

# northpoint

NORTH NSW CONFERENCE NEWS



SEP  
09

## A place of Special Character

Picture the scene: After waiting 10 years, you are finally having the holiday of a lifetime, the dream getaway, the adventure to end all adventures.

Work is all squared away. No projects left on the table, the in-box is mesmerisingly empty, you turn from your tasks and leap joyously into the unknown of carefree relaxation.

You have planned this trip for many years and you now need only make the final decisions, the final bookings that will give you the experience you are longing for. In this imaginary tale the focus of our excitement is white water rafting. Your heart bursts with enthusiasm as you contemplate the bracing chill of the mountain water, the energising roar of cascading falls and the sweet thrill of aching muscles and the sense of one more river tamed at days end.

One last decision faces you as you prepare for this adventure. Who do I have join me on this adventure?

On one hand we have a Travel Agent friend who has been selling white water adventures for over 15 years. He knows

where to get all the best packages, where to get the best deals, find the cheapest accommodation, locations with the best value added experiences. He knows about white water rafting better than anyone.

On the other hand, we have a Tour Guide friend who has only been guiding rafters for two years. He may not know about accommodation, travel vouchers and visas but he knows the chill of wild rivers, the lure of the wild river and the bonds forged in overcoming. He will be there with you from start to end, he will guide you through the darkest canyon, he will plunge into the racing river to pull you back in and he will slap your back in joy as you turn and see the journey you have travelled together.

One knows about white water rafting; the other knows white water rafting.

To know about or to know: only one word different but a great difference when applied to a life lived.

Many claim to know about God, fewer claim to know God. Why? Knowing takes commitment. Knowing takes passion. Knowing takes trust. Knowing takes intimacy. Knowing takes belief.

Knowing takes looking beyond yourself and focusing on what really matters.

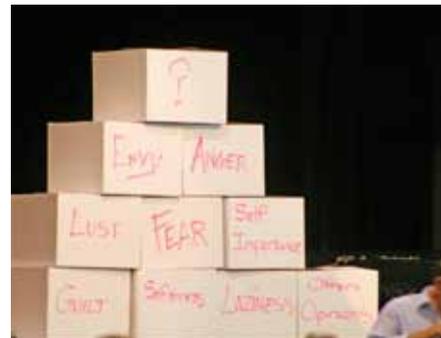
Google remains the world's leading Internet search engine. What makes it a market leader? Focus. Their search home page has limited information other than what is needed to be accessed in order to search — the very reason people have sought out that web page in the first place. Google doesn't simply know about searching; they know searching.

If you are brave enough, ask yourself this regarding your relationship with your Creator. Do you want to know about God OR do you want to know God? Are you seeking a clear and focused relationship with Him or is your relationship confused and cluttered.

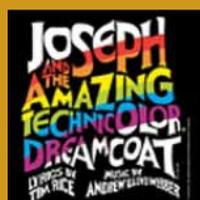
To know about Him or to know Him: it is up to you. What will you choose?

**Dean Bennetts, Principal  
Central Coast Adventist School**

This article is an excerpt from Dean's Keynote address at the 2009 CAPE & CASE meetings, in which he focused on the 'Special Character' of Adventist Education. View an interview with Dean online at **NorthPoint VIDEO** <http://nsw.adventist.org.au>



Upcoming  
Events...



Central Coast Adventist School is proud to present the musical Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat during 8-10 September 2009. Tickets are now available online at a cost of \$7.00 (plus 30 cent booking fee per ticket). To purchase, visit the school website [www.ccas.nsw.edu.au](http://www.ccas.nsw.edu.au)



# OUR TEACHERS

## CAPE & CASE MEETINGS

In case you're wondering... no, we're not talking about a suitcase, a briefcase or even a pencilcase — and while our teachers and education staff may have some superhuman qualities, I'm fairly certain they don't wear capes. But the teachers who attended our recent CAPE and CASE meetings (otherwise known as Curriculum for Adventist Primary Education and Curriculum for Adventist Secondary Education), certainly enjoyed a showcase of presentations as part of this annual professional development program.

"Our aim for CAPE and CASE meetings is to provide spiritual development and encouragement for all of our education staff, as well as professional development in their specific areas of responsibility," said Ralph Luchow, Education Director for the North NSW Conference.

The event included three keynote presentations that covered a range of topical issues:

Dean Bennetts, Principal of Central Coast Adventist School, spoke to attendees about the special character of Adventist schools. He re-focused the teachers on the need for individual spirituality and their own commitment to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; something central to all those in Adventist education.

Greg Gebhardt, National Education Trainer for NetAlert (Australia's Internet Safety Advisory Body), shared the very real concerns surrounding internet use and cybersafety, including issues of cyberbullying. His presentation also provided schools with contacts and resources on these issues.

Michael McQueen, leading authority on youth trends and founder of the Nexgen Group, provided strategies for bridging the generation gap and outlined ways to more effectively engage with Generation Y and Z.

Attendees also benefitted from a range of subject-specific seminars, resource sharing and networking opportunities.

Held at Avondale School in Cooranbong during the last week of July and hosted by the North NSW Conference, the event combined over 550 teaching, administrative, chaplaincy and support staff from schools throughout the North NSW, Greater Sydney and South NSW

Conferences. More than 30 student teachers from Avondale College also attended the meetings.

"As we are all part of the NSW education system, which is governed and regulated by the Board of Studies, it makes sense to meet together rather than separately and to share costs and resources," said Mr Luchow.

"Special thanks to all involved in organising another excellent and worthwhile event."

**Sharlene Guest**  
Communications, Marketing & Public Relations Director



Exhibitors displayed a range of educational resources



Teachers enjoyed a variety of keynote presentations



Attendees appreciated the catering by Avondale School

## The Mission of Adventist Education

Our belief about Christian education is Biblically based with an unashamed desire to emulate the life of Jesus Christ. Thus, the aim of Adventist education in Australia is to create an educational environment that makes it more likely that each student will accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and friend.

Adventist education is built on the belief that each student is unique and of immeasurable value. It values the importance of systematic development of the whole person. Students are taught to accept the concept of service as a principle of life; to be sensitive to the needs of people; and to become contributing members in their home, church, and society.



## The Ministry of Teaching

If you are looking to do something significant with your life then choosing teaching as a profession is the answer. Research into why people choose to become teachers has identified that teaching is perceived as a good job with satisfactory pay scales, holidays etc. Teaching is also seen as a good career. Teachers enjoy working with children and have a feeling that teaching brings high job satisfaction. But there is more to teaching than this. Teachers wish to sustain, share and use their knowledge and they have a profound wish to improve young people's life chances. They see teaching as more than a job, more than a career — it is a calling.

Christian teachers see the profession of teaching as a ministry. It is an act of serving young people as they move toward the realisation of their mental, physical, emotional, and

spiritual potentials. Teachers make a significant contribution to the lives of the people that they come in contact with, especially the young people in their classes. It is no wonder that the New South Wales Department of Education and Training has as its main logo: 'Teach and make a difference'.



If you want to make a real difference with your life, be a teacher. For more information visit:

[www.ministryofteaching.edu.au](http://www.ministryofteaching.edu.au)  
or contact Peter Beamish,  
Dean, Faculty of Education  
Avondale College  
Tel: (02) 49802179

## Our schools at a glance

SCHOOL	LOCATION	TEACHERS	STUDENTS
Avondale School	Cooranbong	69.3	962
Blue Hills College	Lismore	17	217
Central Coast Adventist School	Erina	63.5	867
Kempsey Adventist School	Kempsey	22.7	266
Macksville Adventist School	Macksville	1.4	14
Macquarie College	Wallsend	52.5	674
Manning District Adventist School	Taree	2.5	13
Port Macquarie Adventist School	Port Macquarie	2.7	35
Toronto Adventist Primary School	Toronto	2.4	30
Tweed Valley College	Murwillumbah	13.7	107
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>*247.7</b>	<b>3,185</b>



\*The number of teachers in each school is calculated on the number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) teaching staff, which includes all full-time and part-time teachers.

# OUR SCHOOLS

## Building Blue Hills

Blue Hills College was the recipient of \$125K of National School Pride (NSP) funding. The monies will be used for outdoor shelter areas, refurbishing the existing and ageing Science laboratory, provision of a covered outdoor lunch and play area for the Primary School and the excavation of a playing field.

The College also received \$2M in Round One of the P21K government funding opportunity. These monies will be used for the construction of a multi-purpose hall. It will contain a full-size basketball court and associated changeroom and bathroom facilities, two



classrooms, a canteen and kitchenette, and a facility to offer 'Out of School Hours Care'. Planning is being finalised with the tender process anticipated within the next few weeks.

Blue Hills College also has associated development and re-development works associated with a previous Block Grant Authority (BGA) grant totalling \$2.1M. The funds have been used to construct amenities and a new administrative block. They have also been used to refurbish the College library, food and general technology laboratories and construct a new commercial kitchen facility. A significant amount of funding will be spent on the construction of a carpark and bus turning circle. Tenders for this have just closed, with works scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

While Blue Hills College looks more like a construction site than a school at this point in time, quality Christian education continues to be delivered despite the distractions.

## Chapel Challenge

Blue Hills College is renowned for its 'Chapel Challenges' — something very similar to the reality tv show 'Random Acts of Kindness'. Students are challenged regularly to get out of their comfort zone and do something that makes a difference in the life of somebody else. With the concerns surrounding H1N1, a Year 10 student of the College with a pre existing health issue, was 'quarantined' by his parents in an effort to minimise risk. In this particular case — to catch the flu could have truly serious consequences.

After six weeks, the student and his sibling were suffering the results of social deprivation, to the point where Mum consulted the paediatrician for possible alternatives. He suggested she contact the College (as he'd heard only good things about the school's willingness to work in with its constituency) to see if there was something that could be done. It wasn't a long conversation. The

wearing of a face mask AND the washing of hands with a disinfectant gel at the beginning of each lesson could minimise the risk of infection.

The greatest of all 'Chapel Challenges' was launched! Collectively, as a High School campus of 72, could we wear a mask AND wash our hands (every 50 minutes) until the end of August (flu season officially ending) to assist two of our own to return? Emphatically YES! The local newspaper came to cover the story. The two who have returned are delighted to be socially active once again and their parents are glad to have chosen Blue Hills College for so many reasons!

**David Hobson, Principal  
Blue Hills College**



## Toronto School goes to church

What do Queen Esther, Pharaoh's daughter, Abraham Lincoln and Marie Curie have in common? These were characters represented by Year 2 students during the church service at Toronto Seventh-day Adventist Church to show how God has a plan that He is working out in people's lives. The students from Toronto Adventist Primary School took the entire church service on 15 August. The congregation were welcomed by students from the Kindergarten class, led in prayer

by students from Year 1 and also in a song service where three Year 1 girls "signed" to the words of "Shout to the Lord". The Infants also sang an item about growing. This was followed by students from Years 3 to 6 narrating and acting out three Bible stories that illustrate ways in which people participate in God's plan for their lives through prayer. A dramatic portrayal of fire descending from heaven in answer to Elijah's prayer on Mount Carmel illustrated how God loves us so much that He

wants to gain our attention and remind us that He is in control of the world. The dramas were linked together with the Principal inviting the congregation to participate in God's plan for their lives through prayer. The church service was drawn to a close with the whole

Primary School singing the song "Take Me", illustrating how we can offer our lives to God.

**Carola Parker, Principal  
Toronto Adventist Primary School**



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## Changing lives

**It's always exciting to read about the positive things happening in our schools, especially this kind of coverage given to Kempsey Adventist School in the Mid-Coast Observer newspaper on 5 August 2009.**

While most secondary students in the Macleay Valley were busy relaxing over the mid-year break, Years 10 and 11 Kempsey Adventist School (KAS) students were busy changing lives through STORMCo service projects in both Central Australia and Fiji.

STORMCo, an acronym for the words Service To Others Really Matters, is a core part of the learning program at KAS, empowering students to apply the theoretical knowledge and skills gained in traditional classroom learning to real life circumstances through practical service projects both interstate and overseas.

For a three week period over the end of Term 2 and into the mid-year break, KAS Year 10 students and teachers travelled to the remote and isolated indigenous communities of Finke

and Impala in Central Australia where they facilitated a STORMCo project through the operation of the Pinnacle program, a mobile rock climbing and abseiling facility which the KAS students were trained to operate. It both motivated and challenged the young participants on the Finke and Impala communities to improve themselves through adventure, team building and personal development activities. KAS students, as trained facilitators of the Pinnacle program, played an integral role in the program's success which was attributed largely to their efforts.

Year 10 students attending the KAS service project in Central Australia also took time out to complete solo desert camping, rock climbing in the MacDonnell Ranges, visits to Uluru and Kings Canyon, together with numerous other activities designed to develop resilience and build a greater vision for the needs of the various communities they visited.

For a 13-day period, also over the mid-year break, KAS Year 11 students and staff completed

a STORMCo project in Fiji. This project saw the students 'roughing it' Fijian-style with cold showers and no mirrors or mobile phone coverage, whilst they completed form work, replastering, painting and cleaning to renovate a disused building on a secondary school campus and turn it into a usable space which will now become the school's new library. In a third would community such as Fiji, the work by the KAS students had a marked and immediate

under waterfalls in the jungle, visit remote villages, snorkel on the Coral Coast and attend numerous feasts provided by their Fijian hosts.

With planning now well underway for next year's STORMCo projects KAS looks forward to continuing to provide unique opportunities for students to apply the theoretical skills gained in the course of their regular studies to real life circumstances where their perceptions and characters continue to be formed through practical service to others in high needs communities. The success of this year's STORMCo projects is perhaps best summed up in the comments of one student returning from the Central Australian project, "I realise now what a great opportunity I have living here in Kempsey. I want to finish school at KAS and give something back to my community".

As a learning community, there is no greater reward than seeing the goal of equipping students with a sense of responsibility towards others in need, both locally and internationally, being achieved!

**View featured interviews about Kempsey Adventist School online at [NorthPoint VIDEO](http://nns.w.adventist.org.au) <http://nns.w.adventist.org.au>**



impact upon the lives of the 350 students attending that school. Many of the KAS students formed strong bonds of friendship over their visit, with the KAS students being particularly impacted by the hospitality and sense of community which is so much a part of Fijian culture.

Like their peers visiting Central Australia, the Year 11 students in Fiji also took some time out to swim

## TVC in Fiji

This year a group of 14 students, parents and staff from Tweed Valley College (TVC) went to Navesau and we painted the entire main building, using over 320 litres of paint. The week at Navesau was a life-changing experience for our students. Some of the reflections from students included: "I never knew you could be so happy with so little" and "I have realised that my priorities need to change."

Does a service-orientated trip like this make a difference?

- I watched it change our students.
- I watched as many of them got up to lead out in the combined student worship each day at 5:30am.
- I watched as they painted — and were painted — through the day along with some of the Navesau students.
- I watched as they were enveloped in the magnificent Pacific singing as the Navesau students sang each morning and evening in worships.

• I watched as some of our own students joined in the singing groups with the church outreach groups over the Sabbath.

We were graciously hosted. We learnt a lot. But most of all — we were able to gain first-hand the importance of service and doing for others. Adventist education is more than just knowledge. It is practical Christianity lived and shared. It makes a difference

in the lives of our students, our parents and the communities that we touch.

**David McClintock, Principal Tweed Valley College**



# OUR CHURCHES

## Lightning Ridge Church — a light in their community

### A free gift on Mother's Day

On Mother's Day, we at Lightning Ridge, did all the usual things for the ladies in the Church, the Hospital and the retirement units. But then, with lots of flowers still left over, we took to the streets! And what a reception we had.

We stood outside the local supermarket and handed out flowers to the ladies as they came and went with their shopping and they couldn't believe that we were doing it for THEM — and that we didn't want any money in return. It was a great way to show Jesus' love, which is also free!



### 3ABN comes to town

Recently, the Lightning Ridge Church decided to invest in a 3ABN Radio transmitter so that God's Word can be available in the homes of the local people 24 hours a day. It was a great moment when the radio was switched on and we couldn't wait to drive around and see how far the signal reached. Praise God, we have a complete coverage in the town, and even out to the highway, so even some of the closer mining areas are covered. We pray that we will see hearts turned to the Lord as a result of this outreach — and now we are thinking of placing radios in other towns in the district as finance becomes available. Please pray for this venture.

### A Commitment to follow God

It's not often that we have children at the Lightning Ridge Church, but recently we were blessed by having 11 year old Emily Bibby visit for several months.

It wasn't long before she requested baptism, but in the meantime, we conducted a commitment ceremony to affirm her decision to follow the Lord.

She chose Zdenka Pugh as her faith friend and she has been a real blessing to our church. We pray God's blessing on Emily as she moves to Tasmania — may her faith always be as strong as it is now.



*"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden."  
Matthew 5:14 (NIV)*



### Cooranbong airstrip still in use

So that's a surprise to you? Well, it would have been a pleasant surprise too for any pilots flying overhead on Sunday, 19 July to look down and witness a Rolls Royce carrying a beautiful bride along the airstrip. It travelled to the northern end of the runway where the groom and guests were waiting. God blessed with a perfect winter's day — blue, blue sky, warm sunshine and the wind-sock wasn't even fluttering. As Kathryn Ashton and Jeffrey Hosken stood before Pastor Raymond Dabson to take their wedding vows, a beautiful picture was formed with the mountains in the distance and Australian bush closer. The sparkle of the bride's gown in the sunshine and the rich red of the four bridesmaid's frocks added to that colourful picture. Hillview church has appreciated these talented young people for many years, and so with Pastor Dabson we wished them well as they "took Off" on a flight to a marriage in the skies.

**Jean Rigby**  
Hillview Church

### Baptism at Erina

The afternoon on 13 June 2009 was a special time at Erina Church as 150 people gathered to witness the baptism of Kale Dyson. The officiating Minister was Kale's grandfather, Pastor Eric Winter.

During the church service on 25 July, Kale was warmly welcomed into the fellowship of the Erina Church. Pastor Russell Stanley presented Kale with his Baptismal Certificate and a gift from the church.



# OUR YOUTH

## Tom's Testimony



Pastor David Kosmeier baptises Tom McNamara

Thomas Duncan McNamara was born in 1930 and grew up on a 1100acre wheat and sheep property in Narrabri, NSW. Being the eldest of four boys, Tom had no schooling or formal education but worked hard labour for his father from the age of seven years. His dad was a strict religious catholic and was brutal in his treatment, using religion as a justification for daily beatings. Tom attended catholic services with his family during his youth but was soon disillusioned by the hypocrisy and cruelty of the priests. Tom left the property at the age of 17 and moved to Sydney where his first work was on the trams. He was once again discouraged by the behaviour of the 'public' but made his way into the furniture removal industry where he worked for more than 50 years. Most of that time he owned his own company.

Tom married Nancy when he was 20, they had three children and were married for 46 years. When Nancy died of cancer, Tom's bitterness and anger towards God dominated his life, and his lifetime of drinking and smoking became his only solace. Tom met Sonia Richardson when she became a client some 30 years ago. During Nancy's brief illness, Sonia had the opportunity to minister to the couple but when Nancy died, Tom rejected any spiritual or religious council. His health and life deteriorated during his deep grief. As a friend and neighbour, Sonia persevered to show compassion and care.

God did His magic and over a period of time, love grew into a committed relationship and at a time when Sonia was given only months to live, Tom determined "if we were only to be married for your last months of life, I would still be the happiest man". Sonia and Tom have now been married for almost 11 years, and during that time God has slowly but surely blessed them with a loving and steadfast relationship.



Sonia and Tom celebrate his baptism

## A tribute to Les Fowler, 103 Years

A Memorial Service was held on 16 June 2009 at the Coffs Harbour Seventh-day Adventist Church for the late Leslie Newlands Fowler, who passed away on 13 June 2009 aged 103 years.

Les was a well-known local identity who, in his own words had, "a life of good health for which I am most grateful to the Lord, little adventure, but enjoyed it all the way".

Les was born on 1 February 1906 in Sydney. During the 1930's Les studied the Scriptures in Lismore and was convinced that even during the worst of times, God would bless his family. He maintained a close association with the Adventist Church and was always a strong supporter of ADRA.



Ok I admit it. On more than one occasion I've gambled with the fuel gauge in my vehicle, only to find myself sitting on the side of the road waiting for road side assistance to bring me some more fuel. In fact, I'm the only person I know who owned a duel fuel vehicle and ran out of LPG and petrol — not once, but twice!

It's bad enough when you're the only one in the car, but when you're with two toddlers and a newborn as well, this overwhelming message screams at you how futile the fuel gauge game can be. After sweltering in the sun for two hours, I promised myself I'd NEVER do it again, apologised profusely to a profoundly frustrated wife and berated myself for letting it happen again. That was until friends who had borrowed my car rang me one evening and said: "the low fuel light is on, do you think we'll make it home?" and I said "Sure, you'll be right". The phone did ring again and I was off in another vehicle to pick up my now-stranded friends on the side of the road.

Vehicles need fuel. People need 'fuel' too! Not the type vehicles need, but none-the-less, they need fuel. God suggests people need to refuel on His fuel everyday. Refuelling in God's word is what God's people pride themselves on, yet sometimes allow our Bible fuel gauge to get a bit low. Refuelled Youth Camp was an

intentional strategy to reintroduce and remind young people about refuelling on God's word everyday. Eighty people attended Refuelled Camp at Yarrahapinni during 31 July to 2 August to hear Pastor Don McPhaull, from Los Angeles open the Bible and share how it has inspired him in his incredible journey with God.

Pastor McPhaull tied the refuelled bible analogy together by talking about running of out fuel; cheap fuel; duel fuel; dirty fuel and high octane fuel. His message was simple: although the journey is not always an easy one — Refuel every day on God's Word.

For the record, I did make it home from Refuelled camp — with half a tank to spare for which our guest Pr McPhaull was truly grateful.

**Pastor Bevan Craig  
North NSW Youth Ministries**



## Leading the World's Toughest Enterprise - The Local Church

Workshop at North NSW Camp | Monday 12 to Thursday 16 October

### Workshop Description

The local church is in the 'front-line' of bringing hope of Jesus in a hopeless world we live in. Leaders of local churches are running the **toughest enterprise** in the world - they do not have traditional leverage as found in private organisations e.g. hiring / firing and compensation plans. However - they have a powerful God given method to galvanise and mobilise the local church. In this workshop we learn practical local church leadership skills that will transform your church to become an effective soul-winning church. Our speaker is one of the founders of Gateway Adventist Centre, a newly established outreach in urban Melbourne and today it has grown from 35 to 200 people in 2 congregations with 80 baptisms in 6 years!

### Presenter: Johnny Wong



Johnny Wong is the Elder of Gateway Adventist Centre (GAC), a new Adventist outreach centre located in the heart of Melbourne City. He has been involved in three church plants since his university years then recently planted Gateway City (2003) and Gateway Hawthorn (May 2008). He is now coaching several churches in Australia and Asia in urban evangelism. Johnny's passion is to see young people mobilized as an army of youth presenting the everlasting gospel. His academic training is in Information Technology and he has served in senior management positions at Oracle Corporation, Hewlett-Packard, Ansett Australia Group and Penguin Books.



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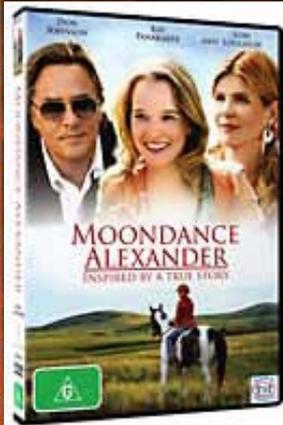
ADVENTIST EDUCATION Avondale COLLEGE

TORONTO ADVENTIST PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## Family Movies at the ABC



### MOONDANCE ALEXANDER DVD \$24.95

Inspired by a true story, this family adventure features an all-star cast. Life is a rough ride for awkward, friendless, 15-year-old girl called Moondance. But when a Pinto pony named Checkers leaps into her life, Moondance pursues a dream she never knew she had. Convinced that Checkers has champion potential, she enters him in the Bow Valley Classic, and in the process learns only perseverance lands you in the winner's circle. Moondance Alexander is an uplifting story the whole family will enjoy.



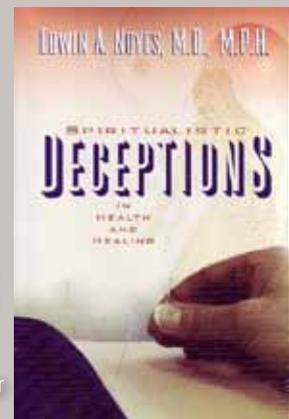
### ACE OF HEARTS DVD \$19.95

Dan is a police officer in his department's K-9 unit, partnered with Ace — a loveable German Shepherd dog. When Ace is framed by a wanted villain and scheduled to be put down, Dan sets out to clear his name. Ace of Hearts contains good values and is excellent viewing for families, youth or church groups.

## Book of the Month

### SPIRITUALISTIC DECEPTIONS IN HEALTH AND HEALING BOOK \$39.95

Edwin Noyes PB 270 pages. There has been a proliferation of "natural" healing modalities that are promoted and practiced today. The efficacy of these therapies has not been proven, nor the side-effects described but the focus of many in natural healing now revolves around feelings, rather than being rooted in the physiology of the body. The many methodologies addressed by this book such as acupuncture, iridology, hypnotism, reflexology, homeopathy and others are shown to be without a logical or rational basis. The author exposes the spiritualistic deceptions in many of these practices.



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