lord's work in the Retirement Village.

## Appreciation

**Weir,** Walter. Kathleen, Richard, Elizabeth and family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all for your prayers, cards, phone calls, flowers, meals and support during the illness and death of our husband, father and granddad.

## Obituaries

**Ashton,** Lois Ada Pearl, born 26.3.1929; died 5.8.09 in Waipuna Hospice, Tauranga, NZ. She was predeceased by her husband, Sedman, in 1980. She is survived by her daughters, Heather (Auckland, NZ), Joybell (Auckland) and Rosemary (Gold Coast, Qld); and her son, Clive (Tauranga, NZ); her 12 grandchildren; and her great-grandson. Lois was a faithful member of Waihi church and a tireless worker in her church, the community and other denominations. She was a talented musician and played for various churches in the district. Remembered with much love, she is now sleeping, awaiting the Resurrection and reunion day when the Lord returns. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

Jan (John) Veld, David Balchin

**Beaumont,** Myra Gladys, born 24.2.1912 at Eungella, NSW; died 31.7.09 at Dorrigo. In 1938, she married Stanley Beaumont, who predeceased her 30.9.1981. She is survived by her children, Joan, Bruce, Dawn, Trevor and their spouses; her 10 grandchildren; her 19 great-grandchildren; and her great-great-grandchild. Myra lived in the Dorrigo area for more than 90 years, and the large number who attended her funeral was evidence of the love and esteem in which she was held by the community. She was known for her kind deeds, helpfulness, and the support and encouragement she gave to people. Myra let her love shine through her life and was certainly a wonderful witness for her Lord. She will be sadly missed as she

awaits the great Resurrection day.

*Eric Greenwell, Sally Watson*

**Bond**, Arthur Charles, born 25.12.1926; died 24.9.09. Arthur is survived by his wife, Leticia (Matthews), whom he married 18.2.1953; and his four children, Caryl (Fischer); Philip; Rachel (Seric); and Annette (Deppe); 15 grandchildren; and his great-grandchild. While farming at Dululu, Qld, Arthur heard a "Voice of Prophecy" program on the radio and sent away for the guides. Pastor Bert Grosser visited them and commenced studies. After being baptised, Arthur felt called to be a colporteur. Commencing in 1960, he ministered to outback Queensland for 18 years and in NNZ for three years. Arthur and Leticia retired in 1981 at Carbrook, and became pillar members of Springwood church. Arthur never wavered in his faith in Jesus and the assurance of His second coming. He often said, "when the work is done, we will all go home." He went to rest in total peace, knowing that he was safe in the arms of Jesus, awaiting the call of the last trumpet.

*Andre van Rensburg, Trafford Fischer*

**Brewer**, Leichelle Kristy, born 23.11.1981 at Newcastle, NSW; died 4.7.09 at Dungog. On 28.11.1998, she was baptised at Dungog by Pastor Darren Parker. She is survived by her parents, Robert and Sharon; and her grandparents, Pastor Doug Weare, and Del and Wes Bennett (all of Dungog). A loving, outgoing person with many friends, Leichelle enjoyed helping in Sabbath school and developed Dungog's first website. Sadly missed by all who knew her, she now awaits the Resurrection.

*Oscar Sande Hernandez, Clive Nash*

**Goldspink**, Margaret Dorothy, born 5.12.1936 at Greenslopes, Brisbane, Qld; died 11.8.09 in Sydney Adventist Hospital, NSW. She was baptised in Mackay, Qld, in 1956. Marg worked for God and his church for 37 years in Australia, Papua New Guinea and Pakistan. She was a true and loyal Seventh-day Adventist. Her friends and Waitara church will miss her greatly but look forward to the Resurrection morning.

*Nataniel Pereira, S Togafau*

**Jensen**, Clyde Morris, born 2.7.1927 at Warburton, Vic; died 24.8.09 at 82 years of age. Clyde was loved by family and friends for his sense of humour and good spirit. His wife, Marieta, was faithfully at his side for 30 years and always trusted this man, who knew how to live life to the full. Marieta's faith in Jesus Christ was an inspiration for Clyde, and we pray that God will have mercy on his soul and be gracious toward him at His second coming.

*Richard Araya-Bishop*

**Johnston**, Nancy Fay, born 14.1.1917 in the Tamar Valley, Tas; died 25.8.09 in Canberra, ACT. On 17.1.1957, she married Glen Johnston in Papua New Guinea. She was predeceased by her husband, Glen; and her brother, Max. She is survived by her son, Glen, his partner, Sandie and their three children, Sarah, Areta and Mi-

sha; her great-grandson, Ben; her brothers, Jack and Noel; and her sisters, Elvie, Frida, Joan and Vina. Born into a poor farming family in Northern Tasmania, Nancy made a life for herself training as a nurse and working in that profession for many years in Tasmania, PNG, Brisbane, Adelaide and Canberra. Always a friend to the needy and disadvantaged, she worked to make life better for others in her immediate world. Much loved by her family and friends she will be sadly missed—but only until her Saviour comes again.

*Neil Lawson*

**Kelly**, Mark Jeffrey, born 12.7.1976 at Mildura, Vic; died 6.8.09 in Queensland. He is survived by his parents, Colin and Suinta; and his son, Joshua James Witford (Southport, Qld). Mark will be missed—our lives will never be complete again. He is now safely resting in God's hands until Jesus returns.

*Darren Slade*

**Leach**, Doris (Dot) (nee Mitchell), born 16.5.1914 at West Kempsey, NSW; died 12.5.09 at Cooranbong, just four days short of her 95th birthday. Her last few months were spent in the new Avondale Adventist Aged Care Facility in Cooranbong. In 1937, she married Stanley Roy Leach in the old Avondale Village church. Pastor Pascoe was the officiating minister. She and her husband lived most of their lives in the Cooranbong village. Roy passed away in 1979. She is survived by her three children, Robert (Cooranbong), Maralyn (Raymond Terrace) and Wayne (Canada); her nine grandchildren; her 12 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. Dot loved her Saviour supremely, and her family and extended family passionately. She was never happier than when she was surrounded by them. As evidence of her love for them, it was mentioned at the funeral service that she had made 14 or 15 trips to Canada over the years to see Wayne and his family. She now rests after a long and very fulfilling life, awaiting the call of Jesus at His second coming.

*Leonard Tolhurst, Trevor Griffiths, Dick Marshall*

**Lockrey**, Connie, born 26.8.1920 in Amsterdam, Holland; died 20.9.09 in St Andrews Nursing Home, Ballina, NSW. She is survived by her sons, Arnold, Ronald and Paul; her stepson, Jim; her nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. In her teens, Connie studied to be a nurse. During this time, the war broke out and Holland was occupied. Connie and her brother, Anthony, joined the Dutch underground. They were both captured and Anthony was executed. Connie was put into Auschwitz prison camp, where she endured untold horrors and hardships. God kept her safe during the years in prison and in 1959 she immigrated to Australia with her husband and young son, Arnold. She experienced some hard years as she settled into the Australian way of life, but her determination, strength and faith kept her going. During these years she gave birth to Ronald and Paul. She made the toughest decision of her life and adopted out her

youngest son Paul. During the later part of her life Connie became a member of the Ocean Shores church. She made numerous friends within the church and became a very committed member, joining in and supporting the various activities of church life. She loved Jesus with all her heart and now awaits His call on that Resurrection morning.

*Cranville Tooley*

**Patch**, Dorothy Joan (Doodie), born 24.10.1918; died 12.9.09 at Lismore, NSW. Doodie was predeceased by her husband, Leo; and three sisters, Tibby, Nancy and Jean. In her later years, she resided in the Alstonville Adventist Aged Care Facility and was assisted by her nephew, John Field, and his wife, Val. Doodie was a member of Lismore church for over 70 years, and was spoken of very affectionately by many at her funeral at the church. She awaits the voice of the Life-giver.

*Paul Geelan*

**Paterson**, Leon Robert, born 18.9.1929 at Euroa, Vic; died 27.7.09 at Ballarat. He is survived by his wife of 11 years, Val; his children, Ken and Jenny (Canberra ACT), Carol Walker (WA) and Don (Canberra); his five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Leon was predeceased by his first wife, Shirley in 1995. Leon was a much-loved and well-thought-of member of the Ballarat church. He now sleeps, awaiting the call to eternal life on the Resurrection morning.

*Brian Lauty*

**Rutter**, Joyce, born 12.6.1917 at Warburton, Vic; died 4.8.09 in hospital after a short illness. Joyce worked at Signs Publishing Company for many years and was very committed to her work. Her love for Jesus kept her going in life and we look forward to seeing her again.

*Richard Araya-Bishop*

**Simpson**, Mavis Joyce, born 16.10.1916; died 18.5.09 in Redland Hospital, Cleveland. She is survived by her three children Wayne, Sandra and Rod; her grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. For many years, Mavis was an active member of the Mullumbimby church. She was laid to rest in Mullumbimby Cemetery, awaiting her faithful Lord and Saviour.

*Cranville Tooley*

**Smith**, Calvin, born 9.10.1938 at Pukekohe, NZ; died 5.9.09 in Aparangi Care Centre, Te Kauwhata. He was married to his lifelong love, Joy. She, along with their daughters, Stephanie and Odele, and their son, Alistair, and their families, all mourn his passing. They look forward to the day when Jesus returns and restores him to them healthy and well.

*Stephen Bews*

**Smith**, Glennys Peta, born 7.10.1949 at Denmark, WA; died 10.9.09 in Toronto Private Hospital, NSW, after an 18-month battle with cancer. Glennys was laid to rest in Martinsville Cemetery. She was known and loved by a wide circle of friends and church member around the Cooranbong area, where she lived for 38 years after her husband,

Les, commenced work at Sanitarium Health Food Company. She was a happy, courageous, intelligent woman who gave unstintingly wherever she could make a contribution to the lives of others. Her family and friends will miss her deep faith in God, her warm smile and the sparkle in her eyes. Glennys leaves her two beloved daughters, Kylie and Liesel; and her granddaughter, Leshanda Adelyn. Until the morning breaks, and we shall be with those we love and with our God and Saviour forever.

*Roger Henley*

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**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 at <kerryn.patrick@asianaid.org.au>; phone (02) 6586 4250 ext 1335.

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**Missionaries' luncheon,** Avondale Graduation, Sabbath December 5. There will be a combined lunch immediately after the church service for missionaries, ex-missionaries, families and friends. Please bring a plate of food, sufficient for your family and a friend. Drinks and nibbles provided. This year will highlight the problems and experiences of schooling the children, and the hardships and sacrifices made by the parents (especially the mothers) to ensure their children were educated. Please contact Ken Boehm on (02) 4365 3033, mobile 0408 072 313 or Warren Martin on (02) 9489 5907; email <warrenjmartin@hotmail.com>.

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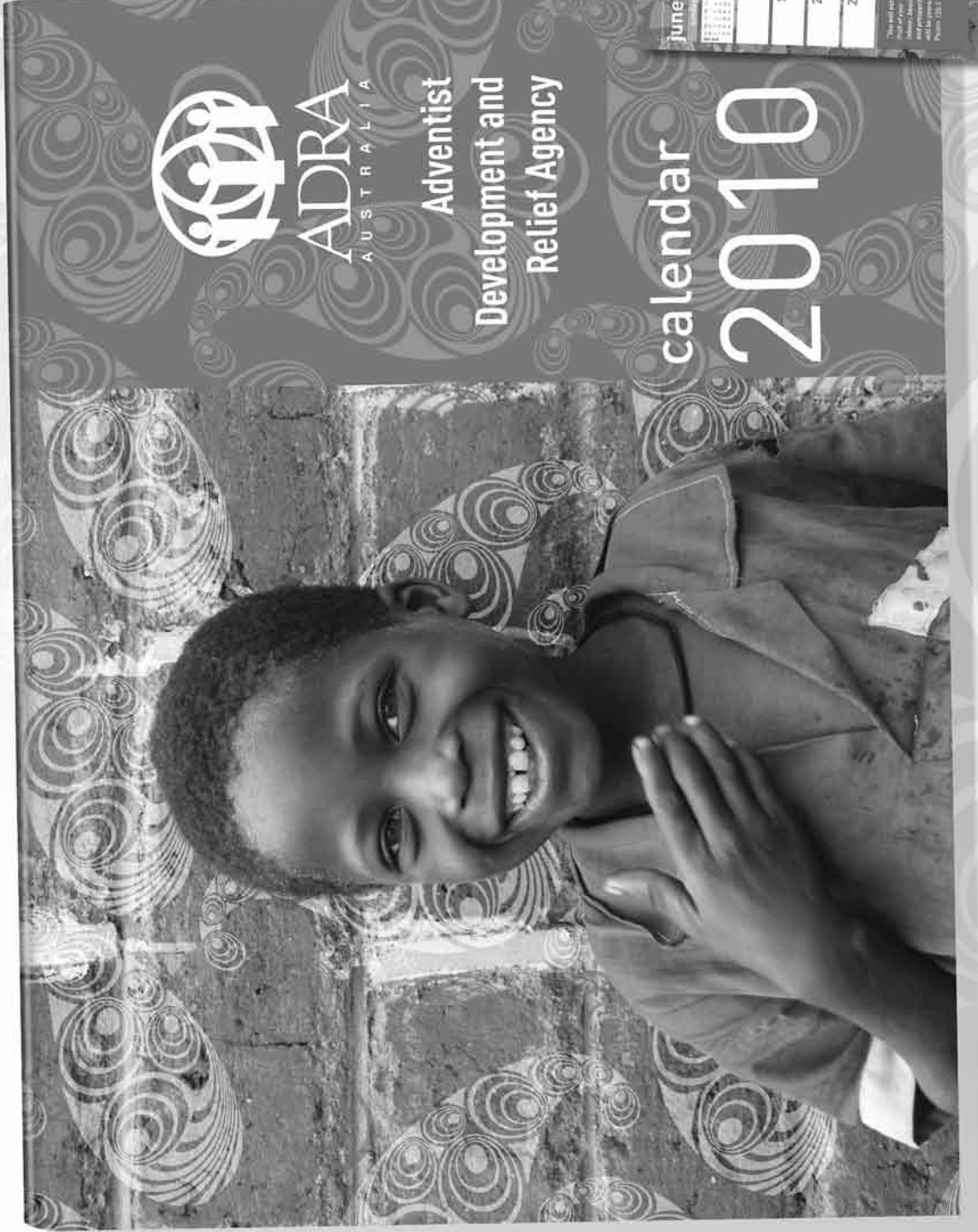
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