

NOVEMBER

2012

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)



giving
back



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FROM AROUND OUR CONFERENCE.

NUMBER OF GUEST SPEAKERS COMING
MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW...

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In this issue...

...We are looking at Tithe.

Knowing human frailty, knowing that the “love of money (would become) the root of all kinds of evil” (1 Timothy 6:19 NIV), God, in His infinite understanding and love, established the system of tithing – a system which puts God, the great Giver of all good things, at the centre of our finances.

Wanting us to focus on the Giver rather than the gift, He asks that we return to Him a portion of what He has given us, to make an active decision to let go, thus releasing some of the hold money can have.

In the time of Malachi the Israelites had become careless in returning their tithes. The God-appointed task of caring for the worship services was being neglected, so God issued a challenge: “Bring your full tithe to my Temple... and see if I will not open the gates of Heaven and pour out so many blessings on you...” (Malachi 3:10)

Reflecting on this, what greater blessing could we receive through giving away a little of what we have, than freedom from the grip of materialism?

In this issue of IntraVic, Pr Anthony MacPherson takes a look at the practice of tithing and dares us to look beyond the act, to the underlying principle.

But the blessings do not simply stop with the giver. On pages 10 and 11 we show how the money you give back to God is utilised for the purpose of evangelism, ministerial wages and, through the system of Tithe Reversion (where a portion of tithe is available back to the local church), local evangelistic endeavours.

We also have an article from Pr Barry Oliver, sharing some of what is happening around the South Pacific Division, funded by tithe. As Rod Brady from the SPD says, we are a global church, and a portion of your tithe given locally, ultimately acts globally to help resource the Gospel Commission.

And thus, the blessings spread and are multiplied.

God says that He “loves for people to give cheerfully, not grudgingly” (1 Corinthians 9:6) and Conference Administration would like to thank those of you who have done so. Each year the Treasury receives a number of anonymous donations, and while giving direct thanks is not possible, please know that they are appreciated.

“...He is able to give you back more than you need, either materially, spiritually or both, so that you will have enough of everything and may abundantly support every good work...” (1 Corinthians 9:7,8) This side of Heaven, we will never know the full extent of the blessings God has poured out on this world, as a result of faithful giving. But from the little we do know, we say “Thank you.”

This issue of IntraVic is the last for 2012 and the Editorial Team would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.

Until next year, then...

IntraVic



Office Closure over the Christmas Period
From Friday afternoon, December 21
through until Wednesday morning, January
2, 2013
Emergency contact details will be
available on Vic.Adventist.org.au closer to
the date

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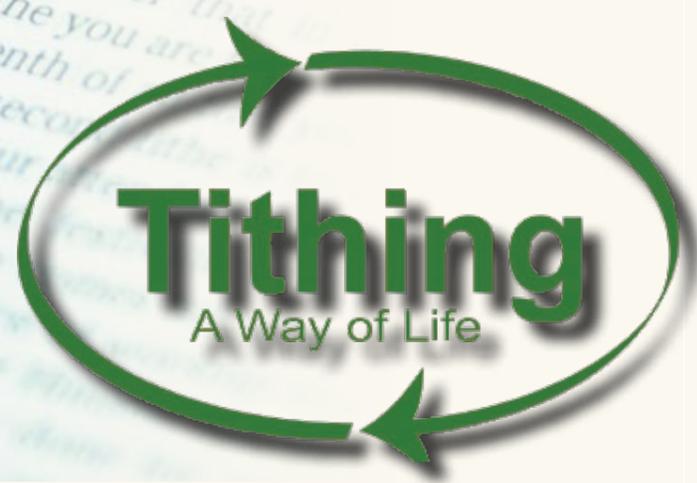


Victorian Adventist
COMMUNICATIONS

DEVOTIONAL

To Tithe or not to...

Is the question...



...that many Christians face, at some point in time. Some may accept the general principle of tithing – returning to God a portion of what He has so generously allowed us to have – but never get around to it or do so infrequently. Others find it hard enough to make ends meet as it is, and fear such a commitment. And there are those who don't even see it as a Biblical requirement. How would you respond to someone's questions about tithing? How have you resolved your own? In this article, Pr Anthony MacPherson takes a look at the practice of tithing and dares us to look beyond the act, to the underlying principle.

JUST DO IT

In regards to the practical problem of forgetting or not putting convictions into actions, we can help ourselves in several ways. We can make it easier to tithe (such as e-giving) and encourage each other to be true to our own convictions.

What is more, this problem usually presents itself in a number of areas in our lives. The real issue is spiritual maturity and authenticity. People need to grow and be consistent with their own beliefs. Addressing tithe can be a starting point but it is more important to go to the source of the problem – spiritual authenticity.

NEITHER FEAR NOR FAVOUR

Those who are afraid that tithing will lead to financial loss also have a deeper issue. Tithing is not the problem. It merely helps identify

a deeper problem of being controlled by fear (or in some cases it might even be greed). Such people do not have a big enough view of God. What they need is to see and accept Him as trustworthy, loving and generous.

If we are honest we will admit that accepting the truth about God will lead to greater giving than that envisioned by tithe. While I believe God does bless when we tithe, we need to be careful with using this as a motivation to tithe. After all God is still free to allow faithful tithers to share in the experience of financial difficulty. He is still free to teach lessons of trust and endurance. There is nothing mechanical about stewardship. There are dependable principles at work but not some kind of strict law of financial karma. We should give in order to become givers; generosity is usually giving that which comes at a cost to the giver. So why should tithing protect from all financial difficulty?

IS IT BIBLICAL?

The deeper challenge concerns the question of whether tithing is Biblical or not; whether it is still required of Christians. Here all kinds of misunderstandings develop. Both sides of the argument need to realise that there is no special proof text which says "Christians must tithe" or "Christians must no longer tithe."

Instead we need to examine the total picture of scripture. Opponents of tithing argue that it is an Old Testament regulation which ended with the old covenant. Asking people to tithe is putting them back under the Law of Moses. They also point out that the New Testament has no clear command to tithe (by 'clear' they mean literally "thou shalt tithe"). They also note that the post-apostolic church does not appear to have practised tithing - in actual fact, they practised more radical generosity!

How should we understand and interact with these challenges?

Rather than trying to solve all the issues, here are some thoughts:

These objections highlight some of the limited ways we approach scripture. It is a kind of reverse legalism which demands a law or command for every principle of Christian behaviour. The Bible does not need to state everything as an explicit command for something to be a duty or required principle of Christian living. The Bible can teach by law or narrative or proverb or other means.

Tithing might be part of the law of Moses but it is not an exclusively old covenant regulation. Remember the command "love your neighbour as yourself" is an old covenant command (see Leviticus 19:34)! The love command is part of the law of Moses but it is not limited to the law of Moses.

Tithing occurred centuries before the covenant at Sinai. In Genesis 14:20 we see that Abraham tithed, and later in 28:20-22 so did Jacob. It is incorrect to imply that tithing is an old covenant regulation. Neither Abraham nor Jacob were at Mt Sinai when the covenant was forged. So it is more accurate to say that the old covenant adapts and uses the principle of tithing which transcends both old and new covenant and cannot be restricted to a command of the Law of Moses.

Tithing is something that followers of God do when they develop a relationship with Him and want to become stewards of His tangible creational blessings which support our lives.

Tithing is linked with the Creator. It occurs within covenants but transcends them. If you have received blessings from God, then like Abraham and Jacob, tithing is, at the very least, an appropriate act of recognition and gratefulness.

In 1 Corinthians 9:6-14 Paul draws on various illustrations to indicate that he had a right to financial support from the Corinthians even though he foregoes that right. He makes reference to soldiers, farmers, a law of Moses about feeding working oxen and the priests' work in the Old Testament to make his point. If Paul can draw from these diverse sources to justify his right to financial support, then the church, as it supports gospel ministry today, can certainly draw from comparable justifications.

Included among these are such concrete examples of tithing as Abraham and Jacob, adapting the old covenant example of using the principle of tithing to support ministry and, of course, Jesus' supportive references to tithing in Matthew 23:23 and Luke 11:42. A whole picture view of scripture certainly supports the wisdom and use of tithing as a continuing method of support for mission and ministry.

Paul, in 1 Corinthians 9 is not trying to give a detailed or exhaustive account of how the church should structure stewardship and support of the ministry. His letter is not on church finances or even stewardship. His actual concern is simply to illustrate that while he has many rights (including the right to financial support) he has laid down his rights to help the Corinthians and that the Corinthians should also lay down their rights for each other.

His comments are suggestive and encourage the church to look at the wider world, as well as scripture, including the Old Testament temple service, for general principles when deciding how to use money as a community.

But above all this we need to say that tithing, like Jacob's spiritual journey, is only a start. It is the bottom rung on the ladder, not the top. It is a helpful principle but not God's highest goal. A deeper and fuller study of scripture reveals that God would have us give radically for ministry and mission, as well as support of the poor and needy. To tithes should be added freewill offerings and giving to those in great need. Our giving should exceed a tenth. Tithe is a principle and method for stewardship but it is not a replacement for more sacrificial giving and generosity. Tithing is a very wise and helpful way that the ministry of the gospel is supported; simple, achievable, applicable to the rich and poor. It enables church planning to be predictable and dependable.

The mission of the church in spreading the gospel has experienced incredible blessing as a result of encouraging members to tithe. If "wisdom is vindicated by her deeds" (Matthew 11:19) then tithing is evidence of Biblical wisdom and the church was wise to embrace it.

MORE THAN A TENTH

In conclusion, tithing, while better than kindergarten, is still primary school level in financial stewardship. God wants us to go beyond the ABCs and move to more intentional prayerful use of our money that builds upon tithing but also goes well beyond it.

The question should not be to tithe or not to tithe, but rather, about how each one of us can become more radically generous beyond a baseline level of tithing - a high ideal but one that I believe God would challenge us to reach.

Pr Anthony MacPherson
Plenty Valley Church



It's Happening **Right Now**

As a portion of our tithe is allocated to the South Pacific Division, we asked the president, Pr Barry Oliver, to share with us a little of what is happening around the Division.



As I sit in front of my computer, about to commence to write, a small dialogue box in the bottom right hand corner of my screen has popped up. It is announcing an incoming email from Pastor Gary Webster, our Division evangelist. Here is what Gary is writing:

"Greetings from Fiji, where God is really pouring out His Spirit. Thus far we have 375 people from the Suva area and 200 from the 18 down-link sites planning for baptism this Sabbath. Because it is still early and we have two more critical topics – Revelation 10 & the rise of God's final prophetic movement; and the Seven Last Plagues – still to come, based on previous campaigns in the Pacific, we may actually see around 700 baptised on Sabbath. Night by night many decisions are being made for Christ. What thrills me is that the follow-up plans are targeting both the newly baptised and those still to be baptized after the campaign.

The following plans are in place:

- *Witness and Evangelism training this Sunday morning after the baptism on Sabbath – sharing our faith helps keep people in the faith. We will train them in how to lead a person to Christ using their personal testimony and the gospel presentation and DVD ministry.*
- *A one week seminar to be held in each church next week called*

"Knowing Christ in Earth's Final Crisis." This is a seminar on Steps to Christ.

- *A seminar called "The Prophecy Files" to be conducted in churches and homes during the day or in the evening twice per week for the next eleven weeks, to help people grow in Christ. It is being held mid-week to establish a prayer meeting habit pattern and on the Friday night or Sabbath afternoon to help with keeping the Sabbath. Last Sunday morning I had the privilege of training about 200 or 300 people in Suva and at all of the down-link sites using internet technology. We trained in how to conduct the prophecy seminar and carry out evangelistic visits.*
- *Visitation in homes using DVDs and personal Bible study – our youth have been trained and are leading out in this vital part. A great army of young people has been trained.*
- *In about three months I will return to conduct several evening meetings to encourage those considering baptism. This will be just before our second baptismal service and from past experience we may see another half the number taking their stand for Christ in this way, as we will see this coming Sabbath.*

Yesterday Marilyn and I visited one of our nearby down-link sites. What a blessing to see modern technology being used in a simple bamboo pole and corrugated iron structure that is filled to overflowing each night and, over the last week or two, has been enlarged to accommodate the growing numbers. We met with the visitation team, one of whom will be baptised this Sabbath. Curious as to why they had asked us to visit them, when we arrived I soon understood - they have been transporting people to the centre by a truck and wanted to ask us to help them financially with the fuel. We told them we would do what we could to help them..."

As I write, Pastor John Carter is about to commence a huge

evangelistic program in Port Moresby. The police have been so concerned about controlling the crowds that will attend that at one point they withdrew permission for the event to go ahead. Permission has been again granted, however with between 100,000 and 200,000 people attending each evening, the police will indeed have their work cut out.

And around the Division many new churches are being planted, assisted by funds set aside for this very purpose. As you can see in the insert on the right here, this is quite a list, and it is far from complete. But it serves to give a sense of how we are supporting, through our tithes and offerings, the growth of the Church in new areas across our Division.

Inspired and led by the Youth Department of the South Pacific Division, our young people are currently raising funds to provide a Bible and a set of evangelistic study guides to over 100,000 Adventist youth from the Pacific areas of our Division who do not have the resources to be able to purchase a Bible of their own. They will be asked to pay the equivalent of just one dollar. The balance of the cost has been donated through our camp mission offerings in 2011/12 and through the amazing generosity of young and old in Australia and New Zealand. Right now we have \$600,000 dollars. I know that Pastor Nick Kross and Mrs Litiana Turner would really like to see us continue on to \$1 million!

Having our young people across the Pacific equipped with Bibles and study guides will inevitably reap rich dividends for God's Kingdom.

There are StormCo groups in action; Fly'N'Build teams repairing clinics and hospitals; individuals volunteering their time and talent for the Lord; thousands working to support and grow their local churches; media and IT experts pioneering new and innovative ways of reaching the world with the message of hope; health professionals in our hospitals, clinics and at Sanitarium. The list goes on.

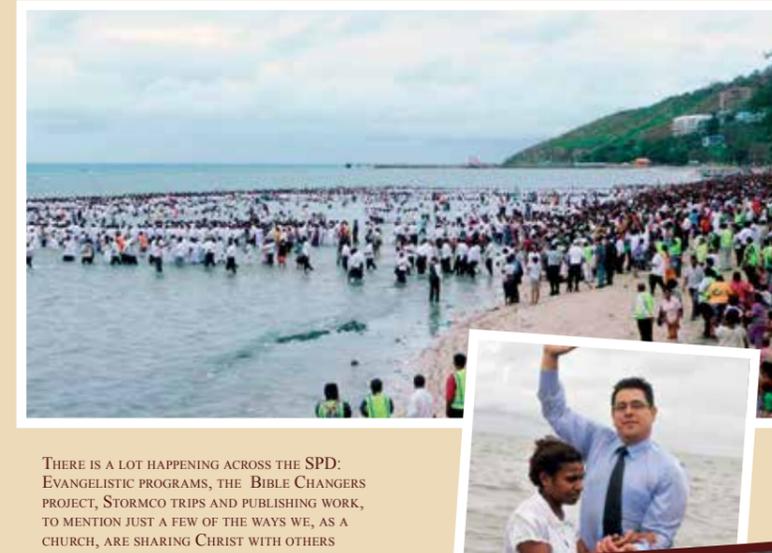
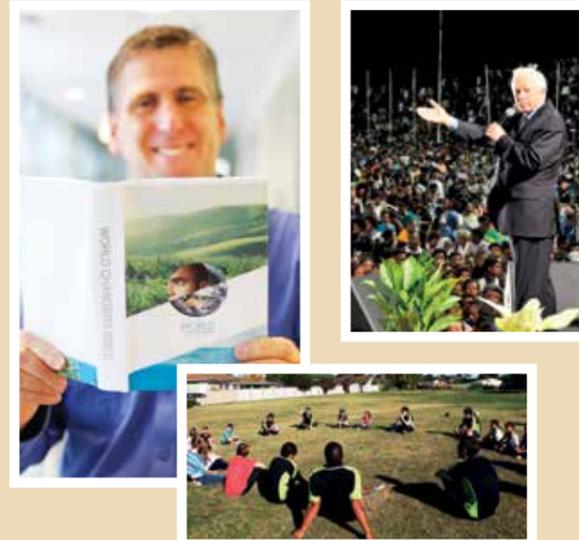
And then there is each one of us. We are planted by God to be His hands, His mouthpiece, His arms of love in the home, the school, the work place. This is our Church family. It is a great family to belong to.

Thank you for helping to make what is happening right now possible. Gifts of time, talent, financial resources and commitment have made this Church what it is today. But it is not yet time to sit back and survey the vista. Our mission remains. Christ's commission still stands and there is still work to do.

May God bless each of us as we work together to bring hope and purpose to those who do not yet have it.

Barry D Oliver

- Greater Sydney – an Indonesian Church*
- South Queensland – Calamvale Chinese Church Plant, Chancellor Park Church Plant, and Flagstone Church Plant*
- North New South Wales – Bourke Region Church Plant, Currawah Indigenous Church Plant and Second Life Church Plant*
- Victoria – Melton Church Plant, Gateway Adventist Centre West Church Plant and the Karen Burmese Church Plant*
- Western Australia – Maddington Karen Church Plant*
- Fiji – Niutao Church Plant in Tuvalu; Namara Church Plant, Ogea Church Plant and Marou Church Plant*
- Solomon Islands – Rereona Church Plant, Mane Church Plant and Nende Church Plant*
- Vanuatu – Luli-Davie Church Plant, Dos Church Plant, and Lawa Church Plant*
- Tokelau – Fakaofa Island Church Plant*
- Samoa – Solaua Atua Church Plant*
- North New Zealand – Matamata Church Plant and Maranatha Fellowship Church Plant*
- South New Zealand – Christchurch Filipino Church Plant*
- French Polynesia – Aratika Church Plant*



THERE IS A LOT HAPPENING ACROSS THE SPD: EVANGELISTIC PROGRAMS, THE BIBLE CHANGERS PROJECT, STORMCO TRIPS AND PUBLISHING WORK, TO MENTION JUST A FEW OF THE WAYS WE, AS A CHURCH, ARE SHARING CHRIST WITH OTHERS



FEATURE

Reflections The President's On Tithe

As I reflected on the topic of Tithe, in preparation for this edition of IntraVic, I thought of some of the questions that I have been asked by church members.

Let me share a few with you...

“WHY DO YOU PAY TITHE?”

There are a number of reasons why I pay tithe. Firstly, it strengthens my relationship with God as it reminds me that everything I have is a gift from Him. It reminds me of His goodness to me and that He will care for me. And it teaches me to rely on Him.

Secondly, I want to give my tithe so that I can be part of God’s work right here in Victoria. I want to see His churches grow in our own towns and cities. It’s also exciting to understand that my tithe can really make a difference in other countries.

Thirdly, somehow, when I give my tithe I am taught a valuable lesson in this consumer driven society; that true wealth comes from giving rather than receiving.

“HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT TITHE GIVING IN THIS CONFERENCE?”

As I look back over the growth in tithe over the last decade I want to thank God’s people who have been so incredibly faithful and generous in the giving of their tithes.

In 2011, our tithe grew 11%. This compares with an annual average of 6% over the past decade and is very favourable when compared with other Western countries where growth has often hovered around 2-3%.

This is incredible, especially given the difficult financial times. This year our tithe is continuing to surpass last year’s tithe. I want to thank God for this and express my deep appreciation to each of our members who have been faithful in the giving of tithes and who have contributed to the growth of God’s kingdom.

“WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR TITHE MONEY?”

This is one of my favourite questions and one that has been a major focus for our conference. There are a number of costs over which we have limited control. For example, as part of the sisterhood of churches, we provide approximately 23% of our income to the South Pacific Division and Australian Union Conference to be used for a range of mission purposes. We also contribute approximately 6% to our education work. We have very little control over this expenditure.

Our real passion is to maximise the amount of money that goes to local pastoral staffing and evangelism. During the previous administration

under Pastor Denis Hankinson, we started working very hard to increase the amount of money that is spent in our local churches and in evangelism. Each year we have been able to claw back more and more money for this purpose. We have been able to reduce our use of tithe for Administration costs to less than 6% of tithe. We have also capped our expenditure for our annual convention at 3%.

At present we are pleased that we have been able to increase our percentage contribution to local church work and evangelism from 52.5% in 2005 to 58.2% in 2011. And we are absolutely committed to continuing to seek out ways to supplement our administrative and departmental expenditure and thus increase this even further so that our use of tithe fully supports the Church mission.

“WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT GIVING TITHES ELECTRONICALLY?”

I think it is great! These days I pay for most things using EFTPOS or credit card. I don’t carry a lot of cash in my wallet or pocket. I think it is so much easier to make an electronic payment. I know many members use an automatic direct debit system and find this very easy to manage. I would love to see this developed further so that even my regular offerings can be given this way. My wife and I recently went to church in Barcelona, Spain and they had a very simple system that allowed you to pay your offerings by SMS. These options will become increasingly commonplace in our society and as a church we need to make sure that we have simple systems in place to allow people to pay tithes and offerings.

“IF YOU HAD MORE TITHE MONEY IN THE BUDGET, WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH IT?”

We have identified five regions in our conference where there are large population groups with little or no Adventist presence. One of these regions is in the Western suburbs of Melbourne where there has been significant population growth in recent years. Many of the newly arrived communities are less secular than traditional Australians and are open to the Gospel. Another area is the inner metropolitan area. We have an area with a population of approximately one million people living in the inner city and inner suburbs who have little access to an Adventist church. This area is home to a large number of highly educated students and young people who have the potential to provide leadership and growth to our church in the future. As I speak to many church members around the conference about the five areas for strategic growth, they express excitement at meeting some of these needs and entering new areas where the church is not so well known. We need more resources to be able to do this important work.

I am sure that there are many more questions that you may have on tithing. If you would like to discuss this more, or have further unanswered questions, please feel free to contact me at Victorian Conference Office.

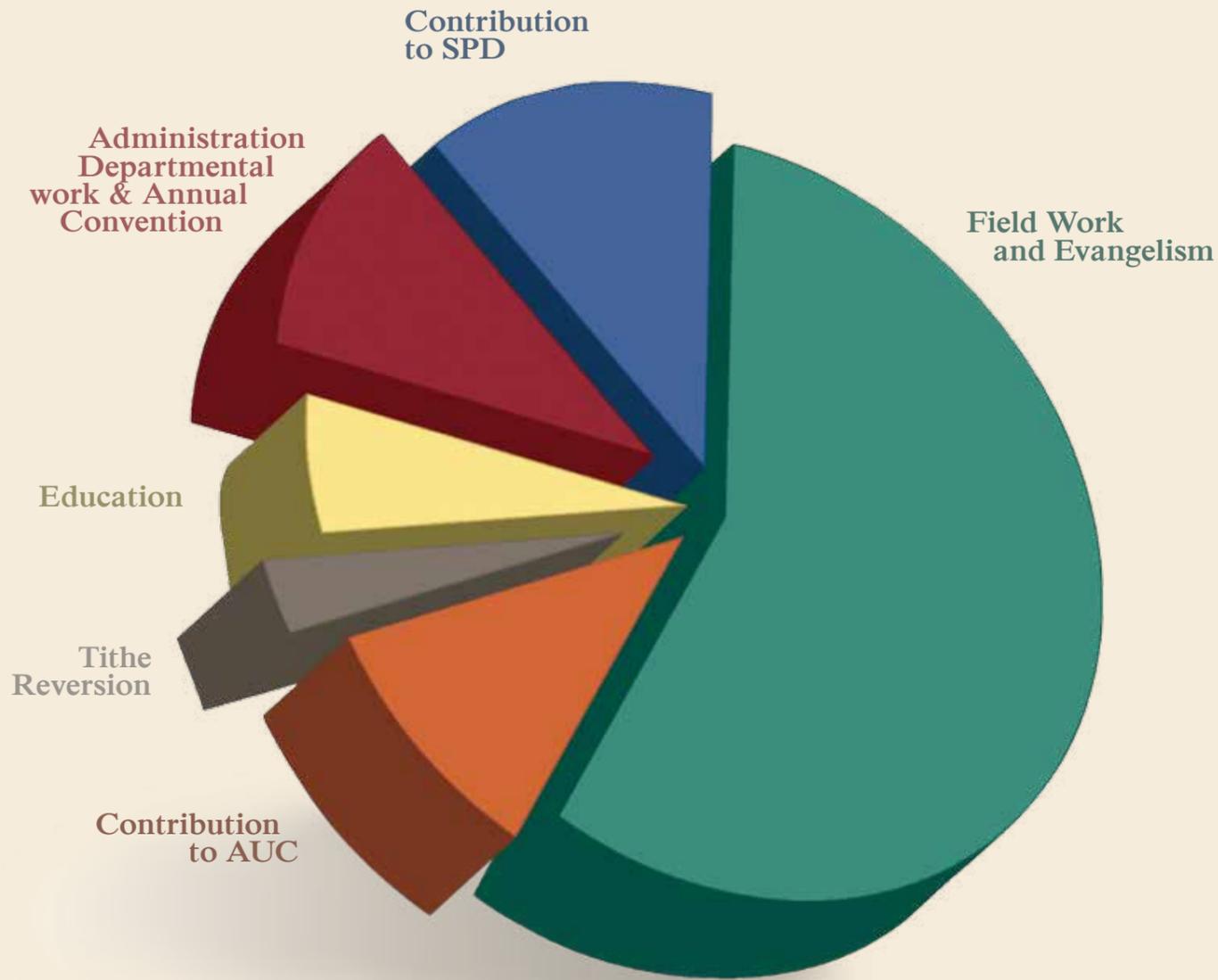
Wayne Stanley
Conference President



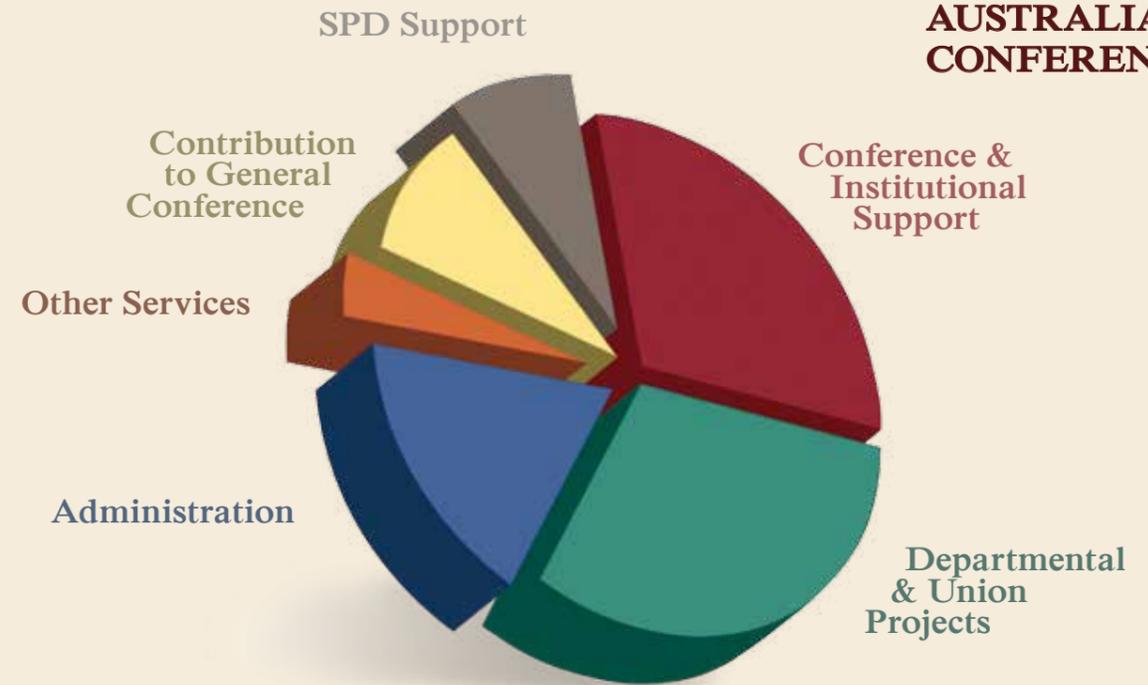
How your tithe contributions are allocated...

...to finance our Church's mission both locally and globally

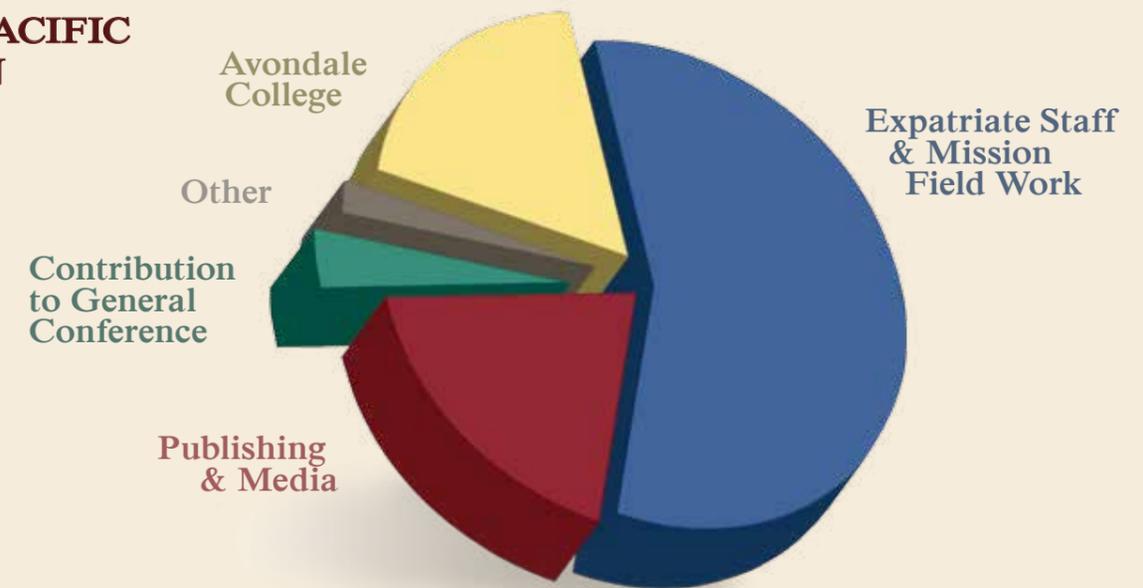
VICTORIAN CONFERENCE



AUSTRALIAN UNION CONFERENCE



SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION



“The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a global church movement. The Gospel Commission is to take the Gospel to all the world, and the distribution of tithe is a tangible expression of resourcing the Gospel Commission...”

Rodney Brady
SPD CFO

Tithing options in Victoria...

Tithe can be passed on to the church online or through your local treasurer

LOCAL CHURCH
Fill in a Tithe envelope, placing it in the offering collection or hand to the treasurer



ON LINE
Go to Vic.Adventist.org.au and follow the menu tab to e-Giving



Online options...

CREDIT CARD OR BPAY

DIRECT DEBIT





Joining God's Family FERNTREE GULLY CHURCH

August 25th 2012 was a special time at The Gully as it marked the day that four candidates acknowledged their Saviour in the waters of baptism during a ceremony conducted by our church pastor, Trevor Rowe.

The beautiful, flower bedecked sanctuary was filled with relatives, friends, schoolmates and church family who gathered together to witness the baptism and subsequent welcome into church membership of Russell Davis and his two teenage children, Azzan and Carmen, and Midge Iordache. Yes, we can all heartily sing together the

following words:
I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God,
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family,
The Family of God.
Following the baptism everyone gathered in the hall for a delicious lunch prepared by



the catering team who deserve thanks for their untiring effort.

Elayne Stanford

Actions Speak Louder Than Words NORTHPOINT

The way we conduct ourselves often speaks more about our hearts than the words that come out of our mouths...

Wednesday October 10 was a very special day for men living in the Tullamarine and surrounding areas. Our Northpoint Church complex hosted a 'Men's Expo' which turned out to be very successful, with hundreds of people attending throughout the day.

This event was sponsored by the Tullamarine Men's Shed, and the Tullamarine Community House. The Men's Shed has been operational for several years, its primary goal being to reach out to the male residents of the surrounding area, offering activities and services such as woodworking classes, games nights, weekly lunches, workshop access, technical support and fellowship. Tullamarine Community House has close links with Northpoint Church. It was established in 1987 by members of the local community to provide opportunities for those within the community, and has grown to around 233 members. They have established and supported programs for children, adults, families and seniors. Northpoint and Tullamarine Community House partnered to establish the Men's Shed and some of the House's training programs are held at Northpoint, while Northpoint runs its recipe club from the House.

Many community organisations contributed to the success of the Men's Expo, with displays, presentations and helpful advice for those who attended. Some of the attractions included the Broadmeadows Leisure Centre, which promoted living longer and stronger,

information from Beyond Blue, Hearing Australia and Diabetes Australia. There was nutritional information and health age testing, and healthy food and non-alcoholic drink tasting was available all throughout the day. A special feature of the day was the presence of the Dolorean Time Machine from the popular movie series Back to the Future.

Cheryl Hildebrand, Director of the Tullamarine Community House obtained funding for the event and teamed up with Grant Knox, President of the Men's Shed, along with Pastors Loren Pratt and Zoran Gajic to drive the vision for the day. She mentioned that "Loren and his team are very much appreciated in the community. The Northpoint Seventh-day Adventist Church is regarded as the biggest contributor to the community services in the Hume Shire."

Sibilla Johnson, Health Director of the Victorian Conference, assisted with the food service and spoke to many of the attendees about the benefits of a healthy eating and living program.

"It was a delight to hear of the work that

Loren and his team are involved in and see their accomplishments," she commented. "Loren has a team of faithful workers who work several days each week putting together food parcels for those in need. You might like to know that most of the people who come and help are actually from the local community."

"Loren and Zoran have spent a lot of time making contact with several community organisations and working together with them in supplying food and services for those with special needs in the community."

The real test of our love for God is how we treat other people, right in front of us – our family members, fellow believers, and people in our communities. What we say and do reveals what is in our hearts. At Northpoint, members are working diligently to build bridges with their community, so that Jesus can walk from their hearts across to the hearts of those who don't know Him yet.

Pr Loren Pratt

INFORMATION STANDS AT THE MEN'S EXPO



Wildlife Display at Stringybark Festival Aids ADRA FERNTREE GULLY CHURCH

Over 20,000 people saw, held, experienced and were enthralled by the animals in Andrew Wegener's Australian Wildlife display at the recent Stringybark Festival.



Families from the community and members of the Ferntree Gully Seventh-day Adventist church helped supervise the handling of the animals and giving out information about the display and programmes run by the church.

Each year Knox Council gives a donation for the display and this year the church is giving \$2,000 to ADRA, supporting church member Frank Ratcliffe's fundraising for the fly n' build project in

Tanzania. You can find out more about this project at www.everydayhero.com.au/tanzania2012

A great amount of hard work goes into organising, preparing and setting up of the display and appreciation is expressed to Andrew and Lorraine Wegener and the team of volunteers who helped make the wildlife display such a huge success.

Elayne Stanford

Reaching the Community ROWVILLE-LYSTERFIELD CHURCH

The Rowville-Lysterfield church has recently hosted two public evangelistic programs – a Dinner with Geoff Youlden and a Daniel Seminar.

Mid October, Pr Geoff Youlden preached to a packed church Sabbath morning and then in the evening the members hosted a Dinner with Geoff Youlden at the Baton Rouge Quality Inn on Stud Road. Months prior, church members had purchased over

80 sets of the new Beyond Search DVD series and have been actively engaged in sharing these DVDs with their friends.

Hosting such a dinner was fun and easy for members to invite friends and family to, creating a nonthreatening environment for establishing sustainable

friendships.

120 people attended the dinner and 49 were non-Adventist. After dessert, Pr Youlden shared an engaging message from Revelation 14. At its conclusion, guests were invited to fill out a card registering interest in the new Beyond DVD series, in receiving free literature on the topic presented, or in attending the Daniel Seminar which commenced later that month.

Titled 'What Ancient Predictions are being Fulfilled Today', the Daniel Seminar, presented by Pr John Chan, began soon after the dinner, and will run through until December. At least 40 people signed up to attend this study on the predictions found in the book of Daniel.

One of the purposes of these meetings was to share the keys with which to unlock the hidden mysteries of this ancient prophetic book, aiding people searching for truth to understand Bible prophecy in relation to end time events.

The whole church got involved in these outreach efforts with enthusiasm and great expectations. One of the strengths of the approach taken by the church was that members were encouraged to pray for people already within their social networks, asking the for the Lord to impress upon them whom, from among their family, friends and work colleagues, they should invite, rather than relying on mass advertising. In addition to this, they letterboxed an invitation flyer in the local area and a number of people accepted the invitation to attend.

For the first few programs in the Daniel Seminar, an eight metre tall inflatable model of the image Nebuchadnezzar saw in a dream was set up at outside the church. The image attracted attention for those walking or driving by and invited guests had no trouble finding the location with the imposing model on the front garden at the church facility, the same image being on the invitation flyer.

Church members are now praying for opportunities to build friendships and strengthen the faith of those attending the seminar. They ask that you pray that the seed sown during these sessions will grow and produce a harvest of souls for God's kingdom.



Get 'Addicted to Jesus'

CASEY YOUTH

During the month of August, the youth at Casey Adventist church took part in the program 'Addicted to Jesus' (A2J). Developed by Hayden Peterson and Camilla Christian, this program challenges each participant to fast from something for a whole month.

Other members of the church supported the youth by praying for them, mentoring or even fasting themselves. It was amazing to see what the youth challenged themselves to give up. Each person fasted from something unhealthy in their lives, from chocolate and sugar to video games and gossip and they replaced this thing in their lives with a daily devotional encouraging

them to focus on Christ. To support them through the month, their mentors encouraged them with phone calls, emails and cards. The mentors themselves felt the blessing as much as those who were participating in A2J. Many were asked by friends why they were giving something up for a month and were able to use this opportunity to share their

knowledge of Jesus. All those involved found it a very positive experience. And there was lots of bonding over shared commiserations during the fasting period! Youth are already looking forward to the challenge of taking their 'Addiction to Jesus' to the next level in 2013!

Fraser Catton

A Church Diary

BAYLES ADVENTIST CHURCH

People keep a diary to record their day-by-day lives: times of great joy and happiness; times of soul wrenching sadness; challenges that appear to be utterly impossible to overcome; and periods of peace and harmony when all is well with the world.

If we had a Bayles church diary a couple of recent pages with look like this...

22 September - Bayles church community enjoyed a visit from Brad Jones and the Rowville Choir today. Friends of the Choir members also came and the numbers swelled to 90 people worshipping together.

Personal testimonies and magnificent praise music touched our hearts. It was a special worship program and was followed by a lovely fellowship lunch. More time to share together! Praise God that after weeks of wet weather, the day was wrapped in warm sunshine.

29 September - Damon, Lisa and Jason Roberts have been home on holidays from Meekatharra, in Western Australia, where Damon serves as a pilot for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. They came home to share time with Lisa's family as they awaited the birth of their second child. Sarah Bree arrived safely on the 17th of

September and her paternal grandparents, Pastor and Mrs Gary Roberts flew from Brisbane to meet her. Pastor Gary officiated at baby Sarah's dedication today. Once again we all shared a special fellowship lunch.

The little family will be flying back to their post of duty in four days' time.

6 October - Archie Jay Bennetts was dedicated at church today and it was a very happy and special Sabbath day. Jarrod and Courtney had invited unchurched clients, friends and family to attend their baby son's dedication. Our minister encouraged us all to make the visitors feel very welcome.

Archie's two older cousins travelled down from NSW with their parents. Joshua and Ashlee provided exceptional music for the program - Ashlee wrote a delightful song for little Archie, and Joshua put the words to music. That was a very lovely surprise and brought tears to many eyes!

The delicious fellowship lunch provided time and opportunity for lots of happy chatter and mingling. The visitors expressed over and over again, how much they had enjoyed the day, and how welcome they felt.

After such a happy Sabbath it was terribly difficult to comprehend the news that filtered through later this evening.

Very suddenly, and totally unexpectedly, one of our longest attending members passed away tonight, after the evening milking. Ross Beveridge came to the area with his parents and siblings as a small child but after a year or two they moved away. When Ross was about ten, they returned to the same property at Lang Lang. Ross's hearty singing and his warm and genuine welcome to worship for friends and strangers alike tops the list of things we will sadly miss.

Continues on page 30

God's Spirit is Moving

SWAN HILL

Things have been happening at Swan Hill Church recently.

Pr Don Fehlberg visited, commencing Aboriginal work in the region and two people responded. One, Katy, was impressed that she needed to be baptised and so, after her wedding to long-time partner, Michael, the church's first baptism in many years took place.

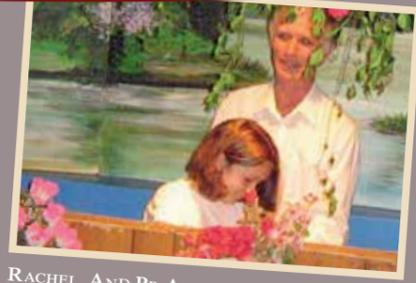
"It was such a thrill to see God's hand in this," said Pastor Peter Ansell.

Rosie Ansell started a Newcomers Group, having found that "being a stranger in a country town, I found it very hard to meet people and find my way around. So I guessed there may be others feeling the same way! To get it started I advertised this group. Julie contacted me and eventually, along with her daughter, Rachel, they started attending church and Rachel decided she wanted to be baptised." Rosie and Sue Charles conducted Bible studies for some months and the date has been set to coincide with Rachel's twelfth birthday.

Rachel, who attends Specialist school,



KATIE SIGNING AFTER THE WEDDING



RACHEL AND PR ANSELL

really loves Jesus and told Rosie that "The reason I want to get baptised is so I can belong to the family of God." Her Lilydale STORMCo friends embraced her as she was welcomed into the Swan Hill membership. The Swan Hill Church members would like to particularly thank Lilydale Church for their continued support of the STORMCo visits.

"These visits over the years have meant a lot, and they are helping us build this Church to the glory of God," Pastor Ansell said. "We also would like to thank the Adventist African families in Melbourne who have taken an interest in Swan Hill." They came and took the Sabbath worship and an afternoon program which was well attended.

And with Summer approaching, interest in Summer Camps 2013 is now building among the young people of the church. It is hoped that around ten teens and young people will be able to attend this year.

"When we arrived here three years ago,"

said Pr Ansell, "there were only four church members, and now, on a good day we can have up to sixty. It is a lot of work, and sometimes very lively with many little children attending, but God's Spirit is active and can be felt. It is so exciting, and humbling to be involved in this work of church building. All praises go to God, our Heavenly Father who adds to the church those who are being saved.

"We appreciate the support of our many Sudanese friends here and wish them God's blessing and leading. You have brought new life to our church! 2013 will be an exciting year here in Swan Hill.

"If anyone is thinking of moving to the country I recommend coming to Swan Hill or Echuca. We could do with some good mature leadership. Or if you or your church would like to come and preach or help with some form of outreach you are most welcome."

Peter Ansell

Herb Kersten Presents

NORTH FITZROY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

The members of the church were pleased to host Herb Kersten's five-part series from August 25 to September 25, focusing on the timeline of God's word and its relevancy for our generation.

Amidst global upheavals ranging from financial to religious and everything in between, the 21st century is certainly one of the most uncertain periods historically. Yet for Christians, as Kersten emphasised, that uncertainty is a genuine indication that the words of Jesus Christ in Luke 21: 31 are true; 'so likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand' (KJV). Accompanying these powerful messages were inspiring messages in song rendered by Yola Mielczarek, an accomplished soloist.

Kersten's third presentation, 'The Gospel in a Nut Shell', was particularly

invigorating on a spiritual level. The simplicity of the message that God has done everything possible to save everyone who comes to Him, was a searing reminder of the completeness of Jesus' sacrifice. By the end of the series, North Fitzroy welcomed Annie, a very special individual, to its family. Annie, who communicates using a special computer, is intelligent and has a great sense of humour, but most importantly she is a faithful Bible student. Though she is limited physically, her faith and witness of Jesus Christ are blessings to those who interact with her. Indeed, Annie's presence reminds all of The Gospel in a Nut Shell, "that God

so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Amanda Richardson



SARAH BREE ROBERTS' DEDICATION BY PR GARY



ROWVILLE CHOIR & BRAD JONES



DEDICATION OF ARCHIE JAY BENNETTS



ANNIE WITH PHYONA AND ADAM McMAHON AND IRWIN MOYO WHO FAITHFULLY BRINGS HER TO CHURCH EACH WEEK

A Page for the Kids...

Who Loves Una?



Christmas was coming and the children of the family were planning to give father a very special gift. He had always thought he would love to have his own Clydesdale horse. A Clydesdale horse is a very big horse but also very gentle.

Well, the day came for the big truck to arrive. Father was watching out for the truck because he thought it was bringing a new bull for the farm. He had no idea a horse was coming. A horse for him!

As the truck drove over to the cattle race to unload, father was annoyed to see a horse loaded at the back of it. He presumed the bull was at the front – such a silly mistake – how would the bull come off the truck past the horse. If the bull had been at the back, it could have just come off by itself...

Then the family all called out “Happy Christmas Dad!” and out of the truck walked Una, the Clydesdale horse!

Father was so overcome he almost fell over. His legs went weak and he could not believe he had a horse.

Una took some time to settle in to our farm on the flat land as she came from up in the hills. And often you would catch her looking in the direction she came from with such longing in her eyes.

She was homesick. Everyone fussed over her and she was fed very yummy horse food. She was brushed down and curry-combed by lots of friends who called in to check on her! But she never seemed happy, and if you left a gate open for even a few minutes, she would be out that gate in a flash and heading off down the driveway looking to go back to her old home.

We discovered Una was deaf. Her sight was excellent, and she reacted instantly when she saw something, even from out of the corner of her eye, but you could yell yourself hoarse and she wouldn't react.

~ ~ ~

Recently we had some wet weather on the farm and Una had to be put into a small paddock with the hay shed where it was dry. But she was there, alone.

Even though father spent time with her and spoilt her with chaff and lucerne and pollard, she was sad.

Eventually the weather cleared and the paddocks dried out and Una could be back with the cows and calves.

One morning I looked out my kitchen window and saw a calf standing under Una, nudging her gently, and nibbling on her hair. The mother cow was not so sure this was a good idea, and she watched anxiously– but Una was standing so still and I could see she enjoyed the gentle touch of the little calf.

Una has made friends with all the cows and calves. When the cows come up to the water trough for a drink, Una walks up with them. When the cows and calves walk back down to the grassy patches, Una walks back with them. I sometimes see the cows nudging Una too – softly rubbing their nose on her shoulder. Una stands there so still, just loving the gentle touch of a friend.

Una is now one happy horse because she has animal friends!

~ ~ ~

Jesus is the best friend we can have – He cares about us and He wants us to be as happy as can be. In the Bible He tells us over and over just how precious we are to Him, and this is something special for you to remember this Christmas.

Grandma Yodie



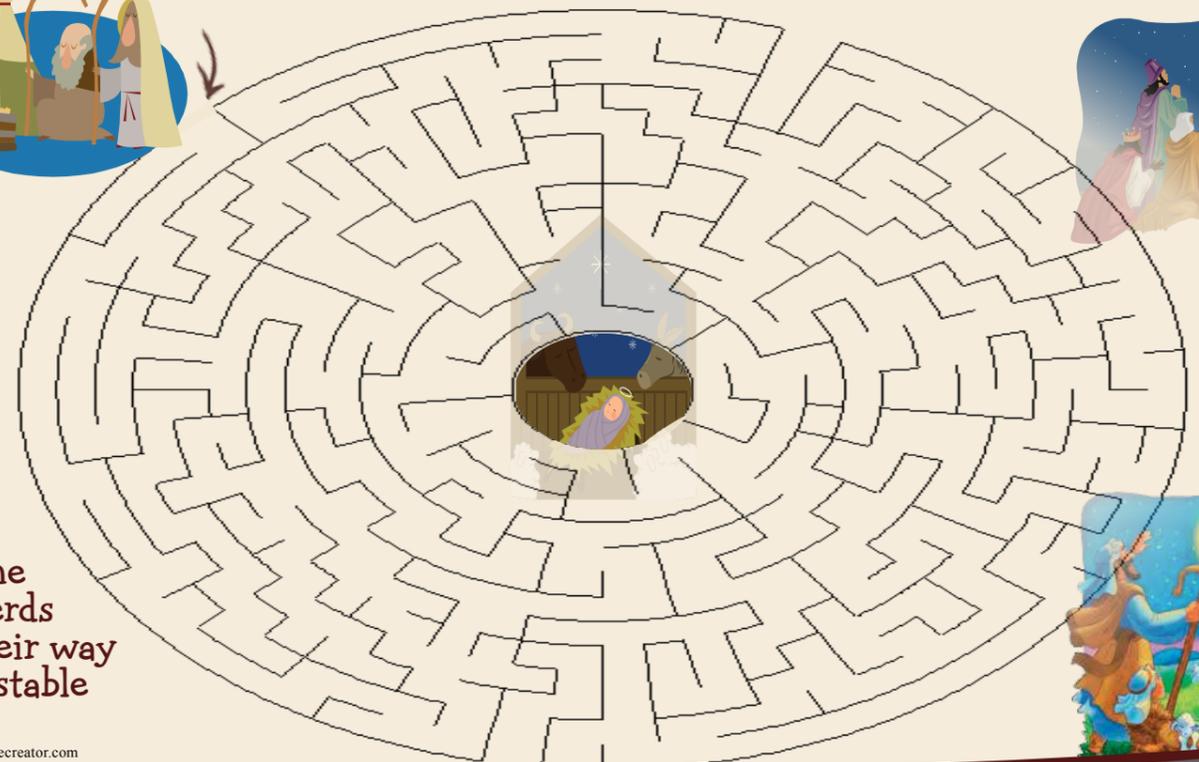
Christmas Word Search

ok, so there is a spelling mistake... don't worry - it is in the puzzle too!

M Y A E L C A R I M Y Y N A Z A R E T H O U H A
 V C E A H A C A M E L S P P Y A I U L E L L L A
 C E H S T A R Y A N N O U N C E M E N T R R I S
 T H M A S H R G O L I D S A Y M A N D E R E M E
 M P B E R R N T P O T H A T A N K J J D L O G E
 S O U S H I E F E O R C O N A M J O Y A I N G T
 O R T H G E S W A O R L G D N B I A I S A B A B
 S P D N Y J I U C S T E F E O C L R P R Y O U F
 R T I R Y R W D E N R R M T E R O E S M G T N B
 C S E D E G T D R F G N I K H L E H H A M P E R
 B H R P O A L D L R Q K P N G H P K E G J T B W
 L L R U M R M X L A Y Y I J S E R M P I H W G Q
 X E R I O U E S Q N E M N N S C K P H L L Q W S
 V G U Q S I R H G K K X C O N W R D E S P Y R E
 Z C O N P T V T P I N Y J F F O V H R K M R M A
 B K N O A J M A M N O T X J C K E N D C G A N R
 K K M T D M T A S C D I H L L M T Z S O G M N C
 R T J X Z T M Q S E T V A C R F F L N L C N L H
 A Z T C R M I E M N B I Y A M B G Z K F M P R I
 Y N N S M J T D L S M T F R L H B A B Y T J T N
 M K G P T Q Q R I E K A R R D B T Y R P P L O G
 C X V E P F M N J N T N M O K T X L Y X V E T B
 H Y P V L P I R Z R G V F L D T L G H P L B L M
 G L E A R S I G D N L S U S E J E P L R M D Q T

www.WordSearchMaker.com Words go in all directions, and the letters left at the end, when read from top LHS corner, going across and down, have a hidden Christmas message for you

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| alleluia | Israel |
| angels | Jesus |
| announcement | joseph |
| baby | joy |
| bethlehem | king |
| camels | Magi |
| carols | manger |
| christmas | mary |
| donkey | men |
| dreams | miracle |
| egypt | myrth |
| emmanuel | nativity |
| flocks | nazareth |
| frankincense | noel |
| gifts | peace |
| gloria | proclaim |
| gold | prophecy |
| good tidings | rejoice |
| herod | saviour |
| inn | searching |
| sheep | star |
| shepherds | trumpets |
| singing | wise |
| stable | |



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Church Property – Help is Here! INFRA STRUCTURE

In times past, when life was much more simple, if a local church congregation wanted to build themselves a place of worship, a few trade-savvy members would get together with their Pastor, talk through their needs over Sabbath lunch, fund-raise to buy the materials, then over a number of working bees the church community would build themselves a church.

But as time has progressed, the complexities of building a church have grown to become a difficult burden on our local church communities. Present day issues of development costs and financing, compliance and local government usage regulations, skills and expertise needed, member time availability and entry level property prices demonstrate that property matters have become highly specialised and complex - beyond the usual skills of the lay person. Unfortunately deficiencies in knowledge and skills in this area have often inadvertently led to expensive mistakes that have caused dissension and distracted members from focusing on the reasons for having a church in the first place. Understanding this, the Victorian Conference administration has created the role of Infrastructure Coordinator, providing someone to whom the Conference and local churches can go to for relevant expertise, knowledge and

advice in this critical area of property administration. Added capacity in this area will also enable a church to think forward and plan strategically for its needs into the future. Filling this new Infrastructure Coordinator role is Galen Gan. Galen is a founding member of Gateway City Church and has worked privately, providing specialized property and investment consulting services for nearly ten years, in the area of capital investment. His background is in Civil Engineering and holds a Masters in Diplomacy and Trade. "I see my role in the Conference as one of developing a supportive partnership with our churches, helping lift the burden of property administration off the shoulders of our pastors and field workers so they can do what they do best – preach the Gospel." To achieve this, Galen is creating a guiding framework for churches to follow if they want to develop a new property. "I have received queries from churches



GALEN GAN

who want to buy a new property or undertake redevelopment work. To help get the knowledge and information out to the churches so they can address their infrastructure needs, I have developed an online Church Property Resource where all churches, both in the country and the city, can access and download relevant property information." The resource is accessed via the Conference website and will provide process and procedure frameworks for churches that are looking to undertake infrastructure initiatives, as well as values and spiritual counsels to keep in mind when considering solutions to their needs. So before you think of doing anything with your church building, visit Vic.Adventist.org.au and have a look at this user friendly resource.

IntraVic with Galen Gan

Joining God in the Ministry of Re-creativity VICYOUTH

The youth rally held recently looked at creativity and how it can be used in ministry for God, the Master Creator.

The rally began in a cafe-type setting on Friday evening, with an art exhibition, live music and a showcase of the best shorts from the SONscreen Film Festival and from Manifest's Hope Channel Filmmaking Competition. It continued on Saturday morning with a worship service that explored questions of tragedy, beauty and transformation and in the afternoon with workshops on creativity. The main service, presented by Nathan Brown, Joanna Darby and Lidia Nowicki, featured Bible reading, drama, film, flowers, live and recorded music, hundreds of colourful paper birds and preaching. The aim was to present biblical perspectives on living faithfully, to create a memorable

experience and to evoke a response. "So much in our world and in our lives pushes us toward numbness—or hardness of heart, in biblical terms—often as a means of survival," says Nathan, "but the faithful and creative life should be sensitive and deep and fully alive. That's what God calls us to be and that's what He

calls us to share." The afternoon program was a series of workshops covering topics such as Why Create, producing a creative church program and creativity for the non-creatives, and concluded with a panel discussion on faithful creativity in your life and church. *Brenton Stacey*



A New Wing - ADVENTCARE WHITEHORSE

A much needed redevelopment is underway at AdventCare Whitehorse, which will see significant improvement to care and living services offered to our residents with dementia. This major work commenced in September and is expected to be completed by mid 2013.

A large section of the existing facility, the original Blair Wing which was built around 60 years ago, is being demolished to accommodate the new dementia wing. Currently eighteen residents with dementia can be accommodated but the redevelopment will see this increase to 38 self-contained residential rooms. The wing will also have its own spacious dining room, large lounge area with leafy views, a dedicated walking circuit and three internal courtyards, providing residents with a peaceful and dignified place for their twilight years. "Our team has worked very hard to

design an attractive and cost-effective development that takes advantage of the beautiful natural views of the Nunawading Estate," says AdventCare Managing Director, Ruth Welling. "As the industry sees more and more elderly people stay in their homes longer, only entering our facilities later in their life, this redevelopment will enable us to better care for and support our residents into the future." Dementia is not actually a disease but a term used to describe a variety of symptoms that elderly people can experience in their later years and is



RIC JELFS ON SITE AS DEMOLITION PROGRESSES

something we will see more commonly as Australia's ageing population increases. The confusion that accompanies these symptoms necessitates a variety of safety features be built into a resident's living environment, so in consultation with dementia specialist Kristy Bennett and Roy Hodgson Design, our redeveloped dementia wing has been custom designed to meet the special needs of our valued residents.

Galen Gan (Infrastructure Coordinator) and Ric Jelfs (Building Projects Manager, AdventCare)



Changes to the Use of Tithe - SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

At its annual council in October 2012, the General Conference voted on policy changes resulting from the work of a Commission on the Use of Tithe.

The Commission's work was guided by the work of theologians that provided a doctrinal foundation for what was being considered, and its report highlighted that tithe does not belong to any one organisation but is provided to the Church to accomplish its global commission. The Conference receives the tithe and then distributes it as was the practice of the Levites. The change to GC policy included:

- Reaffirmation that the primary use of tithe is to support the front line functions of evangelism and pastoral work.
- Provision of revised guidelines on how tithe may be used in other areas such as Education and the operation of Conference offices.
- Allowance for Divisions to set minimum percentages of tithe for use in evangelism

and pastoral work, and maximum amounts for use in education and support functions.

- Requiring annual reports to governing bodies on how tithe has been used by Missions, Conferences, Unions and Divisions within their territories.

In response the General Conference Commissions report and proposed General Conference policy changes, the South Pacific Division has had a representative Committee consider how it will be implemented in the South Pacific Division. The Victorian Conference President and Australian Union Conference Secretary Treasurer were both part of that SPD Committee. Arising from that committee's work are proposed policy changes that will be considered at the South Pacific Division

year end meetings held in November. Some of what is being recommended is:

- SPD Policy changes to reflect the GC policy changes
- A simplified way to express the tithe sharing between the Conference, Union, Division and General Conference. If approved the changes will see a higher percentage of tithe available to the Victorian Conference.
- Recommendations on the minimum percentage of tithe to be used in front line pastoral work and evangelism and a maximum for education.
- A phase in period for organisations that may need to adjust the way they operate.

Rodney Brady, Chief Financial Officer South Pacific Division





The Journey or the Destination? CONFERENCE REGIONAL MEETING

The Victorian Conference Regional Meeting was held at Gilson College gymnasium on Sabbath, 27th of October. Around 1700 people attended for the day and were treated to an excellent program which engaged all ages with the message that we should look to Jesus and not to others or ourselves.

The weather was ideal, the venue comfortable, there was plenty of parking and those who organized the program had clearly done an outstanding job with everything running smoothly.

A stand-out music segment with instant appeal, by three fine young musicians Abram, Kenny & Yung, captivated the crowd with contemporary tunes and excellent singing voices.

Troy Fitzgerald, young adult pastor from Walla Walla University in the US delivered the message, opening with the question "Is it the journey or the destination?" The church was admonished to keep the big picture in mind and that we should value the Great Controversy theme which gives ultimate meaning to the things we do as Adventist Christians.

Troy shared the story of his father who was lost in alcohol addiction, until one

turning-point day when he overheard his Troy dismiss his father as a drunk. This sparked the desire to search for true meaning in life, which resulted in the memorable day when Troy returned home to find all of the alcohol tipped down the sink and his father sitting down with the Bible, reading. After a wide but fruitless search a work mate had given Troy's father a shortened copy of The Great Controversy by Ellen G White, which led him to the Bible and from there to baptism. Troy followed his father in baptism a couple of years later.

The afternoon program included a contemporary concert by Leighton and Ali Heise from North New South Wales. Leighton and Ali are excellent musicians and have a gift for interacting meaningfully with the crowd on a personal level.

Ric Jelfs



News from Lilydale Adventist Academy

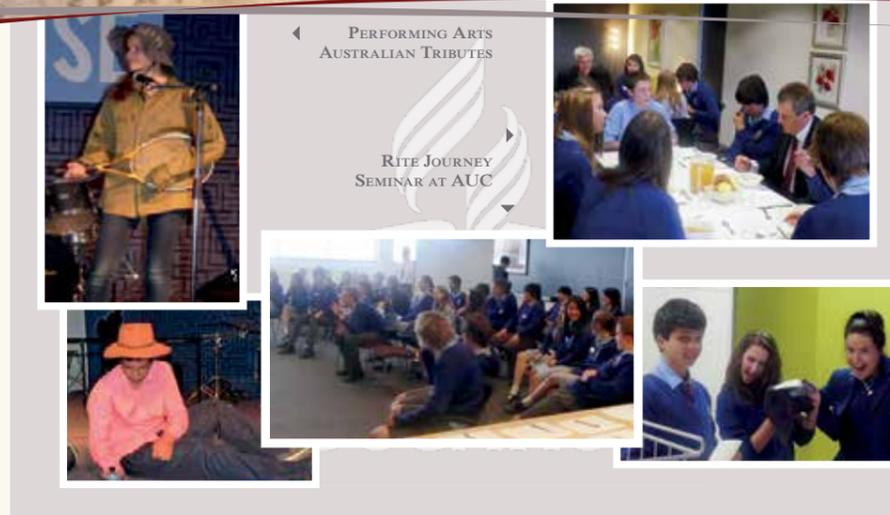
THE RITE STYLE @ LAA

Year 9 Rite Journey students started off Term 4 in the Rite Style as they began their last term in a year long journey with a tailor-made seminar touching on the corporate world beyond schooling.

The Rite Journey is not just about surviving in the wilderness, although it is rather exciting. Initiation and rites of passage into adulthood involves much more in the world we live in. So during the seminar, the presenters took students on a journey into the business world, covering first impressions, personal grooming, fine dining and etiquette skills. Students left with the confidence to meet new people and to make eye contact and skills in effective communication and public speaking. Dress codes and make-up for the girls were on the agenda, which was highly engaging in a world of questionable street wear and trashy appearances. The response from the students was overwhelmingly positive and they could really see the value in learning such skills.

The seminar was held at the Australian Union Conference office with the Union staff attending a three course meal with the students so they could practice some of the skills they had learnt during the morning. The staff and the presenters were full of praise for our students, with comments such as "I was so impressed at the maturity and depth of the conversations" and "What a wonderful bunch of students" being among the positive feedback received. Our Year 9 students, not just at LAA, but in all our schools, are developing a reputation for being role models in their communities through responsible, resilient and respectful attitudes, and in speech, dress and conversation.

Dustin Dever



PERFORMING ARTS ENGLISH NIGHT

As 7.30 pm on Wednesday, August 29, rapidly approached, a buzz of voices filled the chapel as students and teachers conferred and hurriedly checked costumes and props.

The house lights dimmed and the audience settled in for an evening of entertainment at the annual English Night. Year 7 focus was on late 19th century Australia as the class presented poetry and songs from the era - The Man from Snowy River, The Ned Kelly Song and Waltzing Matilda - utilising sings, plays, recitation, PowerPoint, guitars and drums to give a glimpse of early Australian life.

Year 8's tale of Uncle Tom's Lolly Shop was laced with humour - who would have thought that a fourteen year old could age so rapidly or that teenagers visiting a shop could be quite so annoying! - and incorporated original poetry, air guitar, a World War II veteran and even a wrestle with a crocodile.

Romeo and Juliet, presented by Year 9's with paper bag puppets, delighted the audience with their passion and papery kisses. Spread through-out the program were some quite touching Year 9 original music videos and poetry recitations.

The Year 10's decided humour was the best form to work with. A group of girls

had trouble finding the right wave length on the radio with some interesting mix-ups in Radio Daze, and the finale was a fine presentation of a Monty Python skit, The Dead Parrot. John Cleese and Michael Palin could not have been funnier. The evening finished with a light supper and lots of chatter as parents commented on their child's performance. It was a night of fun and entertainment. *Jeanette Mead*

CONGRATULATIONS

It is always exciting to hear from former students of our schools, and of their successes and achievements. Former LAA student, Josh Dye is in his second year at Avondale College and recently received the 2012 WA Townend Christian Journalism Prize for recognition of his "significant publication record of writings with a Christian focus."

Josh is currently undertaking a South Pacific Division sponsored internship through Adventist Employment, working with Brenton Stacey in the PR department at Avondale. Some of his work has appeared in the Record, in New South Wales' equivalent of IntraVic and in local newspapers.

"Next year," says Josh, "I will be working on The Voice - the Avondale students' publication - possibly as the Editor." Congratulations Josh.

A Chat With God

EDINBURGH ADVENTIST PRIMARY SCHOOL

When their teacher asked the Year 1 students if they could chat with God what they would say, here is how some of them responded.

Julie-Anne: Dear God, I love you. You are caring. You are always with me. You are loving. You never lie. You are big and strong. You make me happy when I am sad. You died on the cross for all of us. I love you.

Paige: Dear God, I love you so much. What is it like in heaven? I am sure it is fun. Will we have crowns in heaven? You are cool. I love you.

Krystal: Dear God, I love you so much. Would I really get angel wings? What colour are they? Would I get a pet dog? Yes or No? Are you the strongest God in the world?

Peter: Dear God, I love you! You are the best! When are we going to heaven?

Thomas: Dear God, I love you so much. Is there gold in heaven?

Kaelan: Dear God, I would like to be really good at music when I grow bigger. Thank you for our food. Thank you for friends and family.



NCC and LAA visit Vanuatu

Over the last five years, these two schools have combined to run a Year 10 service project where a group of students travel to beautiful Vanuatu in the South Pacific. Vanuatu is made up of over 80 individual islands and more than 200 dialects are spoken. Each year, the students have travelled to one of these islands where Aore Adventist College is located, working on various projects for the school and getting to know the students there.

In September, sixteen students and staff again set out for this service project adventure, not fully certain of what they were getting into!

This year's project involved installing tank liners into two 200,000 litre water tanks. The weather was hot and installing the liners was hard work - they finished putting the roof on the last tank at 1pm on

their final day of working - but it was very rewarding; the school now has running water for most, if not all of the day, rather than just the few hours it previously had.

There is something special and unique about Aore College; it's the students and how appreciative they are of the little they have. Their singing in roll mark each morning, the staff commitment to teaching

and learning, the spiritual tone of the school as well as the culture the students and staff are so proud of, and of course the beautiful and picturesque surroundings all set this school apart from others and contributed to the blessing our own students and staff received as they helped their sister school in Vanuatu.



A WARM WELCOME TO THE TEAM AT AORE



COMPLETED WATER TANKS THE TEAM WORKED ON



SUNSETS ON THE ISLAND



News from Nunawading Christian College

BIODIVERSITY AT NCC PRIMARY

Nunawading Christian College Friday afternoon for the past few months, Year Prep/One and Year Two students at the college, along with parent helpers, have been involved in a number of hands-on sustainability activities.

These activities have included planting hundreds of native and indigenous plants, cleaning out the school chook yard, establishing an orchard, creating additional vegetable gardens, making a worm farm, and cooking using fresh produce from their vegetable plots.

The students have loved these activities and all agree that Friday afternoons are the best time of the week.

We have had amazing support from our parents who faithfully attend every Friday afternoon to work alongside the students,

answering questions and educating the children in sustainable practices. *Helen Reed*

NCC IN SERVICE

Three NCC teachers recently participated in an overseas service project, Mrs Reed (Prep/Grade One teacher), Mrs James (Secondary English teacher, currently on leave) and Mr Michalski (Primary School Principal) travelled to Vanuatu over the school holidays to conduct a three-day Adventist teacher professional development workshop in the remote Malekula district.

Twenty-seven local teachers participated in the program. The topics covered included: Writing Skills I & II, Formative Assessment, Different Learning Styles, How to Teach Vocabulary and Programming and Redemptive Discipline. The Malekula teachers really appreciated the opportunity to learn from fellow teachers, and in the process improve their teaching skills to assist their students to achieve better literacy outcomes.

UPGRADES

Nunawading Christian College is a school on the move! Over the last school holiday period some major constructions commenced, starting with the road access from Central Rd. A new road into the school, complete with embankments and landscaping will mean that parents will be able to drop off and pick up their children safely from the Central Rd entrance to the school. A properly constructed roadway will also give a more professional first impression to visitors to the school.

Excavation for the provision of large

underground water tanks is also nearing completion. These water tanks will hold a million litres of water which will be used to maintain the new full sized sports oval. Two new tennis courts are to be constructed over the top of these tanks, once completed.

Refurbishment of the secondary school quadrangle area is also underway and will include new paving, landscaping and the provision of an outdoor stage. New painting has also been completed at the front office of the primary school, giving it a fresh, contemporary look.

All of these upgrades are part of stage two in the school's ten year master plan toward insuring the facilities at Nunawading Christian College are among the best for private schools in the Eastern suburbs.

SPELLING BEE

Each year Nunawading Christian College Primary hosts an inter-school spelling bee competition. This year five out of eight schools qualified to compete on the day: Nunawading Christian College, Edinburgh Adventist Primary School and Heritage College in Victoria and North West Christian School and Hilliard Christian School from Tasmania. Sarah from Nunawading took out the Year 3/4 prize of \$100.00, a spelling trophy and shield. The Year 5/6 winner was Brendon from Edingburgh Adventist Primary School. He won \$200, a trophy and school shield.

The Spelling Bee competition was organised by Mr Daryl Thomson, NCCP teacher. Prizes were awarded by Mr Brian Mercer, Adventist School Victoria Director of Education. *Peter Michalski*



THE MY*TRIP TEAM

PE STAFF ON WORLD TEACHERS DAY



RELAY GIRLS TEAM AT STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Term Four Highlights at Gilson College

MY* MISSION TRIP

Throughout the year the Gilson College community has been raising funds to support the ongoing my* mission projects in south-east Asia.

During October the Year 10 students at Gilson College had the opportunity to travel into south-east Asia as part of the annual my*mission trip. The students were responsible for raising funds to pay for their own travel as well as fundraising for the current mission projects. The trip involved visiting local schools, Peace Orphanage and Hope Orphanage. While at the schools the Year 10 students spent much of their time teaching English to the local children. At each school and orphanage the students were delighted to be able to present the funds that had been donated for each project.

The 2012 my* mission trip was a wonderful experience for everyone involved and gave them memories that will last a lifetime. The Gilson College community continues to support 25 teachers in village environments in south-east Asia.

STATE CHAMPION RELAY TEAM

On the 16th and 18th of October students from Gilson College Primary School participated in the Regional Championship Athletics competition. A number of the students qualified to compete in the State Championships on the 29th of October. Ruby qualified in the hurdles and the ten year olds relay team. Kelera, Akos and Michelle also qualified for the ten year olds relay event.

If they are successful at the State Championships the next step is the Nationals, which are in Adelaide in November.

WORLD TEACHERS DAY

On the 26th of October staff at Gilson College enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by the Parents and Friends committee as part of World Teachers Day.

The staff really enjoyed the tasty lunch and the chance to celebrate the special work of being a teacher. The PE staff enjoyed showing off how strong they felt after eating their special lunch!

Exciting Developments

HERITAGE COLLEGE

Things are happening at the Officer Campus of Heritage College. Recently the new Primary School buildings arrived on the back of trucks!

They began transportation in Bendigo, and the seventeen buildings completed their journey when lifted by crane and secured in place at the Primary School site in Officer.



YEAR 2 STUDENT HELPING IN THE GARDEN AT NCC

HELEN REED & PETER MICHALSKI HELPING LOCAL TEACHERS WITH PD TRAINING



EARTH MOVING FOR ROAD UPGRADES



BRIAN MERCER HELPING HAND OUT THE PRIZES



Looking at 2012... GENERAL SECRETARY



What a year it has been: it has been hectic and rushed year at times, while also presenting various dramas and opportunities. What follows is a wrap up the year from our Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Cranbourne and Northpoint were both established as churches during 2012
- The Samoan Church in Melbourne recently met with the Executive Committee to report on their progress. Significant growth has occurred under God's blessings and the guidance of their pastor, Eddie Erika and his team of dedicated lay leaders. The Samoan Church in Victoria currently has two churches, one company and four groups. They are now working towards their company becoming a church and the four groups becoming companies
- Springvale Spanish have begun to explore using the Conference-owned house at the entry to the Springvale Spanish church for outreach purposes
- Pakenham continues to meet in rented premises while they work through the best options for a future meeting place
- Living Waters changed their name to better reflect that they are the Gilson

College Church

- Mont Albert's planned facility upgrade was approved
- The Macedonian Church purchased a residential property to assist them in the long term plans
- Casey Church has been hard at work, in consultation with the Executive Committee, looking to find the best solution for their land and desired Church. This continues to be a work in progress but significant progress has been made
- Nunawading Church has been saving towards a new church building for many years. With the provision of a \$350,000 grant from the South Pacific Division, their own savings, and in consultation with the Executive Committee, it is expected that soon plans will be ready to submit to council for approval

• The Nunawading Estate will soon see the reconstruction of the internal access road from Central Road into Nunawading Christian College. Combined with the works being undertaken at the School this will transform the appearance of the school environment. In addition a new entry gate has been approved and will be installed at the Central Road entry to the Nunawading Estate to better control access and improve site security.

- Mowbray & Education Future Growth: significant time and effort was put into the offer that was submitted for Mowbray Melton Campus. While this was ultimately unsuccessful (obviously God has other things in mind for the Education Company), it did prove to be a beneficial exercise to see what could be done in short time frames if necessary. This will provide impetus for the Education Company as it looks at possible school sites both in the Strategic

Growth corridors in Melbourne's North and South West

- The Education Company had funding for two projects approved. At Henderson College the multi-purpose building fit out will be completed adding four learning areas, and industrial kitchen, music room, store rooms and office. At NCC a hard court play area is to be added to work including entry road, parking, water storage and landscaping. In addition the fast tracking of the Officer Campus continues with dedicated staff committed to the success of this project
- The Conference Office Refurbishment is well underway with the top floor and reception area to be completed by the time you read this!

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- The BOD receives regular reports regarding plans for Evangelism and has oversight of the Pastoral Staffing Committee. It reviews the appointment of Pastoral Districts and Senior District pastors, approves Licenses and Credentials for workers, oversees monthly financial operating statements, and various other subcommittees and policies. It also reviews recommendations for ordination to the Australian Union Conference, and approved the preparation of a submission into the Parliamentary Inquiry into the criminal abuse of children – the size of this undertaking should not be underestimated.
- In 2012 the BOD approved the further appointment of the Safe Places Coordinator, Mrs Sue Mercer, and the Infrastructure Coordinator, Mr Galen Gan.

The challenges and opportunities facing the Church in 2013 will continue. However, no matter what role we might have in the Church in Victoria, we are all servants of God who are called to be faithful to Him. Let us all continue to uphold one another in prayer.

Darren Croft
General Secretary

Literature Evangelism in Action HORSHAM SHOW

Recently the Western Victoria regional camp meeting was held at Halls Gap. On the Saturday night there was a Literature Evangelism stand, where I had the opportunity to display our products and talk with campers, including some who have been in the work in the past and it was great to hear of their experiences. Church members in my region have been a great support to me over the years at the camp meeting, and I thank the organizers for the opportunity to fly the LE flag there each year.

A couple of days later, I returned to Horsham for the annual Horsham Show where I have been a regular stand holder for a number of years and am becoming known amongst those attending. Although sales are never significant, it is an opportunity to let the Lord lead and impress people to come to the stand and

explore what we have to offer.

Often times I have conversations with people around spiritual topics. This year a lady asked if I had anything to explain death to her daughter. I showed her the 'Today, Tomorrow and You' book telling how it explains death from a Christian perspective.

One young Christian man perused the stand for several minutes before saying "You are an inspiration to me." While we don't do our work for recognition, it is encouraging to hear that it is appreciated by others. I'll be back at Horsham again next year, Lord willing...

Brendan Scale

SPRINGVALE DOORS

One Friday in September, we had planned a full day of outreach in the Springvale area, however the weather was cold and wet. This did not dampen our enthusiasm as we made ourselves available to serve God.

We met at the home of Hugh Chew and Pr Michael Mohanu shared an inspiring morning devotional with us before we headed out to pray in homes, distribute literature, encourage people and share our hope with them. Barbara grew up in a Presbyterian household but later gave church and God away. Several months

ago her husband died and she held back her tears as she shared her story with us. She purchased The Great Controversy and is looking forward to reading about God's plan for her life and for this world, as is a bright sixteen year old from a Buddhist family. Ivanka too, lost her husband not long ago and appreciated the prayer that

was offered on her behalf. And three homes accepted the Final Events DVD by Doug Batchelor. Peter Smith, one of the LEs, said that despite the rain, it was a great day with many opportunities.

We thank God for walking with us.

Joe Paola

THE STREETS OF FERNTREE GULLY

A month later, a team of five LEs met at Ferntree Gully Church. Pr Trevor Rowe shared some thoughts from the book of Hebrews, before we hit the streets, equipped with Beyond the Search and Life after Life DVDs by Geoff Youlden.

One young man, dressed in black and covered in tattoos, well known around the world for his tattoos and brilliant artwork, shared how his fiancé had just left him. The Great Controversy how has a place in his home, amongst his tattoo gear, leather jackets and pictures of skulls, skeletons and beautiful models. We placed books in the home of a lovely Fijian lady who attends City Life Church, and a young

mum shared how Jehovah's Witnesses visit her often but she was not convinced about their teachings. She accepted the Life after Life DVD.

With God's Spirit working ahead of them and Jesus walking beside them, a Literature Evangelist never works alone. We are told in the Bible that His Word does not return to Him void. We prayed in six homes, and the six Bible DVDs, 47 Signs,

63 pieces of literature and eleven Great Controversies will do their work.

Joe Paola

LE Team Leader



RENOVATIONS AT THE CONFERENCE OFFICE



STAFF SHARING THE CHAPEL DURING BUILDING WORKS



LE STAND AT THE HORSHAM SHOW



JOE, PETER SMITH, JOHN SHEERMEIJER





ROSS BEVERIDGE

News from Bayles...

Continued from page 16

come to terms with the shock associated with such a sudden and unexpected loss.

24 October - Maclaren Scott Camps was born. This precious much-prayed for baby is our newest member at Bayles and brings gladness to our hearts again.

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 says Always be joyful. Keep on praying. No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

We might wonder how someone can rejoice or be joyful all the time, especially during painful or difficult experiences. But unlike happiness, which is based on circumstances, joy is a positive and confident outlook on life, despite our circumstances. Knowing that God is in control and that His love surrounds us gives security and confidence. No matter what happens, we should delight in God and Praise Him for His goodness.

Bayles Communicator

A small church is a team – everyone contributes – everyone uses the talents they have for the good of the church community. And Ross will truly be missed. So many times he mowed the church lawns when others were caught up and never took their turn on time – and we don't know who is going to burn the rubbish pile now, or pick up the fallen branches and leaves in the yard.

We pray that God will help us all be sensitive to the needs of his wife Bronwyn, their three girls, Carolyn, Lisa and Renee and their families, as they

ROAD to BETHLEHEM

Let shepherds straw stars and stables fill you with a true Christmas feeling – praising God for sending His only Son into the world to save us. Road to Bethlehem Is a great place to introduce Jesus to your friends, family and neighbours. Road to Bethlehem runs between the 10th and 13th of December.

Tickets are available from 26th November - visit www.roadtobethlehem.org to book online, or call 03 9264 7770.

To help us we need volunteers in areas such as car park attendants, ironing costumes, greeters, construction team members and a lot more!

We need arms and legs, muscles and minds to help with set up and pack up.

We also need babies up to four months of age, to play Baby Jesus. If you would like your little bundles of joy to take part please contact Shelley on 0407 543 815.

DECEMBER 8 - Gift bag packing from 2.30pm at Bethel Hall, Nunawading Church

DECEMBER 9 - Onsite Setup DAY - LUNCH PROVIDED

DECEMBER 14-16 - Pack up Days

There are a myriad tasks, for all abilities and skill levels. We know that many hands make light work, so come along and help us on these big busy days, even if you can only spare an hour or two.

Contact Anthony Henriques on 0414 892 455 to register your interest area in volunteering.

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

December 2012

Sabbath Opening Closing

Nov 31, Dec 1 20.25 20.27

Dec 7,8 20.32 20.33

Dec 14,15 20.38 20.39

Dec 21,22 20.42 20.43

Dec 28,29 20.45 20.45

January 2013

Jan 4,5 20.46 20.46

Jan 11,12 20.45 20.45

Jan 18,19 20.43 20.42

Jan 25,26 20.39 20.38

Offering Schedule

DECEMBER

1 - Mission Extensions

8 - Conference new church buildings

15 - Education/ Camping ministry

22 - Local Church Budget

20 - Local Church Budget

JANUARY

5 - Local Church Budget

12 - Conference Evangelism

19 - Local Church Budget

26 - Education/

Camping Ministry

Baby Camps Congratulations

Scott and Aloma Camps are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of Maclaren Scott Camps, who was born 24 October 2012. Congratulations Scott and Aloma. May the Lord be with you as you care for this precious little one.



ADS & NOTICES

ADRA Sunraysia

Specialists in New and Used Office Furniture, established since 1993. Profits go to support local youth and community projects.

We seek the services of an experienced and mature motivated professional for our Mildura warehouse. The successful applicant must be able to direct staff, handle sales, coordinate deliveries, and liaise with suppliers, carriers and clients. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to the ethos of ADRA Australia and the beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Mildura Adventist Church has a regular attendance of approximately 200, an active youth group, Adventurers Club and Sabbath School classes for all ages. The associated school, Henderson College, caters for Prep to Yr10, with around 140 students.

If you see this as your opportunity to escape to the country please contact Darcy Malycha on 0418 596 240 or email adrasunraysia@ncable.com.au.

Resumes can be emailed or posted to PO Box 5072, Mildura, VIC, 3502.

Application closure has been extended to November 30, 2012

Photographers Wanted

Victorian Conference Communications Department is looking for photographers who are interested in being part of our photography team at the Annual Convention held over the Easter weekend, in 2013. If you are interested in helping in this way, contact SherrieCourtney@adventist.org.au

Church Addresses Available

Are you travelling around the state during these end of year holidays? Want to locate a nearby church in Victoria?

A list of churches and addresses is now available on our conference website [Vic. Adventist.org.au](http://Vic.Adventist.org.au)

Conference Office Closure over the Christmas break

The Conference Office and the Adventist Book Centre will be closed over the Christmas break, from Friday afternoon, December 21 through until Wednesday morning, January 2.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you safe and enjoyable holiday season as you spend time with your friends and family.

ABC Notice

Visit the Adventist Book Centre at the Conference Office in Central Road Nunawading, for all your Christmas gift needs. Music, DVD's, books, small gifts, and more.

Open late during Road to Bethlehem.



CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL
manifest
March 20 - 23, 2013
Avondale College

2012 Manifest prizewinners:

- Song Composing
- Filmmaking
- Fine Arts
- Writing

Manifest is an annual event celebrating creative arts for ministry.

- Workshops
- Showcases
- Exhibitions
- Performances
- Competitions (with prizes)
- Event: Meet & Greet
- Cable Studios Awards
- Sunday, March 23 at 10:00pm

Presenters include:

- Terry Benedict (composer)
- Dwain Edmond (filmmaker)
- Joanna Darby (artist)

Where arts meet faith...

www.artsmanifest.info

COME JOIN US
for our
Adult Singles Christmas Party

Date: Sunday, 16th of December, 2012 at 6.15pm

Place: "The Cuckoo"
508 Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, Olinda VIC.

Cost: \$25 per head for full Smorgas Board Meal including sweets, cakes and entertainment

RSVP: 9th of December
Bookings and money must be finalised by this date and there are no refunds available

Pay to: Westpac Bank, BSB 033-112 | Acc 236684
Please attach your name so we can identify who has paid.

2013 MIDDLE EAST TOUR

Pastor Harold Harker is leading another fantastic Middle East Tour this year from 12 September to 16 October.

The tour will explore four countries.

Jordan: Petra, Amman, Jerash, Old Sodom.
Israel: Jerusalem, Galilee, Jericho, Nazareth.
Turkey: underground cities of Cappadocia, Istanbul, six of the seven churches of Revelation and Gallipoli.
Greece: Sabbath on Patmos, Athens, Corinth, Berea, Thessaloniki, Philippi, Delphi, Meterora and more.

The tour will conclude in Athens with options to go elsewhere in Europe or 'round the world, coming home via America.

For more information, please contact Pastor Harold Harker on (02) 4385 8282 or email harold.harker@gmail.com.



ACTORS AS THE WISE MEN, MARY, JOSEPH WITH BABY JESUS, AND A SOLDIER AT RTB



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2013

July 1-13 | Pretoria
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come and experience
your church
 united in worship



Concert of Beautiful Music

AdventCare Whitehorse Auditorium
 163-165 Central Rd Nunawading

TODAY - November 24

seating by 7.55 pm

- Featuring the Ring Family (Brass, flute and voice), Vivian Hill (voice), Pawel Ustupski (violin) and pianists Judy Bottrell, Karen Wood and Romney King (and organ) with compere Ken Mead.
- Free entry, with freewill offering toward AdventCare facilities.
- Car parking available in Nunawading Church grounds.



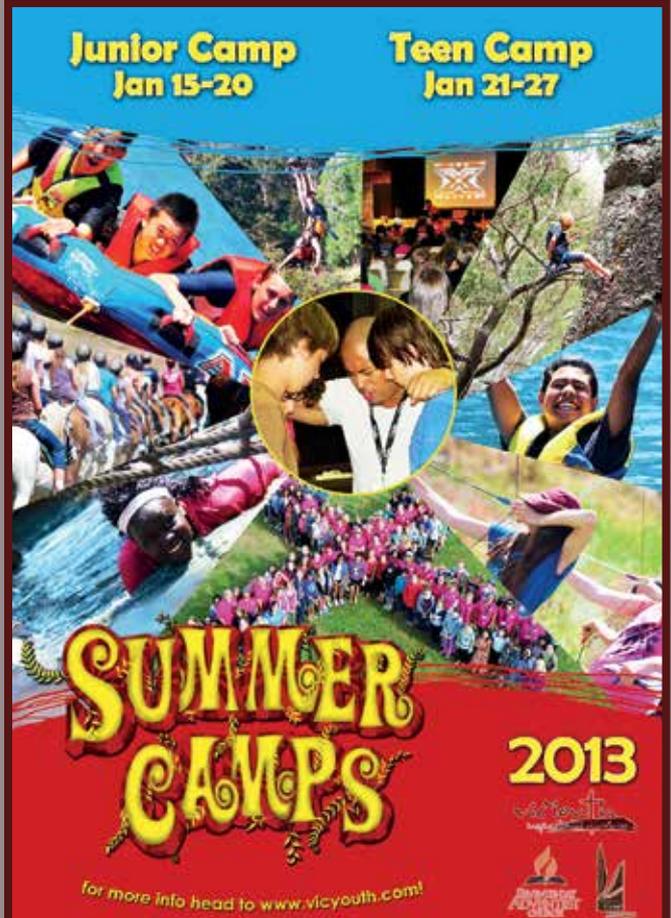
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Signs Ministry has a new Goodwill flyer for you to share with your community this Christmas—in a church program or to letterbox. To view the content and to order: <www.signsofthetimes.org.au/christmascard>. Stock limited.

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\$AUD	\$22	\$20	\$18
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 <leedunstan@adventistmedia.org.au>

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Junior Camp Jan 15-20 **Teen Camp Jan 21-27**

SUMMER CAMPS 2013

for more info head to www.vicyouth.com!

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