

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

# Look at the Past...

## ...Plan for the Future

# IntraVic

November 2014



  
Victorian Adventist  
COMMUNICATIONS

IntraVic Newsletter  
a publication of VAC

Like Us On   
**facebook**  
Victorian Adventists



# Note from the Editor...

## 2014 - Where did it go?



Where did this year go? I've heard it from lots of people. Christmas is just around the corner. Time flies for those who have loads of responsibilities, and that's how it is for our Conference. Our team includes administration and departmental personnel, pastors, educators and aged care workers. We are all busy, but what have we achieved?

This IntraVic gives an overview of where we've been and where we're going. I'm sure you'll enjoy reading articles from some of our key leaders.

I think it's fair to say that as a team, we are committed. We're focused on core business. We're on task. We've faced challenges this year and as we've faced them we've seen God's hand at work again and again. We've experienced His blessing in so many ways.

As you know, 2014 has been the Year of Evangelism – a year focused on reaching the cities. Right across Victoria, pastors and churches have worked to lead people to Christ. The number baptised is an important way to measure success, but I think you'd agree that baptising people isn't enough. We're thankful for a team of pastors who are working towards fully committed disciples who are active in church life.

I've just been part of the CHEP graduation for those who've completed the training course offered by our Health Director, Mrs Sibilla Johnson.

A couple of weeks ago I was involved in the Youth Think Tank – where young people dedicated a Sabbath afternoon to brainstorming how we can hold our young people for Christ and the church. Thanks Phil, Trent and Natasha.

I wish I had room to detail more of what our office team have been doing – it's very good.

While it's true to say that our schools have done well this year, that doesn't quite capture the significance of the positive steps our education company has taken this year. Teaching and learning is well cared for and the education company has done well financially as well. There's growth in good ways, thanks to the Education team.

There's progress with AdventCare. As some are aware, we've now appointed a new CEO, Mr Alex Bolek. We're looking forward to working with him and the AdventCare Board of Directors to create a strategy for a positive future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to let you know that Pr Craig Gillis has agreed to continue as General Secretary beyond his initial twelve month term and Betty Lakovic has been appointed to the new position of Associate Education Director.

We praise God for His faithfulness towards us as a Conference, and let us commit to faithfulness to Him.

I really think it is as a friend said to me just the other day, "God's better to us than we are to Him."

So, let's keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, and pray that the Lord of the harvest will send forth reapers – that we may be effective in the work of the Master.

### IntraVic Staff

Editor:  
Pastor Graeme Christian

Assistant Editor:  
Sherrie Courtney  
SherrieCourtney@adventist.org.au  
PO Box 215 Nunawading, 3131  
Phone: 03 9264 7777  
Website: vic.adventist.org.au

Copy deadline  
1st of each Month

Cover Photo  
Istock photo/Silent47

## In this issue...



In this edition of IntraVic, we are taking a snapshot look at what has been achieved within the Conference throughout 2014. Each of our departments and areas have been asked to share the highlights with you, as well as their direction for 2015...

### 04 Devotional 'Accused'

While Satan accuses, God strives and contends...  
by Justin Bone



### 06 Reports

A look at the year that was, and the year ahead from each of the areas within the conference office:

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Treasury              | Education          |
| Secretarial           | Health             |
| AdventCare            | Ministerial        |
| ADRA                  | Safe Places        |
| Children's Ministries | Women's Ministries |
|                       | Youth              |



### 13 Kids Spot

### 14 Church news

In this edition we have two stories of baptism, updates on the evangelistic programs in our local churches and a reminder of Road To Bethlehem and what this wonderful ministry does.

IntraVic



# Accused

“If the wind changes, your face will stay that way!”  
That was one of my father’s favourite expressions....



Justin Bone  
MINISTER AT ARARAT

He tended to say it when, as a child, I had my tongue stuck out at him as far as it could go. I always thought it a silly expression, so imagine my surprise when I found myself beginning to say the very same thing to my own child one day as she waggled her fingers at me and crossed her eyes. It just popped out!

“If the wind changes your face...” and I stopped.

My father’s influence reached across decades and I smiled at the memory. We are irrevocably shaped by our parents, and take on their characteristics almost subconsciously.

Adam and Eve discovered this the hard way. In the garden of Eden, after turning away from God as their father, they turned to Satan and took on one of his prime characteristics, that of being an accuser. When God asks Adam to explain what has happened he responds - “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” Eve is quick to follow suit and points to the serpent as the real problem. [Gen. 3]

Accusation is one of Satan’s prime characteristics.

We see this in Zechariah 3:1 - the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. Revelation 12:10 speaks of Satan saying “For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.” He is the accuser of faithful believers of

God, ready to indict them of their sins, before God.

This is an interesting fact... the Hebrew word for “satan” is actually translated as “accused”.

Psalms 109 says “In return for my friendship they accuse me, but I am a man of prayer.” It literally reads “in return for my friendship they satan me”. In the Greek, his name means adversary, and he is called a devil, which means “slanderer”. Satan’s character is one of accusation and slander.

Interestingly, God never accuses or “satans” anyone at all in the Old Testament. A different word entirely is used, “riyb”, which means “to strive or contend”. A completely different meaning.

In the New Testament the word “kategoros” means to accuse, but the only people using this word in the New Testament seem to be Pharisees, teachers of the law and the religious leaders, and it is pointed without fail at Jesus and His followers, and usually implies false accusation. [such as in Matthew 27:12, Mark 3:2]

Remarkably, there are no instances in the Old or New Testament of God ever accusing anyone in the same way that Satan does. Instead He strives with us, contends for us.

Which leads me to ask this... Why are we so eager to accuse others of wrongdoing? Why are we so quick to judge and hold people up to the law to accuse them?

“The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” John 8:3-6

Can you imagine what that would be liked? Dragged from your bed by the holiest religious leaders, through streets where people could see your shame, to have your sins declared at the very temple in front of so many?

To be accused?

Could it be that perhaps we are listening to the wrong father?

When I ask people, they can usually relate an experience where a fellow believer has hurtfully accused them of something.

Why do we do it when God Himself does not?

One reason seems to be that we feel we should rebuke sinners in an attempt to save them. Revelation 3:19 after all does say “Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.”

It seems that too often we forget Jesus is actually saying there needs to be love before discipline. Luke 17:3 gives us more guidance: “So watch yourselves. If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them”.

This tells me a couple of things. First, I should perhaps only rebuke someone if they sin against me. It seems that rebuking is actually supposed to be about repairing relationships that may have been damaged by sin.

Second, before I rebuke anyone, Luke is saying I should be as close to them as brother! A brother can tell me when I’ve gone awry because I know he loves me. Unless that love is there, a rebuke is more likely to harden a heart than inspire repentance.

This is why Paul tells Timothy “Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity” (1 Tim 5:1). Until we are as close as family and can share concerns with someone, John tells us to pray for them (1 John 5:16). Rebuking someone should serve a purpose. It should clear the air between you and a fellow believer.

Jesus himself rebuked the wind and waves, but beside that the Bible only records him rebuking three people: Peter at his insistence that Jesus should not die; James and John when they wanted to call fire down on the Samaritan town. Each of them were close in His love. Did Christ wrestle

and contend with others? Yes. But He never rebuked them.

What’s the difference between what Satan does and what God does?

Satan accuses to discredit and to bring condemnation.

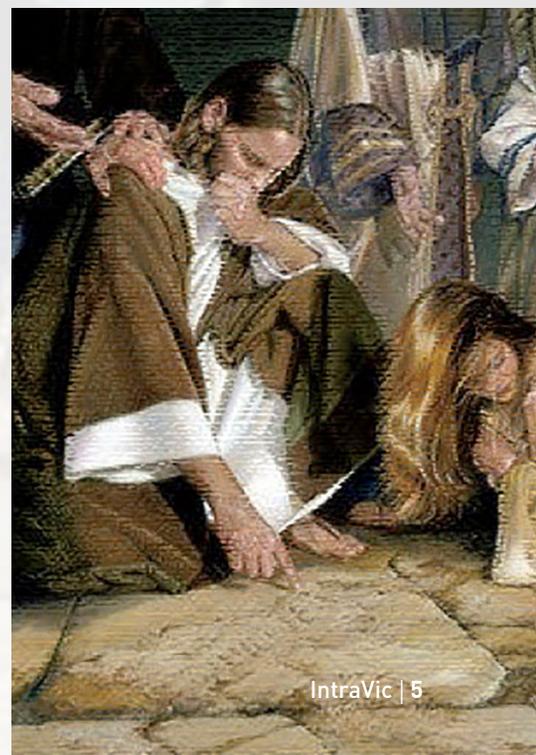
God intercedes to bring about repentance and salvation.

Satan points a finger while Jesus whispers “Neither do I condemn you, Go and sin no more”.

Are we co-workers with Christ or with Satan in our words and actions? Do we bring loveless rebuke? Are we perhaps accusers of the brethren? Or are we sent by Jesus to carry out the same mission he had, to strive and contend... to intercede for salvation?

We know what Jesus did. Standing before the woman’s accusers, He wrote slowly in the dirt and declared “Let he who is without sin cast the first stone”. Jesus had more right than anyone to accuse, to condemn, yet He chose not to. Instead He gave words of hope - “Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more”.

Let’s share those words of hope today!



# Chief Financial Officer's Report

*As I start to write this article and I reflect on the year so far it is hard to believe that Christmas is only a few weeks away. What a whirlwind of a year it has been. This year we have certainly faced some challenges but there have also been achievements that we were pleased to note.*

## AdventCare

One of the first issues I and my fellow administrators were confronted with were the issues with our Aged care company and in particular the financial position the company found itself in.



Many of you would know that this became a significant matter with the constituency meeting in September 2013 where a resolution was taken that:

- AdventCare Victoria operate in a mission focused manner
- We operate the business of AdventCare as a financially viable business
- We show greater accountability and transparency

A review panel was appointed on October 28 2013 and commenced its work in Early 2014.

It undertook a thorough review of Aged Care and reviewed submissions from interested parties who wanted to contribute to this process.

The review committee handed down its report to the executive committee on 1 June 2014. The report contained 96 recommendations for the executive to consider, covering a wide range of issues from the mission and ethos of our facilities, board governance, financial operations, and a review of each facility operated by AdventCare.

The executive committee then reviewed each of the recommendations and has delegated various priorities to the

appropriate levels of management and governance for response. The executive committee has continued to work through a number of the recommendations and a complete report of the recommendations, outcomes and responses will be provided to our constituency in due course.

Financially our Aged care facilities operations have improved in the last financial year (July 2013 – June 2014).

For this financial year the organisation recorded a profit of \$155,907, being the first profit received since the financial year ended June 2009.

While this is a good start it is not sufficient to place the Aged Care company on a strong financial footing. The company still has a net asset deficit of \$10,514,030 which requires the executive to provide an indemnity to the organisation to guarantee its ongoing viability.

The aged care board is intentionally managing the business to improve performance and profitability and the executive are closely monitoring the outcomes of this organisations performance.



## Adventist Schools Victoria

ASV has also faced challenges in this last year but there have been some great achievements.

The corporate office has been impacted by a number of staff changes within the last ten months which required us to restructure how we deliver services and provide support to our schools.

As part of the restructuring process, the Associate Education Director, Betty

Lakovic, has just been appointed, to provide support to our schools and the Education Director, focusing, amongst many other things, on the areas of teaching and learning and teacher inductions.



Financially, a couple of the major issues we have been focused on are the levels of outstanding student fee debts and the levels of fee remissions being provided throughout our school system.

Outstanding fees have a significant impact on our operating results as accounting practice requires that we create a provision to cover the possibility that the debt may not be collected. As that provision increases, the profitability of our school declines. While this is not a problem in all schools it is a performance indicator that is closely monitored by our board.

Pupil teacher ratios are a key performance indicator that needs to be at a benchmark level to ensure optimal financial viability. Some of our schools have the capacity to enrol additional students without the need to increase staffing levels.

While there is a need to fill this excess capacity, the board is mindful of the dependency that may be established through provision of significant student aid or fee remissions just to fill the excess capacity. The board is monitoring the level of student aid provided on a school by school basis.

With the growth in school enrolments it has been necessary to provide facilities for this growth. We are grateful for the receipt of BGA funding which has assisted with our capital development projects. These have commenced, with the development of specialist teaching

facilities at Heritage College Officer campus and Year 7&8 Classrooms at Gilson College Taylors Hill. During the course of this year Nunawading Primary school has also had extensive renovations, creating an Early learning facility that will be open for business in 2015.



This year the model for government funding of independent schools changed. We were unsure of what impact this would have on ASV. So while the budget was being set for the 2014 school year modelling was undertaken to determine the level of government financial support we could expect, given this level of uncertainty.

We have just recently received confirmation of the funding support for this year and it is pleasing to note that both commonwealth and state funding was well in excess of budget expectations. This provides an unexpected boost to our operating results for the 2014 year and we understand will be ongoing.

Ensuring our schools can operate with surplus budgets is a major priority for us and we will continue to work with our schools to ensure they can achieve this necessary outcome.



## Conference Operations

Our conference company has so far managed to maintain an operating surplus for the majority of this year and we anticipate that this will continue through to the end of financial year in December 2014. We have seen steady growth in tithe allowing us to meet our tithe budget. As we work through the

operating budget for next year there are still challenges in ensuring we can deliver a balanced budget.

The Conference is looking toward a major evangelism focus for 2015, particularly to the city of Melbourne, one of the fastest growing cities in Australia, and rated one of the most livable cities in the world. Evangelism is core to the mission of our church and we are excited to be able to support the various initiatives for next year. Financial resources will be stretched but this is a priority for our conference.

## Big Camp 2015

Planning is well underway. Permits have now been approved from the local council and we look forward to the time of fellowship and spiritual renewal that camp offers.



I would like to express thanks to those that have supported the Camp offering taken up in October. Currently we are still waiting for some of our churches to respond with their camp offering collection totals (50 out of 80+ churches have provided this information to date). Along with donations that were sent directly to the Conference we have currently raised \$48,000 to help offset our camp expenditure for 2015.

## Local Evangelism

The Conference has been happy to support the many local church evangelistic efforts this year through its tithe reversion for evangelism program. Many of our local churches have been active in running various evangelistic outreach programs for their local community.

This year we have also provided some financial support for Mildura's bush camp and the upcoming Road to Bethlehem program. Both of these events are firsts for me. I really

enjoyed the Bush Camp and the opportunity to meet new people and am looking forward to Road to Bethlehem, which is a very popular event run at Nunawading and currently in its 20th year of operation.



## And Finally...

As I have reflected on the year just past it is evident that God has been leading His church this year.

When I accepted the CFO role in September 2013, it was a daunting challenge. As I gained a greater level of understanding and awareness of the various issues we have needed to confront in each of our companies, it became even more so.

There is still a long way to go to ensure financial stability for each of our companies. But as an administrative team and working with our boards, we have focused our energies on understanding our past and concentrating on our future. We are aware that many of you are praying for Victoria Conference and its leadership. We thank you for those prayers and would encourage you to continue praying for our Church, our schools, and our aged care so that each entity can play their part in effectively fulfilling the mission of the church, as God continues to bless and multiply our efforts.



**Graeme Moffitt**  
Chief Financial Officer



Craig Gillis

General Secretary & Evangelism Coordinator

## Community events held in 2014

- Three Celebrating Life in Recovery programs
- Three It is Written Dinners
- Two Archaeology & Ancient Mysteries seminars
- Three Beyond Dinners
- Two Life after Life evangelistic seminar series
- Eight Prophecy Seminars



David Reece

Acting CEO, AdventCare

A new CEO has been appointed - Alex Bolek, and we thank David for his work throughout this year. As we move into 2015, AdventCare is well placed to expand and improve its Services further to support the Adventist community in caring for its elders.

## Evangelism 2014

*What an exciting and challenging year 2014 has proven to be! A special evangelism focus saw nine of our churches in the city's growth corridors hold 21 community events over nine months (see sidebar).*

This interaction opened the way for us to share many Beyond DVD's with the community, and develop friendships with approximately 1000 new people.

The ultimate goal was of course to lead people to know Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, and over 60 of our new friends have made that very decision. As a direct result, we have celebrated approximately 20 baptisms to date with more to come.

Associate minister of Casey church, Fraser Catton, summed up six lessons learnt from this multi-faceted evangelistic approach:

1. Preparation is KEY
2. Keep it biblical, clear & high quality
3. Trust grows over a program
4. Make time for mingling
5. More events = larger catchment & repeat attendees
6. Follow-up is KEY

Of course, within our Conference many of our churches have been committed to sharing the Gospel in other ways. For example, the Spanish churches have been airing a weekly evangelism TV program on Channel 31, with a reaping program in November.

Burmese community church plants are springing up in Nunawading, Ringwood, Bendigo, Werribee and St Albans. Mernda church plant, our Samoan congregations and Northpoint received extra staffing to assist with their work. Mildura, Geelong, St Albans, Hughesdale, Yarra Valley, Wantirna, Gateway and Preston also have run public programs. The three church plants in Melbourne CBD are continuing to establish themselves: Gateway; The Orchard; and Central City. Also keep in mind the outstanding community service that is being provided by Pr Loren Pratt and his churches who are providing food parcels to hundreds of needy families every week. A number of other churches are also involved in similar community projects.

As a result of this mission-focused activity, our Conference has welcomed 148 new members through baptism and profession of faith into Church membership in Victoria for the calendar year to September, bringing the total membership to 10,654.

Let's praise God.

## Aged Care

*2014 for AdventCare was a challenging and exciting time with the following highlights for the year:*

- Upgrading of AdventCare Bendigo including remodelling of resident rooms, repainting of the interior and a new telephone and nurse call-bell system.
- Preparation for the major three-year accreditation audit at Bendigo has been under way and the audit will be conducted in early December.
- Accreditation visits at all sites throughout this year were passed with flying colours.
- The refurbishment and upgrade of 38 beds at AdventCare Whitehorse to create a dedicated Dementia Wing continued, to create a supportive environment for the increasing number of people living with dementia.
- The installation of solar power at AdventCare Whitehorse to reduce operating costs and future proof the site.
- Receipt of a Government Funded backup generator for AdventCare Yarra Ranges.
- A Strategic Planning Day for the Board and Key Managers of AdventCare to start the journey of planning for the future of Aged Care Services.
- Commencement of a Master Planning Project for AdventCare Whitehorse to plan the best option for expansion of the facility by 30-50 Beds. This will include more car-parking and improved access to the home.
- Achieving full occupancy in the independent units and maintaining ongoing upgrading to provide a comfortable retirement living environment.

# Compassion In Action - ADRA

*Throughout 2014 I have witnessed the incredible dedication of our volunteers and seen lives impacted.*

In the last financial year, ADRA Australia supported over 550,000 people living in poverty in Africa, Asia and the South Pacific, while here in Victoria, over 15,000 people were supported.

The greatest impact has been through the relationships and connections that develop – because it's what Jesus did: He mingled with the poor; conversed with the outcasts; shared a meal with the marginalised...

If we follow His example of selflessness, we will in turn increase our faithfulness and "experience the joy of discovering the gifts God has given us to build up the body of Christ through service."<sup>1</sup>

There have been many times this year that I have seen the difference our volunteers have made - whether it be at Vive Cafe, Asher Housing or another

project. Praise God for giving us gifts so that we can act justly, love mercy and ultimately walk humbly with Him.

"Perhaps that's why "walking humbly" is the vital third leg of Micah 6:8. Doing justice and loving mercy must be seasoned with humility. The enormity and outrage of poverty and injustice in this world must keep us grounded – and keep us reaching up to ensure we are truly "walking humbly with our God"."<sup>2</sup>

There are over 2100 verses in the Bible illustrating how we should be compassionate and, as faithful servants, how we should represent the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus.

'Do Justice'... you'll soon discover the ripples He will create.

<sup>1</sup>Steve Case and Fred Cornforth, *Hands-On Service Ideas for Youth Groups* (Group, 1995), p. 15.

<sup>2</sup>Nathan Brown and Joanna Darby, *Do Justice – Our Call to Faithful Living* (2014), p.2.

## Precious Children

A year in Children's Ministry... I could start by telling you about all the great churches I have visited, with children's stories, sermons, workshops... Or that travelling around the state has been a real joy and I have loved catching the vision of those I meet... Perhaps I could tell of the great resources that have been developed and released this year and how they are such a blessing when placed in the hands of families dedicated to laying the spiritual foundations for their children. Or share the amazing stories from churches that have packed Worship Boxes as part of the SHINE program, to be sent to families in the South Pacific.

There have been so many amazing things that have taken place in Children's Ministries this year. But for me, my greatest joy was close to home. It was when my daughter made a decision for Christ and stepped into the waters of baptism.

Our greatest calling is to 'go into all the world and preach the gospel to

all creation' (Mark 16:15), and this gospel message belongs to everyone, including our children. When my daughter publicly declared her desire to spend her life following Jesus, it further fuelled my passion to encourage, train and equip dedicated parents and leaders to transform churches into places where children feel they belong – places where they are mentored as they develop their own loving relationship with God and fulfil the calling He has for them.

There are precious children in homes and churches all over Victoria who are just waiting for people like you and me to stand by them as we help them to become Jesus' disciples.

Wishing you all God's richest blessings.

Current statistics tell us that the present generation of young people are walking away from their faith in early adolescent years. Discipling our children and youth, working together for their faith, is a key priority for our church.



Rebecca Auriant

Director of ADRA Services (Vic)

## Vision: Reach Out 2015

- To see as many children, youth, and adults involved in compassionate ministries.
- To see our families serving together – introducing family ADRA Connection Trips.
- To see as many churches as possible engaging in Local Community Projects – Emergency Relief, Youth Resilience, Refugee Settlement, Community Gardening and Seniors Connect.
- To develop a state-wide emergency management program.
- To continue to grow, learn, share, and serve – together.

## 7 ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES FOR SHAPING LIFELONG FAITH

- Service & Mission
- Homes Empowered
- Authentic Relationships
- Participation
- Intergenerational Connections
- Noteworthy Memory Events
- God Encounters

Find out more at [vic.adventist.org.au](http://vic.adventist.org.au) - in Children's Ministries under Department tab



Katherine Darroch

Children's Ministries Director



**Brian Mercer**

Director of Education, ASV

## Enrolments

We welcomed Edinburgh College (formerly Lilydale Academy) into our school system, adding an extra 180 enrolments into ASV. State-wide, numbers have continued to grow beyond budgeted figures, with both Gilson College campuses continuing to lead the way. The August Government census revealed our highest enrolment ever, with 2,272 students, making Victoria the second largest Adventist school system nationally. We are excited about our enrolments for 2015, with an expected addition of at least 100 students.

Are you considering your child's education? Please talk with your local Adventist school - we will work hard to make it affordable for you to enrol your child.



**Sibilla Johnson**

Heath Director

My vision for the years to come: that every church will become involved in sharing the principles of healthful living with their church members and the community. We must educate, preach and live the truth with its health-giving influences which God has so graciously given to us.

# Adventist Schools Victoria (ASV)

*Our school system praises God for His continued blessing throughout 2014, as is evident in many areas:*

## Finances

The System is on track to exceed its budgeted result, which will ensure a small surplus for 2014. Additionally, Federal and State Government appropriations under the new funding model have exceeded expectations, giving us confidence for our School System into the future.

## Infrastructure

Nunawading Primary School has undergone a major refurbishment costing \$1.6 million and is adding an Early Learning Centre to commence in 2015. Gilson, Taylors Hill, opened a new Grade 6/7 building of six classrooms costing \$1.4 million.

Further, two projects will be completed during 2015 – a Grade 7/8 precinct at Gilson, Taylors Hill (\$1.2 million) and an additional Science block at Heritage College, Officer (\$1.2 Million). We are grateful for the support of the Federal Government in meeting about 40% of the costs for these projects.

## Evangelistic Outcomes

Our schools continue to be centres of evangelism for our students. More than 200 students are undertaking Bible studies through our school chaplains. These studies are enhanced by Spiritual Emphasis Weeks, the

Combined Schools Day of Worship and other memorable events which place evangelism central to our purpose for operation.

## Quality Adventist Schools Framework

Nationally, Adventist Schools have adopted an improvement model consistent with Federal Government requirements. With direct teacher input, this has developed into a sound performance-driven model for school improvement, which uses standards to evaluate current performance in areas such as Adventist Identity, Learning and Teaching, School Improvement and Community Partnerships, to set strategies for ongoing growth.

## Victorian Registrations & Qualifications Authority System Registration

After two years work and negotiation, a Memorandum of Understanding with VRQA has been signed. From 2015, ASV will review its own schools to ensure they are compliant with the Education Act and registration requirements. ASV becomes the first school system outside of Government and Catholic schools to be given this responsibility.

# Health Update

*I feel very blessed to have the opportunity to serve the Lord in Health Ministry.*

This year I have been able to provide public health education programs in seventeen of our churches in Victoria, thirteen church services, programs for our own schools, and a public primary school.

Programs have also been conducted for community groups like Vision Australia, as well as the Baptist Church and Diabetes Australia.

Each year we conduct a nine-month Community Health Education training course. Sixteen people will graduate from that course this year. Many of our graduates go on to conduct health programs on a volunteer basis in their

churches and local communities.

The CHIP program is also being presented in some of our churches with great success. The next CHIP facilitators training weekend is planned for 18th & 19th of April 2015, if you are interested in either of these two Health Ministry courses please contact myself or my secretary Tanya Karaoglanis at the Conference Office.

The health work opens doors through which the truth can find an entrance into many homes. It helps prepare the way for the reception of this timely truth in our broken world.

# Ministerial report

*2014 was a productive year for the Ministerial Association. The primary focus of the Ministerial Association is Pastors, Ministry staff and Church Elders.*

**GROW Conference** – Elders & leaders from around the conference joined together at Howqua in June for a standout training event. With 120 people on site, participants were inspired and challenged by Pr Wayne Krause's presentations on creating healthy Adventist Churches. Five local presenters also provided training in the areas of Discipleship, Revelation Seminars, Church Planting and Youth Ministry. The speaker for 2015 is already booked! The next GROW Conference will be held late July 2015 and will again seek to inspire and equip.

**YPW Retreat** – Youth Pastoral Workers continue to make a positive impact around churches in the Conference. The annual retreat for Youth Pastoral Workers in May gave an opportunity for these local church young leaders to network, share and learn from each other and the local presenters.

**Ministers** – At their annual retreat ministers were inspired to deeper Biblical study and preaching by Grenville Kent. We also ran the regular Boundaries Seminars and weekly district meetings.

The Conference is divided into six districts that meet on a six weekly cycle to pray & study together, share resources, look at issues within their district, discuss church ministry and evangelism, and engage in professional learning. Optional training was run through the year in the areas of Islam, Pre-marriage counselling, discipleship, evangelism and for YPW supervisors, and this year Literature Evangelists also joined in some of the training events. Additionally, a monthly ministers' email newsletter commenced, providing information, resources, and communicate events.

The October ministers meetings equipped ministers to better minister to Jewish people, courtesy of Richard Elofer from the General Conference. They were informed about Adventist Identity and Marketing by James Standish and engaged in peer learning in workshops from local pastors in the areas of Grief and Loss, Church Planting, Retirement, Youth, and building Holistic Community.

**Ministers Families** – Family camp was held for one weekend in the September school holidays. Just over a hundred gathered at Howqua with special programs for the kids on the Friday night and Sabbath, and a special time for the ministers wives on Sabbath morning. Pr Roman Chalupka blessed those present with his devotionals, and the most common wish expressed was for the camp to be longer!

**Ordinations** – Mebzar Quinto was ordained in March and Luis Bermudez in August. These were well attended services of affirmation as these men were ordained for gospel ministry.

**Church Visits** – I personally enjoyed regularly preaching and or running training workshops in a number of churches around Victoria in addition to the ongoing contact with ministers.

**Ministers Development** – Three interns are expected to successfully complete their internships this year, and another minister is being considered for ordination. We also acknowledge the significant contribution of Bruce Manners and Graham Sutherland who retire this year end.

**Evangelism** – As the secretary of the Conference Evangelism Committee it has been exciting to be part of the development of a five year plan for evangelism specifically for Melbourne, but also more broadly for Victoria (see sidebar). We pray that God will guide the churches and schools in this Conference as each seeks to find ways to implement these plans.



**Darren Croft**  
Ministerial Secretary

# Evangelism 2015+

The Adventist Church in Victoria grew by 15.3% at the last census. Adventists in Victoria, however, make up just 0.19% of our population.

The General Conference Urban Evangelism initiative recognises the need for targeted evangelism within our large cities, but the Victorian Conference also desires for us **all** to be effective in reaching our neighbourhoods, whether in small country centres, regional cities or our biggest city of all.

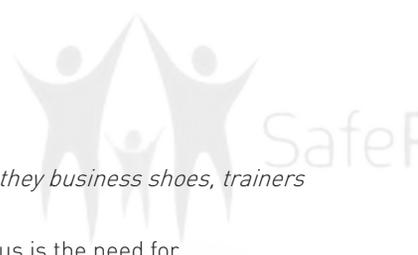
At the heart of our plan is the Cycle of Evangelism, which we hope will be implemented in all our church communities.

This approach recognises that evangelism is not a single event. It is not a program you invite people to. It is something that is ongoing and includes **all** aspects of church life: spiritual renewal within our churches; bridge building within our communities; events which bring our communities into our churches; and the discipling (of new and established members alike) which follows.

The vision to reach the urban mission field of Melbourne has led to Melbourne being split into seven key geographic regions, which can work independently or cooperatively. It is planned that each region and church will endeavour to implement the cycle of evangelism in 2015-16, and again in 2018, in preparation for city wide reaping events in 2017 and 2019. This pattern can also be adopted in county areas as appropriate.

History shows us that city-wide evangelistic meetings have a positive impact. In 1992, Melbourne hosted a series which was marked by widespread support from the churches with well-managed preparation and lengthy lead-up times. Interestingly, the year before, when preparation was in full swing – baptisms were up significantly, as pastors and church members worked together with a positive focus on evangelism.

Where is the mission field? It is as close as the next-door house, street or suburb! Pray for God to guide you to be faithful to the mission He has given.



Sue Mercer

Coordinator of Safe Places Victoria

## Adventist Women in Victoria

*Women's Ministry has an evangelistic focus and is reaching Adventist and non-Adventist alike, as my dedicated team nurture others and encourage them to recognise and develop the gifts God has given them.*

A big highlight was the success of our three increasingly popular events: the women's conference, where women come together for nurture, fellowship and fun, and leave with a refreshed relationship with their Lord; our leadership conference, developed by the General Conference and revised by the SPD, intense but practical and informative and will be run twice next year to meet demand; and the young girls' conference, which looked at womanhood from a biblical perspective, counteracting some of what the world tells them and will also be run twice in 2015.

At each of these events, we encouraged attendees to see evangelism in a new way, and this is now overflowing into our churches with prayer breakfasts, aerobics, Bible studies for busy women, small groups, craft groups...

My vision for the future is to develop ways to introduce a wider range of women to this ministry and meet their needs. I would also like to visit more churches and offer training seminars to motivate and inspire women for Christ. Our Conference is keen to nurture and support this work as we strive to reach our potential for the Lord.



Danijela Trajkov

Director of Women's Ministries

## Pebbles & Pearls

*Everyone has experienced a pebble in their shoe - be they business shoes, trainers or bedroom slippers.*

These 'pebbles' make their presence felt and hold many back from running the 'marathon of life'. Abuse victims perceive these 'pebbles' as fear, guilt, rejection and shame. Although intangible, 'pebbles' cripple victims as memories surface from the past and futures cloud as they are trapped in the present.

YET pearls are developed through such difficulties... and precious futures can be 'cultured'.

Safe Places is unashamedly victim-focused and continues to celebrate positive outcomes through the wise use of policies, screening and risk assessment, ensuring that children and vulnerable people are protected.

New laws following the Victorian Parliament Betrayal of Trust Report have highlighted that, with our Safe Places policies, we are following best practice.

Future focus is the need for continuance of Safe Church 'cultural change' and the 'building of capacity' pertaining to child safety. The Commissioner for Children and Young People, the Departments of Human Services and Justice have requested that we now:

1. Ensure ALL those appointed by the Nominating Committee of the Local Church attend a 'Safe Church Awareness Workshop'.

2. All Churches encourage a 'participatory voice' for children.

These requirements are absolutely inherent in our spiritual, moral and ethical imperatives when we are preparing and presenting our programs.

Thank you for supporting all 'People Pearls' to GLOW.

## Reaching VicYouth

*2014 has been a rewarding year for youth ministry across Victoria. I reflect on the last twelve months through our three key ministry foci.*

### Reaching Up

We always look forward to how many campers will decide for Christ during our Summer Camps. This year, one staff member gave her life to Christ on decision night at Junior Camp and another was baptised during Teen Camp.

Winter Camp for young adults was one of the best attended yet, with the youth engaged in study of God's Word, led by Nathan Brown.

### Reaching Across

It has been a real privilege to facilitate intergenerational ministry through various Pathfinder and Adventurer events, High School and Youth rallies. These have been great opportunities for spiritual renewal for our youth as well as connecting and making life-long friendships.

### Reaching Out

Summer Camp Ministry is not just for our own. It was immensely rewarding to receive the positive feedback from community people who'd sent their children to Howqua.

Global Youth Day, and event in March where VicYouth collaborated with ADRA Victoria, was a new initiative for us. A number of youth groups responded to the call to 'Be the Sermon'. It was

exciting to see our youth rise to the challenge; exploring ways to reach out to people throughout Melbourne and across Victoria.

### Looking Ahead

In 2015 we will continue to build on the Youth Friendly Churches initiative, instigated by our conference President back in July; applying the latest research and exploring what we can do to create healthier, growing churches through intergenerational ministry.

This initiative is timely and will dovetail beautifully with our 2015 theme - 'RECLAIM... Love Wins'. It is unconditional love that will win back those who have walked away from church and faith.

Perhaps there is something in your personal life you wish to RECLAIM. As you reflect on our VicYouth theme for 2015, remember... Love Wins.



Philip Hyland

VicYouth Director

# KID'S SPOT

Jesus is the Reason...

Sometimes as it gets close to the end of the year we begin to get very excited about all of the fun things that are taking place.

Parties, dinners, concerts, presents there's lots of great things to enjoy! Christmas is a time when many people remember that Jesus came to this world as a gift to us and that's a great thing to remember.

What's even better is that we don't have to wait until Christmas to celebrate it, we can do it every day! So today and every day remember that God loved the world so much that he sent his one and only son so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16.

## Unscramble....

- HTISRC: \_\_\_\_\_
- JUESS: \_\_\_\_\_
- NEAMGR: \_\_\_\_\_
- EABLS: \_\_\_\_\_
- HEPSE: \_\_\_\_\_
- WIENSEM: \_\_\_\_\_
- REEHSDPH: \_\_\_\_\_



Look up the following verses...

and draw a line to the picture that matches

- Matthew 1:20
- Luke 2:8
- Matthew 2:2
- Luke 2:20
- Matthew 2:1



A B C D E G H I J L  
 ▼ ♥ I ☆ ● ★ ◆ ○ ✱ ☆  
 N O P R S T V W Y  
 ■ \* ▷ ○ ▲ † ◇ □ \*

I bring you \_\_\_\_\_  
 ★ \* \* ☆ ■ ● □ ▲

of great \_\_\_\_\_ that will be for  
 \* \* \*

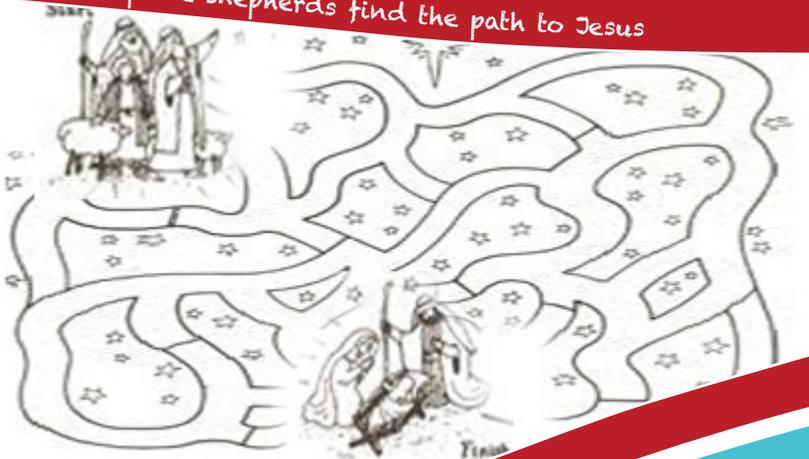
Today in the  
 ▼ ☆ ☆ ▷ ● \* ▷ ☆ ●

town of David a \_\_\_\_\_ has  
 ▲ ▼ ◇ ○ \* ○

been \_\_\_\_\_ to you; he is  
 ▼ \* ○ ■

the \_\_\_\_\_ ...  
 † ○ ○ ▲ † ☆ \* ○ ☆

Help the shepherds find the path to Jesus



Ask a grown up to read you a story about the life of Jesus.

Who could you share the story with? \_\_\_\_\_

Pray that God will help you to share it with them.

Victorian Children's Ministries

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



## A Reason to Celebrate

### Ferntree Gully Church

*Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." ~John 3:3*

In October, the Whittaker family, who have sorrowfully buried three loved ones this year, had reason to celebrate as Pr Trevor Rowe, assisted by church elder Sam Assenso, joyfully buried fifteen year-old Joshua in the watery grave of baptism. Family, church family and friends joined in the celebration as they witnessed Josh's decision to follow Jesus.

Fred Zandt, Josh's great grandfather was baptised in this church 40 years ago. Graham and Joy Bennetts created a beautiful floral arrangement on either side of the font that added a 'heavenly' touch to the ceremony. Following the baptism, a fellowship lunch was provided for all present.

Elayne Stanford

# Church News

## ROAD to BETHLEHEM

Be our guest as we celebrate 20 amazing years of Road to Bethlehem. Take a journey back in time with family and friends and relive past moments and memories of this amazing ministry. Be engaged in the celebrations and festivities of this unique event, whilst re-experiencing the very journey that captures the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Tickets are available from 9.00am Monday, 24 November. Visit [www.roadtobethlehem.org](http://www.roadtobethlehem.org) to book online or call 03 9264 7770

Volunteer your time, and be blessed by being a part of an incredible team committed to this special celebration! Whatever your talent or gifting, we have a position for you! Builders, parking attendants, greeters, face painters, home chefs, organisers, cleaners, rubbish collectors, animal carers; the list you see is endless. No experience required!

The leading role of Baby Jesus is also vacant! We are seeking babies who are less than 3mths old as of December. So if you are a mother of an infant please contact Shelley Fairall ASAP on 0407 543 815.

A committed group of people is also needed to assist with sound and lighting set up on Friday 5th and Sunday 7th of December. No specific skills required. Contact Adrian directly on 0418 502 296

A roster is available for those who want to help but have limited time to invest.

All help is greatly appreciated!

**SET UP days:**

**Sunday 30th November**  
8.00am-1.00pm

**Sunday 7th of December**  
8.00am – 5.00pm

**GIFTBAG PACKING**

**Saturday 6th December**  
from 2pm onwards

**PACK UP days:**

**Thursday Night 11th December**  
11.00pm – 2.00am

**Friday 12th December**  
9.00am – 5.00pm

**Sunday 14th of December**  
8.00am – 2.00pm

To volunteer contact Simone Mifsud on 0413171916 or Moe Stiles on 0423793466; alternatively you may contact us via email [rtbvic@gmail.com](mailto:rtbvic@gmail.com)

## Oasis Health

### The Oasis

*Oasis recently located from Nunawading Christian College to Surrey Rd West, Croydon.*

As part of their community outreach program, the church supports Vive Café, which is sponsored by ADRA and serves members of the community every Thursday evening. The cafe provides a three-course meal and a listening ear for homeless and disadvantaged guests.

The church has also created a new arm of its mission, called "Oasis Health," which aims at providing a balanced and all encompassing approach to health. It will be running its first workshop and cooking class through November into December. It will also be hosting community prayer evenings involving local community groups and has recently started a new Sabbath School class called Oasis Immerse, as an Oasis Health outreach initiative, where attendees are encouraged to ask any question as they study biblical truths underpinning Adventist beliefs.

Future plans for Oasis Health include

a community drop-in centre, growing the Oasis Buddies youth mentoring program and a health and fitness outreach program.

Darius Ignasiac

**Oasis Health**

Real Health

Physical  
Mental  
Relational  
and  
Spiritual

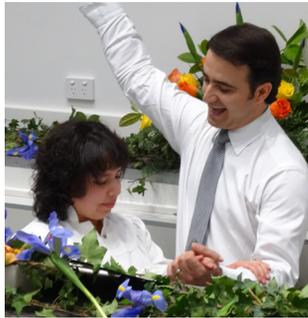
All in Balance!

"THE GROUNDWORK OF ALL HAPPINESS IS GOOD HEALTH."  
- LEIGH HUNT

# Coming Home

## Seddon Church

*On a beautiful Sabbath morning in September, Lucero and Nestor Lopez finally came home, as they entered the baptismal font with their four children standing on each side. Our hearts were moved as heaven's arms opened to receive them.*



It was not an easy journey. Both of them had passed valleys of darkness and disappointment, but through it all they recognized God had been with them every step of the way. Over the years as the Lopez home expanded to include: Cristina, Daniela, William and Saige, Nestor and Lucero began to feel the need of finding belonging, purpose and faith within a church family.

When a friend from work recommended Seddon Adventist Church, the Lopez family decided to give it a go. To their amazement they discovered they had finally come home. About this time, the Kids Sabbath School organized a "Castles and Crowns" VBS Program. The kids were engaged by the way in which Bible stories came to life. They didn't miss a day, enthusiastically inviting their cousins along.

The family started Bible Studies with Pr Boris. Each week he was inspired by their passion for digging deep into God's word. When they expressed a keen desire to follow the Lord in baptism, our joy was made complete. Several months later, Nestor and Lucero were welcomed with open arms into the church family where they soon discovered long lost aunts and uncles, grandpas and grandmas-in Christ.

We rejoice that God has blessed our church family with 6 newborn children. May we continue to love and nurture each other, and may our church continue to be a safe place where seekers can find acceptance, healing & forgiveness. Heidi Soldat

# Seminars at Werribee

## Werribee Church

*For the last six months, on Tuesday nights at Point Cook and on Sabbath afternoons at Tarneit, Pastor Nick has been presenting **Secrets of Prophecy seminars** in the local shoppingtown community centres.*

At both venues, over twenty people attended on a regular basis, some of whom have begun to attend the church on a regular basis and are considering baptism in the near future. One attendee was heard to exclaim that he had learnt so much over the weeks, that now he had a much better understanding of the Bible, as well as of the history of Christianity. True, the seminars covered a lot of history, including the Roman Empire and the Reformation; certainly, the study notes made available to everyone in attendance assisted greatly, allowing

the attendees to navigate through the material effortlessly. Every session closed with a quiz on the night's lesson, followed by refreshments. At the conclusion, all attendees were presented with a certificate, but it was not lost on any of them that it is not important what is written on their certificates, rather what has been written on their hearts. No doubt, as they left their venues for the last time they had begun to change in some subtle but fundamentally significant way, that their journey has just begun.

Robert Bryson



# Tea With Tony

## Bairnsdale Church

*In October, church and community members were treated to a free vegetarian meal and an interesting and informative talk by leader of Cornerstone Ministries, Tony Rykers.*

Tony travels extensively, preaching the Gospel and ministering to people in prison. He lives in Cann River when he's in Australia.

Many Bairnsdale church folk organised and cooked the meals, distributed advertising leaflets, made signs for outside the church, arranged a newspaper article and did other jobs such as entertaining children while parents attended the program.

Some members met in a separate room at the church and prayed the whole time Tony was speaking.

Tony's topics were "History in Advance" (Daniel Chapter 2), "The Ultimate Ending" (prophecies of Christ's Second Coming), and "Hidden Scrolls", (the Dead Sea Scrolls which verify the Bible's trustworthiness, and thus give hope for a better world to come)

Between 14 and 19 non-Adventists attended the series, some every night, some for just one or two. The total number was about 65 to 70 each night as church folk sat with their invited and new friends.

At the series completion, a weekly follow-up Bible study group commenced meeting at the church. Approximately a dozen non-Adventists put their names down.

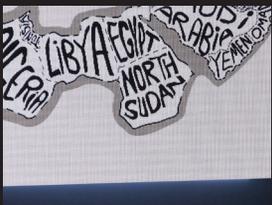
We have high hopes that as we make friends with the people in our community around us, they will see Christ in us and want to know Him more.

Judy Walker





**Everyday Apocalypse**  
 Experiencing the Christ of Revelation in our every day life  
 November 8  
 Melbourne City Regional



The Editor reserves the right to edit and include or exclude any article from publication. Articles not included due to lack of space may be included in a future issue or placed on the Church website. The Editor also reserves the right to exclude Ads or Notices after just one issue. Please note, commercial advertising is not published in Intraviv. Only accommodation notices, if accompanied with a reference from Local Pastor. Photographs of minors must be accompanied by permission to use the photographs in print and on the web, signed by parent/guardian. Bible verses are from various versions which may include NIV, JJV, NJJV & Clear Word.