

## New Associate Prayer Ministries Coordinator

**D**octor Paul Petersen, Field Secretary for the South Pacific Division has been appointed as an Associate Prayer Ministries Coordinator.

He will bring a fresh look and a balanced perspective to Prayer Ministries for the Adventist church in the South Pacific. Besides being well qualified in many theological areas, he is a husband and a father to two grown sons. He exercises his body and his mind and has a great

sense of humour.

Paul B. Petersen is a biblical theologian and an ordained minister, originally from Denmark. He spent many years in youth ministry and later served as a Junior College pastor and Bible Teacher. He holds degrees in religion from the Lutheran University of Copenhagen as well as from the Seventh-day Adventist Andrews University in Michigan, USA.

At University of Copenhagen his major paper was written in the New Testament area. From Andrews he earned a Ph.D. in Old Testament studies.

The topic of the dissertation was the prayers in the Book of Daniel.

We look forward to his contributions to UPLINK.

To contact Paul for appointments and questions regarding prayer or other theological matters, please refer to the SPD website.

[www.adventist.org.au](http://www.adventist.org.au)



---

### New ... Israelite Heritage Prayer Line



Would you like to be part of an online email prayer line? Requests and suggestions for prayers can be passed on through an email prayer chain. We solicit prayers on behalf of the Jewish people individually or corporately. There is great work to be done to spread God's Word amongst the Jewish people of Australia. We also need to pray for the health of those involved with this ministry of reaching out. For more

information and details about joining this prayer line, contact Roger Dawkins, leader of The Israelite Heritage Institute of Australia. Roger is an Adventist, located in Melbourne and is totally committed to reaching as many Jewish people as possible, for Jesus Christ and the last day message. You would receive a list of requests on a regular basis. His email is: [ihia@tpg.com.au](mailto:ihia@tpg.com.au)

# The Blessing of Prayer Rooms

*Prayer rooms and places continue to be a huge blessing in many churches and schools. Reports constantly come about what is happening where they are located. Here are two examples of how God is blessing those who make the time and place available to listen and to talk to Him.*

## From Samoa

'I love serving God and doing what I can to help progress His work in the island where I live. I was called to help one of our churches set up five prayer rooms in the empty pastor's house on the church property. I fellowshiped with the members on Friday night for their ordination/feet washing and was blessed to hear how the prayer rooms have made a big impact on the lives of many of our members. The rooms were opened 24 hours over one week and church members camped there for the week - this was a follow-up to the prayer room I helped set up during the women's ministry conference held earlier during the year. It was the biggest rave of everyone who attended the conference. Praise God for His leading.'



## From Auckland

"Here's something I am praising God for. It started a year ago. The school has two Weeks of Prayer per year. To begin we held a 2 hour prayer vigil for Year 13 students. I had to speak to the class first about it. In my talk I asked them, 'What comes to mind when you are asked to come to a prayer meeting?' The answers I received were mainly negative. I told them to now erase that thought and replace it with the word FUN and then come to the prayer vigil and have fun with the Lord. After the prayer vigil they said, 'That was fun Miss, we wish all our friends had come.'

This past year the same thing happened. They held the prayer vigil in the quadrangle of the school at night under the stars and only one or two of the year 12 & 13 students did not attend. Those who attended didn't want the time to end because they were having so much fun in the Lord. Praise God. A prayer room had been set up each time.

During the year we claimed scriptures as we interceded for the students. One of the mothers came to the first Week of Prayer and I shared with her how to pray in this way. She enjoyed it so much that she returned each day and we interceded for the students while they took the Week of Prayer program. The second Week of Prayer I was unable to prepare the prayer room but she was able to do it. During that last Week of Prayer I noticed that the students didn't need reminding to go to the prayer room, they just went. My

heart was overflowing with joy. To God be the glory.

We had some of our teachers from Tahiti visit the primary schools and they came to look around. They came into the prayer room and just loved it. One of them went back home and did prayer activities with her class. She got them to do prayer journaling and was so excited to see their prayers and their total enjoyment. She appreciated the prayer room so much that she set one up for the Pathfinder Camporee in Tahiti. She took the Bible promises I had and translated them into Tahitian for the prayer room. Her daughter, a secretary for the French Polynesia Mission, stayed with



us for three months. She returned home with a dream to set up a prayer room in their mission office. She too is excited about prayer. She discovered one of her spiritual gifts to be that of an intercessor.

As I look back I see that the Lord wants His work in prayer ministry to spread. I praise God for the work He is doing in people's lives with prayer ministry. They are catching the vision for prayer."

# A call ..... To Prayer Ministry for Buddhists

By Joy Butler

There are nearly 1 billion Buddhists in the world today. Each person is precious in God's sight. These people span the globe. They are rich and poor and in between. Their beliefs and experiences are as varied as each individual. There are many in Australia and New Zealand. Since God loves each Buddhist as a parent loves his or her child, we must partner with Him by living and speaking in ways that draw Buddhists into His presence and His blessing.

Scott and Julie Griswold, with their three children, are global-funded missionaries located in Thailand where the centre for ministry to Buddhists is situated in south-east Asia. They are producing translated material and other literature for Buddhists. On a recent visit to their home, I was most impressed with their fast growing work and they crave our prayer support. This is a brand new ministry and a new opportunity to reach Buddhists in the world. In a recent newsletter Scott reported the following:

*"What a joyful, special and profitable time we had at the 2006 Ministry among Buddhists meeting....the greatest blessing was the spiritual fellowship and the inspiration for serving God. A 74 year old veteran worker from an isolated region said, 'This has been the happiest time in my life.' That made all the work for the meeting worthwhile! (The Griswold's had 50 people staying in their yard for this conference)*

*The evidence of prayers showed in the commitments for action that were made. Attendees took up the challenge to care for Buddhists by committing to 50 new projects for ministry among Buddhists! Others will set up prayer gardens, re-searching and experiencing true Christian meditation. Others will mobilize their churches to pray for Buddhist friends and countries. Quite a few determined to design and use new contextualized funeral services in the coming year. A number will begin to worship in ways that express reverence and devotion in a more Asian way.*

*Several committed to focus on health and family ministries in new ways that Buddhists will especially appreciate."*



If you want to know more and are willing to pray for this ministry which extends around the world – see their excellent website [www.bridgesforministry.org](http://www.bridgesforministry.org) Follow the 30-day prayer guide to pray for Buddhists. Email [Griswold@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:Griswold@loxinfo.co.th) to receive the prayer newsletter, for other information or suggestions/contributions you may wish to offer.

---

---

## The 'problem of prayer'

*Prayer* is a word that probably creates a different picture in each person's mind. It seems briefly discussed and little practiced at many Christian gatherings, and often when it is presented, attendance is sparse or the event is heralded mostly by women, rarely by youths and men.

**Why**, why in this time of great need for revival, especially in... (our own area) does a power source for transformation and change – namely, prayer – get so little attention?

To answer that question, I need to look only as far as myself. The reasons that prayer is pushed aside are varied and often based on misconceptions.

### One Misconception is - It's Boring.

*Prayer on the surface* may seem boring. Perhaps it's the pure exhaustion of regular prayer that

causes one to quit early without ever seeing the rewarding results of persevering prayer, or the boredom that prevails when group prayer sinks to monotone levels. And certainly falling asleep during prayer has been the experience of many a tired believer who reverently closes his eyes and winds up disrupting a prayer meeting or group due to loud snoring or



snorting!

Oh, the mention of *prayer* quickly triggers "I've got to get out of here before I'm stuck" reactions in many

people – perhaps because most of us are inspired and motivated by the excitement of evangelism, moving preaching, heart-throbbing music and testimony, and yet we possess little or no knowledge of the power released when one prays.

**Wouldn't** that just suit the enemy's cause? Disguise prayer as tedious, powerless, geriatric, and "religious" and you'll keep believers away from it ninety out of one hundred times.

**But** if prayer is boring, why didn't the disciples ask Jesus how to perform miracles and healings – instead of asking Him how to pray (Luke 11)? If prayer was so boring and such a potential time-waster, why did Jesus Himself choose so often to spend time alone in prayer? Who started the rumour that prayer was boring, anyway? *taken from the book by Becky Tirabassi, "Let Prayer Change Your Life".*

# Prayer

*Praying is a precious privilege.*

*Through prayer you may find relief from anxiety and fear.  
Through prayer you may find fellowship with God and enjoy a blessed peace.*

*But sometimes You may be too sick to pray, or too tired.  
Or it may seem that God isn't listening. Or you hardly know what to pray for.  
What then?*

*Then it is good to know that many others are praying for you.  
Loved ones, family, friends are lifting you up in prayer before God.*

*And Jesus Himself continues to pray for you in Heaven itself.  
And the Holy Spirit too, who knows all your needs, presents them perfectly before your  
Father in Heaven.*

**Don't worry about anything; Instead pray about everything;  
Tell God your needs and don't forget to thank Him for His answer.  
If you do this, you will experience God's peace.**

*Philippians 4:6,7*

**So let us come boldly to the throne of God  
And stay there to receive His mercy and to find grace to help us in our times of need.**  
*Hebrews 4:16*

**He will listen to the prayers of the destitute,  
For He is never too busy to heed their requests.**  
*Psalms 102:17*

**Blessed be God who didn't turn away when I was praying  
and didn't refuse me His kindness and love.**  
*Psalms 66:20*

*Contributed by Margaret Martin, West Australia*

Whatever is true, whatever is noble,  
whatever is right, whatever is pure,  
whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable  
if anything is excellent or praiseworthy  
think about such things.

*Philippians 4:8*