

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

Telling Your Story



Victorian



Sept 2017



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST[®]
CHURCH

Victoria

A note from the Editor's Office



Up, In, Out

Did I ever tell you about the single man who wanted to get the attention of the young lady who lived across the road?

He found out she liked pineapples, so he went to the market and bought a whole crate of the delicious looking fruit. Every couple of days, she found a pineapple on the doorstep and wondered who the kind soul was who was putting them there.

She mentioned it to a mutual friend who just happened to know the whole story.

"I keep finding pineapples on the door step. Someone must be very kind. The only problem is that every one of them has been rotten inside."

But he'd done what it took to get her attention – and love grew, wedding bells rang, and the rest is history.

If you wanted to get to know a new friend, how would you do it?

Would you give a gift? (I'm not recommending pineapples – at least not those past their use by date.) Would you spend time together? Talk? Listen? Share? Would food be involved, or a hot drink or two?

So how would that work with developing communion with God, appropriate relationships with those in the church and effectiveness in the mission Jesus has given us?

Words are clearly not enough. Yes, we need them, but my relationship with God is often beyond words, and we've all heard that actions speak louder than words.

I'm sure you've heard it before. Reach Up, Reach In, Reach Out – a General Conference theme for a few years now.

It is about developing close communion with God, deeper relationships with others who are also seeking God and effectiveness in mission – sharing the good news.

So I'm inviting you to reflect on three key words: Communion, Relationship, Mission – and ask yourself, "Where do I need to grow?"

You've got my encouragement!

What would be your next step? Anyone for pineapples?

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Issue Schedule:

DEADLINE	IN CHURCHES
Jan 15	Feb 24 2017
Big Camp Edition - March 24	
April 15	May 27
June 15	July 21
August 15	September 23
October 15	November 25

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Cover Photo

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IntraVic September 2017

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Share your 'Jesus Moments' with us...

So often Jesus comes down to our level, meeting us where we are at... but how often do we notice? Or maybe we do, but later, when we think back over what happened, and suddenly it is like "Wow! That HAD to be Jesus..."

We want to give you the chance to look for these moments, and share them. So the next time you see Jesus moving in your life, sit down, set your phone to video record, and tell us about your Jesus Moment. Keep it short – one to two minutes max. If you like playing with editing, get creative. Then share it here - goo.gl/GNdy6h - and email us (VictorianAdventistCommunications@adventist.org.au) telling us the video title and your name (so we can tag you) - keep a lookout on Victorian Adventists Facebook in the following weeks.

Let's tell everyone about Him.



Chat or Chatter?

Communicating Authentically

Written by Dr Steve Currow
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

Information overload!

Snap, texts, emojis, likes, prods and hashtags.

But is it chat or just chatter?

Social media in the digital age has left us overwhelmed. So many apps and platforms from which to choose. So many ways to communicate instantly to so many people, all at once.

But is anyone listening?

Communication theory talks about senders, receivers, media, message and feedback. A sender encodes a message which is sent via media to a receiver who decodes the message and responds with encoded feedback resent via media to the initial sender who decodes it.

Behind this theory, Aristotle, in ancient Greece, noted three key components of communication: Ethos, Pathos and Logos.* Let's discuss the last one first, as this is usually all we think about when we want to communicate.

Logos is the information part of the communication, the message. It can be all the snaps, texts, emojis, tweets and hashtags that we use. It can be colourful, creative, dramatic,

provocative and profound. But according to Aristotle, **logos without pathos and ethos is just superficial chatter, not communication.**

Pathos is the ability to feel. We get words like sympathy and empathy from this Greek root. Aristotle believes that effective communicators also need to feel with and for their audience, the receiver. It's about compassion. This means we need to enter their world, or walk in their shoes. My choice of the information I send, as well as the media I use, should reflect my empathy for the person with whom I am trying to communicate. **If my communication is going to be relevant to them, I need to demonstrate an understanding of what is going on in their world and how they think and feel.**

But even with pathos and logos, Aristotle would still question whether

this was communication.

Ethos is the credibility I, the sender, bring to the communication. It is not just the face I present or the mask I wear, but the person I am, ordinarily.

It is about authenticity. Is what I am saying consistent with who I am and what I do? Do I have the expertise and authority to say what I want to say?

Only when ethos, pathos and logos align would Aristotle say we have real communication. This is true, whether we are the sender or the receiver.

Jesus, as the Master communicator, demonstrated these three principles in his life and ministry here on earth.

His authority came from who He was - God in human form. His daily habits and behaviour aligned with this persona. People were attracted to Him because they could see He was a good teacher, with authenticity and credibility. His life demonstrated

beyond doubt His ability to enter the world of His audience. His whole sojourn on earth was God living amongst humanity; people, just like us. The use of parables in His teaching also demonstrated great empathy with His audience. He used things in their everyday life, things they knew and understood, to ensure that His communication was relevant and effective. He knew His audience so well that each of the different groups within the same crowd would get the message they needed without boring the other groups present.

Who Jesus was, and His ability to empathise with His audience, provided the necessary foundations for His audience to receive the information Jesus was sharing clearly and concisely. It was His ethos and pathos which attracted people to hear what Jesus had to say and enabled them to receive His ethos and choose to become His disciples.

...

“ Is who I am and what I do consistent with what I am saying? ”

Am I authentic with each tweet, like and share? ”

So how do we apply the methods of Jesus in the new digital age of the internet and social media? How do we become authentic communicators with credibility and compassion for our audience in an age of information overload? It seems that in our exuberance and haste to click send or share and update our status to the world, little thought may be given to the ethos and pathos of our communication.

As the sender:

- Maybe we need to click the pause button, before the instant replay and think about who we are and what our communication is saying about us.

- Maybe we also need to click the pause button again and review our audience. Who are all these friends? What are their interests and needs? How can I frame my message in a way that all the audiences with whom I will share will really understand what I mean? Will everyone who receives my thread, receive the message as I intended? Is the social media I am using the most appropriate way of communicating this message to this person?
- Maybe we also need to think about the information. Does my communication reflect my interest in them, or just my opportunity to share me? Will this create superficial chatter or real chat?

As the receiver of all these searches, tweets and messages, we also need to think about these three principles.

- Is the sender posting the message trustworthy?
- Do they have the expertise, authority and authenticity to communicate on this topic?
- Are they relevant to me?
- Does their communication consider my context and demonstrate an understanding of my circumstances and life?
- Does their communication care about me or is it just chatter about themselves?

...

As Christians we are called to be ambassadors for Jesus. In our fast-paced life with so many opportunities to instantly communicate where we are, how we feel and what we think, let's ensure that we, like Jesus, apply the principles of ethos, pathos and logos to all our threads and tweets.

Then our chatter will be a real chat.

*. Aristotle, Modes of Persuasion



From Relevance to Truth

Thoughts on Adventist Communication

Written by Sam Neves
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
GENERAL CONFERENCE, SDA CHURCH

In the digital age we now live in... how we communicate has never been more important...

"We communicate so as not to offend... we don't want to scare anyone off - just present our values... kindly... when they ask questions, then we can tell them we are Christians and eventually present our distinctive doctrines..."

Have you heard this before? There is probably an Adventist ministry near you operating with this strategy. In fact, I have personally setup a few initiatives exactly like this. I now call this the rhetoric of relevance.

Today I believe Adventist projects, ministries and institutions should avoid this rhetoric at all costs. Even if you still defend it, as you read I invite you to engage with me as we explore why this strategy could be so dangerous.

Relevance First

Christianity in North America, Europe and Australia has been dying for decades, some say irreversibly. The response has been an obsession with relevance. This rhetoric of relevance has impacted the Adventist church in profound ways across the world, causing many to prioritise mission in this order: *Most of our new projects or initiatives go through three stages. First we decide on a name and create a logo to identify it. We then attract people to demonstrate our values as Christians. We don't immediately emphasise our Adventist identity because people might reject it. Finally, when people ask, we gently lead them to Present Truth.*

There are hundreds of projects like this across the world and in the last 20 years we have created an astronomical number of new logos.

We have succeeded, attracting millions. We then try desperately to bridge people to our Church; connect them with local churches, offer Bible studies and bring them to a commitment to Christ.

We have NOT been successful at this. Whenever relevance is more important than truth we will always end up here - successful at attracting attention but failing at discipleship.

Present Truth First

I believe it is imperative that we revisit our priorities and place them in the

correct order. Our Church is a prophetic movement; prophetic because our very existence has been foreseen in prophecy (Rv 10) and prophetic because our mission is to deliver a special message from Jesus (Rv 14). The historical term used to describe this message is 'Present Truth'. The identity and reason for existence of the Adventist Church is to proclaim Present Truth to every human being on the planet. Further, our truth is in fact very relevant today. Take Sabbath for example, is it not God's answer to capitalism?

When truth is the highest priority, relevance will be its servant. This will result in total transparency and a solid sense of identity. New projects and initiatives will be clearly presented as Seventh-day Adventist at all times, proclaiming our distinctive beliefs.

When people encounter a project or ministry for the first time, knowing it is Adventist, bridging will not be a problem - an invitation to an Adventist Church or to study the Bible with an Adventist will be a natural process.

The Salamanca (NY) Vision

Ellen White has a lot to say about communication, visual identity and branding. The time has come for us to struggle with these writings.

In the 1890s the only communications department of the Adventist Church was the Publishing Ministries. These communicators were excited about taking a new direction that would be more effective, in their eyes. **They were about to put relevance first.**

Whilst Ellen White was in Salamanca, God gave her a vision about this new approach. Following the vision, on five different occasions she attempted to share what she had seen and heard, but each time she could not recall beyond the first few words.

Essentially, she had seen several men discussing a publication, suggesting they drop the words 'Seventh-day Adventist' as well as reference to the Sabbath. They were enthusiastic about this approach, believing their publication would become more popular, reach more influential people and thus do a greater work.

Some months later, Ellen, who had been worshipping with the workers at a General Conference session each morning at 5.30, declined to attend the next morning, after a full day of preaching. That night, men met in the offices of Review and Herald, to discuss editorial policy for one of their publications. At 3 am, they dispersed, deadlocked over whether to drop the distinctive words or not. At that very same hour, Ellen was roused from her sleep by God's messenger, telling her to go to the 5.30 worship after all, and present what she had seen in vision. In great detail she told what she had seen and heard. The President knew nothing of such a meeting, but when Ellen finished, a man stood, told of the night before, saying she had described his very actions and words. Others spoke up, confirming Ellen's words and heeding her warning. God's timing was perfect, preventing the "first step in a succession of wrong steps" being taken.

The Role of Inspiration

I believe God's message delivered to the Adventist communicators of the 19th century is absolutely crucial to the Adventist communicators of the 21st century.

Here Ellen White addresses this issue: "The message we have to bear is not a message that men need to cringe to declare... we are under obligation to declare faithfully the whole counsel of God... God has given us light in regard to the things that are now taking place in the last remnant of time, and with pen and voice we are to proclaim the truth to the world, not in a tame, spiritless way, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power of God. The mightiest conflicts are involved in the furtherance of the message and the results of its promulgation are of moment to both heaven and earth."

David Aakar, considered one of the fathers of modern branding, agrees with Ellen White on the basic principles of communicating who you are.

Transparency - communicate clearly who you are and why you exist. Based

on the Salamanca Vision, Ellen White said: "They are not to seek to cover it, to conceal its origin and purpose." Especially in our evangelistic efforts, we must always use the Seventh-day Adventist visual identity because the material will be shown to people who don't know us yet.

Positioning - communicate what is different about yourself first. Based on the Salamanca Vision, Ellen White said: "We are not to make less prominent the special truths that have separated us from the world and made us what we are for they are fraught with eternal interests."

Consistency - high quality at every touchpoint. Ellen White said: "The character and importance of our work are judged by the efforts made to bring it before the public. When these efforts are so limited, the impression is given that the message we present is not worthy of notice."

Relevance and Truth

At this point I wonder what our communication outlets would look like if we put these principles into practice. I wonder what the impact would be if we had the courage to put Present Truth first and be honest with our prophetic calling. I imagine the new and creative ways we could proclaim Present Truth in a relevant way.

Relevant? Yes. **Let's be clear - the Adventist church would not be fulfilling its mission if it became irrelevant.** This may sound like a contradiction. It isn't.

The message God has given us to proclaim **is** relevant and should be proclaimed in the same way Jesus proclaimed it. This involves learning to speak peoples verbal and non-verbal language; starting from the known to the unknown; addressing peoples most profound dreams, aspirations and desires as well as fears and heartaches. The truth must inspire. When one of our beliefs seems not to inspire we must study it deeper, because Present truth is inspiring.

However, we must admit to ourselves that many of us are no longer inspired by the Adventist message. Somehow we've sterilized the beauty of Present Truth. A large number of those brought up as Adventists have left because we've failed to inspire them. Many who have stayed consider themselves as Christian and Seventh-day Adventist, as

if these were distinct from each other. If a Christian continues to study the Bible and follow Christ they will become Seventh-day Adventist.

When listening to this new trend, often shared among pastors and leadership, it strikes me that we have somehow become embarrassed to be Seventh-day Adventist. Some of our Universities are so determined to deconstruct Adventism that graduates, including new pastors, are less happy to be Adventists than when they enrolled. It is crucial to deconstruct tradition and stale presentation of truth, but it is equally important to build something in its place.

On the other hand, some of us have become arrogant - we are right, everyone else is wrong. This is not the gospel of Jesus Christ and typically leads to obsession with conspiracy theories born from a destructive eschatology. This obsession with the end of the world is just as destructive as the relevance obsession we discussed earlier. **The proclamation of Present Truth must inspire people to become disciples of Jesus.**

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is not just another Christian denomination. It is a prophetic movement, called by a loving God to proclaim His final invitation before the renewal of all things. This has direct implications on how we communicate.

Building upon the great work done by the South Pacific Division, our global Communications team has been working on a new Visual Identity System. We can now show that our projects, ministries, departments, services and institutions are in fact, Adventist. This is done in a subtle way that avoids triumphant arrogance that has no place in God's Kingdom but still proudly presents who we are.

Sam Neves



read more about Identity - pg18
google Salamanca Vision EGW or more info

Department Overview

Pakenham's new church

INFRA STRUCTURE COMMITTEE

This is a less well know but incredibly important part of our conference and is coordinated by Galen Gan. God has entrusted us with assets, and the challenge is, as good stewards, to diligently and prudently manage them. Thus the aim of the committee is to lift the burden of infrastructure from the shoulders of both our local churches and our conference administration, saving time and frustration and leaving us free to do the work we do best, to God's glory.

The team has worked at assisting lay members, pastoral and administrative staff find solutions to their infrastructure needs, providing specialist knowledge and counsel as needed. Property development today is very complex, involving extensive coordination of resources, approvals and stake holder management over a protracted period of time, to deliver the desired outcomes.

A number of congregations such as Pakenham have been assisted by this



Removing the stage from the old Big Tent site

committee, however much of its time has been spent on the development of the Nunawading Estate Retirement Village project.



After progress through the usual channels to obtain permits stalled, the application was taken to VCAT and finally approved in December 2015. A panel of highly qualified consultants was assembled to collaborate and undertake the required work to deliver this landmark project, Pavilions – Blackburn Lake. This iconic retirement village will become homes to over 200 retirees in 148 apartments housed in seven beautiful glass-pannelled buildings with state of the art technology and set in a natural, wooded environment.

Furthermore, this development will continue to promote our Church's health ethos, centred on healthy living, holistic wellness and preventative health, while bringing in revenue to help further God's work across Victoria.

A multipurpose church auditorium building is included as part of the development, which will seat 350 people and provide a social, meeting

and worship amenity to both the Pavilions community and the wider church family. Incidentally, its location was specifically selected, being the site of the original Big Tent from our Big Camp at Nunawading days.

The team has worked tirelessly to achieve the aspirations developed by the special Nunawading Estate committee, established in 2009 to assess suggested uses of the estate to determine what would best benefit all churches across Victoria and promote the mission of our Church. They believe this project will be something that our local churches will benefit from in their mission for God, for generations to come.



ADVENTCARE

Our aged care facilities support our local churches and community through offering quality services and care for our aging population. One of its key focus areas is Mission – to develop and enhance services that focus on our mission and allow us to better serve the Adventist and wider community. A key element is the support of residents, their families and facility staff through strong chaplaincy services. And of course the management team is constantly striving to maintain financial viability to enable the service to further mission, and to be accountable and transparent, achieving compliance at all times. You can read more AdventCare news on page 17.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

Happy healthy homes are an essential for our local churches to thrive, and not every home consists of a mum, dad and two kids. Every family differs in some way and every family is important.

The Family Ministries Director, Pr Graeme Christian, bought a group together consisting of members of the youth, children's, ADRA and ministerial teams, to discuss, research and explore ways of keeping our young people engaged in their churches. They came to a realisation that one of the vital ingredients was healthy Adventist families.

Sadly, it seems Christian homes are under attack as never before.

In response, the multi-departmental team has provided resources for our pastors and our local churches to help us be more effective in relational ministries. Each year a range of training programs and events have been provided, and many have made use of these opportunities.

Pastors were sponsored to attend the annual National Christian Family Conference run by the South Pacific



Chris & Marlene Foote presented a marriage enrichment program

Division, as well as receiving basic counselling skill training from Dr Trafford Fischer and Dr Bryan Craig. There have also been training and seminars in Marriage Enrichment, Grief Recovery, Depression and Anxiety recovery and parenting.



Also under the umbrella of Family Ministries, is the Victorian Adventist Adult Singles ministry. This is a largely self-led ministry in Victoria catering to a unique family unit with a unique opportunity to minister to their communities, offering friendship, fellowship and support. VAAS runs a variety of monthly programs in different locations around the state, as it serves our local churches.

There is much more that can be done in the arena of Family Ministries, as together conference and local churches work toward fostering healthy relationships and families. We look forward to seeing further progress as more people take up this banner and utilise the resources offered by the conference to nurture and look out for the needs of others across all generations, building healthy, unique Adventist families.

ADVENTIST BOOK CENTRE

The ABC is a department of the Conference with the primary purpose



of spreading the gospel message through the supply of Bibles, books, study guides and other material. It supports our local Sabbath Schools with resources such as Christian Imprints and taking orders for and distributing lesson study resources. There is even a health food and non-alcoholic drink section for church member convenience. So come and check it out at the conference office, on Central Road Nunawading.

TRUST SERVICES

This department does not get a lot of publicity, however it plays an important role in assisting people at crucial times in their lives. It is a confidential and free service, dealing with people on a personal level as they undertake the sometimes stressful process of estate planning and writing up their Will. All Wills are drafted by the director, Steve Whitson, and approved by McMahon Fearnley Lawyers, Pty. Ltd.

There is no obligation to the Conference – this is another form of pastoral ministry and the service is available to church members, their family and friends, often helping break down barriers, with positive outcomes.



Media and Communications

Victorian Adventist Communications

The Communications department has been growing and developing over the last few years. And we are looking forward to ongoing growth and expansion into new arenas.

You all know about IntraVic, the regular newsletter. It went from bimonthly to monthly, then back to bimonthly with an email version in-between printed editions. It was found that the email version was not good as a replacement for the printed, but was a viable alternative, so now is released at the same time as the bimonthly edition, with the same content.

But did you know that the articles and stories are also posted online and shared through facebook?

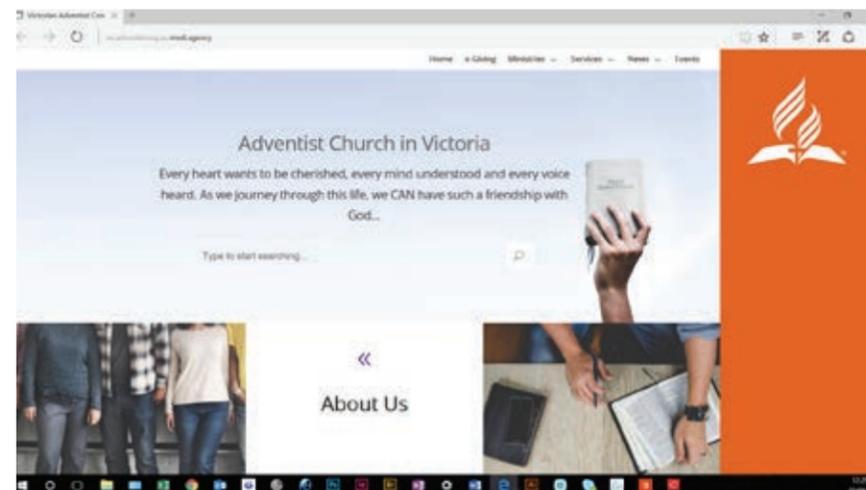
For a while now, main conference events, such as Big Camp, have been recorded and people can access them via the tv website, VictorianAdventist.TV. This year, for the first time, the programs were live streamed, and while not without some technical difficulties this went well and it is anticipated this will become a regular part of our Big Camp experience. The team is currently working on a series of one minute presentations, taking the key points from sermons, and have begun posting these on Facebook as well as the usual platforms on youtube and vimeo.

From the TV website you can also link to a series of sermon podcasts. In fact this is one of the areas they would like to expand further. Does your church put up podcasts of your sermons? Please email VictorianAdventistCommunications@Adventist.org.au to share resources

and increase our reach.



And talking websites, one of the biggest projects over the last twelve months has been working with developers to create a new conference website. At the time of print, we anticipate that it will be up and running by the end of September. So check it out at Vic.Adventist.org.au (it should look similar to the image below, if not, please try again later). This is the Conference's main 'Go To' for church information; upcoming events and registrations; departmental resources; all things media related; linking through to other sites such as Camp Howqua, VicYouth and Adventist schools; latest news... All you need to remember is Vic.Adventist.org.au.



The VAC team has been involved in discussions with other conferences around sharing resources and focusing on social media. So in the ensuing months you may see some changes in our facebook account. And of course, with such a large contingent of Victorians attending the Digital Discipleship Conference, and the subsequent meetings we have been having with them, you can look for changes in the digital space as they work together to share Christ more effectively, both personally and corporately. Another spin off from these meetings is that where it is possible, there will be intentional training and mentoring as projects are developed, so that skills such as sound mixing, video recording and switching can be taken back to the local church.

VAC exists to facilitate communication at both conference and local church level, however they do not want to keep this internal – there is so much of our news that is worth sharing with the wider community – the news of how good our great God is, and what hope He offers to this troubled world. And the team wants to share resources and opportunities, working with local church members, to this end.

Does your church produce its own skits and would like an opportunity to record them? We have mentioned podcasts, but perhaps your church takes it further and streams or records your sermons. VAC would love to know more, and explore how you can work together. Are you interested in learning more about social media and how to use it for Christ? This is a project they are beginning to work on - go to pg 12. Are you willing to share your digital skills with other churches and be involved in the collaboration projects? Please contact VAC at the above email, if any of these possibilities resonate with you.

Or show this article to someone you know, passionate about this sort of evangelism but who doesn't read IntraVic!

Goings On

Yarra Valley Church

This church is a busy one, with meetings on most nights of the week, where they serve their community and prayer is raised to God.

The Friendship Group (FG) held a special day in April for those in the community who have family members suffering from Autism. This debilitating problem causes untold suffering as Mark and Ellen Modra attested to. They were made welcome as they presented this program and later joined everyone for lunch. In total, including church members, about forty people benefited from their presentation and informative answers to questions. It was wonderful to see God's leading in this program and His divine touch as He met attendees needs through the Modras.

In early June we celebrated with Kara Fox on her baptism. A beautiful service was held at Warburton Church with most of the Church family in attendance, as well as her friends and relatives and it was wonderful to see a young sixteen year old commit her life to Jesus.

Mid June the FG organised for Dr David Bird to present on "Handling the Blues". It was an informative program for both community and church members. He spoke on grief and depression and two ladies from our congregation shared their testimonies, adding weight to the discussion. God opens doors and hearts in response to programs like this and a number of those who attended were keen to hear more and showed interest in upcoming programs.

The FG team endeavours to hold topical community meetings every three months, but in addition Yarra Valley also hosts outreach programs, such as the Health lecture series.



This nine week series was held each Saturday night from June, with many interested people attending for the presentation, a cooking demonstration and an enjoyable meal together.

Many willing workers help out with these meetings, with the catering and with the numerous other duties going into making the programs successful. The Lord has used our programs to touch hearts and a number of community members are studying the Bible as a result. It's our fervent hope and prayer that people will make a committed stand for Jesus.

We also hold a weekly "Happy Hearts" program for preschool children which is well attended and a great blessing not only to the children, but their mothers as well. Again, this is a group effort. Everyone has a happy time, and the children go home with craft work which they've made.

All the contacts we make from our programs are added to an ever growing prayer list we pray over on a regular basis. We've seen many wonderful answers to prayer and thank God for His wonderful leading in our lives.

Nola Robins



Well Earned Retirement

Warburton

Church members recently Acknowledged and thanked Ngaire and Alan Holman for their service to the Warburton Christian Playgroup.

Ngaire and Alan ran the Playgroup for an amazing twelve years and retired from this position at the end of June. The Playgroup was originally established when the Warburton Adventist School was still operational, as a way of making greater connections with the community. Once the school closed, Ngaire and Alan continued to facilitate the Playgroup sessions and over the past twelve years they have seen 302 different families come through their doors with 20 of those families being Adventist.

The Playgroup has been community focused with regular sessions at AdventCare Yarra Ranges, connections with the local pre-school and primary school and visits from the mobile library. Playgroup BBQ's were great fundraising events and from Ngaire's initiative these funds were given to different projects around the community including a fish tank for AdventCare Yarra Ranges and money for the kitchen garden at Warburton Primary school.

Ngaire and Alan have been so dedicated and faithful in their service to Playgroup. We value and appreciate the care, time and effort they have given!

Local pastor, Jody Eddy, along with assistance from Jan Rabe, continue to facilitate the playgroup sessions and keep this connection and service to the community alive.

Many thanks to the Holmans for their years of commitment



IntraVic

Ferntree Gully News

Modern-day Flood

Due to its design, our church has often been likened to Noah's Ark. During a deluge affecting many areas of Melbourne, a rushing 'river' gushed down the hillside behind the building, filled the overflow drains and flowed on into our chapel and foyer.

Insurance covered the new carpet but before laying it was decided to repaint and modernise the rostrum area. With the cathedral ceiling, a scissor lift was needed and we believe the original quote for the lift was halved in answer to prayer.

The Church Family is most appreciative to member Alex Belmustata, a professional painter who gave his expertise and time, as well as everyone else who gave time and effort to this much needed repair work.



A Taste of Heaven

There's a saying that "good things come in small packages." This certainly proved true when the small Wantirna Church choir visited the Gully in August. But what a mighty punch they packed! Under the baton of Billy Neyra, we were blessed with a powerful, uplifting worship hour of praise.

After the program, the choir joined with church members and friends in a fellowship lunch.

May The Lord bless the ministry of this dedicated group as they continue to praise and glorify our Creator through the beautiful language of music.

"Music speaks what cannot be expressed, soothes the mind and gives it rest, heals the heart and makes it whole, flows from the Heavens to the soul." - Unknown Author

Elayne Stanford

Celebrating the Saviour

Bairnsdale Church

On Saturday evening the 15th July a wonderful celebration of Christmas took place in Bairnsdale. Around one hundred people (about half of whom were not Adventists) joined in a unique sharing of the Good News.

Yes it was July, but the true Christmas spirit can be enjoyed all year round. As people arrived, they were met by a cosy fire where shepherds were warming themselves, waiting for the angels to announce the birth of Baby Jesus. A couple of lively lambs added authenticity to the scene and their antics were enjoyed by the children. Everyone received a gift bag containing delicious edibles and interesting material about Christianity.

Once inside Pr Andrew Wilson welcomed the people before handing over to internationally known singer Gavin Chatelier, who was joined by his wife, Trudy, and Grace, the youngest of their seven children. We enjoyed carols, Gavin's own Christmas compositions and Bible readings of the well-loved Christmas story, presented by our young people.

The children enjoyed their own story of unselfish gift giving told by Marilyn



The antics of the lambs appealed to the kids



Beveridge.

The room was decorated by a large living Christmas tree which looked somewhat bare when we arrived. We soon found out who was to enjoy decorating it - just about all of us! Upon arriving we'd received cards with different words for a decoration. From angel to star, heart to love, gold and silver; all meant something important.

When Gavin sang songs with these significant "decoration" words included, groups of us went up and placed our contribution on the tree. When it was completed the tree looked beautiful.

As at all Christmas parties food was a feature and the tables were laden with a wonderful supper. When this happy time together drew to a close we went home, having had the "cockles of our hearts" warmed by the fellowship of a memorable "Christmas in July".

The gift bags we had handed out included an invitation to join in a Bible study and four people have since indicated they want to do this. Praise God.

Judy Walker



Are you passionate about social media and its use in reaching your community for Christ, or know someone who is? Please tell them about this digital initiative...

The Council Comes to Church

Preston Church

Thursday, July 27 was the day that Darebin City council came to visit our church, with an interest in our faith and what we believed.

This was an act of Holy providence with our humble church being selected from the vast array of other faiths in the local community to participate in this interfaith program. People would be visiting us from various backgrounds, cultures and faiths, including community service providers, politicians and the council members. 36 visitors arrived by bus and the time just flew by. The history of our faith was presented by Pr Vikram Panchal and elder, Bob Eales. A beautiful healthy lunch was served by the ladies of Preston and I was asked to provide music. It warmed my heart to see Kevin Geelan, the Resource Manager for Signs Publishing, present with our Spirit-filled literature being made

available.

It is not often our church is inundated with people of such diverse backgrounds and although our time was short it was nice to get involved with the community at large. The visit was well received and concluded with a special gift for each of our guests which consisted of the booklet *Your friends The Seventh-day Adventists*, and the DVD *Tell the World*, as well as a gift from Signs Publishing to the City Council.

All glory to God for such a wonderful opportunity not only to tell of our faith, but to share Jesus and the Gospel of His tender love.

Sandra Wipiiti



Storm Damage

Ballarat Church

It took exceptional storm conditions in April this year, to damage the roof of the church in Ballarat, which has stood firm for over sixty years.

The damage allowed storm water to enter the sanctuary causing the ceiling (a later addition) to collapse. The area was immediately declared unsafe. Since that time, church members have had the choice of attending a 9.00 am or 11.15 am worship service which has been held in the church hall. All children's and youth's Sabbath schools have been continuing as normal.

On Sunday 9th July, a group of enthusiastic church members met at the Ballarat church to start work. Among their tasks was the removal of all the old tiles from the site. This was a huge undertaking and continued well into the week. Once the old tiles were removed, new battens had to be fixed in place and then the new tiles laid as quickly as possible.

It took a few more weeks but Ballarat church members are now worshipping together in their church sanctuary once again. Praise God for His goodness.

Fran Thomas



In 2nd Corinthians 6:3-11, Paul is at his best urging the new believers to maintain their focus and their identity.

Paul does what great leaders so often do: he reminds people of the hardships they have shared in order to draw them back to what really matters. Then he issues a direct challenge that again, Paul is renown for. Verses 12 and 13: We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. As a fair exchange... open wide your hearts also.

So what's this verse doing in a tithe column?

As I hear stories about people's disdain for tithe, so often it's about matters of the heart not matters of the numbers. So many have withdrawn from the church... but they still attend. They have said the church is not worthy of their tithe...

Have they perhaps, simply checked out emotionally?

They say the church is poorly managed, but perhaps, they're in fact holding a grudge.

It's tough being a grown up. They tell me that once you become one, that's it for life: there's no real wriggle room on the difficult matters of being who we are.

Paul's challenge to you, and to me, every time it's tithe time, is to open our hearts. This could be tough at first. You may see things you did not expect. But it's what Paul would call a fair exchange.



The rewards are ours by opening our hearts.

Nicholas Bolto



Now Online! Adventist Book Centre

The Victorian ABC is now trading online at AdventistBookCentre.com.au. No more redirects to the American store and back, with exchange rates complicating things!

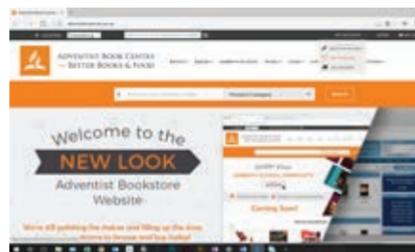
NNSW and Greater Sydney conferences began collaborating on an Australian web presence in late 2016, to build a webstore which integrates with a point of sale system. Victoria has now joined the project, and all orders placed online coming from Victorian & Tasmanian customers will be filled by the Victorian ABC.

"We had thought of building our own online store," says Graeme Moffitt, Victoria Conference CFO, "but when the option for a collaborative online store arose, it made sense to join the project. We can see both customers and conferences benefiting from pooling our resources and working together."

The store has been officially launched with its first 1000 products and according to the webstore content manager, Scott Wegener, there are plenty more additional products and functionality improvements to come. "The ultimate inspiration pushing us to make this webstore great is to assist the many people who cannot easily get to a physical store – from those who are house bound or have work commitments preventing them from visiting a store, to those living 100's of

kilometres from a shop," says Scott. "The aim is to enable people to make well informed purchase decisions at home or from their mobile device, by presenting comprehensive product previews. But for now we're still getting our footing right somewhat and putting in the basics."

Future product preview features will include initiatives such as video 'flick-throughs' of pictorially rich books, first page previews of chapter books, video trailers and reviews of DVDs, CD sound track demos and board game video demonstrations.



At the time of print we anticipated the Victorian option would be live, however if this is not the case, it will not be far off.

AdSAFE

For nearly two years, churches have been alerted to the fact that there are **FIVE KEY PRACTICAL ACTIONS** that are foundational and essential for compliance with the new child safe standards that came into play January this year (see box).

Completion of the Safe Churches training can be undertaken online (preferred method) or with face-to-face training provided by the Conference (\$20 fee).

The great news is that the FREE Safer Churches online training provided by AdSAFE's eLearning has just been made much easier to complete. The format consists of seven modules. The first six remain unchanged, but the online webinar of Module 7 has been

Every staff/volunteer appointed by the Church Nominating Committee is to have:

- an up to date Working with Children Check
- completed the Safer Churches training
- completed and signed the volunteer pledge

Every church, company and group must have formally adopted the:

- MOST RECENT Safe Places Policy, and such is recorded in minutes
- Child-Safe Code of Conduct and such is recorded in minutes

replaced. Module 7 is now a short written module summarising the key points presented in Modules 1-6. To complete, at NO cost, this new and improved Safer Churches eLearning, use the QR code. The enrolment key to all modules is SSAFE.

The key issues for local churches when

Wanted : New Members Victorian Adventist Adult Singles



All individuals are created equal in God's sight and our individuality is precious. Often it is on single people that many of the great enterprises are built. Singleness is not a problem to God.

There is nothing in scripture that says being unmarried is wrong or sinful. In fact there are examples, both from scripture and secular history, showing the effectiveness and power of the single life.

Community is essential for those who are single as well as those who are married; in community we live connected, fruitful and supported lives. All of us are created to be independent and connected to one another and our search for wholeness is not necessarily fulfilled in another person. However we are healthier when we support and are supported by one another. God's saving grace operates on a one-on-one basis and Jesus showed great respect for the one-person audience.

Although over 40% of all adults are unmarried, most churches focus on marriage and families, resulting in missed opportunities to reach out to and benefit from the abilities and resources singles have to offer.

At VAAS, we are passionate about fellowship and sharing with each other. We aim to provide a ministry of encouragement, support and nurture for single adults within the church. Our members have enjoyed a variety of

monthly programs, visiting new places, seeing new things, meeting new people and participating in exciting weekends of fellowship. Such activities have included spiritual weekend retreats, snow days, Christmas dinner in July, relaxing at the Hot Springs, cruising on the Murray and countless enjoyable evenings at members houses sharing pizzas, haystacks and movies.

You too can be part of this exciting, vibrant and fun program. Come along to one of our monthly events and see for yourself how being single and over 35 is not as lonely as you think.

You are especially invited to join us at this year's Annual Retreat in Marysville, with guest speakers Pr. Garth & Aleta Bainbridge (see notices).

Our members ages range from 35 to over 70 and at VAAS, age is no barrier. Don't be put off thinking that VAAS is a 'match-making club'. Far from it. Many long-term friendships have been made across the generations.

For program details or to be on our mailing list please contact Judy on 0407 510 545 or email vaasingles@gmail.com

VAAS Team



AdSAFE cont

considering compliance with Child Safe Standards are:

- We must do all we can to ensure the safety of children visiting and worshipping in our churches. The stories shared at the Royal Commission prove that sadly the Christina church (including the Seventh-day Adventist church) has not always been a safe place for children. This is our moral responsibility as

citizens within our community.

- It is our biblical responsibility to submit to governing authorities in those matters that do not negate the law of God (see Romans 13:1-5).
- We must do all we can to care for the vulnerable (James 1:27). If our inaction allowed opportunity for a child to be hurt, what a horrific impact that inaction would have on that child, the church and our mission and witness to the wider community.

Craig Gillis



Nobody Goes... til All Have Heard

What do you do if your Buddhist or Hindu neighbour invites you to a funeral or a wedding? How do you know what they believe and how do you even start developing a friendship?

The Global Mission Centers have resources that can help you understand your neighbours and friends of non-Christian faiths so that you can care and support them during significant times in their lives. Visit GlobalMissionCenters.org to view these resources.



May God be with you as you seek to reach all the people in your territory. We are praying for you.

Homer Trecartin
Director, Global Mission

Disciple Kit Australian Union Conference



The Australian Union Conference has recently launched a comprehensive resource pack for new members, to enhance their faith journey and empower them to share the best news ever with others.

This kit can be gifted to new members joining church by baptism, profession of faith or migration and is available in several configurations for online purchase.

Visit Disciple.org.au and click on the resources tab and while you are there, check out other ways this discipleship resource site can help you and your church in your mission for God.



Collaborating VAC

Staff from Victorian Adventist Communications joined with other Conference and South Pacific Division communication staff from around Australia in July, for the first Australia wide communication advisory in a number of years.

Organised by the Australian Union Conference and hosted by Adventist Media, the talks revolved around the future of church communications, Church branding and adapting to digital technologies.

Pr Sam Neves, Associate Communications Director for the General Conference, was able to attend the two day think tank, shared with the other attendees some of the initiatives in communications that are taking place and gave an update on our new Adventist identity branding.

One of the purposes of this advisory was to explore possible collaboration between the conferences. Each person present brought something different to the communications table, and if we were to share resources and skills, exciting possibilities will become achievable, broadening the scope of the communications to include sharing our holistic hope that is grounded in biblical truth with the wider community.

The teams returned home committed to working together to present a unified identity across Australia in our social media presence and have begun with regular video discussions toward that end.

Record/IntraVic



www.cyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards/index.htm



elearning.safeplaceservices.org.au



Healing by helping out

Op-shop volunteer Andrea Cole says her work aids her recovery from illness

International Project Updates

- Five of the top 10 cocoa farmers at the recent Solomon Islands Chocolate Week were ADRA supported, including the first place winner.

Elsie Vota received first place, pictured with ADRA director Stephen Tasker (R) and ADRA Cocoa Livelihoods manager, Patrick Mesia (L)



- A Youth Resiliency Curriculum for schools and churches, developed by ADRA Vanuatu, is being rolled out nationally by the Vanuatu government.
- 27 church mission representatives in PNG attended a recent Gender Inclusion Training workshop in Lae. Pastors in PNG have committed to gender and social inclusion in their churches.

- A group of youth involved in the Bougainville Youth Initiative received a number of awards recently for their activities including poultry farming and rice and cocoa farming. The team received a positive report from the Australian government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



Compelled By Love ADRA Appeal



This annual October fundraising campaign supports those in need both locally and overseas.

Volunteers in all states and territories in Australia will be publicly raising funds through door knocking and public place collections and this year it is hoped that \$1 million will be raised to support and empower those most vulnerable to violence and abuse, in Australia and overseas, by improving their literacy, education and livelihood opportunities so they can stand against mistreatment, realise their potential and thrive.

In Australia, the funds raised will help provide support to people struggling with abuse, mental disorders, broken relationships, lack of education and other challenges, by meeting their needs through ADRA-run op shops,

community centres, youth resilience projects, crisis relief centres, social inclusion programs, women's refuges, retreats and more. While overseas funds help in the South Pacific, Asia and Africa by implementing projects that improve access to food, health and education, promote small businesses and strengthen communities to help sustain themselves.

"Because of the blessings we have received, we feel compelled by love to help people flourish – both locally in our Australian neighbourhoods and overseas in poorer countries," ADRA Australia CEO Mark Webster said. "It is possible to make the world a brighter place."

Want to help? Talk to your church's ADRA representative and see how you can be involved.



Local Project Updates

- A guest from Vive Café was baptised in July at the Oasis Adventist Church – praise God! He will train in management at our new OpShop in Boronia.
- Through our Settle Assist project in Dandenong five African youth have joined the Healthy Cooking on a Budget program.
- The Longwarry Church has recently received a container to support the new OpShop and food pantry for the local community.
- Three community volunteers have started at the OpShop in Boronia which is already impacting the community.

- **Second Bites** - Rowville – Lysterfield Church and Vive Café will become hubs for SecondBite deliveries. The Northpoint Centre is also another hub in the North-West of Melbourne. This means that agencies and people in need can pick up their orders from these allocated sites. This has occurred due to a recent meeting with SecondBite to help provide support for their distribution of fresh food for people in need and will also help to raise the profile of ADRA and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

- Our Social Enterprise training will commence on September 7th for newly arrived migrants. For more information email rauriant@adra.org.au

Aged Care Update AdventCare

Whitehorse Redevelopment

Planning for the redevelopment of the aged care facility and replacement of the Central Retirement Units is progressing well. In May 2017 we received town planning approval for the project from the City of Whitehorse.

The first stage is anticipated to commence in October 2017. This will see modern units built with enhanced amenities to replace the older style units and provide a street-front presence to Central Road, together with a new Community Centre. Detailed planning for the aged care expansion and redevelopment will then occur over the next nine months, with construction of this stage commencing late 2018.

We also received advice in person from the Federal Aged Care Minister, the Hon. Ken Wyeth, AM, that we had been successful in our application to be allocated additional bed licences for the facility. The Minister chose AdventCare Whitehorse to announce the results of this National Allocation Round and then he toured the facility, met the residents and staff and joined us for lunch. He was impressed with the facility and commented favourably on the living environment and the people he met. He particularly highlighted the benefits AdventCare provides in having integrated retirement units and residential aged care at our sites, as a strong continuum of care for the community.

Accreditation

All the AdventCare aged care facilities

continue to maintain full compliance with the Accreditation Standards to demonstrate a high standard of quality care. The Bendigo and Yarra Ranges facilities both had an unannounced visit from the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency in July 2017 and were assessed on a number of areas including clinical care, human resource management, activities and the physical environment. Both facilities passed with flying colours. This is a testament to the great staff we have, led by the two Managers, Jacqueline Hiscox and Coleen Hilbert.

Yarra Ranges Redevelopment

The first stage of this project is moving along well and will be finished by October 2017. This will create 19 new larger resident rooms, with new lounge and courtyard areas. The work is being undertaken by ABE Constructions and is well managed, minimising disruption to the existing facility.

The second stage will see thirteen new resident rooms, upgrading and remodelling the lounge and reception foyer and a new Chapel. It should be completed by mid 2018. There will be dedicated respite rooms and this will enable us to reach out into the community and offer care to more people who are living at home and needing extra support for a period of time.

This project has been made possible by the generous support of the Warburton & Upper Yarra Community Bank with a community grant of \$152,642.60 for the new equipment for the redevelopment.

David Reece, Acting CEO

One Million New Sharing Cards Personal Ministries

HopeChannel has just completed printing ONE MILLION cards. While this is a huge number, it is only a fraction of what is needed if you were to share one with every home in Australia.

How can you share them? Take 100 and letterbox your area, share them at a local notice board, leave a few at the laundry mat or distribute them in an area where there is no Adventist presence.

But why? Well at the moment, the

HopeChannel Bible Team are currently studying with 1600 people across Victoria. And that is what these cards can do - invite people to learn more, sharing the good news of Jesus soon return.

To order your free sharing cards, email lindathomas@hopechannel.com, ask your local Personal Ministries leader or contact the Personal Ministries director at the conference, Andrew Jasper, on 03 9264 7777

Wayne Boehm, HopeChannel



Vacancies

We currently have available rooms for anyone needing respite or permanent care in the Bendigo or regional North West of Victoria at our AdventCare Bendigo facility in Golden Square. Enquiries are welcome - call 5443 7999 and ask for Jacqueline, the Facility Manager.



Federal Aged Care Minister, Ken Wyeth, pictured with Graeme Christian (L), Helen Psomiadis and David Reece(R)



Adventist Identity VAC

No doubt you've heard about the new Adventist Identity released by the General Conference (GC) earlier this year, perhaps wondering 'Haven't we already done that? We've got a new sign...'

The GC has taken on board the need for change, looked at the work already done by our Division and taken it further.

Across the globe we have many cultural differences, but we're all Seventh-day Adventists. No matter what our organisations look like or how we live our beliefs, we all look forward with longing, to that last day when we can finally be present with our God.

As an organisation, we have this hope, and since our beginnings we have found numerous ways to share this hope with others. But we have not had a unified strategy for presentation.

With increasing info at our fingertips, it is becoming increasingly important to find a way to help people know that even within our diversity, we are all Seventh-day Adventists. Just google Adventist logos and see the plethora of different images that come up...

So the GC determined to create a flexible system that will accommodate the diversity across our many Divisions, yet still present us as a unified body, allowing for individuality without losing sight of the fact that we are a global organisation and recognisable anywhere in the world.

For those privileged to have heard Pr Sam Neves from the GC address the Digital Discipleship Conference in July, you may have caught a glimpse of his passion for being identifiably visible and up front. One of his reasons, is that people often turn to a church during times of conflict. If they have built a good relationship with us, as an organisation, in the past, then it is possible they may think of us the next time, giving us another window of opportunity to share Jesus love with them... but not if they can't identify us.

At the time of print, our Division is exploring the identity package found at Identity.Adventist.org with a view to giving it a uniquely SPD feel, within the limits of the diversity allowed by the GC. When this process is complete (expected late September) you should be able to find the new toolkit at corporate.adventistchurch.com (search branding).

Kids Screen Time VAC

With our focus this edition on the digital realm, when we came across this article in Greater Sydney Conference's newsletter, we asked if we could share it with our readers too... Especially for parents of young children but of relevance to all...

Millennials are digital natives, growing up in an era that is screen-driven. Many parents, on the other hand, are digital immigrants, learning how to adapt to this new language and culture around digital media. Let's face it, today's young people MUST be tech-savvy. Striking a balance between online and offline worlds, however, is essential.

The Health Impacts

The impact of technology use is still being researched, but there's strong evidence showing that screen time is linked with obesity (Garnett et al., 2005; Tam et al., 2006), sleep problems and mental health issues.

Increased screen time reduces physical fitness and changes food habits such as consuming easily accessible 'junk' foods). More than two hours per day in adolescence contributes to the depression in adulthood (Belanger et al. 2011; Premack et al., 2009).

Devices in the bedroom also results in later sleeping times, shorter sleep durations (less than the recommended 9 hours per night for adolescents) and a diminished quality of sleep (King et al., 2014).

How much is enough?

On average, NSW primary school children are having anywhere between 3-6 hours of screen time per weekday; 5.5-9 hours per day on the weekend (Schools Physical Activity & Nutrition Survey, 2010). It's recommended that children under two should not have any screen time per day; no more than one hour per day for kids between 2-5 and no more than two hours in total per day for kids aged five and up. This changes when a child is in high school as most of their homework is done on an electronic device, but be mindful of the amount of time they are online, especially on social media.

Practical Solutions

It is challenging to create boundaries and enforce limitations for digital immigrants - they can't possibly keep ahead of their children. But, we know that parental monitoring of a child's

screen time is crucial in positively influencing the child's wellbeing.

Here are some ideas:

- Create a 'Switch-off Time' at the same time each day to signal the end of their screen use for the day. This might change on the weekends, along with the amount of acceptable screen time.
- Have an 'Electronic Shut-down Day' that involves other family activities without a screen.
- Use technology to help set boundaries with screen time. Search and download 'electronic shutdown apps' (for example, an app named 'Screen Time'), or turn off the Wi-Fi in the house at 'switch-off time'.

It may take some getting used to if your child is significantly cutting back on their screen time, so talk to your child calmly and as many times as needed about what is expected at 'switch-off time'.

Balance and Modelling is Key

Technology does have its place but it must be balanced. One of the most important ways of finding balance is for parents to model healthy screen time. Our devices impact the amount and quality of our family time. Be mindful of how and when you use your own screens. Show your child that you can have a 'switch-off time' and be intentional about having meals at the table without any screens.

Model self control by not reacting to your device as soon as it make a sound. Continue an ongoing dialogue with your child over a number of years and don't be afraid to have a conversation with them about what they are doing online. We need to ask ourselves, are we in control of the screen, or is the screen in control of us? For more advice, go to <http://www.esafety.gov.au> or www.common sense media.org.

To listen to a discussion with Claire about kids screen time search 'The Table TV Show' via Youtube.

Claire Marsh
Manager, Adventist Counselling
Services. Greater Sydney Conference

JUST4KIDS

DON'T LET ANYONE LOOK DOWN ON YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE YOUNG. BUT SET AN EXAMPLE FOR THE BELIEVERS IN SPEECH. CONDUCT. IN LOVE. IN FAITH AND IN PURITY.

1 TIMOTHY 4:12

COLOUR ME IN!

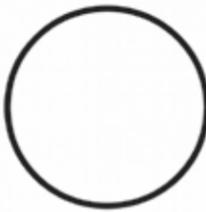
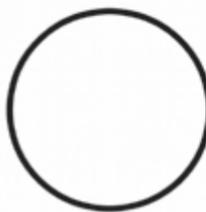
MAKE A CARD!

1. Fold paper in half to create a card.
2. Color and write on the card.
3. Add the bandaid and googly eyes to make a silly friend on the card.
4. Discuss how the card might make a sick person feel better. Invite children to place their cards in envelopes and give it to a friend or family member who may need to feel better.

Teaching children to care for others is important. They need to know they too can make a difference in how someone feels.

God Made Me SPECIAL

My name is: _____

This is me:  My favorite food is:  My favorite color is: 

This is my family: 

This is something I love to do: 

This is how I serve God: 

www.cherigamble.com





DIGITAL DISCIPLESHIP

July saw a delegation of close to 40 Victorians, many sponsored by VicYouth, attend the Digital Discipleship Conference in Sydney, where attendees looked into how we can use the digital space to share our hope in Christ.

"After an exciting weekend which, I might add, included early morning runs, late night worships, new friends and a bunch of exciting ideas," said Simon Gigliotti, from VicYouth, "we decided that we can't leave what we have learnt in Sydney." Before returning to their homes, a plan was made to meet again, to pray and brainstorm, with anticipation that God would lead to the next step in using the digital world to reach others for Christ.

The first meeting took place early August, with nearly 30 people, including Pr Wayne Boehm from Hope Channel South Pacific and the Victorian Conference communications team, as well as others who were unable to attend the conference but were passionate about developing an Adventist presence in the digital space. Many exciting ideas were discussed and plans made.

The team has grown further and continues to meet with several projects already underway... so stay tuned!

If you would like to be a part of this ongoing venture, email VictorianAdventistCommunications@adventist.org.au to find out how.



SUMMERCAMPS 2018

What makes Summer Camps so special? Is it the 'summer camp' friends, the moving worships, the exciting activities or the nights by the fire at Swag Camp? Is it the 'getaway' atmosphere?

Truth be told, it's probably a combination of all of the above. But even more than all that, Summer Camps are special because they are a space in time where decisions for Jesus are made and faith is shaped for life.

As a result of his studies, Dr Wayne French notes that church related memory events, like Summer Camps, "have a lifelong impact, they enhance spirituality, they help develop a sense of belonging, create a sense of value, and bond our children and youth to the church."¹

Last year, from the Junior and Teen campers, we received 75 requests for Bible studies, 62 campers expressed their decision to be baptised and 90 committed to developing the courage to be bold for their faith. For the staff, it was amazing to watch Jesus transform lives before their very eyes.

Applications are open and we invite the young people in your house to be a part of Summer Camps.

- Gap Camp (16-18 yo Jan 11-15, 2018),
- Junior Camp (10-12 yo Jan 16-21)
- Teen Camp (13-15 yo Jan 23-28).

For those over 17, you can apply to be staff for Junior Camp, and 18+ can apply to be staff for Teen Camp.

To apply, or for further questions, contact VicYouth (P: (03) 9264 7740; E: vicyouth@adventist.org.au), or visit www.vicyouth.com. We look forward to seeing you at Summer Camps!

ELEVATE

The pressures our highschool young people face today are literally crazy! On top of normal school activities and discovering things like one's identity and purpose in life, many also deal with a mountain of extra-curricular activities, increasing negative peer pressures, a distorted media view of body image and sexuality and digital access to a plethora of worldviews. To make matters worse, they have to do this in a world that is vastly different from that which their predecessors grew up in.

In August, over 60 young people attended *Elevate - Life to the Max*, a joint initiative of Women's Ministries and VicYouth. The topic of the day was on doing the high school years in a crazy world.

We were blessed with a great location, great food and inspiring music from Lilydale Youth Worship Band. Our keynote speakers included Shannon Rose - Men's Ministries Director from the Western Australian Conference, and Erin Raethel - a young nurse from NSW. Shannon blessed everyone with his life story and practical methods for dealing with the pressures of sexuality our society brings. Erin shared wisdom on dating and finding a suitable partner.

For some, this type of discussion is a little confronting but the harsh reality is that the world our young people are growing up in is drenched with challenge. To illustrate research shows that in the United States, by age 18, 75% of those who have never attended church and 53% of those who do have lost their virginity.² Another study showed that "90% of young boys and 60% of young girls have been exposed to pornography before they reach the age of 18".³ And this research is just scratching the surface.

If we as a Church, and more importantly families within our Church, do not provide healthy dialogue with our young people on the pressures that surround them, who will?

Keep an eye out in 2018 for *Elevate - Life to the Max*, we look forward to seeing the young people from your Church there.

WINTER RECHARGE

Snow fell at Buller just in time for the Winter Recharge 18+ Youth Camp in August. About 100 young people came for a weekend of fun, food, friends and worship. Held at Camp Howqua, the event was co-hosted by VicYouth and the university student association, FOCUS.

The weekend was a blessing all round. Music was shared by a mixture of young people from different churches and the messages were presented by Pr Rome Uliá from Armadale NSW. Through scripture and his own testimony, Rome encouraged and challenged each person there to live out their faith in their day to day lives. His messages were inspiring - something to take home and unpackage again.

The rest of the weekend was spent chilling by the fireplace, four-wheel driving, skiing on Mt Buller, playing table tennis and pool, and honing the archery skills at the camp's archery range. Bring on Winter Recharge 2018!



FUN MUDDER 2017

If you are 10-18 years old, want to help people in need and have stacks of fun at the same time, then Fun Mudder is for you!

A mud filled, fun-filled obstacle course race that will be held on Sunday October 22 at Mt Cathedral, 140 Granite Park Place, Buxton is a joint initiative of ADRA in Victoria and VicYouth, encouraging young people to care for and support the less fortunate by raising funds for the annual ADRA Appeal, increasing their awareness and encouraging them to live a life of love and generosity.

If you can't participate, but would like to support, you are more than welcome to help Victorian youth raise over \$10,000 for the ADRA Appeal, supporting people in need at home and overseas.

Pathfinder clubs as well as individuals have been encouraged to participate in this fun event and it is not too late to join in and start raising money.

You can register @ www.vicyouth.com for \$120. Once we receive your registration you will receive instructions on how to set up your Fun Mudder Fundraising page.

For More information contact - Shonet Heath - ADRA Personal Assistant 03 9264 7777 or by email - shonetheath@adventist.org.au.

SHARE HIM

Share Him is an initiative for young people from economically developed countries to go to a country where the Adventist church is flourishing, to be inspired, trained and challenged and to come away motivated to make a difference in their own communities.

Mid July, a group of youth from Victoria joined forces with others from NSW and headed to Botswana to participate in an evangelistic series where each person was allotted a church in which they spent the next nine days preaching - AND some had never preached before. The conclusion of the program involved a baptism at the main church, some of the 70 people being baptised as a result of alter calls, others having planned for this. Two subsequent baptisms after the team left saw a further 170 people commit to Christ through baptism. The Spirit of God is surely moving through this region of Botswana. Also as a result of this experience, two of our own, Colette Mackojc and James Davey, while preaching and calling for baptisms, felt themselves convicted and made a stand, later in the trip.

From Botswana, the group made their way to Spain for the European wide Adventist Youth Rally where they worshipped with 4000 other young people.

"To see God work through us and change the lives of others and our own lives was incredible. Though there were some challenging moments (I'm looking at our accidental 22 hour bus ride to Botswana) - Share Him was an absolute blessing." - Colette Mackojc

"This trip made me appreciate the blessings God has given me and it brought me closer to Him. I am so excited to see where He takes me next." - Raya Rantall

"The icing on the cake was when preaching about the Sabbath three visitors, who were there for the first time, stood and surrendered their lives - and two were later baptised." - Joycelyn Phillips



¹ http://children.adventist.org.au/uploaded_assets/494562

² Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin, Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church, 97-101.

³ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/elwood-d-watson/pornography-addiction-amo_b_5963460.html



Testimony: Everyone has a Story

With students representing Primary and Secondary Campuses of metropolitan ASV schools crowding into the Nunawading Christian College's gymnasium for two days of worship and fellowship, the atmosphere was electric. Around 800 students filled the gym with noise and expectation each day. The annual Combined Schools Day of Worship event gathered Primary students on Thursday August 10 and Secondary students on Friday August 11 to worship, share testimonies and be drawn towards a living Jesus. Our speaker, Simon Gigliotti (VICYouth Associate Director), shared personal stories as well as challenges from the word of God exploring the theme of Testimony: everybody has a story.

This year it was NCC's turn to contribute items and drama to the program, while Heritage College shared worship music and Gilson Taylors Hill were hosts. Edinburgh College and Gilson Mernda shared a great diversity of drama to music, and spoken words. But a highlight again were the stories told by students across the spectrum of age, background and experience about the presence and power of Jesus Christ in their lives. Our service focus was ADRA's partnership with Afri-Aus supporting refugee teens in adjusting to life in Australia.

Our theme – "Testify" encouraged our students to be unashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to let their lives testify of the goodness of God.

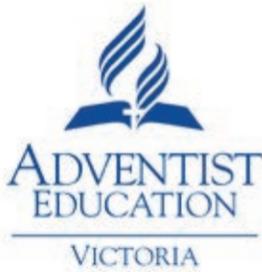
And in keeping with the theme, one of the Grade 6 students from NCC, Arya, gave a moving testimony. Here we share a little of it with you:

"I grew up in a beautiful Hindu family. Before I came to this school last year, I had heard of God, but knew absolutely nothing about Him. I could barely believe what I was hearing in Bible class and in Chapel – God created us, has a plan for us and is interested in us... as His child I am deeply loved and special and that my life purpose is to serve Him and become all He created me to be..."

Even though my family doesn't pray to God and doesn't believe, they don't stop me from making my own choice. I have chosen to follow Jesus, and believe He is the one and only true God.

I have learnt to talk with God. To pray to Him in rough times and happy, and when I feel alone. He has taught me to believe in myself and to know my true value lies in knowing that I am His child.

I just want to tell God, that I love Him and want to follow Him for the rest of my life."



GOOGLE IT

Google Certified Congratulations to Lorinda Bruce (ASV eLearning Education Consultant) and Jody Lawson (Heritage College Secondary Science Teacher) who were accepted into the Sydney Google for Education Certified Innovator Program. Each year Google has five intakes for the program selecting just 35 applicants for each program from around the world.



To apply they had to create a vision slide deck and one minute video to submit with their application. Lorinda and Jody attended the Sydney Academy at the Google office from 16-18 August for three high-intensity days of training and learning. This is followed by 12 months of working on their innovation projects.



Google Boot Camp ASV Teachers have been invited to attend Boot Camp and to receive their Google Certified Education Certificate. The training assists teachers to "not merely learn tools, but to discover the new educational possibilities and purposeful lesson design for their students and themselves". So far Nunawading Christian College teachers have trained to receive their Level 1 certification and Heritage College their Level 2.



SYNC Launch ASV are very excited at the launch of SYNC, a Google+ community that will strengthen collaboration and build community and support for our teaching staff. Ana Ferry (Heritage College Secondary Teacher) has used the research component of her Masters degree to create a site where early career teachers and their mentors can have conversations and access resources online. Linking into SYNC is Assoc. Edu director, Betty Lakovic's recently developed Learning & Teaching website which provides a range of resources. "It is our wish," she says, that SYNC will give teachers a sense of community across the system by supporting them to easily access resources and receive 'real time' support from other colleagues in their specialised areas and that this in turn will provide them with a sense of well-being in their work."

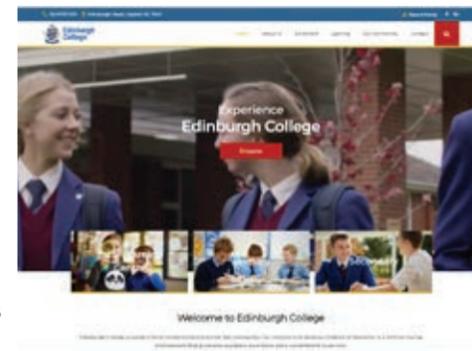
ASA Communities Lorinda Bruce (ASV eLearning Education Consultant) in collaboration with Adventist Schools Australia (ASA) has developed a Google+ community for administration and teaching staff to collaborate across schools in their class/subject/speciality areas. Teachers can ask questions, post links, link to a SEQTA programme, add resources/events or discuss relevant topics.

Positive Behaviour 4 Learning – Level one implementation complete

A number of ASV schools have received pleasing reports back from Dr Shiralee Poed (PB4L Facilitator Melbourne University). Some schools have achieved very high results in the implementation of Tier 1 – something that Shiralee stated is 'not often seen' in the first year of implementation. These reports and Shiralee's feedback gives ASV the assurance that our schools will reap the full benefits of this positive cultural change for all students and staff.

Educating for Eternity Adventist Schools Australia recently gifted teaching and other key staff at all schools with the book "Educating for Eternity" by George R. Knight. In order to stimulate discussion at schools, the ASA Curriculum Unit is developing a short study guide which will be distributed in the near future. The book is a timely reminder about the purpose of Adventist education. To quote Knight's Law, "It is impossible to arrive at your destination unless you know where you are going".

Rolling Out New Websites Updating of our schools' websites commenced last year under the supervision of ASV's Marketing Coordinator, Cameron Arnold. The new look websites are now live for Edinburgh College, Henderson College, Heritage College and Nunawading Christian College with Gilson College soon to be released. Updated Prospectus' are also being created for publication later in fourth term which will complement the website in style and appearance. Cameron also continues to work at school level supporting schools with their marketing through his innovative and creative ideas. It's great to see the evidence of increased interest in our schools. For example in events such as Nunawading Christian College's recent "School at Work" promotion which saw 60 people tour the school – the highest number to date. We look forward to this trend continuing across our schools.



VCE High Achiever Award



Gilson College student, Madeleine Giacchi was presented with a Top All-Round VCE High Achiever award, having achieved outstanding results in her subjects.

Madeleine said that none of this would have happened without the support of her family or the help of her teachers.

Congratulations, Madeleine.



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

**2018
SUMMER
CAMPS**

CAMP HOWQUA

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

GAP
Jan 11-15

JUNIORS
Jan 16-21

TEENS
Jan 23-28

VICYOUTH
WWW.VICYOUTH.COM

"Jesus Encounters"

Victorian Adventist Adult Singles (VAAS) Weekend in Marysville

Speakers: Pr. Garth & Aleta Bainbridge

Date: 24th - 26th November 2017

Venue: El Kanah Guest House
975 Buxton/Marysville Rd., Marysville

Time: 5:30pm Friday 24th - Registration
2:00pm Sunday 26th - Concludes

Cost: Twin Shared \$205
Triple Shared \$180
(No bunks) 4 star 2 nights accommodation + 6 meals

Bank: Commonwealth
BSB 063 535
A/C 1048 0183

RSVP: 15th November

Contact: Judy 0407 510 545

No one who met Jesus remained the same. People were drawn to him—Man or woman, rich or poor, good or bad—they all went away with a story to tell. We will explore from Leviticus and The Gospels how God values ordinary people with ordinary problems and extraordinary possibilities.

Garth and Aleta Bainbridge are still getting to know each other after ten years of marriage. Between them, they have seven children, twelve grandchildren and one great-grandchild. They minister in Sydney, giving pastoral leadership to Parsonella Church.

PAVILIONS

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THE NATURAL HABITAT FOR
A HEALTHY RETIREMENT

Patrol apartments, a stunning woodland setting and endless ways to achieve a healthy, balanced lifestyle - it's all here at Pavilions Blackburn Lake. Take a dip in the pool, watch a movie in the cinema or borrow a bike and explore the glorious urban oasis. We're your life, live it your way.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST
CALL 1800 728 464
PAVILIONSBLACKBURNLAKE.COM.AU

Concert of Beautiful Music

This tradition continues at
AdventCare Whitehorse
163-165 Central Rd Nu nawading
in the Auditorium
on November 25
at 3pm
Free entry with a freewill offering
going toward the facilities at the
centre.

14 OCTOBER 2017

IN CHRIST ALONE

Transformative Power

2017 YOUTH RALLY

10AM @ NUHAWADING CHRISTIAN COLLEGE | 161 CENTRAL ROAD, NUHAWADING VIC
GUEST SPEAKER | LACHLAN CAMPBELL

VICYOUTH

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.