

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

September 2016

Pray...
for the Spirit



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SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST
CHURCH

Victoria

A note from the Editor's Office

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Cover Photo
Courtney Weittenhiller



The Excitement of Knowing

How do people cope when they don't know God? I have no idea.

Australia's known as the lucky country. Victoria boasts the most live-able city. It's spring. The birds are singing, the flowers blooming. Grass is living green. Skies are blue – well sometimes at least, and the end of the year is in sight. There's so much for which to be thankful. Life is good.

Life is full. There's so much to do – just ask any year 12 student as they prepare for their final exams of high school. Life is busy – just ask any young mother who juggles the relentless demands of being a mum. Life is tough – just ask anyone who's received bad news lately. Life is monotonous – just ask anyone who works for a living! Life is sad – just ask those who've lost a loved one. So how do you cope with the joys and sorrows?

I'm so glad that our God makes a difference! Can I invite you to reflect on a few Bible verses?

For what great nation is there that has a god so near to them, as the Lord our God is whenever we call on Him? Deuteronomy 4:7

The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

Therefore we do not lose heart, even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 2 Corinthians 4:16

For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, Saying to you, Fear not, I will help you. Isaiah 41:13

Great promises – and they're for real. I was just chatting with one of our faithful conference team members who was sharing about who God is and the way He leads clearly in specific ways. A story was shared about when they'd been strongly impressed by God that things would work out OK in a difficult situation. As I listened, I knew there was depth to the story, which, by the way, finished with, "That's the excitement of knowing God." That's right! That's the story to share.

So let me give you every encouragement to spend more time with Him – share your ups and downs with Him, talk and listen to Him, invite Him to guide you through His Spirit.

Life is good because God is good!

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God Did an Awesome Thing...

Devotional

Extract from Ministry Magazine
AUGUST 2013

Joseph Kidder was an enthusiastic young pastor attending his first ministerial meeting. A conference official said, “Now, we have a program that will finish the work.”

Two years later, he stood before the ministers again, saying, “Now, we have a program that will finish the work.”

Another two years – another conference official – the same message. Joseph, an avid student of church growth techniques, no longer felt any enthusiasm. He knew that none of these programs were going to do anything. But then God bought him face to face with the truth...

We all long to see God work in us and through us in powerful ways. We want our churches to become vibrant worshipping communities of faith, evangelising the world with love and power. Instead we see many congregations in a plateau or a decline.

Think about your church for a moment, and the problems it faces. Then consider the New Testament church. It was a community of believers empowered by the Holy Spirit and turning the world upside down with its message and life.

A.W. Tozer once wrote, “If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95% of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church 95% of what they did would stop and every body would know the difference.”¹

Today, more than anything, we need the Holy Spirit.

Not by Might

When we rely too much on human effort, we rely too little on divine power. We think we need a youth pastor, a better preacher, better music, a better school, or a better building. We think that then we would succeed.

All of these things are good, but they are not the solution. After we have attended every seminar, tried every strategy, checked off every task, we find ourselves in the same spot—only more tired.

The Scriptures give us the solution. "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the LORD Almighty.²

The word *might* means 'every conceivable human ingenuity.'³

We think that the work of God is going to be finished by what we do, through programs we develop, resources we find, and talents we exhibit.

Wrong. What really works is the Spirit of the Lord Almighty. We do not need more formulas, we need more filling. We do not need more plans, we need more power. We do not need more strategies, we need more Spirit.

Ministry Unplugged

Jesus said "Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, bears much fruit. For without Me you can do nothing."⁴

Is the reason our churches are not growing as they could, be because we are not maintaining that connection to the Vine?

Some time ago, a church had 80 members and a great vision to build a church seating 600. Over the next few years, the church grew to about 100 and they began building. But the strain on the members was too much and attendance dropped to about 40. That was when Joseph became their pastor. He was enthusiastic and excited. He was working on a doctorate in leadership and church growth and this was the perfect opportunity to implement his expertise. After three and a half years of cutting edge work

and long hours, he became a church decline expert. Attendance was down to 30.

He had been doing ministry unplugged from the Source of life, separated from the Vine. He forgot that God is the One who grows His Church; we are to depend on Him.

Ellen White said, "The first lesson to be taught the workers in our institutions is the lesson of dependence upon God. Before they can attain success in any line, they must, each for himself, accept the truth contained in the words of Christ: 'Without Me ye can do nothing.'"⁵

Joseph learnt this first lesson last for it was far easier to implement plans and strategies than to surrender them to God's will.

“**Evangelistic programs and church growth techniques are great. But they don't work - not without God's power.**”

The Fantastic Future

The early church waited on the Lord, prayed and received power when the Holy Spirit came upon them. They went out evangelising the world with the gospel. With one accord they devoted themselves to prayer.⁶

Prayer can do what no power on earth can. Connecting with God through prayer gives the church a fantastic future; for all things are possible with God. Prayer is the way forward to revival, power and growth. Self-reliance will fill years with frustrated ministry.

The means of renewal

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and

pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."⁷ This is the essence of renewal. This is not a program that we buy into, but an organic relationship with God; it isn't a strategy, but a commitment.

"A revival of true godliness among us, said Ellen White, "is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work... A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer."⁸

Renewal takes place when people take God seriously and spend time praying, seeking Him and inviting His Spirit to dwell within.

From Despair to Hope

Joseph decided to quit the ministry and return to engineering. Typing his resignation letter, he was interrupted by the door bell, and his wife found it. Later, she asked him why he wanted to quit pastoral ministry. After hearing his well thought out and logical explanation, she looked at him straight, saying "Have you been praying for your church?"

He started to defend himself, but pretty soon realised he was losing the argument – he had been more into strategic planning than prayer and spirituality.

With her encouragement, Joseph decided to fast and pray in his church every Monday. The first day, he knelt in front of one of the pews to pray for the family that sat there most weeks, and promptly fell asleep – for eight hours! But he continued trying. The next week he lasted three minutes praying. Then four. Then back to two. And he made the greatest spiritual discovery of his life.

The biggest challenge to his spirituality was not the internet, radio, television, or sports. It was him. He was not wired for this. Spirituality is about a submissive life and a connectedness with God, which was contrary to his nature.

Joseph persevered and over time things began to change. The early weeks of determination and struggle turned to joy and peace. Enthusiasm rekindled and he began incorporating prayer in other areas of his life. And

Rally to the Call

An Appeal to the World Wide Church

Ted N C Wilson
President, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

It is imperative that we realise the time in which we are living and focus on the message and mission entrusted to our Church for this very time. Be faithful in proclaiming Christ's righteousness. Don't be distracted by what evil throws at us, but focus on Christ and His power to save, especially during these very difficult times around the world.

The societal landscape of the world is becoming more and more violent. From South Sudan to the United States, to Bangladesh to Iraq to Turkey and on and on, it appears that the winds of strife have increased and heated to the point of boiling over. Innocent and unsuspecting people are terribly affected. I have prayed for these places, situations and families.

We must maintain heaven-inspired balance, trust and hope, but without being alarmist, it seems the world is increasingly disintegrating on a daily basis. Although we know these types of tragedies will become increasingly commonplace as the end approaches, we need to stand as beacons of spiritual light and anchors of moral influence at a time of rampant uncertainty.

Our spiritual influence can only grow as we completely lean upon the Lord, our Rock. Christ admonishes us in Matthew 24:12-14 to endure and that when the gospel is preached in all the world, then the end will come. As we place ourselves, our families, our communities and our church in God's omnipotent hands, let's fully realise He alone can protect and care for us heading into the last days of earth's history. Pervasive lawlessness extinguishes love for others, but as we ground ourselves in the love of Christ, our love for others can flourish. As we share that heavenly love with those around us our actions will be a great witness.

Truly, the Gospel of the Kingdom IS being preached throughout the world and church members are actively showing the world the love of Christ in word and deed. However, it is even more crucial that we increase our efforts, both personally and corporately, to share the wonderful good news of

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This is the hour and the time for Seventh-day Adventists to show the world, through the power of the Holy Spirit what it means to have hope in the Lord's power to bring about change in our lives and in society

”

the three angels' messages, pointing people to Christ and His power to change lives.

It is only in Christ and His righteousness that we can find true direction for our lives, the lives of our families and for our communities... **and** for society as a whole. The powerful messages of God's last-day proclamation must be seen in our practical daily Christian lives and in the declaration we give.

This is the hour and the time for Seventh-day Adventists to show the world, through the power of the Holy Spirit, what it means to have hope in the Lord's power to bring about change in our lives and in society. We know from Daniel and Revelation that this world will degenerate into chaos and opposition to God's Word, but that does not mean that we cannot be strong sentinels of His grace and power.

I appeal to you to focus your attention on Christ, His Word, His righteousness, His sanctuary service, His saving power in the great controversy, His three angels' messages, His health message, His last-day mission to the world and His soon return.

Plead with the Holy Spirit for the power of the latter rain so that God's last-day message will go like wildfire through our witnessing, our Christ-like actions and our proclamation of the Word.

Don't be distracted in these difficult times, rather, focus on Christ and His power to save. "Satan invents unnumbered schemes to occupy our minds," wrote Ellen White, "that they may not dwell upon the very work with which we ought to be best acquainted. The arch deceiver hates the great truths that bring to view an atoning sacrifice and an all-powerful

mediator. He knows that with him everything depends on his diverting minds from Jesus and His truth. Those who would share the benefits of the Saviour's mediation should permit nothing to interfere with their duty to perfect holiness in the fear of God. The precious hours, instead of being given to pleasure, to display, or to gain seeking, should be devoted to an earnest, prayerful study of the word of truth. The subject of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment should be clearly understood by the people of God. All need a knowledge for themselves of the position and work of their great High Priest. Otherwise it will be impossible for them to exercise the faith which is essential at this time, or to occupy the position which God designs them to fill."¹

God intends for Seventh-day Adventists to fill a unique position on this earth at THIS time in history. Our Church is a prophetic movement with a prophetic message on a prophetic mission. It is led by God Himself - not by mankind. He has a special work and message to be proclaimed by every member, not just pastors and church workers. This is total member involvement. Everyone doing something for Jesus; proclaiming the last-day saving message through word and action... directed by the Holy Spirit. "The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers."²

We are to focus people's attention on Christ and what He has done and is doing for us in the heavenly Sanctuary, "bringing us down to the very close of time and revealing the triumphant issue of the contest between righteousness and sin."³ We are to lean completely on His grace and His

merit, and He will help us share His matchless love with the world around us.

We are told that "we are living in the time of the end. The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near... The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude. The agencies of evil are combining their forces, and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones."⁴

Seventh-day Adventist brothers and sisters around the world, what a time to be alive and lean on the merits of Christ as He uses us in His last proclamation to the world, telling of His plan of salvation and His everlasting love. Let's rally to His call, each doing our part to share His righteousness, His love, His call to complete repentance and submission to Him and His soon return, as we lovingly share the Word of God and exemplify it in our daily Christ-like lives - all through His grace and power.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Ted Wilson
President
General
Conference
of Seventh-day
Adventists



¹ The Great Controversy page 488 – EG White

² Testimonies for the Church, Volume 9, page 117 – EG White

³ The Great Controversy, pages 488 to 490 – EG White

⁴ Testimonies for the Church, Volume 9, page 11 – EG White

Multiplying Disciples

Pt 3: Harvest Joy

Written by Pr Glenn Townend
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION PRESIDENT

Multiplying disciples involves an intentional process - be prepared: think about decision-provoking questions... think about follow-up after the decision is made... it is rewarding, doing the work the Lord has given us

Harvest Celebration

Apricots, mandarins, and lemons, fresh from your tree, taste sweeter. Tomatoes, lettuces, carrots and sweet potato taken from your garden bring great satisfaction. Even a hobby gardener like myself gets excited when you can pick fresh food from your own garden. Usually there are no chemical sprays and sometimes a bug or two, but when you sink your teeth into a juicy apricot or tomato it all seems worth it.

Whatever the crop, harvest time is when you celebrate. As the Psalmist wrote, "He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him."¹ Harvest is party time.

Harvest Question

Right from the start of ministry I loved giving Bible studies - sharing the word of God was a real joy. After my first year of ministry, however, while I had six regular Bible studies, I saw no baptisms. The conference president was concerned and suggested to the senior pastor and churches I was working with that I needed to shift. They suggested I be given another year.

¹ Psalm 126:6 ESV
² Luke 13:21-23
³ Acts 2:38, Romans 6:3
⁴ Ephesians 1:22
⁵ 1 Corinthians 12
⁶ Acts 2:40-41

“ Disciple-making churches never stop discipling people ”

It was a good year – seeing the seeds I had been nurturing grow, seeing them come to the point of deciding to be baptised. That was what I had to learn – how to challenge people to make a decision. At the end of a Bible study about Jesus I learnt to ask “how would you like Jesus to change your life just as he did others?” Or on the topic of the Sabbath I asked – “is there anything stopping you from keeping this coming Sabbath?” Or as we discussed baptism – “when do you think you would like to be baptised?”

When we are working with people there is no development in discipleship without the person making a decision to change their life. The disciples in the church then harvest the disciples that are ready to make a full commitment to Jesus. This is the process of harvesting.

I wish I had been consistent in asking decision-making questions - even in later years people asked me “When are you going to ask me to be connected to Jesus and this Church?” They were frustrated with me – but the fact they asked the question told me they were ready for harvesting. As a church pastor I often called on

those with public evangelistic skills to help me reap those who were ready for harvest – challenging people to a decision. The Holy Spirit uses the public preaching of the truths of God’s Word and calls people to make a public commitment.

Harvest Location

Harvesting can happen in personal Bible Studies, Bible study groups, altar calls at a Sabbath worship service or in public evangelistic programs – the later are often called ‘reaping campaigns’. No farmer would do all the hard work without harvesting. Nor should any person or church disciple people without challenging people to give their whole life to Jesus.

We all have to count the cost in following Jesus. ²

Harvest Follow-on

When a person commits to Jesus through baptism, they became a part of the community of faith or the church. We are baptised into Jesus³ however Jesus is the head of the church⁴ and committed disciples are the rest of His body.⁵ The church

not only provides the care for the new followers of Jesus but also encourages and challenges them to worship personally during the week and corporately on Sabbath, to serve others in the community, to share the story of what God is doing in their life with others, and to fellowship.⁶

Harvesting is not just the joy of a baptism but the joy of integrating the new follower of Jesus into the life of the church and participation in service and evangelism. Churches that have an integration process and who give new followers mentors and a role immediately are harvesting completely.

Harvest Joy

Disciple-making disciples and churches never stop discipling people. Their whole focus is to make more and better disciples.

So if I wish you and your local church an abundant harvest I am also wishing a joyous celebration of baptism and the involvement of new followers of Jesus into the life and ministry of the church.

Pr Glenn Townsend





Youth Combine for Kids Club

Glen Huntly Church

The youth from Springvale & Glen Huntly and teamed up to run a Kids Club over the mid year holidays.

This has been an annual event at Glen Huntly Church for the past three years, led by the youth pastoral workers. Many of the children from the previous years returned again this year. One girl said "I was so excited when I saw that Kids Club was on again, I couldn't wait to come!" She was just one of thirty children, aged 3-12, who joined in from the local community.

The theme was Underwater Adventures. Each day kids heard about God's creation and learnt about His love through Bible stories. The daily Bible verse was one of the highlights for the staff as they were amazed by the kids ability to remember and recall scripture.

Games, crafts, science experiments and food activities were part of the program. Each of these different components were connected to the underwater theme and resulted in many dirty hands, sticky fingers and smiling faces.

The children all had a fun time learning about God. This couldn't have happened without passionate youth and a supportive church.

Sabbath morning saw Kids Club running during the Sabbath School time, allowing parents to come along and see what their child had been doing during the week and giving opportunity for church members to meet the families.

Thank you to all those involved. We were blessed to be able to share Jesus with the kids from the community and we pray they were blessed too!

Fraser Catton

Flow-on Effect

Werribee Church



With the church overflowing with members, visitors and family members, Caroline, Eva and Michelle dedicated their lives to Christ and were baptised into the faith.

Pr Nicola preached on the significance of baptism while Pr Daniela presided over of the baptisms.

Each woman gave a heartfelt testimony outlining her spiritual journey, which, for each of one, was at times, tortuous. While each story was different, they all experienced trials and tribulations in their search for salvation: a search that eventually led to Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer.

It was a day of great joy. Michelle's father, Fred, sang *I Love You Lord*, There was a musical item from The Samoan Boys and our pastors sang *He will Carry You*, a harmonious rendition that reflected the tranquillity that flowed over the congregation, buoyed

by the Holy Spirit.

And not so far away from the church, a mighty volume of water, swollen by the winter rains, snaked its way along the Werribee River towards Port Phillip Bay, on into Bass Strait and from there to the waterways of the world.

So too, Caroline, Eva and Michelle's baptisms dissolved sense of self through the power of the Holy Spirit, adding to the tributaries of living water, flowing and mingling with other baptisms through time and space: a living, flowing river of belief, a potent force driven by the Holy Spirit, encompassing the world in the name of Jesus Christ... forever.

Robert Bryson



Pastors Danijela and Nick Trajkov (far L and far R) with Eva, Michelle and Caroline (L-R), who declared their commitment to Christ through baptism in July

Can we partner with your church?

Literature Evangelists

Our vibrant and enthusiastic team of Literature Evangelists has been invited by many of our churches across the state to serve in their community. Your church, too, can partner with us to reach out into your neighbourhood and find people in need.

God has ordained Literature Ministry to be an important link between the church and the unchurched. As we are invited into homes, and visit with people, not only do they purchase our gospel recourses, but we become an important bridge that connects them to their local Seventh day Adventist Church.

IntraVic has shared a number of our stories with you over the recent years. We encounter hurting people and pray with them, offer them hope and put them in touch with local churches. Why not consider inviting us to your local

community?

As we visit the homes in the community around your church, we will sell books, leave free literature, pray and leave Beyond DVDs. For your church community, we will provide two training seminars, (one before the outreach and the other after) to help you connect with the people that we have met.

Your church may also wish to use our Living Well Pop-Up Book Store at a community event you may be holding. We will set up the stall at your event and 10% of the sales go toward your church's event fundraising focus. The store is often set up in many Sunday Keeping churches and this is also available for your church.

If your church would like to partner with us or to know more of what is involved, please ring/email me on 0421028171 or lejoe@tpg.com.au

Joe Paola



On the Wheels of Compassion

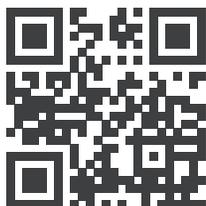
Geelong Church

Once more Jesus put His hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly - Mark 8:25

The road I see ahead of me is long and steep... I continue to pedal... my legs are aching... but I look around and take in all the colours: I can see the leaves on the trees moving, the colourful lorikeet in the branches; the beautiful sunshine beaming on my face. I praise God for the fact I CAN SEE the road ahead, I CAN SEE the hills, trees, lorikeets and sunshine. There are others that don't have the joy of seeing all the beauty around them or even the 1500m incline that awaits my legs.

Being an active church member in Geelong, I live not far from the Great Ocean Road. Last year I participated in 25,000 Spins, riding from Geelong to Warnambool over three days. This year there will be around ten Geelong members riding, raising money and awareness for *It is Written Oceania's Eyes for India* (Feel free to join us).

15 million people in India are affected by sight impairing conditions and for many, their sight can be restored by one simple surgery. This is why we have decided to put our bodies and vision to good use and raise money and awareness. **Eyes for India** provides



patients the vital surgery needed to see again physically, and then gives the gift of spiritual vision through free spiritual material in their own language.

For us, training has begun and, despite the odd aches and pains, our eyes are set on the goal; we can see the road ahead and the many people who will have their vision, both physically and spiritually, restored.

Please close your eyes for a second and imagine not seeing the important people and things in your life. These surgeries take minutes and only cost \$75.00 per person. We would love your support as together we ride for those who cannot see.

Please support us by following the QR Code or going to <http://goo.gl/6YBrc0> and giving what you can.

Michael Imri

For more information about **Eyes for India**, go here www.itiswrittenoceania.tv/eyes-for-india/



Tony Kelly, Trevor Gale & Michael Imri will be riding for **Eyes for India**

Bikers Visit

Ferntree Gully Church

Wonder what the neighbours thought when they heard the thundering broom-broom of a Biker Group entering the parking lot of our church one Sabbath in July.

Ah, but this was no ordinary Biker Group, this was the Adventist Motorcycle Ministry team and what a blessing we received when one of it's members, Chris Howard-Bath presented God's message on "Faith" during the Divine Service.

John Brereton showed a powerpoint presentation of the service and help AMMV provides to the community and certain overseas needy groups. Their slogan, "Every Ride is a Mission" really lives up to its name. May God bless AMMV as He 'rides' with them.

Elayne Stanford

If you would like to know more about AMM – such as the 2017 camp, future rides, fundraising events etc, go to Adventist Motorcycle Ministry Victoria on facebook



Powered by Tithe

Everyday, hundreds of people are at work around Victoria growing the Kingdom because of tithe. They are pastors, employed staff of the Conference and the many, many volunteers at work under church programs and church initiatives.

Together in all its disparate forms, the Seventh Day Church is powered by tithe. The bequests. The regular e-giving returners. The once a year farmer. The 'pocket lint' from my children in the offering bag each week.

Tithe reaches further than the church in Victoria. 20% is taken up by other parts of the world church to manage global programs, responsibilities, initiatives and evangelism into the developing world.

One of this issues some struggle with when God's money goes so far beyond our ability to see it is the fear that it is misused. Or wasted.

Thankfully, we are relieved of the burden of worrying about tithe because for one, its not ours, and for two, there are all sorts of accountability arrangements set up to see that tithe gets counted and



relayed to where it's needed. And thirds, if you see or hear of tithe misuse, you can report it.

Nic Bolto



Bikers overtook Ferntree Gully Church and it was a blessed Sabbath for everyone

“

...I liked learning about value and what it means for me.

...It's important to figure out why we want to live "pure" lives, and not just because the Bible says so.

...I enjoyed meeting new people and the leaders who were there to teach us rights and wrongs. Also giving more info of purity and love of women.

...This program is really wonderful and means a lot to me. I feel like home and feel more comfortable about myself.

...The messages I learn from here really influence and stick in my life.

...I love listening to all of the presenter's stories. It's nice to realise they went through the same things we do.

...It's nice to have all these amazing women to look up to and hear honestly what women of God do in these situations and how they go through life.

...There was a lot of really good advice to take away that can be applied to real life situations.

...During this weekend I have learnt my worth and value through God. I learnt purity is a working progress and God has picked the right one for me.

...What I really enjoyed about this weekend was that there was so many different activities and I got to learn so much that I never knew...I enjoyed learning about what you can do in situations and respecting your values.

...Can you raise the age to 19?

”

The Bride Wore White

Women's Ministries

Conference



This was the title of the recent Young Girl's Conference run by the Women's Ministries Department. Held twice per year and geared for high school girls, these conferences offer support and discussion around young girls issues, and are a great opportunity to have some fun and form lasting friendships. Run by women for young women, this program is centred on the principles of mentorship, relationship and growing together as women in Christ.

"Growing up, womanhood was one of the biggest question marks I had in my head," says one of the presenters, Jayneen. "I felt like society was expecting me to somehow grow into this person called "woman", but it wasn't giving me the tools I needed to actually achieve this. I wish I'd had something like this when I was a young girl... I had to learn the hard way! I now participate to give back. I read a quote once that said 'be the person you needed when you were younger'. The media tries too hard to erode the confidence and self-esteem of our young girls... It's a really vulnerable stage in life. If I have the opportunity to share some ways to make it through this minefield, then my goodness I will! And I will keep doing so, in the hope that it will make a difference in the life of even just one girl who may be struggling."

Lorraine, another of the presenters, had this to say... "Every time I am involved with Young Girls Conference I always wish that I had someone to do that for me. For me it's about

mentorship and sharing our stories of struggle and growth in a practical and spiritual way. The Bride Wore White was a great program that helped us talk about purity and see how it's attached to how we value ourselves. I think the program was great."

"I love being a part of this ministry," said Bec, another presenter. "I is passionate about reaching out to young girls in a way that is real, practical, fun and loving. We talk about all aspects of life and relationships and we bring God into the core of it all. This world is a tough place to navigate and I really love being a mentor and helping young women in the way I wish someone had helped me at their age. This was the first time I presented. I was able to share with the girls the reality of the times we live in and the war that we are a part of. Together, we unmasked the lies that we believe from the enemy and this world about relationships and ourselves. I challenged them (and myself) that our worth is not in us and what we do, but it comes from God and the great price that was paid for us in Christ. Our worth can never change, because God can never change. The most rewarding part of the weekend was talking during discussion times. They were asking the right questions. They were thinking. They were learning new tools. They were making life-changing decisions and it was a blessing to be a part of it."



IntraVic

Pied Piper Ponderings

Safe Place Services

After a week of disbelief, make believe and 'fake-belief', I am left wondering as to whose voice we are hearing in the world today... and more importantly who amplifies the voices of children?

There appears to be a 'VOID OF VOICES'. Where are the Gandhis, Mother Teresas, Nelson Mandelas, Martin- Luther Kings? Where are the new voices – Malala? Why do they all fade and become muted? Who speaks 'out' and 'up' for the children? Who will be the next Pied Piper?

Who can see and hear the cries, the 'gagged silence'...the shocked pain and learned responses of a child? (Ps 49 - MSG)

In August, the world saw what is beyond belief – a child, covered in dust and blood, sitting in an ambulance – not crying, no expression. Torn from his home in the middle of the night. No screams. Shocked – yes. But muted acceptance. This is as good as it gets! This is life.... This is what it is like to live in this 'rat-infested world'. Learning that we aren't immortal, we don't last long. Like our dogs we age and weaken...and die (Ps 43 MSG).

Notably, many took to social media to 'bleat' out their individualistic angst, their shock over this incident. It touched an unusual chord – a wish to 'Heal the World'. Yet these voices, though searching for a rallying of the

Image from Aleppo Media Centre via The Guardian (<http://goo.gl/CYQote>)



troops, sounded only like 'tinkling bells', not the needed clarions...

How do we progress from these small 'bleats' to an awakening of the inherent power of a world-view generated by love, not fear?

Hopelessly, we see ourselves, our children and our children's children, in the wide-eyed acceptance of that Syrian boy. A numbing nonchalance that devilishly persuades us that it is all too much; there is nothing that can be done... At a loss to know what to do, say and feel...

So we stop our ears to hear and close our eyes to see.

Yet our heart's cry is for the bravery to be a VOICE. To join other 'voices'... to swell so LOUD there will be no misunderstanding our intent and purpose to be HEARD.

We must not be duped into thinking we are voiceless, inevitably bound to form a 'consensus' of helpless acceptance...

We must renew our minds - our God is our Safe Place (Ps 46) and He is ready to help us to be a VALUABLE and VALUING VOICE.

We must follow His love in action, be aware of the needs (Ps 48) and determined to love right and hate wrong (Ps 45).

THEN we cannot be anything but a voice that takes children seriously...

After all....it shouldn't hurt to be a child.

Sue Mercer

Speech by The Hon. Justice Peter McClellan AM, Chair of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse <http://goo.gl/YFJNY1>

You CAN have a voice... you CAN make a difference: support the children in you lives, your homes, your churches, and as opportunity arises further afield... in your communities and beyond...

But don't put it off. It starts as simply as empathising, listening, wanting to learn more, then raising someone else's awareness...

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE:

In need of support?

Lifeline: www.lifeline.org.au

Beyond Blue:

www.beyondblue.org.au

Needing to raise their voice & make a disclosure?

Brochures on handling disclosures:

SafePlaceServices.org.au

Police: <http://goo.gl/wkJSps>

Royal Commission:

<http://goo.gl/hu08U7>

Needing to raise their voice to make a difference for children?

Commission for Children & Young

People: <http://goo.gl/5wvyRe>

(See Appendix 1 for the UN

Convention on the Rights of the Child)

Australian Human Rights

Commission: <https://goo.gl/fJqOsL>

Local Members of Parliament

ADRA: www.ADRA.org.au

Asian Aid: www.asianaid.org.au

UNICEF: www.unicef.org.au

World Vision:

www.worldvision.com.au

Amnesty International:

www.amnesty.org.au

Bravehearts: bravehearts.org.au

NAPCAN - Participate in the

Prevention of Child all year round:

napcan.org.au

Child First - fact sheet:

<http://goo.gl/6DAP2N>

Child First - step by step guide to

reporting: <http://goo.gl>

Wanting to support children find their own voice:

Kids Helpline: kidshelpline.com.au

Bravehearts: bravehearts.org.au

Commission for Children & Young

People: www.cryp.vic.gov.au

Children's Ministries:

VicKids@adventist.org.au



GROW Conference Ministerial

Over 100 Elders & local Church leaders from around Victoria gathered at Camp Howqua in June. The theme for the weekend was "Mission."

Gerson Santos, from the General Conference, shared stories from around the world of where the Church is being faithful to its mission. He challenged his listeners to fulfil their God given role of leadership, demonstrating biblically that the role of Elder and Pastor is one and the same. He spoke frankly about the achievements and challenges before the Church. On the final morning Gerson described 'Centres of Influence' and how they can help the Church fulfil its mission when other means of reaching our communities may be difficult.

Anthony Wagner Smith is the Church Planting Coordinator for Florida Conference. He captivated those present with his insights and engaging presentations.

Other workshops were presented by Cristian Copaceanu, David Butcher and Julie Catton. They presented practical workshops in the areas of rediscovering simple and painless evangelism, sharing your faith, and church as a village where children develop a faith that sticks.

The presentations from Gerson and Anthony are available at VictorianAdventist.TV. These excellent presentations could be used in leadership meetings at the local church.

If you are an Elder or local church leader you are invited to attend the next GROW Conference in the last weekend of July 2017 to be better equipped, encouraged and have the opportunity to network with other local church leaders.

*Darren Croft
Ministerial Association Secretary*



Aged Care Closure AdventCare Yarra Ranges



After much prayer and thoroughly exploring options for continued viability it was with much sadness, the AdventCare board recognised that AdventCare could no longer viably operate the Yarra Ranges facility, now or into the future and the decision was made to cease operations. Please keep the people of the Yarra Valley in your prayers. There's been a lot of hurt, disappointment and frustration from the staff, residents, church and community about the announcement of the closure of the Yarra Ranges Aged Care home at Warburton.

A group representing the Warburton church have presented to the Conference Executive Committee and to the AdventCare Board of Directors in an effort to keep the home open. Their recommendations have been evaluated thoroughly and prayerfully. Over the last two years there has been dialogue with the Aged Care review committee established by the Warburton church. All options suggested have been reviewed thoroughly by the Board over the last two years and again recently since the closure was announced.

In mid 2014, the AdventCare Independent Review panel made a very significant recommendation regarding the Yarra Ranges home - that a twelve month moratorium, be approved before a final decision is made regarding the future of Yarra Ranges, on the condition that:

- In the first six months of this moratorium a Strategic Plan and a viable Business Plan for its continued operation be prepared in close consultation with the Warburton Church, and
- If it is shown it cannot operate profitably, an alternative plan for its future, including an implementation timeframe, be worked out with the direct involvement of the Warburton Church.

More than two years ago, together we've identified the issues:

1. Financial difficulties, highlighted by low income, higher operating costs, low RADS/Bonds, and the high ratio of supported residents.
2. The building – rooms are only 2/3 the minimum required size to enable the care needs of high care residents to be met. The small rooms prevent the use of lifting machines and other bulky equipment needed for high care residents. This as a financial impact because only residents with lower care needs can be provided for. This generates lower ACFI (government) funding with the result that 21 of the 31 rooms generate income that is 25% lower than the other rooms.
3. Risk to resident care in small rooms as care needs increase.

More than two years ago, together we identified questions for AdventCare to follow through:

1. Are we over staffed? Where can savings be made?
2. Could we cut our head office cost?
3. Can we increase income?
4. Could we obtain more bed licences? Would that make it more profitable?
5. Could we upgrade the facility? Turn 3 rooms into 2, so as to increase room size to achieve compliance?

In the last two years, together we've diligently sought answers and explored options on the following strategy:

1. Planning to redevelop the home to ensure compliance issues can be addressed
2. Finances – reducing costs and increasing income.

This resulted in the following:

1. Significant costs have been reduced for running the facility.
2. A significant uplift in ACFI (government funding) has been achieved. This resulted in a reduction in losses from (\$606,498) in 2014 to (\$225,000) for the financial year ending June 2016. That's a good effort – but not good enough to make the home viable.
3. We applied for more bed licences but our application was unsuccessful. We had a demographic needs analysis conducted which indicated there are already too many aged care beds in the valley according to government ratios.
4. We involved Warburton members with the Master Planning committee to look for an affordable way to upgrade the facility – the Quantity Surveyor has estimated the cost would be \$2.5 million dollars.
5. A business plan was developed by AdventCare for the Yarra Ranges home – but the financial outcomes were marginal at best and then when the federal government announced plans to cut aged care funding significantly, the AdventCare Board of Directors found that the plan was not viable nor sustainable.

Consistent with the consultation over the past two years, before any decision was made, I phoned as many people from

Christmas in July



July in Melbourne is predictably cold wet and subsequently often uninviting. But that was not the case for more than 700 people who attended the Christmas in July Extravaganza at the Box Hill town hall on the 9th and the 10th.

Prior to the commencement of the main program, the audience was offered a variety of experiences, which included a sit-down Christmas dinner, snack and food stalls and children's activities – face painting, crafts, colouring in packs and take home Christmas gifts. The program was interwoven with carols and messianic prophecies of Jesus' first advent. The host for the event was Pr. Geoff Youlden, ably supported by a choir and orchestra.

At the conclusion of the Box Hill programs people were invited to register for seminars that revealed prophecies regarding Jesus' second advent; 85 attendees took up this offer, with 105 registrations also received for the Beyond DVD's.

In addition to the Box Hill site, there were five other venues across Melbourne and regional Victoria hosting Christmas in July programs (Tullamarine, Sunshine, Moe, Traralgon and Bairnsdale). The combined attendance at these five venues was approximately 650 people.

Pastors and church members are now faithfully delivering Beyond DVD's to those who registered. Some one-on-one Bible studies have eventuated, and relationships are being established. Follow-up prophecy seminars and small group studies are continuing across eleven venues and a number of the current seminar participants have had previous contact through other church related programs and avenues, not just Christmas in July.

Soul winning is never easy. There are

Christmas in July at Box Hill Town Hall

forces always at play, and yet with the Great Commission we also have the assurance of the promise of Jesus: that He will be with us always, in this vital work (Matt 28:19).

There is no silver bullet with evangelism. With this Christmas in July initiative, we were endeavouring to connect the community one-step further in their relationship with Jesus. This 'bridge-building' initiative could not have eventuated if it were not for the incredible ministry of Road to Bethlehem, founded more than two decades ago, and faithfully supported by scores of volunteers from around Melbourne, and particularly the Nunawading Church. We wish to thank Road to Bethlehem, for cultivating the soil for us to continue planting more seed. We also thank the churches and volunteers from across Melbourne and regional areas that have assisted with the Christmas in July programs.

As Seventh-day Adventist Christians we need to be relentless in seeking and searching for new opportunities and avenues to reach people, because this is what God has done for us.

May our individual and collective experience be like that of the Apostle Paul. "I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." (1 Corinthians 9:22, NKJV). Please pray for the ongoing follow-up initiatives from this Christmas in July event, taking place across our Conference.

*Pr David Butcher
Personal Ministries Department*

Aged Care Closure-continued...

Warburton as I could, letting them know the future of the Yarra Ranges home was on the agenda for the AdventCare Board on that day. I asked them to please pray that God would guide the board.

I was asked if they could get others involved in prayer. I said, "Yes." They wanted to know if they could get their friends praying. "Yes," I said.

I remember a response from one of the Warburton people very clearly, "We will pray and we believe God will guide the board in their decision. We do not believe it is God's will to close the home, but we do believe God will guide the board to a decision that is

God's will."

As I mentioned, after much prayer and thoroughly exploring every option available, with much sadness, the board realised that AdventCare can no longer operate the Yarra Ranges facility and the decision was made to close the home. After the years of accumulated and anticipated losses, the AdventCare board has also had regard to its stewardship of church resources and the continuing financial impact on the resources of AdventCare and its mission and ability to provide the best care possible in its operations in Victoria. Please keep Warburton and the people of the Yarra valley in your prayers.

*Pr Graeme Christian
Conference President*



Remembering Pr Stenio Gungadoo Ministerial

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Pr Stenio Gungadoo.

Stenio, who worked here in Victoria from 2001 until his recent retirement, was visiting Kenya where he was scheduled to be a guest presenter at Camp Meetings, but passed away suddenly on Saturday, August 20.

Many lives were impacted in Victoria through Stenio's preaching, teaching, pastoring, administering, mentoring and leadership. He was a wise counsellor with a love for learning and a deep commitment to the study of the Word. He was passionate about digging into the Scriptures and sharing his discoveries with others through preaching and teaching. He served as a leader and administrator and enjoyed equipping the church and being involved in evangelism.

"When I started working in the Conference Office" recalls Pr Darren Croft, Ministerial Secretary, "it would be Stenio who would drop by on occasion to dig together into some Biblical gem that he had discovered – it was what I always considered a welcome distraction.

"When he 'retired' I asked him what words of advice he had for me. His response was "Eat lunch more often", a reflection on the need to slow down at times and enjoy the gift of life."

Yet even in retirement, Stenio did not really slow down, continuing with his passion – Sharing Jesus Christ.

We remember Stenio's wife Maryse and his family in our prayers and look forward to the next lunch we get to share with Pr Stenio Gungadoo, who passed away, doing what he loved. *IntraVic*

Dylan Parker



Combined Day of Worship

Paper Planes

This year at Combined Schools Day of Worship on 11 & 12 August the guest speaker was Dylan Parker.

Dylan, who inspired Robert Connolly's feature film, PAPER PLANES, survived a life threatening golf ball sized brain tumour during his quest for paper plane success. Right before the Paper Plane Throwing National Championships, he underwent surgery. The surgery was successful but it taught him that no matter what, you need to do the things you love and strive for greatness regardless of what stands in your way. Dylan's talk inspired and motivated our students to make the most of every opportunity that comes their way, no matter how small, because you can never know what it might turn into. His message: Small Things Matter - do them well, so you can be trusted with bigger things.

reVIBE

Nunawading Christian College

At the beginning of 2016, a group of Year 10 students got together with an idea to start a small group at NCC. The very first reVIBE was held on the first Friday night of the school term. The Year 10 leaders invited their friends from school to attend. About 20 teens attended the first program and it continues to run every Friday night.

Each Friday starts with praise and worship, icebreakers and then breaks into small group discussions and Bible study. The leaders have enlisted the help of other NCC students to run icebreakers and teach lessons. It ends with refreshments brought by the students.

We are incredibly blessed by the initiative of our students who started and continue to run this amazing ministry. Thank you for your commitment.



Employment Opportunities

- We are looking for qualified staff to work at our new ELC and invite expressions of interest to be email to asvhr@adventist.org.au. Please send include a copy of your CV.
- With expansion to school enrolments for 2017, Adventist Schools Victoria is looking for additional teachers to staff a number of its schools. If you have a passion for Adventist Education and would like to join our team of teachers, please submit your expression of interest to our Education Director, Brian Mercer, at asveddirector@adventist.org.au



Early Learning Centre to Open

Plans are underway to open an Early Learning Centre at Heritage College (Officer). The current building, which was originally purpose built as an ELC, will be vacated by the current classes to make way for the program. Classes will be relocated to the new Primary building which is expected to reach completion by November this year.

Child Protection

The Board of Directors and the ASV office are committed to ensuring that our schools are safe places for children.

In response to the recommendations of the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and other Non-Government Organisations and the handing down of Ministerial Order No 870, our schools system has been working to ensure that it is compliant with the minimum standards for 'child safe environments'. Our current policies and procedures are being strengthened to ensure a zero tolerance to child abuse. The implementation of the new child safe standards will go further than those held previously with stronger

accountability mechanisms in place to respond to and report complaints responsibly and without delay.

Staff from the ASV office, Principals and School Staff will receive additional Child Protection training to ensure a comprehensive understanding of how to implement the new standards.

For more information about the new standards:

Link to VRQA website - www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsaf



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

Gilson College

Taylors Hill Campus

Phone: 03 9365 9365

Mernda Campus

Phone: 03 9717 7300

www.gilsoncollege.com

Henderson College

Phone: 03 5024 5192

henderson.adventist.edu.au

Heritage College

Narre Warren South Campus

Phone: 03 9796 0100

Officer Campus

Phone: 03 5943 2900

www.heritagecollege.com.au

Nunawading Christian College

Primary Campus

Phone: 03 9878 9927

Secondary Campus

Phone: 03 9877 3555

ncc2.vic.edu.au

Happy Hands - off to a great start

Our newest Happy Hands site is off to a great start at Heritage College Officer. If you live locally and would like to enrol, the program runs on Mondays from 10:00-11:30am. Enrolments can be submitted on the Happy Hands Art Time website at <http://www.happyhandsart.com/>



Great News! More School Buildings

The Victorian Independent Schools Block Grant Authority (VISBGA) has granted more funding for our schools to the value of \$1.7m.

These funds will be used at Nunawading Christian College Secondary to refurbish the library and Science classroom, and to complete the secondary building at Gilson College Mernda (affectionately known as the bird cage due to the population of local birdlife that has taken up residence in the vacant and unroofed

Mernda's 'Bird Cage'



double storey building). We are very grateful for these funds to further develop our school properties.



Nunawading's proposed Library Plans

Formerly the staff rooms and office



ADRA

...in a *Practical Way*

Building Bridges between ADRA, Community and Church

Poverty Challenge

Shout out to the Carrum Downs Samoan Pathfinders for raising over \$1600 for ADRA's education projects in Lebanon and Thailand -Eden Valley Academy.

The Pathfinders went without food for 24 hours, and then experienced raids for 24 hours, no sleep and a life of a refugee. They were blindfolded, shot- at (virtually), learnt how their toilets had cleaner water than what some 650 million people have to drink in developing countries and they discussed key topics around privilege, poverty, causes of poverty, community development, emergency management (disasters) and how compassion, service, love and following Jesus' example can only bring happiness in a sinful world.

Thank you again for your selfless act. For letting go of your privileges for one day to gain an insight into the pain of poverty.

Rebecca Auriant



New Projects and Expansions for 2016



Lindy Parker, Operations Mgr, Rebecca Auriant & Veronica Hunt, Housing Services Mgr

ADRA's Women and Families Project will provide opportunities for church and community members to utilize their God-given gifts to serve others in need.

On August 10th, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ADRA and Women's Housing Ltd (WHL), which focuses on human rights, particularly the basic rights of women (and their children) to housing, healthcare, education and employment. Since their establishment in 1997, they have been listening to and validating women's experiences, and acting as their voice in the housing sector.

WHL is a registered housing provider and manages 108 transitional properties - these are short term housing, generally up to 18 months for single women and women and children who have experienced family violence or who are experiencing housing stress in private rental. These clients are linked with support agencies to assist them to secure long term housing. WHL also manages 96 community housing tenancies, aimed at supporting women on low income, and over 200 tenancies in eight sites, aimed at supporting single women and men.

Properties are located in Altona

Meadows, Ascot Vale, Bayswater, Bentleigh, Berwick, Brighton, Footscray, Kensington, Meadow Heights, Mount Martha, Werribee and Sunshine.

Opportunities have been identified for us to help build community at these housing sites in the areas of healthy cooking on a budget, community gardening, conversational English, homework clubs, kids clubs, arts/ crafts therapy and welcome/care packs for women escaping family violence.

If your church can help in any of these areas please email rauriant@adra.org.au for more information.

Overgrown community garden



ADRA APPEAL 2016

#Knocktober is the ADRA Appeal in October. The Appeal supports over 800 individuals and families experiencing hardship each week in Victoria through ADRA's:

- Women's and Families Project
- Settle Assist
- Vive Café – Community Meals Program
- The Redwood Community Centre
- 11 Emergency Relief outlets across the state

ADRA works in more than 120 developing countries around the world, and has a presence in almost 100 Australian communities.

New projects in 2016 have the following key elements:

1. **Opportunities to Thrive: Churches and volunteers to provide wellbeing, upskilling and/or life programs to support people in need, and develop mentoring relationships**
2. **Opportunities for church engagement through a wide range of activities**
3. **Opportunities to promote our health message and wellbeing programs**
4. **Opportunities for families to serve others together**

“ *In order to Thrive you need to develop the *Circle of Courage model: A sense of belonging; a sense of independence and a sense of generosity* ”

*Brendtro, L., Brokenleg, M., Van Bockern, S. (1990, 2002). Reclaiming Youth at Risk: Our Hope for the Future. Solution Tree, Bloomington, IN.

Vive Café receives \$5,000 Community Grant from Maroondah Council

Thank you to the City of Maroondah for a \$5000 cheque for Vive Cafe! Both Leslie Baul (Manager) and Rebecca Auriant (Conference ADRA Director) shared about Vive Cafe's work to the Maroondah Mayor, Councillors and the community grant recipients.



Bec & Les (Vive Café) shared with Maroondah Council and local members, and received a grant from the council

“Such a privilege to work alongside some amazing community groups and an honour to receive support from Maroondah Council. Leslie said. “Thanks to all of our amazing volunteers for your dedication and commitment to Serving the Community.”

To who it may concern,

As a homeless father of three children under fourteen, and suffering from mental and physical health problems as well as severe financial hardship, and having no family or friends in Victoria, I was at a point where suicide looked to be the only way out. We are squatting in an abandoned factory/warehouse, and initially had no warm bedding or clothes. Somehow I always found enough for the kids to eat and made sure I had fuel to take them to school, but it was a real effort to get by. Also isolating as I had very limited adult conversation.

Early in July I was told to contact Les at vive café. I was reluctant to ask for help, but made the call and I can honestly say that that call and the

subsequent hot meal, warm clothes and much needed blankets, as well as the moral support and prayers that Les, Tim and everyone else at Vive provided, saved me from giving up totally.

The boys and I really look forward to our weekly outing, and I can feel like I am part of society again. I cannot express my gratitude to EVERYONE at Vive, with the groceries from there and not having to worry about one meal a week I have been able to have some hope for our future.

Vive is a valuable service to the homeless and disadvantaged in the area. WE NEED VIVE CAFÉ!

Thank you, Jon



Homeless Outreach – supporting the people doing it tough in the city. There are over *22,000 people homeless every night in Victoria. In the Melbourne CBD alone over 200 people are sleeping rough due to a rise in the cost of living, lack of safe housing and mental health issues. At Vive Café in Croydon there are people sleeping in their cars and in warehouses as they are afraid to live in rooming houses. (*Source: Council to Homeless Persons)

Settle Assist expands to Dandenong

Thanks to the Dandenong Filipino-Australian Adventist Church for opening their doors during the week to support newly arrived migrants and refugees. The Settle Assist project in the heart of Dandenong will include a community garden, healthy cooking on a budget, FOODCentrs, conversational English and a kids gardening club.

We need more support for the cooking demonstrations, so if you can help, email the Manager: MichaelaJones@adventist.org.au

Michaela Jones with John Chilton and Mebzar Quinto Working on the Settle Assist Project



Another of our Settle Assist projects is mentoring new immigrants as they gain experience driving, before they take their driving test. We have had another successful student recently get her licence.

Dickyi was so excited to get her licence and incredibly grateful for the assistance she received from her mentor.

She and her father met with her mentor for a celebratory icecream afterward, where they shared some of the incredible and heartbreaking story of their lives as refugees, before coming to Australia.

This project offers important assistance and helps give new immigrants independence and increase their ability to gain employment. If you would like to be a part of this, and bring joy and hope to people in need of this help, contact MichaelaJones@Adventist.org.au.



Community Helping Hands

Springvale SDA Youth

At the end of last year we had a meeting with the youth to discuss what they wanted to do for 2016. One of the things they were passionate about was community service.

It started with the idea of cleaning houses for elderly people or people who struggle in the Greater Dandenong Community. The passion stemmed from more than just helping people, it was mostly about making positive connections and sharing the love of God. We were blessed to go through with this project because of the South Pacific Division's *Give Them The Keys* Project.

We officially started in May 2016 with help from ADRA getting us in contact with Cornerstone Dandenong to reach out to members of the community. Since then we have continued once a month visiting homes and helping clean up their gardens.

The youth have diligently participated and whilst at first it might have seemed like a waste of time for some, the experience ignited a passion to continue.

It's been a absolute blessing to see these young people grow in their faith through serving others and seeing first hand the fruits of their labour.

Elsa Cangy



Youth-driven Regionals

Eastern Regional

July 16 Sabbath saw around 250 youth attending the Eastern Youth Regional at Edinburgh College in Lilydale. Hosted by Lilydale Youth, with guest speaker Pr Chris Stanley, presenting a challenging message about what it takes to "Stand with God" by committing our lives completely to Him.

Highlights of the day included the combined talents of energetic musicians and singers who led out in spirit filled praise and worship. There were testimonies from local churches around the region sharing how active youth groups are impacting their communities. ADRA Ambassadors introduced the ADRA food van concept for the homeless. Last but not least was the awesome hot jam donuts that were provided!

"Having the opportunity to be involved in an event where like minded people can come together to worships God was a blessing."
- Jayden

It was great for everyone to be together and to meet new people and fellowship through music and a beautiful message.
- Monique

Regional was a fulfilling experience, with enthusiastic and heartfelt music. Pr Stanley really connected with the youth to produce a great message,



which was easily understood. - Josh

"A fantastic, Spirit-filled Sabbath - so good to see people of different ages and from different churches meet together. Great worship, powerful message and delicious hot jam donuts!"

- Alanah
I enjoyed it, the musos we're energetic which is refreshing and the message was impactful, "Commit to stand with God." - Jess

The time together finished with a traditional Adventist lunch- HAYSTACKS! It was a fantastic day at Mernda, and the most awesome thing is that practically everything. Thank you to those who worked so hard in bringing it all together, and thank you to God for the community that was shared.

Northern regional

The morning of July 30 was predictably cold in Mernda, to the north of Melbourne. But there, on the Campus of Gilson College, a hive of activity was brought to life. Over 200 young people came together to celebrate their common connection with God, and to meet new friends. First up, we enjoyed some vibrant discussion, centred around the theme of purpose. As Christians, we have a broad purpose to love God and others as ourselves (the Golden Rule). But on an individual level, God also has a specific purpose for each of us to live out, and life is complete when we follow it. Christian Copaceanu followed on from this, when he spoke around the theme of "Reason. Purpose. Hope" and challenged each one there to connect more often with God, and thinking about where each one stands in God's plan.



StormCo Nunawading Youth 2016

There is something so fulfilling about being active in our community. StormCo has always been an amazing way to share our love of Jesus with those who have not yet experienced Him. This year 25 people connected to Nunawading youth headed down to Camperdown, which is a rural community in Victoria.

What I love about StormCo is the family you create and the spiritual growth that occurs when we serve others because we focus less on ourselves and more on Jesus and what he has called us to do.

"Use me God. Show me how to take who I am, who I want to be, and what I can do and use it for a greater purpose than myself."

- Haylee



Every year we go we get to see a new element arise and this year we implemented a 'Youth Week' where past Kids Club members could come and hang out in a way that didn't make them feel like children. We wanted them to know that Jesus isn't just for when you are little, Jesus is a forever present Rock that can guide you through every challenge life throws at you. So many amazing moments in such a short week!!

- Bec

I loved StormCo this year, I'm glad I could make it, even though a few things didn't work out for me. But looking back now I'm really pleased I went. It was nice to let my guard down and enjoy just being with people who where there for the same reasons.

- Adam

I fell in love with StormCo. I grew a deeper connection with God! Looking back now, I see so many God-moments and I thank him for those. StormCo is not an experience, but rather a journey - a journey where you grow, develop and change as a person! StormCo was an experience like no other.

- Becky



Restore One Mildura Church

In the July holidays this year, our youth team was lucky enough to go over to Cambodia with Restore One. Our small team of six had an absolutely amazing time with Tanya and her team over there and each of us was blessed by everyone we came into contact with.

We were blown away by the effects of the country's cruel history and taken back by the love of the locals.

We were able to help in a small way, by nailing the floors down in the secondary school being built to help keep the local girls safe.

It was such a highlight to see the local children and their smiling faces. We are hugely grateful to Tanya and the whole team at Restore One... and already, we are looking forward to going back again.

Krystelle Holman

Warragul & Moe Take Over Ascot Vale Church Youth Day

"Where is the Love"... That was the theme

On Sabbath 30 July, Moe and Warragul Church Youth groups made the trip in to the inner suburb church at Ascot Vale.

The Moe group took charge of the Sabbath school program; while Josh Saliba took care of the Adult class in the church. (It was his first time ever taking an adult lesson).

Danielle Saliba and Nicholas Sande played a tag team leading out with a much enlarged youth class.

The 11am service was taken by the Warragul group using the theme of "Where is the Love?" Julia Couacaud led out as MC and was ably assisted by her brother Hudson, and Rachel and Kimberley Martin.

The main message was delivered in three parts with Elise Boxshall speaking about our sinful nature, Adam Selent speaking about Jesus changing our hearts and Matthew Boxshall speaking about practical actions from a changed heart. The final song was a reminder that we are all brothers and sisters.

Big thanks to Andy Scale for waking up early to drive the bus loaded with youth to Ascot Vale. And Josh who came from Cowwar about 2.5 hour drive.

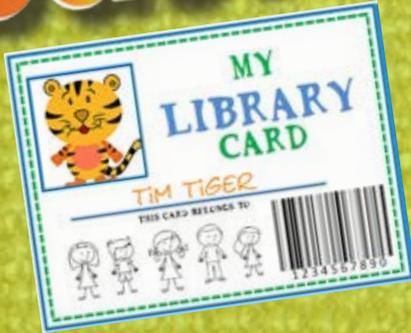
WE WERE ALL RICHLY BLESSED.
Thank you Ascot Vale Church for putting on a big-heart lunch and hosting us.

Paul Holton



JUST4KIDS

CHILD OF GOD



Do you know what this is? That's right, it's a library card. Do you have one? If you don't you should definitely get one! One of the great things about a library card is that it is available to everyone. It doesn't matter if you are young or



old. It doesn't matter if you are a boy or girl. It doesn't matter if your skin is red, brown, yellow, black, or white. It doesn't matter where you were born or who your parents are. Everyone is welcome.

Another great thing about the library is that once you become a member, you are entitled to all the benefits and services that the library provides. You can check out books and videos – even music. You can go to the library and read magazines. You can even use the computer.

Oh, by the way, do you know how much it costs to join the library? Nothing! membership is free!! You know, that is a pretty good picture of what it is like to be a member of the family of God.

The Bible tells us that when we trust in Jesus we are the children of God. It doesn't matter if you are a boy or a girl. It doesn't matter what colour your skin is. We are all God's children.

The Bible also tells us that when we belong to God's family we get the benefits of being a child of God. All of the promises that God has made belong to you! Isn't that great?

Oh, by the way, do you know how much it costs to become a part of the family of God?

Nothing!
It is a gift from God!

Play this with your family!

Choose one person to be IN. Have everyone else in your family HIDE.

When the 'in' person finds someone hiding, the found person become in too and holds hands to run and find more family members. Continue to play until all players are found!

Craft Activity
Cut up some paper strips in different colours. Decorate and add stickers and the words 'CHILD OF GOD' and wear it on your head like a crown.

ACTIVITY TO TRY!

Decorate an envelope and write FAITH in big colourful letters. Write the Bible verses from Galatians 3:26-29 on a piece of paper and put it in the envelope.

Share your FAITH envelope with someone.



Julie Catton
Director of
Childrens Ministries
03 9264 7777





Road to Bethlehem

Please put the RTB dates in your diaries – this year it will run from December 12-15 at the Edinburgh College property in Lilydale – and ask God whom you can bring to discover the true Christmas Story.

Preparations are underway and we are excited to announce that Karen Horsley (from Nunawading Church) has taken on the role of chairperson for RTB. On the central committee Karen is joined by Deborah Sajdl (Nunawading), Daniel and Charlotte Carey (Nunawading), Lesley Clark (Wantirna), Phil Fehlberg (Wantirna), Caz Dunne (Nunawading), Shelley Fairall (Nunawading), Kevin and Janette Doyle (Wantirna), Tom Schlaeppli (Nunawading) and Meredith Allen (Burwood). We thank prior committee members, Simone Mifsud (Public Relations), Josh Wood (Pastor), Janelle Cameron (Treasurer) and Moe Stiles (Chairperson) for their valued contribution to this ministry.

Thank you to those who are continuing in their roles in this next chapter of RTB and to those who are passing on the baton and sharing their wisdom with new team members while stepping down from their role. We praise God for each of you!

It is certainly not too late to get involved in RTB for 2016. Go to Vic.Adventist.org.au where you can indicate how you want to be involved under Events Registration.

Also we are having a **working bee on October 9** beginning at 9am to move from Nunawading to Lilydale. We need all hands on deck and lunch will be provided. If you are able to assist at any point throughout the day, please contact Daniel Cary on 0416 308 791 or dan137carey@gmail.com

You can also contribute financially : Acc Name - Road to Bethlehem; BSB - 013-017; Acc No - 1974-39585 .

And of course, by praying for this important work of sharing Jesus with Victoria.

Meredith Allen

Notices

@ Vic.Adventist.org.au under the News & Announcements tab ~ Deaf Camp October 28-31 ~ North Fitzroy Thanksgiving Service November 5 ~ Concert of Beautiful Music November 18 ~ Employment opportunities & more

God Did an Awesome Thing Cont from page 5

his ministry became more effective as it was no longer his – it was God's. Prayer was changing him.

About eight months later, he saw a new family in church and assumed they were from out of town. Greeting them at the door after the service, he found they were not visitors from elsewhere but in fact neighbours of the church.

The husband explained, "I was fishing in Alaska and my boss there was an ex-Adventist. Every evening he'd gather the crew and talk about his philosophy of life. One day he told us, 'If you ever go to church, try the Seventh-day Adventist Church.' When I got home, my wife said, I feel like, as a family, we should take God more seriously." They saw the Adventist church across the street and decided to give it a try.

They were hungry for God and studied with Joseph twice a week. Two months later they were baptised. As Joseph shared their story with the congregation, he shared his own as well, telling of his struggle with prayer, and how he prayed in the church for them and that one of his prayers was that God would send him someone to baptise. "The God of the whole universe was listening to the prayers of a discouraged pastor in the middle of nowhere, and He gave me this couple."

An elderly member came to the front crying. In front of everyone, he said, "I have four grown children and all of

them are far from the Lord. If God answered the prayers of Pastor Joe and brought him this family, He will answer my prayer and give me my children and their families. I'm going to pray day and night for them. Will you pray for them and for me? Hold me accountable and remind me that God answers prayer?" As he finished his testimony, a woman from the other side of the church came forward sharing a similar testimony.

That Sabbath morning, more than ten people gave testimonies and a prayer movement began. People started to pray before, during, and after church, during the week, on the weekends. They prayed individually and in groups, they prayed earnestly and with passion.

Eight years later, that church had grown from 30 defeated people to about 500 fully devoted followers of Jesus who were turning their city upside down. The church growth strategies Joseph had implemented hadn't worked – it was prayer that transformed their lives and their church.

We are busy people. Deadlines loom, appointments press, tasks demand attention every hour. And in all this busyness, it's easy to ignore the one true priority. Let's reject busyness and answer the whispered invitation of God to commune with Him. God is faithful to His promises. He wants to repeat this success story over and over and over—starting with you.

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¹ "Reflections," Christianity Today 29 (Dec. 13, 1985):46.

² [Zech. 4:6, NIV].

³ [Carl Webber in Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, eds. R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke (Chicago, IL: Moody Bible Institute, 1981), 171, 172.]

⁴ [Jn 15:4,5 nkjv]

⁵ [Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7 (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1948), 194.]

⁶ [Acts 1:14]

⁷ [2 Chron. 7:14, NIV]

⁸ [Selected Messages, vol. 1 (Washington, DC: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1958), 121.]

radical grace

JESUS LEADS US INTO A PLACE OF RADICAL GRACE WHERE WE ARE ABLE TO CELEBRATE THE HOPE OF EXPERIENCING GOD'S GLORY.

ROMANS 5:2

15.10.16

10:30AM NUNAWADING CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(161 CENTRAL RD, NUNAWADING)
with LORRAINE NGWENYA
LUNCH TO FOLLOW RALLY

VICYOUTH

Seventh-day Adventist Church

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CASTING BY LORRAINE NGWENYA
COSTUME DESIGNER LORRAINE NGWENYA
HAIR AND MAKEUP LORRAINE NGWENYA
PRODUCTION DESIGNER LORRAINE NGWENYA
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS LORRAINE NGWENYA AND PETER WOODS
PRODUCED BY LORRAINE NGWENYA AND PETER WOODS
EDITED BY LORRAINE NGWENYA
MUSIC BY LORRAINE NGWENYA
COSTUME DESIGNER LORRAINE NGWENYA
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GIVE FREELY.
LOVE DEEPLY.
ACT MERCIFULLY.

Support the 2016 ADRA Appeal this #KNOCKTOBER
Donate at ADRA.org.au/ADRA-appeal

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