

northpoint

NORTH NSW CONFERENCE NEWS



AUG
2012

STORM Co teams go west in school holidays



The July school holidays provided an opportunity for STORM Co teams to visit towns in the western region of the North New South Wales (NNSW) Conference. Around 145 young people made up eight STORM Co teams, with Cobar and Wee Waa hosting the largest STORM Co groups. This year is the 20th year that STORM Co has been run in Australia, and NNSW youth have participated almost every year.

The Currawah Adventist Aboriginal College (CAAC) logo has been used on this year's STORM Co T-shirts, and Pastor Jeff Parker, Director of Youth Ministries for the NNSW Conference, says a lot of people recognised it and spoke positively to STORM Co teams about the influence Currawah has.

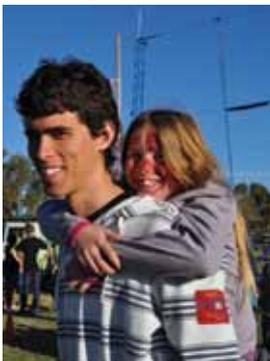
The teams undertook a lot of community-service projects, finding out what the towns needed — whether it was cleaning, gardening or painting. They also attended events as requested by local people. In Cobar, they visited nursing home residents. In Lightning Ridge, they hosted three-hour stints on the local radio station. Pastor Parker says, "They do anything the community or council needs."

Pastor Parker led a team from the Youth Ministries Department to visit each of the STORM Co teams, taking the Pinnacle Challenge with them. Rick Hergenhan, Assistant Director of Youth Ministries for the NNSW Conference, and Susan Manson, the department's secretary, were part of the team. The group started on the Monday, taking the Pinnacle to the group in Coonamble. This group was from the Greater Sydney Conference and is committed to working in the town, where there is currently only one church member. Pastor David Fletcher takes one service per month in the town, and was a strong support to the STORM Co team there.

From there, the Pinnacle team made their way to Toomelah, where the Lismore and Blue Hills College group was based. Pastor Parker says, "Toomelah's been in the news a bit lately, but to go there and see the happy faces was incredible. The STORM Co teams make a huge difference."

While visiting Goodooga, the team met a local youth worker who loves the work STORM Co does in the town. Rick says, "Uncle Bob is an Indigenous youth worker in the area and he told us about some of the

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OUR CONFERENCE

From the President: A time of trouble such as never was



Living in Queensland as a teenager, I have vivid memories of cyclone warnings that would flash across the TV screen when the coast would be hit with one of those unpredictable monsters.

The back yard had to be cleared of anything that could blow away, animals were brought indoors and the windows were taped up in case they blew out. Most often, nothing of any great substance eventuated — a lot of wind and rain, and then everything went back to normal. But the getting ready for the possibility of trouble was very good, as it focused your mind on what was of true value.

I believe this is a time in history when we need to get ready for some big trouble. A collapsing world economy will not only affect your bank account. If history is any guide, our whole society will go through a paradigm shift. Everything will change.

While this always brings great uncertainty, you can be sure that what the Bible has predicted about the spiritual condition of the world in the last days will be a big part of that paradigm shift. What do you need to clear out of your spiritual back yard or batten down before the storm?

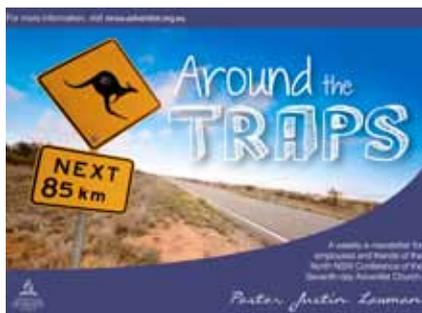
I mix with church members who have drifted in their spiritual commitments over the years. They are still regular church attendees, but no longer believe the things they once did. They question the importance of the Sabbath or no longer see tithing to the church as necessary. Some question our understanding of prophecy and, therefore, our sense of identity.

It is healthy to ask questions about what we believe. But it is more important to find good, solid answers — Christ-centred answers! I believe answers to all these questions are found in the person of Jesus. Being certain from your own Bible study and personal conviction are things that will keep you trusting Jesus when the world seems to be going crazy.

If you can do this sort of preparation before the storm hits, it will make all the difference when things go bang in the night. Once the storm hits, you might find it far too difficult to.

— *Pastor Justin Lawman*

Around The Traps, a weekly e-newsletter from the NNSW Conference President Pastor Justin Lawman, is now available. To subscribe, email northpoint@adventist.org.au with the words "E-newsletter subscription" in the subject line.



Chief Financial Officer's report: Seventh-day Adventist Church (North NSW Conference) Ltd, July 2012

Financial results for April 2012 have arrived and we can report that the church company has made a surplus of \$135,000 before interest, and \$204,000 after interest for the first four months of 2012. Our bottom line is tracking \$32,000 over budget.

Income

Income overall is \$102,000 over budget. Tithe is tracking two per cent (or \$68,000) under budget to the end of April 2012. Income from our campgrounds is over budget by \$153,000, but ABC gross profit is down on budget by \$34,000.

Expenditure

Expenditure overall is \$72,000 over budget. Spending on field ministers and Gospel workers is over budget by \$103,000, but spending on evangelism by local churches is under budget by \$192,000. Spending on administrative departments is over budget by \$116,000 (due to some redundancies), but ABC expenditure is under budget by \$18,000 and church-owned houses expense is under budget by \$13,000. Spending on campgrounds and conventions is over budget by \$43,000.

Tithe

We would like to acknowledge and praise God for three of our larger churches in our conference that have consistently increased their tithe-giving by more than 15 per cent each year for the past five years.

Church	5 Year Annual Average Increase in Tithe
Kingscliff	16.19%
Lakeside	15.05%
Wauchope	15.01%

Kingscliff Church has grown its tithe-giving from around \$192,000 per year five years ago to around \$350,000 per year today. Kingscliff's incredible story, linking spiritual revival and tithe growth following the biblical model, has been well documented in a short six-minute video that will be available from NorthPoint media shortly (enquiries and orders for your free copy to Adele Nash at adelenash@adventist.org.au or phone Adele on (02) 4951 8088).

So be encouraged and humbled — God is doing mighty things in our own conference here in North New South Wales.

— *Russell Halliday*



NorthPoint is published by the Communications Department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (North New South Wales Conference) Ltd.

President: Pastor Justin Lawman | General Secretary: Pastor Paul Geelan | NorthPoint Editor: Adele Nash

Readers are invited to send news items, stories, testimonies and photographs to:

PO Box 7, Wallsend NSW 2287 | Telephone: (02) 4951 8088 | Fax: (02) 4950 1102 | Email: northpoint@adventist.org.au | Website <http://nsw.adventist.org.au>

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challenges there. For people like him to have a STORM Co team visit, it lifts their spirits. Another positive is that local people who have made it have started to sponsor kids who show potential to do more, such as go to boarding school."

The STORM Co team at Goodooga was from Avondale College. After visiting them, the Pinnacle team headed out to visit the Avondale Memorial Church group at Lightning Ridge. On the Thursday, they visited the Central Coast and Gosford groups in Brewarrina. The group in Brewarrina were involved in NAIDOC Week and were invited to a corroboree at the end of the week, which was performed by three local Indigenous men.

On the Friday, the team led by Pastor Parker dropped the Pinnacle Challenge off at Currawah. CAAC will use the Pinnacle during Term 3 as part of their new activity-based learning program. Rick says, "It'll meet the kids where they're at until the school is able to establish their own rock wall and other Pinnacle features."

STORM Co originated in the South Queensland Conference under the name of SWAMP (Students With A Missionary Purpose), and the first group was led by Pastor Jerry Unser on a trip to Moree. The following year saw the name changed to STORM Co and Dr Mel Lemke, who is a chaplain at Avondale School, first got involved with the program then. Pastor Parker says, "Mel's so passionate about STORM Co." This year, Dr Lemke was involved in the STORM Co team from Avondale School that visited Cobar.

With 29 Year 11s and 12s (and five staff members), the Cobar team got involved in a variety of activities around the town. They were also honoured to be invited to take the local Assemblies of God church program on 8 July. The pastor asked if the group would be interested in leading the church's worship and sharing a sermon. Dr Lemke says, "Three of our students put their hands up to preach, and did so with distinction — Andrew, Laura and Annalise. I was like a proud dad watching them lead us to the heart of God."

In addition to this highlight, the group also conducted training with nine local young people they have worked with in the years that Avondale School groups have visited Cobar. Dr Lemke says, "They've worked with us over the years out there and have asked to be on our team. These are the first steps toward formalising a local STORM Co group in Cobar that we will mentor and resource. I love this town and the people in it."

The Avondale School group has also been networking with youth leaders in Cobar to create a youth development plan with them. Dr Lemke says the group also met up with a Seventh-day Adventist family wanting to start monthly meetings in Cobar. "We plan to support them in that, and visit with them again through the year," he says.

He adds, "This was one of the best Cobar trips yet. Lots of friendships were strengthened and formed. As rain brings new life to outback communities, so STORM Co brought life to Cobar again."

The Pinnacle team finished their tour at Cobar and Pastor Parker says, "We had the pleasure of spending some time with the students in Cobar. Their energy and passion is incredible. Avondale School groups have been going there for 16 years and have certainly won the hearts of the community. My wife and I walked in to a shop in the main street wearing our STORM Co shirts. A lady over the counter in her 40s said to us, 'We love STORM Co! My kids were involved in it when they were young and they'll never forget how good it was.'"

He adds, "The kids who take part in STORM Co give up their school holidays to serve the community. It's amazing the impact teams have on these outback communities. This 'seed-planting evangelism' certainly breaks down barriers in towns where our church has little or no presence in the hope that one day our church will touch lives in a mighty way for the Gospel."

More STORM Co groups will head out in the October school holidays, and there were groups who visited towns during the Easter holidays this year. If you would like more information about STORM Co, please contact the Youth Department on (02) 4951 8088.

— Adele Nash (with comment from Dr Mel Lemke)

Photos courtesy of Pastor Jeff Parker, Rick Hergenhan and Dr Mel Lemke

OUR CONFERENCE



OUR CONFERENCE



Brad Rea ordained at Wallsend

On Sabbath afternoon, 7 July, Macquarie College Chaplain Brad Rea was ordained at Wallsend Adventist Church. The day was a special one for Pastor Rea as friends and family gathered to celebrate his ordination, which was officiated at by leaders of the North New South Wales (NNSW) Conference and Pastor Graeme Christian, Ministerial Association Secretary for the Australian Union Conference.

Pastor Rea's father Malcolm Rea, Director of ADRA and Health Ministries for the Greater Sydney Conference, took the sermon for the ordination service and spoke about what God wants from leaders today. He said God most needs leaders who seek Him and are 100 per cent committed to serving Jesus. He spoke about the importance of a "full-heart commitment," with Jesus the centre of our lives. Pastor Rea's brother Pastor Ben Rea, who works as a minister in Christchurch, New Zealand, shared Pastor Brad Rea's life story. Pastor Justin Lawman, President of the NNSW Conference took the ordination prayer before Pastor Christian gave the ordination charge. Pastor Rea was then welcomed into ministry by his brother; Dr Bruce Youlden, Principal of Macquarie College; Pastor Paul Geelan, General Secretary of the NNSW Conference; and Stuart Arblaster, head elder of Wallsend Church. Following this, Pastor Rea's wife Christie was welcomed into ministry by Pastor John Lang.

Pastor Rea says, "It was a very humbling experience to be charged with Gospel Ministry. It also provided a good opportunity to reflect on where I have been in ministry, the direction that I'm going and how the Good News of Jesus Christ always needs to be at the centre of our Adventist faith. I was overwhelmed to see so many family and friends come to watch, affirm and pray for my ministry and family. It was special to be inspired by my Dad Malcolm and have my brother Ben involved in the ordination service."

He says one thing that is important in ministry is that the church is a "team" and that everyone works together in service to God. "Each individual is essential in the Body of Christ; whether it's serving in leadership, worship, friendship evangelism or in the home, we all can play a part in leading others to Jesus," he says. "I would also like to thank Pastors John Lang, Justin Lawman, Gordon Smith and Graeme Christian, who have shepherded me through the process for ordination. Christie and I would also like to thank our families, friends, church community and school families who came to the service, making the day special."

Pastor Lawman says of Pastor Rea, "Brad's ministry at Macquarie College is making a difference in the lives of the students there. His *409 Bible Adventure Challenge*, which encourages Primary School students at Macquarie to partner with their Mum and Dad to read through the entire 409 Bible stories contained in Arthur Maxwell's *The Bible Story* series, is one of the most brilliant I've seen for kids to get them into the Bible. The discernment and wisdom Brad displays are great."

Pastor Rea was born on 28 July, 1975 to Malcolm and Elenora Rea. His maternal great-grandfather Paul Rodionoff was a missionary who served in Mongolia before moving to Sydney, where he established the first Russian Adventist Church in 1952. His paternal great-grandfather Nicholai Merzlikoff served as an Adventist lay pastor in Newark, New York State, after moving to the USA from China in 1948. Pastor Rea's grandfather Victor Merlikoff had a significant spiritual influence on him. His other grandfather Moris Rea was a colporteur for several years in the North Island of New Zealand.

Pastor Rea's parents were medical missionaries in Aore, Vanuatu. He attended Castle Hill Adventist School for the majority of his Primary School years, and Newcastle Adventist High School in Hamilton, where he finished his HSC. Pastor Rea worked as an intern with the Youth Department of the Rocky Mountain Conference, USA, in 1994. He studied at the University of New England from 1995 to 2001, graduating with combined Honours Degrees in Natural Resources and Law. He graduated from the College of Law in 2001 with a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, and was admitted as a legal practitioner to the Supreme Court of NSW and the High Court of Australia in 2002.

Despite his love for law and litigation practice, Pastor Rea recognised that his real calling was to pastoral ministry. He followed this call and enrolled in Avondale College's Theology course in 2002. He commenced his chaplaincy work at Macquarie College in 2004. In 2005, he married Christie Lee, the daughter of Brian and Beverley Robinson. Christie has a passion for children's ministry, personal evangelism and prayer ministry. Pastor Rea and Christie have been blessed with three lovely daughters — Mischa (aged four), Breanna (aged three) and Summer (aged nine months).

— Adele Nash/Brad Rea/Justin Lawman



Outreach in Bourke and Brewarrina

Bourke Adventist Church conducted a week-long evangelistic campaign from 28 May to 2 June — the first evangelistic campaign in the area in about 20 years. Pastor Don Fehlberg, Associate Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries for the Australian Union Conference, was the main speaker. He gave powerful, inspiring and interesting presentations on topics like, "What I saw in the Land of Jesus," "A Dream that Foretold the Future," and "The Treasures of Egypt."

Pastor Fehlberg's presentations included pictures and Bible texts, which intrigued presentation attendees. Gavin Chatelier and his three children performed the music for all of the programs, and put on a concert on the last night of the outreach week. Danuta Stockwell, who ministers to Bourke Church with her husband Keith, says, "God's presence was very evident. Gavin's ministry and songs were spiritually uplifting. We were also blessed to have Pastor Don's wife Eileen and Gavin's wife Trudi help in various ways."

The first two programs were conducted in Brewarrina, one hour from Bourke. On the first night, several adults and children came from the community. They enjoyed it so much that they brought others with them to the next night's program. "On the second night, we were also blessed to have the Currawah Adventist Aboriginal College students and staff join us," says Danuta. "Most of the community people who attended were contacts we've been visiting for several months. It truly warmed our hearts to see their keenness and interest to attend, their love for God and more."

Attendees loved the pictures that Pastor Fehlberg used in his presentations, and enjoyed the music provided by the Chateliers. Danuta and Keith commenced a prophecy seminar in the home of one of their contacts in July. This contact has indicated she would like to start studying the Bible course at Mamarapha College next year.

During the middle of the outreach week, they held a casual program at Enngonia, a small town an hour from Bourke. "We've been visiting the people of Enngonia since November last year and have been warmly welcomed," says Danuta. Although there were no people at the land council building when they arrived, the Chateliers started playing music and others started cooking a barbecue. The music and food soon enticed people to attend, with 14 adults and eight children arriving — the oldest aged 84 and the youngest two months.

The final three programs were held at Bourke Church. Currawah students and staff joined the group for the Sabbath program. The week was concluded with an evening barbecue and a concert. "Our highlight was seeing five adults and six children come from the community for the concert," says Danuta. "Plans have already started for next year's campaign. We praise God for His goodness and for the many souls He has here in the western region to be reached with the Gospel."

Pastor Justin Lawman, President of the North New South Wales Conference, says, "I love the heart that Danuta and Keith have for the people in the Bourke and Brewarrina region. Their tireless work is truly appreciated, and we pray that they continue to build strong connections with their communities."

— NorthPoint/Danuta Stockwell



OUR CONFERENCE

Accreditation for Aged Care



The past couple of months have been a very busy time for the North New South Wales' Aged Care Company — in particular the Avondale Retirement Village (ARV). The three-yearly accreditation cycle conducted by the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency has been underway for both Kressville Lodge and Avondale Adventist Aged Care Facility.

This process involves a site audit lasting between two and three days, where the Standards Agency reviews the ARV's systems and processes to assess whether the care they provide to their residents meets the Accreditation Standards.

David Knight, Managing Director of the ARV, says, "This is a very rigorous process and measures our performance against four standards and 44 required outcomes. I'm pleased to advise that both facilities have achieved 44 out of 44 outcomes and received the maximum three-year accreditation. This result matches the accreditation outcome achieved by Alstonville, and is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff. It recognises the organisation's commitment to continuous quality improvement."

— NorthPoint/David Knight

Children's Ministries conference blessing

From 10 to 13 June, Pastor Daron Pratt, Director of Children's Ministries for the North New South Wales Conference, attended the Children's Spirituality Conference, held at Concordia University in Chicago, USA.



The conference was an inter-faith event, which Pastor Pratt attended with Julie Weslake, Director of Children's Ministries for the South Pacific Division; Dr Linda Koh, Director of Children's Ministries for the General Conference; and Dr Kathy Beagles from Andrews University. Barbara Fisher and Sandra Ludlow from Avondale College also attended the conference to present papers and workshops.

"It was a great time for thinkers from around the world to gather to discuss what's happening with children's spirituality," says Pastor Pratt. "Papers were presented and seminars given. The three big things I learned were the need for storying along the spiritual journey, the huge impact family and church service activities can have on faith, and the importance of children's curriculums impacting hearts and minds. Our *GraceLink* program does this well."

GraceLink is the General Conference's Sabbath School program for divisions from Beginner through to Juniors/Teens. For more information about *GraceLink*, read Pastor Pratt's article in the July *NorthPoint* or visit www.gracelink.net.

— NorthPoint/Daron Pratt

OUR CHURCHES

Byron Bay Church opens café



In May this year, Byron Bay Adventist Church opened Manna Haven Café. The café is a project of the church, and operates from a purpose-built extension on its worship centre on Jonson Street.

It is planned that all profits will be donated to local and international charities. The café's needs-based approach is a creative way to interact

with the local community, and provides excellent opportunities to connect with people from all walks of life.

Materials for the whole project — including labour, chairs, crockery and cutlery — were donated by church and community members. The café is staffed by volunteers from the church. Its vegetarian menu uses organic, seasonal and locally-sourced produce wherever possible. Its opening hours are between 8.00am and 4.00pm.

Pastor Tim Kingston's daughter Anita Carvill is the manager of the café and says, "The whole idea here is to serve and give back to the community. It's easy to talk about and have all the right clichés about God's love, but where the rubber meets the road is how you serve people. I've had a fire in my belly [about this], and feel like it's a bit of a calling."

The inspiration for the charity-focused café came to Anita three years ago when the church held weekly charity dinners, often for up to 300 people. These weekly dinners were originally put on for people who were facing hard times, but ended with a wide cross-section of the community participating, donating money to be part of the group.

— *With information from Byron Shire News*



Grafton hosts literature evangelist outreach

On 18 June, five literature evangelists from around the North New South Wales Conference teamed up with Pastor Paul Richardson and local literature evangelist John Dietrich to spend the week connecting with the community of Grafton.

The week saw many people make commitments to a better lifestyle through the visits the literature evangelists made to their homes. Shaun Hepworth, Literature Evangelism Coordinator for New South Wales, says, "One lady who was experiencing some challenges in her life said, 'I've been praying and waiting for God to send me someone to help me. You are an answer to that prayer.'"

There were others who made commitments to attend the "Free from Depression" course, which will be run by Pastor Richardson at the Grafton Adventist Church.

Shaun says of the week, "There were 24 people who valued our books enough to invest in them, with more than \$4500 worth of books purchased. We also made 17 contacts, which were handed over to John to follow up on as the local literature evangelist and Bible worker. More than 100 *Signs of the Times* were also personally delivered. I would like to thank Grafton Church for their hospitality and passion for community outreach."

— *NorthPoint/Shawn Hepworth*



82-year-old ordained as an elder at Nelson Bay Church



Malcolm McNaughton, aged 82, was ordained on 28 April at Nelson Bay Adventist Church at Salamander Way, Salamander. His ordination was a special moment for him, his wife Barbara and son John. Close friends Joe and Angela Lazic were part of the congregation to witness his ordination as an elder.

Lindsay Christian and Ralph du Preez provided special music for the service, and the cottage church was filled with members and visitors. Pastor Ken Love led out in the service, and spoke about how blessed he was to perform the ordination of Malcolm, who has served at Nelson Bay Church for the past 10 years. Narelle Love spoke on the subject of Heaven, exploring the theme through a variety of Bible texts and interaction with the congregation. Ruth du Preez offered the morning prayer for the ordination procedure.

John shared a Scripture reading from the book of Titus, focusing on Paul's message to Titus in a letter exploring the character and duties of an elder. Titus 1:6-16 reminds us, "An elder must be blameless, the husband of one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless — not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it."

Pastor Love spoke on the subject of eldership, inviting elders past and present to come forward for the laying-on of hands. At the conclusion of the service, congratulations were extended to Malcolm by many members of the congregation.

— *Daphne Picton*

OUR BAPTISMS

Baptisms a witness at Kurri Kurri

Kurri Kurri Adventist Church was a happy place to be on 23 July. Church members were joined by visitors who came to witness the baptisms of Max Bunn and Elizabeth Kennedy, and it was an exciting day for them all. Pastor Mark Venz shared a message from the book of Ephesians about the armour that God makes available to those who believe in Him.

Max and Elizabeth entered the waters of baptism with some trepidation, not knowing what would happen next. As their feet touched the water, it was nice and warm, but as their feet, legs and body went deeper, they felt a distinct change in temperature. The water was cold toward the bottom of the font. The fear of not knowing what to expect disappeared with the actual act of baptism. Although the temperature of the water was still the same, it was no longer the focus. The joy of the baptismal experience was fresh and liberating. The church thanks Max and Elizabeth for their witness.

— Pastor Mark Venz



Angels rejoiced at Camden Haven



Anna Helen Williams is 17 years old and chose to be baptised on 16 June after studying the Bible with her grandpa Dallas Atkins for two years.

She heard a sermon on "Baptism" and felt inspired to continue her studies with Pastor Uriah St Juste, and feels very welcome and at home with the Camden Haven Adventist Church and its members.

Anna resides on the beautiful Comboyne Plateau with her parents Susan and Ross Williams, and spends a lot of her time working on a dairy farm, raising her own calves, and enjoying the outdoors and peacefulness of the country lifestyle.

Camden Haven Church members feel very blessed to have Anna join their church family.

— Linda Grant

OUR MINISTRY

Ministry opportunities with ADRA in August

Sometimes ministry can be hard. It requires brainstorming and insight and committees and budgets and lots of effort — and that's before any lives are changed!

Yet we have a great ministry opportunity coming up for church members all over North New South Wales and most of the hard work has already been done! In fact, every Adventist church in Australia is currently being resourced to meet their local community where they are at and invite them to help make the world a better place.

What's even better is that we only need a few hours from each Adventist to create the largest community-engagement activity our church has ever achieved, and by doing so we will change the lives of thousands around the world.

Interested?

You will probably be shocked to learn this is actually something we do every year. The ADRA Appeal is happening soon, and is everything I have described and more.

The resources and tools to make these connections — and change so many lives — are provided by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia. From you, we need time. This August, you have the opportunity to give a little bit of your time to meeting your community and changing lives all at the same time.

The ADRA Appeal is a great opportunity to share how a ministry of our church is helping to make the world a better place, and invite the community to support it and get involved.

The funds raised every year help fund projects such as those in Zambia and Zimbabwe, training rural and peri-urban farmers to improve agricultural techniques and marketing of their produce; or water projects providing clean and safe drinking water in East Timor and Vanuatu; or projects supporting marginalised groups such as the visually impaired in Vietnam, albinos in Tanzania and the hill tribes of Thailand.

But more than that, thousands of Adventists across the country are on the doorsteps and in the shopping centres of their local community, meeting people, getting to know them and sharing just a little about what it means to follow Jesus.

So this year don't think of the ADRA Appeal with dread and obligation. Remember what the ADRA Appeal really is: connecting with community and changing lives. That sounds pretty great to me.

— Nathan Hawkins

More @ www.adra.org.au



TURNING Hearts

MALACHI 4:6

FAMILY CAMP

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SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Karen Holford
Author and former Children's
Ministries Director for the
South England Conference

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