

February 25

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)



# The X-Factor

# ...do you have Him?



# Elumore 2012

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Easter 2012, April 5-9

Did you enjoy Easter Camp last year? Well spread the news! This is a wonderful time of fun and fellowship for your family. An opportunity to visit with others, and worship with the wider church family, away from the hustle of city living.

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## A Note from the Editor...

While this is the first issue of IntraVic for the New Year, the Youth Department is in full swing; they have already undertaken and completed some of their major yearly events and training programs and this issue is focused on VicYouth's theme and plans. Their theme is Discipleship, and with this in mind, they have already challenged our young people with the question "Do you have the X-Factor – the Christ Factor – in your life, and what are you going to do about it?"

This is a question we should all consider, regardless of age, as we immerse ourselves in this New Year. Do we have the X-Factor? Is Christ the centre and driving force of our lives? If not, what should we do about it to become better disciples and then share Him with others?

Throughout its history the Seventh-day Adventist Church has found the reason for its existence in the Bible. Adventists are a Bible-based, Bible-believing, Bible-reading people. As was touched on in the last issue of IntraVic in 2011, we can be considered People of the Book. Yet in spite of this, recent research seems to indicate that many church members world-wide do not have a meaningful devotional life.

Do we have the X-Factor? Without a personal devotional time, can Christ be the centre of our lives? Can we be effective disciples?

To encourage church members to pick up their Bibles again, the General Conference has started the Revived by His Word initiative. The aim is to encourage church members around the world to begin reading just a chapter of the Bible each day\*.

So why not join with VicYouth and make your focus for 2012 Discipleship. Pick up your Bible, commit yourself to Christ and let Him be your X-Factor, and become a disciple, and a disciple-maker.



Wayne Stanley

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\*<http://www.adventistreview.org/article.php?id=4790> for more information on this initiative.



# Compound Discipleship

*making an exponential difference*

*Derek McCutcheon is a former Youth Director in the Western Australian Conference, and currently serving as Chaplain at Carmel College. The theme for VicYouth in 2012 is Discipleship and Moe Ioane Stiles asked Derek to share with us his view on the potential of discipleship. As you read this devotional, ask the Lord to speak to your heart and show you how you can make a difference*



again.

So impressed was he, and wanting to reward the advisor for inventing such a wonderful game, the King asked the man to name his price - up to half of his kingdom.

The advisor asked for just a single piece of rice to be placed on the first square of the chess board, two on the second, four on the third and so on.

Feeling his servant had made a foolish request, the King still did as requested. By the time the end of the second line of squares was reached, he began to feel uneasy as rice covered the entire chess board, the table and spilled onto the floor. At the end of the next row, the king knew he was in trouble as the amount of rice owed to the servant filled the whole castle as well as a significant area of the huge estate.

Before they had covered half the board, the king ran out of rice. So he transferred all his power and wealth to the genius advisor.

If it were possible to have continued on to the final line, there would have been enough rice to fill a train with carriages reaching from earth to the moon. This is an example of what Einstein called 'the 8th wonder of the world - compound interest!'

## STORY 2: THE POWER OF COMPOUND INTEREST

Would you be willing to give up your regular pay and be paid just 1 cent for a week's work? It may be worth it... so long as your pay doubles each week. While the boss will be happy with the savings he has made in January, by the time it comes to Christmas week, he will need to pay you \$22.1 trillion!

## STORY 3 - PREACHING VS DISCIPLING

Imagine you are a popular public evangelist - one of the best - able to pack Melbourne Cricket Ground each and every night with 100,000 people, and after each night's presentation, every single person gives their heart to Christ and never waivers from their faith from that day. And you do this every night for 35 years. You would be responsible for the changing of 1.27 billion people!

Now, imagine instead, that you dedicate a year of your life discipling someone you know who does not know Jesus, into a saving relationship with Him. You spent that whole year, hanging out, eating together, playing together, praying together... doing life together.

At the end of that year you say to your friend 'I've seen how Jesus has impacted and changed your life for the better - there are so many people who still need to discover what you now know. Let's stay friends, but split up and for the next year each disciple someone else in our lives, who doesn't yet know God.'

If you continued this chain reaction unbroken for 35 years - how many people would you reach for Christ? Well, personally, you would have only reached 35 people. However, there would be a total of 6.1 billion people reached for Christ, if everyone followed your initial example. And if the earth's population remains near the same as today, the whole world could be reached in less than 36 years... that is the power of compound interest!

*What do you think is more powerful? A 20 minute sermon or a year spent discipling somebody that you already love and care about?*

*This is why I believe that the final instruction given by Christ to 'go and make disciples' was so important and worth our attention. Don't believe for a moment that you, as a single individual, cannot make a difference in the world today. One person for one year will make a HUGE difference for the Kingdom.*  
*Derek McCutcheon*



*'Goodbyes can be extremely difficult. Often parting words to family and friends are the most heartfelt and honest uttered. Just before he died, reggae singer/songwriter, Bob Marley told his son "Money can't buy life." Of Beatles fame, George Harrison's words were "Love one another." In a public address, Malcolm X, an African-American human rights activist, said "Brothers! Brothers! Please! This is a house of peace!" - just before he was assassinated. If you were allowed one phone call to a loved one before your life was taken, who would you call? What would you want to say? Final words can be extremely powerful.*

Jesus led His eleven disciples up the mountainside to bid them His final farewell. Having spent the last three and a half years ministering to and with them, He was about to return to His Father. We are privileged to have just some of His final words recorded in Matthew 28:18-20.

"All authority in Heaven and Earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In Jesus' final words to his friends, he gave them three instructions to follow.

1. Go and make disciples
2. Baptise people
3. Teach people

In the original Greek language, Jesus emphasised one of the instructions above the others; whilst they are all important, there was one that He particularly wanted to highlight - "go and make disciples."

To explain why I believe Jesus emphasised this over the others, I will tell a three stories.

## STORY 1 - THE INVENTION OF CHESS

Once upon a time there was a king who was the most powerful individual of all nations. Despite being wealthy, powerful and popular, however, he felt unfulfilled.

One day he shared this with his most trusted advisor. In an attempt to lift the king's spirits, the advisor offered to show him a new board game he had invented. The king heartily agreed and so the advisor brought out what is now commonly known of as a chess set. The king enjoyed it so much that he played again... and again... and

# FEATURE

## Do You Have the X Factor

*POURED out in 2012...*

**“My life is being poured out as part of the sacrifice and service I offer to God... and I share that joy with all of you,” Philippians 2:17**



*This text is VicYouth’s focus for the year and Discipleship is our theme, aligning with that of the General Conference, AUC & SPD Youth Departments, so that we are all working together for the same purpose and goals, and not just for this year, but in years to come.*

In 2011 we looked at Identity. This year we will challenge our young people with the call of Jesus to follow Him and to go on and make disciples.

What does this mean? How should it look? When does it take place? So many resources and write-ups about Discipleship have been developed over the years and we don't plan to 'reinvent the wheel' but to glean from the story of the Man Himself as recorded in the Gospels, as well as selected resources which will better equip VicYouth and our youth leaders across this great Conference.

### SUMMER CAMPS – the X-FACTOR

When mentioned, Summer Camps bring to mind sun, fun, injuries, water sports and other activities. But when VicYouth’s Summer Camps are on our lips it brings to mind the main reason for running these camps, connecting with our own personal X-Factor - Jesus! We have just completed another three weeks of amazing encounters with God alongside our staff & campers. And what a time we have had!

If only the church community at large could get a glimpse into what

Our main posing questions in light of Discipleship Theme are: What will it take for each of us as community leaders and church members to be a follower of Jesus; What are we willing to sacrifice; and what will a life of sacrifice look like for us individually, but also as a community.

There is one ‘thing’ vital to discipleship; without it we would merely be going through the motions. What is it?

It is the X-Factor. And this brings me to our Summer Camps.

goes on at camp! We wish you could come and experience God’s movement amongst our campers and staff alike, it truly is one of the most incredible experiences we are honoured to share and be a part of. To be so convicted of the work of the Holy Spirit amongst a gathering literally takes one’s breath away. Without a doubt there is always a battle taking place over these camps, due to the nature of our ministry, but we saw God doing what He does best, bringing about breakthroughs, decision-making, commitments and life changing moments that we look back on and just praise God for!

Our speakers for the three weeks included David Gillespie in Juniors, Loma Rome Ulia (aka Tank) in Teens and Bobby Bovell from Denmark in the Youth. Each focused on Jesus being the X-Factor in our Discipleship; without Him all that we do is merely works without the Master Disciple-Maker Himself.

God’s Word was delivered nightly and Friday nights peaked with Commitment! This year we have seen a growth in our camps with numbers for Juniors & Teens closing in at 115 each and Youth around 40. With these numbers in mind, 163 young people said they wanted Jesus to be the X-Factor in their lives, 81 requested Bible studies with 68 wanting to be baptised, 50 requested visits from a youth leader or pastor and 132 committed to serve God in their local church. These results are truly miraculous, particularly when you consider that many of the young people who come to these camps have not experienced ‘church’ much before.

So what is VicYouth planning to do with these heartfelt commitments?

Follow up will initially be by emailing the relevant church pastor with a list of campers from their local church who have made any of the commitment decisions. We will also contact each young person letting them know someone will be in touch with them to follow up on their decision. Faye Stothers, who was our Worship Director & Girls Dean, will be coordinating this follow-up with VicYouth, ensuring each young person who put their heart on the line and made a commitment will be followed up. We want to honour each decision that they made.

*However this is something that you, as a caring church member, can be involved in too. Do you know someone who attended summer camp? Show interest, ask questions. And perhaps the opportunity will arise to see how they are going with their commitment and whether you can help in any way. Warfare never ends, and we are convinced the devil will be working overtime in the ensuing months to turn summer camp decisions into a distant memory. VicYouth needs your help in this area!*

So we look forward to the stories shared over the next few months of how each of them has travelled and how their commitment is making an impact on their discipleship path! We are often so focused on the spiritual welfare of our campers, praying for them before they even set foot on campus, sometimes we overlook the work of the Holy Spirit in our own lives as staff. This year we were blessed with another staff baptism. Kez MacGillvray has been on our staff for the last four or five years and is a dedicated summer camper herself. In recent years she has wrestled in

her heart, and this year she finally made the decision to take a leap of faith and go all the way with Jesus! Her family, having been told Sabbath morning, dropped everything and travelled to Howqua to experience this beautiful moment with Kez, her husband Rikki and the rest of her summer camp family. Another miracle!

And now with Summer Camps gone we look forward to the rest of the year with anticipation as to what else God has up His sleeve for the young people of Victoria. And what a fabulous group of Jesus followers we have in this Conference!



KEZ’S BAPTISM IN THE HOWQUA RIVER WAS A JOYOUS OCCASION



### REGIONAL MINISTRY FOCUS

As part of our Discipleship theme we will work with our Regional Ministries to focus on local church ministry. We want more interaction with our local youth leaders and their teams through Regional weekends. Dates for each region will be advertised once confirmed. Our hope for this time is not just to feed information about

Discipleship but to hear stories of how God is building His Kingdom in our local areas and see discipleship at work first hand, as we live it.

We are very excited about this and look forward to how each Regional Weekend pans out!

### CHOSEN - TEEN LEADERSHIP CONVENTION

Over the last four years, VicYouth have alternated with AUC Youth Department in running teen leadership training and this year Pr Tony Knight from the AUC Youth Department is gearing up for the third CHOSEN Convention, to which fifteen or so teens will attend from Victoria, joining other teens from around the country! In Victoria we have had opportunity to train over 200 teen leaders in the last four years and we are excited to be sending another

wonderful group to CHOSEN 2012.

We have seen those who have been through CHOSEN & UPRISING go on to get involved in their local church and studies with purpose, we have seen their giftedness be poured into building and reflecting Kingdom values!

Information will be sent to Pastors and Board Members in the next few months.

### STORMCO. & INTERNATIONAL MISSION TRIPS

We are again keen to see our VicYouth involved in Service/Mission Ministries and get a glimpse of the heart of God at work in other cultures and communities. This year the two trips we are planning in conjunction with ADRA are to Tanzania in the July school holidays, with places for 25 participants, and to India in November/December with places for 20. Adventurers, Pathfinders, StormCo, Adventist Connect and Recon (with ADRA) are a normal part of VicYouth operations each year.

And all this is done to ensure our young people have encounters with Jesus and likewise nurture them to become, not just followers, but Disciple Makers!

We praise God for the way He leads, especially in the lives of our leaders and teams across the Conference, as we work toward this goal.

And so we give 2012 to our God!



## What A Day for Family!

### DANDENONG POLISH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*It was a joy and a privilege to witness six people giving their lives to Christ on Saturday, 17th December. And it was indeed a wonderful day for families involved and for the church family.*

Marcin and David Baran, Ruth, Bogdan and Anthony Plitt and Ewelina Burzminska-Kydd entered the baptismal in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, signifying their death to their old life, in the likeness of Christ's death, and they were raised in the likeness of His resurrection, determined to live their new life dedicated to their Redeemer and Saviour.

Marcin happily shared his testimony of how he was led to this life-changing decision. "Looking back at what made me make this decision, I realised it wasn't one big or dramatic event, but rather small, sometimes almost unnoticeable events which had a direct effect on leading me onto the road with Christ," he said. "I believe Satan was working very hard to keep me off that road by misdirecting and misleading, distancing me from having a close relationship with Jesus. I would never really ask for God's direction but just live my life the way I felt was right for me. Many times, however, the Holy Spirit gave me the courage to step back and look at the world around me and I'd ask myself, "Is this where I want to be?" As good as these things around me seemed, my life still felt empty and without purpose." When Pastor Mariusz Wieczorek asked Marcin if he was interested in Bible study he reluctantly accepted, thinking it would be a burden. Satan was at work, discouraging him from being involved, but through the persistence of the Spirit and of his brother David he continued and thus began a spiritual journey that re-ignited his relationship with



IT WAS A DAY OF REJOICING WHEN PR WIECZOREK (PICTURED CENTRE) BAPTISED DAVID AND MARCIN BARAN, EWELINA BURZMINSKA-KYDD AND RUTH, BOGDAN AND ANTHONY PLITT

God. "The hardest part was letting go of everything that I had come to know from this sinful world," he continued. "I think this text from Proverbs 3 spoke to me. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." I finally understood what Christianity is all about: letting God take over and carry my burdens, and it is OK to not understand because God will take care of me if I live for Him."

Ruth Plitt shared her family's experience with her new church family the Sabbath following their baptism. After migrating to Australia in 1980, their life was very challenging to begin with as they tried to learn a new language. While they acknowledged God in their lives, He was often forgotten as they were very busy. Other things seemed more important, and perhaps, without even knowing it, they

were serving the enemy. "God showed my whole family His amazing grace," Ruth told the church, "when He saved our daughter, who was going through a very difficult time in her life. It was a miracle to us as our prayers were answered." But life went on and priorities were still wrong, although they did have countless discussions about God and religion. One day a good friend passed on some DVD's. These prompted them to reach for their Bible and whilst studying, they discovered the fourth commandment. They contacted a friend whom they had not seen in years and she introduced them to the Dandenong church family. "Further Bible studies led us to our decision to be closer to God. We thank Him for giving us the Holy Spirit everyday to sustain our faith and are grateful to the congregation for accepting us."

*Elizabeth Croom*

## Smiling All the Day

### WARBURTON ADVENTIST CHURCH

Church members celebrated together on December 3, as nine year old Savanna Maunder was baptised. Savanna wants to follow Jesus and be a

part of His church. She smiled all day, and her smile certainly told the story of the joy in her heart.

*Sue Marshall*

## Ticket to a Concert-Ticket to a New Life

### SEDDON CHURCH

*Joseph Turda's journey towards God began over 30 years ago. Born into a poor, working class family, he was the seventh child. As a boy, his father would read him Bible stories and the story of Joseph became his favourite.*

Following his father's untimely death, Joseph's mother struggled for survival and times were hard. Years later, as a young father himself, Joseph received tickets to an Adventist concert where He found the message of God's love inspiring. He accepted some Adventist literature but shortly after migrated to Australia. Nevertheless, God's love followed him across the miles. A faithful Adventist brother, Milivoj Milovic sought him out at the English language school and thanks to his patience and persistence, Joseph began attending church.

But the journey was far from complete. Joseph's life was shattered when he sustained a work related injury and again, when his marriage broke down. As his long-time friends turn away, he instead found warmth and acceptance in his newly found Adventist community who welcomed him with open arms. Finally

realised he had come home!

Today Joseph testifies: "God's ways are unpredictable and mysterious, but I am convinced that He has led me to this place. I have found true joy and wish to give my heart to Jesus. I know He is leading me because I no longer feel alone."

Joseph Turda was baptised early in December at Seddon Church and members thank God for the privilege of being able to welcome Joseph into the family of God.

To Him be all praise.

*Boriss Soldat*

## Telling in the Park

### ECHUCA CHURCH

*I recently went to preach in the lovely town of Echuca. Several days beforehand, one of the church elders called me with an idea.*



## Singing for God

### ROBINVALE CHURCH

The church family at Robinvale also had reason for joy on November 26, when Sola Afa, only ten years of age, sealed his decision to follow Christ all the way in baptism, after studying God's word with Aleisha Craddock week after week. Sola uses his singing talent for his God and at the special service, one of the hymns he chose was "Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart."

*Rosie Ansell*



ONLY TEN YEARS OF AGE, SOLA IS DETERMINED TO FOLLOW CHRIST WITH ALL HIS HEART



JOSEPH BEING WELCOMED BY BORISS SOLDAT

"We've been letter boxing a commission housing area," he said. "There are lots of kids that play in the park situated in the middle of the houses. I know how much you love to tell stories. What would you think of telling stories to the kids in the park?"

I thought it was a great idea!

"How will you get the kids there at the right time?" I asked.

"We can make a flyer and letter box the area the day before." And they did.

The picture shows the children who showed up. I told several value-based stories and we had some laughs.

*Pr David Edgren*

SAVANNA WITH DUANE HAORA AND PR MURRAY THACKHAM



## Taking Mansfield By Storm

### BURWOOD ADVENTIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

In December 2011, a team of 21 youth from Burwood Church embarked on the first StormCo program organized by their church in ten years. This was also the first occasion that the community of Mansfield had ever been reached by a StormCo program.

Initially we were concerned that we might not find enough work for us to do and wondered whether we would make much of a difference, but we came to see that God had already paved the way for us. One of many answers to prayer was the hospitality and support received from the team at Camp Howqua, who provided us with a great home base. Throughout the week we washed over 50 community vehicles including boats, taxis and countless dirty Holdens; sang Christmas carols with the elderly at the local aged-care home; baked and made crafts with clients at a disability clinic; weeded, pruned, raked and clipped hedges at 24 properties; and organised the church program for the local Adventist

community - accomplishing far more than any of us ever imagined! Within a very short time it became evident that what we did was highly valued within the Mansfield community, to the extent

that we have been invited back for another StormCo later this year. It truly has been a blessing to see how God can multiply our efforts to be a blessing to others.

*Katelyn Reed, Youth Pastoral Worker*

*"It was great to get out and have fun with friends, but more importantly to work with them to give to the community without expecting anything in return. Service to others really does matter!"*

*Harrison Kent*

*"StormCo was one of the greatest and most rewarding experiences of my life! As a team, we grew closer together. Given the chance, I would jump at the opportunity to go again."*

*Mariah Reed*

*"StormCo was such an amazing experience, I absolutely loved it. Spending a week away from basically everything and just doing things for others without thinking twice was like a breath of fresh air. StormCo allowed me to do things that I had never done before. I cannot wait until the next one!"*

*Chimangu Kamanga*



STORMCO - SERVICE TO OTHERS REALLY MATTERS. THIS IS A WONDERFUL FORM OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND REALLY DOES TOUCH THE COMMUNITY IN A MEANINGFUL WAY, AS WELL AS HAVING A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED.



Christian group helping out in town

## Sharing Life Through a Cooking Club

### BAIRNSDALE CHURCH

2011 saw an upsurge in attendance at the Bairnsdale SDA Church monthly meetings of their Vegetarian Cooking Club.

A year ago a young physiotherapist from the local hospital came and was very impressed. She brought her flatmate, who is a hospital dietician, to the next meeting

and from then on we had an "insider" participating and promoting us to her clients and friends.

The cooking club first began over five

years ago, but at one stage the numbers had stagnated to the point where we wondered if we were in fact doing God's will.

However after prayer the consensus was to continue and now we have up 26 in attendance, with the majority being non-Adventists.

The fun feature of our end-of-year meeting last December was a Christmas breakfast, a novel idea suggested and catered for by John and Edwina Marsden.

*Bairnsdale Cooking Club Team*



EDWINA MARSDEN AND COOKING CLUB LEADER, CAROL HANNA AT THE CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST. JOHN MARSDEN CAN BE SEEN IN THE BACKGROUND, WORKING IN THE KITCHEN.

## Becoming a Church

### CRANBOURNE ADVENTIST FELLOWSHIP

On Sabbath, February 4, Pr Wayne Stanley joined with the Cranbourne fellowship to celebrate their acceptance into the Victorian Sisterhood of Churches as Cranbourne Seventh-day Adventist Church Fellowship. Over seventy people gathered together to share in this joyous occasion of worship and fellowship.

The group first began meeting in September 1996, in the Merinda Park Community Centre, with a membership of fourteen people. Pr Darrell Croft, Conference President, officiated when they were officially formed into a company in April the following year, under the leadership of Bert Jackson. Within six months membership had more than doubled, with 31 members at the time of becoming a company. Pr Barry Wheelan was subsequently appointed to minister to the company in 1998, and Mr Peter Hughes began caring for them in 2010.

Cranbourne's mission statement says they aim to create a fellowship which is caring, accepting and safe, which receives everyone as they are, seeking to promote an atmosphere where faith can grow, wounds heal and life becomes more joyful and fulfilling.

And with such a statement, their growth has continued, with 78 members now listed, however this is soon going

to increase again as Lee Harman, one of the children from the founding families, is declaring his love for the Lord through baptism, early in March. The members are adding an evangelistic approach to their mission statement, and while still meeting at Merinda Park, are anticipating

continued growth and the need to begin looking for new premises to meet in.

"We humbly give praise and glory to our God for the way He has led, and we commit the future into His hands," says Peter Hughes.

*IntraVic*

PETER HUGHES AND CONFERENCE PRESIDENT, WAYNE STANLEY WELCOME ALL TO CRANBOURNE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP



## Floral Kindness - BENDIGO CHURCH

Last November, Debby Birach-Mayer presented her workshop *The Language of Flowers* in the Bendigo church hall.

Debby has over 25 years of experience in Europe and Australia and her workshop included relieving the illness of stress and depression through flowers and how important it is to share flowers with our community.

She demonstrated floral arrangements of all kinds, including arrangements to make a sick person smile and a sad person happy, a church display to show God is love and flowers to give God's love to the community.

Her arrangements were so simple, yet many wondered

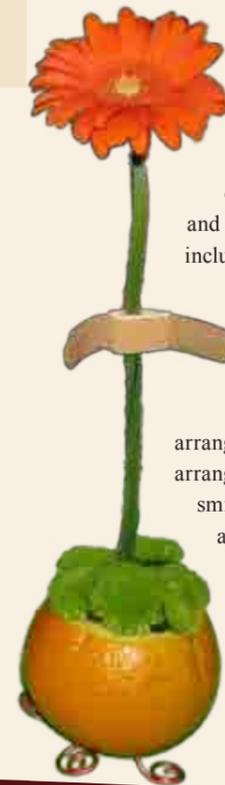
'why didn't I think of that before?'

The auction at the end of the workshop made a lot of people who were not there very happy as the participants then went off to do some visiting with their newly purchased arrangements and their newly acquired skills.

Debby's parting words for every church florist were..."Why not ring up another denomination and tell them the flowers we used on Sabbath in our Adventist church are for your church to use on Sunday!"

What a witness that could be!

*Lynda Scott*



## And The Lord Added to the Church... Acts 2:47

### RINGWOOD CHURCH

For some years the Burmese group at Ringwood have been worshipping in a combined service with their counterparts. Their numbers have grown however, and it became evident that they needed to hold their own worship program at a different time.

November 26, 2011 marked their inaugural Burmese worship service, with Pr James Greensill and Mrs Nan Myat Kyaw delivering sermonettes to edify the members and guests present. It was a very

happy day. Victoria is truly multicultural. Although the church members at Werribee are exclusively from the Karen community, those at Ringwood Church are a

combination of the different ethnic groups of Myanmar. Many wore clothing reminiscent of their days spent in the villages in Myanmar, with some in national costume with full regalia.

Adventists from Myanmar are scattered around Victoria, and many have been blessed with opportunities to find a congregation to worship with. My wife, Nan, and I ask that you remember these members of our community in your prayers as there is still much work to be done.

The Lord has blessed us and it is our duty to serve Him with all the talents He has given. Please pray for us and our work within the Burmese community, and also for churches world-wide, that we may hasten the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mervin Myat Kyaw



RINGWOOD BURMESE MEMBERS - SOME ATTENDED IN NATIONAL COSTUME



## Musicians of Bayles

### BAYLES CHURCH

Music has always been a very important component of worship at the little church of Bayles.

Over the years we have been richly blessed with organists, pianists, violin players, soloists, a piano accordion player, a guitarist, a drum player, a flautist, a person who can play a musical saw, someone good on the recorder, saxophone and mouth organ and we have always loved the contribution good music makes to a program.

the year and are very grateful to all who happily give their support, especially the parents who bring their little ones along. The residents just love to see and hear the children.

We have a church member, Mrs Vi Wadsley (pictured), now residing at Killara. She too looks forward to the Sabbaths we visit and the musical programs we share.

Rosalie Bennetts



RESIDENTS OF KILLARA ENJOY THE REGULAR PROGRAM CHURCH MEMBERS FROM BAYLES PUT ON FOR THEM, AND THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM LAST YEAR WAS NO EXCEPTION



What a joy it was to have the first of yet another generation taking part in the end of year programs put on by our church.

Kayla Beveridge, supported by her cousin Tyneak Hellings from Cranbourne, played violin for the Christmas program put on by the church for the residents of the Koo Wee Rup hostel, Killara. The girls are being taught by Sam Sevenhysen who also played violin for the program and a piano duet with Tyneak.

We have had wonderful support from the church membership for our outreach programs held at Killara throughout

## No 'Heil Hitler'

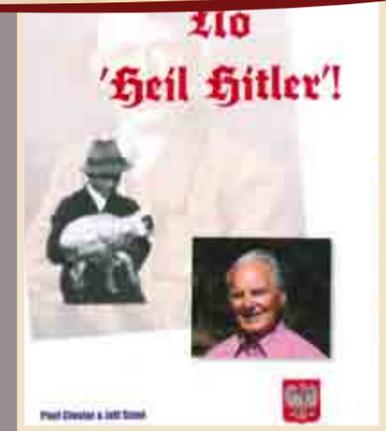
### OAKLEIGH POLISH CHURCH

Some time ago, inspired in part by his children and grandchildren as they listened to stories he shared with them of his childhood, Pr Pawel Cieslar decided to write an account of his experiences in war-time Poland. Originally intended for a predominantly Adventist audience, he had no idea how widespread an impact he would have – in fact, the extent may indeed remain unknown.

Pr Cieslar entered his book in the National Seniors Australia Phillpotts Literary prize which, if won, would assist with editing, printing and publication. His writing tells much of Adventist faith, and his expectations were not high, fearing it could be perceived as religious propaganda. There were 65 manuscripts in total, and this number was reduced to eleven, for final consideration by a panel of six professors. Pr Cieslar told of his absolute surprise when the eighth manuscript read out was "No Heil Hitler" by Pawel Cieslar and Jeff Steel (his co-writer)."

"It was a moment so entrancing, I will remember it for a long time," he said. And it was equally amazing when one of the professors came up to him and said "This woman you describe... what a faith!"

After it was announced that Pr Cieslar's was, in fact, the winning manuscript he was advised that a much larger publisher than originally intended be used, and the manuscript was recommended for film. This story was reported in the Age in January, where mention was made of his work as an Adventist minister, and Pr Cieslar has been contacted by a high



profile current affair program for an interview, which he is considering, once the book has been printed. Congratulations Pr Cieslar, and may this story of courage and faith, once intended for just a few, reach out all your readers and viewers, and perhaps the Holy Spirit may be able to touch their hearts and minds through this work. *IntraVic*

## 100 Years of Life

### CASEY CHURCH

In October last year, Casey church members celebrated the 100th birthday of Louise Seenyen with a very extravagant church luncheon.

Louise Cangy was born in Mauritius in 1911. In 1940 she married Pr Siva Seenyen (dec 1998) and the day after, they moved to Rodriguez to begin a new ministry.

With a growing family, Louise was a dedicated wife and mother and fully supported her husband in his ministry. A lady of many talents, Louise was very gifted in the areas of darning, knitting, crochet, making artificial flowers and of course was a great cook, all talents



HAPPY BIRTHDAY LOUISE!



which she has lovingly passed on to her daughters.

In 1997 Louise and Siva decided to migrate to Australia as by that time their children were all living here. Louise now has eleven grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren, all of whom adore her. Since settling in Australia Louise has lived

in Dandenong and attended Dandenong (now Casey) church.

Pastor David Riley said "I'm inspired by sister Seenyen's life-long faithfulness in a loving God. It is a wonderful church occasion to be able to celebrate 100 years of life."

Samantha Thorpe

## Better Life Better Future - GATEWAY

In November last year, Gateway held an evangelistic campaign with Pr Geoff Youlden presenting a twelve part series entitled *Better Life Better Future*.

At the completion of the series, 21 people

responded with a desire for baptism.

"We praise God for the many decisions for baptism and Bible study" says Johnny Wong. "We are looking forward to planting a Gateway group in the West in

2012." He goes on to ask for prayer as church members work toward the exciting and challenging goal of planting the new church in Footscray.

IntraVic

## It All Happened at the Gully FERNTREE GULLY CHURCH

First of all the walls of Jericho came tumbling down, and then church members visited Kruger National Park. All in one day, in November last year.



THE YOUTH OF FTG CHURCH BRINGING THE STORY OF JERICHO TO LIFE FOR THE CHILDREN, AND THE ADULTS TOO!

The day began with a special children's church conducted by Sherae Wilson, the youth and their leaders. They took church members back to the time of Joshua, bringing the story of Jericho to life as the children marched around the city and the cardboard walls of Jericho 'came a tumblin' down'. Jubilant shouts of victory followed and this is one Bible story the children will remember for a long time. The adult members of the church commended those involved for their commitment. In the afternoon, over 150 members and visitors 'travelled' to south Africa to visit Kruger National Park. From over 4000 photos taken by her husband Andrew, Lorraine Wegener produced an amazing 1¼ hour DVD. Elephants, lions, a leopard in a tree, rhinos and many other fascinating animals and birds were viewed 'up close'. The final section of the DVD showed sharks breaching. It was fantastic! Thank you Andrew and Lorraine, for sharing your God-given talents with others.

Elayne Stanford

## Church Camp – a Blessing PRESTON CHURCH

Church members enjoyed their 16th annual church camp toward the end of last year, with 83 campers and eleven Sabbath day-visitors gathering together at Camp Howqua, enjoying the facilities, the beautiful valley and sunny weather and the good fellowship.

The theme for the weekend was "A Christian in Today's World" and worship and service time were spent discussing our role in the world we live. Pr Latchman spoke on righteous thoughts, dwelling on how Jesus looks upon the heart not the outward appearance. Pastor Tini's message also reminded families of what a true Christian is like, "by their fruits you will know them." We were encouraged to shine our light and not give up, and were reminded to appreciate and not take for granted the blessings that are ours when we commit completely to our God and Saviour. The youth and children spent time with nature, bird watching with binoculars and looking at mini-beasts with magnifying glasses.

Saturday evening games saw characters tested as competition and sportsmanship were displayed by children, adults and even the elderly. Old faithful games such as dog-and-the-bone revealed ingenuity in the children and shrewdness in the adults as they valiantly tried to outplay each other to return the bone to their team. The games were played with gusto, with everyone getting into the spirit of innocent enjoyment. Such nights are always noisy, fast and produce many funny moments, with spectators finding as much enjoyment as participants. Outdoor sports were on the agenda for Sunday and they are Howqua's speciality. Young and old, tall and short all had fun on the flying fox – even if some needed a

gentle 'push' to get started! Think about it for too long and you might change your mind. It takes you on a journey like an eagle soaring in the air. You scream, you cry, you laugh, then suddenly it is all over and you are going back for more. Church camp is a wonderfully valuable time to kick-back and catch your breath as you get to know your fellow church members in a different environment. As one member, Julia Whippy said, "...the activities, the interaction, the spiritual uplifting, and just being surrounded by a great family of friends... A blessing indeed." God did indeed bless us with a lovely weekend - we'll definitely be back next year!

Margaret Okai



## 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary WARRNAMBOOL CHURCH

On Sabbath morning, October 22, between 150 and 170 people, including a number of past ministers, gathered at Warrnambool to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our church there. A very favourable article appeared in the local newspaper prior, describing the activities planned for the day and promoting the various programs the church runs on a regular basis.

During the morning service messages were read from friends and former members now living in such varied places as Mongolia, United States and far flung parts of Australia, who were unable to attend. The main address was presented by Pr Wayne Stanley, President of the Victorian Conference, who spoke on the Hope of the Church in the Advent of Christ. At the conclusion of the service, the Mayor of Warrnambool, Cr Jacinta Ermacora unveiled a memorial plaque and expressed the Council's appreciation for the community work done by the church through the years. During the program, 92 year old Flo Cram was honoured as the first person baptised in the church and Val Brittain was honoured as having the longest continuous membership at the church – 70 years without a break. Ray Lucas, a long-serving elder, gave a brief history of the church, telling how, on October 21, 1921 the church was formed and that same year, after meeting in a tent and later a small

rented hall, the original church building was dedicated. The church bears little resemblance to the original building. From the late 1960's it underwent major extensions to the front which saw the disappearance of the distinctive square tower. In later years the church and hall were joined together, new Sabbath School rooms were created and a new kitchen installed. The land behind the church also saw great changes from the time it was a vegetable garden helping to finance the church to its present state as sealed car park. In the late 1970's the members felt a need to educate their children on Christian principles and in 1978 a church school was opened and operated for over ten years supported by a Health Food shop run by members on a volunteer basis. After a fellowship lunch the afternoon meeting, *Down Memory Lane*, told



FROM A TENT TO THE BUILDING STANDING THERE TODAY - WARRNAMBOOL CHURCH 90 YEARS OLD AND GOING STRONG

of God's blessing and leading in the past, of events humorous and serious, of encouragement and fellowship. The meeting was open to anyone with a story they wished to share and many took up the opportunity, the older members nodding sagely as they too remembered the stories. Trina Cullen had spent many weeks and months preparing a history of the church with photos, cuttings from the local newspaper and articles from 'The Record' and even as far back as 'The Bible Echo', and with personal memories of the church members. Many people lingered on after the program, studying the history and continuing to reminisce with each other until the day concluded with a light tea of soup and buns. Truly we have nothing to fear for the future except we forget the way the Lord has blessed and led us in the past. To God be the glory.

Judy Gilchrist

## Within the Bible Lands

September last year, 24 travellers visited ten countries and many lessons were learnt from each one. Here Pr Damir Posavac tells us a little of the trip.

The one-day stop over in Dubai gave us a taste of the humidity and desert and was a good preparation for our time in the Bible Lands. Jordan is always exciting with the beautiful red hidden city of Petra and a few days in this country took us back through history. Israel was the most interesting destination and following Jesus' foot steps made us proud and opened our understanding about the environment in the New Testament. We continued on to the Seven Churches (Turkey) and saw some fantastic archeological discoveries, particularly in Efes. While Greece was in an economic depression, their spirit was still alive among the people we met in Thesaloniki and Athens. Flying into Dubrovnik, an icon of the Mediterranean, we saw how beautiful Croatia is. Bosnia and Hercegovina were short parts of our bus tour as we headed to the capital city of Croatia where we spent Sabbath at a newly organised church from the time of pastor David Currie's evangelistic campaign. Passing Slovenia we finished our journey in Italy, visiting Venice, Valdese Valley and 'Eternal Rome'. Another trip is planned for September 2012. This will be shorter, only covering Jordan, Egypt and Israel. Look out for upcoming advertising if you are interested in joining us.

Pr Damir Posavac



## Why Do We Have Adventist Education?

His name is 'John'. Not from a Christian background, he attended one of our colleges and here is an extract from the testimony he gave not long before he completed Year 12:

In Year 7, I discovered my Dad was ill. I couldn't bear to watch him become weaker and weaker, and as he did so, I recoiled into a numb shell, hiding from reality by finding comfort in distracting games. But then, what 13 year old could know how to face a loved one's mortality?

I certainly didn't think anyone could possibly understand my torment and pain and, feeling alone and lost, sometimes woke up thinking it would be easier to just end it all.

As my time at this school progressed I came to appreciate the knowledge I gained of God and Christianity and by Year 9, was able to develop a relationship with Him. I

wanted to know more of His mighty power and undying love for me and began to experience the power of prayer. However when, in spite of my prayers for my father, the doctors reported he had only months to live I became confused, doubting God's existence. Nonetheless, He did answer my prayer for my father, who lived more than two years longer than the doctors had anticipated, and I came to learn that God really does love me and cares about my issues.

When my Dad finally succumbed to his illness a few months ago, I again felt very alone. Mum retreated into her own world, and Dad was no longer there when

I needed him most. But I found I was not alone – my class mates, my teachers, my closest friends – they came to the funeral, they supported me, they showed they cared... and they reminded me God did too. I now KNOW God is merciful and caring. I don't worship Him because I have to – I worship Him because I WANT to! I want to learn more of Him and live the life He chooses for me.

I will finish with words from Isaiah 41:10 that gave me strength during my time of weakness. "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

## ASVAC a Kaleidoscope of 'God Colours'

Before the school term began for students, 220 teaching staff from around Victoria attended the annual teachers' conference, held in the new multipurpose centre at Edinburgh Adventist Primary School in Lilydale.

"This year we entitled our ASVAC 'Kaleidoscope' to represent the many facets of our jobs as teachers," says Brian Mercer, Adventist Education Director for Victoria. "There are so many parts to our jobs: teaching; learning; assessment; counselling; arbitrating... The list could be expanded endlessly!"

Just as a kaleidoscope brings disparate

pieces of plastic, wood and stone together to make a beautiful pattern, so members of our teaching staff have the opportunity to do so as they make a difference in the lives of the children they teach. "I am sure," continues Brian, "the teachers who attended this ASVAC will be better equipped to take the many 'fragments' they encounter and transform them into

useful applications for learning, teaching and daily life."

Presenting at the conference was Maggie Hamilton, an author and teacher who focuses on how to support our children as they grow up in today's culture. Maggie gave the teachers a very clear insight into the pressures that students are under to conform to what the world tells them they should be and how they are being preyed upon by the marketing industry.

As is customary, a service project was selected – this year it was Betikama Adventist College in the Solomon Islands – and a total of \$10,500 was donated by the teachers toward upgrading the buildings and a number of staff have also made a commitment to participate in a fly-and-build (or more accurately, repair) during 2012.

Also customary was the awarding of Teacher of the Year and Graduate Teacher of the Year awards, with this year's recipients being Helen Reed of Nunawading Christian College Primary, and Amanda Azzopardi of Gilson College. Congratulations to you both for the wonderful contributions you have made to our schools.

## Funding Capital Development in Our Schools.

Do you ever wonder how decisions are made, regarding the funding of new buildings or refurbishing existing ones within our school system? Why one gets accepted and another, apparently equally important one, gets knocked back? In this article, Brian Mercer, Director of Adventist Education for Victoria, explains a little of the process used by the Board of Directors for Adventist Schools Victoria to reach recent decisions.

All loans for building projects must be approved first by the educational Board of Directors (BOD) and then by the Conference Executive as these loans, even though they are externally funded through banks, are guaranteed by the unincorporated Church, not the Education Company. With limited financial resources, loan requests must be prioritised, ensuring there is enough cash backing to take out the loans.

In recent years there has been some fantastic additions to our schools under the Federal Government's BER (Building the Education Revolution) scheme, however cost overruns and modifications have required additional funding, reducing our reserves and hence limiting our ability to approve further building development loans.



NCC'S SPORTS OVAL IS NEARING COMPLETION, AND HERITAGE COLLEGE, IN THE CITY'S SOUTH EAST COMPLETED ITS MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING JUST IN TIME FOR SPEECH NIGHT LAST YEAR

Over the last twelve months the BOD has been considering three major development requests: the completion of the sports oval and subsequent roads at Nunawading Christian College; design and technology buildings at the Officer campus of Heritage College; and a performing arts development at Gilson College. The combined cost of these three projects has exceeded our diminished reserves and commencing them all in 2012 would push us beyond our ability to guarantee the funds. Thus the difficult decision was made to proceed with two of the three projects; the sports oval for NCC, as it was a continuation of a project which has been on-going for five years, is the smallest in terms of loan funding and is critical to the presentation of the school to the general public and prospective clientele; and the

project for the campus in Officer as it is also critical to ensure student education needs are met and to give current and prospective parents confidence that the Officer campus is viable. As a result, the project at Gilson College in the North West has been postponed until there is sufficient funding available and it is shown to be a high priority need both for the school system and the school. In an effort to be able to provide assurance as to when proposed projects will proceed in future years, the BOD has recommended a priority list for building development over the next five years be established, with each school council having opportunity to put forward their school's specific needs. It is anticipated that this plan will be in place by mid-2012, providing schools with better clarity for future funding requests.



SafePlaces, SafePeople

### WHAT DO YOU DO?

You may be concerned because a child has told you something or you have observed possible signs of abuse or neglect. If you are concerned, it is important to record your observations and follow correct procedural protocol, for the protection of all concerned.

On the Conference website, under the Safe Places tab, you will find a detailed flowchart for appropriate response to concerns, as well as contact numbers for agencies throughout Victoria.

If your concerns relate to a child in need of immediate protection, these numbers can be contacted however there is also an emergency after hours hotline, 131 278.

There are contact details should you feel a child and their family are in need of a referral. Having your notes handy when you call the local Child FIRST agency is of benefit, as well as the child and family details.

But the most likely situation you may find yourself in is when you are concerned, but not sure. The flow chart has advice here too. Not knowing what to do or how to go about it can be paralysing, but there are many services and resources available, and this is just one.

So go to vic.adventist.org.au and click on the Safe Places tab. From there you can follow the link to the AUC Safe Places Services site where further resources are available and where it is also possible to register a complaint if you would prefer or contact a representative from SPS.





MAGGIE HAMILTON PRESENTED AT ASVAC

AMANDA AZZOPARDI, MARGARET FOX, HELEN REED AND BRIAN MERCER - AMANDA AND HELEN WERE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

BUILDINGS AT BETIKAMA, INCLUDING THE CHAPEL, IN MUCH NEED OF REFURBISHING





## Strengthening Natural Faith Development SABBATH SCHOOL & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DEPARTMENTS

Pr David Edgren's focus for Sabbath School and Children's Ministry in 2012 is going to be the strengthening of natural faith development through empowering families and small groups.

Healthy faith development happens in

community. I firmly believe that the Adventist movement is a people of the Book reaching out. When we cease studying together, we lose our Adventist edge. When we cease reaching out together we stop being a movement and start becoming a cesspool. A small group, meeting midweek in someone's home, is the most non-threatening place to invite friends and family. Your Sabbath School classes are already small groups and it is my hope is that throughout this year, you will begin to consider your class that way! Consider having your class meet once

a month for a meal, a walk, a picnic or in some other relaxing setting that gets conversation flowing. Or, if you are really brave, try a midweek meeting for one quarter and see where it takes you. Last year we published "28 Stories" as a study guide for small groups and a journal for personal spiritual growth. Grab a copy from the ABC and use it to grow in faith, together. So, all the best for 2012, and remember, *Disciple-making 'just happens' in healthy families and small groups.*

*Pr David Edgren, Victorian Director of Sabbath School and Children's Ministry*



IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF A CURRICULUM FOR YOUR SMALL GROUP, PR DAVID EDGREN CALLING INTO THE ABC AND HAVING A LOOK AT "28 STORIES", A STUDY GUIDE AND JOURNAL PUBLISHED LAST YEAR

## Youth Pastoral Workers

Late last year, the Ministerial Department ran a rally for the Conference's youth pastoral workers. It was an evening of acknowledgment and encouragement and an opportunity for them to share their experiences with each other, as they fellowshiped together over dinner.

The position of Youth Pastoral Worker is a paid part-time ministry position, and Victoria has 30 allocated places around the conference, providing a unique opportunity for young people interested in aspects of ministry but also requiring part time work that will fit around their studies. At the rally, these young people spoke frankly of what their experiences throughout the year had been like. It had been a challenging time for some, but

as one said, "The climb is hard but the view is great!" They worked hard and found themselves frequently outside their comfort zone. But the general consensus seemed to be that "Seeing God work in the lives of those you work with makes it all worth it."

Their reasons for taking on the role were varied. Some wanted a challenge, to learn practical life skills in a church setting. Others mentioned the desire to see God at work first hand, or saw it as an opportunity to see what ministry was like. Others were driven by their desire to help spread God's kingdom. During their time as youth pastoral

workers, they learnt so much more than Bible study and preaching. They learned skills in discipline and time management; patience, faith and trust in God; leadership, delegation and listening; dealing with people, whether it be in a board room, over multicultural issues, or members varying expectations; and small group leadership. But perhaps most importantly, they learnt that by putting themselves 'out there', doing what Christ asked of them, their relationships with Him changed significantly. "Who would have thought that such a job (working with and for others) could make you understand that it was never about them in the first place, but more about what God, working through you, could do to help them." If you are interested in working as a youth pastoral worker or would like to know more, feel free to talk to your local pastor or, if there is not a position at your church, contact Pr Darren Croft or Pr Rob Steed at the Conference Office, on 03 9264 7777 as there may be positions elsewhere.

VICTORIA'S YOUTH PASTORAL WORKERS SHARED STORIES OF THEIR EXPERIENCES WORKING IN THEIR LOCAL CHURCHES. IF YOUR CHURCH IS INTERESTED IN THIS PROGRAM, CALL THE CONFERENCE OFFICE



## Adra News CONFERENCE CONGREGATIONS SAVE 3,300 CHILDREN

Last November members of the Adventist Church within Victoria saved the lives of more 3,300 Kenyan children living through what continues to be the world's worst humanitarian disaster.

"ADRA Australia collected more than \$1.1 million in donations for our East Africa Drought Appeal during the government's matching period," said Jonathan Duffy, CEO of ADRA Australia. "We received more than \$190,000 from the Victorian Conference alone. That becomes more than \$380,000 when matched by the government and is enough to provide six months of emergency food to more than 3,300 children in Kenya," he said. Members throughout the Conference gave generously out of their own pockets, organised special offerings and events and many were motivated to collect door-to-door in their neighbourhood. "To put it in perspective, the total from the Conference would be enough to provide a month's emergency food supply to more than 3,000 families. It's a massive contribution to this life-saving work." ADRA Australia is continuing to provide emergency relief in both Kenya and Somalia. In addition, a long-term recovery project is planned to assist communities rebuild once the drought has lifted. This includes the distribution of agricultural equipment and seeds to re-establish family farms.

ADRA Australia was one of 19 agencies eligible for the matching fund established by the government and despite its comparatively small size, raised almost 9% of the total across the agencies. "I'd like to personally thank all our supporters in Victoria. Without your generosity and passion we would not have

been able to extend our work in this region and would not have been able to save so many lives," said Mr Duffy. Victorian Conference President, Pr Wayne Stanley would also like to extend his own personal thanks to the Conference church members for the generosity they have shown, to achieve this wonderful result.

ADRA HAS PRODUCED A SHORT VIDEO SHOWING THE RESULT OF THEIR WORK AND SAYING THANK YOU TO ITS SUPPORTERS. VISIT WWW.ADRA.ORG.AU TO VIEW IT.



"I'D LIKE TO PERSONALLY THANK ALL OUR SUPPORTERS IN VICTORIA. WITHOUT YOUR GENEROSITY WE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SAVE SO MANY LIVES." J DUFFY



## A NEW INITIATIVE – ADRA YOUTH AMBASSADOR

ADRA welcomes Sarah Courtney to the volunteer role of Youth Ambassador - a new role that will help run service trips for Victorians through the ADRA Connections program.

Working with ADRA and VicYouth, Sarah will visit churches, organise trips and motivate our young people to be involved in service activities that illustrate Christ's love to those less fortunate. Last year she received the leadership award from the Department of Defence,



has experienced a mission trip to Vanuatu, is involved in her local church at Burwood and has a passion for helping those in need. In the July school holidays Sarah will be taking a team to Tanzania in Africa to work with the Albino children for ten days. As reported previously in IntraVic, Tanzania has the largest population of albinos in the world, who must not only vigorously protect their sensitive skin from the harsh sun, but due to ignorance and superstition, live in fear of abduction and murder. They battle the sun, hunters and superstition, but ADRA Australia,

with ADRA Tanzania are helping them find safety, dignity and hope, through providing safe schools, medical supplies, protective clothing and counteracting the rumours and superstition surrounding them.

If you would like to be part of a group constructing a shaded playground for albino school children later this year, register your interest with Sarah.

Call 0411 525 779 or email SarahCourtney@adventist.org.au.  
Rebecca Auriant,  
Victorian Director for ADRA Services

## Pastoral Staffing News

### BACK HOME AGAIN

For the last few years, Pr Paul Kotanko has been working in Mongolia as the Mission President. He is now back home in Australia with his wife, Miyong and boys Christian and Samuele.

It is good to be back in the Victorian Conference to pastor the Mont Albert & East Prahran churches. After serving five and a half years in Mongolia as missionaries, we are thankful to return to be close to my parents and to give our high school0-aged children an Adventist education at Nunawading. Hopefully over time we may even get used to the hot weather here: after experiencing four months every year where the temperature rarely rose above zero degrees Celsius, we look forward to every cool change that comes over Melbourne! During our time in Mongolia we saw a dramatic change in the country, thanks to a mining boom (there not here), and

observed firsthand the rapid development of the capital city Ulaanbaatar, even as the number of poor people remained stubbornly high. Upon arriving in Mongolia, we soon learned that if we found something special in the shops we needed, it was best to buy it then and there as next time it could be gone, maybe never to return. By the time we left, this sort of thinking was no longer necessary, but still difficult to completely shake off. Like all changes in the wider society, there was an impact on both evangelism and retention of members. Five and a half years ago, people were quite open to traditional evangelistic methods. Prior to our departure, however, we noticed that



RETURNING TO VICTORIA AND CARING FOR EAST PRAHRAN AND MONT ALBERT CHURCHES, PR PAUL KOTANKO AND HIS FAMILY

we needed to seriously re-evaluate our methods if we were going to reach people whose mind-set had changed dramatically from even a year or two earlier.

In the short time back in Australia, as I look around the mission field of Melbourne & Victoria, there are similar challenges in terms of discerning methods to reach people with the gospel. By God's grace and direction, it is our desire to grow God's kingdom in the churches where He has called us to.

Paul Kotanko

## Congratulations WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

On December 10, Pr Danijela Trajkov, Director for Women's Ministries, graduated with Masters in Family Ministry, Marriage and Family Process. This was a culmination of four years part time work with Avondale College, while working full time in the Conference, pastoring five churches in the southwest district along with her departmental work. Congratulations Danijela.

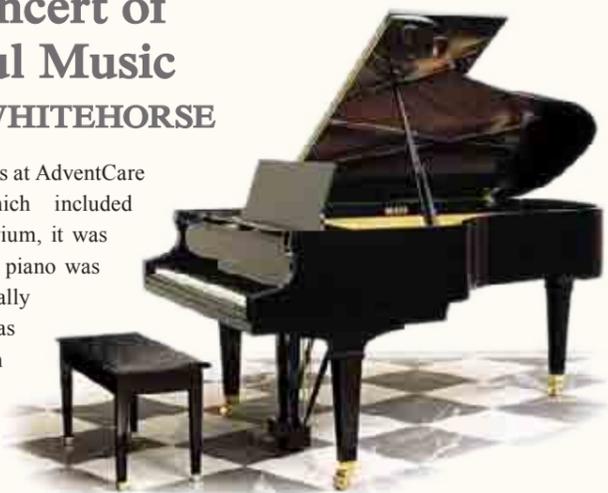


CONGRATULATIONS, DANIELLA, ON THIS ACHIEVEMENT, AND THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO



## A Grand Concert of Beautiful Music ADVENTCARE WHITEHORSE

After recent building extensions at AdventCare Whitehorse (Coronella), which included the addition of a large auditorium, it was found that their current grand piano was no longer adequate. Eventually a suitable replacement was found, the old piano traded in and a new Bernstein Grand delivered in December last year.



While AdventCare has paid for half of the remainder owing, Mr Romney King, who has had a close relationship with AdventCare over many years, volunteered to organise good quality music programs featuring various musicians, as a means of raising the remaining funds. The first program is Feb 25 at 8pm (see notice on back page) and further programs are planned for April 28 and June 16. Entry to the programs will be free, with an opportunity for donations throughout the evening. If you are unable to attend but would like to contribute to the fund, donations can be sent to AdventCare Whitehorse, 163-165 Central Road Nunawading, 3131, stating Piano Fund. Parking is limited at AdventCare, entry via Gate 1, and so Nunawading Church has kindly given permission to park in the church grounds close by.

## FINDING TRUE FULFILMENT

As a young teenager, Trent Martin's life really was all about a search for happiness and fulfilment.



I think for many teens, the search comes up dry, and most settle for second best - a mundane life, where lack of true satisfaction is temporarily offset by bursts of empty excitement. Yet, for me, that was not enough. I needed something more. True fulfilment.

That desire was finally met when my life was brought to a low and I

### ALSO WELCOMING...

Last issue of IntraVic, mention was made that Murray Thackham, who had been care-taking one of our churches, was joining our team more permanently and Bruce Manners was returning to Victoria. Also new to our pastoral team this year, along with Paul Kotanko and Trent Martin (mentioned above), is Andrew Jasper. Additionally, Craig Gillis will join the team later in the year. And replacing Elisa Fox, who was the PA for VicYouth and is currently on maternity leave, is Natasha Jakowlew. A warm welcome to you all. We wish you all the best as you adjust to your new roles in the Victorian Conference.

realised that God was the only one who could make me whole. And thus began a transformation in my life that continues to this day. Two years later, God convinced me to become a full-time minister for Him, and He even provided me with the perfect woman to accompany me in life (her name is Bryanna).

Today, His call has become a reality, and I'm an intern pastor at Frankston Church. I've been married to Bryanna for almost two years, and am loving life. Now I'm ready for the next challenge- surviving my first Victorian winter!

Trent Martin

## HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS

The Conference has appointed two chaplains for hospital visitation, primarily caring for our country church members should they require visitation, but also available for our city members in the event their own local church pastors are unavailable. Dr Harold Waldrip is continuing in this capacity, and will visit the Austin, Peter McCallum, the Royal Children's Hospital, Rosehill and St Vincents. Pr Graham Sutherland is joining the team and will be caring for the Alfred, the Royal Melbourne Hospital and the Royal Women's Hospital. Pr Sutherland can be contacted on 0439 355 987 and Dr Waldrip on 0422 114 920.



Joe Tekopua, from the Adventist Book Centre at the Conference Office, and Sarah Givney celebrated their marriage with friends and family at Nunawading Church on October 30. Prs Taukana Pere and Johnny Murison officiated the ceremony before the guests moved to the NCC facilities where the reception was a mix of Australian and Cook Island culture.

Then, on November 13, Deb O'Mahony, who also works at the Office, and Graeme Stiles celebrated their wedding with a garden ceremony in Murcheson, with 85 of their friends and family.

We ask for the Lord's richest blessings for these couples throughout their journeys together. May He be with them and guide them as they build their families around Him.



## RTB says "Thank You"

14,724 people walked the Road in 2011. Praise God and thanks to all who were involved.

## ... They Hold Your Heart Forever

A number of Conference staff have been blessed with additions to their families since our last issue of IntraVic went to print.

Mebzar and Caroline Quinto's baby girl, Zara Yohanna, was born a little early, on November 10. She has two doting 'big' brothers, 20 month-old twins Von Razzl and Nyll Xabi. Mebzar pastors our Filipino Australian congregation.

Iutini Rimoni and his wife Jemilyn were blessed with the safe arrival of Semikha Laine. She was born on December 1. They are a part of the Spotswood and Preston Church and the Northern church plant families.

Ben and Mary Jane Townson, of Stawell, Maryborough and Ararat churches, are the proud

parents of Marielle-Ann who was born on January 15. And from our Seddon Church is Boriss Soldat and his wife Heidi, who have a little boy, Raphael Abel, who arrived on the 16th of January.

Congratulations, and may the Lord be with you and give you wisdom and strength as you care for the precious little ones He has entrusted to your care. An anonymous author once penned the words "You may hold my hand for a while, but you hold my heart forever..." How quickly our precious little ones grow, letting go of our hands as they reach for independence. But they, and you, are even more precious to our Lord Jesus, who will never let go our hands, as long as we allow Him to help.



THE QUINTO FAMILY WITH ZARA YOHANNA



SEMIKHA LAINE WITH HER PARENTS, JEMILYN AND RIMONI



BORISS AND HEIDI SOLDAT WITH RAFAEL ABEL



SIX SISTERS, BRIELLE-JANE AND MAKAYLAH-JANE ENJOYING PLAY WITH MARIELLE-ANN TOWNSON

## Local Church Office Job Descriptions

The South Pacific Division has recently revised and updated job descriptions for local church offices. These have been distributed through Personal Ministries so each church should now have copies available. So if you are wondering about the job description for your position at church, or would

like a list of job descriptions before the next nominating committee session begins, see you minister or church clerk.



### Sunset times

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

### March 2012

Sabbath	Opening	Closing
Mar 2,3	6.59	6.58
Mar 9,10	6.49	6.48
Mar 16,17	6.39	6.37
Mar 23,24	6.28	6.27
Mar 30,31	6.17	6.16

### Offering Schedule

- ### MARCH
- 3 - Local church Budget
  - 10 - Adventist World Radio
  - 17 - Education/Camping Ministry
  - 24 - Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired
  - 28 - Local Church Budget
- ### APRIL
- 7 - Annual Convention
  - 14 - World Mission Budget - Inter division employee program
  - 21 - Union Offering - Mamarapha College
  - 28 - Local Church Budget

## PASTORAL STAFFING 2012

CHURCH	MINISTER	CHURCH	MINISTER
ACADEMY	Pr Darrell Croft	NHILL	Mr Andrew Wilson
ARARAT	Mr Ben Townson	NOBLE PARK	Pr Trevor Rowe*
ASCOT VALE	Mr Ainsley Wagner	NORTH FITZROY	Dr Denis Hankinson
ASIAN (MASDAC)	Pr Isaac Foo, Mrs Ellen Foo	NTH MELBOURNE SAMOAN	Pr Eddie Erika
AUBURN	Pr Trevor Rowe*	NORTHPOINT/ Church Plant #	Pr Loren Pratt, Pr Zoran Gajic
BAIRNSDALE	Mr Matthew Hunter	NUMURKAH	Pr Russell Bryan
BALLARAT	Pr Mike Collum	NUNAWADING	Pr Brian Lawty, Mr Chris Stanley
BAYLES	Mr Fraser Catton*	OAKLEIGH POLISH	Pr Pawel Ustupski
BENALLA	Pr Malcolm Reid	PAKENHAM (Berwick)	Mr Kojo Akomeah, Pastor at Large
BENDIGO	Mr Peter Watts	PLENTY VALLEY	Pr Anthony MacPherson
BURWOOD	Pr Andrew Kapusi	PORTLAND	Pr Nikola & Pr Danijela Trajkov
CAMPERDOWN	Pr Nikola & Pr Danijela Trajkov	PRESTON	Dr Georges Latchman, Pr Tini Rimoni
CANN RIVER	Mr Matthew Hunter	RINGWOOD	Pr James Greensill
CARRUM DOWNS Cook Isl	Mr Tuakana Pere	ROBINVALE	Pr Peter Ansell
CARRUM DOWNS & PAKENHAM SAMOAN	Pr Eddie Erika	ROMANIAN	Pr Michael Mohanu
CASEY	Pr David Riley, Mr Fraser Catton*	ROWVILLE/LYSTERFIELD	Pr Peter Rollo
CASTLEMAINE	Pr Graham Sutherland	SALE	Mr Graham McNicol
CLAYTON COOK Isl	Mr Tuakana Pere	SEDDON	Mr Boriss Soldat, Dr D Hankinson
COLAC	Pr Frank Boniface, Mr Quinten Liebrandt	SHEPPARTON	Pr Russell Bryan
CRANBOURNE	Mr Peter Hughes	SPOTSWOOD # AND PRESTON NORTHERN CHURCH PLANT	Pr Tini Rimoni
CROYDON	Pr Anthony MacPherson	SPRINGVALE	Pr Michael Mohanu
DANDENONG POLISH	TBA	SPRINGVALE SPANISH	Pr Miguel Flamenco
DARETON	Pr David Butcher, Mr Luis Bermudez	SPRINGVALE SUDANESE	Mr Gatkuoth Chol
EAST PRAHRAN	Pr Paul Kotanko*	STAWELL	Mr Ben Townson
ECHUCA	Pr Peter Ansell	ST ALBANS CROATIAN	Pr Damir Posavac
FERNTREE GULLY	Pr Trevor Rowe	SWAN HILL	Pr Peter Ansell
FILIPINO AUSTRALIAN	Mr Mebzar Quinto	THE OASIS	Pr Peter Rollo
FRANKSTON	Pr Errol de Silva, Mr Trent Martin*	TRARALGON	Pr Gavin Rowe
GATEWAY	Mr Roy Kim*, Pastor at Large	WANGARATTA	Pr Malcolm Reid
GATEWAY EAST	Mr Roy Kim*, Pastor at Large	WANTIRNA	Pr David Erickson, Mr Justin Bone
GEELONG	Pr Frank Boniface, Mr Quinten Liebrandt	WANTIRNA POLISH	Pr Pawel Ustupski
GEELONG NEW LIFE	Pr Frank Boniface, Mr Quinten Liebrandt	WARBURTON	Pr Murray Thackham*, Mr James Maae*, Pr David Edgren
GEELONG HUNGARIAN	Pr Andrew Kapusi	WARRNAMBOOL	Pr Nikola & Pr Danijela Trajkov
GLEN HUNTLY	Pr Errol de Silva	WARRAGUL	Pr Andrew Jasper*
GREENVALE	Dr Georges Latchman	WERRIBEE	Pr Hensley Gungadoo
HAMILTON	Pr Nikola & Pr Danijela Trajkov	WEST MELBOURNE SAMOAN	Pr Eddie Erika
HEALESVILLE	Dr Harold Waldrip*	WESTALL	Pr Damir Posavac*
HORSHAM	Mr Andrew Wilson	WESTERN SPANISH	Pr Miguel Flamenco
HUGHESDALE	Mr David Pearce	YARRA VALLEY	Dr Harold Waldrip
KAREN BURMESE	Mrs Nan Myat Kyaw		
LATIN AMERICAN	Pr Miguel Flamenco		
LEONGATHA	Pr Andrew Jasper*	PASTOR AT LARGE	Dr Stenio Gungadoo
LILYDALE	Pr Bruce Manners*, Mrs Robyn Stanley, Mr Tim Whale, Mr Hayden Peterson	HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS	Pr Graham Sutherland*
LIVING WATERS	Pr Mau Tuaoi, Mrs Chrissie Cooper		Dr Harold Waldrip
LONGWARRY	Mr Peter Hughes		
MACEDON RANGES	Pr Graham Sutherland	SCHOOLS CHAPLAINS	
MACEDONIAN	Pr Damir Posavac	Edinburgh School	Mrs Kerry Ellis, Mr Hayden Peterson
MARYBOROUGH	Mr Ben Townson	Gilson College	Pr Mau Tuaoi, Mrs Chrissie Cooper, TBA
MELB. CITY PROJECT	Pr Rod Anderson, Mr Trent Martin*	Henderson College	Pr David Butcher, Mr Luis Bermudez, Ms Kylie Taylor
MELTON	Pr Zoran Gajic	Heritage College	Mrs Faye Stothers, TBA
MILDURA	Pr David Butcher, Mr Luis Bermudez	Lilydale Adventist Academy	Mrs J Howard-Bath, Mr H Peterson, Mrs Karen Horsley, Marita McKeon
MOE	Pr Gavin Rowe	Nunawading CC Primary	Mr Justin Bone
MONT ALBERT	Pr Paul Kotanko*	Nunawading CC Secondary	
MORNINGTON	Pr Errol deSilva		

\* denotes new appointment

## ADS & NOTICES

**2012 Grey Nomads Camp**  
 Date - May 4-12  
 Speaker - Dr Roy Adams, former associate editor of Adventist Review and Adventist World  
 Location - Stuarts Point Convention Centre (NSW)  
 Grey Nomads is a great opportunity for retirees to meet and fellowship together, so make your bookings now to ensure your place. Accommodation is private caravans and tents with limited cabin, dormitory and motel rooms available.  
 Call Debbie on (02) 4944 3220 for more information.  
 Online registration: <http://events.adventist.org.au/registration/event/89>  
 To download a form: <http://nsw.adventist.org.au/assets/346006>

**Volunteers Needed**  
 AdventCare Whitehorse is in need of volunteer bus drivers for Thursdays, to take residents of the Retirement Village in Nunawading to the local shops. Please contact the office on 03 9259 2112 or 1300 128 628. A police check will be necessary, paid for by our facility.  
 Other volunteer positions also available and enquiries are appreciated.

**Wanted: Adventist Farm Hand/ Assistant Farm Manager**  
 A progressive family is seeking enthusiastic person and his family, to work on their large station in central NSW. A main highway crosses the station and the school bus stops at the front gate. A comfortable 4 bedroom house is provided, and a 4WD car and other equipment also available.

This excellent opportunity is offered for long term employment, and available to all levels of experience, so long as you are an honest, self-starter and self-motivated Seventh-day Adventist.  
 Please forward applications with references: C/o - The Manager, PO Box 1199, Box Hill, Vic. 3128

**Land for Sale**  
 Ideal getaway bush block - half acre with creek frontage, backing state forest. Peaceful, calm area in East Gippsland. For more information or to express interest, call Elwyn Scale of Delhunte Park on 0438 563 329.

**Giant Book Sale**  
 Nunawading Church Hall, Central Rd, Nunawading. FEB 26 from 11am - 3pm. 6000 quality used books. 70% at \$3. A must for SS teachers, lay-preachers, church librarians, readers. New stock. If you have been once you will come again! Save money on religion, EG white, Bibles (including children's editions), Christian novels and music books  
 Proceeds to Nunawading Church Building Fund.

**Books Needed**  
 Books are also needed for subsequent sales and ADRA Op-shop in Mitcham. Any subject, any age, any condition. Books you no longer want or deceased estates. Call Erick on (03) 9763 7653 (evenings).

**End-time Property for Quick Sale**  
 Believing it is God's will they move to the Mt Beauty area to support isolated church members and outreach, the owners of this property are wishing to sell this 4 BR renovated home, granny flat, orchard and hothouse, situated on 3 acres (neighbour's cows on 2 1/2), with panoramic views and permanent water. \$168,000 ono.  
 Call 03 5599 8242.

**Free Piano**  
 If you are able to cover removal costs, this piano, located in Healesville, is available for free. Ideal for beginner. 03 9796 8304.

**Accommodation Wanted**  
 Adventist female looking for accommodation near the Monash Medical Centre (Clayton). Looking for small apartment, unit, or room. If you can help, please contact Elizabeth on 0424 320 620 or 03 9716 1036.

# MORE THAN A symbol

Signs Ministry presents another in its Goodwill Flyer series. "Moore than a Symbol" gives the meaning of the Cross in the context of the great controversy. Stock limited.

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Avondale

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- ▶ Exhibitions
- ▶ Competitions (cash prizes)  
Entries close 16 March 2012
- ▶ Awards Night  
Saturday 31 March at 7 pm

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Free entry, with opportunity for donation throughout the evening

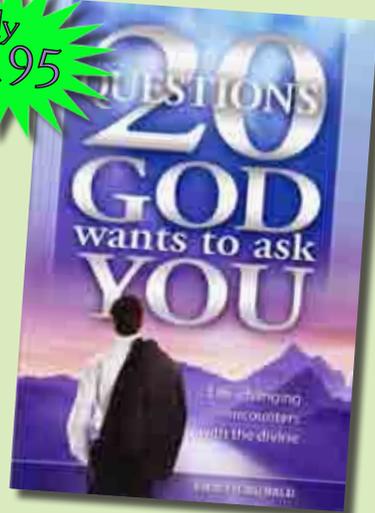
Proceeds to AdventCare Whitehorse Grand Piano Fund (see article on pg 21)

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