

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 2014

...and to God...

the things that are God's




Victorian Adventist
COMMUNICATIONS

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Still Focused on Spiritual Faithfulness



In September 2013 delegates met for the Victorian Conference Constituency Meeting. What's happened in the last 12 months? Let me share a few highlights.

First let me clarify that while there have been immediate and pressing matters to address, our focus is on spiritual faithfulness and mission remains core business.

In our "Reaching the Cities" plans for 2014, we've trialled what has proven a most effective way of gathering and holding a hall full of people throughout the evangelistic series. This involved a range of events to engage with community people prior to running the 'Life After Life' evangelistic program and has proven successful in both the Pakenham area and Werribee. Attendance has been consistent, and we look forward to a good harvest. Our vision for 2015 is to implement this approach across our conference, with a range of events to connect with community people leading up to Dinners with Geoff, followed by Prophecy Seminars run by local pastors. Pastors have responded positively, with 35 opting in to this initiative for next year already.

The Conference Evangelism Committee is actively involved in implementing the cycle of evangelism – a holistic approach involving:

- Spiritual Renewal;
- Bridge Building events and activities to connect with the community;
- Reaping events;
- Discipling/ Nurturing activities and events.

A growing number of pastors and churches structure the church calendar around the cycle of evangelism, planning to cover each of the four areas regularly within the life of the church and are already reaping the results.

While mission is core, the Conference Board of Directors recognised a financial challenge for 2014. Conference leadership has reduced expenditure while maintaining services to the churches. (As you know, Big Camp was cancelled for 2014. See you at Elmore for Big Camp Easter 2015!) We've had to deal with an \$800,000 deficit, and reports indicate we're on track for a balanced budget this year.

Student numbers have grown in the last 12 months and under the leadership of our Education Director, Mr Brian Mercer our school system has received recognition by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority. Adventist Schools Victoria is now recognised as a 'School Review Body' – a significant achievement even though there has been a reduction in staff numbers at the ASV office. It's been sad to say good-bye to good staff.

You're probably aware that AdventCare has sustained significant losses largely due to the Yarra Junction facility and that did effect the budget for the last financial year. However, things are much more positive currently and the budget is in the black. Growing Adventist Ethos remains a challenge.

I thank God for committed members young and older, pastors, teachers, principals, department leaders and a wonderful team at the office. As we look forward to working together, please pray that God will lead our conference that we may be more effective in achieving the task Jesus gave us.

IntraVic Month 2014

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In our local news, there are stories of different community programs some of our churches are involved in, a testimony from three young men on their baptism and an update on a service project.

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Don't miss the reports from ADRA - and remember October is Appeal month. We also have an update from AdventCare and from VicYouth. Children's Ministries recently hosted a great conference on Faith Shapers, and our CFO tells us a little of how our tithe is used.

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The Blessing of Poverty

Devotional



“Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:3”

One story that illustrates this progression from receiving to giving is the story of Abraham and Melchizedek found in Gen 14:18-24.

A brief background study of this passage explains the meaning of the interaction between the two men. Abraham is greeted by Melchizedek, King of Salem, a priest of God Most High upon his return from rescuing Lot. Salem, which is short for (Jeru) Salem, means peace.

Neither David nor any other Hebrew built the city of Jerusalem. Its earliest inhabitants were faithful residents of Canaan who worshipped God (Psalms 76:2 may be of interest to you). Melchizedek, the Priest/King of Jerusalem/Zion, gives Abraham bread and wine, a symbol of communion/salvation. Abraham, in response to the blessing, gives a tithe to Melchizedek. Tithing is really an expression of gratitude, trust, and acknowledgement of God's goodness in the act of giving.

Are you poor enough to receive the kingdom of heaven?

If so, I invite you to experience the luxury of giving.

¹Michael J. Wilkins, NIV Application Commentary,



Roy Kim

205-206

Written by Roy Kim
MINISTERIAL INTERN

Jesus wants you to be poor.

After all, didn't He say to His listeners there on the mountain, "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"?

In context, the poor are those who have experienced financial hardship, as well as spiritual and emotional adversity. They are oppressed and acutely aware of their need of divine help.

This attitude of humility in the harsh realities of life makes a person open to receiving the blessings of the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus teaches that the norm of the kingdom of heaven is spiritual bankruptcy, unlike the spiritual self-sufficiency that was characteristic of the religious leaders.¹ Humility is the virtue that allows the poor to acknowledge and yearn for the grace of God.

Understanding their own need allows the poor to truly receive.

Poverty is also the birthplace of genuine giving. It is the recipient of grace that gives with a grateful, loving heart. Mark writes of an account of Jesus observing those who have come to the temple to give offerings. He

“One must be poor to know the luxury of giving – George Eliot”

sees a poor woman put two mites into the treasury. He turns to His disciples and says, "This woman has given more than all those who have come before her, for they have all given out of their abundance, but she has given all she has." (Mark 12:43, 44).

Genuine giving is more than an act. It's an attitude. The very foundation by which heaven operates is in the principle of selfless giving that is motivated by love. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). It is through this kind of giving that we experience what God experiences. It is through this

“You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving – Amy Carmichael”

kind of giving we acknowledge God's power and promote His principles. It is this kind of giving that shows we understand the gospel.

A Call to His Own

“ Jesus calls us to a life lived with radically different motives and actions to those of the world around us ”

Written by Roger Govender
DIRECTOR, STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES AUC

“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” Lk 12:15

In this feature we take an insightful look at the parable of the man who built bigger and better barns in which to store his wealth...

Allow your imagination to take you back to this moment, one of many where Jesus was addressing the disciples. Suddenly a man from the crowd interrupts Jesus by raising his voice. He requires Jesus to be an arbiter and to divide an estate which was due to him in an equitable way. We can understand the man saying to himself, “If anybody is fair and honest, it would be Jesus.” It is interesting to note that Jesus refuses to get involved. Instead, Jesus response was that life does not count in having many possessions.

This incident would help the disciples to learn the lesson that life is more important than material things. To explain this teaching, Jesus told a parable about a rich man who said, “This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and

there I will store all my grain and my goods.” This man would have considered himself blessed. His fields yielded plentiful crops; too much to be stored in his barns so he decided to build bigger and better barns or some may say that he was expanding his business. Most would have admired him as a capable businessman. Cultures often value a person by what he or she possesses, whether it be money, influence or stature. But God called the man a fool. That very night he was to die, and all his wealth would go to others.

What is the worth of a person’s life? Clearly that does not depend merely on its duration. It does not matter whether we are rich or poor, successful or unfortunate, clever or ‘dull.’ The secret and worth of one’s life consists in how faithfully we carry out our duty towards God and our fellow-man. It has been

said that, “The truth is that the value of life depends on what is done within its boundaries.”

As for the ‘fool,’ he seems to claim ownership: “I will tear down my barns; I will store all my grain and my goods.” He seems to emphasize, “This is what I will do.” He failed to come to grips with the fundamental fact that God is the Owner and we are His stewards, managing His affairs. This passage of Scripture also contains one of the most frequently quoted verses about money. Verse 34 says, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also,” and gives a good reason for saying so. It teaches that what we care about most in practice is indicative of the priorities of our hearts. This means that what we do with our money shows what our hearts care about most.

cont over page



A Call to His Own Continued...

There are two things that Jesus' words bring to our attention. Firstly, as Christ's disciples we need not live in a state of anxiety. We can trust God for our physical needs. Secondly, our use of our material resources will reflect our commitment to God, and the extent to which our hearts are set on His kingdom and His righteousness (v. 31). If we treasure mere things, possessions, or wealth, then our hearts will easily be drawn away from God. Like the rich fool, we will seek meaning in things, and with our vision clouded. We'll lose our way as disciples.

As good disciples of Christ, we will feel called otherwise than by our earthly treasures or needs. Consider the following three calls that must weigh upon the true disciple's mind.

A Call to Discipleship

As a disciple, we are called, "...to present our bodies as a living sacrifice..." (Romans 12:1). Anyone who is a follower of Christ may be called to relinquish control of life, possessions, career, traditions and more. Sacrifice cannot remain an abstract concept. We must be willing to sacrifice anything that we value as essential to 'life.' As Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). Discipleship and stewardship in the kingdom requires total allegiance. This is something that can be considered as going beyond us as individuals. It is also a call to us for a united step of faith, the presenting of ourselves as the body of Christ, as one 'living sacrifice' unto God.

A Call to Worship

In Romans 12:2, Paul continues by saying that this living sacrifice, 'Is your spiritual act of worship.' We worship God in the stewardship of our relationship to Him. "We worship and glorify God in the self-love that is the love of one created by God. We worship and glorify God in our selfless service to our neighbour. And we worship and glorify God in our care of creation.... Worship happens in the local church, in the home, in the workplace and in the community."¹

"We worship God in every area of our lives. If giving is merely to a church, a ministry, or to a needy person, it is only charity; but if it is to the Lord, it becomes an act of worship. Because Jesus Christ is our Creator, our Saviour and our faithful Provider, we can express our gratefulness and love by giving our gifts to Him."²

A Call to Love

Jesus told His disciples to do two things. First, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength," and second, "Love your neighbour as yourself." He concluded that in fact, "There is no greater commandment than these" (Mark 12: 30-31, NIV). In the book of Acts we see how disciples in the early church obeyed these commands of Christ by meeting in each other's homes, in the way they ate together, encouraged one another, looked out for one another. Out of a caring relationship, many people were won into the kingdom.

The world we live in is different from

the one Jesus calls us to live in, it operates on the premise of 'me first.' The 'me first' principle demands that I take care of my own wants first, like the 'rich fool' (Luke 12:13-21) and to forget the needs of others. Jesus calls us to a life lived with radically different motives and actions. As the early Christian church continued to grow and expand, the believers shared 'everything they had' because of their commitment to Jesus and because of human needs (Acts 4:32-35). This demonstrated not only their unselfish attitude towards material possessions but a distinguishing obedience to the 'greatest commandment,' by Christ's own. How shall we obey that call in our world today?

Roger Govender

¹ Scott R. Rodin. Stewards in the Kingdom: A Theology of God in All Its Fullness, p. 167.

² Howard L. Dayton, Jr. Your Money Counts, p.74.



Roger Govender

Highly Recommended Warragul Church

Warragul Church members recently conducted a Complete Health Improvement Program, commonly known as CHIP, with fantastic results.*

Of the 31 people who enrolled, from neighbouring Adventist churches and the community, 28 completed the program, which, by all accounts is a great achievement, but for a rural setting, is exceptional!

A celebratory banquet was held on the final Sunday, to which family members were also invited, and the participants received the results of their blood tests and biometric tests taken before commencement and five weeks later. On average, there was nearly a 12% drop in total cholesterol, 3.6 kg weight loss and 15 point drop in systolic blood pressure. (The best results were just over 32%, 5.3kg and 34 point drop.)

But that was not the end of CHIP... The church continued with a monthly follow up program and while attendance has naturally dropped off a little, new people have joined from the local community.

"I highly recommend CHIP to any of our churches that want to make a marked and statistically validated difference to the health of their community," said church pastor, Andrew Jasper.

If you would like more details on running CHIP in your church, talk to the Director of CHIP for the South Pacific Division, Paul Rankin, on 02 9847 3333.

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** this program is highly endorsed, and the Division is encouraging Conference personnel to undertake it. Sibilla will be presenting CHIP to our Victorian staff throughout October and November.*

Church News

Revelation Northpoint Church

Northpoint Church Tullamarine is now running an all-new Revelation Seminar, starting at 7pm every Friday.*

This new seminar format is divided into three main modules, each running for a total of six weeks. The first module focuses on Revelation chapters 1-7 and lays the foundation for understanding the rest of the Book.

On opening night the church was blessed by people who attended as a result of local newspaper advertisements. It must be noted, however, that the newspaper ad was cause for some concern, as it did not print clearly, and the newspaper marketing team was at a loss as to what went wrong.

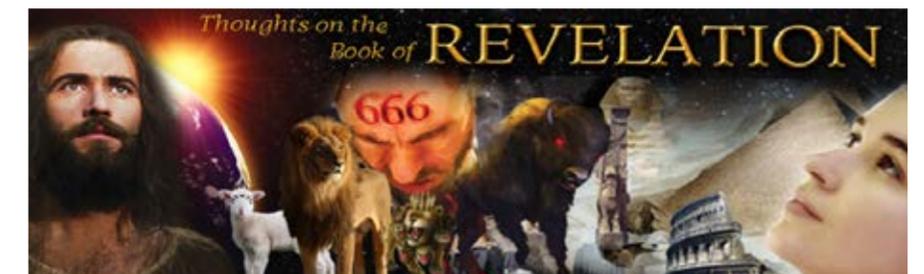
In spite of this "obstacle," the church has enjoyed meeting newcomers who are searching for "truth" and are keen



on attending future sessions.

The seminar is still open to all, including existing church members, and is the most thorough and comprehensive study on Revelation we've done, to date.

Anthea Harrison



**this new format has been developed by Pr David Riley and presentations are currently being filmed by Victorian Adventist Communications, as an added resource for churches to run the seminar, as well as being available to those who would like to work through the material by themselves. The resource will be made available on VictorianAdventist.TV and will be added to regularly over the ensuing months.*



Matt, Brodie and Andrew



It's Not Just One on One Burwood Church

Burwood Church recently saw three of its youth join the church in baptism. Each of these young men have grown up 'in the church' and attended church school right through to now. They gave powerful testimonies of their own struggles, and how God helped them overcome. And as they spoke, it became evident that for them at least, the Christian journey is not totally a one on one experience with God. We **all** play a role.

Andrew Bradley spoke of how his family, including his grandparents, had helped him grow spiritually, developing a meaningful relationship with God, and how his church and school friends have contributed to the person he is today. Matt Courtney expressed gratitude for having grown up in a Christian environment. And Brodie Smith told of the impact his family, both immediate, and church, has had, as well as that of his school mates, on his decision.

As Brodie said, growing up in a Christian environment "doesn't make the decision any easier or harder." He told of dark times, when Sabbath was just another 'school day' and he struggled to get up and get ready. "It was a serious problem for a long time. What got me out of that ditch was the people who surround me." His journey with God has not been one on one – he firmly believes God used his friends, telling them to just be themselves, and sure enough, through them, his eyes were opened and now he is hooked on God. "Now I am declaring my love for Jesus through baptism and I hope to be one of those older kids I looked up to, for the younger kids of this church today."

When the family shifted from Melbourne Asian Church to Burwood, Andrew really struggled. He loved school, where he was known. That was his life, but church was so different. Not naturally outgoing, he found the transition difficult; he stopped looking forward to attending and no longer enjoyed learning about God. But praise God, the young people around him didn't not give up on him, and gradually they developed a relationship and he

felt welcomed. And again praise God, Andrew was given roles in the church, such as multi media. With things to do, and good solid friendships, he now loves church, and his relationship with God is at its strongest yet. "And I know it is going to get even better" he concluded.

From his first remembered prayer ('I was building a lego house and the roof started crumbling and I didn't know what to do – so I prayed') til now, Matt knows he has been a Christian. He can also see, however, that it has only been the last two years where his belief has really moved beyond going to church and praying. He addressed a problem he has experienced, that we all face – that of prioritising. "There were days when I would see my devotional, and pick it up and spend time with God. And there were days where I ignored Him. It wasn't that I didn't want to spend time with Him, but there were other things I needed to do, or I was running out of time..." Matt gradually began to see that the days he did make time in his life to spend with God were much better. "With Him first in my life, He could make such an impact. I want my entire life from now focusing on and loving God, and becoming the person He wants me to be."

Brodie concluded with an appeal. "I encourage people who, like me, have had doubts, to surround yourselves with people who love you, and adore God. Soon, you will be just as hooked as I am... and if you are thinking about baptism, you are quite possibly not the only one – so tell someone. Don't be scared – speak up – not just for you but for God."

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Brodie was baptised by his grandfather, Pr Allan Croft



Pr Moe baptising Matt and Andrew



Annette, Leon and their children

Helping Hands Mont Albert Church

One of 150 successful AusAID applicants selected from 6000 applications, Annette left her husband Leon and children Daniel

(3yrs) and Herald (4 months) behind in New Guinea mid 2012, to pursue a degree in Public Health.

She was severely homesick but through God's providence, the family were united in December that year.

Making ends meet was difficult, but they were content, until struck by tragedy in April this year. Leon was diagnosed with kidney failure, requiring dialysis three times per week, for four hour sessions.

In July, Mont Albert Church launched its community outreach ministry, Helping Hands. The ministry's main objective is to meet the needs of the church's community. It was obvious that a top priority was to help Annette's family and pay Leon's medical bills.

Church members reached out with food parcels, cared for their children and took Leon to and from the dialysis clinic.

Annette's student visa is due to expire in July 2015. Currently there is limited or no dialysis treatment in Papua New Guinea, particularly in the province of Manus where the family used to live. The only treatment available costs \$1,200 per week which is unaffordable to most. Due to this predicament Helping Hands is raising funds to purchase a dialysis machine and/or to pay for transplant procedures.

Joocy Lam & Tarnya Garner

The Mont Albert church has set up a special bank account for anyone who wishes to support this cause. Details for direct deposit:

A/c Name: SDA Church Leon's Medical Fund A/c number: 521566 BSB: 033089

It is Written The Orchard

Pr Gary Kent from *It Is Written* recently presented at *The Orchard* in the city, with good results.

The two presentations before 70 attendees were inspirational. Of the 22 *It is Written* contacts who were there, ten enrolled for a subsequent evangelistic series which will take place 11am each Sabbath morning, presented by the Orchard pastor, Rod Anderson, with all but three

of them also registering interest in the Bible study group beforehand.

God has blessed this church group immensely. Please remember all those involved in your prayers, as the Lord's work continues.

Rod Anderson



The dedication of...

Emmett Les Samuel Tickner

Give Back to God Ferntree Gully Church

Ferntree Gully church recently had cause for celebration with dedications two weeks running.

Suffer the Little Children to come unto Me... The Sabbaths of July 12 and 19 were extra special days at Ferntree Gully Church.

Following the example of the biblical Hannah who took her much longed for son to the temple to be 'given back to the Lord', Dean and Melodie Tickner had their son Emmett Les Samuel dedicated on July 12th.

On Sabbath July 19 Ben and Natascha Barkla brought their five children, aged five years and under, to be dedicated after their recent return from Ethiopia, from where some of their children have been adopted.

Both dedications were conducted by Pastor Trevor Rowe and assisted by elder Sue Beament, before family, friends and church family.

Elayne Stanford



The Barkla Family

Supporting Balolava Wantirna and Warnambool Churches

Wantirna and Warrnambool churches banded together in 2009 and committed to the South Pacific Division's Adopt a Clinic program to support Balolava, a remote Medical Clinic in the Solomon Islands. At that time, they totally renovated the building and installed a solar energy system.

Following the team visit, the Solomon Island Government inspected the facility and was impressed enough to encourage the Solomon Islands



Seventh-day Adventist Mission to propose an extension of Balolava Clinic so medical and dental teams could visit and attend to the needs of the local villagers on site.

As a result, Wantirna members of the team provided construction designs and estimated costing to Solomon Islands Mission for a building 20m x 10m. A submission to the Solomon Islands Government for financial support was successful, and the equivalent of AU\$90,000 was granted. It was agreed by Solomon Island Mission and Wantirna/Warrnambool churches that a Solomon Islands contractor, with help from local villagers, would carry out construction of the new facility, but considerable material was required.

Members of the team offered to assist



by sourcing/manufacturing as much material as possible and shipping it to Solomon Islands and the necessary purchases were made over a three to four month period.

At the same time the two Melbourne churches continued to raise funds for their ongoing commitment to support Balolava Clinic and local villages and have scheduled a team visit for late 2014. During this visit, two villages will have a much-needed water supply connected, two staff houses for nurses will be painted and a church school at Sukiki will be renovated and repainted. Material for the team visit totalled AU\$25,000 and during the last two weeks of June, a container was filled with 18 – 20 tonnes of steel and general goods for both projects.

Lindsay Borgas

Things ARE Happening Yarra Valley Church

Earlier this year members ran a health program over a period of weeks, with topics, which included heart, diabetes, obesity, common cancers, anxiety and depression. We had many people from the community who came along to listen to the various topics, and at the conclusion of each night there was a vegetarian meal provided, which was very much appreciated.

Advertising was organised through a mail out by Australia Post, the local paper and a banner beside the highway.

During the first week of the school holidays, a Holiday Bible Program was organised and run by dedicated leaders for the five mornings of the first week of the school holidays, at Woori Yallock Primary School. Several children came from the community, and all enjoyed the topics that were presented. The craft group was especially welcomed as the children made different items to take home. The topic chosen for the week was "Creation", and each group presented something to do with this God-given theme. The Yarra Valley

Church children worked as shepherds and shepherdesses taking the children to the various activities. Breakfast and lunch were also provided for the children, and many of the parents commented appreciatively about the program and how their children enjoyed coming.

A great deal of work was undertaken to provide the most Godly presentations, and the children left there with the knowledge that there is a wonderful Father in Heaven who really cares about them.

An Evangelistic Program was run during the month of July and into

August for two nights a week, with a speaker presenting a vast range of topics from the archaeological proof of the Bible through to the change from the Sabbath to Sunday.

Many visitors came from the community and there was a great deal of interest shown in the care and nurture of those attending. Praise God for the interest shown and may God be glorified through all these meetings.

Our Yarra Valley Church has run these meetings previously, and it's good to be a witness in the community for the Lord.

Nola Robins

Where Does Tithe Go? Treasury

This is a question I have heard asked time and time again during my years in conference administration, and it's a great question. Understanding where your tithe goes and how it gets used gives assurance and certainty that it does not just end up in a big black hole, or swallowed up in administrative costs.

All levels of church operation from the local church through to the General Conference benefit from your contributions and because tithe is sacred, the General Conference has placed restrictions on what your tithe can be used for.

Tithe is the main source of income for the Victorian Conference with more than 82% of our 2014 income budget coming from tithe. This year the Conference has a tithe budget of \$13.35 Million. The remainder of our income is made up of income from Howqua, ABC sales, offerings, appropriations from other entities, property rentals, interest and other ministry and miscellaneous income.

So what happens with my tithe?

100% of the tithe you give is passed on to the local Conference. Of this tithe, the Conference passes a total of 20% on to our higher entities (see flowchart). Each entity uses the tithe for various ministries.

Current operations

We commenced the year with an operating deficit of \$237,000 and have worked hard to control expenditure and maximize income. Our departmental ministries have taken seriously the responsibility of operating in a financially sustainable manner and we thank them for their discipline with this. It is pleasing to report that our July operating report has shown a surplus operating result for the year to date.

We have received support from South Pacific Division in a tithe percentage re-allocation, which has been a significant help for our budget this year. Our tithe is a little short on

budget and your continued support is encouraged and appreciated, as is your support of Howqua and our ABC ministries.

The good news is that BIG Camp will be back in 2015, however it is a BIG cost to our Conference. I am sure the interaction, fellowship, and spiritual renewal of the Big Camp experience is a blessing to many and we want to ensure that we can continue to offer this opportunity for spiritual renewal to our membership.

I know that many of you have heard about the special offering on October 11 in support of Big Camp. Green and Gold. \$150 each. You can help make a difference in a time of need. It's an Aussie thing to do.

Our executive committee, administration and office staff want to lead by example and have all committed to give generously of their financial means to support Conference ministries such as Big Camp and the Youth Pastoral Worker program.

God has blessed Victoria Conference. I am reminded of the words from a popular Chris Tomlin song "You're the God of this city...for greater things have yet to come and greater things are still to be done in this city."

Graeme Moffitt
CFO Victorian Conference



How It Works





Luis and family at his Ordination at Warrnambool



Pr Christian congratulates Luis



Luis, Alicia and children Chloe and Jeremiah



Luis and Alicia with Pr Christian, Pr Croft and Pr Brendan Pratt



Friends and family at Warrnambool Church

Luis' Ordination Ministerial

Luis Bermudez and his family were joined by church families and friends at Warrnambool on Sabbath, August 23, for a very special day of celebration, as Luis was ordained. Given that his peers were preaching at their respective churches, and Luis' previous appointment was some distance away in Mildura, it was a special blessing to see the church full of worshippers.

Coming to Victoria from Avondale College in 2009, Luis completed his internship the following year. He spent his first four years working with Mildura and Dareton Churches and as Henderson College Chaplain, before taking on Warrnambool, Camperdown and Portland churches this year.

From the time Luis was born, he has identified as a Seventh-day Adventist and attributes this to the strength of his mother's convictions. Her faith fuelled the move to Australia from Nicaragua, and always in the back of Luis' mind was the thought that God had bought them to Australia for a greater purpose.

During his teen years, he lost focus and was side-tracked into a very different lifestyle. But the seeds planted by his mother took root, and God gave Luis the strength to refocus on the right path. He used to think he would excel at law or medicine, or maybe psychology, and in the local library researched these careers but kept finding himself distracted because he just wanted to read his Bible more and more. Then he heard about Avondale.

His desire to dig deeper into God's Word led Luis to enrol in theology there, but he found his long distance relationship with Alicia 'too hard'... so they married!

Then in his third year, still unsure of what path he should take, Luis transferred to Psychology.

The very same week, he received a sponsorship offer from the Victorian Conference. He met with the Head of Theology, and after prayerful consideration, returned to theology, convinced that God was indeed confirming his call to Ministry. Since then he has not looked back as he has been faithful to the call of God.

Luis, well supported by his wife, Alicia, is respected across all the churches he has worked with. He can effectively relate to all age groups and his enthusiasm for ministry and reaching the lost is contagious.

Congratulations, Luis and Alicia. May you feel God's presence and blessing as you continue serving Him.

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P.E.G.S. of Golden Hope - Health

The Golden Hope Foundation is an Australian registered Community Health Promotion Charity. The Foundation is currently engaged in the promotion and establishment of "NO MEANNESS" communities under a P.E.G.S. interment.

In partnership with service clubs, sporting clubs, businesses, schools and other community groups, the concepts of "No Meanness Allowed" is being given wide awareness. The Golden Hope Foundation endeavours to promote this community project through the distribution of interactive signage materials and community interments.

Max Lesser, a Seventh-day Adventist, is the person behind this initiative. He is passionate about this project. Designed by local communities and school students, Max has co-ordinated the publication of resources and impact

signage covering a range of important community/individual health and social issues (see box).

Max hopes that our Church members will get behind these worthwhile projects, as it will open doors in the community, and is a way of connecting and introducing spirituality to the whole community. "Using the P.E.G.S. interments," says Max, "will get you into places that churches normally find difficult to connect with, such as businesses, work places, schools, offices and sporting groups."

Sibilla Johnson

AMEN Australia - Health

AMEN could be for you - it stands for Adventist Medical Evangelism Network. So if you are interested in Health Evangelism, why not come to this year's annual conference?

This year it will be held in the Collaroy Convention Centre in Sydney, NSW from 5-7 December 2014. The theme for the conference is "From Bended Knee to Bedside" and features two key speakers:

Phillip R Mills, MD is a sought-after speaker who also manages to combine a busy medical practice with outreach.

Fred Hardinge, DrPH, RD, FADA is an internationally recognised creative

educator and motivational speaker in the area of health. He is an Associate Director at the General Conference Health Department.

Register your interest with your contact details on the following website: www.amenaustralia.org/events/

You will then be advised of Conference details and other events.

Sibilla Johnson

New Church Signage

Church leadership has collaborated with AMN to design new church signage. A package has been developed that will enable churches to have modernised signs erected on their properties.

And the great news is that the Division and Union have allocated funds to the Victorian Conference to assist our churches in doing so. Local churches across the Division will only be expected to contribute 50% of the cost and it is expected that there will be a full roll out over the next six years.

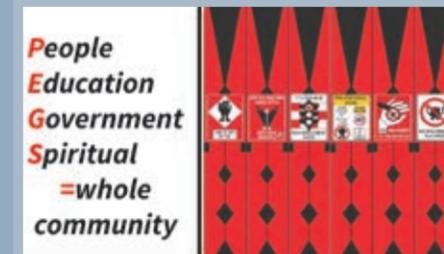
A promotional video can be viewed

<http://vimeo.com/adventistmn/adventistbranding> (enter the password mychurch), and if your local church is interested in getting started with this, send your expression of interest to ADCOM, care of the General Secretary, CraigGillis@adventist.org.au, and your request will be forwarded to those administering this.

Volunteers Needed - VAC

Victorian Adventist Communications is looking for people willing to help with simple video editing. If you are

interested, please contact us on VictorianAdventistCommunications@adventist.org.au



Hand of Hope Anytime*

It really helps you feel better when somebody cares about you. So if you have ever been upset or sad and felt like nobody cares, or you know someone who feels like that, give them a Hand of Hope. This handout is a simple message of hope and friendship and helps to defeat depression. You can give these cards to young people or adults who have a special need in this area. It will show them that you care.

Body Image*

To maintain a healthy self-esteem, to have self-acceptance, to be comfortable with your body and to create a positive life perspective, this handout was developed by secondary college students and helps to create an awareness about issues that may affect a student's well-being. Use these cards in schools.

No Meanness Allowed*

This is a message for the whole community to respect each other. These cards have been used very successfully in primary, secondary schools and sports clubs.

The project has community and institutional support from Rotary and Lions Clubs, the Anglican Church, government/private educational departments and sporting bodies.

*more information and downloadable resources at www.goldenhope.org



Partnership Cemented

It has been a long time coming... But after many hours of work, meetings and negotiations, an agreement has been reached and an Emergency Management Memorandum of Understanding between ADRA and the Whittlesea Council approved.

Congratulations to those who have worked so hard to bring this about.

Since the tragic Black Saturday Bushfires of February 2009, where it was found that there was little ADRA could actually do 'on the ground' in the case of an emergency here in Victoria, ADRA has been actively seeking out an agreement with local government whereby it could provide support in a formal capacity. Other states had formalised agreements with the government to facilitate short-term emergency accommodation for people affected by disaster, but such arrangements were not possible here in Victoria.

Thus, this newly formalised partnership heralds a new phase of involvement for Victorian Adventists in the case of state emergencies, which will see ADRA and our volunteers involved at the fore front of emergency relief centres, in a 'Meet and Greet' capacity, working closely with Council and other staff to ensure people are attended to immediately and appropriately.

This partnership is one of many Rebecca Auriant hopes to see established across our state. "Thank you to all the volunteers who stepped up to support those affected by the Wallan and Horsham fires this year," she said. "Without the support of dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to help people in an emergency."

IntraVic



Kevin Munroe (left) and Rebecca Auriant (both from ADRA) with City of Whittlesea representatives, Griff Davis, Russell Hipkins and Nevil Kurth.



Service Trips

It's great to see our schools and youth involved in service trips this year! Edinburgh College will be going to Vanuatu, Heritage College to Nepal, VicYouth to Cambodia and both Heritage and Henderson College to the Redwood Community Centre in Warburton. I have witnessed some of the work that Edinburgh College has been doing to prepare for Vanuatu and their dedication and passion towards service is inspiring. During their time on the island of Espiritu Santo in Vanuatu, they will be working with locals to assist the construction of a new classroom and water tank in order to provide a positive learning environment at Amapelao Primary School.

It is impressive to see that ADRA designs every trip to enhance an existing project that has been implemented by the local community, through support and training, to address the long-term underlying issues of poverty.

Furthermore, ADRA makes sure that those going on the trips are educated about sustainable community development. Every trip leader will receive the book "When Helping Hurts"

Cornerstone

The Carrum Downs Samoan SDA Church supports families and individuals experiencing hardship, by serving over 140 people a healthy meal every month at Cornerstone in Dandenong. They also provide blankets, tilos, sleeping bags and toiletries to the homeless. More

NEWS FLASH

Our partnership with the City of Whittlesea is underway (see article - left) and we now require the churches closest to the City of Whittlesea (Plenty Valley, Mernda, Preston, Craigieburn Samoan, Greenvale, Northpoint and North Melbourne Samoan) to attend



by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert, which explains the relief, rehabilitation, and development process and how our efforts can best impact communities. The book emphasises a key point, which is that "Until we embrace our mutual brokenness, our work with low-income people is likely to do more harm than good."

With trips thoughtfully structured in this way, our efforts to assist those living in poverty are given the best chance of successful implementation.

Please keep these exciting upcoming projects in your prayers.

Amy Pitt
ADRA Schools Ambassador



information will be provided soon, on how your school and youth group can support this vital ministry.

our first training with the Whittlesea Council on Sunday, November 30th, 10am - 12noon at the Victorian Conference Office. Please email me at rauriant@adra.org.au for more information.

Rebecca

Students Connect

In August, students from Heritage College visited the Redwood Community Centre in Warburton as part of the first local ADRA Connections Trip organised in Victoria for our Adventist Schools.

The Year 10 students supported the Centre's Chewsday Bite food distribution program as well as helping establish a garden for the elderly residents at AdventCare. The students also volunteered their time to support the weekly playgroup held at the centre.

Kate Barratt, Redwood Centre Manager, led the group in a discussion about depression, bullying and how to access resources and support in times of crisis. As part of the learning experience, students also visited Healesville Sanctuary for an indigenous culture walk.

Throughout the year, students will continue to serve at the Redwood Community Centre by establishing

a garden on school grounds and donating the produce to those the centre supports.

The Redwood Centre, a partnership between the Warburton Adventist Church and ADRA Australia, provides a drop-in service for youth, mentoring programs, counselling and crisis support for individuals and families in need.

If your school would like to be part of a local or international ADRA Connections trip, please contact me on rauriant@adra.org.au or visit www.adra.org.au/connections.

Rebecca Auriant
ADRA Director for Victoria,



#knocktober

the ADRA Appeal in October!

With your help we'll raise \$1.6million in order to help 63,000 people thrive. The funds raised will help people at home and overseas.

#knocktober is your chance to help restore equality around the world and help others experience life as God intended.

More than just knocking on doors, the ADRA Appeal is about changing lives around the world!



Making a Difference

ADRA's Youth Ambassador, Rosie Andrykanus spent some time in Lao in 2013. She tells of a meeting with a village chief in a remote village of Lao People's Democratic Republic, and how life in his village has improved since ADRA became involved.

ADRA is the only non-government organisation currently working in his district, and with ADRA's help, his village has achieved 'model healthy village' status.



Visit Vic.Adventist.org.au and click on the news tab to read this story, or use your QR reader



NEEDED - Drivers

If you are interested in joining ADRA's Refugee and Migrant project, they are constantly on the lookout for people able to be driving mentors. In partnership with the Migrant Information Centre (MIC), a driving program has been established to assist newly settled refugees.

Email the project manager, SarahCourtney@adra.org.au (pictured with Mervat Dahdoule and Mehul Patel from MIC) for more information or to register your interest.

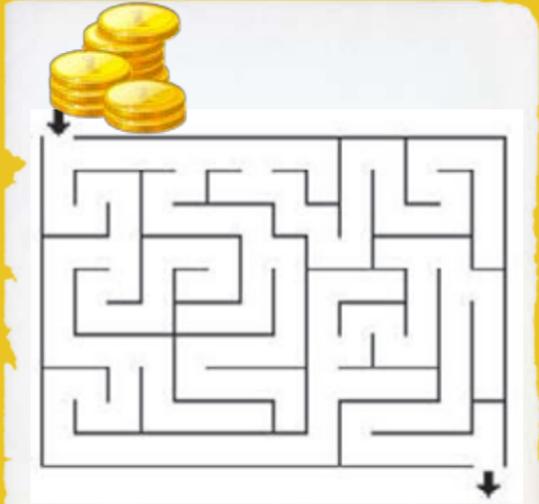


KID'S SPOT

God Loves a cheerful giver

Have you heard of the word TITHE before? Do you even know how to say it? You may notice some people at your church putting an envelope into the offering bag as it is passed around each Sabbath. Well that's a tithe envelope and people put in it a special amount of money that helps to support our Pastors in the amazing work that they do! Do you pay tithe? If not maybe it's something that you could talk to a grown up about. There are even some special tithe envelopes... Just for kids!

Help the tithe find its way to the offering bag



There are some great verses in the Bible about paying Tithe. Tick the box after you read each one

Malachi 3:10
 2 Corinthians 9:7
 Luke 6:38



How many words can you make from the letters in

"TITHE ENVELOPE"?

.....



Draw a picture of yourself putting your tithe envelope

into the offering bag



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

Victorian Children's Ministries

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

AdventCare Update

Aged Care Reforms – What it means for you!

Change is inevitable in this life and the funding of residential aged care is no exception! With the Federal Government providing 65-70% of our funding there are always changes being made to try to refine the way aged care is funded.

Just when you were familiar with the system the Government brought in a significant change with the Aged Care Reforms taking effect from 1 July 2014.

So what is new, what has changed?

In some ways not much has changed. You can still gain access to our residential services in Nunawading, Bendigo and Warburton with the majority of the cost of your care funded by the Government.

The key features of the new system can be summarised below:

1. There is now no high care or low care distinction upon admission; all beds are general aged care beds. This removes some of the differences in funding between the two types of care.
2. The main Government funding relates to the ACFI funding system that is based on your care needs and this is unchanged.
3. All aged care facilities now have to price each type of resident room (similar to a hotel) and these prices are now published on our website and on the Government's MyAgedCare website.
4. Residents pay a daily care fee (the same for all), a capital or periodic payment and a means tested fee (based on your income and assets). The principles are the same as before, but have been simplified into one system for all.

Be assured that for people with limited assets you can also seek care at AdventCare and the Government pays an extra subsidy for your care.

We can assist you to gain a better understanding of the funding system and what choice is best for you. Where your financial affairs are more complex

you can seek help from a specialist aged care financial planner to smooth the admission to residential care at AdventCare. So be assured that there is a path through the maze and we will guide you along the way.

What is new at AdventCare?

AdventCare Website:

Stay tuned for our new and upgraded website that will showcase our facilities and provide you and your family with loads of useful information. You can still find us at the old address (under the Facilities tab at Vic.Adventist.org.au) but we are currently swapping the old Kingswood for the latest Commodore and will invite you to test drive it in a few months!

Expanded Dementia Services

We have added some more beds and are upgrading others to create a dedicated 38 bed Dementia Unit at AdventCare Whitehorse in Nunawading. The last of the rooms will be finished in December 2014 and we can then offer you more choice in dementia care at AdventCare.

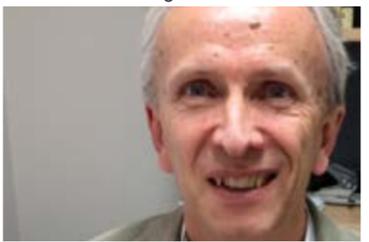
Bendigo Upgrade

The paint is dry and the pictures rehung on the walls at AdventCare Bendigo where a significant building upgrade has been underway. The corridors and all resident living areas have been painted, new dining chairs purchased and resident rooms remodelled to meet the care needs of the community.

There are a number of limited vacancies at present and we invite you to tour the home and see the changes for yourself. Admissions are now open, so come along and talk to us about how we can support you.

Visit Vic.Adventist.org.au for facility contact details and to link through to the AdventCare website.

David Reece
 Acting CEO, AdventCare



A Look at VAAS

Victorian Adventist Adult Singles (VAAS) works to provide social and spiritual activities for single people in a friendly environment.

Planned activities include house parties, excursions, spiritual retreats and restaurant meals. Annual highlights include our spiritual retreat at El Khanah in Marysville, Christmas in July at the Marybrooke Manor in Sherbrooke and our annual Christmas party at the Cuckoo Restaurant in the Dandenong Ranges.

VAAS is a vital part of the Adventist Connect Singles Network run from the South Pacific Division office in Sydney. This gives us easy access to notices of Singles programs run in the various Conferences around Australia.

New members are always welcome and we are always looking for new activities to add to our program.

To add your name to our email list or to enquire about programs contact either Judy 0407 510 545, Cherryll 0411 481 930 or visit www.adventistsingles.net.au

From the President

Once again, Pastor Christian shares with us some of what has been happening at the recent administrative meetings.



LE's Reporting In



We have more stories from the experiences of our Literature Evangelist team.

Use these codes or visit Vic.Adventist.org.au and click on the News tab

Page to the Stage

Nunawading Christian College

Recently the Victorian State Library hosted an exhibition entitled "From Page to Stage" which highlighted Victor Hugo's famous work "Les Miserables." Following their outstanding presentation of this play last year, students from Nunawading Christian College Secondary were invited by the State Library to perform as part of this exhibition. Over fifty students from NCCS performed a collection of songs from the musical in the forecourt of the Victorian State Library. Before an



audience of over a hundred and fifty onlookers, teachers, parents and friends, our students enthralled and captivated with their performance.

The organisers of this unique event were impressed with the behaviour, initiative and talent of each and every one of our bright stars as they lit up the stage with their heartfelt performance.

Marie Roberts

ASV Board Votes to Appoint Associate Director of Education



At its meeting on 20 August 2014 the Board of Directors voted to

appoint an Associate Director of Education commencing from 2015. This position was seen as integral in supporting the ongoing strategic objectives of Adventist Schools Victoria.

As part of the transition Betty Lakovic, Schools Development

Officer – Induction & Mentoring, has been appointed to the role of Acting Assoc. Director for the remainder of 2014. Betty will be taking on the responsibility of Schools Development Officer – Learning & Teaching.

The current team also include: Brian Mercer (Director of Education), Ricardo Schaffers (Schools Finance Officer), Lorraine Anthony (HR Manager), Lorinda Bruce (eLearning Officer), Ben Thomas (WH&S Officer) and Fiona Thomas (Office Manager).

For She's A Jolly Good Fellow

Sandra England from Gilson College was recently honoured by admittance as a Fellow of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL).

ACEL Fellowship is awarded to members who have made an outstanding contribution over a period of time to the improvement of student and organisational outcomes.

Unbeknownst to Sandra, Brian Mercer, ASV Education Director, Raelene Delvin, Head of Primary at Gilson College and Linda Cutting, Independent Schools Victoria Senior Advisor for School Improvement

(Literacy and Numeracy) submitted a nomination in recognition for her valued contribution to education in the Adventist School system in Victoria.

Sandra will be formally admitted to the ACEL Fellowship during ACEL's annual conference in Melbourne on 1-3 October.



21st Century Learning Precinct

Gilson College

A \$600,000 federal government grant has enabled the new \$1.8 million Year 5 and 6 Centre at Gilson College to become a reality. Collingwood based architects, Kneeler Designs, have incorporated cutting edge concepts into the whole facility, providing flexible and inspiring learning spaces.

Hamilton based building firm, Cubic Modular, utilised the latest building methods and materials in the construction of this project, most of which occurred off-site, with the on-site component taking only twelve weeks to complete. Clever natural lighting and ventilation systems have provided a very positive and stimulating teaching environment.

This new facility was officially opened in a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony in August by Senator Scott Ryan, parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Education, and Mark Vodell, Gilson College Principal, attended by the whole school community and invited guests.

Len Farquharson



Combined Schools Day of Worship (CSDW)

The annual CSDW program was held on 14 & 15 August at Nunawading Christian College. Coordinated by ASV school chaplains, students presented items of a high calibre including drama, musical items and DVD presentations. The theme this year was 'Just Do It' encouraging students to connect with Jesus and help others to do the same. Eddie Hypolite, chaplain at Avondale College, was the guest speaker for the two

Happy Hands Art Time

ASV have been delighted to work in partnership with Carolin Schmitz to introduce her Happy Hands Art Time program into each of our schools. The mission and vision of Happy Hands is to build a link between the church/school and its surrounding community by bringing young families into contact with people of the Adventist faith.

Happy Hands Art Time has now been running for three and a half years, first beginning at Nunawading Adventist church in 2011.

By the beginning of Term 4, the structured program will have been rolled out in all of our Adventist schools in Victoria and has started expanding into churches, most recently Seddon Church. There are currently waiting lists for all operational sites!

Carolin is excited about the continuing success of the program, "It has been such a blessing to both our churches and schools as it is really creating positive connections with our community by building relationships with young families. When you come into a session, you cannot help but feel happy! The constant flow of positive feedback from all of our community parents attending is always very encouraging to anyone involved in running the program, there is no doubt that God is continuing to bless this ministry."

If you feel impressed to run this program in your church and would like to know more about it, please contact Carolin Schmitz on 0451 532 840.



days. Our thanks go to the teachers who get involved and come along each year to support the students and to our amazing chaplains who work so hard in putting this program together each year. 10/10!



Eddie Hypolite



Happy Hands Art Time
Encourage Creativity

MISSION STATEMENT

The Happy Hands ministry is to reveal God our Creator through creativity in a nurturing Christian Adventist environment whilst developing genuine relationships and building a spirit of trust for ministering and witnessing to young families of our local communities.



Our Schools

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

Lilydale Adventist Schools

Edinburgh Early Learning Centre
Phone: 03 9761 9991

Edinburgh Adventist Primary
Phone: 03 9728 8833

Lilydale Adventist Academy
Phone: 03 9728 2211
las.vic.edu.au

Nunawading Christian College

Primary Campus
Phone: 03 9878 9927

Secondary Campus
Phone: 03 9877 3555
ncc2.vic.edu.au



VicYouth

West Vic Adventurers Regional Day

Approximately 100 people came together at Ararat on Sunday July 20 for Victoria's first ever Adventurers Regional Day.

There were four churches represented; Ballarat, Bendigo, Horsham and Ararat. The Adventurers had a wonderful day of worship, recreation, sharing lunch together and doing crafts. They earned four awards during the day; two in the morning – Gymnast and Handicraft and two in the afternoon – Honey and Honeybee.

We look forward to further Adventurer regional days in the future as the Adventurer ministry continues to flourish in our churches across Victoria.

Summer Camps

How significant are church camps in the spiritual development of our young people?

Research from Christian Venues Association show that 1 in 10 people made a commitment to faith at a Christian camp. For young people, 15-29 it jumped significantly to 3 out of every ten. Have a look at the stats they provide below.

Summer Camp could well be the place where your son or daughter (or grandson or granddaughter) make



their decision for Christ. Have you considered that?

Summer Camp dates for 2015 are January 13-26.

Apply online at Vic.Adventist.org.au

Share Him

Are you ready for any adventure in faith and ministry? Between June 16 and July 13, 2015 you can join a Youth in Action mission trip to southern Mexico and Texas.

In Mexico you will be part of a team running a Share Him evangelistic campaign for two-and-a-half weeks with a local church. While there you will also have opportunity to visit some of the scenic wonders in the area.

The trip will also include attending the 60th General Conference session in San Antonio, Texas.

This opportunity is open to youth between the ages of 18 and 35. We are just waiting on final confirmation of pricing, but this 27 day trip is tremendous value at around \$3700.

Talk to us at VicYouth if you want to know more.



iThirst Camporee

We have 122 Pathfinder clubs and 3165 campers from Australia registered so far (early bird) for the Pathfinder Camporee to be held in Toowoomba, QLD, January 6-10 2015. Victoria is well represented with 14 clubs and 438 campers planning to attend.

Please pray for our Pathfinder Directors right across the South Pacific Division as they prepare and plan for this major event and for all those who attend.

International Pathfinder Camporee

What an experience to attend the International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, USA from August 12-16 along with 47,000 other Pathfinders and leaders! And congratulations to the contingent of Pathfinders from our Nunawading club who attended Oshkosh and represented Victoria. I hear they were so captivated by the experience they are already planning to attend the next event in 2019.

Youth Friendly Churches

There is something going on at the conference office of late, because we have noticed quite a number of department leaders have been getting together – frequently – to discuss ministry and mission and why more young adults are leaving church now, than ever before.

Apparently they are looking at what a youth friendly church looks like, how to effectively shape the faith of our children and young people and collaborating on how to effectively implement this at the local church.



Want to know more? Contact us at VicYouth (03 9264 7740).

Phil Hyland

use qr code or visit <http://www.christianvenues.org.au> for more info re this study

Faith Shapers

Children's Ministries

"Consuming Children" was one of the intriguing topics on the agenda at *Inspire*, the 2014 Children's Ministries Conference. Held at Edinburgh College, Lilydale on the 30th August, this all day event drew children's ministry leaders and parents from all over the state for inspiring presentations and hands-on workshops.

Our keynote speaker, Brendan Pratt, showed us that the common belief "Time = Money = Happiness" results in a self-focused world view and then revealed how community can combat its effects.

But words can hardly describe the day – there were laser beams, spiritual gifts surveys, teddies, scarves, brainstorming and more to make for one huge hands-on event. A great selection of resources was also on display giving people even more tools to take back to their churches.

The day also featured presentations and displays from Happy Hands, Adventurers, ADRA and Safe Places. We were so blessed to have a very special book launch for 'Stop! I don't like that', where some very lucky children each received their own copy of the book.

After a scrumptious lunch provided by Donny and her team, we headed back to the main chapel for our final presentation – Faith Shaper. Faith Shaper highlights the Seven Essential Experiences that every child and young person needs to develop a lifelong faith.

Inspire was a day to inspire and it did just that. With over 100 people in attendance our annual conference has shown yet again that we have amazing children's leaders who passionately strive to minister to our precious children and are always keen to learn more.

So what was "Consuming Children" about? You'll have to ask a children's leader!

Katherine Darroch

7 ESSENTIAL FAITH SHAPERS • Service •



God Encounters • Memory Events • Worthwhile

Homes Empowered • Authentic Relationships • Participation • Intergenerational Worship • Not

Remember October 11

family • evangelism • music • worship • relaxation • community • service • spiritual • social • family • evangelism • music • worship • relaxation



You may be wondering why we are inviting people to contribute via a special offering on October 11. In short, it is because so many people have encouraged me to do so. Some by phone, some have made appointments, others took the opportunity in at a social event. Around 100 people have raised the matter with me throughout this year, and this October 11 invitation is in response to the common theme of these conversations... "Go to the people. They will be willing to help if they know the need."

So thankyou for considering it.

Graeme Christian

2010-2011 Big Camp

Think Green and Gold

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. NOTE: neither the editor, nor the Seventh-day Adventist Church is responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised. Publication does not indicate endorsement of a product or service.