

AUSTRALASIAN GOOD TIDINGS

E-NEWS - 22 January 2013 #17

Welfare Department Work in PNG

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Members and interests standing on ground dedicated to a church will be erected in Goroka Town

It has been several years since a visitor to Perth's Guildford Church returned to Goroka, a large town in Eastern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea. Ever since that time, thought has been given to the work in Goroka where the main produce grown are pineapples, bananas, coffee plantations and sweet potatoes. Some corn is also grown as the main cash crop for subsistence farming. Along with the nice climate this town is also a university town where many students come to study.

Several interests were living in this town and the work has slowly gained momentum. After a few baptisms a small group was established and they met out in the open air on the grass lawn of one brother's house. After a while many interests were attending and there was not enough room.

The brother has now given away a portion of his garden space in his back yard as a place of worship for the Eastern Highlands region. Although he

has been gardening this land he feels that it is more important to give this area over to God as a place of worship. The brethren there along with his family were keen to start a simple bush material building. They were going to collect the trees in the mountains and pay for the nails. However in discussions with them the Welfare Department wanted to assist with buying roofing iron to cover the roof, rather than the local roof materials called “Kunai Grass” which is a good local material but does not have a long lifespan. A special heartfelt collection was made in Sydney’s Schofields church afternoon meeting and this amount exceeded all expectations for enough material to not only assist in purchasing the roofing iron and some walls, but also to help in another church building in Kudjip area of Jiwaka Province with an urgent need to buy a few rolls of barbed wire. This was to keep out the local roaming pigs from the church grounds. With funding in hand both churches sent their resounding “tenkyu tumas” (“Thank you very much”) in local Tok Pidgin language to every cheerful giver.

—John Lausevic, Welfare Department Director

Pacific Leaders Forum & Church Dedication

In November, Vanuatu Mission Field hosted the Pacific Leaders Forum, with representatives from PNG, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Australia, and of course Vanuatu, in attendance. The Pacific Regional Secretary, Br Rolly Dumaguit was also present for the meetings, which discussed the needs of the Pacific Mission Fields, including a proposal for the establishment of a Pacific Union.

Another very special occasion took place during that trip – the dedication of the newly completed church building in Port Vila. There was great rejoicing amongst the many members and visitors as this chapel was set apart as a beacon of light for the truth. Thank you to all those who participated in making this project a reality. A few days later the little chapel on the island of Malekula was also dedicated.



Some History as related by Benjamin Thiel at the Dedication of the Port Vila Church

“Today we are here from various walks of life, to witness a joyful scene—the dedication of this house of worship in Port Vila. Though we all originate from different islands and countries, we all realise we have one common problem—sin—and one common solution—Jesus. While we realise the importance of the Law of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ we realise the only hope of being forgiven and being able to become law abiding citizens of heaven is through the mercy and grace that heaven offers. The Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement was established in 1925 by people who appreciated that by God’s grace His Law is to be obeyed no matter how hard the situation. This movement was established by a people who realised that we can stand by God’s grace not only in the sunshine but also in the storm.

“Today is not just a time of rejoicing but also a time for reflection. How have we come to this place? How did it all start? As a church we are a movement driving forward but let us take a few moments to look in the rear-vision mirror.

“During the year 2000 two church members from Queensland, Australia, Terry and Violet Barnett, came to Vanuatu on holiday. They spent the Sabbath in fellowship with a group of Advent believers in Sorovanga. They also assisted funding a new class room for the school. On their return to Australia they shared their experience with Danny and Suzi Boje, church members from Victoria, Australia. One year later Danny and Suzi visited Vanuatu and went to find this school and spend the Sabbath with the believers there. When they asked the believers if they would like to hear more about the Reform Movement and its message they were met with an overwhelming positive response. Due to this strong interest it was decided to send two ministers from Australia on an initial visit to follow up on the contact that had been made. John Ciric and Michael Stoyko visited Port Vila during 2001 running some meetings and answering questions of the interests in Sarovonga School. Due to the interest shown in the truth, it was decided to continue to further establish the work in Vanuatu. Michael Stoyko was to make another visit and I was to meet and assist him in Vanuatu after I had attended the Youth Convention in Fiji in 2002. While in Fiji the brethren there gave me further contacts they had in Vanuatu to follow up. The next few weeks were spent in constant visitation and missionary work. Then, as interest in our message grew, we presented each night in different locations.

“One night after I presented a study on the 2300 Days and the Reform Movement in History and Prophecy in Blacksands school, Willy John, who sadly is not with us today, came to me and said, ‘Thank God for this message, there is a man in Malekula who is preaching this same message – he is a reformer.’ I knew we didn’t have any reform members in Malekula at the time but said, ‘Brother, if he is preaching this message I would like to meet him, how can we get in contact?’

“Contact was eventually arranged via the radio and we went to visit, first landing in Santo to visit friends then coming by cargo ship, which we understood would be faster than flying and driving around the island. After a very long night on the ship and many stops in various villages, we asked the captain when we would arrive at our destination. After being told there was no definite time of arrival and that it was not certain that the ship would go there at all, we requested to be dropped off at the next village. So by accident, or rather God’s hand of providence, we landed early in the morning on the beach in Achin (the very village where our little church is established today and which will be dedicated next week).

“After meeting the locals and handing out some literature we continued by truck to the village where we met Br Bembi Mogoro and his family. They eagerly grasped hold of the truth - Br Bembi is here as our minister today. How did he learn about our message? Around the year 1998 a sister in Uranquinty Church in NSW gave “The Good Way” series to a visitor from Vanuatu (a relative of Br Bembi’s). Eventually Br

Bembi saw this series of studies and borrowed them and read them till the pages were worn. Before leaving Br Bembi's village by truck his last request to us was, 'Please brethren can you get another copy of the Good Way series for me? This one is worn out and I need to give it back to my cousin brother!' How important the printed page is in spreading the Good news of the Gospel!

"Brother Glenn and Sr Rosemary Clements, from New South Wales, Australia, came to Vanuatu in 2004 and invested their time and money to establish a day school here. Their efforts in establishing the school have been a great blessing and support in housing the church and forwarding the work here in this country. They were also active in helping in the process of purchasing the land and raising this church building.

"Over the years the mission field has continued to grow and missionaries and lay members from Vanuatu and abroad have supported the work here in many different ways.

"A special General Conference Sabbath School offering was collected to help fund this building. With the generous offerings from Brethren in all parts of the world this house of worship has been raised and is free from debts. Through the Australasian Union Conference Welfare Department, Br John Lausevic and many of the youth from Australia combined their physical efforts with the local workers here in Vanuatu to raise this lighthouse for the Lord in this town.

"As a movement we believe organisation is of great importance but let us remember organisation does not create life. It is needed where there is life. Church buildings are a result of churches – people who love truth and want to be bound together by that truth and share that truth with others. Today it gives us great joy to see many of the founding members, the ones who took a stand back in 2002 when the Reform Movement was Organized here, still loving the truth and driving it forward. It also gives us much happiness to see the fruit of these labours. Many new faces are here who also love this truth and are preparing and looking forward to the second coming of Jesus Christ. Looking forward we can only encourage you all that no matter what happens, no matter what trials or difficulties come your way, don't lose sight of Jesus. Remember what you have learned and press forward. Let this building stand as a testimony of what Jesus has done in this country; what Jesus has done for you in your heart and your experience.

"Whose work was all this? It is God's from beginning to end. Who had a part in it? Whether by your presence, your words, your efforts, your sweat, your offerings or your prayers you have—we all have. Sadly many who have assisted to make this building a reality couldn't be here today. But they remain in your memories and their deeds are written in heaven. We thank you all for what you have done to make this day possible, to make this building a reality. All praise be to God and may this light house be a means to lead many to the Lord!

"Isaiah 42:4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

"Isaiah 42:10 'Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof.'

"Isaiah 42:11 'Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar doth inhabit: let the inhabitants of the rock sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains.'

"Isaiah 42:12 'Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands.'"

Welfare Department Work in Oceania

For the past two years several outreach seminars were planned by the Welfare Department to take place in the various islands of Oceania. Due to various funding issues and time constraints the department was unable to complete the scheduled events until just now. As we write this report to you, several more events are in progress. One of the most recent events was a one day Agriculture and Garden Improvement Seminar held in Western Samoa. The members and visitors in attendance really appreciated the information given on soil biology to help them with their garden soils. In addition seed saving and seedling cultivation lessons were given with hands on instruction on how to make natural pest and fungal remedies.



Goroka Practical training on improving sweet corn production methods

In Papua New Guinea two Agriculture Seminars were delivered in two locations. The distance of separation between them was only about 140 kilometres; however it took more than 5 hours to drive that distance due mainly to poor road conditions. All who drove it wished that we could have travelled by helicopter instead. Some of the so called “potholes” really were called “mumu holes” which our vehicle’s 4wd tyres sank quite well into, creating a big jarring bump. The larger highway holes were big enough to take the entire vehicle we were given the use of to drive to these two locations. Having such a slow speed of travel meant the vehicle overheated several times and we had to stop to cool it down. Driving speed never exceeded second gear for that reason. The brethren who accompanied us were very grateful for the mandatory cooling down time. On the way to Goroka we stopped at the top of the mountain pass called Daulo Pass and picked up a man who asked many questions and took a Sabbath Bible Lesson pamphlet with



Stopping for breakfast bananas and picking up a traveller at roadside

him when he left our company. He said that he did not know why he was delayed that day in travelling but, after we stopped to buy some bananas for breakfast from his wife on the side of the road, he knew why. He believed the Lord impressed him to delay his travel plans. When we happened to stop in that location he started wondering who we all were and why a “white man” was driving the vehicle. It is not often they see a Caucasian driving a vehicle that high in the mountains.

Upon our arrival into Goroka we set up the video projector but had trouble with the overcast sky casting a shadow on the portable screen. It was decided that the class would go on without the planned PowerPoint presentations and so hands-on lessons were given from 10 am until 6pm when a break was taken, including a very short mealtime. Many people came in attendance and were very happy with the information given. When nightfall came many more local villagers and members arrived and the projector screen was shifted to a new location. The presentation lasted until 9:30pm.

Our trip had to be cut short the following morning as we had to return the borrowed vehicle. On the return journey to Jiwaka province, we brought one brother back with us and dropped several others along the way.

We thank the Lord for a blessed trip and ask that you please keep these island fields in your prayers.

John Lausevic
Welfare Department Director



Goroka Seminar practical training attendees

NZ Youth Convention - Invitation

Come learn and share – you’re invited to the New Zealand Youth Convention, 18 – 23 January 2013.

We will be exploring the theme ***“United in Christ – becoming the light of the world”*** during this time, and three exciting outings have been planned for you to enjoy as well.

For further information please contact the New Zealand Field:

Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement
PO Box 15052
New Lynn, Waitakere 0640
NEW ZEALAND

Email: nzfield@sdarm.org.au

Telephone: +64 9 827 5178 / +64 6 273 8955
Mobile: +64 210 227 8144



Download the invitation flyer at:

http://www.sdarm.org.au/sites/default/files/pages/FLYER_NZ_Youth_Convention_2013.pdf

“Alive & Kicking” Health Department Camp Meeting

The recent camp meeting, Alive and Kicking, was held at Elim Heights on December 25-29th. This camp was run by the Health Department of the Australasian Union Conference. Naturally the focus during this time was the subject of healthy living, both physically and spiritually, and some of the ways in which this can be accomplished. Each morning there were a couple of groups for the early morning exercises, followed by worship and breakfast to start the day.



We then separated into the different lectures and activities provided for the various age groups. While some learned about the importance of routine and exercise etc., others were learning natural first aid or attending a cook-off, where our enthusiastic young cooks had to come up with innovative and healthy ways to cook the different ingredients they were given without a recipe. This took imagination, cooperation and team effort to prepare the tasty looking dishes

displayed in an attractive way. Each group had a judge who gave points for such things as hygiene, how well everyone worked together, efficiency and the healthfulness of the dish - they lost points for frying.

We had quite a few young babies and toddlers in the children's room, where they were provided with colourful and educational playthings to entertain them, giving the mothers time to catch up and the little ones time to be introduced and interact with each other. We hope it is one of many camps for these children who are being brought up for the Lord.

The 4-8 year olds were told stories, taken for walks and given activities suitable for their ages. They enjoyed being together to learn more about Jesus and have fun too.

The 9-15 year olds painted some canvases on our theme of health including Water, Fresh Air, Sunshine & Trust in God. They were also taught about some of the natural remedies covering healing plants and ways to use them, and poultices and how to apply them. They did some outdoor activities teaching the concept of working together and of course their own cook-off, which was a lot of fun for them.

The adults —young and old —attended lectures, learning more about our bodies and health followed by discussion groups, which were interesting and informative. We were able to share different ways in which we can accomplish having healthy, active minds and bodies and also discuss ways in which to have a closer relationship with Jesus so that we can share it with our families.



Not only were we able to enjoy the meetings, but Luke Kneebone with a group of helpers, videoed all the meetings. They are available for a donation to anyone who would like to order and enjoy the presentations that were given. Most of these DVDs were available by Sabbath evening so those leaving camp could take them home. It was a big job and I'm sure the DVDs will be appreciated by all those who would have liked to attend, but couldn't. They can now see the meetings at home.

Sabbath morning dawned a beautiful warm day and after morning worship and breakfast we joined our various age groups to study the lesson for Sabbath School. Peter Lausevic then took the Divine Service "Alive & Kicking for Jesus" followed by a delicious lunch. In the afternoon Young People's Meeting we enjoyed quite a number of items presented by Young and Old followed by "Family/Nature Walk Time" where we all enjoyed spending time together in nature.

The camp came to a close with the evening meeting to close Sabbath after which we were favoured with a special item by a sister from Germany. She played the harp and sang in Romanian and, after being requested for more, sang a couple more items in Romanian and German. It was very beautiful, and we praise the Lord for all the blessings gained in experiencing another special time of camp fellowship.

Submitted by Esther Wiseman

—selected from *The Pioneer*, Vol. 3, Issue 1

AUC Workers Seminar 2013

From the 2nd to 6th of January, 2013 the Australasian Union Conference held a Worker's Seminar for our Australian and New Zealand based workers. Br D Sureshkumar (General Conference Vice-President) conducted the Seminar based on the theme of "Leadership".

All appreciated the opportunity to reflect on the principles of leadership particularly in the context of pastoral ministry. The seminar concluded with a self-assessment questionnaire that helped identify individual leadership traits.



Exciting Job Opening: Christian Publishing

Wanted: Business and Marketing Administrator – Christian Publishing

An opportunity has arisen for a highly motivated, consecrated and business minded person to take the oversight of Religious Liberty Publishing Association.

Religious Liberty Publishing Association is dedicated to the production and distribution of Christian publications in a variety of multi-media formats including print, electronic, and audio/visual, that support and facilitate the mission of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement, Australasian Union Conference.

This role offers an exciting, mission focussed opportunity to work for Christ in a happy, uplifting team environment that values high Christian principles, a strong work ethic, and a willingness to help wherever needed.

As director of the association, you will use your business administration and marketing skills to oversee the production, distribution and marketing of high quality Christian publications for our church and the wider community. The role will also entail overseeing the coordination of in-house and/or outsourced graphic design projects. You will also be called upon to administer publications and subscription sales and order fulfilment. As a team player, you will also enjoy helping out with reception, retail counter sales and any other administration task that may present itself.

The ideal candidate will demonstrate

- A strong commitment to Christ
- A sound understanding of the third angel's message in the light of Revelation 18:1-4 and the relevance of the publishing work to supporting its promotion
- A strong commitment to and an active promotion of the principles of faith of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement
- Sound business administration experience, including exposure to sales and marketing of online products will be highly regarded.
- Ability to coordinate production schedules of Christian publications and marketing of the same (online and print)
- Strong Customer Service and Counter Sales skills
- Strong IT skills
- Graphic Design Skills will be highly regarded but not essential
- Strong order picking, packing and dispatching skills
- Exposure to MYOB Accounting Software or ability to learn

This is a unique position for someone who loves Christ, enjoys a challenge, and has a passion for evangelism through Christian media.

To apply please forward your resume to secretary@sdarm.org.au by February 28, 2013

For questions on this role please Contact Joe Voncina on (02) 9627 7553 or by email secretary@sdarm.org.au

Wedding – Vivian & Chris Cosson



Vivian Rose Ilic and Christopher Cosson

Monday, 29th October, 2012, on a warm and sunny afternoon, many guests gathered to witness the marriage of Christopher Cosson and Vivian Rose Ilic.

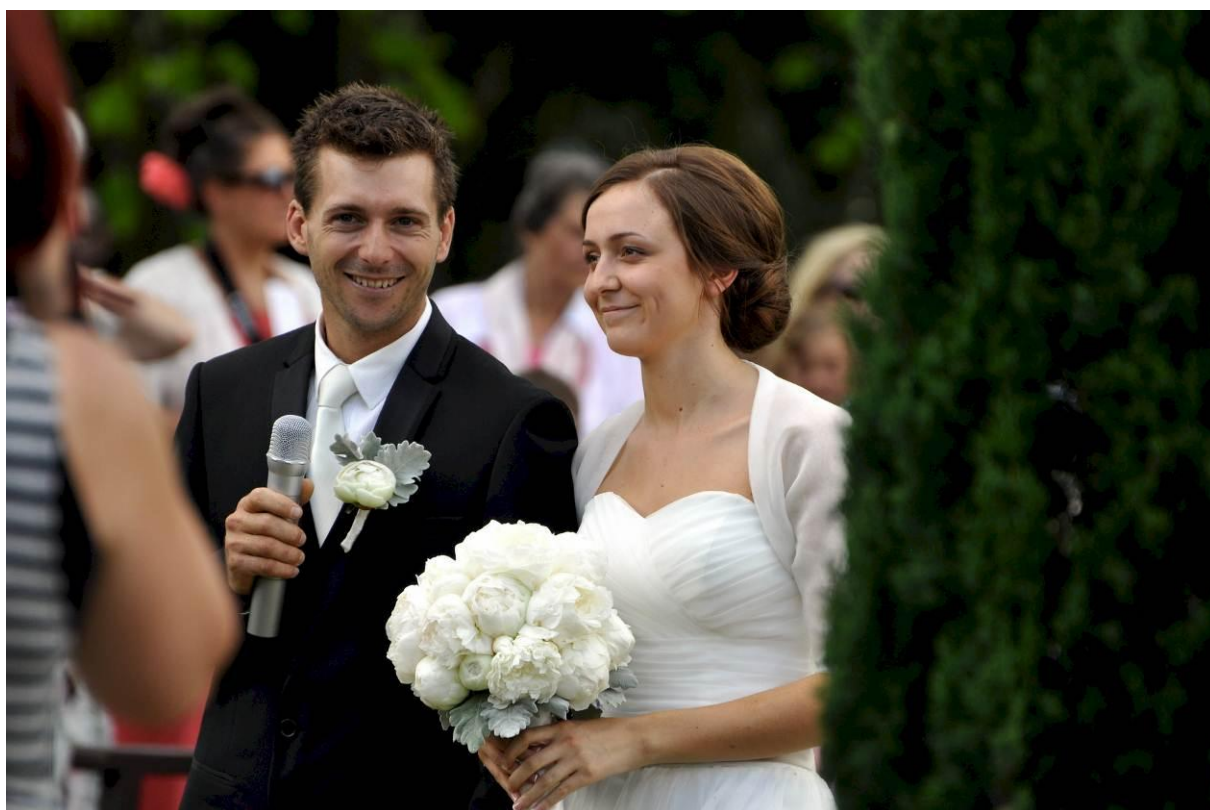
The service was held at a historic St John's Anglican Church at Camden. The groom and his attendants – Jonathan Gules (best man), Jeremy Gordon, Jesse Ilic and Luis Ilic as groomsmen arrived well before time. The groom firstly ushered his parents to their seat and then retraced his steps to usher the bride's mother to her seat. The bride and her attendants arrived, and all heads were turned as firstly the smiling bridesmaids, Roxanne Watkinson, Bianca Ilic, Lucinda Ilic followed by the Maid of Honour Lana Ilic slowly made their way down the aisle. Then the moment everyone was waiting for: Vivian, the bride, gracefully made her

way on her father's arm to the waiting arm of her groom. Brother Peter Lausevic officiated as minister during the wedding ceremony and asked God to bless the union for as long as both shall live.

All the guests greeted the happy couple and their parents on exiting the church. There was a lot of happy greetings as guests mixed on the lawn and took photos. A reception was held at the Skyview Reception Centre in Liverpool. A beautiful meal was served with two entrees, main course and dessert. Guests were entertained with a small number of items and special speeches from the bride and groom's father, best man and of course, the groom – all capably coordinated by Br Martin Staudinger as the Master of Ceremonies. All too soon, the clock ticked around to a late hour and the guests started making their way home to rest before another day on the road. We trust God will protect and guide the new Mr and Mrs Cosson as they travel life's road together into the future.

—selected from *The Pioneer*, Vol. 2, Issue 51

Wedding – Lana & Jeremy Gordon



Lana Danielle Ilic and Jeremy Andrew Gordon

On the afternoon of Sunday, 16th of December, over three hundred family and friends gathered on the picturesque lawns of the Gledswood Homestead to celebrate the marriage of Lana Danielle Ilic and Jeremy Andrew Gordon. All expectantly awaited the arrival of the bridal party. Soon they arrived and the bridesmaids walked up the grassy aisle followed by the flower girls strewing rose petals as they went. As they stood to the side all eyes turned to watch the beautiful bride as she came into view on her proud father's arm. After she hugged her mum and dad, she took the groom's arm. The sermon given by Br Alasdair Pow outlined the beautiful plan God made for marriage. A special item was sung while the signing of the register took place, after which, the now Husband and Wife, Mr & Mrs Gordon, walked down the aisle arm in arm where they greeted their guests. We then made our way to the reception where drinks and dinner were served. We enjoyed sharing in their first meal together as Husband and Wife. The speeches followed and it was lovely to hear a little of their happiness and humour but most of all their thanks to God for making it all possible. We wish them both every happiness in their life together.

—selected from *The Pioneer*, Vol. 2, Issue 51

Births

Dylan Jude Balarezo 21 July 2012

Hadassah Inneka Robles 22 June 2012 - 2.77kg (6.1 lb)

Emmett Benjamin Thiel 29 July 2012 - 3.45kgs (7.6lb), 49.5 cms

Imogen Nadine Brown 22 August 2012 - 3.2kgs (6lb 10oz)

Mitchell James Gordon 28 August 2012 - over 4kgs (over 9lbs)

Josiah Daniel Kneebone 27 September 2012 - 3.88 kgs (8 lb 5.5oz), 49cms

Obituary – Irene Davis

Irene's Journey

Irene was born on August 29, 1948 in Opovo, (former Yugoslavia), to Elizabeth and Vilmos Joo. She is the youngest of six children. Her siblings are Suzana and Vilmos (both deceased), Helen, Gizella and Attila. In 1959, the Joo family moved to Rovinj. They remained there until 1962, at which time they escaped from Yugoslavia and communist oppression. After their harrowing border crossing, the Joo family lived in Italian refugee camps for close to 3 years.

Eventually, they were fortunate enough to gain passage on a ship that would take them to Australia and to a new life of freedom.



When Irene was 22 years old, she married Joseph Davis. They were married in Sydney on Valentine's Day in 1971. After they were married, Irene moved to Papua New Guinea where, prior to their marriage, Joe had been living for some time. While in PNG, they started many successful businesses and had four children: Sarah, Jonathan, Raymond, and Jason. Irene and the family enjoyed many good years in PNG. Unfortunately, after it gained independence, the country became highly corrupt and unsafe. During the 1980's the Davis family was forced to leave PNG. Joe and Irene decided to move to the Sunshine Coast because they thought it would be a peaceful place to finish raising their children.



The Davis' enjoyed many happy times as a family, with the additional children that they helped raise, with their church community and with their friends.

Tragedy struck the Davis family on December 30, 2000 when Joe died from cancer. The loss was difficult for the family, and in particular, for Irene who lost both her husband and her best friend. Irene was delighted, however, when she finally became a grandmother. For Aliana and Oliver, "Grandy" was an endless source of cuddles and tasty treats.

Irene passed away after her brave battle with cancer on December 2, 2012. She was the best mother and friend in the whole world, and she will forever be missed.

—adapted from Irene's Eulogy as prepared by her family

Coming Events Calendar

January 18-23, 2013

"United in Christ" Youth Convention

Venue: Green Pastures Camp

Wanganui, New Zealand

For further information contact: nzfield@sdarm.org.au

Telephone: +64 9 827 5178, or mobile: +64 210 227 8144

February 8-10, 2013

Evangelism through The Sabbath School

Weekend Seminar – GC Sabbath School Department

Location: Melbourne, Victoria

For further information contact: pchapman@sdarm.org.au

Telephone: +61-414-495-838

29 March – 1 April, 2013

South Australia Spiritual Conference

"The Secret of True Reformation"

Location: Wingrove Rd, Mylor SA 5153

For further information contact: sa@sdarm.org.au

Telephone: +61 (8) 8376 0163

Or go to www.sdarm.org.au/2013/sa to register

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