

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

## *Discipleship* Growth & Nurture

May 2016



SEVENTH-DAY  
ADVENTIST  
CHURCH

*Victoria*



Victorian Adventist  
COMMUNICATIONS

IntraVic Newsletter  
a publication of VAC



Victorian Adventists

## A note from the Editor's Office



Pr Graeme Christian  
Conference President

### What If...?

"We're a faithful church – faithful to our message, faithful to our mission. The need in our area is significant. What can we do to be more effective in sharing our message?"

He spoke, I listened.

"We have a good pastor," he continued. "But we share him with another church. Can you give us our own pastor?"

My thoughts rushed around the recesses of my mind, looking for the most effective words to outline the connection between return of tithe to the storehouse of the church and the number of pastors we can afford as a conference.

It got me thinking... and asking some 'what if' questions.

According to Jesus, the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few, so He said to pray to the Lord, who owns the harvest, that He will send more workers to gather his harvest. (Matthew 9:37,38)

What if there were more 'labourers' bringing in the harvest in Victoria? What if we did have more pastors in Victoria? What if we had more Bible Workers and more Youth Pastoral Workers in Victoria? What if we were more effective in helping Victorian people to know Jesus and prepare for His return? More effective in discipleship?

Now what would that take to make that happen? More prayer? More faithfulness?

What would it take?

From early days, Adventists have recognised their part in the spread of the Gospel message to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. This mission focus is at the core of decisions made at every level of the church organisation. There is a burning desire to introduce people to Jesus and help them prepare to meet our soon-coming Saviour.

So our task is clear, but what could we do to be even more effective in making disciples in Victoria?

Thanks to all who are praying that God's work will go forward. What if we added to that ... for more workers to gather His harvest?

Thanks for your faithfulness.

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IntraVic

IntraVic MAY 2016

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# Redeemed AND Reclaimed Devotional

Written by Pr Bryan Gallant  
PRESENTER AT ELMORE

The story of our salvation and redemption starts and ends with Jesus. This leads to discipleship, which is, again, Christ-centric as we grow in grace and allow God to work in our lives.

Bryan Gallant shares a little about grace and growth.

Last Thanksgiving I experienced a truly mind-opening and powerful revelation of an aspect of transformation and growth in the Christian life, that is just so simple.

My family and I were visiting my parents who lived in our home in Georgia. It was a gorgeous, short sleeve sort of day and while we were gathering up sticks, leaves and dead logs to feed our voracious outdoor fire, I saw my mum trying to pull down some vines that were strangling one of the trees. I went to relieve her, declaring war on the murderous briars and vines that had entwined themselves around the tree.

I soon became engrossed in the job of setting the tree free. There was a tangible sense of accomplishment as I hacked and pulled at the vines and saw the little tree spring back up straight and tall. Then I looked around and saw a number of other trees were literally dying

because of the entanglement of these vines. Training my sights on them, I continued my relentless pursuit.

As I cut the trees free I noticed that the vines took on different forms and sizes according to how long they had been attached to their host. Some of the vines looked like the tree itself they had been there so long.

The war continued. More vines 'appeared'. Sweat fell. Then blood. At times, the briars would snap back when I cut them, lashing out at my head, arms and hands. Others would entangle themselves around my ankles and claw at my legs.

Denying the pain its pleasure of stopping me, I pressed on, determined to see those trees free.

While I was working I began to make observations and started talking to God about the things that entangle and destroy us humans: pride, lust, self-pity, selfishness, materialism, greed, gluttony, discouragement, and so on. Each and every one is a vine seeking to entwine and eventually kill us. To leach the life from us and take over our identity. God sees us as beautiful trees that have been wound up, choked by the sins and hurts in this world.

That's when I had my revelation.

I had already redeemed those trees. I already owned the property - they were mine. But though they belonged to me, they were still wound up with the vines and quite likely going to die in that state.

They needed more than redemption... they needed to be reclaimed.

As I explored the thought, I realised that God does not simply desire to own us and save us in the end. He actually wants to reclaim and set us free from the vines and the sins that are entangling and destroying us. We sing the words *Redeemed How I Love to Proclaim It...* but what do they mean? Is it possible we sing about being redeemed without allowing God to reclaim us?

That led me to another thought.

When God is working to set us free, do we work with Him or do we fight Him? Do we think that when we accept Christ and begin to walk in a life with Him, that that is all we need to do? Do we expect everything to go well?

But it doesn't always, does it? And the Bible even tells us what to do in the trials.

Back to my trees. Imagine my joy if, as I was toiling to set the tree free, experiencing the pain involved, I heard the tree whisper "Thank you, keep going... Don't stop, even though it hurts". Words of praise and gratitude.

Applying that to our own lives shows us the power of praise and gratitude that the Bible talks about. In James 1 and Hebrews 12 we are told how we are to be thankful when we fall into various temptations and challenges. We are to say thank you as God uses all of our life and its circumstances to cut us free from the sins which so easily entangle us (see Ministry of Healing, page 488).

He is literally in the process of

“ I no longer want to be pulled down to the earth when I have been created to soar into the sky, singing His praises. ”

reclaiming us from the pain, the lies and the bondage sin has woven around us and praise and gratitude is our part to play in helping God reclaim us.

Let's be honest, we can't set ourselves free. We can't cut out all those things. We can't change our hearts. But we CAN thank Him when He cuts. We CAN respond with gratitude and appreciation when He works to set us free and changes our hearts so we are no longer bowed over, wound up in sin and lies; so we can stand up tall for His glory.

Yes, His tools hurt - may even leave scars. Some of those trees that I set free will look worse for a while. Their vibrant green foliage had actually been part of the vine that was killing them. It will take a year or more for some of those trees to respond to the freedom

that they now have. Some may not come back to their original shape and direction. Some may continue to grow sideways because the vines pulled them over so far for so long that even now as they are free they will not be able to rise up fully strong. Sin can do that. Even after being both redeemed and reclaimed, even after we are grateful and thankful for all that God has done to set us free, our bodies may still carry the marks of the vines... Until we are finally transformed.

I don't know what may be holding you back and strangling your vitality, but I am confident that there are things that are robbing you of life. Yes, you have been redeemed, but have you allowed Him to reclaim?

Please join me in being part of a movement of people who desire to be completely set free from everything that entangles us. I desire to know more and more of His love and mercy, no matter the cost or the pain. I long for all of Him. I no longer want to be pulled down to the earth when I have been created to soar into the sky, singing His praises.

Join me in being a people who say thank you to God as He reclaims us for His glory. We are called to be trees of righteousness. A tree that is healthy, planted by the streams of water which gives its fruit in due season and provides shade for all around and grows for the glory of God. Let's be both redeemed AND reclaimed.



# Multiplying Disciple Makers: Jesus Vision and Strategy

Written by Pr Glenn Townend  
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION PRESIDENT

Introducing a series based on Pr Glenn Townend's devotional in the March edition, on Discipleship. In this series he teases out the concepts he touched on a bit more, with particular reference to personal application



## Soils need to be Prepared

The headings in the Bible are not inspired but often we treat them that way. In all the Bible's I have checked, the non-inspired heading for the parable recorded in Mark 4:3-20 is "The Sower" but what if it were called "The Parable of the Soils"? There is no doubt that the farmer sows the seed – however the major focus of the parable is the soil.

It is the type of soil where the seed fell that determined the outcome. The path – no crop. The rocky and/or weed filled soil – a crop that did not produce anything. The good soil – 30, 60 or 100 times as much as was sown. Soil type determines outcome.

No farmer would waste seed saved from the previous crop. There was no intention to sow it on the rocky path or in shallow or weed infested soil because where the seed went determined the future livelihood of the sower and his family. Their lives depended on most of the seed going into good soil so rather than throwing his precious future away the farmer prepared the soil well.

Soil preparation includes feeding, digging and watering.

Jesus' point, however, is not to make us better farmers or gardeners but rather, to be better disciples and disciple makers. Before the seed of the gospel is sown there must be soil preparation. In disciple-making, soil preparation prepares and softens the heart. The personal challenge implied by this parable is 'What soil type is my heart and how can it become good soil?'

### Feeding:

Jesus prepared the heart of His

hearers by mixing and eating with people, serving people and praying for people's needs. He ate with tax collectors like Zacchaeus and Matthew and friends (Luke 19:5-7, 5:29), Pharisees like Simon (Luke 7:36), friends like Mary, Martha and Lazarus (Luke 10:38-42).

Jesus spent a lot of time just being with people in their everyday life and He calls us to do the same; eat with them, mix with them, accept them for who they are... We all eat at least two or three meals a day and if we do it with others, as they get to know us, the Holy Spirit can use us to help soften their heart for the gospel. The meal could be at work, at a café or restaurant or even in yours or their home, with just one or two people, or with many. Most can do this – so bring on the food and the resulting relationships.

### Serving:

Jesus also served people's needs. When they were hungry He feed them (Luke 9:10-17). When we help people and serve people we are preparing the soil in a disciple-making process. Listening with genuine empathy to a person's problem, lending them a tool they need to fix a leak at home, looking after a person's pet... these are ways we serve others and soften their hearts. Running health programs on exercise or nutritious eating (CHIP), delivering food parcels, providing a community garden, holding a new mothers support group, serving in a soup kitchen, providing a finance and budgeting workshop... more ways individuals in local churches can help prepare the soil in others hearts. ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) corporately helps people just because they are in need, but many times doors are then opened

“Jesus ate with people, served them, prayed for and ministered to them because He loved them.”

to other ministries because of the excellent work it does.

A group of Adventists discovered that a local school had discipline problems because the children were hungry. They started a breakfast club once a week, it was so much appreciated by staff and parents that it operated daily. Then a kids club was started and later a church. What Ellen White often calls 'disinterested service' or doing things just because of the love of Jesus can lead to bigger things. (Ellen White, Medical Ministry p 197,246, Ministry of Healing, p 144,145).

### Praying:

Praying for people changes lives. When Jesus ministered to people – the deaf could hear, the blind could see, the ill became well, the demon-harassed were freed (Luke 5:38-41, 18:35-42). Imagine the joy if you were healed by Jesus. You'd be ready to listen to whatever He had to say and follow Him (Mark 1:27,28).

Jesus taught the disciples that the ministry of prayer makes the difference (Mark 9:29). A friend of mine asks new acquaintances 'What would you like me to pray about?' Nearly 100% of people, regardless of background, give him an answer and he prays a short prayer for them and the request. Many people have come back and said, 'God heard your prayers ...' and a God-impact story results. Others I know have done similar things with similar results, going door to door.

Sometimes when I pray for people God intervenes with a miracle, sometimes not. However if we want to see God move and act in people's lives – we need to pray. Prayer connects earth with heaven. God delights to hear and act on our prayers. "You can ask for

anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father." (John 14:13 NLT). Sabbath School or other groups in the church who listen to people's life activities and needs and then prays for them see changes in people's lives and new people coming to their groups. Prayer works.

Churches that have prayer walks or special prayer sessions before any 'preparing the soil' or 'sowing the seed' activity will be changed for the good. One church I know has run a prayer meeting for over six months every morning at 5.30 am – miracles have occurred, local church ministries are thriving and attendance in worship is increasing.

Jesus ate with people, served them and prayed for and ministered to them because He loved them. The motive was not just to soften a person's heart so they could be a disciple – it was genuinely seeing the need and being moved to help. "Jesus saw the crowds and had compassion on them ..." (Matthew 9:36). Soil preparation is done with sincere compassion and *without* projecting an outcome.

A good harvest depends on the soil preparation. A changed life depends on a softened heart. So why not go out individually or with your church and intentionally do good for others. Anyone can do it... and the results could amaze you.



## Different Paths Warrnambool Church

Church members celebrated the addition of two families to their congregation last year.

Kevin and Joyce were not strangers to our message – Joyce’s mother had in fact joined our Camperdown church 70 years earlier. When Joyce and Kevin married, they studied with Pr Andrews in the ‘50s. Then their lives took a different turn. But their road finally bought them back to where they belong. Paula and her daughter, Christie also took a stand for Christ last year after a difficult journey.



Their testimonies (use the QR code to read them) only confirm that our great God has more ways of accomplishing His will and reaching people for His Kingdom than we can ever dream of. All praise and glory be to Him.

*Judy Gilchrist*



Lisa witnessed to her family through her baptism

## Lisa’s Baptism Lilydale Church

Lisa Allenby was recently baptised - the day before her wedding when her family from New Zealand could witness her stand for Jesus.

This four-year journey began when her fiancé, Doug Karajas, first attended Lilydale church. He had felt led to the church and was immediately embraced by a Sabbath school class. The next week he brought Lisa along and they have been attending regularly ever since. Doug was baptised two years ago, but the timing was not then right for Lisa.

Over the past several months she has been meeting regularly with Robyn Stanley, associate pastor at Lilydale church, and requested baptism late last year, but on a date when her mother and sister could be present.

Her family was very supportive of her decision, and the wedding was a delightful occasion too.

*Pr Bruce Manners*

# Church News

## Dancing with the Devil

### Horsham Church

*2 Sam 6:14 – and David danced before the Lord... On this text I hinged my justification to any church family member who quizzed me on my passion: a passion that had far outgrown the boundaries of healthy Christian mind.*

As a good Christian girl, growing up quietly without causing her parents any concerns, attending church and giving her life to Christ at 19 in baptism, I loved my Jesus and to anyone who asked, I told them about Him.

So when my quiet uneventful life exploded into exciting Technicolor at 21, I believed that, according to Psalms 37:4, I had been given the desires of my heart.

However, like all of us, I’ve been tailed my whole life; A tail who knows me better than I know myself. He knew exactly what that thin end of the wedge was that would steer me ever so subtly out of Jesus’ arms, and into his own.

This clever deception only became clear to me when I was, as I affectionately put it, exiled to the country upon my marriage.

In Exodus 20:1-3, the first of the Ten Commandments, God clearly states we are to have no other gods before Him. What is a god? Quite simply, it is anything that takes the place of God in our lives or minds. For you it may be work. It could be a computer game. It could be facebook. It could be the books you read. It could be the movies you watch or the people you hang out with or your family.

Anything that takes God’s place as number one in your life... is a god and you are in transgression of the first Commandment.

I found, in picking myself up in the dusty soil of quiet country life, that God really does work all things for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28). Through the whirlwind years within the glitz, glamour, laughter and

soul stirring excitement, Dancesport brought me to life.

Jesus allowed me to follow the path of my choice, to enter the attempted snare. And I did learn a lot. I have since learnt to give those lessons, the training received and confidence gained over to Him. He was watching over me the whole time, and at His appointed time (Malachi 3:3), withdrew me to set me on another path.

His path.

Yes I bucked and kicked, cried out and questioned about being uprooted from what I had perceived as living God’s will, but after discovering the deception I’d blindly been living in, I no longer trust my own understanding on earthly things and have given my life to Jesus to guide 100% (Proverbs 3:5-6). Even to the point of re-baptism.

The devil is wiler than any of us give him credit for. Never underestimate the enemy or he’ll have you straying from the straight and narrow so subtly you’ll not be aware until it is too late.

A dance is a moment. Jesus is forever. Take Jesus’ hand, and tell Satan you’ll sit this one out.

*Karen Rowe*



## A Budding Plant Point Cook Church

*A brisk southerly breeze was blowing at Altona Beach, heralding the first baptism for the Point Cook Church Plant.*

Our candidate, Fei, who had newly arrived from China where her family still resides, was brought up in Buddhist traditions, however she found herself increasingly and irresistibly drawn to the Bible, with its strong message of hope and redemption.

Fittingly, Fei’s baptism was in spring, when new life flourishes. So it was for Fei who, responding to the Holy Spirit, began to attend the seminars at the Point Cook Community Centre. The Word of God released her into the joyful and empowering light of Christ and she decided to be baptised without delay, believing that tardiness meant disingenuousness. She was so eager to dedicate her life to following Christ.

And so, pleased to witness Fei’s baptism, we trudging across the soft sand of Altona Beach, heads bowed



Fei grew up Buddhist but found herself drawn to the hope of Christianity

against the wind: members of the Werribee Church along with those who had been attending the new church plant at Point Cook. While we looked on, Pastors Nick and Danijela escorted Fei out into the deeper water, where she was immersed in the salty sea to arise and be born again.

Many curious bystanders, walking along the nearby pier, paused to watch the proceedings; some had no more than a cursory glance, before moving on, but some lingered more than the others. Perhaps the Holy Spirit had touched their hearts, too. Perhaps other seeds were planted that day.

*Robert Bryson*

## Celebrations

### East Prahran Church

*Early this year, church members celebrated 80 years existence for East Prahran Memorial SDA Church. The plaque on the front wall of the church reads “Erected to the glory of God and in memory of the faithful men and women who pioneered the proclamation of the Advent message throughout the state of Victoria. 1/2/36”.*

The church was full for the celebration service. Peter McGowan took the lesson and our minister at the time, Wayne Stanley, preached. His sermon subject was “Should we climb every mountain?” Former members took part in the service and we heard about work in Mongolia that has been supported by our church. During the service, brief memories from each decade were presented, by members, including Lauris Caldwell, the only person present at the dedication in 1936.

One of our former members has been called an ‘Adventist National Treasure’ – Romney King – and he and his wife Margaret were present to stand when the congregation was asked “who was



married in this church?” Many stood, not only then but when they were also asked “who was baptised in this church?” We enjoyed special items from family and friends of East Prahran throughout the program.

Five prior pastors were able to join us for the day, as well as former members. With much joy, old friends were reunited, and over lunch, nostalgia took over, as the screen in the old school room displayed images of past events and people who had been members and friends of the church.

This was a great day of celebration.

*Jill Rendell*

## Marching for Jesus

### The Orchard

*The Orchard Melbourne Central City Church hosted a multi-denominational rally and walk through Melbourne’s CBD on a Sunday afternoon before Easter this year.*

The purpose of the event was to remind Melbournians of what Jesus has done for us on the cross. The march began at Federation Square and then made its way up Swanston Street finishing opposite the state Library where Pastor Rod Anderson delivered a short message.

During the walk hymns and spiritual songs were sung with gusto, witnessing to tens of thousands of city goers through voice and with the striking signage, that Jesus is still alive in the hearts of Christians in Melbourne.



Pastor Rod Anderson said, “Our singing and banner was to draw attention to us, so people would read the placards from John 3:16 and Romans 1:16, many people stopped and took photos of us, others smiled and gave us the thumbs up showing they approved of Who we were standing up for.

“We handed out 120 Steps to Christ with the Orchard’s contact details inside. A similar walk was taken last Christmas along the same route. It went extremely well and we are planning another walk at Christmas 2016 December 18, (Melbourne Remember Jesus at Christmas).”

To be a friend of Melbourne Marching for Jesus go to Facebook Melbourne.Jesus.Marching or the orchardmelbourne.org.au

*Pr Rod Anderson*

# Growth in our Sudanese Family

## Springvale Sudanese Church

Members of Springvale Sudanese Group thank God for His blessings.

Late February, three new members were baptised and twelve others accepted by profession of faith. Pastor Malcolm Reid conducted the service.

Today we offer our friendly invitation for those who love God to come and visit us at Springvale Sudanese where you can feel the presence of God and connect you to the our Lord Jesus.

We conduct our regular worship service on Sabbath at Springvale church at 1pm-3pm. Our service is conducting in South Sudanese language, but can be interpreted into both Arabic and English. And you are more than welcome to join us in group bible study on Monday, Tuesday and Friday at 7:30pm.



For further information please don't hesitate to contact me on

0402680267.

Gatkuoth Chol



# Water for Life

## Longwarry Church

Longwarry Church is undertaking an ambitious project to provide a water source for a village in Zambia - ambitious for the size of the church!

October last year, Longwarry began collecting a special offering for the project Water for Life, with plans to dig a well and fit it with a solar-powered submersible pump, providing much needed clean water for villagers locked in a cycle of poverty,

whose greatest need is clean water.

"The women and girls of the village walk six km to collect water from a dirty water hole shared with wild animals," says Akim Mwamba, "and when children become sick from drinking the water, they have to



Money was raised at Camp for the project

walk 26 km for medical care."

Because the subterranean water is too deep for a hand pump, a solar powered pump and storage tank to supply

# Getting Fit for Life

## Pakenham Church

In early March 37 members from Pakenham Church took part in the local Cardinia Fun Run in both 10km and 5km.



Pakenham trained hard for the fun run

Some members had been meeting for up to eight weeks prior to the event, every Sunday at 6am, for training. The group was a mixture of pro runners, joggers, beginners and walkers. This run was a first for the year, as many are keen to keep competing and meeting on Sundays to run and catch up.

Pakenham church is also continuing with their friendly Eat for Health Recipe Club once a month focusing on a variety of topics such as Black Diamond Therapy (June); Cause of Cancer and Water Connection (July); Omega 3&6 (August) and Irritable Bowel Syndrome (September). The presentations also include a cooking demonstration that you get to taste test at the end of the session. If you would like more information about these sessions contact Auxilla at [Eat-for-health@live.com](mailto:Eat-for-health@live.com)

Isabelle Millien



Recipe club occurs on a monthly basis

# Celebrating 50 Years

## Asian Aid at Big Camp

Sunday afternoon at Big Camp was warm and sunny. Amidst the dust, the busy camp schedule and frequent family and friend gatherings, a group of people – young and old – paused to honour Asian Aid's 50 years of improving life; celebrating a movement begun in 1966 by a handful of dedicated Seventh-day Adventists. Little did the founder, Maisie Fook, know that 50 years later, her vision for transformation and empowerment would grow to support over 44,000 people, and be supported by over 5,000 people in 43 countries.

As stories and photos were shared throughout the celebration, we were reminded of the huge impact supporters have made. We even had two new, curious and young sponsors – both under eight years old – join our celebrations, both having 'signed up' earlier at the Big Camp booth! The anniversary celebration allowed these precious children to see how their new sponsorships would help unlock the potential for children in disadvantaged communities.

During the event, a historical picture of Asian Aid's history was painted beautifully by Kerryn Patrick and to close, the board chairman, Dr John Hammond, encouraged guests to continue their good work and dedicated Asian Aid to God, in prayer.

Did you know that about 10% of Asian Aid supporters – or 501 people – live in Victoria? One of the many churches whose members support Asian Aid is our church in Ballarat, sponsoring a total of 51 children. What a glowing example of the meaning of living our faith in a tangible way.

Ballarat member, Anita Brown, turning 90 in June, readily shared her motivation for giving through Asian Aid:

"God is very good to us, and we can

never ever out-give God. Christ loved to help the needy, so I think that we must do that. If you do, you'll never run short."

Asian Aid is truly grateful for the generosity of its supporters. Thank you. You have helped support thousands of children and families living in poverty, providing access to education, healthcare, clean water and improved income opportunities.

"Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." 1 John 3:18

Sonja Larsen

Why not consider helping through Asian Aid? Visit [www.asianaid.org.au](http://www.asianaid.org.au) or call 02 6586 4250



Asian Aid 50th celebration at Big Camp



the youngest sponsor blew out the candles



Sonja Larsen and Krystelle Kothe



Members of Ballarat Church partner with Asian Aid

sufficient water throughout the day is needed. The work will be carried out by ADRA, which will educate the villagers on how to grow irrigated crops to become more self-sufficient.

Longwarry members are determined to reach their goal. At Easter, Clint and Roni Lee manned a booth in the Village Square at Elmore Camp, raising awareness of the project and selling goods. They raised \$750+ and received offers of saleable goods and donations from other church members.

"I would like to give a big thank you to everyone who visited and supported the Longwarry tent at Big Camp. It was wonderful to share our Water for Life mission with others," says Clint Lee. "The donations of goods for sale were almost overwhelming."

Akim, Clint and Roni have also visited Ferntree Gully Church to explain the project and were given more funds. And in early April a Jumble Sale was held on the Longwarry Church property. The weather was cloudy and cool, but many



Project team members Akim, Roni & Clint

people were attracted to the event. The stalls raised a further \$1000 or there about. Alan Woollard with IntraVic

## Being a Child-Safe Church

### Safe Places

As Seventh-day Adventist Christians we believe that all children have the right to feel safe all of the time. The Victorian Government has enacted new legislation for mandatory minimum child safety standards which apply to organisations working with children. As one of these organisations, we aim to ensure that we have Child Safe strategies in place.

Your Pastor, Church Board and Local Church Safe Places Coordinator have been informed of the responsibilities surrounding the Child Safe Audit that is expected to begin January, 2017.

As a Child Safe Church, we aim to provide a Safe Places environment that has in place a range of strategies to ensure children are protected from hurt, harm or injury. In complying with the compulsory seven Minimum Child Safe Standards, our churches must also ensure they have a particular focus on promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, those children from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds and children with a disability.

The information in the centrefold pull-out of this edition of *IntraVic* (next 8 pages) helps describe what you as individuals, sharing in this responsibility and privilege, should see in place and in action in our Child Safe organisation.

These documents can also be accessed at [Vic.Adventist.org.au](http://Vic.Adventist.org.au) and click on Safe Place Services under the Services tab, where there are other links for your further interest and information.

*Sue Mercer*

**Safe Places...Safe People...  
Safe Programs**

## Commissioning Jinha Ministerial Association

*Jinha's parents, whose top priority was God, took their family from South Korea to the USA when Jinha was eight years old.*

Her father was a Literature Evangelist and the family had a library of commentaries and religious books that interested her from an early age. By fourteen, she had read the entire biography of Ellen White's life, the Conflict of the Ages series, and had accepted Jesus as her personal Saviour.

Her mother modelled a deep spiritual life and taught her to apply what she read and her counsel helped Jinha navigate her youth.

Attending public school, Jinha shared Christ with her secular friends and started giving Bible studies at school. At her graduation, she was not afraid to take a stand – declining the valedictory speech in honour of the Sabbath, providing yet more opportunity to testify. And her ministry to others continued into her university years.

Studying languages and psychology, Jinha had planned to do a PhD in theology but God had other ideas! A few months before graduating, Jinha became aware a Manhattan church was looking for an Urban Outreach Coordinator. She felt a strange yet strong desire to apply even though she felt vastly under-qualified.

She was invited for an interview and to preach but when the time came, she was run down with exams and bronchitis. Nervous, exhausted and sick, once in the pulpit her voice was clear and cough-free. It was an act of God that a 21yo Korean-American girl with a French Major ended up serving a 250 member multi-ethnic church on Upper East Side of Manhattan.

Although loving her church work, Jinha

was still unsure about being a pastor. Through prayer and Bible study, she concluded it was possible for women to be in ministry and finally asked God if He wanted her there, to give her a sign - it came via an unexpected and unprecedented sponsorship from the Greater New York Conference to attend Seminary.

In 2012 Jinha and Roy married. They prayed boldly for God's guidance and turned down employment offers, waiting for God to employ them both in the same conference... something they were told was nearly impossible. But they believed God had bought them together in ministry as well as marriage.

Then the Victorian Conference made contact, offering ministerial positions to them both that included the challenge of planting a church in Melbourne. Jinha's work visa, which should have taken two months, was granted in one day – further confirming God's hand at work.

In many ways God has continued to affirm to Jinha that she is where He wants her to be. She loves working with her churches, Northpoint and Melbourne City plants, and feels at home in Victoria. She is grateful for God's leading and would not change a single bend or twist her journey has taken.

She quotes Romans 8:28 – ALL things work together for good to those who love God... before saying 'if someone had told me in my last year at Uni that ten years later I would be pastoring two churches in Melbourne, I would have laughed and said they were crazy! Great is His faithfulness.'

*IntraVic*



## What to look for in a child safe organisation

**All children have the right to feel safe and to be safe all of the time. An agency, activity or organisation providing a child safe environment is one that has in place a range of strategies to ensure children are protected from harm.**

**As a parent, you are frequently choosing activities, services or programs for your child. To be confident your child is welcome and safe when attending an activity or service, you need to think about a range of issues.**

Victoria has mandatory minimum child safety standards that apply to most organisations working with children. All organisations working with children are strongly encouraged to ensure they have child safe strategies in place, even if the compulsory child safe standards do not apply to them.

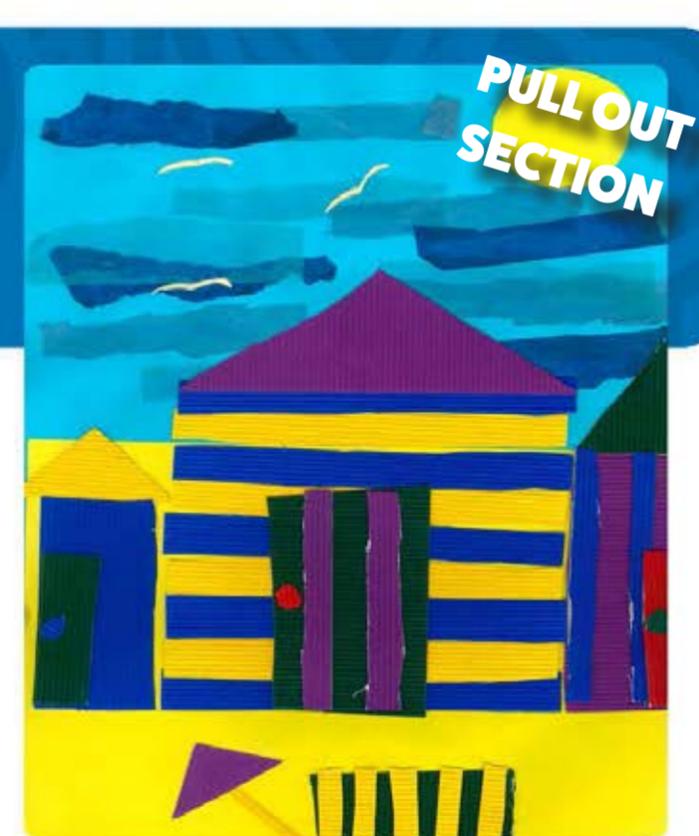
**You can check which type of organisations are covered by these standards at**

<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/about-the-department/documents-and-resources/policies-guidelines-and-legislation/in-scope-organisations-for-child-safe-standards>

In complying with the compulsory child safe standards, an organisation to which the standards apply must also ensure they have a particular focus on promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal<sup>1</sup> children, the cultural safety of children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and the safety of children with a disability

The information following helps describe what you should see in place and in action in a child safe organisation.

<sup>1</sup> The term Aboriginal includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples



### Sole traders – tutors, coaches, counsellors and other self-employed people working with children

Your child may have a maths tutor, a music teacher or counsellor that you pay directly or access on a volunteer basis. In these instances you can use the above questions to help your conversation with them and assist you decide if they are a safe person and right for you and your child.

Although sole traders are not compulsorily required to meet the Victorian child safe standards, parents still need to feel comfortable that the person is safe and suitable to work with children. You can:

- ask people you know and trust who they have used
- ask a potential sole trader for current references and make sure you check them
- check the person has a current and valid Working with Children Check
- supervise their contact with your child where this is reasonable
- talk with your child about how they feel when with the person
- raise any issues or concerns that you may have
- select an alternative person to work with your child if you, or your child, have any concerns.

## What to look for in a child safe organisation

A child safe organisation recognises that children are vulnerable and acts to protect them.

### You can check if a self-employed person has a valid Working with Children Check

A Working with Children Check is vital but is only one part of being child safe. In Victoria, adults involved in coaching or tuition services of any kind specifically for children, counselling or other support services for children, Commercial entertainment or party services for children unless they are merely incidental to or in support of other business activities and clubs, associations or movements of a cultural, recreational or sporting nature, amongst many others, are required to have a Working with Children Check.

You can check that a person has an up-to-date Working with Children Check:

Do not allow a person with an invalid card to work with your child.

**Ask questions and speak up – Ask how the organisation meets child safe standard requirements – it's your right.**

Talk to and listen to your child – How a child experiences the world is different to adults. It is only through the eyes of your child that you can gain a sense of how safe the organisation feels to them.

- request to see their Working with Children Check Card
- make sure that the photo on the card is of the right person
- record the card number and the person's last name (exactly as is on the card)
- go to the Working with Children website Check status' service <<https://online.justice.vic.gov.au/wwccu/checkstatus.doj>>
- enter the first 8 numbers on the person's Working with Children Check card and the person's last name.

The status (valid or invalid) and expiry date of a person's card or application will be shown. This service does not reveal any personal information about the applicant or cardholder.

### What does a child safe organisation look and feel like?

**Child safe standard 1**  
Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, through effective leadership arrangements.

- Does the organisation promote itself as a child safe organisation?
- Do staff and leaders demonstrate a commitment to child safety by their actions and behaviour?
- Are staff and volunteers interested in and engaged with the children?
- Do you and your child feel welcomed in the organisation?
- Does the organisation raise awareness about child abuse and abuse prevention?
- Does the organisation take a zero tolerance approach to discrimination and abuse?
- Does the organisation recognise, respect and promote cultural identity as being fundamental to a child's safety and wellbeing, and provide training for their staff on this?



## What to look for in a child safe organisation

### Child safe standard 2

A Child Safety Policy or statement of commitment to child safety.

- Do you know about and can you see the organisation's Child Safe Policy or Statement of Commitment to Child Safety – do staff seem to know about it?
- Does the Child Safe Policy or Statement of Commitment to Child Safety promote the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and the safety of children with a disability?
- Are children, parents or carers invited to participate in the development and review of the policy?

### Child safe standard 3

A Code of Conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children.

- Is the organisation's Code of Conduct well known and understood and does it describe what behaviours are OK and what are not OK?
- Is it clear how to raise a concern about breaches of the Code of Conduct or make a complaint?

### Child safe standard 4

Screening, supervision, training and other human resource practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel.

- Does the organisation have policies on staff recruitment and management covering:
  - recruitment processes, including skills and qualifications required
  - background checking and screening processes for all staff and volunteers
  - staff supervisions and management
- Do relevant staff have a valid Working with Children Check?
- Do all staff accept it is their role to protect children involved with their organisation?
- Does the organisation provide training for its staff on child abuse recognition and prevention?

### Child safe standard 5

Processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse.

- Are there processes for reporting and acting on disclosures or concerns about child safety?
- Is there a clear and accessible complaints procedure for use by children, parents and staff?
- Are these policies provided to parents upon request?

### Child safe standard 6

Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse.

- Does the organisation have a Risk Management Plan?
- Can parents participate in the planning process?
- Is the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and the safety of children with a disability considered within this plan?
- Are policies in place to minimise risk involved in one-to-one situations with a child?
- Do equipment and activities appear appropriate for the activity and the age of the children?

### Child safe standard 7

Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.

- Are children meaningfully consulted about decisions that affect them?
- Are children listened to?
- Are children informed of their rights and how to raise concerns in an age appropriate way?
- Do staff readily interact with children in an age appropriate and respectful way?



# Cultural safety for Aboriginal children

Artwork by Eileen Harrison – Coming Home (Acrylic on canvas, 2014)

**“Keeping our children and youth connected to their communities and strong in their identity and culture is essential to their wellbeing and the cornerstone of resilience.”**

Andrew Jackomos, Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People

It is the right of every Aboriginal child to be immersed in their culture. The right to culture which includes the inherent right to kin, community, cultural practices and identity relates to and impacts upon the enjoyment of every other human right. It is about connections, relationships and experiences and it is the greatest source of resilience for Aboriginal children. Section 19 of the Charter of Human Rights states that Aboriginal people hold distinct rights and must not be denied the right to enjoy their identity and culture, to maintain their kinship ties and to maintain their distinctive spiritual, material and economic relationship with the land and waters with which they have connection under traditional laws and customs.<sup>2</sup>

*For Aboriginal people “culture is about family networks, Elders and ancestors. It’s about relationships, languages, dance, ceremony and heritage. Culture is about spiritual connection to our lands and waters. It is the way we pass on stories and knowledge to our babies and children; it is how we greet each other and look for connection. It is about all the parts that bind us together.”<sup>3</sup> (Jackomos 2015)*

## What is cultural safety?

Cultural safety is “an environment that is safe for people where there is no assault, challenge or denial of their identity, of who they are and what they need. It is about shared respect, shared meaning, shared knowledge and experience, of learning, living and working together with dignity and truly listening.”<sup>4</sup> (Williams, R. 2008)

For Aboriginal people “cultural safety and security requires the creation of:

1 Commission for Children and Young People, Annual Report 2013-14, September 2014  
2 Section 19, Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities (VIC) 2006

- Environments of cultural resilience within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Cultural competency by those who engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.”<sup>5</sup> (AHRC Social Justice Report 2011)

Every Aboriginal person, every Aboriginal child, needs to feel that their sense of self and their identity is “valued in some way by the people and environments that surround them.”<sup>6</sup> (VACCA 2010)

## How can our organisation create a culturally safe environment?

### Talk with Aboriginal people

Creating a culturally safe environment is about relationships and actively creating opportunity for Aboriginal voice and presence in an organisation’s planning, policies and activities. Consult with local Aboriginal people, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and local organisations with Reconciliation Action Plans or Aboriginal Inclusive policies for guidance on how your organisation can become culturally safe. Cultural safety is about how your organisation is experienced by Aboriginal people and in particular by Aboriginal children.

3 Commission for Children and Young People Annual Report 2014-15, October 2015

4 Williams, R. (2008). *Cultural safety, what does it mean for our work practice?* Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, 23(2)213-214

5 The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Social Justice Report 2011

6 Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA), (2010), *This is Forever Business – a framework for maintaining and restoring cultural safety in Aboriginal Victoria*



# Cultural safety for Aboriginal children

## Find out who the Traditional Owner groups or Registered Aboriginal Party is in your area

There are approximately 47,000 Aboriginal people currently living in Victoria, representing 0.9 per cent of the total population with government projections expecting this number to rise to over 80,000 people by 2021. The Victorian Aboriginal population is young and growing, with more than half being under the age of 25 years, and 36 per cent being children aged 0-14 (ABS 2012). No matter where you live in Victoria, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will be living in your community, with a Traditional Owner Group known within your region. There are a number of websites that contain information about local and regional Aboriginal populations and Traditional Owners. Please visit: <<http://www.mav.asn.au/policy-services/social-community/indigenous/Pages/default.aspx>> <<http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/aboriginal-affairs/registered-aboriginal-parties>>

## Recognising the impact of the past

Child safe standards in your organisation must address the continuing negative impacts of past Government policies and practices on Aboriginal peoples. This can be achieved by acknowledging that Aboriginal people are the First Peoples who have an ongoing connection to this country beyond 40,000 years. Also encouraged is knowledge of key events, like observance of the National Government Apology to Australia’s Indigenous People for the forced removal of Aboriginal children (Sorry Day), and NAIDOC Week which celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures each July. Also important is knowledge of pivotal reports like the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC, 1987–1991) and the Closing the Gap National Indigenous Reform Agreement.

## Respect and embrace Aboriginal culture in every aspect of your organisation

Respect of Aboriginal cultures, values and practices is at the heart of creating a culturally safe organisation. Every organisation should create a physical environment that is respectful of Aboriginal culture as a first step.

To create a sense of identity and belonging select culturally appropriate symbols, images and objects in consultation with the families of Aboriginal children involved in your organisation. Aboriginal peoples are

diverse and the cultural significance of items will vary throughout the State. There are over 30 language areas in Victoria.<sup>7</sup> (Clarke 1996)

One thing you may do is purchase or create a plaque or poster acknowledging the Traditional Owners where your organisation is physically located. Below is an example from AnTAR <<https://antar.org.au/>>

A significant amount of work has been done through Reconciliation Victoria with local Councils that will provide guidance to you and also information about Reconciliation Week and other significant events and celebrations. <<http://www.reconciliationvic.org.au/>>

## Finding out more

The process of finding out more by reading, talking with people and visiting places builds your organisation’s capacity to be a culturally safe organisation. Knowing what questions to ask is a good way to start conversations with your board, volunteers, membership and staff. The Victorian Government developed the Aboriginal Inclusion Framework to assist with this, posing questions that relate to Leadership, Policy, Programs, and Communications. The Framework is available on the Aboriginal Affairs’ website <<http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/aboriginal-affairs/aboriginal-affairs-policy/aboriginal-inclusion>>



7 Clarke, Ian (1996) *Aboriginal Language areas in Victoria – A reconstruction*



## Safety of children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

### Victoria is a culturally diverse community made up of many different nationalities, cultural backgrounds, language and religious groups.

In Victoria, mandatory child safe standards have been introduced to help protect children from abuse in organisations. In complying with the standards, organisations must promote the cultural safety of children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Like other aspects of child safety, creating and maintaining an organisation in which the cultural safety of children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds is kept safe requires effort.

Steps to ensure cultural safety include sharing knowledge, raising awareness, developing understanding that leads to cultural sensitivity and finally, cultural competence. This ongoing and dynamic process leads to sustainable philosophies and values within an organisation that promotes cultural safety for children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and benefits all children, families, staff and managers.

Cultural competency is characterised by a set of behaviours, attitudes and skills, policies and procedures that help staff to work effectively and efficiently in a cross-cultural context at all levels within the organisation.

Multicultural Mental Health Australia

Organisations can demonstrate that they value diversity by accepting, respecting and welcoming the differences between and within cultures. Such an inclusive environment acknowledges differences between cultures, but does not value one over another.

You can promote the cultural safety of children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds by:

- ensuring your organisation clearly demonstrates a zero tolerance of discrimination
- ensuring your policy and procedures specifically address cultural inclusion, sensitivity and competency
- providing training and development on cultural sensitivity and competency
- being respectful, inclusive and welcoming of families from a range of backgrounds
- asking children and families about their culture and cultural support needs
- recognising occasions which are important to different cultures and dietary requirements
- ensuring the physical environment reflects a positive and welcoming approach to diverse cultures, through decoration and artwork
- employing staff that are representative of the diversity of your local community



## Safety of children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

- employing staff who display cultural sensitivity and cultural competency
- actively seeking out and talking to families about how they would like to be involved
- asking families about their preferred format for the provision of information, including translation or interpreting into community languages and audio-visual formats
- ensuring complaint and grievance processes are easily understood and provided in culturally relevant and sensitive ways.

### Discrimination

Is treating, or proposing to treat, someone unfavourably because of a personal characteristic, such as gender, race, culture or religion, age or sexual orientation.

In Victoria, the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* protects people from discrimination and harassment in areas of public life such as workplaces, schools, clubs, shops or places that provide services.

### Racial, cultural and religious abuse

Is conduct that demonstrates contempt, ridicule, hatred or negativity towards a child because of their race, culture or religion. It may be overt, such as direct racial vilification or discrimination, or covert, such as demonstrating a lack of cultural respect (attitude and values) and awareness (knowledge and understanding) or failing to provide positive images about another culture.

### Useful resources

The Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission <<http://www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au/>>

Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship <<http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/about-us/office-of-multicultural-affairs-and-citizenship>>

Centre for Multicultural Youth <<http://www.cmy.net.au/>>

Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia <<http://fecca.org.au/>>

The Australian Institute of Family Studies <<https://aifs.gov.au/>>

Early Childhood Australia, *Understanding cultural competence*, available at: <[http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/nqsplp/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/EYLFPLP\\_E-Newsletter\\_No7.pdf](http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/nqsplp/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/EYLFPLP_E-Newsletter_No7.pdf)>

Multicultural Mental Health Australia, *National Cultural Competency Tool for mental health services*, available at <<http://servicedelivery.dss.gov.au/2012/03/05/national-cultural-competency-tool-ncct-for-mental-health-services/>>



**Pull these pages out and file them somewhere or visit the QR code link and bookmark it**



# Safety of children with a disability

**'When students experienced abuse, they said the most helpful thing was being believed and having action taken to resolve the situation.'**

Robinson, S. & McGovern, D. (2014) *Safe at School? Exploring safety and harm of students with cognitive disability in and around school*. Lismore, Centre for Children and Young People.

**All children are vulnerable but some children need special care and protection to ensure they are safe – children with a disability have an increased risk of being abused.**

It is unlawful to discriminate against children with a disability and like all children, children with a disability have the right to participate in decision-making that affects them.

In Victoria, mandatory child safe standards have been introduced to help protect children from abuse in organisations. In complying with the standards, organisations must promote the safety of children with a disability. It is your responsibility to uphold the legal and human rights of children with a disability to ensure they are safe when in your care.

Children with a disability are more vulnerable to harm and abuse such as harassment, bullying, humiliation, physical and sexual abuse. This can be due to:

- social isolation
- limited provision of developmentally appropriate sexual and relationship information
- low levels of expectation held about their capacity to identify and report concerns
- inaccessible pathway to raise issues, concerns and complaints
- communication difficulties
- personal care needs requiring the involvement of different people and various levels of supervision
- signs of abuse being viewed as being related to the child's disability.

- Pre-empt unsafe situations via your risk assessment processes.
- Ensure you have sound recruitment and screening processes in place for staff and volunteers.
- Ensure your code of conduct for staff and volunteers clearly outlines boundaries about staff and volunteer interaction with children with a disability, including personal care assistance.
- Have a robust complaint process, encourage feedback and be responsive if problems arise.
- Empower children with a disability by assisting them to build their self-esteem and confidence.

**A child's disability does not reduce their need for cultural respect and competency.**

- Teach children about their bodies and their safety, including online activities (sex and relationships education).
- Enable and facilitate independence with dressing and toileting and personal care where possible.
- Communicate directly with children with a disability about how safe they feel.
- Be inclusive and collaborative with families.
- Raise awareness about abuse and ways to seek help. Make sure children with a disability know who they can go to if they feel unsafe or have a concern or complaint – make sure these processes take into account the child's developmental level and communication requirements.
- If children have communication difficulties, organisational procedure must ensure vigilance in identifying indicators or warning signs. Listen to children, no matter how they communicate their thoughts, views and concerns.

## Useful resources

Davis Miller and Jon Brown, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), United Kingdom, *'We have the right to be safe' Protecting disabled children from abuse*, October 2014

Government of South Australia, Department for Education and Child Development, Families SA, *Protecting children and young people with disability: a booklet for parents and carers*, August 2012

State of South Australia, Ministerial Advisory Committee: *Students with Disabilities, A guide to protecting children and young people with disability and preventing sexual abuse: For parents and carers*, 2012

Robinson, S. & McGovern, D. (2014) *Safe at School? Exploring safety and harm of students with cognitive disability in and around school*. Lismore, Centre for Children and Young People. Report completed for the NSW Law and Justice Foundation.

Each child is different and will experience their disability and the world differently – it is important not to stereotype or make assumptions. It can be hard for a child with a disability to make themselves heard or understood.

## What you can do to help keep children with a disability safe in your organisation:

- Ensure your organisation has a child safe culture in which abuse and harm is not tolerated and diversity is welcomed.
- Pre-empt unsafe situations via your risk assessment processes.
- Empower children with a disability by assisting them to build their self-esteem and confidence.
- Ensure your organisation has a child safe culture in which abuse and harm is not tolerated and diversity is welcomed.



# Abundance Health Ministry

*God has an abundance mentality! Listen to Him:*

*John 15:11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*

*Isaiah 55:2 "Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance."*

*Psalms 37:3 "Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness."*

*John 10:10 "...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."*

*Philippians 4:19 "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."*

**He wants us to live full, vibrant and overflowing lives.**

Health Ministry takes a broad look at the abundant life. It includes every aspect of our being – physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. When Jesus was pressed to summarize the kingdom in one command He responded, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." This is the first commandment." Mark 12:30. That love is to be poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 5:8)

Love is the greatest power. It can transform our lives, change our way of

thinking, open our hearts to another's pain, and revolutionize our church. Wellness is fullness, and in God's kingdom His love passes knowledge and every dimension of measurement (Ephesians 3:18,19). If you want to be healthy, start by opening your life to God and His love for you. He has an abundant, unending supply.

He also has a way to live that will guide you to the most vibrant outcomes. Health Ministry is where a church can experience Christ's healing ministry individually and extend it to people in their community, connecting them with Him.

*Andrew Jasper*

# Miracle for a Minister Health Department

*Peter Hughes, one of our own pastors in Victoria, recently had angina pains course through his chest and discovered his total cholesterol was elevated to 5.3 and LDL (bad cholesterol) registered at 4.3. He had over 90% blockage to two arteries to his heart. The diagnosis: coronary heart disease. The prognosis: two stents.*

With a history in the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP), Peter shortened the noose on his dietary habits avoiding any foods with cholesterol. In theatre, the surgeon fixed the first stent, but couldn't get the second one placed. So they postponed that portion of the procedure. Peter went on to eliminate all refined oils from his diet. Upon returning for his second operation, he asked for another blood test and the physicians at St.

Vincent's were shocked. In a couple of month his total cholesterol came down to 2.0 and his LDL plummeted to .7. They told him he could go home. He didn't need the second stent.

Praise God, Peter, you are still with us. Let's help one another overcome this top killer, because we shouldn't have to battle alone.

*Andrew Jasper*

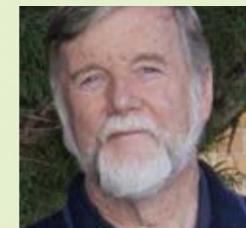
# UPCOMING TRAINING Health Ministry

The Conference Health Department has several trainings available this year, with more in tow. Here are a few:

• **Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) Facilitator's Training** – Our church's premier health program, provides a comprehensive approach to community-based health education. Complete with pre and post assessments, participants will see the difference lifestyle interventions can make in as little as 4 weeks. To obtain the training to facilitate this cutting edge programs, book at [Vic.adventist.org.au](http://Vic.adventist.org.au) under Event Registration tab

• **Nedley Depression and Anxiety Recovery Program Facilitator's Training** – According to the Australian Psychological Society (2015) 1 in 4 Aussies report anxiety symptoms while 1 in 3 depressive symptoms. Antidepressants have almost doubled in the last 10ten years. The need to help people in this arena is immense and growing. Equip yourself to educate sufferers how they can improve their emotional and mental wellbeing. Book at our office for the November 19, 20 training by calling 03 9264 7715 or 0411 690 136.

• **FOODcents Facilitator's Training** – a new program coming to our Conference this year, FOODcents is highly flexible, free to the community, and costs under \$100 for a church to conduct. It is being featured in the Life More Abundantly weekends our department is taking to churches around the state. It is receiving positive feedback as a cost effective approach and a great way to start health ministry in a community. Jot down the date for the facilitator's training on December 11 and we'll have more information in coming issues regarding the program.



Peter Hughes



Andrew Jasper



## Welcome Vanessa VicYouth

*Change has come to VicYouth.*

We have had to say goodbye to Natasha Jakowlew who has been with the department for four valued years (and five summer camps!) Her efficiency, initiative and creative flair really helped shape VicYouth into what it is today. She was an excellent cook too – and still is I am sure!

But while Natasha has left our department, we do still get to see her occasionally – she has literally moved across the hall, and is now working in Conference Finance department, where her excellence with numbers will be well utilised. Thank you, Natasha, for your great work and all that you have done for us.

And welcome to Vanessa Ah Tune, who was born in New Zealand but loves living in Melbourne. Vanessa joined us early April, in Natasha's place, and is doing a good job at keeping us under control! She comes from the outer SE suburbs of Melbourne, where she has been very active in her local church at Cranbourne as church clerk, youth leader, Sabbath School teacher and social leader.

Prior to working with us, Vanessa had been working in the shipping and logistics industry (moving shipping containers – not literally though) where they are juggling multiple tasks on a daily basis, negotiating time schedules with clients, working to constant time pressures and endeavouring to keep good customer relations with sometimes fickle truckies, importers and others. But she has always wanted to work for the Lord.

Vanessa loves reading, spending quality time with family and is passionate about leading young people to Christ.

So welcome to the team, Vanessa. We look forward to great times together, and maybe even some of that delicious "Islander food"!

*Phil Hyland*

## The Perfect Church

### VicYouth

*Imagine the perfect church.*

A church where you know people by more than just their names. Where you don't catch up with each other for only a few minutes as you're rushing out the front door... but where you meet with some of your church friends through the week. You bond. You connect. Your children grow up with more than just a theoretical knowledge of God. They've seen God at work in the lives of multiple other adults, who are intentional about loving them through life.

Some would call this a "village" style church. I call it a Forever Family.



This year at Big Camp, I had the pleasure of coordinating the Junior Shed. Our vision was to show these kids what God's Kingdom is really like. It's not a bunch of church buildings or a place called Heaven. God's Kingdom is you and I - His Kingdom Family. So in every interaction with the Juniors, our team were intentional about sculpting the mentality that we are all part of God's family - a Forever Family.

Our speaker Adam Tonkin, a pastor from NSW, took the Juniors on a journey through the Sanctuary, explaining how God works as a wise and loving Father, to bring about our



salvation. The cross was for ALL of God's family, and when you're part of a family, there isn't anything that could exclude you from coming home. (Adam's presentations can be seen or heard again at VictorianAdventist.TV)

We organised the Juniors into Families - small groups, where they could bond with each other over the weekend, modelling what God's family can be like. They did craft together, served together, discussed together, and shared their activities together. At key points throughout the weekend, each Family had time to open up, sharing their thoughts and feelings about Adam's messages. Some discussions were light-hearted, while others were surprisingly deep, with insights I can't imagine having at that young age!



As the camp closed, we were stoked to find 28 Juniors had decided they'd like to have Bible studies, and 23 wanted to be baptised.

It's incredible what God can do when His family come together in His name. If you've got a young person in your church, don't miss your opportunity to get to know them and mentor them into adulthood. When we treat church like a family, God can do incredible things through us!

*Trent Martin*



## Be Brave VicYouth

*There's only one time every year when Pathfinders from across Victoria come together to be pushed to their limit. We call it Expedition. It's a time to push yourself, a time to make new mates and a time to come away from modern life and hear God's voice.*

This year, over the ANZAC long weekend, 460 Pathfinders and leaders from 17 clubs throughout the state descended upon Fryers Ranges State Forest to do just that.

We spent a fantastic Sabbath together, singing, getting into the Word and enjoying fun group activities centred around our theme "Be Brave". Simon Morton spoke from Joshua 1:9 where it says, "This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Just as Joshua was only able to "be brave" in his leadership by trusting God was with him, we were reminded that God can literally do anything through us when we trust Him. Simon shared stories both from his own life and the life of Desmond Doss, who served in WWII.

Then, in the darkness of night, the more senior Pathfinders ventured into the bush to begin their rogaine. From then until Monday, young people from ages 10 up got out into the rough and often steep terrain of Fryerstown, in search of checkpoints. On Sunday

night, after a massive day of hiking, the Level 2 and 3 groups enjoyed well-earned pancakes (one of which measured 0.5 metres by 1.3 metres!).

Supported by their committed club leaders and a fantastic crew of Expedition volunteers, Monday morning saw our Pathfinders return to base-camp absolutely exhausted, but with smiles on their faces. It was awesome to see and we'd like to thank all of our volunteers who made Expedition possible again this year- in serving our young people, you've served Christ Himself.

It is hard to measure the impact something like Pathfinders has on young people. The Pathfinders themselves may only realise in hindsight the times when God was able to make an impression on their lives.

If you are someone Pathfinders has impacted, we'd love to hear from you. Send your story to [vicyouth@adventist.org.au](mailto:vicyouth@adventist.org.au), or message us on Facebook at "VicYouth Australia".

*Trent Martin*



## It Started with Him Victorian Conference

*Big Camp this year was more popular than ever before, with more campers and day visitors.*

"It's been a very spiritual camp' was the feedback on many people's lips," says Pr Graeme Christian, "Camp was good." More so than ever before, the messages presented by the main speakers complemented each other with the same basic intent – pointing us to Christ.

The main speaker for Encounter, Dilys Brooks shared how it started with Him, and ends with Him. Just Him. Jesus. She reminded us how the great Creator of everything wants to be our friend. How nothing that has happened to this world has caught Him by surprise, He had a plan before it existed. She explored what following Him looks like and how to survive the tension of living in the "now and the not yet". She concluded with a challenge – not to let Big Camp be just another event – but to return home different for having been there – to live it, so that those who know us will see a difference and want to know more.

All of our guest speakers, from Encounter to the Juniors venue, were exceptional, and their messages are available to you at our VictorianAdventist.TV website, either for viewing or as podcasts. These are great resources, either for your own personal use, or to share with friends – and who knows... maybe you will encourage someone to commit to our Lord through the ministry of Big Camp.

Family Camps across Australia also contribute to the Church's world-wide mission, through the South Pacific Division's Camp Mission Offering program. This year the money raised is dedicated to reaching vulnerable youth in the Pacific – Training Resilient Disciples. More information is available regarding this offering at [vic.adventist.org.au](http://vic.adventist.org.au). It is not too late to be involved.

*IntraVic*



# JUST 4 KIDS

## Jesus' Disciples

We can't get in shape by just thinking about exercise and we can't be a disciple of Jesus by just thinking about it. We need to get out into the world and do what Jesus wants us to do. Then we will be a true disciple.

Are you wide awake at the moment? Maybe you need to do a few exercises to wake yourself up? (Unless you are sitting in church at the moment!)

Put your hands in the air and stretch. Wiggle your fingers and give them some exercise. Now, touch your toes. Run on the spot as fast as you can. Jump up and down 10 times. Wow, that's hard work. Time to have a rest!

Exercise can be hard work. Here is an idea that I thought of that might make getting into shape a little easier. See these pictures of people exercising.



Do you think exercise would



work if we just took

these pictures and put them under the pillow at night when we go to bed?

It would be a lot easier. Do you think that is a good idea? Would it help us get into shape?

If I really want to get in shape it's not enough to put a picture under my pillow or just think about doing exercises. I actually have to get out there and do the exercises if I want to get in shape or be an athlete. That's what it's like being a disciple for Jesus.

Being a Disciple is being a true follower of Jesus. It means we do the things He wants us to do, and live the way He wants us to live...

Ask a grownup to help you think of some things Jesus might want you to do...

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

You are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_. A city set on a \_\_\_\_\_ cannot be \_\_\_\_\_. Nor do people light a \_\_\_\_\_ and put it under a \_\_\_\_\_, but on a \_\_\_\_\_, and it gives \_\_\_\_\_ to all in the house. In the same way, let your light \_\_\_\_\_ before others, so that they may see your \_\_\_\_\_ works and give \_\_\_\_\_ to your \_\_\_\_\_ who is in \_\_\_\_\_. Matthew 5:14-16

Have a chat with Mum or Dad about what these verses mean...

Part of being a disciple of Jesus is praying! When you go to bed tonight, use this to help you say your prayers.

Dear Jesus

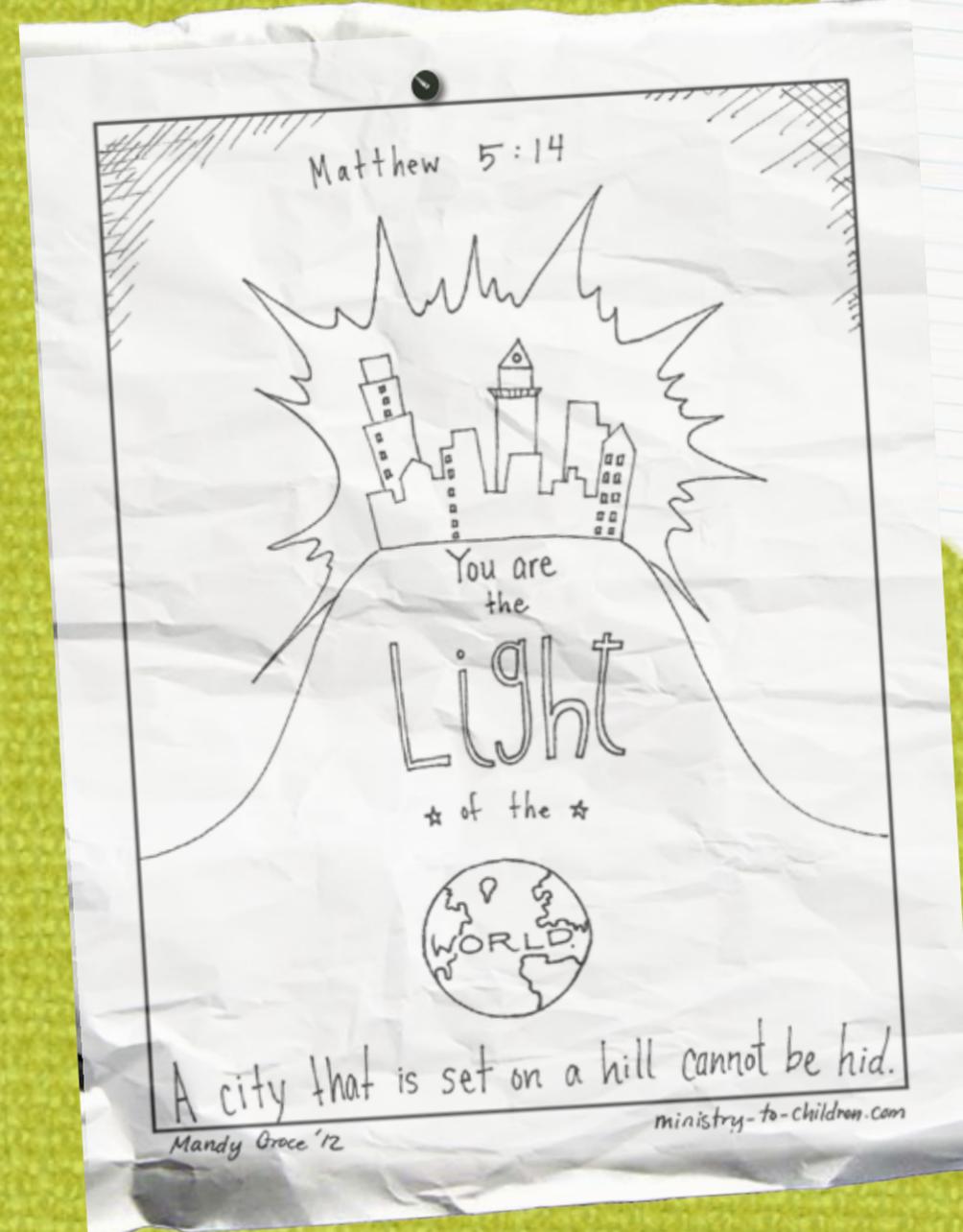
I am so thankful that you gave me \_\_\_\_\_ today.

I am so glad that you helped me with \_\_\_\_\_ I love you God because you \_\_\_\_\_

Please help me tomorrow as I \_\_\_\_\_

Please watch over (person) \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you Jesus. Amen



Julie Catton  
Director of  
Childrens Ministries  
03 9264 7777





## Science Labs Official Opening

Students recently joined with parents, special guests and staff for the official opening of the new Science Laboratories at the Officer Campus. Blessed with a beautiful sunny day, everyone gathered on the lawn in front of the new building.

Mr Jason Wood MP, Member for LaTrobe, officiated by unveiling the plaque, acknowledging the funding that was received from the Federal Government through the Block Grant Association. He was assisted to cut the ribbon by Mr Mark Hansen, the Principal throughout the time the building project took place, and Secondary and Primary School Captains, Priya, Damien, Mackenzie and Daylan. Faye Stothers then led the school in a prayer of dedication over the building, the students who will learn in there, and the staff who will

lead them.

Special thanks goes to the ELC students and Senior Choir for leading out in the national anthem, and to Mrs Marizanne Stark for organising such a memorable event. And extra special thanks to the God who makes all things possible, and has blessed us with this amazing new facility.

The new science laboratories will be used by the whole school year 7-12 for Chemistry, Biology and Physics.

*Rhonda Belson  
Principal, Heritage College*

## First Stage Complete

The Taylors Hill campus of Gilson College celebrated the official opening of its Year 7/8 extension, with four more classrooms and a toilet block for the junior secondary school being added.

The day began with the College band providing background music and our national anthem. Following this, we were privileged to have Senator Bridget McKenzie, the first Victorian woman senator for the Nationals, give the official address and cut the ribbon. A keen supporter of education, Ms McKenzie demonstrated her love of education by completing her university studies as a mother and then became a math/PE teacher for some years. She also clearly displayed that she values both science and faith and has not fallen into the trap of thinking they are a choice of one or the other. She encouraged our students to make the most of their opportunities and to maintain a focus on one's goals.



The new facilities have been used for some time prior to the official opening, and are clearly appreciated by both the staff and students.

We acknowledge the support of the Federal government through the VIS BGA in providing \$440,000 towards the project and thank them for their assistance.

*Mark Vodell  
Gilson Principal*

# ADVENTIST EDUCATION

VICTORIA



## Happy Hearts

Adding to the successful Happy Hands Art Time ministry, which runs exclusively in Adventist churches and schools in Victoria and NSW, is a new sister program - Happy Hearts!

Happy Hearts has currently been running for the past few terms at the Gateway Church in Carlton, led by Lucia Sugeng. The program has been very successful, even to encouraging Bible studies within some families. Nunawading Christian College is very excited to be launching its own Happy Hearts, to be run each Monday morning and a new location will also be opening at Heritage College, Officer.

Happy Hearts leverages off the Happy Hands program format in building bridges to our community, however it does have a directly Christian-themed approach, with well-known Bible stories appealing to young children.

This reaches out to a unique part of the community already open and looking for early introduction to Christianity. I am really excited about the potential of this ministry and where God will lead it!

If you are interested in running either of these supported ministries in your church, or would like to be part of a team, call me on 0451 532 840.

*Caroline Schmidt*

Gateway have successfully piloted the Happy Hearts program



## School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS)

SWPBS is a framework which Adventist Schools in Victoria have begun to implement this year.

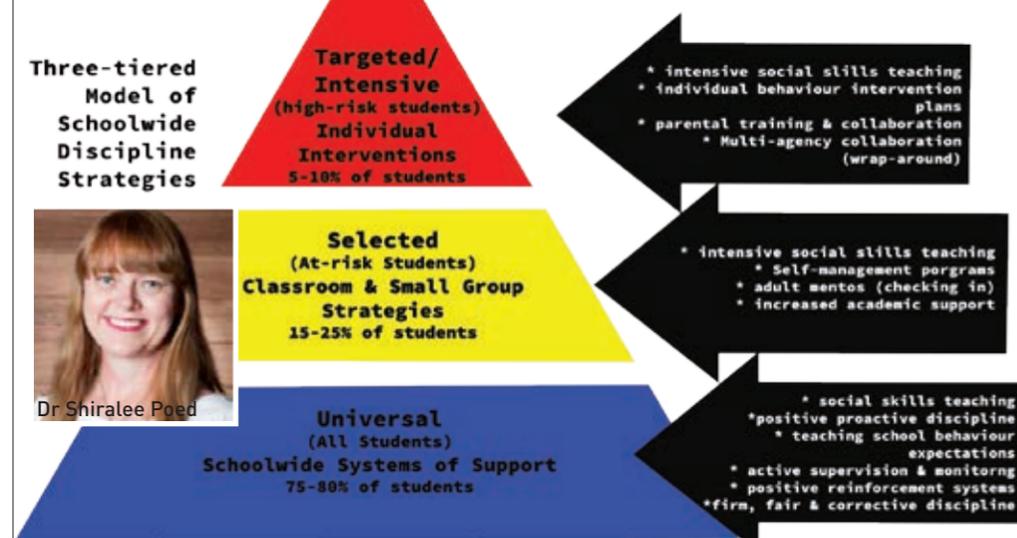
Our new professional learning network with the University of Melbourne will see Dr Shiralee Poed facilitating its implementation over the next three years. Organised with Positive Behaviour and Intervention Support teams and internal coaches in each school, we also have five interested teachers and leaders studying Positive Learning and Behaviour at the Melbourne University.

Academically and behaviourally, SWPBS has been 'characterised as the integration of valued outcomes, behavioural and biomedical science, empirically validated procedures, and systems change to enhance quality of life and minimize or prevent problem

behaviours' (George Sugai, 2006). With research spanning 20 years this spreading world-wide approach creates very intentional learning environments with relevant social skills, providing positive reinforcement for expected behaviour. The model is directed toward all students across all school settings, involving school, family and community members.

This means, for ASV, that learning can be maximised and support structures put in place so we can continue steeping our Adventist Distinctives to build up a vibrant and positive Christian lifeworld for all our students.

*Betty Lakovic*



Dr Shiralee Poed

## Celebrating 10 Years

Edinburgh Early Learning Centre recently celebrated its ten year anniversary. During this time there has been two directors – Mrs Joan Hope, and the current director, Mrs Tanya Pascoe.

Throughout these years we have continually received an exceeding rating during accreditation. Our most recent accreditation last year saw us exceeding the highest rating applicable to early learning service providers Australia wide.

We've recently introduced a community engagement program where our children visit the local Lilydale aged care home once a month. This is a great learning experience on developing generational relationships between the elderly and our young four year olds.

Tanya Pascoe



Former Director Joan Hope with staff member Kristie Turner & Pricilla Griffin (centre)



## Our Schools

**Edinburgh College**  
Edinburgh Early Learning Centre  
Phone: 03 9761 9991  
Primary Campus  
Phone: 03 9728 8833  
Secondary Campus  
Phone: 03 9728 2211  
[edinburghcollege.vic.edu.au](http://edinburghcollege.vic.edu.au)

**Gilson College**  
Taylors Hill Campus  
Phone: 03 9365 9365  
Mernda Campus  
Phone: 03 9717 7300  
[www.gilsoncollege.com](http://www.gilsoncollege.com)

**Henderson College**  
Phone: 03 5024 5192  
[henderson.adventist.edu.au](http://henderson.adventist.edu.au)

**Heritage College**  
Narre Warren South Campus  
Phone: 03 9796 0100  
Officer Campus  
Phone: 03 5943 2900  
[www.heritagecollege.com.au](http://www.heritagecollege.com.au)

**Nunawading Christian College**  
Primary Campus  
Phone: 03 9878 9927  
Secondary Campus  
Phone: 03 9877 3555  
[ncc2.vic.edu.au](http://ncc2.vic.edu.au)



## ADRA & Northpoint

A new partnership has been formed with Northpoint Church.

"Partnering with ADRA" says Pr Loren Pratt, "increases our networking capacity with community agencies and helps us to further engage volunteers from Adventist churches in the region to support the most vulnerable people in the North-West."

## JUICE-UP Fundraising

If you would like to go on an ADRA Connections trip this year and need to fund-raise, you can work in the Juice-Up Van to raise funds. If your school is running an event and would like to provide opportunities for students to raise funds for their trips please contact Margaret on 0419 251 109. More details coming soon.



## Thankyou

Thank you to all the volunteers that supported the ADRA activities at Big Camp. A special mention to the ADRA Veggies for your presentations in the kids divisions and Margaret Andoh-Okai for your amazing ministry through the Juice-Up van.



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# ADRA

*Centres of Influence:*  
BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN ADRA, COMMUNITY AND CHURCH

*"ADRA is the church for the vulnerable. A platform where church members can realise their God-given gifts to shine a light on poverty, injustice and serve people who are experiencing hardship. ADRA builds bridges of love and acceptance between the church and the local community. The vision for Victoria is to see every church equipped to serve their community through Centres of Influence; centres which reflect our health message and most importantly Christ's love for the suffering."*

*Rebecca Auriant - ADRA Director, Victoria*

## ADRA & Fiji

*Josh Dye shares an update on ADRA's work in Fiji*

Since Cyclone Winston struck Fiji in February, ADRA and the Fiji Mission have been working closely together, with many church volunteers assisting.

Within a few days of the cyclone hitting, ADRA began distributing food kits and pre-positioned hygiene kits. In mid-March, almost 6000 packs of Weet-Bix and So Good were delivered to the remote communities in Ra Province which missed out on earlier food assistance. We are grateful to Sanitarium for donating these products and providing them so quickly.

By early April, more than 10,000 people received food and hygiene assistance right across Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. Further responses are continuing with ADRA securing funding through the United Nations Flash Appeal and the European Union, to provide shelter and hygiene assistance.

As well as this, ADRA is planning to help rebuild and refurbish Adventist schools, providing assistance alongside the Fiji government which has committed to rebuilding destroyed school buildings right across Fiji.

ADRA staff were deployed to conduct assessments on an outer-eastern island that copped a direct hit. They took a 24-hour boat journey to get there and found that 70% of the houses had been destroyed, with food and water supplies running low.



just getting to this remote eastern island was a dangerous 24 hour boat trip  
photo credit NZ defence force

ADRA Australia would like to thank the Mission team who helped provide volunteers to assist with distribution. Their assistance allowed us to quickly reach remote communities that may not have otherwise received aid.

While Cyclone Zena passed South of Fiji in April, without causing major damage, the large amount of rain provided another challenge for survivors of Winston, whose houses and roofs remain damaged.

Please continue to pray for the survivors and everyone assisting with the recovery efforts, and thank you for your support during this difficult time in Fiji.



Sanitarium donated Weet-Bix & So-Good photo credit ADRA Australia

“Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, “Follow Me.” ”  
Ellen White, Ministry of Healing

## Vive Café

*Vive Café is a place to share a three-course meal with friends from the community; a place of hope and dignity for people experiencing hardship. It offers a kids club, training for people living with disabilities through K.Y.M. Training Services, an Op Shop and healthy menu options for people with dietary requirements through our new catering social enterprise ADRA Café.*

Leslie Baul has been managing Vive Café since October last year. We asked Leslie some questions about this project.

### What is it you are doing at Vive Cafe?

Haha, I'm a very busy guy, sometimes I can't keep up with it all! I am the volunteer Project Manager at ADRA's Vive Cafe in Croydon. Together with some 90 volunteers we serve up to 120 meals every Thursday.

Our mission is 'Serving the Community' This year our leadership team has been focused on developing a strategic and sustainable approach to our mission. So far we have launched two social enterprises, are developing ongoing relationships with two other organisations for support as well as over a dozen businesses who are dedicated to helping us achieve our mission. Additionally, we're developing partnerships with other individuals and businesses across Victoria who are concerned with making a positive impact and developing empowering relationships within their local communities.

Together with K.Y.M, based in Bayswater, and Maroondah City Council we aim to create a welcoming environment where all members of the community can feel safe and valued.

### What led you to take this on?

God! I have always had a heart of service and a passion for making a difference within the community and have had my share of struggles. I studied Theology, but had practically decided I'd never go into ministry because it's hard work, personally

and theologically! Then I got a call to help out, heard a challenging sermon about 'broken hearts' and received a call to do ministry (that I resisted) and was then hit with conviction. I call this my Moses experience; God called, I resisted, God insisted and I faithfully and willingly obeyed.

### How does Vive ministry make a difference?

I believe we're sincerely committed to serving the community. I've seen some pretty amazing and faithful volunteers serving at Vive Cafe! We aim to create just and positive change through empowering partnerships and responsible action; thus it's necessary to engage all of our stakeholders, if we are to have any significant impact.

Through our partnerships and relationships at Vive Cafe and through our two social enterprises the Croydon ADRA Op Shop and ADRA Cafe, we are able to equip others to serve and we can empower members of our community by providing them with the resources they need to live comfortably and have more positive outcomes.

Throughout the remainder of 2016, our leadership team is committed to developing our referral base and delivering an equitable response to individual needs and community needs; and to developing relevant and practical tools to further engage our clients and secure long term, sustainable outcomes for them.



Mitcham Op Shop supports the opening of the Croydon Op Shop

## New ADRA Op Shop

The new ADRA op shop has opened its doors, in Croydon. Operating behind Vive Café, at 17-19 Surrey Rd West, Croydon, and selling furniture, clothing and bric-a-brac, profits will go towards JEM Homes, in support of young women experiencing hardship, and Vive Café. The opening of this store was made possible thanks to a grant from the Maroondah council and donations from church and community members and the ADRA op shop in Mitcham.

Leslie Baul - volunteer at Vive Cafe and the Op Shop, & the article that featured in the local paper



ADRA Café



Edinburgh College supports Vive Cafe every week with food prep and the Op Shop

## Training Now On-Line Safe Place Services

I'm sure you'll agree - we want to keep our children safe! Safe Church Training is a part of that and there are now **two options for Safe Church Training:**

- Safe Church Awareness Workshop (SCAW)
- Online Safe Church Training

The free online program includes seven modules, six on-line and the seventh either via webinar or possibly in a two-hour face-to-face setting. Each module takes about 45 minutes to complete. You can take a break as needed.

The on-line Safe Church Training is officially provided by the Australian Union Conference and has been endorsed by the Victorian Conference. It is available at <http://elearning.safeplaceservices.org.au/> or you can access it at our conference website ([vic.adventist.org.au](http://vic.adventist.org.au), click on Safe Place Services in the Services tab) and Your pastor can provide the access code for the Training.

Your church team should have completed one of the training options by the end of this year. **Government authorities will commence church audits January 2017**, and we are legally obliged to have this training completed. This training is not for those under 16 yrs. A refresher course is required every three years.

Face-to-face training through the Safe Church Awareness Workshop may still be available by arrangement through the Conference Office.

For more information, email: [eLearning.sps@adventist.org.au](mailto:eLearning.sps@adventist.org.au)

Graeme Christian



The AUC have developed an online training tool to help keep our churches safe



## Tithe Research Results Conference Administration

*A survey was recently circulated to our church members, on their understanding and practice of tithing. Nic Bolto shares with us the results of this survey.*

We are very grateful to the 607 Victorians who recently completed the McCrindle tithe survey. In all, 3,000 people participated in this study across Australia and New Zealand. We have learned so much about how to better engage with you regarding this biblical principle.

In the Victorian sample, 42% of people are diverting their tithe to charities like Rotary, ADRA, ICC and independent ministries. This is a surprisingly high number given that 83% indicated that using tithe for donations and ad hoc giving is not right. This is a fascinating conflict in belief. In other results, 8% of respondents reported that they did not trust the Conference with their tithe and 47% had high confidence in the



Nic Bolto

## GROW Conference Ministerial Association

*Our fifth annual GROW Conference for Church leaders is scheduled for June 17-19 at Howqua. This training event is a must, equipping and training our church leaders, and refocusing our minds on our purpose and the amazing mission we have been given, as a Church.*

The keynote presenter for this year's conference is Gerson Santos, Associate Secretary for the General Conference. He has a passion for reaching the city masses for Christ and is a strong promoter for our Church's global Urban Ministries initiative. Gerson will be accompanied by a practicing church planter, and workshops will feature local presenters offering ways to build your practical skills in fulfilling our mission at the local church level.

For more information call Katrina on 03 9264 7777 or email her at [KatrinaCampbell@adventist.org.au](mailto:KatrinaCampbell@adventist.org.au).

Online bookings can be made at [vic.adventist.org.au](http://vic.adventist.org.au) under the Event Registration tab.

Darren Croft



# Christmas in July Extravaganza Event

Evangelism CHRISTMAS IS COMING AGAIN

*Coming up in July, we have a new Conference evangelistic initiative. Christmas in July. This will be a community-focused program explaining the historical, prophetic and true meaning behind the Christmas story.*

Road to Bethlehem has built a strong, positive community profile over many years.

"RTB has captured the interest of thousands" says Pr Graeme Christian. "I think it would be fair to say it, that community people would consider it to be the most popular thing Adventists do each year in Victoria, and some have chosen to deepen their relationship with Christ as a result."

Christmas in July is a new idea that seeks to take this positive association another step further in sharing Jesus with the broader community.

"(It) was seen as a follow-on invitation for those who attended Road to Bethlehem - with 1600 signing up last year - and that is excellent!" continued Pr Christian. "And it is also an opportunity for other friends to join us in a great night out!"

The Christmas in July program has received a high level of interest from many within the wider community. While it is an untried idea, or an 'experiment', it seems that it will provide significant new opportunities to connect with the people in our communities.

Individual Churches are supporting various aspects of Christmas in July, and many are planning follow-on seminars, but there remains a need for individuals to be able to be present at Christmas in July to mix and mingle with the many visitors that will be present, and to invite your own family and friends.

The program will involve high quality music, and a presentation that shares the fulfilled prophecies of Jesus First Coming, as well as children's activity stalls, Christmas program materials and live entertainment. Christmas Dinner will also be available to purchase for a small fee.

"Please pray that God will use this event to help people to know Him better."

This event will take place in Box Hill, Taylors Hill, Bairnsdale, Tullamarine and Deer Park. For more information or to reserve your free entry tickets go to [Vic.Adventist.org.au](http://Vic.Adventist.org.au) or use the QR code.



IntraVic

## 2017 Reformation Lands Tour

Visit the significant locations in the development of the Reformation in this 5 1/2-week tour through Italy, France, Switzerland, Germany, Czech Republic, England and Scotland.

**FOLLOW THE FASCINATING GOD-INSPIRED STORY**  
Tour departs Australia and New Zealand mid May 2017

For further enquiries contact tour leader

**Pr Russel Stanley 0405 181 047**

[russelstanley@adventist.org.au](mailto:russelstanley@adventist.org.au)

Sponsored by the Australian Union Conference



## World Refugee Sabbath General Conference

*Over the past several months the world has seen the massive movement of refugees from Syria and Iraq as they struggle to reach Europe, and this area is not the only part of the world with refugees or displaced persons.*

Sabbath, June 18, has been set aside by the World Church as **World Refugee Sabbath**, highlighting the situation so many people face, and to help us consider our responsibility as Seventh-day Adventist Christians to help. A special edition of Adventist World is being prepared for this day, and other resources will be made available.

"I would like to call our people to action on this matter," says Pr Ted Wilson, General Conference President. "To unite in prayer for the 120 million refugees and internally displaced people around the world. Let us challenge ourselves to examine our Christian response and attitude toward these groups."

IntraVic

## NOTICES

Visit [vic.adventist.org.au](http://vic.adventist.org.au) and click on the News an Announcements tab for notice details and more

► Interested in travelling overseas with others of like faith? There are several tours for 2016 and 2017 available, including a Bible lands tour and an Adventist Singles Network cruise...

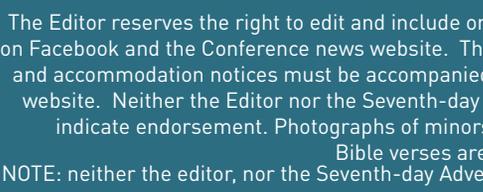
► *Indian cuisine* - a banquet to raise money for one of our schools in Sri Lanka - July 3. Book your tickets or for donations...

► Another concert of beautiful music, raising funds for AdventCare Whitehorse - Sabbath - June 4

► Employment opportunities within our church organisation...



# camp 2016 highlights



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

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

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