

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

vision

identity

influence

leadership

community

responsibility

values

spirituality

strategy

Christ-centred

discipleship

June 2014

mission

kingdom
focused



decision making



Victorian Adventist
COMMUNICATIONS

IntraVic Newsletter
a publication of VAC



Victorian Adventists

A note from the Editor's Office



Guiding Principles

Core values are like guiding principles. They're core.

I was chatting with a church leader who told me their church is working constantly to reach new people. They described a busy, evangelistic church – that isn't growing even though new people are added to their number. The church is comfortably full on Sabbath morning – there's not really room for more, but even thinking of moving to a larger venue seems like hard work. Will this church grow? Is there a higher value placed on comfort, or on mission? We can affirm that we're committed to the task Jesus gave us and schedule activities accordingly. We can say mission is one of our core values – but our actions, decisions and priorities will speak louder than our words – even if we aspire to have mission as one of our core values.

What are the core values of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Victoria? Mmmm, now that's an interesting question. How would we know? We'll know by looking at how we use our resources, and what we ensure we do well. We've discussed our values with our departmental leaders and with our conference committee. As we've evaluated, the following have emerged as values that are in reality core for the church in Victoria. I'm sharing them with you for your information and comment – to help us in our planning.

- Christ Centred Spirituality
- Training & Discipleship
- Worship
- Evangelism & Mission
- Adventist Identity
- Nurture & Compassion
- Community & Family
- Stewardship

What values do you believe are core to our church and to our conference? You can have your say.

Simply email gchristian@adventist.org.au.

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Anthony MacPherson takes a look at Nehemiah's leadership in this devotional. The Bible is a story of perfection followed by destruction and the subsequent slow painful task of rebuilding. God rebuilds, but He does not do so alone – He involves His people and spiritual leadership plays an integral role.

06 Kingdom-Focused Leadership

Branimir is the Leadership and Professional Development Manager at the South Pacific Division. For our feature this month, we asked him to write on setting church direction, both from the church as an organisation and at the local church level, through spiritual influence.

09 Church News

The evangelistic campaign, Life after Life, has had wonderful results – but it isn't over yet! And don't miss the story of the first baptism at one of our new church plants. There is also a chance to be a part of a mass choir, help RTB plus more from our local churches.

12 Kids spot - leading others to Jesus

13 Conference News

Our Pathfinders have survived another years' Expedition – see how it all went here! Plus news from ADRA, VAC and a plan for Big Camp 2015, as well as the President's report on the latest administrative committees.

God's Rebuilder...

The Leadership of Nehemiah

"Daddy, let's build a house!" I regularly hear this irresistible invitation from my little two year old daughter Emelia. Almost every day we dismantle the couch and rebuild it in constantly mutating designs. She also loves to build boats, cars, hospitals and barns out of blocks.



Written by
PR ANTHONY MACPHERSON

But I've noticed something... while I do most of the building... she does all of the destroying. Sometimes she struggles to allow me the time to finish construction - demolition is just so much fun! There's nothing malicious in her mayhem, in fact, she particularly likes it when I simultaneously express shock and delight at her artful annihilation.

GOD REBUILDS

Anyone can destroy. It's easy. It's quick. But to build or rebuild takes time, planning, and hard work. Destruction is sudden. Restoration is painstaking.

The Bible is a story involving massive and ongoing destruction and the slow, painful task of saving and rebuilding. God creates a beautifully designed and finely balanced planet. Sin enters, brings death, decay, disorder, disease and devastation. After sin there is no quick easy fix, just the long process of redemption and restoration. While Satan and humanity destroy, God rebuilds. But God doesn't rebuild alone, He involves His people.

One of those many restorations was the post-exilic rebuilding of Jerusalem and its temple. Front and centre was God's servant Nehemiah. King's cup-bearer turned prayerful leader, Nehemiah had to face the uninviting task of rebuilding the holy city with a small group of demoralised exiles, all the while facing buoyant opposition and contending with a bloated and fickle Persian bureaucracy. And yet, after years of building inactivity, this steely determined man managed to pull the half-hearted nation out of its sleepy torpor and in a very short time rebuild Jerusalem's walls and recreate a once lost homeland.

How did Nehemiah do it? He understood God and he understood people.

UNDERSTANDING GOD - PRAYER AND PURPOSE

Nehemiah was a man of prayer (Nehemiah 1:4-11).

Prayer birthed action and action matured through prayer. He knew God's promises and wanted them fulfilled as much as God did. He also knew that God enlists us in their fulfilment. Nehemiah wanted to be part of that and prayed his way into God's activity. If you forget prayer then you can forget about being part of God's plans.

“ If you forget prayer, you can forget about being part of God's plans ”

Today people in the commercial sector know that businesses and organisations need vision. Without a clear vision and goal they are destined to failure. Nehemiah had vision. But it wasn't due to entrepreneurial brainstorming, market research or a flash of genius. Nehemiah knew God had a vision of restoration for His people and the world... he wanted to be part of it. Passionate about God's passion, Nehemiah dreamed God's dream and loved God's mission (Neh 1:8-11).

Do you want a vision so big it can never fail of inspiring? Then become part of God's vision. Be part of the amazing work of restoration God is performing in the world. Join with the God who creates, remakes, sacrifices, seeks, saves, gives and rebuilds. Nehemiah understood that what he was doing had eternal significance.

It was God's work. Now that motivates!

UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE - ENGENDER FAITH AND FIGHT

Nehemiah understood people.

When he arrived in Jerusalem he quietly assessed the situation and realised how dire it was (Neh 2:11-16). Thankfully, he understood that the beauty of an overwhelming obstacle is that it clarifies how only a God-sized faith can make the difference.

So when Nehemiah addressed the people he urged them to start rebuilding and offered his own inspiring story of God's leading as encouragement (Neh 2:17-18).

Nehemiah stirred up courage, faith and fight (Neh 2:20)! He turned mocking and opposition to advantage. He mobilised all the people, organised them into groups and they became as one. They started to care about each other and not just the wall. When danger threatened to overwhelm the people with doubt and fear (Neh 4:6-12), Nehemiah turned half the work force into an army and then said "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes" (Neh 4:14).

You don't creep out of lethargy... you fight your way out. Nehemiah lead the way with sword on his side (Neh 4:23) and energy in his example.

UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE - SURFACE AND DEPTH

Nehemiah had deep insight into human nature. He saw the obvious – a wall needed to be rebuilt. But he also saw what was hidden. He saw not just the

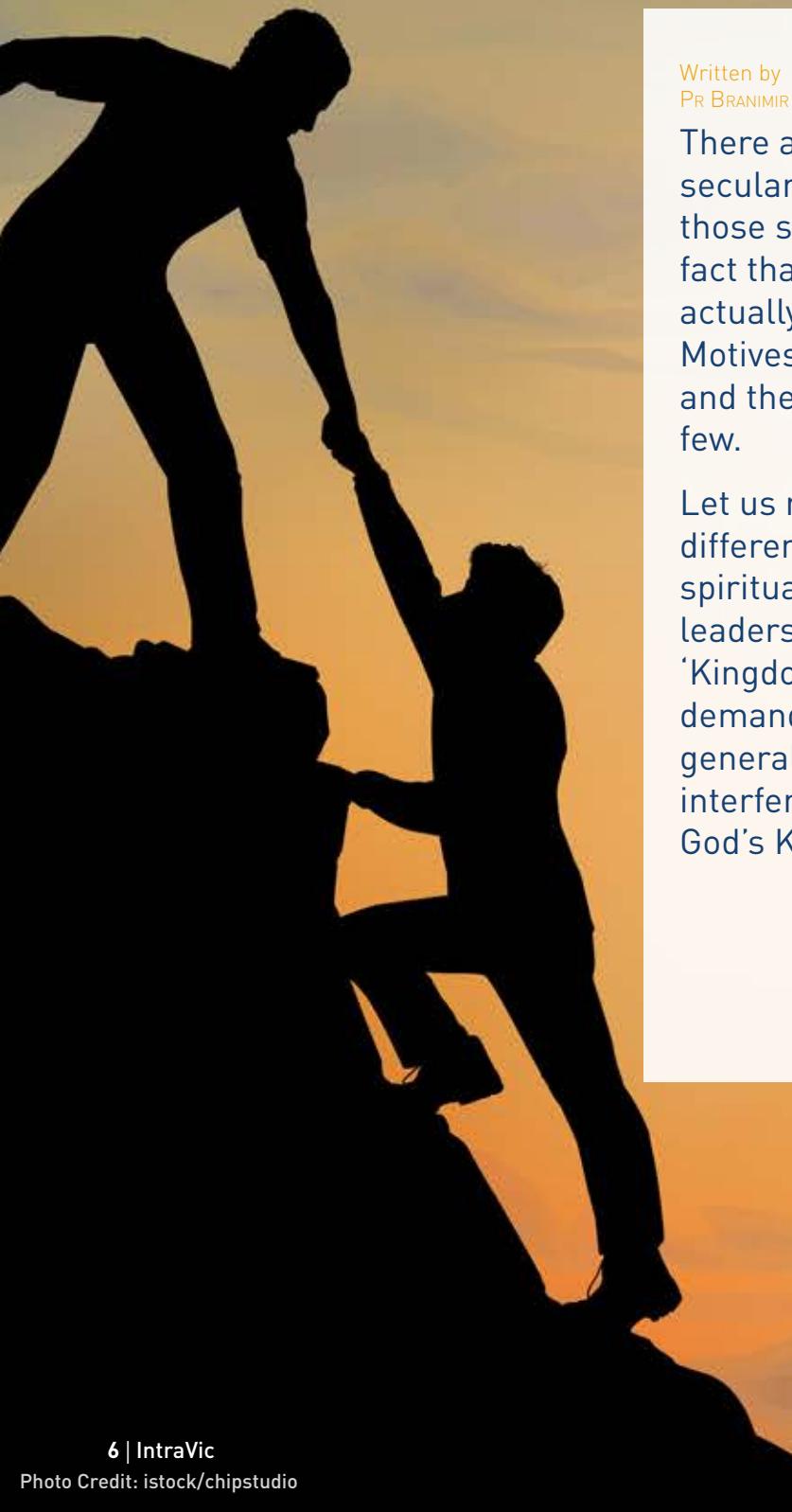
symptoms but the causes. Nehemiah realised that on the surface he had a group who had given up on a physical reconstruction, but deep down the real problem was a nation that had lost leadership, identity, values and a common vision. Therefore, Nehemiah didn't set out to simply rebuild a wall; no, Nehemiah set out to rebuild a community! He protected the poor and restored justice (Neh 5). He exalted the Word of God and worked for spiritual and religious revival (Neh 8,9,10). Nehemiah restored the honour and respect of the temple, the priesthood and the worship of God (Neh 10-13). He raised the esteem and value of the Sabbath as a gift and command from God to humanity (Neh 13).

Nehemiah dealt with the core challenge of being a people of God... and the physical rebuilding of the wall and the city happened as a result.

We are called to be part of God's rebuilding of broken lives, shattered creation and a wounded cosmos. We can't remake any of this by ourselves but God can! And He invites us to be part of His wonderful work.

Have you got your work clothes on?

Kingdom-Focused Leadership



Written by
PR BRANIMIR SCHUBERT

There are many similarities between secular and spiritual leadership. Often those similarities tend to overshadow the fact that at its core, spiritual leadership actually is radically different. How? Motives, the manner influence is exercised and the “servant nature” to name just a few.

Let us reflect on one of the crucial differences distinguishing secular and spiritual leadership: its focus. Spiritual leadership is uniquely and exclusively ‘Kingdom-focused’; no other influence demanding the leader’s (or the Church in general’s) attention should be allowed to interfere with his or her primary pursuit – God’s Kingdom.

JESUS AND THE APOSTLES

Jesus Christ is our perfect example!

He completely and passionately pursued the Kingdom of God throughout His ministry. His vision for the future was of His redeemed people being in His Father’s Kingdom once again – a restoration of what was lost millennia ago in the Garden of Eden. Jesus told what motivated Him: that we could one day eat and drink at His table, in His kingdom (Luke 22:30).

Each of Jesus’ parables focused on the Kingdom of God. Every act of mercy and love demonstrated the Kingdom’s values. The cross was the price paid for the Kingdom to be regained, making it available to those who follow the “way of the cross.”

Even after His resurrection, when He appeared to many over a period of forty days and “spoke about the kingdom of God.” (Acts 1:3), Jesus’ focus remains absolutely clear: the Kingdom!

This focus on the Kingdom of God was also the sole emphasis of the Apostles. This is perhaps best illustrated by

Paul’s life in Acts 28:30,31, where for two years he continually preached the Kingdom of God from his rented house as he welcomed those who came to visit him. Indeed, the focus on the “good news of the kingdom of God” (Acts 8:12) powered the Early Church.

GOD’S CHURCH TODAY

What sets the direction for God’s church today?

Have we allowed the heavy shadow of secular leadership to obscure the unique focus we ought to have as we faithfully follow the example of Jesus and the Apostles? In other words – is the Kingdom still our focus?

Focus is the easiest thing to lose in leadership. So many competing priorities and the urgency of the fast-paced world we live in tend to allow our focus to shift. We can become project-driven, budget-driven, personality-driven, issues-driven, politics-driven, compliance-driven, policy-driven, tradition-driven... and the danger is that many of those things that can drive us do have a place in the church

leadership – but can never become the primary drivers for our leadership. In the midst of all these factors, it is imperative that the main focus remain the Kingdom of God.

SIGNIFICANCE OF VALUES

A Kingdom-focused organisation puts Christ first in everything – including the values that drive our behaviour. Integrity and honesty, service and humility, love and kindness, peace and joy, long-suffering and patience – ALL become part of the internal organisational DNA where anything that even remotely does not comply with Kingdom values is not tolerated.

No gossip is allowed, no political fights, no discrimination, no practicing of anything that does not belong in the Kingdom of God.

I would argue that before we articulate a ‘Kingdom-honouring’ Mission and agree upon a ‘Kingdom-driven’ Vision – we must first articulate ‘Kingdom-reflecting’ Values. How we do God’s business is as important as the business we do.

“ How we do God’s business is as important as the business we do ”



Kingdom-Focused Continued....

Values are the heart of the organisation – values pump the blood throughout all of its activities, priorities and projects. It is initially through our values in practice that others will glimpse our Mission and Vision. Didn't Jesus say that if we "love one another" others would know we are His disciples?

Preaching the Kingdom... At a local level running programs for the community, creating a warm welcoming environment, having good facilities to do this... At a denominational level managing a multi-billion dollar organisation, being the fastest-growing denomination, having state-of-the art educational institutions... All necessary and part of 'what we do' – but they should just be tools to help others see that we belong to Him, that we are His disciples.

When we allow the values to be set aside, when they are not clearly articulated and carefully and intentionally nurtured, the shadow of secular leadership will slowly creep into our own environment – insidiously, stealthily – and often lethally.

Many local churches have experienced this and the casualties are scattered around the landscape.

MISSION AND VISION

A Mission statement boldly and unapologetically states why an organisation exists. For example, Google says it exists "to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful." Starbucks has an almost 'evangelistic' approach to its mission statement: "We inspire and nurture human spirit – one person, one cup, and one neighbourhood at a time."

We say that we exist "to make disciples." How evident is this in all of our activities, plans, strategies, budget allocations, reports and agendas? I think this is one of the core issues that needs to be addressed – harmony between who we say we are and what we actually (visibly) do.

Vision? A statement of vision articulates direction, aspiration, hope – what we are becoming. But far too often the crowded agendas and pressing urgencies of 'today' obscure the clear path to where we hope to go and these statements fail to become the principle driving factor of our organisation and local church.

A LEADER'S CHALLENGE

A leader has this humbling, colossal and daunting responsibility – to use his or her influence to set the direction for the area of responsibility that has been assigned. Many succumb to simply being the managers – preserving the status quo and enforcing the established policies while ensuring there are sufficient budgetary provisions to satisfy the major stakeholders.

Spiritual leadership is so much more – it is grasping the essence of Jesus' example. Then, it is ensuring that the organisation or local church is driven by Kingdom-values that will provide the necessary elements so the Mission can be fulfilled and the Vision can one day become reality through implementation of creative strategies.

Ultimately, it is the leader's challenge to ensure that we stay Kingdom-focused in every aspect of our existence. This focus must remain pure and be boldly visible; not allowing any hindrance to obscure it (Acts 28:31).

Pr Branimir Schubert
Leadership & Professional
Development Manager
South Pacific Division



“ Kingdom-focus is the easiest thing to lose in leadership - with so many competing priorities and the fast paced world we live in... While these other factors may have a place in church leadership, they can never become primary drivers ”

Church News

Begin the Harvest

Evangelism

Evangelism 2014 – we have bought you many stories of the campaign the Victorian Conference has been undertaking in partnership with churches in our South East, and Werribee church in the West, and the Lord has truly blessed these efforts.

In our South East, Pakenham, Casey, Cranbourne and our two Dandenong congregations have combined their resources and to date, have had over 500 people attend various programs.

Church members have been diligently sharing Beyond the Search DVDs with friends and neighbours, or even taking them door to door. These contacts, along with those who received DVDs at other community events such as Cheri Peters' Life in Recovery, archaeology seminars and It is Written dinners were all ultimately invited to Pr Geoff Youlden's Life after Life lecture series – the main evangelistic campaign, which has just concluded.

In the West, the literature evangelist team played a vital role in distributing Beyond DVDs and Werribee church members hosted a number of community events, where attendees were offered the DVD series and all these contacts were also invited to the Life after Life series, held in the West simultaneously.

It was an extremely busy time for those involved, but Geoff is convinced that it is personal contact which makes all the difference. After all, sharing God is personal.

"The reason for the success we saw" Geoff says, "is the preparation that was done leading up to Life after Life. This time, we undertook none of the usual pre-mission advertising – no TV ads, no radio campaigns and minimal letter-boxing. Today's climate is different, and we focused on meeting people in the months leading up to the campaign.

"This approach was successfully tried by Penrith Church in NSW last year, but this is the first time it has been attempted on such a large scale," he adds.

The last session of the SE Life after Life series was held at Dandenong Polish church and the church was filled to capacity. It was a full on program with two sessions and a vegetarian banquet. The topic of the final session was the importance of baptism, and two youth from Casey Church, Aaron and Jonah Sivanganthan, were baptised. In response to Geoff's invitation to accept the call God was placing on their hearts, 38 people requested baptism.

"We have really seen the impact of having multiple events," says one of the ministers involved, Fraser Catton. "It has given us an opportunity to build friendships with our guests. Having several churches working together in this campaign has also been a blessing. We are looking forward to the prophecy seminars coming up, and already have a baptism booked in for August."

In the West, Werribee Church has a similar story. At the last Friday evening session, Life after Life attendees were invited to Werribee Church for Sabbath. So many responded the church was full to overflowing and many had to watch on close circuit TV in adjoining rooms as nine candidates were baptised.

Daniel MacCormack, one of the candidates, said that he was very happy – "This will be a new life for me – a life closer to God." Jalkamal Singh, another candidate, was overwhelmed. "It has been an immense struggle for me," he said, "but now I feel relaxed and relieved that the Holy Spirit is with me."

Geoff presented baptism as a genesis – a beginning of life's journey with Jesus Christ and when challenged, 25 people indicated a desire to be baptised. And like with the South Eastern campaign, this harvest is just the beginning...

IntraVic



Meeting A Need Ferntree Gully Church

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. Naked and you clothed me..."

Ferntree Gully Church has long been community minded, and what began over 55 years ago as the Dorcas Society, continues today as ADRA Ferntree Gully, under the leadership of Don Stanford and with a wonderful team of volunteers from Ferntree Gully, Plenty Valley, Rowville and Wantirna churches.

Thus Monday afternoons are a hive of activity at the church complex with an average of 27 clients applying for help each week.

For 20 years, the church has been assisted in this endeavour by a significant government grant. With these funds, food vouchers are purchased and where indicated, help offered with utility or medical bills. Sunday evening volunteers collect unsold bread generously supplied by a local bakery and this is distributed among those who attend. Additionally, there is a pantry of non-perishables (collected from the government food bank in Dandenong) as well as a clothing bank from which visitors can select supplies. One expectant mother was so happy with the baby clothes she received she returned three times just the say "thank you" and another customer was truly amazed when told he didn't have to pay for what he received, and requested prayer for his wife and himself.

There are sad stories that can also be told, but ask any of the team members if they find their role rewarding, they will emphatically answer 'Yes'!

'Well done, good and faithful servants.'

Elayne Stanford



ADRA
AUSTRALIA

First Fruits Melbourne City Church

For two years, Roy and Jinha Kim have been working in Melbourne City, meeting the spiritual needs of their church members through small groups, personal ministry and church service. Here Roy shares the story of this church plant.

The Melbourne City Adventist Church has been almost two years in the making. After its initial stages of community in small group(s) we were able to start church services February this year and late June, we witnessed the church group's first fruits. Samantha Ireland and James McNamara, two young professionals living in Melbourne, made a public declaration of their love for Christ through baptism.

Though both were raised Adventist, they had not fully committed to Christ. Through God's grace, our church plant was able to provide a safe place where they could further explore a Christ-centred world-view, build friendships with other Adventists and learn how to develop a personal relationship with Jesus. In this community, they could utilise their spiritual gifts (James' in IT and media, Sam's in hospitality and small groups) to make a difference in facilitating dialogue, fellowship, and the proclamation of the Word. They are already pivotal leaders of our city church.

Massed Choir Warburton Church

Last year Warburton Church hosted an inaugural Peoples Massed Choir, with over 400 singers, and it was such a success, they are doing it again.

This event has even become part of the church's outreach strategy, as a means for reaching out to former members and the broader community and also raising funds for the ADRA Redwood Community Centre in Warburton.

Last year the event was only promoted to churches closer to Melbourne but already they have had queries from



Roy and Jinha with Samantha and James at their baptism

Samantha and James remind me of what took place at Pentecost. Devout Jews whom I consider the second, third and fourth generation believers heard something life-changing about Jesus. Converted by the Holy Spirit, they became the foundation of the church that turned the world upside down. These Jews were the first fruits of a greater harvest to come.

The Melbourne City Adventist Church is a church plant with humble beginnings. We have a simple service of Bible-based preaching, followed by round table discussions that cultivate deeper understanding and application of the Bible. We may not have rich resources or a plethora of members at the moment, but the Holy Spirit is stirring our young people to do something new in the city. The first fruits have come; the latter rain is imminent. We have just commenced an evangelistic series - will you join us in praying for the flood of God's power in this city?

The harvest is yet to come.

Roy Kim



people as far away as Lakes Entrance. It is shaping up as being an event not to be missed!

You too can join in on August 23 for the musical Worship Service in the morning and massed choir in the afternoon.

For more information or to register your attendance, contact Yvonne on 03 5966 5093 by Monday August 18.

Brian Way

Reflecting on RTB Road to Bethlehem

A milestone is almost upon us as we prepare to celebrate the 20th year of Road to Bethlehem. We reflect on the past 20 years with praise to our Heavenly Father, who inspired this production and governed its growth, blessing it as thousands of people gather to bear witness to this beautiful story of the birth of the Christ Child.

Road to Bethlehem is much more than a yearly Christmas production. It provides a very special gift to the people within our communities, and through the Holy Spirit impacts and changes the lives of individuals that share in this journey. One of the prayer tent volunteers recounts this story...

"A young woman came into the tent, sat on the carpet and started to feed her baby. A total stranger, she was chatty and told me she had hoped to get tickets for an early session for her young children, but on enquiring at the booth, found there were none available, there had been a huge demand that night. Disappointed, she'd turned away just as someone rushed up and handed in four tickets for the fourth group - just enough for her family, and early too!"

While lining up with the 130 or so others in her group, she turned and spotted her estranged parents and



Bloom The Orchard

As part of its service to the inner city community, the Orchard is commencing a youth program Sabbath afternoons, and is inviting anyone who wants to, to join in.

The first event was last weekend



sister in the group behind. There had been a terrible rift within her family, and as she travelled along the road to Bethlehem, it was fresh in her mind having just seen them. She struggled with her memories and was moved by the scenes of the journey. When she came to the manger and witnessed the angel chorus celebrating Christ's birth, she felt she had forgiven them, and that God wanted her to meet up with them and introduce them to her little children. At the cross, her eldest children filled in prayer cards, taking their time as they planted them in the sand. Knowing the next group was coming through, she turned toward her family, greeting them as they approached and introducing her children to their grandparents and aunt.

"I want you to know" she said to me, "This prayer tent and the prayers are working." As she left, her parents and sister stood outside the tent, weeping and praising a gracious God who reconciles and heals at the foot of the cross."

Yes, God is present in the Road to Bethlehem experience. This journey encourages us to never lose hope; that His purpose and plans for our lives are far greater than we can ever imagine for ourselves.

Do you want to be a part of the journey this year? Volunteer your time and let God work wonders: RTBVic@gmail.com

Simone Mifsud

and you can find out more details and timing for future events on The Orchard facebook page, or at [www.theorchardmelbourne.org.au](http://theorchardmelbourne.org.au) if you are interested in participating.

These Orchard Bloom gatherings will be held monthly, filled with activities, quizzes, music, devotions, food and much more! It will be a great way to mix with other Christians in a relaxed and non-confrontational atmosphere,

Natural Beauty Ferntree Gully

Have you ever yearned to visit Alaska? On 14th June Ferntree Gully church members experienced 'the next best thing'!

Over 90 church members, family and friends, along with community friends had the chance to view some of God's magnificent Alaskan creation at Ferntree Gully church through the medium of modern technology, when Andrew & Lorraine Wegener shared video and photo highlights of their recent trip to the Land of the Midnight Sun.

Close encounters with Grizzly Bears, Puffins, Sea Otters, Moose as well as the spectacular scenery (and what spectacular scenery it is) were observed.

The beauty of Nature had us spellbound.

Praise God for the talents He has given Andrew and Lorraine and for their willingness to share them with others.

Elayne Stanford



and is not in fact restricted to the youth age group, but open to anyone interested. They will also be structured in such a way that they will appeal to new or even non Christians.

Please pray for these gatherings - that those attending will be strengthened in their belief in God and understanding of the Bible, while meeting new people and fellowshipping together.

Rod Anderson

KID'S SPOT

Leading others to Jesus!

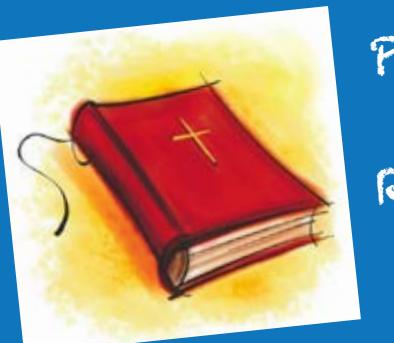


Have you ever played the game follow the leader? It's a great game, especially when the person leading is lots of fun to follow! Did you know that Jesus wants us to be leaders every day? He doesn't want us to go around asking people to jump, skip and hop but He does want us to lead others to Him.

Put a ✓ next to ways you can share Jesus and a ✗ next to things you would not do

- Tell them a Bible story
- Tell them that the Bible is not for everyone
- Invite them to church
- Tell them Jesus only loves people that go to church
- Do a Bible study with them
- Make them feel silly because they don't know what the Bible is
- Tell them that you will pray for them
- Say bad things happen to them because they don't go to church

Look up these Bible verses and circle which one you could share with a friend:



Psalm 86:15
John 3:16
Romans 5:8

Draw a picture of a way that you can share Jesus

with a friend...

Fill in the missing vowels (a,e,i,o and u)

S_a_g_e_nd_m_k_e_f_e
l_l_w_r_s_e_f_e_n_l_p_e_p_l_e
n_th_w_rld
(M_tth_w 28:19)

Victorian Children's Ministries

Katherine Darroch
po Box 215 Nunawading 3131
KatherineDarroch@adventist.org.au
PHONE 03 9264 7777

Jesus wants us to be leaders for Him! Why not ask a grown up to get you a set of '28 Ways Bible Studies' from the ABC and pray about a friend that you could share them with



From the President

Executive Overview

There are a number of important things to share as a result of the work of the administrative committees and we do so, briefly, here.

Time was spent discussing what our core Biblical values should be, and how to incorporate them into the strategic plan for the Conference. Your feed back is invited - there is more about this in the Editorial.

Financially, income and expenditure are tracking well. There is a modest surplus to date, and gratitude was expressed to those responsible and to all who are faithfully returning tithes



We clearly need God's leading and seek it on a regular basis. Again I invite you to join us in prayer that God will bless as we all engage in His mission to the people of Victoria.

Graeme Christian

God's Foot Pedal

ADRA

We often talk about being the hands and feet of Jesus - but here is an opportunity for you to be His foot pedal.

In partnership with the Migrant Information Centre (MIC), ADRA's Refugee and Migrant Project works with newly settled refugees in Melbourne's Eastern suburbs.

Individuals participate in a Driver's Education Program in their language, then receive ten professional driving lessons subsidised by ADRA.

Then YOU then come in!

Being a volunteer driving mentor with ADRA, you can work with clients in practicing driving skills and gaining their licenses, thus empowering them with independence, making countless opportunities possible in their new lives in Melbourne.

Many immigrants do not have access to a licensed driver to supervise their learning. This mentoring program is



essential in helping them practice their skills from Driver's Ed and professional lessons, and ultimately passing their license test.

Driver's Education programs and subsidised professional driving instruction ARE happening. But ADRA and the MIC do not have enough driving mentors to work with the eager clients. **This project makes such a practical difference in client's lives, while also letting them know that people in their new community care.**

To find out about our streamlined application and training process to become a volunteer driving mentor, contact scourtney@adra.org.au.

Sarah Courtney

Read Further

use the QR codes or visit [vic.adventist.org.au.](http://vic.adventist.org.au/), under the News and Announcements tab, click Latest Victorian news

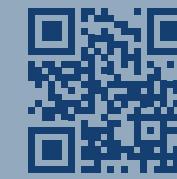
Executive Overview

For a more detailed report, visit intravic.adventistconnect.org/from-the-president-04052014 or use the QR code.



More from our Literature Evangelists...

Jannene Howse tells of an experience sharing with a friend in a non-Adventist Bible study, and how they were able to the friend's husband,



using the LE resources...

Joe Paola also shares a number of stories - one of the far reaching influence of the books, with books left with a family impacting the next generation.



A Poem

Rose Andrykanus is one of our ADRA ambassadors. After seeing first hand, the difference ADRA makes, while in Laos last year, she wanted to be more involved. Rose sees being a voice for ADRA in Victoria as a perfect opportunity.



Here is a poem she wrote - sentiments well worth thinking about...

The Redwood Centre

This Community Centre is a program of ADRA Australia, with invaluable support from the Warburton Adventist Church and surrounding community. You can read here of some of what has been happening in this active centre...



The Victorian Adventist Communications department has been making some changes, and given the nature of the department, we thought it appropriate to communicate these with you!

VictorianAdventist.TV has recently had more material added. Why don't you visit and check it out? We are building up a collection of brief presentations for a series titled 10+JESUS talks. Another series, Week of Worship, is based on presentations at our local schools during their weeks of spiritual emphasis. VicYouth's regular youth and high schoolers rallies are there too. We are even getting a collection of music by local and guest musicians.

We are constantly looking for new material, so if your church has recorded a special series, or performs quality drama that would be suitable please contact us on VictorianAdventistCommunications@adventist.org.au – we would love to hear from you.

As you are probably aware, IntraVic is now only printed bimonthly. However we are endeavouring to keep news coming to you as regularly as possible. You can like us on facebook – Victorian Adventists – to receive regular news. Or visit the Conference Website – Vic.Adventist.org.au which not only is a resource for information about the various departments, services, church addresses and facilities, it links you to the latest news or past editions of IntraVic.

There is also a Notices and Announcements link. By regularly visiting this location you can view the latest notices from around the Conference. We even upload posters so if you are wanting material for a powerpoint during church announcements, these are now available.

And finally there is the email version of IntraVic, which alternates with the printed version, but when we have sufficient subscriptions, will become a monthly feature for those who are interested. Please sign up at Vic.Adventist.org.au to automatically receive your copy next month.

Sherrie Courtney

Expedition 2014

VicYouth

Believe it or not, we had clear blue skies, warm sunny days and an awesome sunrise – every day – at Pathfinder Expedition 2014! The destination for this year's Expedition was Wellsford State Forest located near Bendigo. This is the first time we have visited this area.

All up fifteen clubs attended including those from the far reaches of our state, Mildura and Bairnsdale. Warrnambool Pathfinder club was welcomed back for the first time in many years.

The base camp at sunset



Around four hundred and seventy Pathfinders, leaders, staff and volunteers attended this year's event.

Worship Sabbath morning at base camp



The theme chosen for this year, "1800 2 Jesus", has a very real application to Pathfinding and the primary activity of the weekend - Rogaine. Karen Horsley, chaplain at NCC Primary, very capably carried the theme, leading out in the worship programs and sharing stories from her own experience and how Jesus turned her life around as a young person.

The Rogaine activities were well contested again this year with Pathfinders at each of the three levels applying their skill and energy to achieve some great results.



Fire for warmth at the overnight camp



On the Monday, in beautiful, full, sunshine, Karen wrapped up the long weekend with a closing message. She reminded us that whatever we do and wherever we go in life; whatever choices we make all we need to do is make a 1800 2 Jesus and He'll be right there for us. That's all it takes.

Karen Horsley's closing message (below) and pancakes for breakfast - an Expedition tradition at the overnight camp



**Remember
October
11**

OCT 11 for Big Camp

"October 11? But..." I can hear you say, "...Big Camp is at Easter!" And you're right! Still, remember October 11!

Camp was cancelled for 2014 in order to help balance the budget for the Conference, but a commitment was made to run Big Camp in 2015. At Elmore. At Easter.

We believe that, as a church, we do have the money to run camp next year – that money, however, is still in our church members' pockets.

So, October 11? It's the day we'll all have the chance to change that in green and gold, as our \$100's and \$50's are collected!

Looking forward to next year's Conference budget, early indications suggest our challenge will be greater. When the decision to cancel Camp 2014 was made, the draft budget showed a deficit of nearly \$800,000. We've dealt with that, and are currently on track for a balanced budget this year, by not running camp

(saving \$300,000), printing IntraVic bimonthly (saving \$30,000), not replacing staff who'd left and other accountability measures. Additionally, we'll receive appropriations from the South Pacific Division boosting this year's income, but these will be unavailable 2015 and beyond. This means that to balance the budget next year, more than \$760,000 above 2014 income is needed.

A fund has been set up for Big Camp, 2015 and all money going into that account is reserved just for Camp. Conference leadership believes the solution must start with us. Already, the Executive Committee has started the ball rolling with \$3,000, and I believe this will grow to \$13,000 in a matter of days, through personal contributions from the committee members.

Additionally, office staff have a goal of raising

\$30,000 to fund pressing needs for YPW's this year, with about half of that in hand already.

We're trying to do our bit and we're inviting you to join us.

Let's talk October 11. This day is set aside for the Big Camp 2015 Offering. If we all gave a green and gold, we'd have the funds. There is time to save – to put money aside. We recognise some have no income and we understand some will want to give more and that's all OK.

Remember green and gold for October 11 – that's very Australian!

So many love Big Camp – from little children through to the senior division – all have something just for them. I know of numerous people who, while they can't make it to camp personally, believe it's important, and they want to help provide the funds to make it possible.

Remember October 11: Be a part of helping Camp happen in 2015.

Pr Graeme Christian
Conference President



Help it Happen

*We are in
this together and
the Work IS happening...*

An invitation to PARTNER with us...

**There is a real need for financial partnership to
support EVANGELISM 2014 projects**



**Please prayerfully consider what YOU can
commit to in Partnership**

**Visit Vic.Adventist.org.au for more information or to
contribute, or call the Finance Department on 9264 7777**

- Evangelistic Dinners • Secrets of Prophecy Seminars • Church Plants • Youth Pastoral Worker • Hope Channel•

The Editor reserves the right to edit and include or exclude all articles submitted. Those not included or heavily edited due to lack of space may be posted on Facebook and the Conference news website. The Editor also reserves the right to restrict advertising – generally commercial advertising is not accepted and accommodation notices must be accompanied by a reference from the local Pastor. If accepted, notices will appear on Facebook and the Conference website. Neither the Editor nor the Seventh-day Adventist Church is responsible for the quality of the services advertised and posting of them does not indicate endorsement. Photographs of minors must be accompanied by parental/guardian permission to use the photos in print and on the web.

Bible verses are from various versions which may include NIV, NKJV and Clear Word.