Avondale
COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Reflections

The Alumni and Advancement magazine of Avondale College of Higher Education

Winter 2012 Vol 24 No 1



First PhD graduate
Avondale research
Focus on service

Avondale
COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Editor Dr John Cox
Design Colin Chuang
© Avondale College of Higher Education
Printer Signs Publishing Company

Cover picture: Avondale's first PhD graduate, Dr Rene Gehring, receives his testamur from President Dr Ray Roennfeldt. Photo: Ann Stafford

Avondale confers first PhD

Avondale College of Higher Education conferred its first Doctor of Philosophy degree at the December 2011 graduation, a most significant event in Avondale's history. Dr Rene Gehring, a 30-year old Seventh-day Adventist minister from Korbach, Germany, wrote his PhD thesis on the biblical theology of marriage. He completed his degree by distance education, his location in Germany giving access to some of Europe's foremost theological research libraries.

Dr Gehring's Avondale degree is his second doctorate. The first was from the University of Salzburg, Austria, for which he wrote a thesis on the development of Jewish sectarian groups from their origins in the second century BCE to the Jewish War of 66-70 CE. Gehring's choice of Avondale for his second doctorate was partly influenced by the institution's significance in the history of Adventist education. Dr Gehring would like to teach theology in an Adventist higher education institution.

Avondale conferred 269 awards at the 2011 graduation, including 36 postgraduate awards.



Dr Rene Gehring. Photo: Ann Stafford

Focus on service

Service to God and humanity was a prominent theme of the graduation weekend. Dr Ella Simmons, a general vice-president of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, challenged graduates to realise their potential in service for Christ and humanity.

Lucy Perry, speaker for the consecration service on the Sydney campus, is deeply committed to serving others as a leading birth attendant, providing emotional and physical support to women and their partners before, during and after childbirth. She is the founder of a childbirth education program and author of *Cheers to Childbirth. A Dad's Guide to Childbirth Support*. She also coordinates support for the work of Dr Catherine Hamlin at the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia, which provides free surgery to poor rural women who have suffered childbirth injuries.



Bryanna Martin with one of the lamps presented as a symbol of the nursing profession to Bachelor of Nursing graduands at the consecration service on the Sydney campus. Photo: Ann Stafford

The graduating class chose Micah 6:8 as their theme text: "What does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God" – the implications of which were highlighted in the Friday evening service on the Lake Macquarie campus by Dr Marion Shields, senior lecturer in education and chair of the Academic Board; and by Dr Jane Fernandez-Goldborough, Vice President (Learning and Teaching) in the Sabbath morning church service. The Sabbath morning program also featured the overseas service projects of the student organisation One Mission.

A special moment in the Sabbath program was a testimony to answered prayer by Bachelor of Arts graduand Luke Vodell, who told of his recovery from a skateboard accident earlier in the year that left him with a fractured skull, bleeding from mouth, nose, ears, and eyes. "He won't make it to hospital," the ambulance officers said. Luke's family and friends prayed – it was all they could do. Luke awoke from a coma

a week later with post-traumatic amnesia, unable even to remember his father's name. Yet he recovered, to the astonishment of the health professionals, and was able to complete his studies. A health professional said, "I notice your family and friends have been praying; it really does help." Following this experience Luke committed his life to God and was baptised. "God saved my life," he said. "That's why I'm giving my life to him."

Two other members of the Vodell family graduated with Luke: his brother Joel, with a Bachelor of Arts, and his father Mark, principal of Gilson College, Melbourne, with a Master of Education (Honours). Mark's thesis was on the relationship between teacher religiosity, spirituality and job satisfaction.



Mark Vodell, MEd Honours graduate (centre), with his sons Luke (L) and Joel (R). Photo: Ann Stafford

Enrolment up yet again

Avondale's first-semester enrolment is up yet again. The total headcount of 1372 students is 25 more than in 2011. Thirty-one students are enrolled in research higher degrees, including 18 in PhD programs; a further 144 are in postgraduate coursework programs. Altogether there are 1156 full-time equivalent students in undergraduate and postgraduate higher education courses. About five per cent of students are studying vocational education and training programs in outdoor recreation leadership.

"The growth in enrolment shows that students are attracted by Avondale's combination of quality education and Christian values," said Director of Marketing and Advancement, Colin Crabtree.

Teacher education courses are Avondale's largest group of programs, with 570 students. The Faculty of Nursing and Health has 331 students. Nursing students may study the first year of their course on either the Sydney or the Lake Macquarie campus. The second and third years of the course are on the Sydney campus.

The Bachelor degrees in arts, business and science have 176 students, plus another 124 students taking these programs in combination with secondary teaching. The School of Ministry and Theology has 118 students.

Thirty per cent of Avondale students live in student residences on both campuses. International students comprise 11 per cent of the total enrolment.

Commonwealth government HECS-HELP is available to all eligible nursing and teacher education students, giving substantially discounted tuition. Commonwealth FEE-HELP is available to eligible students in other courses. Both forms of assistance give students the option of deferring all tuition payments until annual earnings exceed a threshold set by the government (currently $47,196).

New degree qualifications in chaplaincy

In 2012 Avondale College of Higher Education became one of the first higher education institutions in Australia to offer degrees in chaplaincy. "The new program is cutting edge and fulfils a need," said Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Theology. "Australian governments now insist that chaplains are appropriately qualified, and Avondale is one of the only places where chaplaincy is available in a bachelor degree."

Chaplains are employed in schools, universities, hospitals, retirement villages, orphanages, manufacturing and other workplaces, sporting organisations, ambulance services, State Emergency Services, and prisons, as well as in the armed services and the Police Department, though the armed services and police have proportional denominational quotas that may restrict the employability of graduates.

Avondale has maximised career options for its students by offering chaplaincy in three degree programs: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Teaching, and Bachelor of Ministry and Theology. In the Bachelor of Arts students may combine a major in chaplaincy with a major in religious studies or visual communication, or a specialisation in psychology (offered in conjunction with the University of New England). Students in the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Teaching may combine chaplaincy with a second major as a foundation for a career in either school chaplaincy or secondary teaching. Studying chaplaincy in the Bachelor of Ministry and Theology may lead to careers in school or hospital chaplaincy, youth ministry or pastoral ministry.

Studies include units in counselling, pastoral psychology, communication and worship, clinical pastoral education, emotional processes and addictive behaviours, and elective options. All students in the program undertake supervised practical placements in chaplaincy.

Chaplaincy has proved attractive to students, with 15 enrolled in the initial chaplaincy unit and 21 in the initial counselling unit. For further information, contact enquiries@avondale.edu.au or telephone 1800 991 392.

Publishing researchers join academic staff

Two more publishing scholars were appointed in 2012, enhancing Avondale's research profile.

Edie Lanphar joined the School of Education from the San Roque School/Garden Street Academy, Santa Barbara, California, where she was head of middle school and director of curriculum pre-school to Year 12. For several years she has researched collaboratively with Avondale's Associate Professor Phil Fitzsimmons, together producing ten book chapters, seven refereed articles and a co-edited book.



Edie Lanphar

Ms Lanphar is particularly interested in researching the development of social and emotional competencies in children, and the effects of such activity on brain development. From 2006 to 2010 she edited the peer reviewed journal of the Whole Language Umbrella organisation, and from 2008 to 2010 was a peer reviewer for the National Council of Teachers of English. She has also engaged in collaborative research with the Centre for Teaching for Social Justice at the University of California Santa Barbara. She has made numerous presentations at national and international peer-reviewed conferences. At Avondale she will continue research and publication while teaching in early childhood education.

Dr Gemma Christian was appointed to the School of Science and Mathematics after several years of postdoctoral research in Australia and Europe. She has a PhD in computational inorganic chemistry from the Australian National University (ANU). Prior to that she completed a Bachelor of Science degree at ANU with first class honours in chemistry and the university medal. During her study for this degree she took a year out from ANU to study physics and music at Avondale – "a really good experience," she said. After completing her doctorate she engaged in postdoctoral research at ANU and then in Europe – at the Institute of Chemical Research of Catalonia, Spain (2007-2009), and at the Institute for Physical and Theoretical Chemistry at the University of Bonn, Germany (2009-2011). Dr Christian's research focuses on the reactions of enzymes containing metals in biological systems. She uses computational chemistry to investigate factors controlling such reactions and how chemical environments can be tuned to achieve desired outcomes. She has so far produced nineteen refereed journal articles, two book chapters and twelve refereed conference presentations.



Dr Gemma Christian

Business

Peter Williams joined the staff as a lecturer in human resource management and economics, having been a sessional lecturer since 2008. He is also an experienced business studies teacher at secondary level. He has bachelor and masters degrees from Avondale, and will graduate this year with a Master of Business Administration from Southern Cross University.

Music appointments

Aleta King was appointed director of the music program after several years lecturing in musicianship and choral conducting at the University of Queensland. She is a graduate of the Queensland Conservatorium, the University of Queensland and the Kodaly Institute, Liszt Academy, Hungary, where she studied with scholarships from the Hungarian government, the Kodaly Institute Foundation, and the International Kodaly Society. She is currently doing PhD research with the University of Queensland. Her performance roles have included director of the London Adventist Chorale, which she conducted at the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Concert and other major British engagements; music director and conductor of Kings College Choir, University of Queensland; and accompanist for the Queensland Conservatorium Chorus. She has published in refereed journals, and has had significant experience in secondary school music teaching. As an accomplished church musician, Aleta travels extensively with the Adventist Church's Institute of Worship, sharing her musical expertise throughout Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific.



Claire Howard Race, a piano accompanist with an international reputation, has joined the music staff. Claire gained first class honours and the university medal in her Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Newcastle before continuing with postgraduate accompaniment studies at the Canberra School of Music and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Glasgow. She subsequently earned a Master of Music in performance and research with distinction from the Royal Academy of Music, London. She has performed internationally in England, Scotland, Germany, France, Mexico and Spain, and has won numerous prizes and scholarships, including Lieder and Accompaniment prizes at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and the Russian Song Accompaniment Prize. She has accompanied for the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, the Little Opera Company, and the Esterhazy Singers, London.



Claire Howard Race

New book gives confidence in Gospels



Associate Professor Robert McIver.

Associate Professor Robert McIver, head of Avondale's School of Ministry and Theology, has authored a major scholarly book giving fresh confidence in the Gospel records of Jesus: *Memory, Jesus and the Synoptic Gospels* (Society of Biblical Literature, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, 2011).

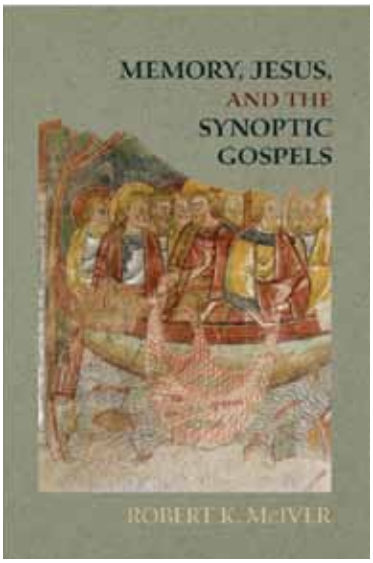
The teachings and deeds of Jesus were preserved in human memory for perhaps 30-60 years before they were written in the Gospels, a fact that has led many to question the reliability of the Gospel accounts. McIver's book brings a new dimension to the debate by using the insights from over a century of psychological experimentation to argue the reliability of the memories underlying the Gospels. His conclusions inspire fresh confidence in the authenticity of the Gospel narratives.

Psychological evidence discussed in the book reveals that eyewitness memory is generally trustworthy about the gist of what happened, despite variations in the recollection of details. While recollection of detail declines during the first three to five years after an event, it is still about 80 per cent accurate. Memory remains relatively stable for the next twenty or more years, with only slight decline thereafter. Memory of the main gist of an event is further enhanced when eyewitnesses share their recollections, as Jesus' followers would have done many times as they discussed Jesus' deeds and teachings.

McIver argues that the strong social cohesion known to exist in first-century Mediterranean groups, and visible in the book of Acts, would have resulted in strong collective memories of Jesus. While the present needs and interests of groups do shape what is remembered and the group's sense of what is significant, there are limits to such shaping, especially when eyewitnesses are still present. Radical change that is inconsistent with reality is almost never found in such circumstances.

According to McIver, the repeated references in the Gospels to Jesus as teacher suggests a further reason for confidence in these texts. Teaching methods in Greek, Roman and Jewish cultures emphasised repetition and memorisation to ensure that students mastered the main content of their lessons. As a teacher, Jesus too would have schooled his disciples thoroughly in the things he wanted them to remember, and the disciples would have passed these things on to their converts – a process giving added confidence in the reliability of the information about Jesus current in the early Christian communities and recorded in the Gospels.

The book has generated considerable scholarly interest. "An outstanding example of interdisciplinary research," writes Rainer Riesner, Professor New Testament at the University of Dortmund. J Harold Ellens, founding editor of the *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*, writes: "With a thorough, systematic approach, McIver sets forth the best understanding scholarly research can offer regarding the science of memory and the science of critical analysis of Matthew, Mark and Luke."



Avondale research benefits society and church

Society and church stand to benefit from Avondale research in health, education and other fields. A growing number of Avondale staff are publishing in leading journals and presenting papers at national and international conferences. During 2011 almost half of Avondale's academic staff published research in scholarly books, peer reviewed publications or via presentations at scholarly conferences.

HEALTH RESEARCH

Dr Darren Morton is overseeing a research project investigating the health benefits of the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) originally developed in 1996 by Dr Hans Diehl in the United States and run in more than 100 Adventist churches in Australia and New Zealand since 2004. The 30-day lifestyle modification course encourages participants to move towards a plant-based diet, with increased exercise and water consumption. The research team includes Avondale's Dr Peter Morey, Dr Hans Diehl (USA), and higher degree research students supervised by Dr Morton and Dr Morey. Pr Paul Rankin, CHIP program director for the Adventist Church in the South Pacific, is doing a PhD at Avondale on the health benefits of the CHIP program.



Dr Darren Morton. Photo: Aaron Bellette

This year Pr Rankin, Dr Morton, Dr Diehl, Dr Morey and associates published an article in the *American Journal of Cardiology* documenting the "significant reduction in cardiovascular disease risk factors" achieved in 5070 participants in the CHIP program in North America between 2006 and 2009. The benefits included reductions in body mass, blood pressure, cholesterol and triglycerides. The most dramatic improvements were seen in participants with the highest risk factor levels. The study forecast that because of the program, approximately 70 cardiac events would be averted in the participants during the next decade.

The CHIP program presents significant opportunities for ongoing Avondale research. The published results have attracted much professional interest, with other medical researchers inviting Dr Morton to collaborate in their projects. Dr Morton was invited to present a paper on the CHIP program

at the Australian Lifestyle Medicine Association Conference, Sydney, 2011.The paper received equal highest audience evaluation. Dr Morton was also invited as keynote speaker at the US CHIP Summit, Loma Linda University, 2011.

Sanitarium Health and Wellbeing has obtained the global rights to the CHIP program, and Dr Morton is working with Sanitarium to restructure and improve it. He and other health professionals will be the presenters on new DVDs being created for CHIP. The revised program will be used worldwide.

Dr Terry Butler, who has a research role at Avondale, is the principal researcher for the 2012 Adventist Health and Lifestyle Survey in Australia and New Zealand. The survey data will enhance understanding of factors associated with health and wellbeing in a broad cross-section of the community, and will provide ongoing research opportunities for Avondale staff and postgraduate students.

Dr Butler is also a co-investigator in Loma Linda University's Adventist Health Study-2, which is funded over the next five years by grants of US$5.5 million from the National Institutes of Health (USA). The research investigates the relationship of lifestyle factors to cancer and other lifestyle diseases. More than 96,000 church members in the USA and Canada are participating in the study. Important findings have already emerged: (1) the link between a vegetarian diet and lower risk of heart disease and diabetes; (2) the link between a high consumption of cooked green vegetables, dried fruit, legumes and brown rice and a lower risk of colon polyps, a precursor to colon cancer; and (3) the finding that Adventists report a higher mental and physical quality of life than the average American.

Dr Malcolm Anderson and **Dr Peter Morey** continue their multidisciplinary research with the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit at the Liverpool Hospital and the Hong Kong Institute of Education. The team has established a program of family-centred research relating to traumatic brain injury, examining the practical, emotional and relational challenges families face as they seek to adjust to the trauma of an injured relative, and the challenges of adapting to a carer role. The understandings emerging from the research will enable services to provide more effective support, with important flow-on effects to brain-injured persons.

Dr Athena Sheehan has been researching breastfeeding, with significant practical applications. In 2011 she co-authored a book chapter, five refereed journal articles, and nine papers presented at conferences in Australia, England and South Africa. Four more journal articles are under review.

Carolyn Rickett's writing workshops for patients with life-threatening illnesses informed three refereed publications in 2011. The leading journal *Australasian Psychiatry* published an article on "The health benefits of writing poetry for people with serious illnesses," co-authored by Carolyn Rickett, Dr Cedric Greive (Avondale), and Associate Professor Jill Gordon (University of Sydney). A second article by Ms Rickett on "The role of autobiographical writing as a therapeutic and ethical strategy for dealing with cancer diagnosis" was published in full in the refereed proceedings of the Australian Association for Writing Programs (AAWP) Conference (2011). Carolyn Rickett and Dr Sue Joseph (University of Technology Sydney) co-authored a paper, published in full in the refereed proceedings of the 2010 AAWP Conference, interrogating the ethical concerns arising from students rehearsing and expiating individual traumas in autobiographical writing produced for tertiary class assignments.

Dr Robyn Pearce made an electronic poster presentation at the Dietitians Association of Australia National Conference on the sodium content of "convenient vegetarian meat alternatives". The refereed abstract was published in the journal *Nutrition and Dietetics* (Vol. 68 Supplement).

EDUCATION RESEARCH

Associate Professor Phil Fitzsimmons authored or co-authored twelve scholarly papers in 2011, five of them published as chapters in scholarly books, one as a refereed journal article, and six in conference proceedings. The papers reported research on visual literacy, writing, emotion in authentic learning, spirituality in the classroom, and adolescent understandings of "the dark side" in narrative and popular culture. Ten of these papers were co-authored with **Edie Lanphar**, who joined Avondale's School of Education in 2012; one was co-authored with Avondale lecturers **Jason Hinze** and **Lorinda Bruce**.

Dr Maria Northcote authored or co-authored seven scholarly papers, including four with Avondale's **Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud, Dr Peter Beamish, Tony Martin,** and **Dr Phil Brown** (now principal of Newbold College, England). Four of Dr Northcote's papers concerned online learning and teaching; two were on the use of mobile technologies and digital cameras to facilitate mathematics learning.

Dr Cedric Greive co-authored papers on English language learning, cross-age peer tutoring, the experience of Samoan secondary students encountering different styles of learning and teaching, and the health benefits of poetry writing for cancer patients. The first of these papers was co-authored with two Master of Education students, the second with honours student Mandi Hill, the third with honours student Alan Stephens, and the fourth with Carolyn Rickett.

Dr Marion Shields authored two papers on provisions for students with special needs: one published in the 2011 refereed proceedings of the Australian Association of Special Education Conference, the other in the *TEACH Journal of Christian Education*. She also presented a paper at the New Perspectives on Christianity Conference, Avondale, 2011, on stress and coping among school principals. The paper has been accepted for publication in the refereed *Journal of Christian Education*.

Dr Peter Kilgour, Dr Andrew Matthes and **Bev Christian** published papers in the *TEACH Journal of Christian Education* and elsewhere. **Dr Kilgour**'s co-authored paper on the learning challenges of international students was also presented at the 18th International Conference on Learning, University of Mauritius, and was published in the refereed conference proceedings. **Dr Matthes**' paper on the relationship between the principal's leadership characteristics and the ability of teachers to deal successfully with the challenges associated with change, was also presented at the 10th Hawaii International Conference on Education. **Bev Christian**

published a paper on the teaching of discernment in *TEACH Journal*. She also presented a paper on integrating faith and learning at the New Perspectives on Christianity Conference, Avondale, 2011.

Dr Alison Smedley co-authored an article in *Day Surgery Australia* on enhancing learning for new graduate registered nurses in a day surgery unit. She also authored a review article in the *Journal of Nursing Research* on e-learning in nursing and health education. **Tonia Crawford** authored an article in the journal *Nurse Education in Practice* on using problem-based learning in web-based components of nurse education. She also presented a paper at the International Symposium on Teaching English at Tertiary Level, Hong Kong, 2011, on the language needs of nursing students whose first language is other than English. The paper has been accepted for publication in *Nurse Education Today*. **Wayne Bradshaw** authored an article in the *Australian Nursing Journal* on debriefing nursing students after a clinical practice component.

SOCIETY, CULTURE AND RELIGION

Dr Jane Fernandez-Goldborough, in collaboration with investigators at the University of Malaya, is researching identity in relation to the cultural output of the Malayalee diaspora in Malaysia. The Malayalee people, originating from the state of Kerala in the south-west of India, are dispersed through India and many other parts of the world. The study will extend to include Malaysian-born Malayalees in the United Kingdom and Australia.

Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud contributed a chapter on war and society and one on Gallipoli in the book *Making Film and Television Histories: Australia and New Zealand* (London and New York: I.B. Taurus, 2011).

Brad Watson contributed a chapter entitled "Adventism, medical missionaries and 'development' in Papua New Guinea" in the book *Mission and Development: God's Work or Good Works?* (Continuum International Publishing Group, London, 2012), edited by Professor Matthew Clarke, Head of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Deakin University. The book considers the implications, consequences, opportunities and constraints when mission and development activities coincide.

Associate Professor Robert McIver is the principal investigator in two research projects of strategic interest to the church, commissioned by the Future Plans Working Group of the General Conference, and funded with grants totalling US$84,000. The first project, "A Survey to Investigate How Seventh-day Adventist Institutional Employees Perceive their Relationship to the Wider Mission of the Church," also involves **Dr Barry Gane** and **Dr Richard Ferret**. The second, also involving **Dr Stephen Currow** (Fulton College, Fiji) is entitled "Motives for Tithing amongst Seventh-day Adventist Members. Analysis of Age Related Giving Patterns and Other Tithe-Related Matters."

Dr John Skrzypaszek presented a paper at a scholarly conference in Portugal on Aboriginal Christian spirituality. The paper was subsequently published as a chapter in the book *Sharing Cultures* (Barcelos, Portugal: Green Lines Institute, 2011). At the Spirituality and Health Conference, Adelaide, 2011, Dr Skrzypaszek presented a paper entitled "The turbulent rapids of spiritual formation during adolescence: the impact of traumatic life-changing circumstances," based on the early experiences of Ellen White. At the Melanesian Asociation of Theological Schools Conference, Pacific Adventist University, 2011, he presented a paper, to be published in the *Melanesian Journal of Theology*, entitled "Conversion and identity in the context of the Seventh-day Adventist faith tradition."

Dr Kayle de Waal authored two refereed articles in *Ministry Magazine: International Journal for Clergy*, entitled "The way of the cross in Mark's gospel" and "The Way in Luke and and Acts."

Dr Steven Thompson presented a paper entitled "Jesus as therapist" at the New Perspectives on Christianity Conference, Avondale, 2011, arguing that while the Gospel writers "clearly intended some healing accounts to be read as miraculous and instantaneous," in some instances the language suggests that Jesus administered therapy and treatment in the process of bringing about healing.

Dr Vivienne Watts delivered a paper entitled "Valuing Women" at the New Perspectives on Christianity Conference, focusing on the fact that in many countries women are valued less favourably than men, resulting in the development of different levels of potential, different opportunities in life, and differences in perceptions of self-worth and self-respect. Dr Watts noted that culture and religion frequently contribute to gendered lives.

CREATIVE ARTS

Dr Richard Morris authored a refereed article entitled "The Interior Landscape: metaphors for faith and belief in the religious paintings of Colin McCahon" in *The Australian and New Zealand Theological Review*. He also delivered a paper on Colin McCahon at the New Perspectives on Christianity Conference, Avondale, 2011. He presented an exhibition of his own paintings at the Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney.

Andrew Collis is doing PhD research on the artist/sitter relationship in contemporary portraiture. He showed a selection of his paintings in an exhibition entitled "What is portraiture?" at the Ourimbah campus of the University of Newcastle. He also submitted a portrait of Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud to the Archibald Prize competition.



Andrew Collis's painting of Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud, Dean of Avondale's Faculty of Arts

Tony Martin is researching traditional pottery communities in several countries in preparation for a book on the subject. Earlier this year he visited the village of Ban Chan in northern Laos, the only community in the world still using an ancient method of firing pottery in a cavern-like kiln hollowed out beneath the ground. This technique was developed some 3000-3500 years ago as an improvement on the previous method of building a fire over pots on the ground. The kiln at Ban Chan is an underground space approximately 8 x 3 metres. When the pots are fired, flames roar out a hole in the top to a height of 3 or 4 metres. The pots are unglazed, as the kiln temperature is not controlled enough for glazing. Even so, the villagers produce pottery of exceptional quality, including even ceramic tables, chairs and street lamps. The nearby city of Luang Prabang, the ancient capital of Laos, provides a ready market. Tony Martin is also researching ancient pottery techniques in Sri Lanka and Mexico (at the invitation of the Mexican government). In mid-2012 he will visit Vanuatu, where people want to revive as a tourist attraction a pottery industry that flourished some 400 years ago.

Brad Watson has produced his second creative book for adolescents entitled *David's Revenge*, a sequel to his book *Finding David*. Nathan Brown, book editor of the Signs Publishing Company, which published both books, says the series "takes the ordinary things young adults face and puts them in big adventures. But there's also a recurring theme about God's influence, presence and interest in those things. It shows how faith, hope and good choices make a difference in our lives."

BUSINESS

Dr Keith Howson co-authored with Lisa Barnes of the University of Newcastle a refereed article in the *Global Journal of Strategies and Governance*, on not-for-profit board structure and accountability. The two also co-authored a paper presented at the American Accounting Association Conference, Denver, Colorado (2011), on not-for-profit governance and accountability for international charities. **Lyn Daff** published an article on research proposals in the refereed journal *Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal*, and an article entitled "The communicating accountant" in *Critical Perspectives on Accounting*. She also presented a co-authored paper entitled "Beyond generic skills to emotional intelligence in accounting education," at the Accounting Educators' Conference, RMIT University, Melbourne.

SCIENCE

Associate Professor Kevin de Berg published a refereed article on Joseph Priestley, the eighteenth-century chemist, educator and theologian, in the journal *Science and Education*. He presented a paper on "The Enlightenment and Joseph Priestley's disenchantment with science and religion" at the Conference on Science and Christianity in Launceston, Tasmania (2011). He also presented a paper at the International History, Philosophy and Science Teaching Conference in Thessaloniki, Greece, exploring science's difficulty in providing an adequate explanation why opposite charges attract and like charges repel. The paper was published in full in the refereed conference proceedings.

Dr Jason Morton co-authored a refereed article on wrasse fish in rocky reef habitats, in the journal *Marine and Freshwater Research*. **Jason** was also the chief investigator in a consultancy project for the City of Lake Macquarie researching the impact of beach cleaning and off-road vehicles on organisms inhabiting the ocean beaches of the region. **Dr Ewan Ward, Associate Professor Kevin de Berg** and Avondale biology students were also involved in the project, which was funded by a grant from the Lake Macquarie City Council.



Bachelor of Science student Amy Warner collects samples for research on the effects of human disturbance on beach organisms. Photo: Sophie Gamble

Carmen Booyens received an award from the University of Newcastle for research of benefit to the NSW Central Coast. Ms Booyens investigated the effect of fire and slashing on a vulnerable plant, *Darwinia glaucophylla*, that grows in the Gosford area, and recommend revised fire and slashing practices to conserve the species.

Avondale's **science and IT staff** and several alumni are contributing to two international research projects by volunteering the spare processing power of their computers via the Berkeley Open Infrastructure for Network Computing. The first project is World Community Grid, which supports public and not-for-profit organisations engaged in humanitarian research, including clean water projects and research to combat childhood cancer. The second project, Einstein@Home, seeks to make the first detections of gravitational waves from spinning neutron stars.

Avondale alumnus honoured as a leading scholar

Dr Bernard Taylor, a graduate of Avondale's BA (Theology) course in 1966, was honoured in 2011 with the Charles Elliott Weniger Award for Excellence, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to international scholarship in biblical studies and biblical languages.

The Weniger Award is bestowed on Seventh-day Adventists who have made highly significant contributions to their communities, the church and the larger world. It is named in memory of one of the most revered scholars and teachers in Adventism, who served as professor and dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Seminary in Washington D.C., and subsequently at Andrews University.

Following his graduation from Avondale, Bernard Taylor worked for twelve years as a pastor/evangelist in Australia and New Zealand. In 1978 he added a major in Hebrew from the University of Sydney, setting a course that he would follow throughout his subsequent career. A year later he earned a Master of Arts in biblical languages from Andrews University. From 1979 to 1985 he studied and taught at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, gaining the degrees of Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy, and also becoming the first non-Jew to teach biblical Hebrew to rabbinic students.

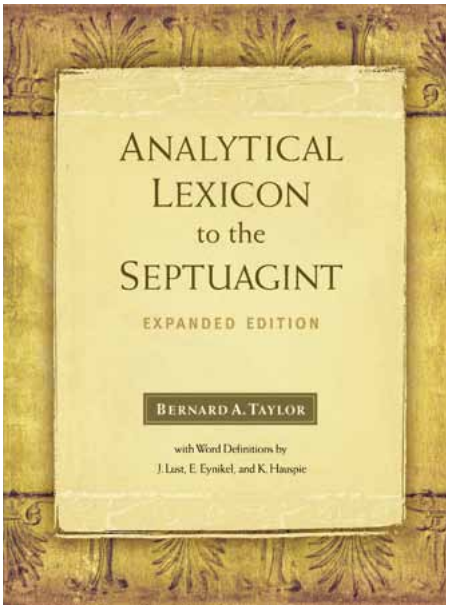
Between 1985 and 2000 Dr Taylor combined scholarship with pastoral ministry, including eleven years as associate pastor of the Loma Linda University Church, California. Since 1993 he has taught at Loma Linda University, where he is currently clinical professor and scholar in residence at the University Church. He has also taught at nearby La Sierra University for over twenty years.

Dr Bernard Taylor has mastered a broad range of scholarship in biblical studies, though his special field of expertise is the Septuagint version of the Old Testament. The Septuagint is a Greek translation of the Old Testament commenced between 280 and 240 BCE. The Septuagint is an important text because it is the Bible used by Jesus and the apostles. When the New Testament writers quoted the Old Testament, they most often used the Septuagint version. The vocabulary and thought forms of the Septuagint had a significant impact on the development of New Testament theology.



Dr Bernard Taylor and his wife Alyna with the medallion and the California State Senate Certificate of Recognition for the Weniger Award.

Dr Bernard Taylor has published extensively in Septuagint and other studies. He was one of the translators for the *New English Translation of the Septuagint* (Oxford University Press, 2007), with responsibility for 1 Samuel and substantial sections of 2 Samuel and 1 Kings. As well, he translated five books of the Septuagint Apocrypha for the *English Standard Version Apocrypha* (Oxford University Press, 2009). His many publications include a critical edition and textual analysis of the Old Greek manuscripts of 1 Samuel, published in the Harvard Semitic Monographs series. Perhaps his most important work is his *Analytical Lexicon to the Septuagint* (1994; revised and expanded in 2009), an essential reference tool for scholars working with the Septuagint.



He has taken leading roles in learned societies and their projects, including the Society of Biblical Literature, the International Organisation for Septuagint and Cognate Studies, and the Computer Assisted Tools for Septuagint Studies (CATSS) project. For some years he was secretary of the *New English Translation of the Septuagint* Committee, has served as associate editor and subsequently editor of the *Bulletin of the International Organisation for Septuagint and Cognate Studies*, and as editor of the *Septuagint and Cognate Studies Series*. For several years he co-chaired the Biblical Lexicography section of the Society of Biblical Literature and at two different periods co-chaired and chaired the Society's Electronic Standards for Biblical Language Texts Seminar. He is currently director of the CATSS Septuagint morphology database. He has made numerous scholarly presentations to professional societies.

A number of honours have been conferred on him throughout his career, and he is well known in academic circles throughout the world as a leading and widely published biblical languages scholar.

Avondale was privileged to have Dr Taylor discuss the Septuagint and issues in biblical translation at a meeting of the College Church's education series in 2011.

Student service projects partner with ADRA

Avondale's student organisation One Mission has partnered with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to coordinate overseas service projects for student groups.

For several years One Mission projects have inspired enthusiastic student participation. The link with ADRA will bring added professionalism and accountability as well as better protection for students, who will be accompanied by an ADRA representative. The link will also ensure continuity of projects after students return to Australia.

Jessica Ennor, a graduate of Avondale's International Poverty and Development Studies program, and now employed by ADRA, works with Avondale to plan student projects and train the trip leaders. "One Mission has the leaders and the students," says Jessica, "ADRA has the projects. My role is to provide links between the two."

Brazil

Last summer 17 Avondale students participated in a three-week ADRA project to provide health education and improved sanitation in a poverty-stricken region of the Amazon. In this region 75 per cent of deaths are caused by poor sanitation. The group built 18 pit toilets in two villages, taught principles of health and hygiene, and ran a medical clinic (the group included nursing students and a medical professional).

The group's initial introduction to the Amazon was confronting. After landing in Manaus, capital of the lower Amazon, at 2.30 am, they were driven to the river bank through dark, dirty streets with people sleeping on the ground, and were transferred in the rain into small open boats with only a canvas canopy for a two-day journey up the river. During the night they collided with occasional logs, the boats lurching on impact in waters infested with alligators and deadly pirana fish. In the villages there were spiders 15 cm across, and at one village there were two wild jaguars in the vicinity. In the most remote village where they worked, the people had seen Europeans only once before. "Prayer came to mean so much to us," said Megan Townend, co-leader of One Mission. "We learned to rely on God and let him lead, and the group bonded together as we prayed."

One of the most gratifying aspects of the trip was the unplanned opportunity to tell stories of Jesus to the villagers, who wanted to join the group's morning and evening worships. The people also helped enthusiastically with the building work. The General Conference ADRA Director, who visited the project, said the students had produced some of the highest quality work he had seen.



Megan Townend and Mark Singh in a pit toilet being constructed by Avondale students to improve sanitation in a remote Amazon village.

The students funded their own travel and food to the extent of $4000 per person, and also raised $22,000 for the project. At the end of the trip they donated their remaining funds to help ADRA replace one of its boats that had capsized on the Amazon. They also donated to support work for slum dwellers in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro. "Students who were new to overseas mission were inspired for service," said group leader Joel Slade. "Some were eager to get youth in their home churches involved in service too."



Village children in Brazil with One Mission team member Joel Slade. Photo: Mark Singh.

Philippines

For the third consecutive year, a One Mission team revisited a village in a poor region of the Philippines for three and a half weeks. On the first visit the students had built a new classroom for the local Adventist school; in the second year they commenced work on a multi-purpose building for the school, which they continued this year with the help of 30-40 locals. Later in 2012 a group will return for further work on the project. The students also ran feeding programs in schools, a kids' club, and evangelistic seminars. The evangelistic programs on the three visits have produced a total of 70 baptisms. The Philippines team paid their own air fares and other expenses, and in addition raised $20,000 for their projects. Four of the students paid for a year's schooling for a 10-year old girl with an impoverished single mother.



Avondale students and local helpers pour concrete for a multi-purpose building at a school in the Philippines. Photo: Tyson Dunne

Solomon Islands

For the second year running, nursing lecturer Sonja Frischknecht took a group of nine nursing students for two weeks' clinical experience at the Atoifi Hospital on the island of Malaita. For the third consecutive year a One Mission team worked in a village on Guadalcanal, conducting English classes, a kids' club, soccer classes, Bible studies and worships.

Nepal

During 2011 nine Avondale students and staff accompanied ADRA personnel on a mission trip to create photographic me-

dia of ADRA's Leadership and Good Governance Project in the mountains of Nepal. The project empowers community leaders by providing education in health and organic farming in a poor region where the climate makes growing food difficult. The project also educates villagers in microfinance, including management of personal finances and the use some farming income to fund agricultural improvements. A second project provides toilets and education in waste management.



Nepalese farmers benefit from ADRA's Leadership and Good Governance Project. Photo: Colin Chuang

The media created by the Avondale group will be used in ADRA promotion and fundraising. The team also donated $10,000 worth of video production equipment to help ADRA Nepal produce further educational and promotional materials.



Nepalese women and girls in a remote village visited by Avondale's media mission team in Nepal. Photo: Colin Chuang

Mongolia

Josh Dye, who led the One Mission Solomon Islands trip in 2011, plans to lead a trip to Mongolia in 2012 for an ADRA project to empower a community to produce a variety of nutritious foods in a land where climatic extremes make agriculture difficult.

Botswana and Zambia

Harvey Henderson, an Avondale PhD student researching the problem of AIDS in Botswana, plans to lead a group of students to undertake a four-week AIDS awareness program in Botswana and Zambia. The team will distribute HIV/AIDS test kits, establish mobile medical clinics, and present health education and evangelistic programs in the capitals of both countries. Harvey, originally from Malawi, says: "Many of my relatives and friends have died from HIV/AIDS. Seeing these young adults from Avondale who want to make a difference gives me hope fewer lives will be lost." Avondale's Director of Student Services, Kevin Judge, raised $12,000 in sponsorships for the project in a solo bike ride from Brisbane to Avondale in April. One Mission is seeking to raise $30,000 for the project.

Mozambique

In 2007 Pr Mark Craig, associate pastor of the Avondale College Church, his wife Sally and Avondale alumnus Graeme Frauenfelder responded to an invitation from Dick Duerksen of Maranatha International to teach church members in Mozambique how to run StormCo programs. Kids' programs are important in a country where half the population is under the age of fourteen. The group also taught people to use puppets to dramatise stories about Jesus and to teach basic health and hygiene. For their StormCo community service the group assisted in a hospital and helped clean up a village. The local people they had taught then ran a StormCo program with up to 1500 participants. Two more trips to Mozambique have involved students from the Lake Macquarie campus and a team of nursing students.

"Mission trips and service projects give students a greater vision of world needs – they discover they can make a difference," says Lake Macquarie campus chaplain and One Mission staff adviser Dr Wayne French. "They return with a heightened sense of their personal abilities and are inspired to make a difference in their local communities. The experience often changes the direction of their lives forever."

Australia

Avondale students also ran StormCo programs last year in Moree and Goodooga in northwestern New South Wales. Another group combined a week of prayer with a StormCo-type program at the Currawah Aboriginal School south of Brewarrina in the far west of the state. The program included one-on-one mentoring for Currawah students.

The student organisation Cosmos works to give students and staff a greater understanding of humanitarian needs in Australia and overseas and a commitment to respond to those needs. Cosmos seeks opportunities to help disadvantaged communities realise their potential and achieve a better standard of living. It raises funds to help alleviate poverty and engages in social justice advocacy. In September 2011, for example, four Avondale students joined 230 Christians from around Australia to lobby politicians in Canberra about global poverty. In October, COSMOS members participated in the 40-Hour Challenge, going 40 hours without hearing, seeing or talking, to raise awareness of the plight of people with speech and hearing impairments. They also raised funds for Asian Aid's Kollegal School for speech and hearing impaired children in India.

During the past year students raised funds for a weekly program for 50-60 indigenous children run by an aboriginal Adventist woman in the Northern Territory. Bachelor of Business student Kyle Morrison runs a home-based not-for-profit health food business that has supported a project in the highlands of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands and a mission trip to Zambia. Other students engage in service activities in the local community. The Pick-a-Street and Dorm2Home ministries do housework and gardening for needy people. Other students visit in the nearby retirement village. "Service for others creates a sense of community on campus," says One Mission co-leader Joel Slade, "uniting people with similar passions to do amazing things for God."

International experience for education students

During 2011, 54 teacher education students volunteered to do professional experience in Nepal, Cambodia and India, as part of a service-learning project in developing countries initiated by Avondale's School of Education. The students counted this experience towards the teaching practicum requirements of their courses. Avondale lecturers accompanying the students provided professional development for the local teachers, who were then able to observe the Avondale students demonstrating teaching methods discussed in the professional development sessions. The students participating in these programs described the experience as "life-changing."



Jesse Sleight teaches at an Asian Aid school in Kathmandu, Nepal. Photo: Jason Hinze

Nepal

Secondary education course convenor Jason Hinze accompanied twenty students to two schools in Nepal. Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Teaching student Brooke Tually writes of the experience: "We were pushed out of the comfortable into an uneasy, unfamiliar world, where we were expected to immerse ourselves in a foreign way of life, connect with humble people, serve meaningfully, and teach in a way that was creative, empowering and significant. . . . All the children we taught were so committed to learning. This dedication really highlighted to us how important education is in changing people's lives. . . The other constant we experienced was the generosity and love of all the Nepali people we came into contact with. The kids were just so desperate for you to be with them. Children would rather sit and hold your hand than play at lunchtime.

But don't be disillusioned," she adds; "it was hard. Preparing, journalling, teaching, serving, playing, eating, walking and sleeping were at times completely exhausting. But in our weaknesses, we found our strength. God really came through in those times, as he had promised. . . . Because of our Nepal trip we are now journeying to become empowering teachers, loving friends and generous individuals. That is pretty significant," she says.



Avondale students (L to R) Emma Sellars, Tijana Lillioja and Jace Roberts with school students in Nepal. Photo: Jason Hinze

Cambodia

Education lecturer Lorinda Bruce accompanied 24 students to the Wat Preah Yesu orphanage outside Siem Reap. The school has 350 students, 175 of whom are orphans. In addition to teaching, the Avondale students spent an hour each day serving the community. “The program is highly beneficial to our teachers in training,” says Ms Bruce. “They become experienced in teaching English to speakers of other languages, thinking on their feet, being resourceful, and shouldering the responsibilities that come with a teaching load. And their eyes are opened to different cultures. The community service component sees our students coming alongside community members to cook, clean, instruct and bond.”

India

Dr Andrew Matthes, primary education course convenor, took ten primary education students to Bihar, the poorest state in India, to teach in an orphanage school and undertake community service. A high point of the visit was the baptism of the school’s founder and director. During the past year the school lost its accommodation venue and the orphans are now sleeping on the ground in a nearby village school. Avondale students are seeking to raise $40,000 to build a new three-level orphanage. For more information, and to make a tax deductible donation via a Westpac account held at Avondale, visit www.aozoraschool.avondale.edu.au



Not all work. Dr Andrew Matthes (L) and Avondale students at the Taj Mahal. Photo: A. Matthes.

Graduate coordinates help for humanitarian crises Braden Blyde

Ashleigh Plimmer, a 2008 graduate of Avondale’s International Poverty and Development Studies program, now works as the Emergency Management Coordinator of ADRA Australia.

Amongst the dark skin and red dust of Kenya’s drought stricken north-east, she can’t help but look a little out of place. But at the height of what the United Nations called “the worst humanitarian disaster in a generation,” this Avondale alumna was opening up opportunities for some of the worst affected to receive life-saving aid. East Africa is still in crisis, and rumblings are starting to emerge about a looming humanitarian crisis in West Africa as well. Will Ashleigh’s work ever be finished?

Since returning from Kenya, Ashleigh has spent time in Myanmar helping to train response workers in this once closeted country. Despite the trans-continental demands of her career, or perhaps her calling, the inspiration is always the same: “Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).

Avondale has helped to grow ADRA – almost 50 per cent of ADRA staff received quality education at Avondale. And now the relationship has turned, with ADRA helping Avondale students to do international service via ADRA Connections. What difference do such projects make? And what kind of impact would a trip to an ADRA project have on someone? Find answers to these and other questions at www.adra.org.au.



Ashleigh Plimmer with a woman and her son at their house in north-east Kenya. Photo: A. Plimmer

Lecturers engage in the public arena

Many Avondale lecturers engage in the public arena in areas of their academic and professional expertise, contributing to government bodies, academic and professional associations, universities, the church and the wider community.

Government and regulatory agencies

Dr Robyn Priestley, Head of Avondale's School of Humanities and Creative Arts, was a long-standing member of the Higher Education Advisory Committee of the NSW Department of Education and Training. This committee advised the Department on the registration of higher education institutions and the accreditation of their courses. Its functions were transferred to the Commonwealth in 2012.

Dr Peter Beamish, Dean of the Faculty of Education and Science, is a member of the Teacher Education Committee of the NSW Institute of Teachers, which advises the Minister for Education on professional teaching standards, teacher accreditation and approval of teacher education courses. He is also a member of a committee of the Australian Learning and Teaching Council advising on outcomes for masters degrees.

Dr Paul Race participated in the 2011 review of accreditation standards for nursing courses.

Dr Alison Smedley functioned as an assessor for the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council. Avondale personnel have contributed as auditors of the **Australian Universities Quality Agency**, which audits the quality of higher education institutions.

Collaboration with universities

A number of Avondale staff collaborate with university personnel in research. Avondale staff have examined university theses, delivered guest lectures at universities, and peer-reviewed for scholarly journals. In 2011 **Dr Paul Race** chaired an external advisory committee for a Master of Nursing course at the University of Western Sydney.

Academic/professional associations

Dr Peter Beamish is secretary of the NSW Council of Deans of Education. **Dr Keith Howson** is a member of the Education Committee of the Australian Institute of Internal Auditors. **Dr Maria Northcote** was a mentor in 2011 with the Australian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education, mentoring academics and other tertiary education professionals in using computers to enhance learning and teaching.

Care for the environment

In November 2011 **Dr Jason Morton**, a senior lecturer in the School of Science and Mathematics, was honoured by the Lake Macquarie and Central Coast Community Environment Network (CEN) as "the most outstanding individual all-rounder in recognition of his valuable contribution to the [regional] environment." With a $20,000 grant from the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority, Jason has worked to protect biodiversity along the creeks bordering the Avondale estate. He and his brother Dr Darren Morton, with help from students and others, have worked to eradicate weeds, protect the creek banks, and complete a 7.5 km walking track loop around the estate. During Green Week 2011 he and others planted 400 trees on campus as part of Avondale's involvement in Landcare for Youth. In 2011 he engaged Trees in Newcastle to advise on plant propagation for the Avondale estate. Since then he has raised over 1000 specimens, which will be planted around the bushland on campus in mid-2012. Dr Morton is also monitoring water quality on the estate. Last January he arranged for his environmental science students to do work experience in a weed eradication project on Lord Howe Island.



Dr Jason Morton. Photo: Aaron Bellette



Students enjoy the improved walking track around the Avondale estate. Photo: Danelle Morton.

Dr Terry Annable is an executive member of the Lake Macquarie and Central Coast Community Environment Network (CEN), working for the protection of biodiversity and for sustainable development. Dr Annable is compiling an inventory of flora and fauna in the Dora Creek catchment area, with over 1300 species so far identified and photographed. The inventory will facilitate the protection of rare species, the reintroduction of species eliminated in the past, and pest minimisation. It will also provide a baseline for future research. **Dr Annable** and **Dr Howard Fisher**, assisted by Avondale biology students, are contributing to a Lake Macquarie City Council project to monitor biodiversity at selected locations in the region.

Church and community

The Institute of Worship, directed by **Dr Lyell Heise**, produced the *Play Today* series of music books and CDs, designed to give young pianists the confidence to play for worship in their local churches. Since 2005 more than $200,000 worth of *Play Today* books and CDs have been circulated throughout the South Pacific. Book 4 of the series was



Valmai Hill, assistant in the Institute of Worship, signing *Play Today* books during the launch of Book 4 at the Avondale graduation in December. Photo: Ann Stafford.

launched at Avondale's graduation in December. The songs were arranged by Institute of Worship assistant Valmai Hill. **Dr Heise** and staff of the Institute of Worship conducted worship leadership training at six weekend regional meetings in North New Zealand in 2011, ran a consultancy for worship leaders in Sydney, and partnered with the Victorian Conference in presenting the Melbourne High Sabbath in November.

Dr Murray House, Dr Robert McIver and **Dr Kayle de Waal** of Avondale's School of Ministry and Theology contributed to the new *Beyond the Search* media evangelism series, designed to introduce secular people to Christianity and the Adventist faith.

Dr Terry Butler is analysing the 2011 National Church Life Survey data from the 147 participating Adventist churches in Australia and New Zealand. The survey, conducted every five years, is one of the largest faith surveys in the world, involving 20 denominations and over 400,000 responses. The resulting reports will enable churches to gain a clearer understanding of their strengths, ministry and mission.

Dr Peter Morey analysed and reported the data from Adventist Schools Australia's 2011 School Perception Survey, which provided feedback from students, parents and teachers on their perception of Adventist schools. More than 1800 students, 900 parents and 300 teachers from 17 schools participated in the survey. The Christian ethos of the schools was the most positive feature for both parents and students. Parents also responded very positively to the values, physical environment, and student/teacher relationships at their schools.

Dr Peter Beamish and Dr Peter Morey were asked by one of the conferences of the Adventist Church in Australia to produce a report on factors influencing parents' choice of school for their children. The findings were based on Dr Morey's analysis of the School Perception Survey, a School Choice Questionnaire, and interviews involving Adventist families with school-age children. The key selection criteria for parents were quality of teaching, strong discipline, high levels of care and support, a visionary principal, strong academic focus, and a significant Christian ethos. Parents value schools that enable children to perform well academically, that provide a diversity of experiences, and that enable children to retain their Christian faith.



Lachlan Rogers (School of Science and Mathematics) presents the first copy of *Science for Primary Teachers* to Dr Cedric Greive (School of Education). Photo: Brenton Stacey

Dr Marion Shields produces a quarterly newsletter on special education, distributed to special education teachers and education directors in Adventist Schools Australia. She also presents workshops on aspects of special education.

Bev Christian is on the steering committee for the Encounter Adventist Curriculum, the Bible curriculum for Adventist schools in Australia and New Zealand. She is also a member of Adventist Schools Australia's working party on the special character of Adventist education.

Dr Darren Morton's book *Seven Secrets of Feeling Fantastic* was selected as the basis for the Adventist Church's annual Health Week in 2011. Copies of the book, together with a DVD of one of Dr Morton's lectures, were distributed to each Adventist church and school in Australia and New Zealand.

Dr Lynden Rogers, Dr Ewan Ward and **Dr Jason Morton** compiled a science book for use by primary teachers. **Brad Watson** researched and wrote a consultancy report for Asian Aid. **Sonja Frischknecht** spoke on "Nursing leadership in a Christian humanitarian organisation" at the Nurses' Christian Fellowship Conference in 2011.

Avondale staff have also enriched the spiritual life of the church by presenting workshops and other training programs for church professionals and members, by presenting at campmeetings and school weeks of prayer, and by preaching and teaching in numerous churches.

SALT conference challenges church to mission

"A common mistake of churches is to make community an end in itself," said Dr Michael Frost, a keynote speaker at Avondale's SALT Conference in March 2012.

The SALT Conference was organised by the Avondale College Church to deepen relationships with Jesus, renew knowledge and faith in the Bible, and inspire practical action to advance the kingdom of Christ. Its theme was Jesus' words, "You are the salt of the earth."



Dr Michael Frost

Dr Michael Frost, Vice Principal of Morling College, Sydney, and an internationally recognised missiologist, challenged conference participants to put mission at the centre of the Christian enterprise. "Focus outward rather than inward," he said, "and community will happen."



Dr Jon Paulien

Dr Frost practises what he preaches. Ten years ago he planted a new church in the beachside suburb of Manly, Sydney. Attendees are taught to engage with the people and activities of their local community. As a result, secular people are becoming followers of Christ and the church keeps growing. Mission is the focus of all the activities of the church.



Dick Duerksen

"We are called to go into the world and create a foretaste of the world to come," said Dr Frost. "To whom in your community have you been sent? Can you name them? Do you know what their needs are?"

The SALT conference also included presentations on the gospel of Christ and on the book of Revelation by Dr Jon Paulien, Professor of Religion and Dean of the School of Religion at Loma Linda University, California. Dick Duerksen, biblical storyteller par excellence, and Assistant to the President of Maranatha Volunteers International, gave fresh life to the gospel story through his dramatised narratives. The conference included presentations by two Avondale lecturers, Dr Ross Cole, a specialist in Old Testament studies, and Dr Kayle de Waal, a New Testament specialist. Selected speakers also told personal stories of how the gospel had touched their lives and motivated them to service for others.

Manifest Creative Arts Festival

The Manifest Creative Arts Festival is an annual event celebrating and encouraging creative arts for ministry. Coordinated by Avondale College of Higher Education and the Adventist Media Network, this year's program featured presentations, workshops, exhibitions and performances by Australian and international practitioners in writing, song, visual arts and film.

In his keynote address, Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud, Dean of Avondale's Faculty of Arts and Theology, reminded participants that creativity is a key aspect of being in the image of a creator God, who has lavished beauty in creation for our wonder, joy and awe. "The Lord's business is highly aesthetic," he said, citing the visual imagery of the temple and the book of Revelation, as well as the music, poetry, song and dance in the Bible.

Dr Andy Nash, Professor of Journalism and Communication at Southern Adventist University, USA, presented a paper and workshops on writing personal memoirs. Nash has authored five books and is a columnist for *Adventist Review*. Paul Kim, a senior producer at Adventist Media Productions, California, USA, and executive director of the church's SONscreen Film Festival, ran workshops on filmmaking. Marian Maroney, an assistant in the South Pacific Division's Institute of Worship, led workshops in song writing.

The Festival included an art exhibition by Joanna Darby, an honours graduate of Avondale, whose paintings have been exhibited in Sydney, Canberra (including Parliament House), Newcastle and Port Macquarie. She was a 2008 Mosman Art Prize finalist, and in 2011 received the inaugural Gabe Reynaud Award for excellence in creative art for ministry. This



Karen Collum tells the children's story in the Avondale College Church from her book *Fish Don't Need Snorkels*. Behind her is Joanna Darby's painting *After the Flood*. Photo: Ann Stafford



Mrs Daphne Kennedy presents Morriss Kennedy's painting, surrounded by retired Avondale staff represented in the piece. (L to R) Dr Ken Thomson, Dr Arthur Patrick, Dr Trevor Lloyd, Mrs Daphne Kennedy, Dr Norman Young, Dr Robert Drewer. Photo: Ann Stafford.

award is named in honour of the first professionally trained Seventh-day Adventist film director and highly talented former senior producer at Adventist Media, Sydney. Manifest also showcased the work of Karen Collum, creator of the illustrated children's books *Samuel's Kisses, Fish Don't need Snorkels* and *When I Look at You*, and author of a forthcoming children's novel, *Operation Raspberry*.

A special feature was the presentation to Avondale of a painting by Morriss Kennedy, who for many years was head of art at Avondale, and whose work was highly regarded in artistic circles. The painting was inspired by a meeting in 1974 between Avondale representatives and Macquarie University personnel. Morriss Kennedy's spouse, Mrs Daphne Kennedy, presented the work in a ceremony that included an exhibition of a number of other Kennedy paintings.

This year Manifest received 74 entries of creative work across five competitions offering prizes of up to $1000. The short film *The Great Controversy*, directed by current and former Avondale students Josh Bolst, Josh Hamilton, and Nick Lindsay, was co-winner of the Hope Channel Prize for Film. The other co-winner was Nathan Dalton's short film *Love: Loss.*

The 2012 Gabe Reynaud Award went to Dr Robert Wolfgramm, an Avondale alumnus and a pioneer in Australian contemporary Christian music. While studying at Avondale, Robert and his friends created a Christian musical and engaged in street ministry, using their original music to take the gospel from the pew to the street. In 1977-1978 Wolfgramm and two colleagues founded Galilee Records, producing the first Australian Adventist album of contemporary Christian music. The album received excellent reviews from Christian and secular critics and good airplay on several radio stations. Two more albums followed. Wolfgramm collaborated in two more Christian musicals and has contributed to several media productions, including a series with Gabe Reynaud. His columns for Christian journals, including the *Signs of the Times*, have won creative awards. A former lecturer in sociology at Monash University, Wolfgramm is currently editor-in-chief of the *Fiji Daily Post*. He is also editor-in-chief of the New Fijian Translation of the Bible. This project is typical of his contribution: he has always wanted to put the gospel in the language of the people.



Steele McMahon (centre) and Lucy Richardson (R) receive the Psalter Music Prize for best original song from Tim Burcham (L), manager of Psalter Music. Photo: Ann Stafford

Practical ministry program brings results

During the past 18 months Avondale's ministry and theology students have travelled far and wide to spread the gospel, resulting in over 300 baptisms in ten countries. Dr Murray House, senior lecturer in ministry and theology, and coordinator of the practical ministry program, says: "What students receive in return is the amazing discovery that God's word transforms lives. They come back on a spiritual high because they've watched God work miracles."

In July 2011 Bekezela Sibanda and Moses Depaz ran two evangelistic programs near Lae in Papua New Guinea, resulting in 25 baptisms. In September 2011 Bekezela presented a two-week series in an affluent area in Kenya where people said it was "hard to win souls for Christ." Seventy-two baptisms resulted. In February 2012 he returned to Papua New Guinea for a two-week series in the Four Mile slum settlement on the outskirts of Lae. There have been 15 baptisms so far, with 250 people receiving Bible studies. Bekezela plans to run an evangelistic program in the Congo in July.

In January 2012 Jared Smith, Lachlan Campbell, Ben Reynolds and Martin Thomson ran two evangelistic programs in Kenya, resulting in 108 baptisms. They also ministered in Zambia, India and Dubai. In Zambia they ran a one-week Bible study series and mentored new church members. In India they joined a team from Wahroonga Church for a one-week evangelistic series, and took worships in an Adventist nursing college and in Adventist schools. In Dubai they ran Bible study workshops for the 400-member Adventist Church, comprised mainly of foreign workers. Jared said: "The trip helped me appreciate the diversity of the church in different parts of the world, from Kenya, where there is an Adventist church every few kilometres, to Dubai, where evangelism is prohibited."

In July 2011 Joseph Mapuor, with Avondale alumnus Nick Atkinson and his cousin, went to a remote village in south-west Kenya. Joseph and Nick preached for two weeks, and Nick ran a clinic for people with wounds and infections. They also gave presentations on HIV/AIDS prevention and prayed in the homes of HIV/AIDS victims and orphans. As a result of their witness 15-20 people are taking Bible studies with a view to baptism.



A church service attended by Joseph Mapuor in a Kenyan village. Photo: Joseph Mapuor

As part of their course, all ministry and theology students minister in local churches under the guidance of experienced pastors. For the past five years students and members of the Avondale Memorial Church have conducted evangelism in the nearby Lake Haven and San Remo areas, with a view to planting a new church. "It's exciting to see motivated young adults speaking easily about their faith and sharing it with others," said Dr Murray House.

Nimrod Maua is studying the newly developed chaplaincy strand in the Bachelor of Ministry and Theology program. As part of his ministry practicum this year, he conducted a week of spiritual emphasis at Mountain View Adventist College at Doonside in western Sydney. The principal, Mrs Jenny Gibbons, wrote to Avondale: "We have just had the most powerful week of spiritual emphasis you could ever imagine. . . . On Thursday [Nimrod] asked for kids to come and share their stories. . . . We went for an hour overtime and many kids were asking for prayer. On Friday 60 kids gave their lives to Jesus and asked for Bible studies. . . . Because of this week with Nimrod, we have decided that the unchurched kids need a place they can call church, so next term we're beginning a Friday night church for them – all because of this week of spiritual emphasis."

Outdoor Recreation partnerships with schools David Low

Avondale Outdoor Recreation has seen enrolment growth averaging 20% per annum over the last five years, enabling it to expand its partnership program with Adventist Schools Australia. Avondale's Outdoor Recreation staff and students work with schools to facilitate outdoor experiences for the school students. Avondale now has outdoor recreation partnerships with Gilson College (Victoria), Avondale High School (NSW), Macquarie College (NSW) and Kempsey Adventist School (NSW).

Partnership activities have included Gilson College programs in Tasmania and in the Alpine National Park on the Bogong High Plains of Victoria; an Avondale High School program at Bungonia Gorge (NSW), and Macquarie College programs at Bungonia Gorge (Year 8) and Kosciuszko National Park (Year 9). An initial program with Kempsey Adventist School is planned in the Northern Territory for mid-2012.

The outdoor programs are designed to improve school students' self-understanding and ability to interact and socialise with others. Programs commence with small group activities and low trust games; only when the group is ready is the challenge level increased to other outdoor activities such as abseiling, bushwalking and finally the expedition. If there is resistance, the challenge level is lowered to maintain group ownership.

Teachers in the partner schools find that working with Avondale students helps them achieve effective outcomes from their outdoor programs. Avondale personnel collect data on the programs and provide feedback to teachers to improve program design. It has been found, for example, that joining two performing groups can help school students achieve

higher outcomes. In some schools a service component has been added, with school students assisting lower year levels that are just starting on the program.

School partnerships facilitate work experience placements for Avondale students, providing training in a controlled work-place environment. Students are also required to do half their work experience with commercial companies, extending their networking and employment opportunities.

Online courses in outdoor recreation

Avondale now offers online short courses in outdoor recreation tailored for would-be leaders of outdoor activities, including schoolteachers involved in outdoor recreation. Short courses are available online in bushwalking, abseiling, and canoeing/kayaking. Assessment of practical skills is arranged in the student's local area.



Avondale Outdoor Recreation student Phil Hannah leads worship for Gilson College Year 9 students on a "Learning for Life" outdoor program in Tasmania. Photo: Peter Beamish

$50,000 raised for Malawi development project

Students and their friends in the Avondale College Church have raised over $50,000 in the past two years for an ADRA development project in Malawi initially managed by Krystle Praestiin, a 2009 graduate of Avondale's Bachelor of Arts program in International Poverty and Development Studies.



A village gathering visited by the Avondale team in Malawi. Photo: Aaron Bellette

In a country where more than 11,000 children under the age of five die each year from diarrhoea and water-borne diseases, Krystle developed a project, "Krystle Clear Waters," to provide clean water for villages in one of the regions where ADRA is working. So far five wells have been provided, with more envisaged. ADRA trains the villagers in hygiene and sanitation; the people need to meet specified hygiene standards before a well goes in. Previously women had to walk 3-6 hours per day for water, and were not always safe en route.

The wells are part of a holistic program to empower the people of the region. ADRA provides agriculture training, literacy programs for children and adults, pre-school education, training in basic business principles, and village savings and loans schemes to enable people to set up self-supporting business enterprises. Proceeds from these enterprises help maintain the wells.

Three Avondale representatives who went to Malawi last November to assess the effectiveness of the program were impressed with what they saw. The ADRA training accompanying the installation of the wells motivated the village communities to improve their lives in many other ways. In one place the women were singing, "Our village is moving in a new direction. You need to come with us or leave."

Aaron Bellette, an Avondale lecturer in visual arts and a member of the assessment team, took photographs and video footage of ADRA's work in Malawi, including a media story on a woman with HIV whose life was transformed by ADRA's intervention. She is now a community leader helping to establishing cooperative businesses and persuading people to undergo HIV testing. A million people in Malawi have AIDS in a population of 14 million. The average life expectancy is 43 years. ADRA will use Aaron's media productions to promote its programs.