

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

IntraVic

We are all in this...

Together



February 2014



IntraVic Newsletter
a publication of VAC



Victorian Adventists

A note from the Editor's Office



The Big ONE

When so many in our world are turning from God, what could be more vital than faithfulness?

In a year of evangelism – what could be more important than faithfulness?

When Literature Evangelists find many “Do Not Knock” signs on doors as they blanket whole suburbs with free offers for Beyond DVD’s – what could be more important than faithfulness?

As we invite friends to *Life in Recovery* programs, an *It is Written* Dinner or a *Dinner with Geoff* – would faithfulness be important?

While we gear up for preaching in public venues – what could be more important than faithfulness?

When we’re still working to balance the Conference budget – what could be more important than faithfulness?

My call is to faithfulness as stewards of the Lord’s business, and that will shape our priorities.

MEANING– faithfulness in personal spirituality. May I ask, how are you going with God? How do you find fulfilment in reaching up? What would it take for you to deepen your relationship with Him even more?

MISSION – faithfulness in mission. How could we ensure we’re focused on making disciples -- as individuals, as groups, as churches and as a Conference? It’s easy for our energies to be directed inward, to ensure we’re caring for ourselves – but inward focused groups die. Is there more we could do to reach out?

MONEY – faithfulness in bringing tithes and offerings to the store house. It’s a matter of trust – in God. It’s His business, His message, His church. Can we trust Him with a percentage of what He’s entrusted to us?

We praise God for the faithfulness of His people! And we praise Him for His blessings.

We have a wonderful Saviour, a meaningful message second to none, and it’s clear that our task is to share the good things we have with others.

So thanks for your faithful commitment to Him.

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Tim Whale - Ministers' Retreat



THE BIG 3 REPORT

In the last IntraVic, I asked for your input into what three big picture items the Church should be focusing on. While a wide range of concepts were expressed, the top ranking items are:

Spirituality – on a personal level, and corporately

Mission – using a variety of methods: personal witness, strategic church planting, conference wide initiatives for evangelism, reclaiming former members, discipleship training etc

Youth – we’re clearly committed to keeping our youth and children

As we develop the Conference’s strategic plan, your input will be kept in mind. Thanks to all who sent in such great ideas!

Graeme Christian

IntraVic Month 2014

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One question we really need to consider, is why does God give us so much, wealth included? Pr Stenio Gungadoo takes a look at the importance of Stewardship in this issue’s Devotional

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As our CFO looks at the current state of the Conference, and administration’s plans for the future, he invites you to partner with them, through prayer and commitment

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Evangelism 2014 is well underway, and in this article we share with you what is happening, not only from an organisational viewpoint, but also from the effect it is having on the churches involved, and what some other churches are doing individually

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Among our departmental news we bring you an ordination, introduce some new people to the team as well as a number of positions being advertised, and don’t miss the picture of Sibilla finally receiving her Medal of Distinction



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The Test of Character

A look at Stewardship

Written by Stenio Gungadoo
PASTOR AT LARGE

One question we really need to consider, is why does God give us so much, wealth included? It can't be for us to build large mansions to live in, nor for us to live in the 'lap of luxury'.



“ I saw that God could rain means from heaven to carry on His work, but He never would do this. It is contrary to His plan. He has entrusted men on earth with sufficient means to carry forward His work, and if all do their duty there will be no lack... saw that they should cheerfully say Here, Lord, is the little of earth's treasures thou has lent me, take any portion of it, take it all, it is thine. Let me do my part in saving my fellow men... Ellen White 2 Spiritual Gifts p 267,270 ”

But when you give back to God 90 percent of what He gives to you, what do you have left? Surprisingly, it's not 10 percent! It is everything, because when you can pass the test of character, God knows He can entrust you with all.

The great missionary statesman Hudson Taylor said, "Let us give up our work, our plans, ourselves, our lives, our loved ones, our influence, our rights into God's hand, and then when we have given all to Him there will be nothing left for us to be troubled about."

Are we constantly seeking to find new and better ways to have bigger and better things? Are we avoiding using our 'resources' for good claiming we are too busy? Or perhaps because it seems too hard. Do we look after the things entrusted to us, for God's glory, or do we exploit them through carelessness and apathy?

We should take this pearl of wisdom to heart, incorporate it in our daily living and allow it to keep us from ruin.

Let us not treat what we have - money, talent, time, possessions, even families - regardless of how much or how little, as our own. Treat it as God's

and we will appreciate it more. Treat it as God's and we won't waste our resources on the unnecessary or buy things we don't need. Treat it as God's and it won't rule our lives but enhance them. If we treat it as God's, we will find out that it will go a lot further, achieve far more, than it all does now.

Everything we have is God's gift to us. What we do with everything God gives us is our gift to Him.

Thomas Jefferson an American Founding Father, the principal author of the Declaration of Independence and the third President of the United States once said, 'The whole art of government consists in the art of being honest.'

John Parnell wrote, 'It matters not what you do, make a nation or a shoe. For he who does an honest thing, in God's pure sight is ranked a king.'

And Alexander Pope, an 18th-century English poet, best known for his satirical verse and for his translation of Homer left us with this jewel "An honest man is the noblest work of

So let us be honest with what God has given us, and use it to bring Him glory.

Stenio Gungadoo

Where We are At...

Written by Graeme Moffitt
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Partner with us as we move forward

The last few months have seen a number of changes take place within the Victorian Conference. In this article, our CFO shares with us the financial state of the Conference, as it now stands.

As I have reflected over the past few weeks and given consideration to the role I have accepted, I admit I have felt somewhat daunted by the financial challenges that confront us in ensuring the financially viable operations of the Victorian Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

What I can assure you of however is that we have an administration committed to operating within our means and with a focus to not impact core ministry and evangelism within our Conference.

To quote Joshua J. Marine *Challenges are what make life interesting; overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.*

For those who attended the recent constituency meeting, you would have noted the operating results for each of our three companies over the preceding four year period 2009 – 2012, as presented in the financial

statements of the report (see left). While alarming, these results are the basis from which to effect change for financial viability and sustainability.

2013 was a year where our organisations sustained further operating losses in each of the three companies, the most significant however being our aged care company which had an operating loss of \$7.2 Million for the year ended 30 June 2013. The loss is attributed to a wide range of issues including staffing, government funding, the Yarra Ranges facility, and write off of capital projects that did not proceed.

The effect of ongoing losses impacts the company's equity, its cash reserves, and its overall financial viability. The challenge faced by this current administration is to bring about change in management to ensure we can turn our situation around.

“ We have an administration committed to operating within our means, with a focus on not impacting core ministry within the Conference ”

The Future

The church board approved a budget deficit for 2014 of \$202,000 for the church company. While we recognise this is not sustainable we have taken steps to minimise the budget deficit for the year. We have started to have more controls around expenditure and staffing. Where we have had some staff vacancies this year we have not added additional staff to fill those vacancies.

We have established a budget review group to provide recommendations on how to operate in a more efficient and financially responsible manner. Their report may include recommendations for structural change, cost saving measures, and increasing revenue. This group has already met and will continue to meet during the course of this year.

For our school system we will be focusing on ensuring each school can get to a position of operating in surplus. To this end, we will work with the schools to ensure: appropriate pupil teacher ratios; fee levels; and operating and capital expenditure control.

This year the Victorian Conference has taken over the management of the former Lilydale Adventist Academy, Now Edinburgh College. We are grateful for the ongoing financial support committed by AUC for this transition.

Gilson College Mernda is in its second year of operation and continues to present financial operating challenges. The focus for this school is enrolments over the next few years.

Gilson College Taylors Hill is a growing school with a very strong operating surplus position which has supported the financial position of the Victorian Conference education system as a whole.

Our Aged Care system currently presents the most significant financial challenge of any of our three companies. Our focus for this company will be: maximizing government funding, which means ensuring correct classification of our low and high care residents; maximizing our accommodation bonds; and expenditure controls. However we must ensure we are operating within industry standards.

For the 2013/2014 financial year the Aged Care board approved a budget deficit of \$554,981. Our Warburton facility is currently proving to be the most financially challenging facility we are operating.

September's constituency meeting voted to establish a review panel to make recommendations back to the executive committee. That review panel has now commenced its work and will focus on the following areas:-

- Purpose & Mission of Advent Care
- Role of Governance / Management
- Quality of care
- Profitability
- Personnel
- Review of capital projects
- Recommendations regarding future directions of the company

For each of our companies our aim is to operate with surplus budgets, build and restore our equity and working capital, and be able to fully cash back our reserves, trust accounts, and provisions, as required by policy.



Graeme Moffitt

The Good News

Despite the financial challenges there is good news. Your support of conference ministries through your tithes and offerings has exceeded budget expectations for 2013.

If there was ever a time to continue that financial support it is now.

Conference administration is committed to operating our companies in a financially sustainable manner and that may mean some hard decisions need to be made.

It is our priority to focus on activities that contribute to core mission, to ensure accountability, transparency, collaboration, excellence and best practice for governance, leadership and financial administration.

We know we can't change the state of the Conference overnight. We also know that we need the support from every member, to work towards making positive change for the Conference.

So partner with us - in prayer, with your time and your resources.

Albert Einstein has stated that in the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.

We are in difficult times but are looking for those opportunities to make the Conference a financially strong entity to continue supporting church ministries, education, and aged care within our state.

We can all take courage that as individuals we do not have to do this alone. God is in control of His church and Matthew 19:26 reminds us that with God all things are possible.

Partnering Evangelism 2014 & our Local Churches

Evangelism must be strategic. And to be successful, it must include the basic element around which a church is built - its people. You and I must become involved in an intentional way to share with those around us the possibility of a loving relationship with God. To inspire you, we share here what is happening within Melbourne.

A strategic Plan

Written by Craig Gillis
GENERAL SECRETARY, VICTORIAN CONFERENCE

The planning for 2014 Melbourne City Evangelism commenced early 2013 when the Conference met and discussed with church pastors of the major growth corridors of Melbourne the opportunity for their church members to partner together in a strategic evangelistic focus.

After these discussions, the churches of the South West and the South East suburbs committed both financially and strategically to this exciting partnership that would involve local church members, *It Is Written*, Literature Evangelists, *Beyond*, Cheri Peters, Pr Gary Webster and Pr Geoff Youlden.

Understanding that Evangelism is a process and not an event, a deliberate and strategic plan was put in place. Here is some of what has been happening and what is planned for the future:

3600 letters introducing *Beyond* and offering an episode were sent to *It is written Oceania (IIWO)* contacts throughout Victoria, with around 200 homes taking up the offer.

Late November, pastors and church leaders met with Pr Youlden and Kerina Haora (a layperson who oversaw a successful outreach program in Penrith last year) for training and inspiration.

Our literature Evangelistic team, led by John Brereton, worked intensively in Point Cook, Hoppers Crossing and Werribee during late February, handing out hundreds of *Beyond* DVDs, literature and invitations to upcoming programs.

Cheri Peters presented three weekend sessions where attendees were all given a

Beyond DVD (allowing for ongoing contact) and had opportunity to sign up for fourteen-week *Life in Recovery* programs running at Point Cook, Dandenong, Pakenham, Nunawading and Lilydale.

In early April approximately 700 *IIWO* contacts in targeted suburbs will receive a letter inviting them to one of three free dinners with the presenter of the program, Pr Garry Kent. Each attendee will then be offered a *Beyond* DVD, and invitations to upcoming events.

May will see two afternoon Archaeology presentations by Gary Webster held to find more interested people. Once again, each attendee will be given a *Beyond* DVD and invitations to upcoming events. Also during May, all *Beyond* contacts within the targeted suburbs will receive an invitation to a *Dinner with Geoff Youlden*, the key presenter of *Beyond*. These will also be held in three different locations.

Each attendee to these events will receive an invite to *Secrets of Prophecy* lectures. This twelve part series by Pr Youlden, will be presented over six weeks from the end of May, in two locations.

Members of the seven churches located within the South East and South West growth corridors will follow on with a variety of Bible prophecy seminars such as *Secrets of Prophecy*, *Revelation* and the *Last Empire* seminars for those interested.

And plans are underway for the establishment of a new church group for the Point Cook region, for people who develop an interest.

While we are mainly talking about the strategic plan that has been put in place for Evangelism 2014, there are many opportunities for local churches and individuals to get involved. If you would like to partner with us in some way, talk to

Up Coming Events

DINNER WITH GARY KENT

Point Cook April 8
Rowville April 9
Narre Warren April 10

ANCIENT MYSTERIES

Point Cook May 3
Berwick May 4

DINNER WITH GEOFF YOULDEN

Narre Warren May 15
Rowville May 17
Point Cook May 18

SECRETS OF PROPHECY SERIES

Werribee May/June
Berwick May/June

FOLLOW UP SERIES

Commencing in July

Werribee
Hoppers Crossing
Point Cook
Spotswood
Pakenham
Casey
Cranbourne
Dandenong Polish
Dandenong

lifeinrecovery.org.au
archaeologydiscovery.org.au
dinnerwithgeoff.org
secretsofprophecy.org.au

your local pastor. You could become a prayer partner or a financial partner. You could visit HopeShop.com for resources and ideas, or contact me at the Conference Office 03 9264 7777

or CraigGillis@adventist.org.au. Our other departments here - VicYouth, ADRA, Women's Ministries, Education, Health Ministries - all have ideas and projects. This really is a combined

effort, as together, we are all partnering to share Christ with our community and to bring Him glory.



Happenings in Casey

In the Year of Evangelism 2014, Casey Seventh-day Adventist Church, motivated by Christ's commission, has gone out to invite people from 'every nation, tribe, language' to come and join in a variety of programs.

Firstly their '*Celebrating Life in Recovery*', a program design by Cheri Peters to help people that are looking for freedom and victory in their life, commenced at the beginning of March. Cherie herself presented the first few, and the program will continue on a fourteen week journey of recovery and celebration.

Their next program will encourage people to discover the Bible truth through the *Beyond the Search* series. This will be followed by a Bible Archaeology Seminar that seeks to set the foundations for the credibility and authenticity of the Bible, and then the *Dinner with Geoff* program from which people will be invited to attend our main public event of the year 2014: the Gospel proclamation, *Secrets in Prophecy*.

Looking at our world, we can see that time is running out. We would all like to hear Jesus' encouraging words "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful ..." [Matt 25: 21]



LE's Help

Here in Victoria we have an enthusiastic team that is working very closely with our churches and with the Conference for Evangelism 2014.

"Literature Evangelists are an important link between the church and the unchurched as we meet many people. We are invited into their homes, and as we visit with them, not only do they purchase our gospel material, but we become an important bridge that connects them to their local Seventh-day Adventist church." Joe Paola

Over the last twelve months, the team has worked with seventeen different churches, most recently in the South West as part of the evangelistic program planned for that area. The team was larger than usual, with visiting LEs from OLD, NSW & NZ, and during their campaign they distributed over 3000 pieces of literature, prayed in 130 homes and made over 200 contacts for the Werribee church members to follow up.

"Now it is Werribee's turn" says church member, Robert Bryson, "to visit those in our community who recognise that there is an emptiness in their lives; it is up to us to take the baton from the colporteurs, while heeding Ellen White's inspirational words to go forward in the work, and look to the Lord for aid (R&H Jan 7, '03)."



Werribee's Awakening

"The coming together to spread God's word has truly united the church."

Danielle Cini

"We have witnessed a spiritual awakening of church members like never before... their enthusiasm, their prayerful volunteering time, efforts and resources to ensure the success of this program in faith." Collins Ouma

"The whole congregation has been galvanized into action..." Akos Mensa

"In every one of our support many teams you truly feel the presence of the Holy Spirit." Roger Cauton

"Working together like this has been a true blessing. We know each other so much better now." Cheryl Janmaat

"With so many members becoming involved, others, who may have held back, now want to join too - it's infectious." Maurice Briones

"It's exciting to see everyone involved, signing up to be a member of one of the teams; I'm a member of the 'Meet and Greet' team for the seminars; I feel blessed to be helping to spread the word. I know others in my team feel the same." Shirley Bryson



And there are many other ways your church can be involved in Evangelism 2014... Have a look at what these churches are doing for the Lord's work... The full stories are at Vic.Adventist.org.au under the News tab.

Put Up a Parking Lot

Who would have linked Hot Rods with evangelism? Northpoint has!

The Pharaoh's Visit

Warrnambool recently hosted The Land of the Pharaohs Exhibition, and invited members from the community...

A Search for Treasure

How a church turned a garage sale into a chance to share Christ...

Answering the Call

Wantirna Church

Jordan Bower was baptised at Wantirna Church during an afternoon service in December last year.

Rome Ulia - a key spiritual mentor for Jordan - travelled down from Newcastle to be the main speaker at the service and shared his own powerful testimony during the program. When asked why he was getting baptised, Jordan replied that he believed God had called him to

baptism and he was answering that call. Lyn Bolto - a more local mentor - also spoke during the program and Jordan's school band friends from Heritage College provided the music.

Jamie Hegarty



Pr David Riley & Rome Ulia, with Adam, Jordan, Janette and Paul Bower

One Shaved Pastor

Bendigo Church

In December, Pr Hensley Gungadoo challenged his congregation to raise \$4,000, promising that if they did, he would have his beard shaved off.

Quietly confident his beard was safe, he used this as motivation to raise money for their ADRA Christmas tree project.

The last of the pledges came in in January, with the total raised coming to \$4,100. Hensley kept his own pledge, and on February

15, at the church farewell, the beard was shaved off.

Thankyou Hensley, and all the best at your new posting, as you serve the community of Gilson College.

IntraVic with Peter Ashworth



Read these stories & more at

VIC.ADVENTIST.ORG.AU

(under the 'News' Tab in the Menu)

CHRIST'S HARVEST

MASDAC

In December, Stanley Cheong publicly accepted Christ through profession of faith and Siew Kiaw Lim was baptised. Their testimonies reveal God's amazing and unlimited methods of reaching His beloved sons and daughters.



A GOOD CAUSE

BENDIGO

Bendigo Church has regularly hosted a garage sale and to date have raised over \$15,000 for local projects and for ADRA. "This is an excellent opportunity to raise funds for projects around the church, raise the church profile in the community and evangelism," Peter Ashworth.

Please pray for this event, or perhaps even consider attending, for a day out! (details on website)



REVOLUTION

ADVENTIST YOUTH FOR CHRIST

In February, delegates assembled for the ninth AYC Convention at Melbourne Town Hall. Over 600 attended from around the world. It was with the Melbournians on their minds, those bustling on and off trams, walking, working, meeting and eating all around them, that the AYC delegates met.



MOUNTAIN MOVING

WARBURTON

For years, Jannene Howse had felt drawn to Literature Evangelism work. She shares with us her story of how God gave her a gentle 'nudge' to get things moving, at the same time encouraging her that He will remove the mountains that hold her back.



KID'S SPOT

A Faithful Steward

Did you know God wants you to be His steward? This means 'manager' or 'care-taker' and God wants us to take good care of everything that is His. So what belongs to God?

'The _____ and everything in it belongs to the _____. The _____ and all its _____ belong to Him' ~Psalm 24:1

Lord, People Earth World

What are some of the things that God wants us to be 'stewards' of? Draw a line to match...

pets

your body

the world

money



Help the children find a way to bring their money to church

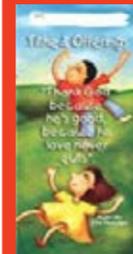


What are some ways you can help take care of God's "things"?

PS... We'd love for you to send your list to us!

Draw a picture of you taking care of God's things

Does your church have these? These special envelopes were made just for kids to bring along their tithes and offerings to church. If you don't have them you can ask your church treasurer to get some from the Victorian Conference Office.



Victorian Children's Ministries

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

Conference News

Ordaining Mebzar Quinto

Sabbath March 1, was the day chosen for Mebzar Quinto's ordination, and it was a very special Divine service at our Filipino-Australian church, celebrated with his church family and others who were able to be there. Pastor Mebzar's passion is growing healthy spiritual families amongst the people he ministers to.

Mebzar Quinto is a third generation Adventist originally from the Philippines. He was educated in the Adventist educational system and earned bachelor degrees in Theology and Teaching at Mountain View College. His wife, Carolyn, a Registered Nurse, also hails from a devoted Adventist family in the Philippines. She is committed to God, and supports her husband while enjoying looking after their three children, Von Razzl, Nyll Xabi, and Zara Yohanna

Ministry is Mebzar's lifeblood – he has always been involved in some way in his church's outreach and inreach activities, however after college Mebzar explored the world for a time, working first as a school teacher and then selling life insurance policies for a time.

In spite of his involvement in church

activities and his studies, Mebzar was not serious about his calling to ministry until one night when he felt compelled to talk to God deeply. He asked God to show him a sign to direct him to his real calling. The following day he went to the local Seventh-day Adventist Conference Office just to meet a friend, but by the time he left he had signed up to join the 1000 Missionary Movement and a month later he was sent to East Timor to assist the church in Dili. After a year in Dili Mebzar accepted a call to serve Nunawading Church as volunteer youth pastor through the Adventist Volunteer Services. He has also served at Warburton Church as lay minister for a year.

Congratulations, Mebzar, on your ordination. May God be with you and support you and your family, as you serve Him.



Introducing...

We welcome two new members to the Ministerial team here in Victoria. Aitui (Tui) Fanene from the South Queensland Conference, and Lilian Panozzo from Adelaide.

Pr Aitui Fanene is the new pastor for the Samoan congregations. He replaces Pr Eddie Erika, who, while officially retired, will share the work with Tui this year, to provide continuity for all the Samoan groups.

"Hi and Talofa. My name is Pr Aitui Fanene (Tui) with my wife Jacinta and our 4 boys Hermann (14), Henry (12), Hayden (9) and Harrison (7). I have been pastoring the Glenala, Riverview and Springwood Samoan Churches in the South Queensland Conference. While it was a real blessing ministering in Brisbane for the last seven years, it is also a real privilege to take up the challenge of ministering to our Samoan churches in Melbourne. I would like to acknowledge the enormous effort of Pr Eddie Erika in our Samoan community in the past and I wish him all the best in his coming retirement. I look forward to being part of our pastoral team as we build God's kingdom in this great city."

Lilian Panozzo is the newly appointed assistant minister at Wantirna and school chaplain at Nunawading Christian College Secondary campus.



"Hello and thanks for the warm, sunny welcome Victoria! We're excited to be embarking on an adventure for Jesus with you, after six years of ministry in Adelaide's southern suburbs. Walking alongside people discovering and growing in friendship with Christ, is a passion we share. Mathew loves making gnocchi using recipes inherited from his Grandmother. I love to eat the gnocchi, but usually have my head stuck in a book. We're both looking forward to meeting you and worshipping Jesus together." Lili and Mathew Panozzo

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year has certainly commenced at a rapid rate. I would like to give you an overview of some of what is happening in the Conference and the recent Executive and BOD meetings.

As is our custom at these meetings, the committee members came together for a time of prayer and praise before settling down to discuss the items on the agenda, which was, again, an extensive list.

Our work: The Conference's plans for Evangelism 2014 are becoming a reality! In Werribee, Literature Evangelists have found over 200 homes in the Werribee area open for contact and Cherie Peters' opening *Life in Recovery* program was well attended with 40 people signing up for the fourteen week program. In the South East, church members and support staff alike are fully involved in preparation for the program in their area too. What is more, pastors across the state are faithfully working with their churches in preparation for their own evangelistic endeavours and many prior *Written contacts* have been contacted again.

The Executive established an evangelism committee which will develop and make recommendations, coordinate and facilitate the overall Conference Evangelism program.

The work is happening, would you be our prayer partners for this endeavour to lead others into a loving relationship with Christ?

Our AdventCare: The Aged Care review panel has commenced and there is every indication it will do its job thoroughly and fairly. Our facilities are to go smoke-free by the end of March, and staff are being offered help in quitting. And the Aged Care Board have begun advertising for a new CEO and a manager for the Bendigo facility.

Our Accountability: Terms

of reference were voted in for the Conference Administration Committee and for the Safe Places Committee, and the AUC's Child Safe Environments Policy 2014 was adopted.

Our Schools: Heritage College received approval to seek an external loan to build new science laboratories and class rooms.

Our boundaries: This year three of our staff have had their employment terminated, each due to differing boundaries being breached. It is normal practice within our Conference to require our team to participate in regular boundaries training – appropriate boundaries MUST be established and the Conference is committed to enabling this.

Our budget: The 2014 budget was approved, but the budget review committee, which gave its initial report, will continue to meet to discover other areas of potential saving, as we are committed to having the Conference live within its means.

Are you eager for God's blessing, both personally and as a Church? We are! There is so much for which to be thankful. We have many opportunities, and as we work together, let us go forward with confidence, recognising Jesus' promise – I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

Graeme Christian



POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Aged Care Chief Executive Officer
Facility Operations Manager – Bendigo
Applications close April 7, 2014
Visit Vic.Adventist.org.au for more information

Aged Care Review AdventCare

Given the challenges faced by AdventCare over the previous quadrennium, it was requested at the Constituency meeting in September that the Executive board establish a panel, "To conduct an independent review of Aged Care Victoria with a view to ensuring lessons are learnt and good governance is in place going forward."

The Review Panel has been appointed with Terms of Reference that include, but are not limited to, evaluating Aged Care (Victoria)'s purpose, mission and governance, quality of care, profitability and personnel. The panel has already commenced meeting, looking at many aspects of AdventCare operations. It is also planned for panel members to visit each AdventCare facility and talk with staff and residents.

Submissions of up to one page are invited from interested persons. Please address these to the Chief Financial Officer, Mr Graeme Moffitt, C/O: Mail: Victorian Conference Office, PO Box 215, Nunawading 3131 email: GraemeMoffitt@adventist.org.au.

Members of the Review Panel are committed to a thorough consideration of all aspects required to achieve a financially viable and mission focused organisation for the Seventh-day Adventist aged care system here in Victoria.

Please support this work with your prayers for guidance for the panel, so that God may direct in every area of its work.

Aged Care Review Panel

College



Edinburgh College



Edinburgh College

This year marked our very first dedication service as Edinburgh College.

Our ELC and Primary students sang special items, the Secondary Choir performed and our Principals, teachers and staff were all actively involved in this special time of thanksgiving and dedication.



Gilson College, Mernda

Students, staff, families and friends came together to dedicate Gilson College, Mernda Campus, to God's care and guidance for 2014. The Acacia Room was the setting for this service and as our Primary students delivered a sweet rendition of "Jesus Loves Me" and "Father, I Adore You" a worshipful and relaxed atmosphere embraced the community. As the Year 7 students led out in the pledges of dedication, followed by the the Staff, and Parents and Friends representative, a heart felt pledge was presented before our Lord God for the protection, growth and development of our students.

Dedication Night 2014



Heritage College, Officer

The Officer Primary students and families came together to Dedicate our school community into the loving care of God's hands. We spent the evening in praise and worship, where Pr Faye spoke of our 'Imitation Generation (more like God)' theme. This was followed by Staff, Student's and Parent's pledging their support to the guidance of God's presence and direction in our school. We thank the parents who came along and supported this community building and celebratory event.



Nunawading Christian College

At NCC, the Dedication night included worship music led by Senior students, together with a song presented by students from the Primary school to remind everyone as twilight settled over the quadrangle that God is at work in Australia - the great southland. He is at the centre of our lives and our school. While everyone sang, students lit candles from a beautiful central candle, illustrating that our individual lights might shine brightly but in Jesus we are united and His light strengthens ours.



Taking Stock Ministerial Association

Every year the Victorian field pastors and chaplains retreat for one week. It is a time to take stock, exchange resources, and encourage each other for the year ahead. This year we headed to Falls Creek Village and were blessed to have Grenville Kent as our guest speaker.



Grenville Kent on Christian apologetics: Greek: ἀπολογία, "verbal defence, speech in defence"

The overall theme was an exhortation to preach, and Grenville focused on several topics not often preached on, and encouraged us to explore these fully and preach apologetically so as to present solid evidence for the Christian world view, so under attack in today's society.

He spoke particularly about preaching through Old Testament narratives and their contemporary applications, such as the story of David, Nabal and Abigail in 1 Samuel 25. He encouraged us to preach more from the Torah, to approach difficult topics with frankness but with honesty, sensitivity and genuine seeking after God's revelation in the Word.

He also led us through the Psalms and challenged us to look at the laments properly, without rushing through to the happy ending, reminding us that God is able to bear our honest feelings because of his love for us.

Finally we walked through the wisdom literature of the Bible, through the

rise and fall of Solomon, his struggle with meaning, and the final relevant realisation that real meaning is found in God.

We were also privileged to see some preview footage from the Christian apologetics TV series Grenville is currently shooting "Big Questions", a universe spanning contemporary series exploring the solid foundation of our faith by asking the big questions about God - check it out on www.bigquestions.com

We had group discussions in our regional groups with a prayerful focus on evangelism, and during the afternoons were free to explore our beautiful surrounds and God's creation.

Thanks to everyone who made this week possible, the kitchen staff, the conference staff who organised the program, and Grenville Kent for his time.

Justin Bone

City Regional Departmental

February 15 saw church members from around Melbourne, join with attendees at this year's AYC's congress at Melbourne Town Hall for an afternoon regional meeting. The theme was Evangelism, and there were several guest presenters.

Sibilla Johnson was officially presented with her award (mentioned in February's edition of IntraVic) by Garry Krause from the General Conference



Him. Joanna Davis then spoke about simple things people have done that, with God's blessing, have had huge effects.

IntraVic

Our New Ambassadors ADRA

ADRA in Victoria has a new ambassador team for 2014. Amy Pitt is our School's ambassador and Rosemary Andrykanus is the Youth Ambassador.

Amy and Rosemary both have a history of serving others through StormCo and overseas service trips, and bring their enthusiasm and passion to these roles.

So if your school or youth group would like a visit please email RAuriant@adventist.org.au as they will be excited to share with you the service opportunities DARA has planned for this year, both locally and overseas.

Rebecca Auriant



ADRA Disaster Response

With the recent fires back in February, ADRA was able, for the first time, to participate in its new disaster response role being negotiated here in Victoria. For some time in other states, ADRA has held official agreements with the Government to facilitate short-term emergency accommodation, but this was not possible in Victoria.

At the request of a local emergency relief centre in Wallan, ADRA volunteers prepared and distributed food hampers to families separated by road blocks from outside assistance and emergency centres.



POSITION AVAILABLE

Adventist Book Centre (ABC) Sales Clerk - fulltime position.

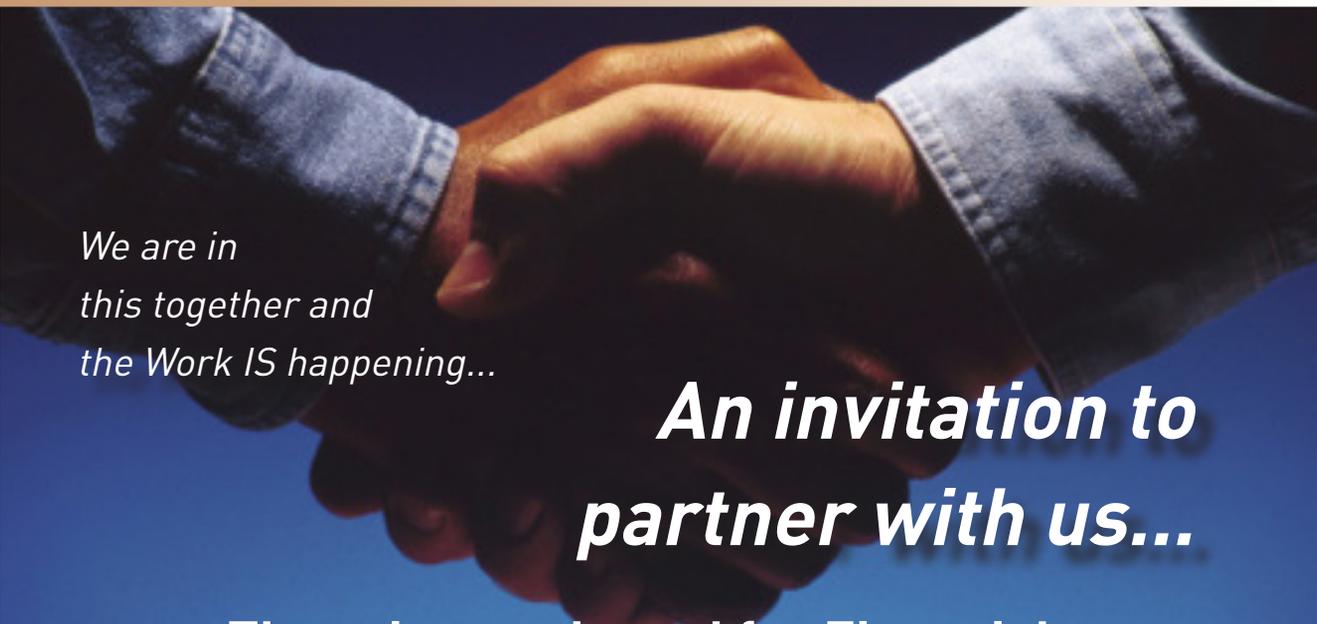
Job Description available on www.AdventistEmployment.org.au.

Applications close 31 March.

Adventist Book Centre
121 Central Road, Nunawading
Open Mon-Thurs 9-5 & Fri 9-12:30pm

APRIL OFFERINGS SCHEDULE

APR 5 Local Church Budget • APR 11 Adventist World Radio • APR 18 - Education/ Camping Mlnstry • APR 25 Local Church Budget



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

An invitation to partner with us...

There is a real need for Financial Partnership for Evangelism 2014

2014 EVANGELISM PROJECTS FOR VICTORIA:

- **Evangelistic Dinners**

Could you sponsor a community person to a Dinner with Geoff or an It is Written

Dinner - \$45/person

- **Secrets of Prophecy Seminars**

Are you able to support these seminars with Geoff Youlden

- **Church Plants**

*Would you help fund one of our three newest church plants, such as the one started
at Mernday College in Melbourne's Northern suburbs*

- **Youth Pastoral Worker**

*This program impacts not just our local churches, but the young people who
participate*

- **Hope Channel**

We'll need an additional \$30,000 in 2014 to keep Hope Channel on the air in Victoria

**What Can YOU Commit to in Partnership?
visit Vic.Adventist.org.au to Contribute**

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