

26 FEBRUARY  
2011

# IntraVic

How can anyone put his faith in Christ if he's never even heard about Him? How can he hear about Him if no one tells?

Romans 10:14 (Clear Word)



## UNDER OATH

## TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## ...Now Go



# 2011 The Haps

get your trigger fingers ready

March 13th - Paintball Skirmish

REGISTER at [www.vicyouth.com](http://www.vicyouth.com)  
Before March 4 2011 Limited Spaces



## A Note about UNDER OATH to Make a Difference ...now go

The Spirit of God is moving in the hearts of our young people. They are receptive to Him and on fire for Him. You just need to read their baptismal testimonies, hear their enthusiasm when they talk about a camp or mission project they have been on, observe their fruits as they involve themselves in church life.

Just look at our Pathfinders and the resilience they showed as they overcame the rain and cold of the recent UNDER OATH Camporee, throwing themselves into their activities with enthusiasm, generously giving what they had to support other flood victims, and responding to calls to commitment, going under oath to serve their Lord and make a difference.

These young people will become our leaders in the future, as yesterday's Pathfinders, yesterday's young people, are leaders today. And with this in mind, staff in VicYouth are full of plans for 2011 where enabling and encouraging our young people to ...now go and become leaders for Christ are an integral part.

Sure, the ways of young people may be different to ours, but we live in a rapidly changing world and change, in itself, does not mean new is less valid. Paul's words of encouragement to Timothy could well be paraphrased as words of instruction to an older generation than that of Timothy... 'I urge you... let them teach and preach about Christ. Don't ever think they are too young to talk of Him. Just look at their example, their attitude, their faith, and most of all, their love for Him..'

In spite of their apparent independence and autonomy, our young people however, are still just that – young; often inexperienced and lacking confidence, needing affirmation and encouragement, needing opportunity to learn to fly with their fresh zeal for God, in a safe environment. Just needing a chance to grow into the strong warriors our Maker designed them to be, full of enthusiasm and energy.

In essence, they need to be surrounded by loving, nurturing adults who know their names. Who are interested in their ideas and what they do outside church. Who support their independence and their efforts, yet are able to offer constructive criticism without knocking them down. Education encourages students to question; to dig deeper, rather than to simply accept things at face value. Consequently our young people need adults around them who are not afraid of difficult questions and who can guide them in their search for truth.

Whereas in an older era there was no doubt what was right and wrong, there are now so many 'alternatives' out there (from New Age philosophies to drug and alcohol use to sexuality bias) that are seen by the wider population as normal. Our young people are faced with many more dilemmas than an older generation was as it grew up, and they need understanding adults around them, with whom they feel comfortable enough that they can discuss these issues with.

As you read this issue, which is focusing on the Youth Department, ask yourself are you someone who could be what the young people of your church need? Could you see yourself as a mentor, a friend? And if so, what will you do right here and now, to begin making that happen, so that they too, can let their light shine before all men, bringing glory to God. **...now go**

I urge you to teach and preach these things. Don't let anyone tell you that you're too young to teach them. Just continue being an example to the believers in speech, in attitude, in faith, in purity, but most of all, by your love for Christ.

1Tim 4:11-12

### IN THIS ISSUE....

Devotional	pg 4-6
As We Reflect His Light series	
Solom Erika tess us of God's ongoing grace in his life	pg 7
Focus on	
looks at Youth Ministry	pg 8-9
In Action	
What has been happening in VicYouth in 2010	pg 10-13
Under Oath	
We look at the Pathfinder Camporee and its effect on the young people there	pg 14-15
Now go 2011	
VicYouth calendar for this year	pg 16-17
National Disasters	
Looking at where we stand, as an organisation	pg 18-19
News from our Churches	pg 20-26
28 Stories with Pr Dave	
New series for the children and the young at heart	pg 27
Conference News	pg 28-29
Ads and Notices	pg 30-32

COVER PHOTO: COURTESY OF NATHAN BROWN. THE INDOMITABLE SPIRIT OF THE PATHFINDERS - CAMP WORSHIP GOES AHEAD AMID THE MUD OF THE CAMPOREE CAMPSITE.

IntraVic Staff  
Editor Pastor Wayne Stanley  
Assistant Editor Sherrie Courtney  
[scourtney@adventist.org.au](mailto:scourtney@adventist.org.au)  
03 9264 7777  
[vic.adventist.org.au](http://vic.adventist.org.au)  
Copy deadline 1st of each Month



# Devotional...

## Relevant? ...now go!

Pastor Neil Redman, formerly our Victorian Assistant Youth Director until moving to Queensland late last year, raises some very pertinent questions about the relevance of church to our young people. As you prayerfully read this challenging devotional, ask yourself what role can you play to bring about change?

Discuss these concepts with the young people in your life; discuss them with your church family.

And determine to make a difference.

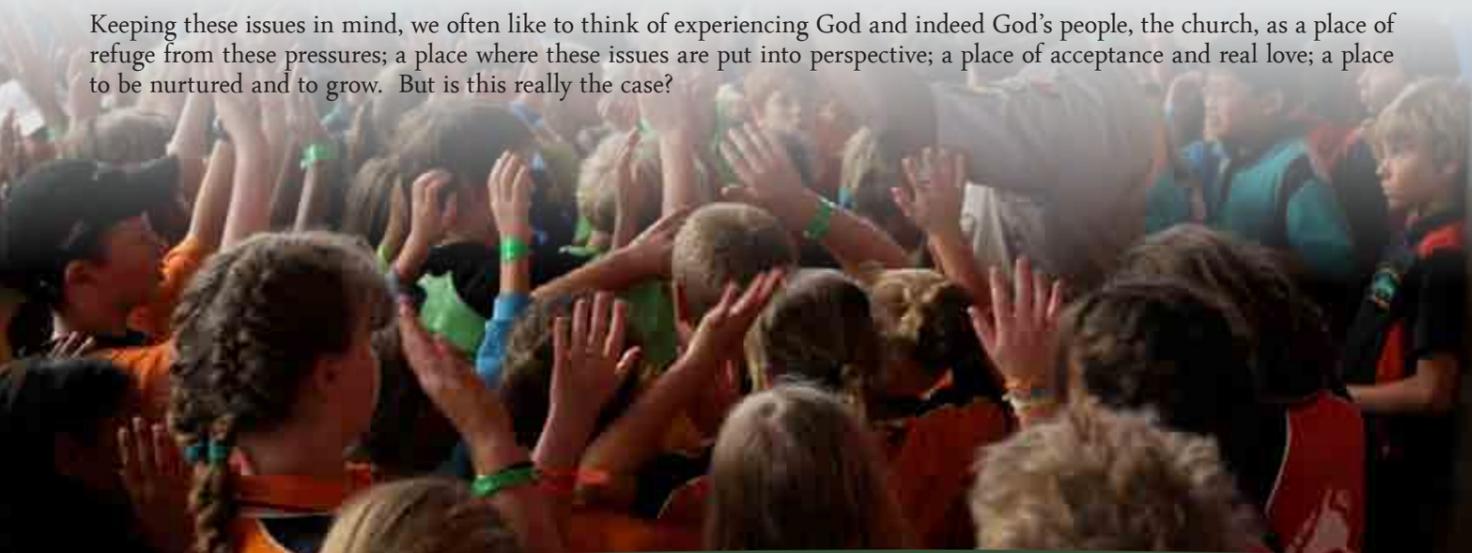
Over the last couple of months, many year 12 students from 2010 received their final high school results. This was a defining moment for them – checking their results; perhaps revealing what their future may be, what career path they may take, what prospects of future happiness they may have...

So maybe this is taking things a bit too far, but no question; a lot of pressure is placed on students at this time. The emotions associated with this 'day of reckoning' varied widely from student to student. Some were so excited as the good news was revealed, others were, well... ok... or worse, greatly disappointed that they hadn't achieved the results they were hoping for.

But this is just one of the many issues facing our young people today. Teens and older youth alike grapple with body image, relationships, family conflict, their stance on moral issues and the pressure to conform to the group with whom they associate. Depression, substance abuse, employment for older youth, money - the list of 'worries' goes on. These are real issues that can have a profound impact on how a person will think, act, dress, who they talk to and how they live.

Keeping these issues in mind, we often like to think of experiencing God and indeed God's people, the church, as a place of refuge from these pressures; a place where these issues are put into perspective; a place of acceptance and real love; a place to be nurtured and to grow. But is this really the case?

*We often like to think of the church as a place of refuge from outside pressures; a place where these issues are put into perspective, where in spite of them we are accepted, nurtured and loved. But is this always the case?*



Church is not the only a place where we can meet Jesus, far from it, but, especially for young people, church is a picture of what God is like. Therefore it is important to evaluate our effectiveness at giving young people every opportunity to build and grow their relationship with Jesus.

Attempt to view the church through the eyes of a young person dealing with the above mentioned challenges. How do they perceive God's people? What issues do they find relevant or irrelevant within the church? What are some of the possible needs of young people in our churches and communities, and how can the older generations (yep, this includes the 30+ people, probably even younger!) help with this challenge?

Young people seem to be particularly turned away by the unauthentic. What are they looking for? People who stand up and live their life in a genuine and authentic way - who can be strong in their convictions, and live consistently with their values and beliefs.

We often say "Share Jesus' love" yet may not be able to remember the name of a teen who has been attending our church since birth. We often say "Reach out to our community" but rarely share our own testimony of what God has done in our own lives. We often say "Have a living relationship with Jesus" and still repeat word for word the same prayers our grandparents prayed. (For what we are about to receive...ring any bells?)

We all make mistakes; are hypocritical in some way - it's part of being human! However young people are looking for a person who may be able to recognise this and admit they are wrong when they need to. Young people want someone strong to follow, to look up to, and they will often find more favour in an authentic person who lives outside Christian values, rather than someone who professes to be a strong Christian but does not live a life consistent with these values.

Today's young people also seek relevance at church.

Would a young person be excited to bring their friends to your place of worship or would there be some embarrassment? What does it look like? What hangs on the wall? What is piled up in a corner of the foyer? Young people want to be proud of where they worship; they want to have a place they can bring their friends to and not be ashamed in anyway. Don't get me wrong - meeting Jesus is not dependant on what the building looks like, however people's perception of "the church" does impact on ones perception of God.

What is done at your church, just because... well... because that is how it's always done? There are many things that we do in society because that's the way we've always done them, the 'social norm', and this is not always bad. However there is no doubt that our culture is constantly changing and doing so at a rapid rate. Therefore there is a danger that the culture in our churches may sometimes be view as "thus hath it always been..." Young people may see little relevance in a culture far removed from their own understanding. So church may appear to a young person as irrelevant because they do not understand why certain things are done the way they are, seeing no Biblical basis for it. Honestly ask the question, are we relevant to a broad culture in our community, and what can be done about it?

Does your church engage your young people? There are quad zillion messages bombarding us all, trying to get our

Continued on page 6

*Our young people need to be engaged by their experiences of church, not just for the morning, but for the whole week, Engaged to the point where they own it as their own.*



**Relevant? ...now go!** Continued from page 5

attention. Irrelevant messages that do not engage get quickly discarded. Young people want to be engaged; if they are not engaged, they get bored. If they are bored, then why bother with church, and if they are not bothering with church, very soon their relationship with Jesus may begin to dry up. Their experience of church needs to engage them. Not just with the speaker or the program, but with the whole day and continuing on through the whole week. They need to be so involved, they can own it as their own.

To that end, one should ask 'Is church helpful?' If the information that is provided is merely a history lesson, with little or no application, what use is that, other than interest value for those who like history? If our young people are able to take away information that will help with issues they face on a daily basis, if they are offered a gentle helping hand, rather than criticism – that is valuable and relevant. The church needs to be a place where our young people can build relationships which are nurturing and positive. The age old principle of "People don't care about what you know until they know that you care" still holds very true.

Other worthy questions are "Are the young people in the church experiencing God?" and "Can they see people around them experience God?" Young people want to experience, not just to know. They don't just want the confidence that one day they will be in a place paved with gold... they yearn to experience His love, to live a life with God an integral and intimate part of it, right here, right now. They want to pray and know they are heard. They want to share God's love with those around them in a practical way - a 'roll the sleeves up and get your hands dirty' kind of way. And they don't just want this real experience for themselves; they want to see others around them experiencing the same.

One of the greatest reasons we warm to Jesus is that He loves us just as we are; accepts us for who we are. As humans, we often default to only accepting someone after they have reached a certain standard. Jesus, however, takes our issues, our vices, our sins, looks past the bad, and loves us beyond measure. He still wants to talk to us even though our actions and thoughts may be detestable to him. He still loves us dearly and wants to draw us near to Him even though our sins are pulling us apart.

Be like Jesus! Love young people as they are. Praise God every day you see a young person in your church. Love them, get to know their names, find out what is happening in their lives. It would be wrong for us not to encourage all people to move closer to Christ, but ultimately, it is the Holy Spirit's role to convict of right and wrong, of how to live their lives. We can't force others to conform - at least not where it really counts... on the inside. Let's not try and take on the role of the Holy Spirit, but rather model authenticity, model love and, when there is opportunity, guide with wisdom.

Along our life's journey, we all experience different things. No one has all the answers for their own issues, let alone someone else's. However to journey with a young person, to say to them, even when things don't turn out the way you'd hoped, like their school results, that you still want to support them anyway you can... To show genuine love as Jesus did... To pray for the young people in your church... to create an environment where they are accepted as they are... If you were able to do this, then why would a young person not return to the church community, to God's family?

You have a powerful opportunity to be a lifelong influence on young people within your sphere. Even if it's only in a 'small' way, you can make a difference in their lives. Together, as the family of God, we can make it relevant to all generations and help them share this amazing love of God with their peers...

To borrow from VicYouth's theme for 2011,

**...now go!**

Pr Neil Redman

*You have a powerful opportunity to make a difference to the young people around you*

# As We Reflect His Light...

## ...stories of God's Grace

Solomon Erika was bought up an Adventist, but his early years were troubled. His biological father left the family when he was two years old, at sixteen, he attempted suicide and he had an addiction problem for fifteen years. But through all this time, God never forgot Solomon. Now he holds several church offices and cant stop talking about God's love and grace.

*Cast your burden on the Lord and He will sustain you. Ps 55:22*

I was born in Porirua in Wellington, New Zealand in 1972. Raised in the Samoan Adventist church, I attended Pathfinders and was baptised when I was twelve. My family moved to New South Wales and I went to high school at Avondale. From there we moved to Melbourne where my dad got his first church appointment with the Melbourne Samoan Adventist church. I love the outdoors; exploring, camping, hiking, being one with nature and with God and learning more about His love, however I have not always been so inclined.

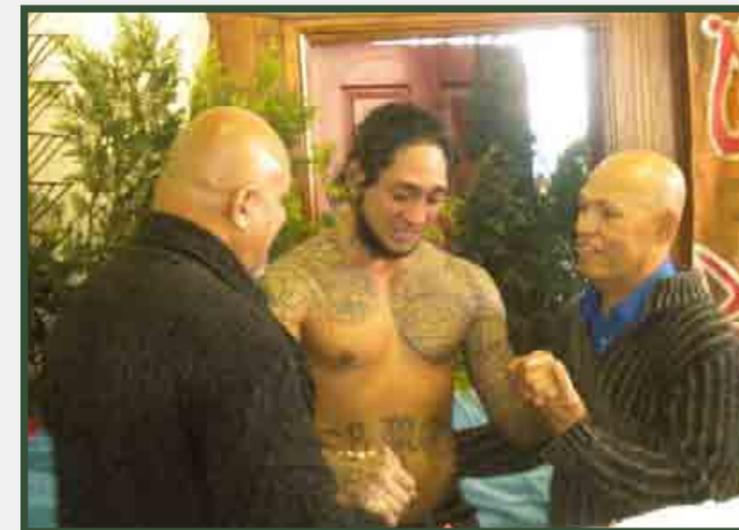
I have been married and divorced. I have associated with a group of guys, going by the name of REBELS 2421, who were up to no good. I have lived in a world dominated by my own selfishness, filled with lies and emptiness and surrounded by darkness. Completely lost, I have turned to sex, drugs and alcohol to escape, but there was no escape and I became a slave to the devil's torment.

Feeling chained by guilt and ashamed of my sins, I became depressed, not realising God, by His grace, was right there beside me, truly my Pathfinder, trying to guide me back to the right path, time and again. At my lowest point - ugly, lonely and weak - I heard His voice telling me to come, just as I was, to Him. My unworthiness, when I thought of the things I was doing at the time, overwhelmed me, but He said He loves me and would give me a new and clean heart.

When a relative of mine, Pr Paul Siopes, was preaching at Dad's church in Carrum Downs, I decided to go along, and it was there God's Spirit finally knocked down my defences. Convicted, I wanted to give my life to Him but didn't know how I was going to change. I determined to trust Him with everything and He assured me that where I couldn't, He would change me. What an awesome great God He is.

*Leave all your anxieties and worries with Him because He cares for you. 1 Pet 5:7*

On July 25, last year, at the Carrum Downs Samoan Church Mission, I gave my heart to Jesus and was re-baptised, trusting in Him to create in me a new, good spirit, and determining to share His love to the rest of the world... and beyond!



SOLOMON BEING BAPTISED BY HIS DAD AND PAUL SIOPES

Each day, as I surrender all in prayer, studying His Word and the adult lesson study, I am being changed. He has freed me from my addiction and I now have a positive outlook to life - life with my Lord.

How wonderful and majestic is His love for me... is His love for us all. *Solomon Erika*

*Solomon's motto:  
Together forever to  
love one another*



## What drives our Youth Ministry?

### OUR MISSION

To lead young people into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and help them find their place in God's service.

...now go

### OUR COMMITMENT

Guided by the word and the spirit, we are committed to inspire, train, and empower youth to serve God within the community and share in this mission.

So go and tell people of all nations the good news and baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them everything I've taught you. I'll always be with you even until the end of the world. Matt 28:19,20

...now go

### OUR VISION

We aim to accomplish this by modelling active spiritual leadership and empowering pastors, youth leaders and youth, to participate in this mission through:

...now go

Fostering the growth of a community of Grace where a Christ-like spirit of love, compassion, forgiveness and acceptance is all-pervasive. Paramount to this community is the creation of a safe and appropriate environment that allows youth to freely grow and express themselves.

Valuing excellence, relevance, creativity, authenticity, loyalty, integrity, accountability, joy, encouragement, affirmation, uniqueness and worth of the individual.

Supporting and remaining connected to the organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Creating an atmosphere conducive to a vibrant personal and corporate worship experience.

Promoting the welfare of the family unit.

Teaching, and modelling discipleship.

Organising events that: facilitate commitments to Jesus Christ; give opportunities for social interaction; broaden vision; provide training and opportunities for service and evangelism.

Providing opportunities for mission, leading to service as a way of life.

The following ministries and events are where we hope to fulfil and achieve our above vision and mission.

Ministries	Events
Adventurers & Pathfinders	Camporee, Summer & Winter Camps
Camping Ministry	Pathfinder Leadership Training
High School Ministry	Pathfinder Fair Day
ASA – Adventist Student Association	Pathfinder Expedition
Senior Youth Ministry	StormCo Training
StormCo – Service to Other's	Youth Rally Days
Really Matters	VicYouth – Resourcing, Networking, Training...
Mission Trips	
Adventist Singles	

*At VicYouth our hope and aim is to see every ministry event provide opportunity for young people to encounter our Saviour, to be inspired, encouraged, empowered and challenged to step out for Him.*

*We trust that where we ...now go He already is!*

2010 was an amazing year with the different events providing the opportunity for many to make decisions for Jesus!

This last year was about exploring our authentic Christian journey; what it looks like.

And we discovered that it is not a pretty picture most of the time; but that is ok! While we're on this side of 'the new earth', no matter how hard we try we will never attain perfection. That is where Jesus comes in.

We were challenged with thoughts that if we wanted to have powerful life changing experiences, spend time at the feet of Jesus because it is there we are moved to be real and authentic; to be bold and fearless even if we don't have it all together.

If anything, the theme of authenticity this last year always led us to the Cross - praise Jesus! And we don't want to be led anywhere else but there... And **that** is our hope for 2011.

This year we hope to have opportunities to dialogue together as a community at some of our various events –

UPRISING - Raising up a new generation of Leaders.

IDENTIFY - VICYOUTH CONFERENCE - An opportunity to reclaim who we are as a people to take a good look at where we've come from, where we are and what the future looks like. An opportunity to have conversations about Kingdom values...An opportunity to receive some practical ideas of growing purposeful Youth ministries.

STORMCo - We hope more people will have a chance to meet Jesus through service projects but also be given the chance to show Jesus in action.

GO INDIA 2011 - Another chance for more young people to have an encounter with Jesus and likewise given the chance to share him in action and character.

It is our prayer this year, that we will go where God is at work. Yes, we have a calendar of events and ministries, but we pray if it's not where God is moving, He will show us, as we don't want to be there without Him!

Our overall umbrella or theme for 2011 is **...now go**. How this will look will be different for each individual.

Our challenge is to **...now go** where Jesus leads us. If this means Him leading us to sit at His feet all year so we can bask in His presence, then let it be. If it means getting out of our comfort zone and serving Him in places we have never dreamed of, then let it be. Either way, we want to answer the challenge **...now go**...for Him.

We are looking forward to ministries that will set Victoria ablaze for Jesus, where our young people are resourced, trained and equipped to lead a life of service and a life of just being! We have started 2011 with such amazing God encounters at Camporee & Summer Camps. The spiritual decisions that have been made by our young people thus far, both in this Conference and Australia wide, have simply humbled us; God is moving in the hearts of our youth.

*2011 is going to be an awesome and exciting year for the young people of this Conference, and VicYouth would love for you to join us! You have read of our passion. I invite you to catch some of it, to share our vision of a community reflecting what heaven will be like to those around us.*

*In your local church, there are men and women, young and not so young, committed to youth ministry.*

*I invite you to ...now go, partner with the Youth Ministry team and serve the youth of your church through prayer and commitment to them, and just look out for where God will show up!*

Pr Moe Ioane Stiles  
Youth Director, Victorian Conference



## GO INDIA 2010

We often hear stories from people coming back from a mission trip saying it did more for them than the people they went to see. Well, this mission trip was no different. We went with the heart and determination to share Jesus in whatever way the Lord led us, only to have Him shown to us! We went to serve, yet we were served! We went to love but we were the ones coming back having been loved! We went to share the gospel but the gospel was shown to us!

The first half of our time was spent in the State of Orissa, where conversion to any religion, and especially Christianity, from Hinduism is illegal. In 2008, there was a mass killing of Christians within this state by extreme Hindus, including a pastor from Brisbane and his sons. We went with this in mind, but also a strong conviction that it was where God wanted us to go. I believe one of the main reasons God opened this door was to show us what it means to serve Him wholeheartedly; what it means to have a heart of a servant! We were lavished with love from the moment we arrived until we left, and this was one of the most humbling experiences any of us had encountered.

Rejoice Orphanage was our home and we ran a kids' program there, as well as workshops, one with teachers' aids and one with volunteer pastors, and health & medical presentations. It was amazing to witness these people's hunger for knowledge and information. There was also opportunity to visit remote villages where wells are their only source of clean water. Digging the wells manually is a ministry opportunity and volunteer pastors do the work while building relationships with the local people and praying God opens up opportunities for them to share the Gospel. These people are so passionate about the Gospel they go all out for Him; we sure saw His hand at work!

The second part of the trip, to Mumbai, was primarily educational, including visits to slums and Leper and AIDS colonies. We were given the opportunity to visit with an agency involved in rescuing girls and boys from slavery and sex trafficking and this was probably the most intense experience of the whole trip; reading about it does not prepare you to see the faces of innocent human beings who have been exploited by these evil acts.

We could have made this international mission trip about physical repairing and building, but the door for that part of ministry hasn't opened for us to engage in, just yet. This trip was about relational building – connecting and networking, not just with a handful of brothers and sisters ministering in intense environments in India, but also with our Saviour. While we came away mentally exhausted from what we saw and experienced, we were rejuvenated and excited to see what else God has in store for us.

Moe Ioane Stiles



## Winter Camp

What is it? Well, apart from the obvious, it is a wonderful opportunity for youth, those who have finished high school and are studying or working professionals to get away from the city, away from the busy week and relax in the company of others. New friendships are always made, as well as re forging ones made at Youth Summer Camp and Big Camp!

Last year we had Mark Baines - a truly thought provoking speaker, who helped us dig a little deeper into what true Christianity and discipleship really is. This year the speaker is yet to be confirmed but we are looking forward to another awesome weekend of fellowship and spiritual growth – as well as an optional day skiing or snowboarding for those interested.

Elisa Fox

VicYouth is looking forward to 'GO INDIA 2011' with excitement. We are heading back to the same places, only this time with a bit more of an idea of the need and ministry areas. God willing, we'll be able to make more of a difference for Him. We pray to go where God's Spirit is moving, and I believe He is on the move in India!

My challenge for our young people in Victoria, is this: If you want to encounter Jesus, you want to encounter us... serve. Come away with us... You will be sure to stumble into Him, I guarantee it! Moe



Juniors - 84 campers.  
46 of them made commitments to God, with 24 asking for baptism and 28 asking for Bible studies or to talk to a pastor

Teens - 97 campers.  
41 young people asked for Bible studies or to talk to a pastor, with 50 committing their lives to God and 17 asking for baptism.

## 'Go Crazy' for Jesus- SUMMER CAMPS 2010

Following Camporee, the VicYouth Team headed to Howqua to meet our campers for Youth Camp, which was the beginning of our three long summer camping ministries. And once again, God showed up!

We were blessed to have Pr. David Riley for our Youth Camp, Daron Pratt for Juniors and the beautiful Miss Alina Coccetti for Teens. The theme for Summer Camps this year was 'Go Crazy' for Jesus. Our speakers challenged the notion of going crazy for Jesus rather than things of this world; in this society this means going against the crowd rather than with... So our young people this summer were confronted with thoughts of what it really means to 'go crazy' for Christ. The rest of the world may say choosing Jesus is crazy! But when you do choose Jesus, amazing things starts to happen... crazy things... crazily amazing things! It's crazy not to choose a life with Jesus!

Because of these challenges, many commitments were made by our Juniors and Teens, who want to go all out crazy for Him (see notes above) as well as by our staff, with at least one member making the decision it was time to step up for Christ and be baptised.

Of course these results (which are not just numbers but young men and women who have stepped out and said "I want in...") do not come in easily; the sweat and tears of those passionate about our young people went into these camps, as they worked to see these precious princesses and princes in the Kingdom. It's exciting to see them going against the current of society by standing up and saying I want to commit my life fully to Jesus and be baptised!

If wading through mud and rain results in this we'll do it all year long! So we're rejoicing and praising God for these decisions.

But the job is not complete; it is essential that we, as a church community, and love these princesses and princes, nurture them in their decisions and continue to pray for them. Nothing excites the enemy more than to distract the young and energetic, so I urge you take up this challenge.

...now go

Teen speaker, Alina



Darren Pratt



David Riley spoke to the youth

## CHOSEN 2010

The Chosen Teen Leadership bi-annual convention is an initiative led by Tony Knight, Australian Union Youth Director, targeting 14-16yr olds from across the country who are already showing leadership potential in their local churches and schools, giving them the opportunity to learn from, and be motivated by some incredibly inspiring, successful men and women of God. In 2010 the second of these Australia wide conventions was held at Port Macquarie during the mid-year school holidays, with speakers including Sharon Witt (author of Teen Talk books), Graeme Fraunfelder and Derek Rippingale.

Cathy and Calvin Rutene attended, as mentors for the young people from Victoria. Here is what they have to say about it.

What an honour and privilege to be 'chosen' to be mentors to eleven awesome teens from Victoria, spending a week with them at the Chosen Teen Leadership convention. We met these young people for the first time at the airport and can remember wondering how they would connect with each other, as they all seemed so different.

It was an exciting and amazing week, watching our group connect and become close like a family, seeing them grow in confidence both spiritually and personally. We shared their hopes and dreams, listened to their heartfelt prayers and found ourselves blessed in such away we will never be the same again.

We can only say that we imagine heaven to be a bit like it was that week, sharing time with such awesome kids who are on fire for God, and with the inspiring team and speakers who

make this a special event.

We cannot thank enough, Tony Knight, Moe Ioane-Stiles and VicYouth and, of course, the parents who entrusted their teens to us, which in turn blessed and enriched our lives beyond measure.

And to 'our' kids, Amy, Chimangu, Rhoda, Amanda, Catriona, Ashley, Matt, Lachlan, Ely, Joel, Matthew - we love you and keep you in our heart and prayers.

Cathy and Calvin Rutene



Picking up on the Union Youth Department's initiative, VicYouth have responded by instigating their own version of Chosen, calling it ~~CHOSEN~~. Victoria is the first conference to do so, and will be holding its second ~~CHOSEN~~ convention later this year.

These programs are making a difference to your young people. They return home on fire, crying 'We are leaders!' as they burst through their front doors, and they are willingly taking up leadership roles, getting involved in their churches in any way they can.



## Matt Dupla



I'm going to be honest, I went to Chosen camp as a shy kid who would keep his thoughts to himself and not really participate in in-depth discussions and whatnot... This may surprise some who know me, but I also went to this camp as someone who, without realising it, hurt people emotionally. Thanks to Chosen, I have learned this was happening and how to be more caring and careful in the way I say things. I also used to swear a lot before and now I don't as much, which is an improvement. Camp has also boosted my confidence in like, voicing my opinions. I am no longer afraid to stand up for what I believe in, such as defending friends, taking shots for them and even defending God's honour and fighting back against the haters (nicely of course!). So yeah, this camp was probably the camp that took me out of my shell and taught me how to be an awesome leader. Before, I could never even imagine myself leading a team or being a group leader. Now, even though I still have a little trouble doing it, I KNOW I CAN be a great leader - I know what I need to do now. So yeah, Chosen has helped me with that. It is also where I grew up, socially speaking. I can now talk to people without being scared of what they think of me. For all this, I thank you, Chosen. It has truly changed my life.

## Amy Pitt



Chosen was one of the most amazing and incredible weeks of my life. From the hilarious daily bonding activities by Graeme Fraunfelder, involving random 'high-fives', hugs and compliments, to the fabulous speakers Sharon Witt, Derek McCutcheon and Derek Rippingale, everyone involved was challenged, inspired and pushed out of their comfort zone. The daily exercise regime of aerobics and boxing for the girls and boot camp, or 'pain time' on the beach for boys was invigorating and a whole lot of fun. It was such a privilege to have met such an incredibly diverse group of youth, alike in our love of God and each other. Thanks for this awesome opportunity!

IntraVic asked people in leadership positions and from around our conference if they could tell about someone who had an impact on their decision to follow Christ...

Here is some of what they said:

The two people who have really impacted my Christian walk in life have been my Nans. Both are the most loving, kind and strongest women I know, and I love them dearly.

Rachel Turner,  
Lilydale Church

Other than my parents, the people who impacted me most were family friends from the small country church where I grew up.

Why? Well, they took time to be interested in my life. Actually, some went out of their way, to show genuine love for me. I knew that they really accepted me, as I was, for who I was.

It was very much an unconditional acceptance and love. Pr Neil Redman

I would not be the man, husband, father, pastor and youth director that I am today if it were not for the influence of several adults during my young adult years. My Godly parents, as well as several close friends, who offered wisdom when I needed it, causing me to rethink my purpose in life.

Terry Johnson  
WA Conference

There was a guy in my church, Harold, who was always telling children's stories. He would get so excited and his eyes would light up... He really bought the Bible to life for me...

I always knew I wanted to tell stories when I grew up.

And later, going to camps and listening to the stories there - These people really impacted me and the direction I took.

Pr Dave Edgren

At 18 years old, new to Australia, and a little lonely, two people, Mr and Mrs Charles Courtney, made a huge difference to my life. They provided a safe environment, helping me learn English and life management skills. But most of all they showed genuine love and care, which I needed so much. They modelled 'Jesus love' in a practical way to me and through that, I joined the church.

Sibilla Johnson

...so what can you do?

## VICTORIAN PATHFINDERS UNDER OATH

Representatives from ten Pathfinder clubs in Victoria were among the 2600 Pathfinders and club leaders at the UNDER OATH Australian Pathfinder Camporee. Held at Toowoomba's showgrounds in Queensland, from January 4 to 9, the camporee opened with a colourful parade in bright sunshine. However two heavy downpours later flooded the site and saw nearly half the campers seeking shelter in the showground pavilions or other off-site Toowoomba locations. But in spite of the set back, the pathfinders endured - and enjoyed - the muddy conditions!

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

The camporee, the nightly dramas and daily activities were built around the story of Josiah—the boy king of Israel who chose to follow God and led his nation to do the same.

"Never before had there been a king like Josiah, who turned to the Lord with all his heart and soul and strength..." 2 Kings 23:25

Pastor Black challenged our Pathfinders to do the same! The UNDER OATH camporee could well be considered one of our Church's largest evangelistic crusades, involving churches from across the nation, as hundreds of young people accepted the challenge...

Under Oath commitment cards were distributed, and the response was incredible. 534 people requested Bible studies and 446 asked for baptism - 38 of whom were from Victoria. 1585 of the young people present on the Sabbath program committed themselves, under oath, to serve their God.

What an awesome result. And what a challenge now, for our churches to follow through on these commitments. Please pray for the pastors, youth workers and others nominated by these young people to study with them, guiding and nurturing them in their decision for Christ...

..UNDER OATH



NUNAWADING, WANTIRNA AND WARBURTON CLUBS WERE THERE...

## THEIR RESILIENCE

From 5:00am Thursday morning until mid afternoon Toowoomba Show Grounds was hit by unceasing torrential rain. The impact on over two and a half thousand people living in tents, with limited clothing and bedding, along with camping style cooking facilities, was devastating. Here is part of what Pr Tony Knight, AUC Youth Director had to say of that day...

"It's Thursday night and exhaustion has hit as we relocated 933 pathfinders into one of our big pavilions here on site. It has taken a full day to get them from their flooded and muddy sub-camps over flooded roads, creeks and causeways to the pavilion and set up a 'refugee' type camp..."

Staff, volunteers and clubs worked together to make the pathfinders as comfortable as possible, and later, Pr Knight also commended the pathfinders themselves, for demonstrating Pathfinder spirit and determination, turning a potential disaster into an experience they will never forget.



## THEIR COMMITMENT

...I sat in the main pavilion and absorbed the atmosphere. Being our club's cook, this was the first evening program I'd attended, and it was an experience that is hard to describe: the lighting, music and drama; the pathfinders, seated in grandstands, or on the ground - after all they had been through, so happy to be there.

Pr Black captivated them, challenging them as King Josiah challenged his subjects, to commit themselves to God, heart, strength and soul. When he called his listeners to come to the front, committing to forsake the 'idols' in their lives, my tired brain wondered how many would do so; it was a huge shed; people spread everywhere - would they really? But he'd hardly finished the call when I was suddenly wide awake! As one, nearly my entire club rose, joining a wave of others surging forward, crowding and merging around Pr Black, filling the centre isle and the space in front of the stage. What a blessing to have been able to witness God's power at work. The devil may have done his best to flood the Pathfinder spirit, but God prevailed, raining down His blessings instead. It truly was an honour to be there.



## THEIR GENEROSITY

The Record reported that before the pathfinders left Toowoomba, nearly \$5000 was donated to ADRA by the campers, to go toward the Queensland flood relief.

After experiencing the minor flooding themselves, these young people wanted to make a contribution, and the money was collected in two offerings, showing significant generosity as the majority were far from home with limited resources and yet to make the journey home.

One pathfinder gave everything that was in his pocket, including money to buy a meal on the flight home. He didn't mind, he said. He would be ok.

This generous spirit of our young people has continued. One club has come up with a fund raising idea of selling t-shirts that say "I survived Toowoomba Camporee", the proceeds going to flood relief, and other clubs have been making plans so they too can make a difference.

## THE VALUE OF PATHFINDERS

The pathfinder movement has value today but, sadly, does not always get the support that it could.

The Victorian Conference recently appointed a new assistant youth leader, Phil Hyland, who has extensive experience and also a rich passion for Pathfinders. In addition to this, our Youth Director, Pr Moe Ioane Stiles, and Ministerial Secretary, Pr Rob Steed, have been working with pastoral groups in Victoria, to establish new Pathfinder clubs and strengthen existing ones.

"I was delighted to see the number of Victorian clubs involved in the AUC camporee," says Victorian Conference President, Pr Wayne Stanley, "and hope to see this movement grow within our Conference. A strong Pathfinder movement can greatly assist the mission of the local church, richly contributing to the lives of our young people."

The ways in which Pathfinders contributes are many and varied. It provides our young people with mentors as well as the opportunity to interact with other children outside their immediate age group. As they grow up through its ranks, these young children in turn become the ones looked up to, with the accompanying responsibilities that go with that. They experience increasing independence in a controlled environment. They develop leadership skills; many returning as junior counsellors after completion of the curriculum. And physically, pathfinders are challenged and experience God's great outdoors in ways that are becoming harder to find in today's IT oriented society.

All of this and more, in a Christian environment where Christian values are modelled and encouraged.





# Calendar 2011 ...now go

## JANUARY

Jan 4-9 - Camporee  
Jan 12-30 - Summer Camps

Summer camp



Camporee



Easter camp



## FEBRUARY

Feb 11-13 - Pathfinder Leadership Training

## MARCH

Mar 13 - The Haps For 18+  
A day for 18+ youth to come together and do something.....FUN!!!

## APRIL

Apr 1-3 - Adventist Singles Camp @ Mildura  
April 21-25 - Easter Camp



## MAY

May 21 - High School Rally Day

## JUNE

June 10-13 - Pathfinder Expedition



Pathfinder Expedition



## SEPT/OCT

Sep 3-5 - Adventist Singles Camp @ Howqua  
Sep 18 - Pathfinder Fair Day  
Sep 25-Oct 9 - StormCo  
Oct 22 - Youth Rally



Fair Day

Teen Rally



## NOV/DEC

Nov 19 - Pathfinder/High School Rally International Mission Trips



## JULY

Jul 3-10 - StormCo  
Jul 11-14 - UPRISING  
Jul 22-24 - Identify Conference



StormCo



Uprising



## AUGUST

Aug 12-16 - Move with the Power - leadership training, covering discipleship, outreach, StormCo and tertiary leadership  
Aug 19-21 - Winter Retreat 18+



Winter Camp



Go India



More information about these events will be made available as the dates approach, on the Conference website [vic.adventist.org.au](http://vic.adventist.org.au) and follow the VicYouth link, or on VicYouth Facebook. Or you can contact the Youth Department on 03 9264 7777

# National Disasters - Where do we Stand?

The Victorian and Australian Union Conferences received calls following the recent national disasters, asking what we as a church were doing by way of helping.

Accordingly, an offering was appointed, called the "Australian Emergency Support Fund", to be used to fund the needs that have stemmed from immediate crises, but also to be used to "seed" funds for future emergencies, as and when they may occur. This offering will not become a regular offering on the church calendar, however will be activated as disasters occur from time to time where Seventh-day Adventist members are affected.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia does a great job in supporting the community in general, and we can be proud of their work, but taking the Scriptural injunction that "we should do good to everyone - especially to the family of believers"(Gal 6:10), we would like to give the opportunity for our Australian church members to do just that - support our church family in times of such need.

Conference Administration.

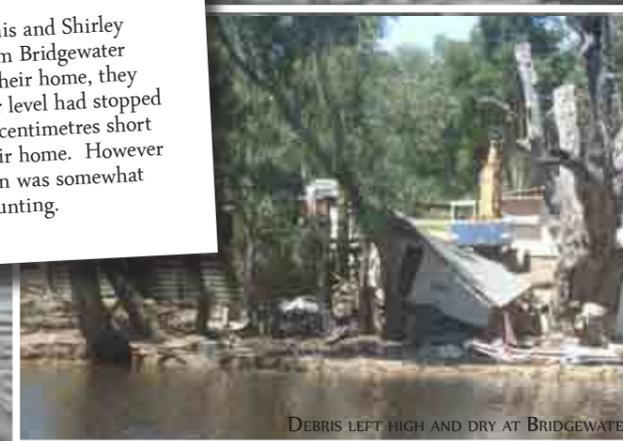


Christine and Charles Petersen, from Serpentine, did not receive much warning before being evacuated. Fortunately, although the surrounding area was flooded, their house wasn't and they were able to return after four nights at the evacuation centre.

A number of our church members have been affected by the floods in the Horsham region and also in the more recent heavy downpours Melbourne experienced in the tail of Yasi. Here are some of the stories coming through as conference personnel made contact.



When Dennis and Shirley Faithful from Bridgewater returned to their home, they found the water level had stopped rising several centimetres short of flooding their home. However their isolation was somewhat daunting.



DEBRIS LEFT HIGH AND DRY AT BRIDGEWATER

ADRA Australia has responded in a number of ways, to the natural disasters that have been hitting Australia this summer.

Following the recent floods in Horsham, ADRA volunteers distributed food and clothing vouchers, working alongside the Salvation Army, Department of Housing, Uniting Care and Centrelink in the Horsham Performing Arts Centre. To date, ADRA Australia has committed \$20,000 to the distribution of these vouchers in Victoria. This comes in addition to the \$100,000 committed to ADRA's ongoing recovery efforts in the worst hit areas of Queensland. ADRA also worked on the ground in Toowoomba and Gatton, distributing aid through the ADRA Op Shops in the area and providing free electrical testing and tagging services in Gatton, to ensure the safety of goods that may have either been inundated or donated. Further, ADRA deployed a full time coordinator to work with local councils, communities and church groups to design and implement recovery projects that will change lives in the months to come.

Then, as Cyclone Yasi left its trail of destruction, ADRA committed a further \$50,000 as an initial response to the disaster, helping people in the affected areas gain immediate access to necessary supplies, while staff on the ground worked to formulate a detailed recovery plan to bolster the relief and recovery effort. ADRA has also deployed generators, chain saws, helmets, safety equipment, mattresses and linen to be used in the relief and recovery efforts, helping ensure families who have lost everything can begin getting back on their feet.

In Western Australia, ADRA has been on the ground, providing emergency accommodation for Perth Hills residents forced to flee their homes amid the state's raging fires.

To find out more about ADRA's response, or to donate go to [www.adra.org.au](http://www.adra.org.au) or call 1800 242 372.



John Ladlow returned from the flood effected Camporee at Toowoomba, to discover his home was in the pathway of the Victorian floods. He and his wife Alice were able to raise their furniture out of harms way, but their floor coverings were destroyed.



When disaster hits, it is crucial that we, as Seventh-day Adventists and ultimately as Christians, are linked in with our local communities to show compassion and be part of their Emergency Relief (ER) Plans if required.

ADRA Australia currently holds formal agreements to provide emergency accommodation during times of disaster in some states but in Victoria, we are unable to have a formal agreement with the State government as the ER is managed by local councils. If your church would like to know more about how to become involved with its local council and ER, please contact me on 0411 865 790 or 03 9264 7720.

As a result of having an established ADRA Project working in the community, we were recently able to respond in flood affected Horsham. The Horsham Rural Council invited ADRA to assist by providing food and clothing vouchers at the local evacuation centre. These allowed those who have lost their possessions to purchase new items from local businesses.

I would like to thank the members of Horsham Adventist Church for their support with this work.

Rebecca Auriant, Director of ADRA Services, Victoria



ADRA REPRESENTATIVES WITH SALVATION ARMY STAFF



PR GRAHAM SUTHERLAND SHOWING THE PEAK OF THE CAMPASPE RIVER

## All right God, You got me!

### THE OASIS

Ashley Samarasinghe was baptised late last year. As he gave his testimony, he told of how God had left him little choice!

I was almost forced to make this decision to be baptised. It all began at the start of this year when I attended the AYC'10 youth conference. One morning the presenter I was listening to preached a sermon I found to be very powerful. As he concluded he gave a 'routine' altar call, but it was anything but routine for me. I felt a phenomenal force within, tugging at my heart telling me to go to the

front. I was so close to standing yet, for some reason, resisted. That night the same thing happened again. The preacher presented an awesome sermon, the altar call came, I again found myself fighting whatever it was that was trying to get me up. And then... "I know there's one young boy out there who has a sincere heart," said the speaker. "I'm not leaving till he gets up here!" I wriggled my way out of this, telling myself he could be talking about anyone. "I know you were on the verge of standing this morning but didn't," continued the man. At this point, pretty sure he was talking to me, I was struck by another idea ... I could just wait until I got home and tell my pastor I want to get baptised at church. But then, a split second later... "Do not put this decision off!" demanded the speaker. "Satan is a powerful force and he will attack you till you don't want to make this decision anymore... now come." So I said, "All right God! You got me", and that's how I made my decision.



## Preparing the Heart

### GATEWAY

God prepares the heart to receive His word, as Sarah Ind's story illustrates.

Although growing up in a home where her mother prayed, Sarah chose to have nothing to do with God or with organised religion. She moved from country Victoria to Melbourne to study and continued on a path which lead her further and further away from God. During a time of complete despair, she moved back to the family home in country Victoria.

Praise God for a praying family! It took time, but eventually Sarah was able to hear God speaking to her heart. He spoke through His Word and through nature and Sarah came to know God as a very real God who was giving her the peace that she had always desired. Various trips to Melbourne and Sydney introduced Sarah to the importance of church community. During a six week house-sitting stint, she was able to attend the iDiscover lecture series held at Melbourne University. The



SARAH IS SECOND FROM THE LEFT, WITH A GROUP OF HER FRIENDS

lectures reaffirmed her faith in God - especially the lecture on Baptism which made her realise that this was the next step in her spiritual journey. It was with delight that she joined a care group and spent time studying the Bible with two of the young professionals at church. Praise God Sarah was baptised in December 2010 and was able to testify in front of her family and friends that God has undertaken a powerful work in her life. *Shendon Ewans*

## A good finish to the year

### NUNAWADING CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Ellen Antolos' face reflected the same joy as that seen on the faces of her family and friends as she was baptised on Friday night, November 19. Following studies with Crystal Taylor, Ellen was baptised by Pr Anderson on the campus of Nunawading Christian College where she had just completed Year 12. Her decision to publicly acknowledge the importance of Jesus in her life was shared with her close friend Katelyn Reed, who was also baptised that evening. Katelyn made the decision to be baptised a year earlier. She studied the Bible over two years, with a group of close friends at the college, led by school chaplain, Jody Eddy (Donovan), who continued to visit the girls at the college after chaplaincy was handed over to Justin Bone. Nunawading Christian College had played such a big part in Katelyn's spiritual journey, holding the baptism on school grounds was a fitting way to end their time there. It was also a wonderful way for these girls to



share their decision with their school friends, witnessing to their commit to God.

Both girls shared their personal testimonies, with Katelyn saying how she felt blessed to have always known God and to have felt his presence throughout her life. Ministers and elders from Nunawading and Burwood Churches gathered around the girls after the baptism and surrounded them with prayer.



## Home Church Continues to Grow

### NEW LIFE MORNINGTON

New Life Christian Community House Church witnessed its seventh baptism when Pr Errol de Silva baptised 19-year-old Courtney Montesalvo in December last year, at Frankston Adventist Church. Her baptism, along with six other young people from Frankston church, was followed by a celebratory luncheon.

When asked what special song she wanted for her baptism, Courtney chose "Light of the World" and asked if she could sing it solo. Not having sung in public before, she worshipped her Lord with all her heart and with a previously unknown and angelic voice.

The Mornington House Church began in 2006 with a Prophecy seminar attended by contacts from the Search videos. During the past five years, members have continued to deliver these videos to the Mornington Peninsular community and have held four Prophecy seminars resulting



in seven baptisms and two professions of faith. The group has grown from two into a vibrant house church that on occasion has as many as eighteen attending and enjoying fellowship, singing, prayer, discipleship training and Bible study, followed by lunch together where the fellowship can continue late into the afternoon. *Ken Raymond*

### A Sunset Baptism NORTHPOINT CHURCH

On a windy and quite chilly Saturday evening back in October last year, members of Northpoint Church, along with teachers and students from the Australian Union Conference lay-training school, ventured out to Williamstown Beach to witness the baptism of Simon and Elisa Watson and Shalin Guy.

With a time of sharing in the Botanical Gardens, including testimonies, songs and words from their family, friends and those special to them, the group headed over to the beach and witnessed God clear away the clouds and create one of the most amazing sunsets seen, right on time for the baptism. As the four walked back to the beach to the sound of Amazing Grace, all those present knew Heaven was celebrating along with them after what they had just witnessed.

Together they praised and thanked God, a fitting conclusion to the events that had just occurred. Simon, Elisa and Shalin are all witnesses to God's amazing leading in their lives and they are passionate about sharing His truth to the people around them. *Pr Greg Pratt*



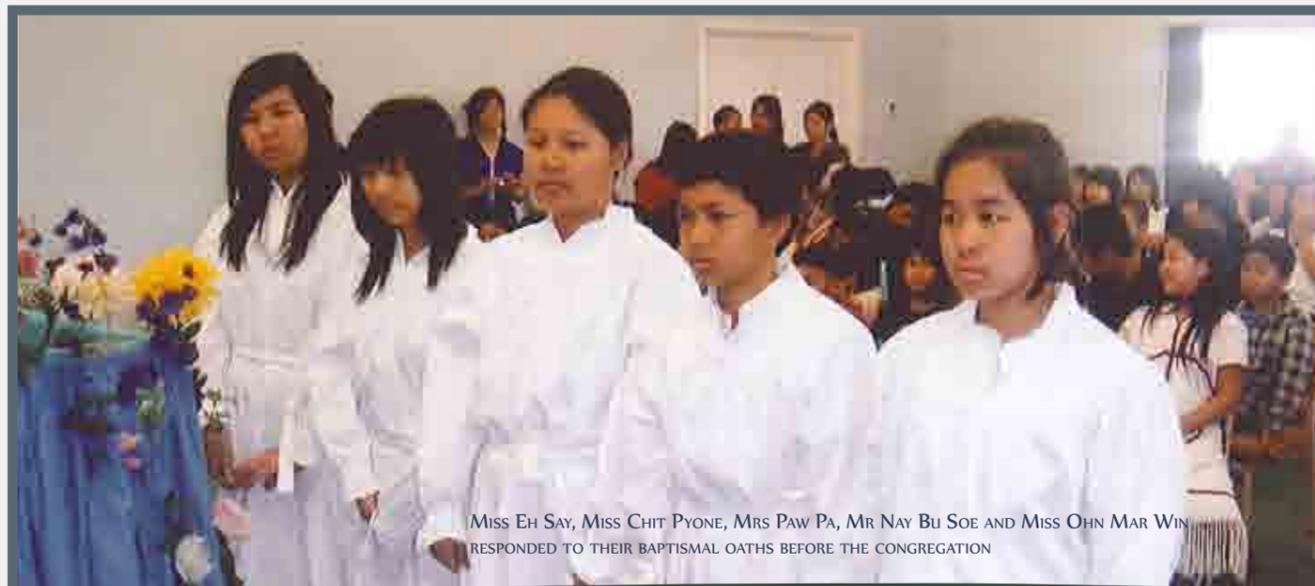
### The Heavens Rejoiced WERRIBEE KAREN ADVENTIST CHURCH

October last year saw the angels in heaven with even more reason to rejoice, as five young people declared their decision to follow their Lord's example in baptism, at the Karen church in Werribee.

Three of these wonderful young people, Paw Pa, Eh Say and Ohn Mar Win, came from Buddhist families. Sadly, their parents and relatives are against their new found faith, although Paw Pa and Eh Say do have some Christian

relatives. Nan Myat Kaw, who pastors the church, worked with the young people, gently bringing them into the love of Christ. Satan tried, and in several cases succeeded, to discourage them, however God prevailed and against tough odds, five accepted Him as their personal Saviour, demonstrating this through their baptism.

We ask that you remember these brave and committed young people in your prayers. *Mervin Myat Kyaw*



MISS EH SAY, MISS CHIT PYONE, MRS PAW PA, MR NAY BU SOE AND MISS OHN MAR WIN RESPONDED TO THEIR BAPTISMAL OATHS BEFORE THE CONGREGATION

### The Peace that Passes Understanding GATEWAY

Rachel was born into a family with strong Buddhism background. "Although my life had been quite smooth with little suffering," Rachel said. "The uncertain future troubled me. I was sure things would go wrong sooner or later, it was unavoidable."

Believing that well designed plans could eliminate the suffering of destiny, desperate to find peace and freedom, she tried various practices and for many years fooled herself and others into believing she was at peace. "My good plan was working – I didn't need God or anyone else to help or save me."

But Rachel's closest friends knew better. "They called me dead from inside. I had been avoiding my feelings for so long I didn't even know myself anymore; what I loved or what I hated. I didn't know what purpose my life had either, other than avoiding troubles and sufferings. I could already foresee the end of my life."

During the Royal Melbourne Show last year, someone gave Rachel a free Bible. While it did not appeal to her and nor did hearing people's amazing stories about God inspire belief, their stories of the peace in their heart did trigger curiosity.

"I wanted to know how Christians understood peace so I tried reading the Bible, but it just didn't make sense to me and I fell asleep every time!" Rachel talked to her house mate about how to read it; they thought perhaps she could skip the boring bits and move on to the useful parts - but how do you determine what is useful and what isn't? Finding it all too hard, Rachel just put it away.

A few months later, the house mate came across the Bible School table just outside the library at Melbourne



University, manned by students from the Adventist Student On Campus' (ASOC) association. A note saying 'Bible Study' caught her attention, thinking it might interest Rachel. The house mate was invited to go to an ASOC care group and Rachel went with her. "Even though I gave up on God, He never gave up calling to me," Rachel shared. "It was complex, and took a long time, but He finally managed to bring me to Him."

After becoming involved with the care group, Rachel attended the Chinese evangelistic program – Reason for our Faith - by Gateway Adventist training centre.

"It was the first time I really knew the word of this Book could be so powerful". She commenced Bible studies in January 2010 where many of her questions were answered.

"I learned to understand the Bible and read it without falling asleep! I found I did not evolve from monkeys and nor was I born to suffer, learn how to avoid the suffering and plan the end of my life according to my understanding. My life was given me by God, He has a plan for me.

"People asked me what made me believe in God - did any miracles happened? But miracles do not produce faith, it comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ according to Romans 10:17.

"The message from God woke me up from death and changed my direction in life; I think that is the biggest miracle for me. "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Rachel made her decision to be baptised and received the peace and delight of trusting in God and submitting all her troubles into His hands.

"I hope this story also speaks to your heart. When you feel you are away from God, please remember our God is at the door and waiting to enter our life and be with us."

*Shendon Ewans*



## A New Look

### LEONGATHA CHURCH

This country church has undergone a face lift in recent times. Beginning a few years ago with a new roof, the latest change has been removing the pews and using chairs.

In spite of the initial uncertainty among some of the members, there were only positive feelings once they started using the new chairs. And this is just one of a number of initiatives this church is planning for the future.



## Final Wish Granted

### MELBOURNE ADVENTIST BUSH WALKING ASSOCIATION

In December 2010, twelve associates of MABWA led by Bert Gibbs, climbed Victoria's highest mountain, Mount Bogong, to fulfil the final wishes of a dear colleague who had passed away in August of that year.

William (Bill) G Stocker, former member and President of the Club, wished to have his ashes scattered on the summit of his favourite mountain. His family and friends were able to accomplish this memorable task and thus experience a sense of closure to the life of this highly respected man.

Bill was a member of MABWA for 40 years and played a leading role in the Club for many of those years. He considered his MABWA friends as his 'family.'

The summit of this mountain will come alive in the



RUSSELL ALSOP, PETER CARVER, BERT GIBBS, DALE SCHRADER

resurrection and in Bill's own words "he will be one of the first to greet Jesus as the mountain will be nearer to his Saviour." Such was the humour of our esteemed friend.

*Bert Gibbs*

For information re MABWA <bert\_joan@sctelco.net.au>

## Creation Celebration

### NORTH FITZROY CHURCH

On Saturday October 23, 2010, members of North Fitzroy Church joined with Adventist churches worldwide, recognizing God's power as Creator. Members met together at North Fitzroy to celebrate the wonder and blessing of God's creation.

The service was conducted by Herb Kersten and was the culmination of a three part mini evangelistic series. His message 'Credentials of a Saviour' outlined six parallels between Calvary and Creation, including the Seventh-day Sabbath Memorial, linking Eden's creation and Calvary's re-creation. (A copy of this sermon can be obtained from [www.hkea.org.au](http://www.hkea.org.au))

A quilt, made by Lee White and inspired by the spectacular Ormiston George in the Northern Territory, was kindly on loan for the occasion. This quilt has received numerous awards including the award for Best Overall Quilt at a National Quilting Competition, and this was the first time it has been displayed outside the quilting arena, where it



beautifully framed the historic North Fitzroy rostrum.

The church was also filled with a stunning array of native flowers including red and white waratahs.

It was a privilege to have been able to praise and worship our Maker and acknowledge his redeeming power, which will see us celebrating Sabbaths with Him in the New Earth.

*Phyona McMahon*

## Finally Moving In

### NORTHPOINT CHURCH

Members have finally moved into their new facilities at 3 Trade Park Drive Tullamarine. While they are still working on the renovations inside the building, they have managed to find some space for their Saturday morning worship service and children's activities as well as space for their library, bookshop and offices.

This large facility is being well utilised. The Tullamarine Men's Shed is using some of the warehouse area for their community initiatives and they, along with the council and Northpoint Church, are working through some exciting possibilities to impact the local community in the future. The upstairs area is being rented by an aviation security company, while a suitable tenant is still being sort to occupy the warehouse area.

The church community know their church is far more than just the facility, but they are excited to finally have



a permanent base from which to launch their service and evangelistic ministries as well as provide seminars and other services to the local community. God has amazing plans for Northpoint Church and this facility is just the beginning!

*Pr Greg Pratt*

## Plenty Blessings!

### PLENTY VALLEY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Operational since May last year, members of Plenty Valley Adventist Church (formerly Greensborough Church) held an Opening Service on December 11, after extensive renovation and refurbishment.

It was a bold move to relocate closer to the Northern growth corridor and members used this celebration as an opportunity to invite local community leaders and increase their awareness of the church's Mission and ministries. The Mayor of Whittlesea was unable to attend due to illness, but other significant leaders were present. Pastor John Matthews from the Christian Outreach Centre was welcomed, along with the Reverend Glynis Dickins from Plenty Valley Baptist Church, Ms Nurcihan Ozturk who is President of the Turkish Women's Recreational Group and members of the City of Whittlesea Interfaith Group. The Victorian Conference was represented by our President, Pastor Wayne Stanley, and Youth Director, Moe Ioane Stiles.

Sheri Gray presented an overview of Adventist activities in Australia and overseas and Pastor Anthony MacPherson delivered a thought-provoking exposition on the Sermon on the Mount. Musicians and singers impressed the invited



REV. DICKINS & MS OZTURK WITH PR. STANLEY

guests with their dynamic delivery of contemporary and classic Gospel songs.

A light lunch followed the service, and conversations flowed until about 3pm. Valuable networking opportunities arose and members are excited about making an impact in their new community.

The relocation process itself has been miraculous in terms of finding our location and with the finances, and there is an influx of visitors - further evidence of God's leading.

"He has blessed us so much - we are already making plans to establish another congregation further to the north. God is awesome!"

*Allan Gray*

## Things are Happening

### ST ALBANS CROATIAN CHURCH

The St Albans Croatian church held a Christmas concert which attracted many visitors from the local community. Marko Levatic conducted the choir and there were a number of special solo performances.

Church members also celebrated the first day of the New Year with the baptism of two young people, Phillip & Seneca.

We congratulate them on their decision and praise God for the youth in our churches.

*Tina Posovac*

## Tall Timbers at Work for the Creator

For a number of years now, Manfred and Olwyn Scharley have opened up their award winning garden for viewing, with proceeds going toward a worthy cause. This year, as part of the Australian Open Garden Scheme, Tall Timbers will be open to visitors on Sunday, May 1 and Monday, May 2, between the hours of 10am and 4pm. Morning and afternoon teas and coffees will be available, and on Sunday, light lunches will also be served. Entry will be by \$6.00 donation and all proceeds go toward a Maranatha One Day Church and if possible, a One Day School as well.

The One-Day Church initiative is a response by Maranatha, to the urgent need of existing Seventh-day Adventist congregations with no building to meet in. Thousands of congregations around the globe meet in a house or under a tree every week. The One-Day Church strives to meet

## 'Submerge' – it's time to go deeper

Back in 2009, a group of 25-40 people found they had a desire to minister to their peers, helping them connect with God and go deeper in faith. Their desire culminated in 'Submerge: Intro', which saw 70 young people gather in Sydney's CBD, many of whom were disconnected from church or had seen their friends leave, and wondered if church would ever be a relevant spiritual home again. November last year over 60 young people from Perth, Brisbane and Sydney gathered for 'Submerge: Melbourne'. The day featured a range of testimonies, promotion of service opportunities, worship and workshops. Testimonies came from a range of people with varying life experiences and degrees of connection with church, and were marked by a moving honesty. Workshops looked at developing a Christlike but rigorous response to the new atheism, understanding salvation (Grenville Kent), fuelling up through Bible study and exploring a personal identity in Christ (Mark

## Retiring...

Having completed 40 years of ministry, Pastor Peter Roennfeldt and his wife Judy have begun their retirement. During his very full ministry they have lived and worked in Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea and England, where Peter served in such varied roles as pastor, evangelist, missionary, college teacher, ministerial secretary; coordinator of several specialised programs for the Unchurched, Global Mission and Church Planting. He and Judy have planted Adventist churches, and equipped teams to plant Adventist churches in about 50 different countries. His most recent appointment has been in the Victorian Conference, at Living Waters. We want to thank Peter and his wife, Judy, for their work and dedication, and wish them both all the best in this new stage in their lives.



these needs with a high-quality, low-cost building, erected in one day with materials sent in a container from America. One-Day schools are now being built in several countries as well. ([www.maranatha.org](http://www.maranatha.org)).

Baines), living for God in the workplace (Jody Donovan Eddy), an engaging, non-trivial and attractive Adventist identity (Anthony MacPherson), spiritual endurance which lasts a life time and new forms of church that emerge from a new life from God (Peter Roennfeldt).

Attendees appreciated "the relevant approach to a deeper spirituality and the opportunity to meet and catch up with people my age" and "people sharing their life experience, their service stories and opportunities, with great openness and authenticity". Others affirmed "the way the speakers were willing to ask hard questions and discuss them" and their appreciation for "the feeling of support – that other people were going through what I am." Do you want to go deeper? Be on the lookout for Submerge gatherings like this in Melbourne and the rest of Australia. For more information, visit [Submerge.net.au](http://Submerge.net.au).



Twenty Eight Stories

With  
Pastor Dave

## THE LAW FINDS A KING



The pillar stood, as it had for more than 300 years, supporting the marbled splendour of Solomon's Temple. The people, from the least to the greatest, crowded as close as they could. They leaned in to hear the words that would be spoken by the regal man standing next to the pillar—their King. Only the most serious proclamations included both an open invitation to the Temple and a public declaration of the King. Josiah, King of God's people for the past 18 years, reverently unrolled the scroll which had radically changed his heart in the last few days—the scroll that would provide the defining direction of his reign as

God's King. Considering his words carefully, he peered over the top of the parchment and spoke to his gathered subjects: "Today I bring to you, in this ancient and holy place, ancient and holy words; words found in this very temple just days ago, words lost in this temple many ages ago; words, we as a people, have failed to heed for generation upon generation. I hold in my hands, the Book of the Law."



A collective gasp was followed by murmuring from person to person as the identity of the scroll was made clear. Josiah's steady voice regained control of the pillared colonnade, "Our High Priest Hilkiah, while cleaning out the Temple of God, found this Word of the Lord, and thus has provided to us an ancient transcript of God's Character. It is a most precious, most beautiful and most challenging Word. I have torn my robes. I have wept long and hard over this scroll. I have consulted Huldah, God's Prophetess. I have been convicted by her words: this scroll must be heeded. God's Word must be obeyed. It is now my intention to read it—every word of it—to you, so that you too might be challenged as I have been challenged."

The king's eyes, weary from much weeping, lowered to the top of the unfurled scroll. The courtyard of Solomon's Temple was quieter than seemed possible for the number of people filling its bounds. Each man, woman and child leaned forward to hear the Book of the Law as spoken by their king. An hour later the pinnacle of silent anticipation had tumbled chaotically into cries of sorrow and repentance. The eyes of Israel now mirrored

those of their King. The Book of the Law had provided for God's people a clear statement of who God wished for them to be. A picture had been painted of the people to whom God promised to fully reveal Himself and with whom He promised to make His eternal dwelling. And the picture was drastically different from who they were when they looked around themselves and within themselves. They were not God's people. And yet they were. And how deeply they wished to be.

The ripples created when the Book of the Law first reached the eyes and ears of King Josiah now became a wave of action and reaction that took the cleaning of the Temple to the very borders of Israel. Idols were destroyed. False worship was eradicated. The Temple of the Lord was purified of anything relating to pagan deities. Priests of Pagan gods were put to death. Every high and holy place used in false worship was desecrated with human bones. Then, only when the land was free of all impurity of false worship, King Josiah ordered, "Celebrate the Passover to the Lord your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant." And they did.

Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did—with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses. 2 Kings 23:25

Written by David Edgren - Pastor, Author and Director of Sabbath Schools and Children's Ministries, 28 Stories is designed to strengthen Adventist faith as they explore the 28 Fundamentals of our beliefs.

For a study guide for all ages, taking you deeper, visit [vic.adventist.org.au](http://vic.adventist.org.au) and click on the 28 Stories tab.



## Accreditation Success

### ADVENTCARE YARRA VALLEY

At the beginning of February this year, AdventCare Yarra Valley underwent its fourth accreditation since AdventCare took over the site in July 2009. Under its previous owner, the facility was unable to meet all the required outcomes, and consequently sanctions had been implemented by the Commonwealth Government. With community and government departmental encouragement, AdventCare purchased the site, but have been subject to close and frequent monitoring.

In September 2009, 2 months after AdventCare took over the facility, a mandatory accreditation (because of the change of ownership) was conducted by the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency. AdventCare was found to have successfully and within a short period of time brought the facility back to all the required outcomes. Three months later another visit was conducted; the assessors found that compliance continued to be maintained at the facility. In February 2010, a third visit took place; AdventCare Yarra Valley's record of continued compliance with all outcomes.

The most recent audit was conducted by assessors from

the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency and again, AdventCare was victorious in demonstrating full compliance with the provision of quality care and services to each individual resident. The assessors have recommended three years full accreditation.

This means they are now assured the systems implemented by AdventCare are sustainable and will continue to meet with full compliance at all times. During the two day audit, the assessors received positive feedback from staff and residents. They indicated that while many changes took place at the facility over the past 18 months, staff felt supported and the residents and their families were kept informed.

Ruth Welling, AdventCare Executive Director said "We have the care and concern of each resident in our hearts, so anyone can come in to assess us; they will find nothing except a group of dedicated people, doing the right things by our residents". In addition, she congratulates staff at all four AdventCare sites for consistently maintaining all accreditation outcomes.



Brown who referred teachers back to the 'Greatest Teacher'. Teachers also gave generously to the "Deal Thy Bread" orphanage on the outskirts of Nakuru, donating a total of \$8,800 to the building of an undercover eating area for the 125 children in its care (a third of whom are disabled).

Fiona Thomas



MEGGAN JAMES FROM NCC SECONDARY WAS AWARDED TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2010



SARAH MARDLE OF GILSON COLLEGE (L) AND BRITTANY ROBINSON OF HENDERSON COLLEGE WERE AWARDED GRADUATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2010

## ASVAC 2011

### EDUCATION

The new Gilson College gymnasium was the venue for this year's Adventist Schools Victoria Annual Conference. 170 teachers from seven schools came together for their annual Professional Development conference on 27 and 28 January.

The challenge issued to teachers was to continue to be "Leading Learners". With rapid technological and social changes within our community, teaching is becoming more complex with teachers constantly having to learn new methods of teaching practice and apply it to a diverse population of inquiring minds. During Friday's session entitled "Professional Conversations", Brian Mercer (Director of Education) encouraged teachers to develop networks called "Professional Learning Communities" where they can work together to share knowledge and teaching practice that will improve and enhance student learning. This idea was further expanded by Raelene Delvin (HOP Gilson College) who engaged teachers in the practical application and methods of professional conversations.

Other speakers included; Jan Sherry who was instrumental in developing the VIT Code of Conduct, Julie Symons who spoke on the positives of appraisal, Daryl Murdoch who shared the ASA's vision statement, and Sandra England who gave insights into the new Australian Curriculum.

As is tradition, the Conference began and ended each day with worship. This year's guest speaker was Nathan

## General Secretary's Report

### PR DARREN CROFT

The New Year sees us welcome some new members and their families to our conference staff, and farewell others. Boriss Soldat comes to us from Avondale where he has just completed his MA. He will commence his ministry as an intern at Seddon Church. Mike Collum returns to Victoria from the South Queensland Conference and will take up his responsibilities at Ballarat. Mau Tuaoi will be the new pastor at Living Waters and Chaplain at Gilson College and comes to us from New Zealand. And Hayden Peterson joins the ministerial team as the chaplain at Lilydale Adventist Academy and Edinburgh Adventist Primary School, along with a part time role at Lilydale Church. Hayden comes from a background of teaching and youth work. Karin Wiczorek came to Australia with her husband, Pr Mariusz Wiczorek, and has a ministerial background. She will be taking up a part time ministry role at Dandenong Polish Church.

Kojo Akomeah has been teaching Chemistry at Heritage College, as well as pastoring at Noble Park. He will be

picking up a greater load in ministry throughout 2011. Previously Malcolm Reid cared for Wangaratta on a part time basis. This year sees him continuing his role in a full time capacity, adding Benalla Church to his responsibilities. Dr Denis Hankinson is also returning to work in Victoria after a year of leave and we welcome Denis and Bev back.

Pr Greg Pratt, who has been assistant pastor at Northpoint, has accepted a call to the South Queensland Conference, where he and his family will be closer to his wife, Chantelle's family and we wish them all the best in their relocation. Pr Peter Roennfeldt has officially retired, after over 40 years of service, and we wish Peter and Judy well. On a different note, preparations for Big Camp 2011 are continuing, although they too, have been affected by the heavy rains. Our hope of using a new large shed for the Meridian venue is no longer possible as construction has been delayed.

## A Fresh Look at Revelation

On Tuesday February 1, Dr Jon Paulien was in Melbourne, sharing his knowledge of the Book of Revelation.

"He is one of the leading scholars of Revelation of our time," says Pr Darren Croft, General Secretary. "In addition he is a talented and engaging presenter, which helps bring Revelation to life for his listeners."

During the day, ministers from around Victoria gathered for a day of professional development and in the evening the program was opened up to church members.

Tina Gilchrist attended and has this to say: "It was a pleasure and privilege to spend time at the Wantirna Polish Church to hear Dr Paulien's presentation. The church was full to capacity with extra chairs being bought in, even though it was a hot evening."

"He spoke on the meaning and role of the remnant, on Muslims, Jews and end time events," she continues. "I would have to say that he looks at Revelation a bit differently to what I have been used to and it is a refreshing approach."

Tina and Joe, from the Adventist Book Centre were in attendance with a book display, featuring many of Dr Paulien's books. If you were unable to attend the seminar, call into the ABC to see what he has to offer.



## Introducing...

My name is Boriss Soldat and I'm the new intern at Seddon. I share my life and ministry with my lovely wife Heidi. As preacher and teacher, we complement each other in many ways. We both love the great outdoors and enjoy exploring God's masterpiece: Planet Earth.

It is my deepest desire to see the church unite, young and old, black and white, rich and poor; in preparing the way for our returning Saviour! To Him be all glory and power!

Hayden Petersen comes to us from Mildura with his wife Melissa and their three children, where he was a teacher at Henderson College. They are excited about the adventure ahead that God has planned for their family, as Hayden takes up his new role as chaplain at our Lilydale school campuses.





Monday - Thursday 9-5 and Friday 9-12:30  
 Located at the Conference Office, Central Rd  
 Nunawading



For almost 2,000 years, John the Revelator's words have intrigued and confounded readers.

What is the meaning behind the inexplicable beasts, esoteric symbols, and complex symbols? In *Revelation*, an ancient message to readers in the distant past, often it provides a window through which we can catch a glimpse of our future? If you think the book of Revelation is primarily about politics, battles, and wars, you're not reading it correctly. In the end, it's the revelation of Jesus Christ. It's about the slain Lamb: The One who shed His blood so we can live in the best of all worlds.

Jon Paulien has identified the seven keys to unlocking Revelation's mystery and majesty. Join him as he explores in simple terms the significances of the Revelator's use of symbols; the Old Testament connection; the impact of the ancient apocalyptic literary style; and the relevance of the eschatological structure.

## Fundraising African Dinner for Mission In Action



SUNDAY, 27TH MARCH, 6PM – 9.30PM AT WANTIRNA SDA CHURCH HALL, 119 MOUNTAIN HWY WANTIRNA

All are invited for a fun night of amazing food, entertainment featuring Yola Mielczarek and Helena Ring as well as an auction of delicious cakes and hampers etc, raising funds to help support the Nakuru Baby Orphanage and to provide food, bedding, water tanks and other necessities needed for the people in the surrounding village in Kenya. All of the profits we raise will go directly to the mission!

COST: \$30 per person and babysitting \$5 per child, including dinner and activities

RSVP: 20th March, we have limited seating so be quick!

DRESS: We are making this African/Tribal themed, however we would like you to come feeling comfortable so 'no pressure'!

For more information about the evening, or to make donations/offer contributions for auction, contact Karina Dobra on 0431 966 802 or 03-9763 0627 or Rachele Delac on 0421 885 856.



### BIBLE LANDS TOUR SEPTEMBER 2011

Would you be interested in flying overseas on an unforgettable spiritual journey taking you through Europe, Turkey and the Middle East, for four weeks in September 2011? Payment can be made in three installments beginning March 25, with an initial deposit of \$500 (non-refundable). The estimated price for the trip is \$8700 which includes airfares, hotels, breakfasts and dinners, entry fees, coaches and guides. More details are available on [www.simplesite.com/TheBibleTour2011](http://www.simplesite.com/TheBibleTour2011) or by contacting Damir Posavac (0432 593 299, 03 90771794 or [damir.posavac@optusnet.com.au](mailto:damir.posavac@optusnet.com.au)) who has lead similar tours in the past. Pr David Currie will also be accompanying part of the tour, as will archaeologist, Professor Drago Obradovic. So consider joining the tour, and see the Bible come alive in a new way.

### POSITIONS VACANT

**Get paid while you study aged care**  
 AdventCare Whitehorse Nursing Home and Hostel has traineeships vacancies.  
 Classes are commencing soon for Cert IV in aged care traineeships. You will be guaranteed 12 months paid work whilst supported with studying and at the end of the 12 months, you will receive a nationally recognised Cert IV in Aged Care. In the past 5 years we have provided over 100 traineeships places. We welcome any interested applicant to contact Helen Psomiadis 9259 2103 for further details.  
 Closing date: 25th March 2011.

**Personal Assistant to our Youth Ministries/ Sabbath School Directors.**  
 It is a full time position, and we are looking for a motivated and energetic person who has a passion of Youth Ministry, and of course for Personal Ministries and Sabbath School. The role requires good organisational skills, familiarity with Word and Excel, and ideally, with Desktop Publishing products. A desirable quality would be experience in web design and/or content delivery. Needs to be a team player and get on well with people. They can send CV/Resume to [kingsleywood@adventist.org.au](mailto:kingsleywood@adventist.org.au) or phone for further information on 9871 7555  
 Applications close Monday Feb 28 so hurry!

**Pastoral Worker Needed**  
 The Mont Albert church is seeking a bi-lingual pastoral worker to assist the evangelistic work of the pastoral team to the local community. This position includes working for 10 hours per week and being involved in:  
 friendship evangelism, Chinese group Bible studies; supporting small group ministry; and some translation from English to Mandarin.  
 To find out more about this opportunity contact church pastor, Jody Eddy on 0412 381 515 or [jodyeddy@adventist.org.au](mailto:jodyeddy@adventist.org.au)

### AUTHORS SPEAK AT LILYDALE SDA CHURCH

Come and hear popular Adventist authors, Kay Rizzo and Pr Bruce Manners, share some exciting stories. They are guest speakers at the annual ABC seminar being held on April 1-6. All welcome.

**When:** April 2, 9am—Kay Rizzo, 11:15am—Pr Bruce Manners  
**Where:** Lilydale SDA Church, 608 Hull Rd, Lilydale

### SUNSET TIMES

Bairnsdale time is 10 minutes EARLIER & at Hamilton the time is 12 minutes LATER

Sabbath	Opening	Closing
March 4,5	7.57	7.55
March 11,12	7.46	7.45
March 18,19	7.36	7.34
March 25,26	7.25	7.24

### OFFERING SCHEDULE - MARCH

- March 5 - Local Church Budget
- March 12 - Adventist World Radio
- March 19 - Education/ Camping Ministry
- March 26 - Youth Offering

**Christ in Song**  
 Do you happen to have a black leather-bound copy of Christ in Song, printed around 1912, with the embossed initials of ACW on the front, and wonder where it came from or what the initials stand for? Some years ago, Mr Ron Whitehead loaned his father, Albert Charles Whitehead's Christ in Song to someone and, over time, has forgotten who it was that borrowed it. An elderly gentleman himself, Ron would dearly love to have his father's song book returned to him and is willing to cover postage to receive it. So should you find it in your bookshelf, he would be pleased to hear from you on 03 9792 1808.

March 5, 2011 – East Prahran Church celebrates 75 years. Current members invite friends and past members to join in the celebration of 75 wonderful years. Sabbath School commences at 9:45 and the special church service at 11am. All are invited to join in the fellowship lunch after the service.

**Accommodation available**  
 2 rooms available 20 minutes from the city, 15 minutes from the airport and 5 minutes from multiple shopping venues and public transport. This conveniently located 3 1/2 yr old house has a double garage, two bathrooms and lots of space! Weekly rate of \$100/room and split bills. Please contact Stef: 0400 662617 or Tim: 0417 508 441 or email [stefanie\\_luszczak@hotmail.com](mailto:stefanie_luszczak@hotmail.com)

**Resources available from Berwick Church**  
 Berwick would like to make available copies of the Search, and Kenneth Cox Video Series which they are no longer using. If you would be interested in any of these resources, please contact Beth on 03 5964 7682

**Camp 2010 DVD's**  
 DVD's from Camp presentors, Eddy Hypolite, Cherie Peters and Herb Larsen are now available at the ABC. They are currently being reserved for those who ordered them. So please arrange to collect your copies within the next two weeks. After that time, they will no longer be reserved but made available to any who are interested. For more information, please contact Cveta on 03 9264 7703.

**PATHFINDER CLUB**

For the location of a club near you  
call the Youth Department on  
**03 9264 7777**

17 May- 3 July 2011

# Euro-African SAFARI

See Celtic Ireland, Holland, Belgium; replica of Noah's ark, Ann Franks house, Keukenhof, Paris, Fremells and the Somme plus a 7 night Mediterranean Cruise, Mission project in Africa, Victoria Falls, a wild experience in the Thorny Bush Game Lodge, Kruger National Park. Travel from Port Elizabeth down the Garden Route, visit Jeffries Bay, Knysna, The Tsitsikamma Forest, the Kango Caves, Ostrich Farm then on to Cape Town, Table Mountain, Robben Island, tour around the Cape Peninsula and much, much more.

Experience the whole tour or just Europe or African component. Itinerary available at <http://nsw.adventist.org.au/singles-network>

Europe Component May 17- June 13	\$9500 AUD
African Component June 14- July 4	\$8,500 AUD
Full Tour	\$16,800 AUD

Visiting in the  
Mindset of God  
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## YOUTH MINISTRY SUMMIT

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MOVE WITH THE POWER THREE

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- > Youth leaders
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**IN THE AREAS OF!**

- > Discipleship
- > Outreach
- > STORM Co.
- > Ministry ministry
- > Leadership development

**AUGUST 12 THROUGH 16, 2011**

[www.mwtp3.com](http://www.mwtp3.com)

Victory Youth At Easter Camp 2011

Ryan Bell will be speaking to the Youth...

Nick Cross is talking to the Teens...

...and Daron Pratt will be with the Juniors.

...now go  
**2011**

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