

northpoint

NORTH NSW CONFERENCE NEWS



Maitland Pathfinder Club at AUC Pathfinder Camporee, Qld



FEB
2011

Thank God for new beginnings

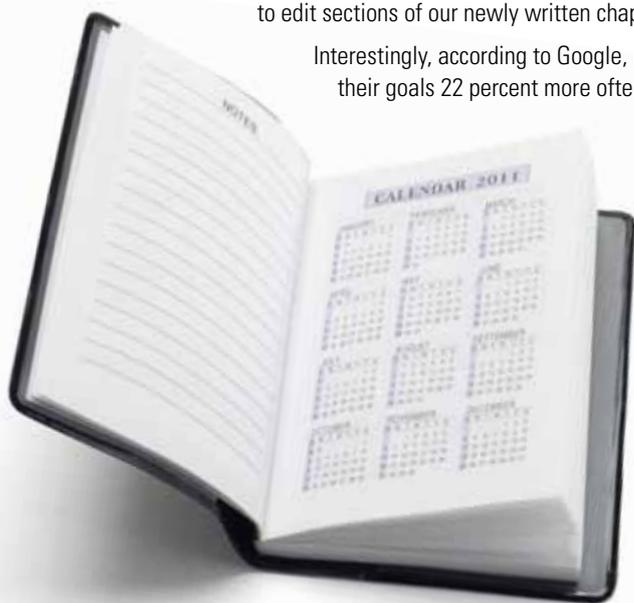
In this month when gym memberships are energetically purchased, weight loss programs are ravenously adhered to and quit smoking endeavours are optimistically begun, many of us begin yet another new year with a desire for self-improvement, trying to enrich our lives by committing to make positive changes.

As one unknown author described it, the start of a brand new, bursting with possibilities, as yet unblemished calendar year can feel as if "life is an exciting book and each new year starts a new chapter".

While new year's resolutions overflow with good intentions and can make a positive impact on our lives, research shows that not many of us are actually successful, with fewer than 1 in 5 achieving our goals.

Which probably explains our dwindling gym attendance by the beginning of March, or sooner and our subsequent attempts to edit sections of our newly written chapter of life.

Interestingly, according to Google, men achieve their goals 22 percent more often when



they set small, measurable goals and women succeed 10 percent more often when they make their goals public and enlist help from friends. This might help to explain the popularity of 'tough love approach' websites such as www.StickK.com where you can publicly list your goal, set the stakes and be monitored by others on your progress and success.

Each new year I encounter people on either end of the resolution spectrum. There's the pessimist who says that people look forward to a new year for a new start to old habits. And there's the optimist, like the recent celebrity visitor to our country, Oprah Winfrey who said "cheers to a new year and another chance to get it right". No matter where we fall on this spectrum, our human condition dictates that at some point in our lives we all desire change and hope for a better future.

But with the odds seemingly stacked against us when it comes to breaking negative habits and creating positive ones, it begs the question; can we ever truly start over, author a new beginning and wipe the slate clean?

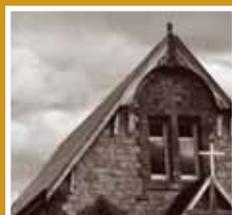
According to the Bible, it actually is possible to start fresh and be transformed — and you don't need to endure plastic surgery, reality television shows or 'miracle' diets. In Hebrews 12:2 we are assured that through Jesus Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection, He provided the ultimate new beginning and "became the author of eternal salvation". Not a 'salvation' you have to keep earning reward points for, but a freely given gift of a clean slate forever.

And 2 Corinthians 5:17 promises that if you accept this gift and become "united with God" you get "a fresh start and are created new. The old life is gone; a new life begins".

While you can try Google for some helpful tips on achieving your new year's resolutions, you can trust God, the author of life and salvation, for the ultimate new beginning; "a fresh start through the forgiveness of sins" (2 Corinthians 5:19). Thank God for new beginnings.

Sharlene Guest,
Director of Marketing & Communications

Upcoming
events...



Church Planting
Conference
4–6 March
Yarrhapinni



Grey Nomads
Camp 2011
6–14 May
Stuarts Point



OUR SUPPORT



Disaster Appeals

ADRA assists flood victims

Following prolonged rain and devastating flooding across Queensland, northern New South Wales and Victoria, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia is working in partnership with State Governments and other agencies to provide immediate emergency assistance to people affected by the floods.

ADRA Australia is accepting donations to its **Disaster Preparedness and Response Fund** and to its **Queensland Flood Appeal** in support of this. Donations to these funds can be made by calling ADRA Australia on 1800 242 372 or online at www.adra.org.au. You can also read updates about ADRA Australia's response to the floods on the website or sign up for free email updates.

Special offering for flood and fire response

On 29 January, a special offering was collected Australia-wide for Adventist victims of the recent flooding in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, and Adventists affected by the fires in Western Australia. The offering was not tax-deductible and was not associated with the ADRA Australia's Disaster and Flood Appeals.

"Some Adventists have lost homes and possessions during the worst floods in Queensland," said Pastor Chester Stanley, President of the Australian Union Conference (AUC) in Melbourne. "Other Adventists in Northern NSW and Victoria have also been affected by floods."

Many have supported and continue to support ADRA which has already provided \$A100,000 in cash and ongoing support to the wider community, and these contributions are encouraged.

"But we also have a responsibility to care for our own church members," the AUC's Chief Financial Officer Kingsley Wood said. "This is an opportunity for all 55,000 adult members and their families to help their spiritual brothers and sisters."

If you would like to contribute to this **Australian Emergency Support Fund** offering, please give at your local church or online through electronic giving at <https://egiving.adventist.org.au/>

OUR CHRISTMAS

Stranger in a Manger

When a children's choir from Lismore Seventh-day Adventist Church presented the Christmas musical "Stranger in the Manger" on December 18, 2010, they didn't expect the congregation to be so moved. One lady in her 80s said the presentation was the most meaningful Christmas service she'd heard. The narrations and songs, which included some congregational carols and solo parts for Mary and Joseph reminded worshippers that "God's love is the reason the whole world is different [since] God's only Son came to earth."

Pastor Paul Geelan also presented a thought-provoking sermonette encouraging those attending to share that love with friends and neighbours so Jesus didn't remain a Stranger to them. — *Jill Phillips*



Kanwal's Christmas

December 11, 2010, saw another successful Christmas concert at Kanwal Seventh-day Adventist Church. Last year was the twelfth successive year the concert has been held, and saw the local church filled to capacity. A large part of the audience was from the local community, and some of these people have attended every concert over the years. Talented artists, including instrumentalists and vocalists from as far away as Kempsey, enriched the concert. Special items were interspersed with a selection of favourite Christmas carols led by Pastor Owen D'Costa.

Several people who first attended one of the Kanwal Church's Christmas concerts now regularly attend the church. — *Ollie Schick*



Road To Bethlehem celebrates eight years at CCAS

Amid the shopping, cooking, parties and holidays, it's easy to lose sight of what Christmas is all about — Christ. This has led Central Coast Adventist School (CCAS) and Adventist churches from the Central Coast to work together to bring Road to Bethlehem to the Central Coast for the past eight years.

In 2010, CCAS, The Haven Adventist Community Church, Gosford Seventh-day Adventist Church, Wyong Seventh-day Adventist Church, Erina Seventh-day Adventist Church and the NNSW Conference Youth Department presented the dramatised version of the Christmas story at CCAS in Erina.

Held from December 12 to 14, the pageant also featured markets, food, camel rides, entertainment and music as well as people from the school and churches acting out the Christmas story.

The Road to Bethlehem pageant portrays the events of the first Christmas, with an hour-long tour starting inside the "Jerusalem Market" before visiting different aspects of the Christmas story, complete with Roman soldiers, shepherds, angels and Mary and Joseph in the stable.

Dr Steve Smith, who was involved with the Road to Bethlehem program, says, "Around 3,600 people went through the drama tour. More than that would have attended altogether, but unfortunately we don't have a means of counting everyone who attended."

There were 300 to 350 people involved in putting on the program, which Dr Smith says ran smoothly from set-up to pack-up.

Terri Muendel attended Road to Bethlehem with her family for the first time in 2009 and decided to make it their new Christmas family tradition. She says, "We love coming down and sharing such a beautiful representation of the Christmas story with our two children, aged 11 and eight... Both 2009 and 2010 have had precious moments for us."

She says she is thankful for the organisers of Road to Bethlehem for giving them the blessing of being able to create beautiful family memories and "cementing in my kids' hearts and minds that Jesus came for them." — *Dr Steve Smith*

Photos by David Gosling



OUR PATHFINDERS

North NSW Pathfinders at national camporee

Representatives from 16 Pathfinder clubs from North New South Wales were among the 2,600 Pathfinders and club leaders at the "Under Oath" Australian Union Conference (AUC) Pathfinder Camporee.

Held in Toowoomba, Queensland, from January 4 to 9, the camporee opened with colourful parade in bright sunshine but two heavy downpours flooded the camporee site and saw about half the campers seeking shelter in the showground pavilions or other off-site Toowoomba locations. Those who remained at the designated campsites endured — and enjoyed — the muddy conditions.

"I have seen your strength this week," guest speaker Pastor James Black, director of youth ministries for the North American Division, told camporee participants. "You have shown strength that doesn't run away from mud but endures it. You have shown strength that doesn't run away from rain but plays and sings in it. Now give that strength to God."

The camporee, the nightly dramas and daily activities were built around the story of Josiah—the boy king of Israel who chose to follow God and led his nation to do the same. Pastor Black challenged Pathfinders to make the same decision and hundreds of young people made that commitment, including 446 who specifically requested baptism.

Camporee director and director of youth ministries for the Australian Union Conference, Pastor Tony Knight, commended Pathfinders for their demonstration of Pathfinder spirit and determination. He also paid tribute to the many volunteer staff members and club leaders who both made camporee possible and regularly serve their young people in local Pathfinder clubs. — *Nathan Brown*

More stories and photos from the Australian Pathfinder Camporee are available at <http://under-oathcamporee.blogspot.com>.



(clockwise from top) Pathfinders head to activities, nightly drama, Tamworth Pathfinders pack up in the mud, Maitland Pathfinders form colour guard at opening ceremony, speaker James Black challenges Pathfinders, Maitland Club's original campsite

OUR PASTORS | 2011

Alstonville — Tim Kingston

Armidale — Colin Dunn

Avondale Memorial — Vadim Butov/ Uriah St Jude/
David Bertelsen

Ballina — Tim Kingston

Bellbrook — Murray Chapman/ Michael Chapman

Boolaroo — Kevin Amos

Bonalbo — Paul von Bratt

Bray Park — Brett Townend/ Darryl Groves

Broadmeadow Samoan — Eddie Mackie

Byron Bay — Cranville Tooley/ Don Sforcina

Camden Haven — Danny Milenkov

Casino — Paul Geelan/ Horace Evans

Central Coast Community Church — Wayne Krause

Cessnock — Mark Venz

Charlestown — Grego Pillay

Coffs Harbour — Miroslav Stilinovic

Coffs Coast — Steven Magaitis

College — Bruce Manners/ Mark Craig

Coonabarabran — David Fletcher

Dora Creek — Wilf Pascoe

Dorrigo — Colin Dunn

Dungog — Clive Nash

Erina — Russel Stanley

Forster/Tuncurry — David Kosmier

Gateway — Ian Howie/ Helen Butov

Glen Innes — Keith Jackson

Gloucester — Graham Stewart

Gosford — David Price/ Adam Cinzio

Grafton — Paul Richardson

Gunnedah — David Fletcher

Guyra — Benjamin Galindo

Hamilton — Kevin Amos

Hillview — Adrian Raethel

Inverell — Keith Jackson

Kanwal — Raymond Dabson

Kempsey — Murray Chapman/ Michael Chapman

Kempsey South — Murray Chapman/ Michael Chapman

Kingscliff — Marcus Mundall

Kurri Kurri — Mark Venz

Kyogle — Paul von Bratt

Lakeside — Clive Nash

Lightning Ridge — Bernice Underwood

Lismore — Paul Geelan/ Horace Evans

Macksville — Steven Magaitis

Macleay — Paul Richardson

Maitland — Esava Koro

Moree — Eteuati Feau

Morisset Multicultural — Wilf Pascoe

Mullumbimby — Cranville Tooley/ Don Sforcina

Murwillumbah — Brett Townend/ Darryl Groves

Muswellbrook — Afipu Tuaoi

My House (Newcastle Church Plant) — Mike Robinson

Nambucca Heads — Miroslav Stilinovic

Narrabri — Eteuati Feau

Nelson Bay — Eddie Mackie

Newcastle Polish — Jan Jankiewicz

Newcastle Multicultural — Grego Pillay

Newcastle Spanish — Jan Jankiewicz

Ocean Shores — Cranville Tooley/ Don Sforcina

Ourimbah — Raymond Dabson

Port Macquarie — Joseph Maticic

Quirindi — James Venegas

Raymond Terrace — Esava Koro

Singleton — Afipu Tuaoi

Stockton — Eddie Mackie

Swansea — Adrian Raethel

Tamworth — James Venegas

Taree — David Kosmier

Tenterfield — Benjamin Galindo

Telegraph Point — Joseph Maticic

The Entrance — Russel Stanley

The Haven — Bob Bolst

Toronto — Aaron Jeffries

Tumbulgum — Don Sforcina

Wallsend — John Denne/ Rick Hergenhan

Wauchope — Danny Milenkov

Wingham — Graham Stewart

Woodenbong — Paul von Bratt

Woy Woy — David Price/ Adam Cinzio

Wyee — Uriah St Juste

OUR CHURCHES



Adventurer's inspire Church

What do sunbeams, busy bees, koalas, helping hands and builders have in common? Of course they're all Adventurers.

On December 4, 2010, the Northern Rivers Adventurers (pictured above) presented the Lismore Adventist Church service and received their awards for work well done in 2010. Their enthusiasm was an inspiration to the church members who attended.

Pastor Paul Geelan also spoke and reminded those in attendance that "Life is an adventure" and includes God's rainbow promise.

Church member Valerie Dunstan says, "May we all bring the same enthusiasm to the Christian life as that shown by the children and their dedicated leaders." — *Valerie Dunstan*

Lakeside's New Revelation

In late November, 2010, Lakeside Seventh-day Adventist Church completed presenting the new Revelation seminar called Revelation — hope, meaning, purpose, which was developed by Dr John Paulien and Dr Graeme Bradford.

Pastor Clive Nash was the chief presenter at the Lakeside series, which ran over 12 weeks. There were 24 lessons presented in total, with each session presented twice — participants had the choice of attending a morning or evening session. This proved successful, with around 25 church members and guests completing the course.

Pastor Nash says, "This is the first time I have run morning and evening sessions as an option. It's proved to be a good way to go. We advertised on radio, through the newspaper, handbills, posters and personal invitations. As usual, we started out with about twice the number that we finished with. But I was very pleased with the size of the final group.

"Many participants commented favourably on the Christ-centred approach to the book of Revelation. One couple who graduated have since had HopeTV and 3ABN installed in their home by Lakeside member John Malkiewicz of 3ABN Australia."

The seminar also gave the opportunity to mentor theology students from Avondale College, with the church's 2010 student pastors James Moncrieff, Paul Kleinmeulman, Steve Ward and Matt Pearce presenting some sessions. — *Monica Nash*

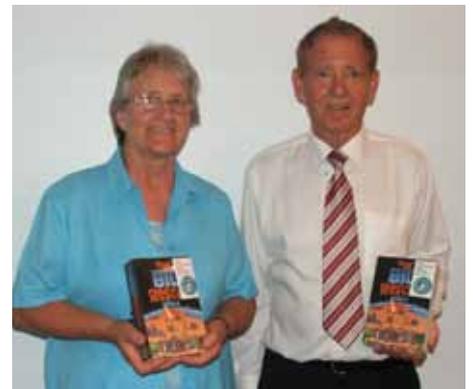
Dora Creek supports Scripture in schools

November 26, 2010, saw 350 Bibles given to children in the upper classes of two primary schools in the Dora Creek area. Dora Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church made the Bibles available and Pastor Wilf Pascoe says that within a week of handing the Bibles out, one child told him he'd read the Bible through. Others said they had read half, while all reported that they were excited to be reading it.

The handout of Bibles follows on from Dora Creek and Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Churches being involved in supporting Scripture classes in local primary schools. This began in 2009, with Pastor Pascoe being asked by the inter-church coordinating group to put a team together to teach Scripture at schools. Pastor Pascoe was joined by Pastor Uriah St Juste (Memorial) and Helen Christian (Dora Creek).

They teach 11 classes in three public primary schools, with more than 200 children taking part in the program across the schools. Pastor Pascoe reports the program has a high acceptance and equates the weekly half-hour lessons with running an evangelistic series. "Children actively respond to Christ and make lifestyle and value-based decisions," he says.

Helen Christian says she loves teaching children and realises many of them would never hear about a God who loves them if someone didn't tell them. "When I meet children down the street, they're always excited to tell mum or dad that I'm the Scripture teacher," she says.



"The reaction out of school is always positive. But there are some children who don't want to learn about Jesus. I feel sad for them, as they are only in Year 1 or 2. I pray for them especially."

More Scripture teachers are needed this year. Pastor Pascoe (pictured above with Helen Christian) can be contacted about this on (02) 4973 4305 or wpscoe@tpg.com.au.

Dora Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church members were also involved with outreach work last year, with two families going to Vanuatu on a mission trip. The Richardson and Wigglesworth families spent two weeks in August in Vanuatu with Marilyn Trosky and her daughter Minai. Dora Creek church members had raised funds to help start a branch Sabbath school in Vanuatu in 2009, and the church families conducted a series of programs designed to reach families on Ifira. The programs were well-attended, particularly by teenagers and children. On the final evening, each attendee received their own Bible. The 112 Bibles handed out were donated by Pastor Gordon Lee. — *Jenny Wigglesworth*

Reaching out with Radio

In 2010, Seventh-day Adventist churches in the north-eastern New South Wales towns of Quirindi and Gunnedah saw the completion of their work to put together a low-power radio network on their local 87.6FM stations. Although it took two years for the plan to come to fruition, the network currently covers the towns of Quirindi, Gunnedah, Werris Creek and Murrurundi, with the churches hoping to use the network as a nexus for media outreach.



The purchase of the radio licences was facilitated in part by Philip Smith, an Adventist freelance radio consultant from Perth, Western Australia. Gunnedah was first to obtain a licence, followed by Quirindi. Members of Quirindi Seventh-day Adventist Church had aspirations for greater network coverage and Pastor David Fletcher encouraged the church to extend their reach.

The church obtained another 87.6FM licence, which they located at a church member's home in Werris Creek. The licence was approved in December 2008 and brought on air early in 2009.

Obtaining a licence for 87.6FM in Murrurundi was trickier, as the licence for that was owned by another operator. Philip met with the owner in September 2009 and proposed an exchange of licences, with the Murrurundi licence obtained for two of Philip's unused licences. Murrurundi also falls inside the zone around Newcastle that, as a rule, doesn't allow low-power FM licences. Church members prayed for a solution and found an answer in a church member who lives in an elevated location at the edge of the town. They allowed their home to be host to the radio station, and the Australian Communications and Media Authority agreed to the licence changes in 2010.

A number of other churches in the North New South Wales Conference have built independent low-power radio networks, including Port Macquarie, Wauchope and Camden Haven Seventh-day Adventist churches. Alstonville Seventh-day Adventist Church, which has the oldest Adventist radio network in Australia, recently added another station to their network. — *Phil Smith*



Age no limit

If you think local church camps aren't for older church members, think again! Marg Mears, aged 95, takes every opportunity to live that "more abundant life" to the full. She recently joined her daughter at the Grafton/Maclean church camp at Broom's Head. — *Ruth Stilinovic*

Concert inspires Rehab patients

Avondale Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted a concert by Michael Harris, a Chapel recording artist from America, on December 11, 2010. "Songs and Testimony from the Heart" featured many of Michael's songs, as well as the story of his recovery from alcohol and drug addiction.

The concert inspired those who attended, but had particular significance for three men who attended from a local Salvation Army-run rehabilitation centre. Peter Pash, Robert Stines and Garry Taylor were clients at the Miracle Haven Rehabilitation Centre in Morisset and felt particularly blessed by Michael's concert.

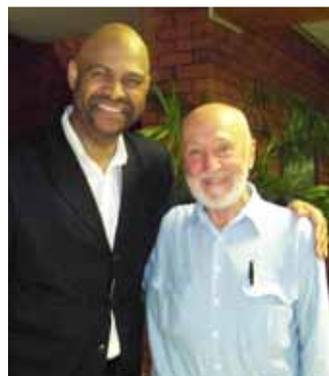
Peter, who has had an alcohol addiction, says, "It was with apprehension and curiosity that I went to the Michael Harris concert at the Adventist church in Cooranbong. Listening to Michael's story of his own addictions and seeing the light after abusing his mind and body, I gave myself to Jesus there and then. His [Michael's] glorious singing voice and dedication to our Lord Jesus was inspirational.

Robert enjoyed Michael's concert, and liked the way he sang. "I liked how he welcomed the men from Miracle Haven," says Robert. "I appreciated the fact that he allowed us to have photos taken with him. I hope he will come back to see us again."

Garry, a recovering drug and alcohol addict, says it was inspiring to meet Michael, who gave him a signed copy of one of his CDs. "He spoke about how God has worked in his life to stop his addiction," says Garry.

"His story touched my heart in a strong way and gave me faith that God loves me and won't give up on me because of my past. I know God has an awesome plan for my life and I want Him to use me to help others."

PHOTOS: (clockwise from top) Robert Stines, Gary Taylor & Peter Pash with Michael Harris. — *Adele Nash*



OUR BAPTISMS

Triple baptism at Toronto

Three young men dedicated their lives to God through baptism in an afternoon service at Toronto Adventist Church on December 4. Avondale College theology students Martin Thompson and Gustav Hoffman studied with Christopher Dobson, Mario Aguirre and Jaakob Hopkins prior to the baptisms, and joined Pastor Aaron Jeffries in the font to assist with the baptisms. The service was short but meaningful and Toronto church members gladly welcomed the young men into fellowship.

— Michelle Down



(L to R) Pastor Aaron Jeffries, Gustav Hoffman, Christopher Hopkins, Jaakob Hopkins, Mario Aguirre & Martin Thompson

Lakeside celebrates

On December 11, 2010, Lakeside Seventh-day Adventist Church was filled with Caleb Hunter's family and friends to witness his baptism. Caleb was baptised by Pastor Clive Nash after several months of studies with Lakeside's youth pastor, Matt Pearce.

It was a happy occasion for Caleb, his parents Calvin and Wendy Hunter, and sister Jasmine. Relatives from New Zealand were also present to join in the celebrations. Jasmine sang a special item following Caleb's baptism that reminded people of the sacrifice Jesus made for every person on earth. — Monica Nash



(L to R) Pastor Clive Nash, Calvin, Wendy & Caleb Hunter



Kennedy & Catherine Chitera & their daughters with Pastor Afipu Tuaoi

Singleton's Christmas baptism blessing

Singleton Seventh-day Adventist Church had an extra blessing on Christmas day in 2010 with the baptism of a young couple, Kennedy and Cathrine Chitera. Kennedy and Cathrine moved to Australia from Zimbabwe several years ago and settled in Melbourne before moving to Singleton. They went to several churches in search of the Word of God. Through friendship evangelism, they were welcomed to the Singleton Seventh-day Adventist Church and grew to understand God's plan of salvation through Bible studies. Their baptism was part of a special Christmas program and Pastor Afipu Tuaoi says, "It was an enjoyable day for Kennedy, Cathrine and their two children Nicole and Joyce, as well as the Singleton church."

Earlier in 2010, Tony Clover was baptised at the church. Tony's parents weren't Adventists, but he was born at the Sydney Adventist Hospital. Tony's mother and sister came from Sydney to witness his baptism. Pastor Tuaoi says, "Through friendship evangelism, Tony came to accept the Sabbath as God's true day of worship and with regular Bible studies, he came to understand God's pillars of truth." — Afipu Tuaoi



Tony Clover with Pastor Afipu Tuaoi

Victor's victory at CCCC

There was a party in Heaven on December 18, 2010, when Victor Irimia gave his heart to God and was welcomed into membership at Central Coast Community Church (CCCC). It was almost two years since Victor's mum Ioana walked past CCCC and decided to go inside, thinking it was the Salvation Army church. She was accepted into the church on a profession of faith a few months later, and had been praying that her son Victor would come to know Jesus.

This prayer had results when Victor was baptised at Shelly Beach after studying with Ron Coalfield. It was a pleasure for Ron to be alongside Victor as Pastor Wayne Krause performed the baptism. — *John and Melissa Sanburg*



(L to R) Ron Coalfield, Victor Irimia & Pastor Wayne Krause

Coffs Harbour connects

November 13, 2010, was a special day for Kristi Godfrey, daughter of Ken and Jenny Godfrey, and Coffs Harbour Seventh-day Adventist Memorial Church members as Kristi made a public commitment to God through baptism. The day was made extra special by both sets of Kristi's grandparents attending, along with other close family members. The service involved two of her three brothers. Nine-year-old Jared gave the Scripture reading and Michael read a poem he had written especially for his sister for her baptism called "That's my sister". Those listening were so moved by the poem they burst into applause.

After welcoming Kristi into church fellowship, the entire church was invited by Pastor Miroslav Stilinic to come to the front, where each person placed their hand on the shoulder of the person ahead of them. This effectively connected the whole church as one, and when this was done, Pastor Stilinic gave a prayer of dedication.

Kristi affirmed her older brother Michael as being an influence on her decision to be baptised. He was baptised two years ago.

— *Margaret Hivon*

To read Michael's poem, visit our website at <http://nsw.adventist.org.au>.

MAS outreach sees students baptised



Jamie Quick & Pastor David Kosmeier

On December 11, 2010, six people were baptised due to studies conducted at Manning Adventist School (MAS) in Taree. Ashley McMahon and Samuel McMahon, both former MAS students, were baptised with Kerryn Saunders at Taree Seventh-day Adventist Church during the main service in the morning. Jamie Quick, Nicholas Kosmeier and Regan Bridger, all Year 5 students at MAS, were baptised at Saltwater Point in the afternoon. All of the baptisms were conducted by Pastor David Kosmeier, who has been involved in Bible studies at MAS.

Bible studies at MAS commenced in 2008 with one Bible study group of eight people — primary students, teens at high school and some parents. Shannon Quick, MAS principal, says, "By 2010, we had a Bible study group of between 25 and 30 people. There were three or four Bible study groups catered for in two sessions, with lower primary Bible study groups taken by Kelly Quick, a teacher at MAS, and the high school and adult groups taken by Pastor Kosmeier."

The studies are part of a concerted outreach plan made by the school, and are conducted for school students, whether past or present, and their friends and family. MAS and the local church work together to provide the weekly studies. "Pastor Kosmeier has been very active and inspirational in his leadership," says Shannon. "He is committed to outreach and the children respond to his dedication."

The study groups have grown with the growth of the school — last year, MAS had 23 students — and has retained high school students who no longer attend the school. Shannon says, "This is critical for Adventist mission and Kingdom growth in the absence of a continual Adventist education from kindy to Year 12 in this area."

MAS has had a commitment from each Adventist student to be baptised. The children are planning to be baptised in the next two to five years as they complete their primary schooling. "Their commitment and conviction to Christ is clear," says Shannon. "Their faith is an inspiration to all of us."

— *Shannon Quick*



(L to R) Jamie Quick, Nicholas Kosmeier & Regan Bridger

OUR HEALTH

Lismore's CHIP success

Lismore Adventist Church recently conducted a successful Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP), with 25 participants and nine staff meeting three nights a week for five weeks from 25 October to 24 November 2010.

The series was organised and presented by Neville Leeson, and featured Dr Hans Diehl's CHIP DVDs and demonstrations by church members.



Lismore CHIP group at their graduation dinner

Approximately one third of the people who attended the program were from the local community.

Some excellent results were achieved, with attendees reducing their cholesterol, triglyceride and glucose levels between nine and 12 per cent. Most attendees also lost around three to four kilograms, but one person lost 12 kilograms. Collectively, the group walked the equivalent of Lismore to Coober Pedy via Melbourne and Adelaide.

The program has had other encouraging results with many positive comments from the community. One attendee who felt they had "never finished anything they'd started before" wants to re-commence a University course, and another expressed appreciation for the friendly, safe environment where health issues could be dealt with.

The church held a graduation dinner on 1 December 2010, with each attendee bringing a CHIP-friendly dish to share. Pastor Paul Geelan presented a short talk based on the first chapter of Daniel, with its focus on healthy diet.

Church members are planning to conduct another CHIP this month. — Valerie Dunstan

Simple, Tasty, Good

Review by Adele Nash

Simple, Tasty, Good, a recipe book launched in 2010, is the result of a joint project between Adventist Health Ministries Department of the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference and Signs Publishing Company.

The book was created in response to demand for a recipe book based on the principles of "Optimal Diet" from the Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) — a project numerous churches in New Zealand have run with success.

Pastor Paul Rankin, national coordinator of CHIP in New Zealand, and his daughter Rebekah directed and managed the project. Recipes were contributed by a number of people and CHIP teams from Christchurch and Palmerston North churches.

With close to 100 recipes, **Simple, Tasty, Good** is full of great food ideas for healthier living. All of the recipes are plant-based and offer a good scope for catering to various dietary requirements, such as gluten intolerance.

Divided into sections, including soups, salads and desserts, the recipes all meet three criteria set by the team who created the book — the recipes have to taste good, the ingredients have to be readily available in supermarkets and they have to be good for you.

With new and interesting healthy takes on classics like lasagna, shepherd's pie, cakes and brownies, this recipe book genuinely makes healthy cooking simple and speedy. The recipes are easy to understand and, as a reader, you really don't notice things that are "missing" from this cookbook that other cookbooks include — things like lashings of

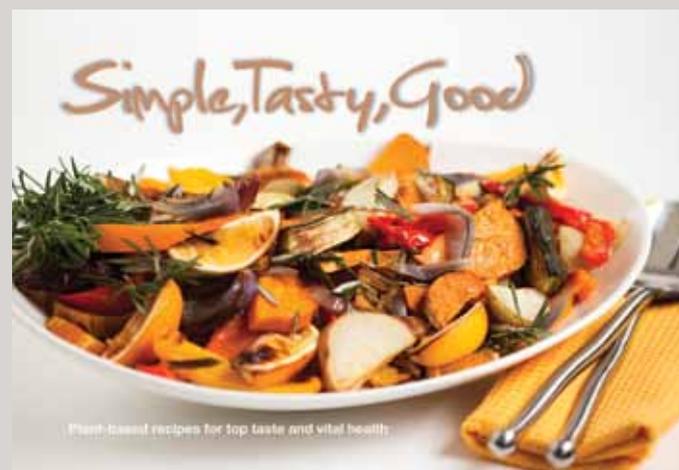
butter, cream, cheese, oils or salts.

Simple, Tasty, Good is also exceptionally visually appealing, with excellent photography from Garry and Dyanne Dixon.

For those with an interest in healthy eating, **Simple, Tasty, Good** will be an invaluable resource. It is available at Adventist Book Centres.

To help inspire a healthy new year, two NorthPoint readers have the opportunity to receive their very own copy of **Simple, Tasty, Good** thanks to Signs Publishing Company. Just tell us in 25 words or less, how a copy of **Simple, Tasty, Good** would help you reach your healthy eating goals for 2011.

Email your entries to northpoint@adventist.org.au or post them to NorthPoint, PO Box 7, Wallsend NSW 2287 by **28 February 2011**.



OUR VOICE

The SoapBox: Resolved to let God Lead

After experiencing some of the negative aspects of working for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Adele Nash discovers that letting God lead is the best resolution to make.

Oscar Wilde said that a New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other. If I had made New Year's resolutions last year, I'm pretty sure the top of the list would have been, "Don't work for the church again. Try James Hardie instead." After all, why would I want to return to something I'd been hurt by? Something so many people had been hurt by?

And yet, here I am starting 2011, working for the church. It's surprising in some ways, and yet I still feel passionately about communicating the good things our church does and the Good News of the Gospel. Sure, there are negatives — it would be unrealistic to expect perfection — but the church also does some amazing things, contains some awesome people and provides ways to connect with God.

So even if I had that resolution, I suppose God had another one. And, as I've discovered, kicking against God's resolutions never seems to work out in the long run.

I mean, look at Jonah. God gets right to the point in the second verse of the first chapter — "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me" (Jonah 1:2). By verse three, Jonah's running in the opposite direction to where God wants him to be.

But he didn't get far before God sent a storm that threatened to sink the ship Jonah was on. We know what happened after that — a quick exit from the ship; a three-day cruise to the shore of Nineveh in a whale that managed to avoid being harpooned for scientific research; the conversion of the Ninevites and a monumental sulk by Jonah for God's lack of smiting.

But, in spite of Jonah wishing he was dead, God's resolution involving him had a greater purpose.

By God's resolutions, I don't mean things like "Have fewer late nights with the angels; Create something more outrageous than the platypus (combine elephant, zebra and toucan?); Remember to feed the horses of the Apocalypse".

Through prophecies in the Old Testament, God had already set some "resolutions" to keep when His Son arrived. When Jesus was ministering on earth, He did the things mentioned in the first verses of Isaiah 61. These included healing the brokenhearted, releasing prisoners from darkness and providing freedom for captives. He also comforted those who mourned and provided for those who grieved. In providing a crown of beauty instead of ashes, Jesus

also preached the Good News to the poor (Luke 4:18, 19, but mentioned in Isaiah 61 as well), and loved others as He did Himself.

We might not be able to make our resolutions for the new year to copy all the things that Jesus did in His time on earth — like healing the blind with the aid of some mud or casting demons out into pigs — but making the resolution to follow God's leading is something we can all do. And His resolution is that we share the Good News with others, provide comfort to people who are hurt or mourning, help those in need, and resolve to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8). We can also resolve to not become tired of doing good (Galatians 6:9).

When you let God guide you for His resolutions for your life, you never know where you might end up or what you might do. You might even end up working for the church again.

— Adele Nash writes from Newcastle, where she recently began work at the NNSW Conference Office in the Communications & Marketing Department.

Is there something you feel passionate about? We'd love to hear your voice. Share your thoughts here on the SOAPBOX. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Submissions to the SOAPBOX can be sent to email: northpoint@adventist.org.au and should be no more than 400 words.

Please supply your name, address and telephone number.



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NNSW Conference Session 2011

It will have been four years in September when the last Conference Constituency meeting was held. This is an important event in the life of the Church, where Conference leadership is held accountable and for actions to be taken to direct the church for the next period.

We encourage members to make themselves available as a local church delegate on Sunday, 11 September, 2011, to attend the Conference Constituency meeting to be held at Macksville.

The Conference Constitution requires no less than two thirds of appointed delegates to actually attend, otherwise the meeting cannot proceed. It is therefore imperative to attend if you are appointed as a delegate. Please speak to your local church pastor if you are interested in being nominated as a delegate to attend the Conference Constituency meeting.

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