

August 25

2012



IntraVic

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 (Clear Word)



So if we are
the Body...

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- Sam Leonor** – Preacher & University Chaplain
- Eddie Hypolite** – International Preacher & Youth Motivator
- Hyveth Williams** – Professor of Preaching and Homiletics (Andrews University)
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Editorial...

The crowd was large and hungry. Counting men, women and children the crowd touched on 20,000 people. They couldn't afford to feed them – it would have cost eight months wages to do that. It was Andrew who stepped forward with a little boy to present 5 small barley loaves and 2 small fish. And Jesus hands became the hands of blessing. 'Jesus took the loaves gave thanks and distributed it to them - as much as they wanted...'
John 6:11

In Victoria today you will still find the hungry and the helpless, but Jesus hands of blessing are still available. ADRA aims to help Victorians help other Victorians. Jesus can still take our little, our nothingness, and can make it sufficient to meet the needs of a vast multitude. ADRA projects happening today in Victoria are helping Victorians be the hands of Christ to other Victorians. So read on, be challenged, be inspired, and be the hands of Christ in your community.

Darren Croft

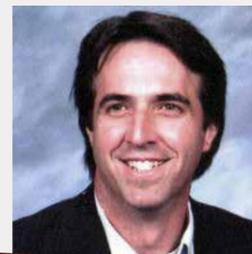


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CONFERENCE REGIONAL DAY OCTOBER 27

**ALL DAY PROGRAM AT GILSON COLLEGE
MARK THIS DATE IN YOUR CALENDAR
MORE INFORMATION IN NEXT ISSUE OF INTRAVIC**



**GUEST SPEAKER
TROY FITZGERALD**

Front photo courtesy stock.xchng/otjep
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DEVOTIONAL Broken and Beautiful

There are so many people in our communities who are broken... And yet God still sees their beauty and wants us to be His hands and feet, reaching out to them. But not all beautiful broken people are 'out' there and as you read this though provoking devotional by Yonina Moffatt, ask yourself the question: 'How can God's hands and feet reach 'in' as well?'



"There's a businessman, there's a widowed wife, a smiling face with a shattered life. There's a teenage girl with a choice to make, its crowded here in church today."

In the words of *Broken and Beautiful* by Mark Schultz, our churches are full of broken and breaking people every week. The father, who seems to be a great guy, happy to help anyone with anything at any time, but is struggling to keep together a failing marriage and a dysfunctional family. A mum, who makes her family appear to have it all together when they are out and about, but at home is battling depression, with no motivation to do or be what her family needs. A smile and the words "I'm good" or "Fine thanks" hides a teenage girl's emotional abuse or loneliness. A grin and the carefree easygoing attitude of a teenage boy hides his addiction to porn and his battle with fitting in at school. Just four examples of people who could be sitting in our pews week after week. Do we notice? Are we willing to accept their brokenness? Or have we unintentionally created an environment in which we can't be seen as imperfect? In which we turn a blind eye to another person's struggles, or struggle to admit to problems of our own, because we have it all together... after all, we are Christians, and God blesses and guides us... right?

Remember when Jesus said
"How blind can you be? First clean the inside of your cup and in the process the outside of your cup will become clean as well. At present your lives are hopeless. You're like whitewashed tombs which are beautiful on top of the ground, but down inside, they're full of dead men's bones. On the outside you appear righteous, but inside..." Matt 23: 26-28 ClearWord
Have we become like these Pharisees, in a different way perhaps, but still largely concerned with our outward appearance? We have all the right words and actions but have we neglected to look at our heart, at the hearts of those around us, at the part of us that God looks at?
Very few of us would have a problem telling God about our difficulties and hardships, but what is it that makes it so much harder to tell other people? I think God wants us to do more than tell Him our problems. Why do so many people need counselling sessions if talking about our issues didn't help us deal with them? God created us that way.

See what James said in chapter 5 verse 16.

"Admit your faults to each other and confess your sins to God. Pray for each other and if it's God's will the sick among you will be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous person has tremendous power." (ClearWord)

Admit our faults... admit the things in our lives that are not going right...

And besides, when we tell God, no one else has to know, we can still keep up that appearance, can't we?

But our inner conflicts and turmoils will begin to show on the outside eventually: a bad marriage will be written on the faces of the couple; a depressed smile is just not the same; and the expression and body language accompanying "I'm fine" will not always correspond with the words. Prayer and thought can help us become attuned to the hearts of those around us and allow them to build up the courage to tell us they are not fine... they do not have it all together... they are an inner mess.

"Hold on," I can hear you think, "God is the one who sees our heart, shouldn't that be all we are concerned about?" Yes, God knows every thought we have, He sees every action we perform and knows what we are going to say before we say it. And He knows the condition of our hearts and why we maintain the outward appearance that we do.

Yet knowing all this, don't we sometimes forget: would we be treating our families the way we do if Jesus was at our dining table; would we still look at the things we are looking at if Jesus was physical by our side?

Sharing our problems with others gives us accountability – we have to make that

change we want to make, that God has impressed us to make, because the person we told may ask how it is going. Sharing our problems with others removes isolation – it is so comforting and strengthening to know that what you are experiencing is, although painful, common; that others are or have been there too. And sometimes, being that one person who stands up and admits that they do not "have it all together" is the catalyst that opens the floodgates, enabling others to come forward in the realization that they are not the only ones.

We are all, to some extent, keeping up an appearance to hide our brokenness. And yet, if we were able to breach this barrier, we would enable each other to be Christ's hands and feet, and help heal the brokenness.

We are all beautiful in God's eyes – He created us, He died for us, He loves us that much. Because of sin, we are all broken but it makes us no less lovely to our Heavenly Father. And this brokenness gives us all the opportunity to be His hands, His feet, to care for and serve each other. To look for chinks in the façade - chinks we recognise because we have them too - and offer a listening ear. To be brave enough to accept the blind, lame, accused, broken and the outcast, within our own churches, as Jesus did during His ministry.

So let down your barrier, and look past the facade of the person sitting next to you in church and look into their broken, but beautiful heart.

Yonina Moffatt
Youth Pastoral Worker
Warburton Church



FEATURE

helping **HELP** Victorians

In recent years there has been an increasing desire within our local churches to be Christ's hands and feet to our communities. To not just talk of God's love for all but to 'get in there and get dirty,' showing HIS love through OUR actions.

So the IntraVic Editorial team thought we would share with you some of what is happening here in Victoria, and how ADRA is assisting with this, and in the process, offer each church community ideas to stimulate and inspire every member to get involved...

**...to PREACH
THE GOSPEL
AND IF
NECESSARY
USE WORDS**

So how does ADRA help get you on your feet so you can be Christ's hands to your community?

THROUGH MOTIVATION:

Part of ADRA Australia's work in Victoria has been increasing people's exposure to the needs of others, and motivating people to do something. Each year there is a **BASKET BALL TOURNAMENT** where our young people come together to compete, and leave with a little more knowledge and awareness of compassionate issues, and with having contributed by raising money for worthy causes.

Then there is the **RUN MELBOURNE** event, where this year fifteen church members (a significant increase on last year's number) braved the elements to run 10 km, raising awareness of ADRA and over \$7000 for three important projects.

A new initiative this year has been our Youth and Schools Ambassadors for ADRA. These girls have travelled to our churches and schools, inspiring people to participate in service, whether locally or with an **ADRA CONNECTIONS SERVICE TRIP** or find other ways of contributing to the trips, as they talk about the need in third world countries. Most recently, they have begun approaching Pathfinder clubs, encouraging them to participate in the annual **ADRA APPEAL**. And their impact is being felt, as church members are looking for more ways they can help their community; a youth group from one of their churches subsequently spent a day putting together packs of donated toiletries for families in need... And *that* is just the beginning.

THROUGH ENABLING:

Often what holds us back from doing something, is not knowing where to start or how to go about it. Then to successfully run the project to meet community needs takes considerable time, energy and resources. Recognising this, ADRA Australia is establishing four **LOCAL COMMUNITY PACKAGES** which will become available to all states, providing the tools and resources needed to enable local churches to establish an effective program for helping their communities. All it takes is a phone call to Rebecca Auriant, Director for ADRA services in Victoria, at the Conference Office (03 9264 7777) who can put you in touch with advice and assistance to get you started.

THROUGH OPPORTUNITIES:

With all the various projects ADRA is involved in, there are numerous opportunities for church members to become involved and when we are being God's hands and feet, further opportunities to minister open up.

Pakenham church members recently found this to be so through their involvement in a **FOOD PARCEL PROJECT**. In an attempt to aid a new referral for a single mother of three undergoing chemotherapy, one of the coordinators rang eight people before "finding" one who could deliver a parcel to the housebound mother. The eighth call was to a lady who just "happened" to be the perfect person for the job. With her own husband undergoing chemotherapy,

the two women immediately became engaged in conversation, the volunteer supporting the client with information and understanding. She left after a heart felt prayer for this beautiful woman and her children. Since then, a friendship has developed between this family and the volunteers as they have continued to serve with home cooked meals, and they believe their lives have been mutually enriched.

The **ADRA APPEAL**, coming up in October, is yet another opportunity for Victorians to do something for others.

Whether it be simply making a donation of their own, or approaching members of the community, increasing public awareness of need and of our Church's desire to help fill that need.

"ADRA has been changing people's lives in Victoria for a long time," says Rebecca. "That's largely thanks to people's generous support of the annual ADRA Appeal." Donations also support ADRA's work overseas. In seventeen of the world's poorest countries ADRA Australia supports projects that assist communities living in poverty, helping them to identify and address areas of need. This includes increasing access to clean water, securing year-round food sources, providing basic education and vocational skills and improving household incomes through training and access to micro-finance opportunities.

The Appeal is a chance for each of us to help change the world," Rebecca continues. "I hope everyone opens their doors and takes up this opportunity."

And don't forget the **ADRA Op SHOPS** which need volunteers, are an outlet for quality second hand goods donated by individuals and provide essential support for other projects such as Recon, ASHER Housing and Vive Cafe.

There are also opportunities created for Victorians to get involved through some of ADRA's major projects. One such opportunity was recently created by Recon, when it took its **OPERATION STITCHES** kids on a camp to Camp Howqua. 23 disadvantaged children from Richmond had a weekend of fun, snow and fellowship. "If you heard these children's personal stories of hardship," says Rebecca Auriant, "it would make you cry. Life is hard enough, let alone when you don't have a mum or dad, or if you have come from a war torn country." The objective of this camp was to help build the kids self-esteem, confidence and a sense of responsibility and it is anticipated it will become an annual event.

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iStock photo/PeteW

helping **HELPER** Victorians

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With sixteen staff necessary to make this weekend the success it was, there was ample opportunity for some of our church members to be involved – to build a relationship with these children, creating wonderful memories for them and in a practical way, touching them with God’s love.

THROUGH TRAINING:

Being aware that for any project to be successful, appropriate skills are essential, ADRA provides training for its volunteers. For example, In July, Victoria’s director organised a training program for **CRISIS RELIEF**. Attendees were from five different Adventist churches actively involved in Crisis Relief. They all reported on the great need in their communities and the appreciation of their clients for the services provided. Presenters included representatives from ADRA, Sue Mercer, Victorian Coordinator for Safe Places and Peta Fualau, who heads up the Whittlesea Community Connections (WCC), and from whom Rebecca receives many referrals. Nancy Piez was one of the attendees and here she tells us of her church’s involvement and about the training day.

“Plenty Valley Adventist Church has a history of crisis relief, going back fifteen years, when their project was called ‘The Lord’s Pantry’ and involved delivering food hampers to the needy. Since its move to its current location two years ago, the work has not only continued, but increased. Soon after leaving Greensborough, the Whittlesea Council held an open day for crisis relief organisations and several church members attended. They are now included in the WCC’s group of relief organisations.”

Peta Fualau from WCC presented at the training, with excellent advice on how to deal with the problems arising from the needs of our neighbours. Our church is located in a growth corridor which attracts young, low-income families such as single mothers, searching for affordable accommodation. 95% of WCC’s referrals are on Centrelink benefits and their lack of income creates compounding problems such as inadequate diet and poor accommodation, stress and illness, lack of transport and social isolation... each problem adding to the next.

Our society accepts the basic rights of the individual to an income which covers adequate food, accommodation and clothing, yet statistics show that for a variety of reasons which Peta explained in detail, there are many who do not have this basic right. We learnt that we must not judge, because there are so many reasons people find themselves in difficult situations beyond their control.

We were taught interviewing techniques and related issues. Also how to deal with challenges such as emotional clients, mental health issues and situations involving alcohol and drugs. Sue Mercer also covered such topics as duty of care, keeping ourselves and our clients safe and maintaining appropriate boundaries. She left us with a folder full of helpful information for dealing with and reporting on various threatening situations.

We were all grateful for the help ADRA has given us through organising this training, helping our efforts to be of benefit to those around us.”

“ADRA is about people helping people and as you can see, its services create and support many ways in which individuals and churches can be the hands and feet of Jesus as they help others. As a Victorian, I would like to thank ADRA Australia for all they do. And as Director for ADRA Services in Victoria, I would like to thank each of the many volunteers we have, all contributing in different but equally important ways. And I encourage everyone church member to consider how you can become more involved.”

Rebecca Auriant

And with every opportunity to serve others made possible by ADRA in Victoria, there is an opportunity for personal growth; being Christ’s hands and feet perhaps changes the individual attached to those hands and feet... the most.

Volunteering changes the volunteer’s life. Here is what Lorraine said about her weekend with Stitches Kids
“The camp was so much fun. I was under the impression that I was going to help, to pour out my skills to the kids. But they actually taught me a lot. They reminded me of what it’s like to work as a team. Watching them persevere in the cold taught me that they can achieve anything as long as they set their minds to it. I encourage everyone to get involved and to see how they can help someone – perhaps these kids – and find out how much they too can learn.”

Look **NEW** through **Weyes**



Do you take ADRA for granted? Do you hear mention of the ADRA appeal approaching and groan?

Or feel a bit sceptical, wondering how much good it is really doing? Is it time you took a look at ADRA... through younger eyes?

Recently our ADRA Youth and Schools ambassadors took a trip to Sydney, with Victorian Director, Rebecca Auriant, where they met with a number of personnel at ADRA’s head office. These young people came home even more passionate about what ADRA is doing than they were before. So we asked them to share with you what ADRA is about, through their eyes.

“Travelling to the heart of ADRA Australia, in Wahroonga, Sydney was defiantly one of the highlights of this year so far for us as Victoria’s ADRA Ambassadors. The large-scale work ADRA does across Australia and, of course, overseas became more real to us. It was inspiring to meet other individuals also passionate about sharing God’s love, and who have committed their lives to this work. It opened our minds to how great ADRA’s impact is globally, whilst it also gave us more direction for the work we do back here in Melbourne.

The things we learnt were amazing, and while everyone in our Church has heard of ADRA, we don’t think everyone realizes the difference it truly makes. It really is a part of our Church’s organization that resembles the hands and feet of Jesus.”

They learnt why internationally, ADRA does not just provide relief, but works at development: at improving living conditions and employment opportunities in a sustainable way; at improving community health by liaising with and educating local health leaders, nominated by their communities. And they learnt why

ADRA does not have programs such as child sponsorship, having found that for the cost of each child sponsor, it can lift FOUR families out of poverty.

The structure of the worldwide organisation was explained – how there are donor countries, which partner with specific (and often neighbouring) less affluent countries, and how, to avoid corrupt liaisons, ADRA will only work in countries where there are already ADRA staff on the ground, or, in the case of a natural disaster, have been specifically invited in.

They learnt about opportunities for International Development internships for young people interested in this as a career and needing to gain overseas experience.

The ambassadors were also told more about the work ADRA is doing locally; the community packages being developed, designed to enable church members to link with and become a part of their community, as well as major project partnerships ADRA is involved in.

What made the biggest impact? Here it is in their words..

*“All year I’ve been excited to be working for ADRA, and as those who know me would agree, I talk about it a lot! While I have grown up hearing about ADRA, collecting for it year after year, I never really **knew** about it. Jonathan Duffy (CEO) shared what he sees as the whole point of ADRA - continuing the mission that Jesus came to earth for, as stated in Luke 4:18-19. And if this was Jesus’ mission then, it should definitely be ours now. Seeing ADRA’s work from this angle blew my mind, and made me just so excited to keep on doing this work.*

I’ve heard people say that ADRA is restricted in the way that they can tell people about God, due to government funding. It’s true that ADRA can’t use this money for evangelistic purposes, but it can show God’s love - experience makes more impact than words. ADRA’s work is the essence of preaching about God. And the fact that it is nondiscriminatory makes it even more like Jesus’ Mission. Learning this as we talked with Jonathan, the doubts I had about ADRA merely meeting people’s physical needs vanished. I guess the government doesn’t really understand Jesus’ style of evangelism.”

Sarah Courtney, Youth Ambassador

“Going to Sydney inspired me and helped me realise the many directions I can take my ambassador role. We are here on this earth to make a difference for God’s people and to do that means to push our own thoughts and feelings aside; to get out of our comfort zones and truly be there for others.

I learnt how ADRA is a world-wide organisation filled with people who have come together in their passion, confidence and excitement to show God’s love and beauty throughout this world, spreading the love and kindness Jesus started.

Lives are full of relationships: between God and man; man and man; man and self; and between man and the environment. If we are able to heal even one of these relationships for our fellow man, disabling just one of the negative elements of this world, God can use this to continue the healing He wants for them. Thus ADRA’s work, particularly overseas, has become more developmental in nature – instead of handing out aid, they focus on how they can work with projects already established in these countries that empower and sustain villages and communities in need.”

Karina Dobra, Schools’ Ambassador

The Spirit’s power is with me because He has chosen me to preach good news to those who are poor, to heal those with broken hearts, to deliver those who are prisoners of sin, to give sight to those who can’t see, to set people free from their heavy burdens and to announce that this is the year of the Lord.

Luke 4:18-19

Local PROJECTS Community FEATURE

ADRA helping Victorians HELP Victorians

By the end of 2013, it is anticipated that there will be four local community packages developed and designed by a team at ADRA Australia. ADRA will offer training and ongoing assistance and advice for a range of projects covered by these packages, which local churches can then deliver to their communities, meeting the needs of people affected by poverty and disadvantage. Any local church can pick up any of these and apply and develop them to meet their individual abilities and the needs of their communities.

PACKAGE ONE – CRISIS RELIEF

This suite of programs includes traditional ‘soup kitchen’ projects, food parcels and other forms of assistance provided to individuals and families in crisis and is already operational. Training and a range of resources are available to support and develop a church’s program.

Last year nearly 1700 Victorian families were helped with food parcels and vouchers distributed through these programs run by our churches in Pakenham, Ferntree Gully, Nunawading, Plenty Valley and Preston. Over 233 individuals and families were helped each week through soup kitchens run by North Fitzroy, Geelong and Carrum Downs Samoan group at Cornerstone in Dandenong.



PACKAGE TWO – YOUTH RESILIENCE

This program is varied and depends largely on the needs and interests of the young people in the local community, matching them with the interest and expertise of the volunteers. Again, there is a range of resources available to assist in this valuable community project.

The Oasis Church which meets in the Nunawading Christian College chapel has recently become involved in this program, mentoring young people. During the training, members were inspired by the incredible potential the mentoring model has in meeting a great community need. After the training the mentors, together with referring social workers, met with their clients. If all were agreeable, they then established a clear schedule and duration of involvement. The members of Oasis Buddies, as they called the project, found that friendships formed easily and naturally, based around tutoring, socialising and playing games or sports, and that they were well supported with debriefing and counselling.

“The awesome thing is that already, we have seen amazing benefits,” says Darius Ignasiak who is managing the project. One young girl with a troubled family history, learning difficulties and a tendency to self-harm has confided to her Oasis Buddy that for

the first time she felt like she had a friend. “Her smile just lit up her face, making the benefit to her obvious. But that same smile was reflected on the faces of the whole Oasis Buddies group. This project is having a positive effect on everyone.” And already Oasis Buddies is finding the need in the community far greater than they can meet and hope other churches will take up this initiative.

Other resilience programs undertaken so far have included skate park mentoring and bike riding clubs and there are many other possible scenarios that this package could be applied to.

Poverty, social injustice and social dysfunction are all compounded by inadequate support networks and a lack of friendship. The Youth Resilience package is a perfect way to help meet this need.

PACKAGE 3 – IMMIGRATION SUPPORT SERVICES

The first pilot for this program, working with newly arrived immigrants in Adelaide, has just completed its first year – and was a great success. There is a large migrant population there, with its associated integration issues. By working beside members of the migrant community, project volunteers are able to link their clients to other services, provide

guidance and support, and ensure the families are able to find stability in the tumult of moving countries and cultures.

While resources for this support project are currently under development, expressions of interest from churches who feel this would be an ideal project for them are more than welcome.

A fourth package is currently being researched and will provide yet another opportunity for local churches to serve those around them.

The introduction of these local community packages is an exciting development unique to ADRA Australia. By providing a structured approach, offering training, resources and step by step support, there will be no excuse for churches not to become active hands and feet for God. Visit www.adra.org.au or www.developingresilience.com or contact our local Director of ADRA Services, Rebecca Auriant on 03 9264 7777 / ra@adventist.org.au for more information about how YOU can get involved.



ADRA's ministry in Victoria includes a number of major projects, providing further opportunities for Victorians to become involved in helping others; opportunities to be Christ's hands and feet within our communities.

Reconnecting

RECON is one such ministry and is a joint initiative between VicYouth and ADRA Australia, partnering with OPERATION STITCHES KIDS, a nonprofit Christian agency helping inner-city kids build resilience, make good choices and say "NO" to drugs, violence and crime. Together they provide programs that educate and develop life and work skills to reconnect young people from the Office of Housing estate in Richmond. RECON supports the homework club, assisting with tutoring for children aged six to twelve and helps the children develop self-esteem and teamwork skills through music therapy and creative arts. There is always a need for volunteers to assist in this work.

"Working with these kids each week is often challenging," says the RECON Creative Arts Coordinator. "But week by week, the benefits become obvious. They grow in their teamwork, behaviour and relationships with the mentors involved in the program. It is truly a life changing ministry."

As mentioned earlier, these children were recently taken to Camp Howqua for a weekend they will never forget. The RECON Homework Club Coordinator was one of the volunteer staff who attended the weekend. "Every Wednesday about 50 kids come racing into the Homework Club, surprisingly pumped for English and Maths! And this excitement was intensified as

we took 23 of them to Howqua on the camp. The elements were intense as we tobogganed on Mt Buller, where some saw snow for the first time. Then in just as icy conditions, they all braved the survivor course in the early morning 10-degree weather. Wow!

"Before this camp I thought I knew these kids. But as I hung out with them outside the educational environment, I feel I got to know just a bit more of who they really are, and heard stories about their lives that are so different to mine. They are all so amazing and deserve the love, acceptance and encouragement that I have always taken for granted."

Chris, the coordinator for STITCHES, is grateful to ADRA for its help. "I can rely on RECON and its volunteers to deliver programs that develop our goals. Where the kids live crime, drugs and violence are prevalent. Through working together with RECON, we can help them make good choices. The camp was a blessing, and when they got off the bus, they said it was the BEST camp they had ever been on."

As well as volunteering as mentors and tutors, there have been other ways church members have helped these disadvantaged children. A number of churches donated snow gear to keep the kids warm and dry on the camp, and for several years church members at Benalla have been knitting beanies and scarves for RECON to distribute.

The Redwood Centre

The REDWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE in Warburton is located in a predominately lower socio-economic area where 70% of families are single parent families. The local primary schools have over 400 students ranging in ages from 6-12 and many of these are at higher risk because of their situation and lower socio-economic standing.

In October 2012, the REDWOOD CENTRE will implement an after school program with the specific aim of building resilience in at risk young people (6-12years) thus helping them to realise and recognise their intrinsic worth and significance as individuals. The program will complement the current playgroup run by Alan and Ngairé Holman and the alternative education program run by Upper Yarra Community House for high school aged students.

"It's a privilege to be in partnership with ADRA in this exciting project," says Pr Murray Thackham. "This is just another way the Warburton Church is seeking to share Jesus love and compassion with their community and I am thrilled to have a small part in it."

Hot Air Balloons

In Mildura, ADRA partners with MILDURA YOUTH TRAINING ADVENTURES, a unique Christian based organisation focused on helping youth and strengthening

Major PROJECTS

ADRA helping Victorians HELP Victorians

families, working to develop well-being and life and employability skills. The project engages youth in team building activities which enhance their self-esteem and builds their confidence to engage

in society. It offers TAFE accredited adventure therapy training and provides certificates in hot air balloon programs and pinnacle programs.

Cafe in Croydon

VIVE CAFÉ is another major project operating from Croydon as a community meals program. It offers a unique service to both those in need and some of the volunteers who serve. Catering to 120-150 guests each Thursday evening, with 35-40 volunteers registered and the services of a qualified chef, the CAFÉ provides a nutritious three course sit down meal to each guest. Some of the volunteers have intellectual disabilities, and are very pleased to feel useful

and valued: "We are helping!" they say, with big smiles on their faces. This project is a wonderful ministry opportunity to share God's love, not only to the guests but to the volunteers as well. Friendships are formed and there is a real family atmosphere. It is a place where everyone is treated equally and with respect.

Refuge Housing

ADRA also operates a major project in partnership with JUSTICE EMPOWERMENT MISSIONS which provides long-term accommodation and rehabilitation to marginalised and homeless girls and young women.

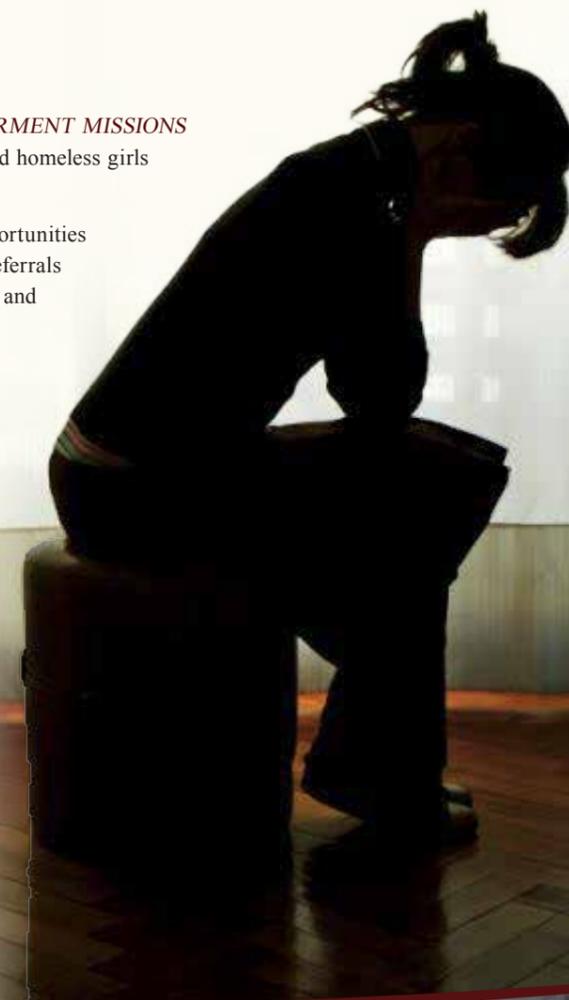
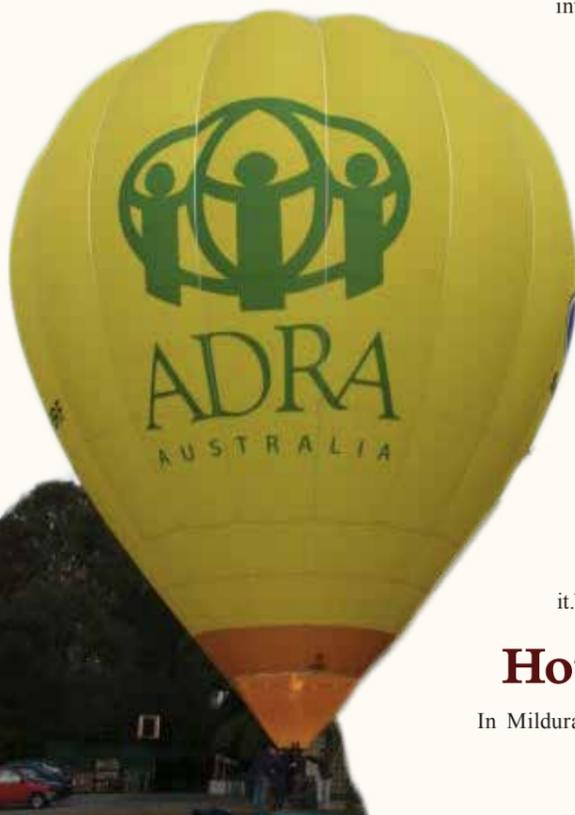
Through JEM, Asher Housing offers caring, nurturing environments and opportunities by providing counselling, arts programs, mentoring, relationship therapy and referrals for girls and young women affected by issues such as family breakdown, abuse and drugs.

In addition, this project also provides ongoing support including employment training and crisis help for the women and families connected to Asher Housing in the surrounding community.

This is another project where there is a place for volunteers. "I was working for Justice Empowerment Missions helping them promote their cause, communicating with local people to offer what they could to assist this cause. So I was mainly focused on public relations and prayer," says Bryan, whose friends got him involved, using his communication skills. Some were working as mentors, and staff members say there is always a need for more, as, along with the support from ADRA, the work of the volunteers ensures JEM can continue its life-changing ministry.

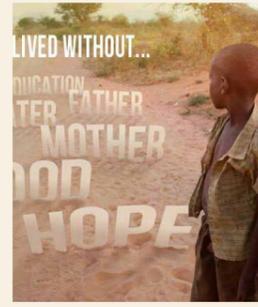
"Asher Housing provides holistic care that ensures each girl that enters its doors receives the love and acceptance they deserve. It is a privilege to work with the staff at JEM as I know that they turn each referral into another opportunity to really help someone," says Rebecca Auriant.

ADRA's support and the work of the volunteers involved ensure JEM can continue its life-changing ministry.



Victorians Helping Others

ADRA AUSTRALIA



A Venue for God to Work

BURWOOD ADVENTIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

In June Jackson Green made a public declaration that he had chosen to follow Christ by being baptised, choosing to do this at Nunawading Christian College, amidst family and friends who had gathered for the occasion. It was a fitting location and a testament to how our schools provide yet another venue where God can - and does - touch lives.

A past student of the College, now attending Burwood Church, Jackson chose this location because the College had played a major role in his Christian walk. He testified that he had grown up knowing God existed, but his interest in God did not become personal until the first Festival of Faith he attended in Yr 7. The week following his baptism, Jackson spoke openly at the Melbourne Asian Church, sharing his experience. Here is some of what he had to say: "Last Saturday I was baptised at NCC. It was great to see the support of past and present staff members - it is hard to find a more caring supportive and nurturing group of people. But although they played a part in my choice, they were not the sole influence. Each year the high school would hold a



JACKSON GREEN'S BAPTISM AT NUNAWADING CHRISTIAN COLLEGE AND SHARING OF HIS COMMITMENT WITH THE MELBOURNE ASIAN CHURCH



Festival of Faith program which ran every day for a week and the guest speakers helped us grow closer to God. They helped me connect with Him, learn more about Him and ultimately choose to be baptised. The other day I was listening to a song 'There is no reason to hide,' which teaches some important lessons. Firstly, God calls us to take action for Him. It may be through making a donation, preaching or even sharing food with someone in need. We cannot hide behind excuses - if we voluntarily offer ourselves to God, He will watch over us and make sure that we do not stumble. Secondly, making a commitment involves more than just praying - we are called to serve and love, to exhibit a superior love which includes reaching out indiscriminately; our opinion

of someone is not a valid excuse to not help them. After all, Jesus loved us enough to die for our sins... This ties in with baptism because committing to God involves serving Him. Baptism changes lives for the better. Life as a Christian is not supposed to be easy but God will make it bearable for us and we can contact Him any time. If we give ourselves to Him we gain a life far greater than what we already have." Jackson concluded by encouraging people to make a stand for God through baptism. "God loves everyone here and wants us to accept His invitation. He is reaching out to us and if we let ourselves listen we can do amazing things, live an enjoyable yet productive life and spend eternity with Him in paradise."

Joy in Heaven

FILIPINO-AUSTRALIAN CHURCH

Have you heard the still small voice of the Holy Spirit while witnessing a baptism? Have you listened to the urgent appeal of the pastor?

Heaven was rejoicing when Rachel-Anne Raymond was baptised on earlier this year at the Dandenong Filipino/Australian SDA church. 13 year old Rachel-Anne first asked her parents if she could be baptised when she was the tender age of just 6 years old, and she has been an eager student of God's Word ever since. Her spiritual journey was nurtured by her parents who taught her from the Word of God. Bible studies were also conducted by the Adventist Discovery Centre and Amazing Facts Online Bible School and later with Pr Mebzar Quinto. Eventually Rachel-Anne

decided it was time to publicly declare her faith in Jesus, her Saviour. The church was filled to capacity when over 200 people from around Victoria came to witness this joyous occasion. Prior to entering the water Rachel-Anne sang a solo dedication song, "Make Me Like Jesus". After the baptism, there were several others who responded to the appeal made by Pastor Mebzar; one who has already chosen for Christ and been baptised, and three more who are planning for baptism in August. How about you - have you heard the

RACHEL-ANNE RAYMOND



voice of the Holy Spirit beckoning you to surrender? Have you made a public declaration for Jesus your Saviour? Today if you hear His voice please don't hesitate to respond in the affirmative.

Mebzar Quinto

Congratulations WANTIRNA CHURCH

Congratulations to David Brown and Adam Bower who both testified to their decision to follow Christ, by being baptised earlier this year. May you feel the blessing and guidance of your Heavenly Father as you commit to His will in your daily lives.



ADAM BOWER, WITH PAUL AND JANETTE BOWER. ADAM WAS BAPTISED AT LYSSTERFIELD LAKE AND DAVID BROWN WITH PR DAVID ERICKSON AT WANTIRNA CHURCH

A Champion for the Poor ECHUCA ADVENTIST CHURCH

Here is an incredible story of an unassuming man who is a champion for the poor. David Caukhill, of International Children's Care Australia (ICC), shares this story with us.

Peter Tripovich lived in a humble home in Fitzroy for three years before moving to a farming community in Western Victoria with his family. He returned to Melbourne to attend school in Auburn, but dropped out at just twelve years old. Being asthmatic, he returned to the country for the clean air he desperately needed.

In World War II he was stationed in Melbourne with the RAAF but afterwards returned to farming. He lived in NSW for a time but returned to Victoria eventually, becoming an active member of the Echuca Church. His remarkable connection with the land has taught Peter many valuable skills while enjoying an active lifestyle.

One day, while letterboxing material for his church, Peter got to wondering how many kilometres he had walked for the day... then how many for each day he had been letterboxing. He then moved onto how many kilometres he walked around the farm each day... and this led to some serious thinking!

Always up for an adventure, Peter toyed

with the idea of walking around Australia. Of course, it would only be like walking around the farm each day... but a bit further!

By this time, Peter was a retired young, 79 year old – not really the age where people seriously consider embarking on a walk that would take them over a year to complete and involve thousands of kilometres.

But Peter got to thinking of needs of others, and, having a big heart, began with incredible tenacity to walk around Australia to raise awareness and funds for disadvantaged children in developing countries.

“Most people didn't even take me seriously, and more than one told me to just go home!” Peter recalls. But, because of his compassion for these children, he didn't - he even enjoyed his 80th birthday on the road, clocking up more than 13,000 km, wearing out four pairs of shoes and going through over 4000 Weet-Bix and 200 cans of baked beans.

Peter's walk was a terrific fundraiser for ICC and helped to raise the profile of Adventists across the country through the link between ICC Australia and our Church.

Unfortunately due to circumstances beyond his control, Peter was unable to finish his massive walk – but still dreams of doing those last few kilometres.

Peter, who has never lost his enthusiasm for adventure, recently called the ICC office and announced his latest idea; he's off to Thailand to join a group of over 200 young people from around Australia and New Zealand, building homes for impoverished and internationally displaced people this coming December, in a joint Church and ICC Australia partnership hosted by the Australian Union Conference.

Peter laughed when he said “I'm still young enough to mix it with the young folk. Anyone that can walk 13,000 kilometres is still young enough to swing a hammer and build a house!” He went on to add “I felt that I wanted to do something for the children and be in service for the Lord, and I know I'm still active and have a clean bill of health. This is a way I can do something practical. I want to get the experience and be in a situation where I can be actively helpful. This is a way that I can demonstrate my compassion for the poor children in a practical way.”

I think you may agree – we need a few more people with Peter's compassion and energy for the poor in this world. Peter we salute you and can't wait to have you working with us later in the year.

David Caukhill

Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

SAMOAN CARRUM DOWNS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

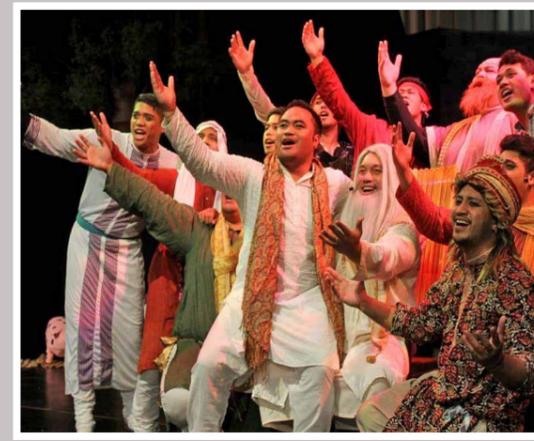
The members of this Samoan community have a very busy calendar.

The end of July saw them hosting a Youth Rally for Melbourne Samoan youth. Members are preparing for an outreach program in September and others go on a roster to help out at Cornerstone Food shelter. And then, of course, is their involvement in music; the church is also preparing for an outdoor musical production in the first week in December, called Road to Bethlehem, which was performed last year, with neighbouring farmers loaning their livestock for the performance and recently, the youth were involved in another musical production. Church friends, family and guests filled the River Gum Arts Centre for two sessions, with over 1000 eager viewers lined up for what was an amazing night

of drama, song and action. The church youth performed, for the second year running, the Andrew Lloyd Webber Musical Production “Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat.” The cast of over 40 people ranging from two to 40 years of age and brought to life the biblical story of Joseph, amid laughter, excitement, applause and tears. Many local community members were touched by the messages throughout the story.

With free admission and a light refreshment to take home with them at the end, many guest were so touched they gave donations to assists with costs.

“Though nothing is free in this world and



to run a musical production is very costly, to see the tears and the emotions that night was well worth the investment” Pr. Eddie Erika said. “This is an annual event, as not only does it impact the audience, but everyone involved in it comes away reminded of the unconditional love of God, of His plan for those who put Him first in their lives and of the pleasure to be had sharing this knowledge with others.”

Anthony Sofe

Open Fair Day ROWVILLE-LYSSTERFIELD CHURCH

For some time now, church members have been trying various ‘traditional’ ways of reaching out to their community but with limited success. So at a recent meeting they decided to explore new ideas. As a result, they recently held an open day and invite their neighbours and friends to visit. Here is what happened.

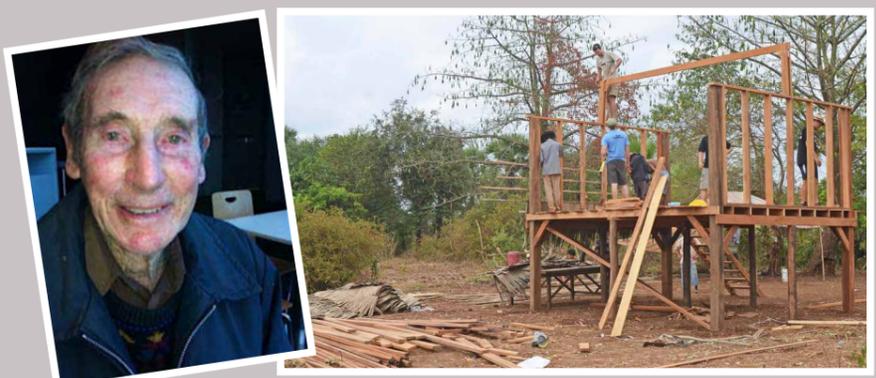
“All our members were excited about the idea of having an open day and teamed together to plan the free community event which was held in April. The day started off a bit wet but we prayed for sunshine and God blessed us. Andrew Wagener's display of Australian wild life amazed visitors and members alike. The jumping castle, face painting and children's craft centre were a hit for the kids and our volunteer men and women cooked up a sausage sizzle with both vegetarian and kosher sausages. Peters donated a trailer of ice-creams, adding a special touch to the day for which we were grateful. Our Health and Well-being leader conducted cooking demos and we all enjoyed sampling the cranberry oats muffins and vegetarian sausage rolls.

A kids footy club was playing next door so

we invited the parents to bring their kids for a sausage and ice-cream. Free gift bags filled with healthy snacks, Signs magazines, a booklet about “Who are the Adventists” and a personalised pen promoting our web site were given away and there was a positive response from our many visitors and members who

attended, encouraging us to do this again in the future.

Rowville-Lysterfield church members pray that our community will feel the Lord's presence through our outreach programs in the future and be drawn to Him, that there may be rejoicing in Heaven.” Peter Gray



TO READ MORE ABOUT THE AUC/ICC AUSTRALIA BIG BUILD PROGRAM GO TO WWW.ICCAUSTRALIA.ORG.AU/BIGBUILD. IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP!

Bible in Bloom and Binding FERNTREE GULLY CHURCH

In September, Church members will once again share God's Word with their community in two exhibits: a feast of Spring blossoms arranged artfully to retell the stories Jesus told as parables and an exhibit of manuscripts and scrolls up to 450 years old and including the Geneva, Tyndale and Wycliffe Bibles.

The church first held this free event in 2009 and it was well received, with many community visitors suggesting invitations

be extended to local schools, churches and retirement villages next time. Organisers have taken on this advice, and are also

inviting you to attend. Individuals and families can come at any time, but if you are considering attending in a group, organisers ask that you make a group booking by emailing joybennetts5@gmail.com or calling 03 9762 6951. (See the notice on the back page for further details.)

Marlene Vogel and her team from Ferntree Gully will be preparing the majority of the displays, assisted by members of Nunawading and Lilydale churches who will contribute a display each, and Peter McGowan of Ringwood church will take care of the Bible display.

"I believe both these quality exhibits will be informative and we invite you all to come and enjoy the Bible in this visual way," says church pastor, Trevor Rowe.



FLORAL ART DEPICTING BIBLE STORIES SUCH AS THE SOWER WILL ACCOMPANY AN EXHIBIT OF BIBLICAL MANUSCRIPTS AND SCROLLS UP TO 450 YEARS OLD.

"How Come You Don't Charge For This?" YARRA VALLEY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

For the second year running church members have hosted a cutting-edge community health series featuring health professionals who are well informed in their specialty areas. "Many of our visitors are amazed that we are doing this for free," shared co-host, Dr Harold Waldrip, who also featured on the list of expert presenters.

The ten week 'My Health and Me' series has seen up to 65 attendees with 28 being guests from the community, come together to hear about practical ways we all can achieve and enjoy the best in health, with each health professional credibly presenting well documented information backed up by impressive research studies. It was interesting to note that the same key lifestyle choices recommended for avoiding the broad range of health disorders discussed by the guest speakers kept showing up again and again.

Question and Answer time was a lively part of each program and from some of the very pointed questions being asked it was clear that the presentations were opening the minds of the attendees and touching their real concerns.

The sumptuous smorgasbord was also a highlight, and understandably a powerful incentive to come along. The dinner menu following the presentation was specially prepared to show what foods fortify the body against the health issue discussed on the night. And there is nothing like getting your feet under the table to meet and greet fellow participants. Night by night, friendships developed as visitors chatted over the meal, sharing stories invariably on lifestyle and health. *Russell Alsop*

DR HAROLD WALDRIP & WIFE VERLIE ARE ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE 'MY HEALTH AND ME' HOSTING TEAM



Helping the Depressed BALLARAT ADVENTIST CHURCH

Beginning in the wintry months of May and June, the church in Ballarat ran the Dr. Nedley Depression Recovery Program at the Wendouree Seventh-day Adventist Church.

39 people registered to attend the eight-week program, with 18 people from the community attending. Peter Debicki led out with the Program, ably assisted by a team of facilitators and support workers. Attendance each night of the program remained high considering the cold temperatures outside. Each night after the DVD presentation by Dr Nedley, the

attendees would break up into three groups where the facilitators would work through the Depression Recovery workbooks with their groups, encouraging discussion and offering mutual support. A week after the final program, a vegetarian banquet was held at the Ballarat Church and this was very well-attended. Peter Debicki handed out Graduation Certificates to the attendees

and received some very positive feedback. The Ballarat church will now follow up the program with a seminar on the books of Daniel and Revelation. Some of the attendees of Dr Nedley's program have indicated they would like to attend that program. Later in the year, it is hoped that the Dr Nedley Depression Recovery Program can be run again. *Jan Donelan*

What is Happening in Warburton Church

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS: Some interesting visitors attended the church on June 23. There was hardly a spare seat. One of the visitors had 170 sharp teeth. Another was 30 cm long with wings, but could not fly. Several had soft tummies and sharp claws and smelled with their blue tongues.

The service was advertised as Close Encounters with Australian Animals, and many of our local friends as well as visitors from as far away as Noojee and Yea, came – an attendance that surpassed our expectations. The large number of children paying close attention to Andrew Wegener's interesting animal facts was a joy to see. Grasshoppers ears are in their knees. Frogs close their eyes to swallow. Baby wombats are as big as a jellybean... And the list went on. Andrew pointed out that with animals many things are different and their Creator God made them that way for a reason. A great attraction was the large python with lots and lots of teeth, and those brave enough had their photos taken with it draped around their shoulders. The service and display gave children an opportunity to learn about and interact with God's diverse creation and was one of a number of outreach programs Warburton Church is running this year.

ELDERS' RETREAT: In June, Pr Murray Thackham and eleven of the elders from the church gathered together at Jumbunna Lodge in Launching Place.

The weather was cold, wet and cloudy, with occasional glimpses of an expansive view, but inside the Lodge the group met around a log fire, and led by Pr Rob Steed, Ministerial Association Secretary for the Conference, they applied themselves to the issues of creating spiritual communities within their church. "It is a real pleasure to be working with a passionate group of people who are willing to explore different ways of growing God's Kingdom," said Pr Thackham. The time spent together was very worthwhile and the team are looking forward to growing and strengthening their church family.

FINDING GOD IN KIDZONE: During the recent holidays, 37 kids came along to have fun and enjoy the benefits of the church's Kidzone program. They sang, played, made craft and found many different places where they could see God's love.

Organised by Krissie Hopkins who led a talented team of helpers, they learnt God truly loves them and that they could trust Him. To conclude the program, a special program was held in the church service on Sabbath, where this young generation participated, singing and presenting everyone with 'tongues of fire' crowns they had made.

"It was not just something that was a blessing for the kids," Krissie said, "but for all those who were involved. To see God through the lives of the little kids was beautiful." *Sue Marshall*



Plenty Happening at Plenty Valley Adventist Church!

LEADERSHIP MATTERS: Church members, Sheri and Allan Gray, joined a team from the International Training Alliance (ITA) to help conduct two leadership training programs last year, one in Uganda and the other in Papua New Guinea.

ITA is an inter-denominational organisation providing training for Christian leaders across the globe. The 'Leadership Matters Course' has now been run in over 30 countries, involving over 100 Christian organisations and empowering over 1700 participants. The PNG course attracted 24 participants, and the time-intensive course consisted of interactive workshops held over thirteen days with essential extra work undertaken in the evenings.

HERANIAU CLINIC: Two years ago, the church adopted the Heraniau Clinic project in the Solomon Islands. The initial goal was to purchase an outboard motor to enable quick medical response to emergencies in the area. The necessary \$4,000 was raised in a matter of weeks and we know that several lives have already been saved through this donation. Since then Dr Lawrence Staub has mobilised a team of volunteers to go to Heraniau on a building project.

With help from ADRA personnel they built an ablutions block and Dr Staub and a colleague gave chiropractic treatment to several hundred islanders. Bakua, a major affliction in the area, is a type of tinea which affects almost the entire skin area of an infected person and is particularly distressing for young children. PVAC

has already donated 200 doses of medicinal cream that cures the problem, and a commitment was made for another 400 doses by July, covering approximately a third of the known cases in the region.

The provision of medical equipment to this humanitarian initiative has been miraculous; non-church donors have been enthusiastic supporters with nearly \$400,000 worth of medical equipment and supplies having been donated so far!

OTTOMAN ART PROJECT: PVAC is assisting the Turkish Women's Recreational Group in an art project. Joe Attard, a professional artist, is tutoring these women in basic painting techniques so that they can reproduce iconic art work from the Ottoman era.

PVAC also operates the Northern Safari Camera Club through which contact was first made with the Turkish group over four years ago. The art work is on public display at the Thomastown Library, but will later move to the Mill Park Library, and PVAC.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD NIGHT: As a fundraiser for our Solomon Islands project, cuisine from nine different nations (including food donated by the Turkish Women's Group) was on offer to about 115 hungry people. It was a great social night as well. This function very much reflects the multicultural constituency of PVAC and the City of Whittlesea. The Coordinator of the local welfare agency Whittlesea Community Connections was in attendance, along with ten other non-church folk, and the Turkish Women's Group have offered to be involved again next year. Over \$1400 was raised for the Heraniau Clinic in the Solomon Islands. *Allan Gray*

ALLAN AND SHERI GRAY, WITH SAM BAIMAKO AND DELINA YANDUO (PNG ADVENTISTS WHO WERE ATTENDING THE TRAINING PROGRAM)



LAWRENCE STAUB

In As Much...

BAYLES ADVENTIST CHURCH

When Madison came home from a long weekend holiday with her family she had a sore and very stiff neck. First thing Tuesday morning Madison was taken to see a doctor. Immediately the doctor admitted her to Casey Hospital.

Her family found this unexpected and very distressing, but a bright spot in the morning was when staff on the Paediatric ward visited Madi, giving her a plastic zip lock bag containing colouring pages and pencils and other little nick-knacks children enjoy, put together by the Berwick Baptist Church.

Madi was in hospital a whole week with many prayers ascending on her behalf. Praise God she is now well and happy again.

Inspired by their own experience and to show sincere appreciation to the hospital staff for their support and caring, Madi's mother, Kelly, invited Bayles church members to join her in making 20 library bags, filling them with stationary, stickers and other items children can safely enjoy.

When finished, Madi's mother and grandmother delivered the bags to the hospital where the paediatric staff were



MADI, SURROUNDED BY THE FILLED BAGS, READY FOR DELIVERY TO THE HOSPITAL.

KELLY, HARD AT WORK DIVIDING UP THE "GOODIES"

so happy to get a special 'thankyou' card and chocolates from Madison's family and absolutely delighted to receive the library bags put together by the Bayles Seventh-

day Adventist Church for children who unexpectedly find themselves in there... just as Madi did.

Interest in Food Handling

MACEDON RANGES COMPANY

Last year this church hosted three safe food handling courses presented by Sibilla Johnson, the Victorian Conference Health Director. Forty-eight people attended from the community, obtaining a level 1 certificate.

Word of this program spread until Sunbury

to our communities.

Baptist Church enquired about this service

"A lady contacted me last year expressing

interest in the program," says church member, Bosilka Lipkovich. "She said she could bring quite a few people with her if we could tell her when the next course was scheduled." Bosilka arranged a date with Sibilla, but unfortunate circumstances intervened and the program had to be deferred.

Bosilka maintained contact with the people, assuring them it would happen, and finally another date was scheduled for June this year.

"This event was long awaited and it was an honour to host thirteen attendees," Bosilka said. "We are very grateful to Sibilla and the Conference for providing such a wonderful service to the communities of Victoria."



SMILE AND SAY "TOFU"! - SOME OF THE ATTENDEES AND FACILITATORS AT THE BANQUET TEA.



SIBILLA JOHNSON PRESENTING



DILEK FROM THE TURKISH WOMEN'S RECREATIONAL GROUP WITH JOE ATTARD



INTERNATIONAL FOOD NIGHT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED.



a page for our kids sixty-eight by karen collum angels



Samuel was just like any other four-year-old. He liked riding his bike, jumping on the trampoline and playing with his little brothers. He was learning to write his name, he could count - sixty-eight was the biggest number he knew - and he loved reading books. But then Samuel started to get tired, his legs got sore when he tried to run and he couldn't ride his bike anymore. That's when the doctor discovered there was something wrong with his heart.

When a doctor uses a stethoscope to listen to a heart, it's supposed to go 'lub-dub-lub-dub-lub-dub' but Samuel's didn't. His heart was noisy with whooshing and swooshing and went something like 'lub-whizz-gurgle-gurgle-dub'. Samuel had a noisy heart because his heart valves were leaking. The only way to fix them was through open-heart surgery.

Samuel was too little to really understand what was going to happen to him, but his parents explained things to him the best they could. He was going to have a big operation to fix his noisy heart. When he woke up he would be very sore, but it wouldn't hurt forever. Each day he'd get better and better until he was well enough to run around and ride his bike and jump on the trampoline again.

On the day of Samuel's surgery he had to get up very early and he wasn't allowed to eat or drink anything at all. At the hospital, nurses took his temperature and gave him some special medicine to make him a little bit sleepy. Samuel wasn't scared at all. He knew that the doctors were going to fix his heart and he knew that God was with him.

The operation took a very long time - six hours! - but Samuel was kept asleep with medicine called anaesthetic. And for that whole time the doctors carefully fixed Samuel's noisy heart until it wasn't noisy anymore.

Samuel's mum and dad waited and prayed and prayed and waited for the news that Samuel was out of surgery. Finally, a nurse came and took Samuel's mum and dad to the Intensive Care ward where people who are very sick or who have just had big operations go to get better. Samuel was lying very still on a big white bed and had tubes coming out of his mouth and lots of drips and wires and monitors attached to him. He had a big bandage down his chest where the surgeons had operated on his heart and a machine was breathing for him. Special medicine was still keeping him asleep so Samuel couldn't open his eyes or talk, but the doctor said his surgery had gone well and his



heart was fixed. Samuel's mum and dad were so happy and they thanked God for answering their prayers.

A little while later the doctors let Samuel wake up. Although his chest was very sore from the operation he smiled at his mum and started to talk.

The next few days were hard for Samuel. The doctors and nurses got him to do things that would help him get better, like stand up beside his bed or cough, but each of those things hurt his chest. Samuel was brave and he would do just what the doctors said with Mum holding his hand and encouraging him. Sometimes it hurt so much that Samuel cried, but each day it got easier and easier.

After two days in Intensive Care, Samuel was moved to another part of the hospital for children who have had surgery on their hearts. He was able to watch television and eat special hospital meals that were brought to him on a tray. His chest didn't hurt so much anymore and most of the wires and the tubes were gone. Samuel and his mum talked lots about how the doctors had fixed his heart and how God had answered their prayers.

Every night in hospital, Samuel's mum prayed with him before he went to sleep. They thanked God for keeping Samuel safe, for giving the surgeons such skill and knowledge to be able to fix his heart and for the hospital with all the equipment and the lovely doctors and nurses.

On Samuel's fourth and last night in hospital, after he and Mum had prayed and she was tucking him into his hospital bed, Samuel said, "Mummy, you know how you said the angels would be with me when the doctors were fixing my heart?"

"Yes," said Mum.

"I saw them. I saw angels. They were under the table and on the ceiling and around the doctors."

Mum's eyes filled with tears. She had asked God to send his angels to be with her little boy during his big operation and God answered her prayer. "How many did you see?" asked Mum.

Samuel thought for a moment and smiled. "Sixty-eight," he said.

Sixty-eight was the biggest number he knew.



Karen is the author of Samuel's Kisses and other children's books. She currently lives in Ballarat with her family and can be found writing stories at all hours of the day and night



News from Adventist Schools Victoria BETIKAMA 'THANK YOU!'

In February 2012 at ASV's annual teachers' meetings, Joshua Dye (Avondale Business Studies student) shared a presentation about Betikama Adventist College. This college in the Solomon Islands is a co-educational secondary boarding school. It began in 1948 under the leadership of Pr L Thrift and today caters to over 500 boarding students, but is sadly in need of major repairs and refurbishment.

The teachers at the meeting responded very generously to raise \$10,000 toward a refurbishment project and in July a group of "Fly and Repair" volunteers left Brisbane airport bound for Honiara, to undertake some of the work needed. Pr Trafford Fischer, South Pacific Division Family Ministries Director, organized the team and Pr Wayne Boehm, President of Solomon Island mission ensured that all tools and equipment were organized and ready for the refurbishment. The team

included three Adventist Schools Victoria members; Peter Michalski (Principal Nunawading Christian College Primary), Sandro Bastos, and Daniel Muller (Teachers from Gilson College). In eight days, the team replaced ceilings in some of the dormitories then painted the buildings inside and out. They refurbished the laundry and bathroom facilities and in the Home Economics room installed new benches, sinks and cupboards. The only tasks not completed were the electricals

for the ceiling lights and the plumbing to the gas stoves and sinks. These will be completed by the local plumber and electrician. "It was wonderful to see what was achieved in such a short time. The ten thousand dollars were well spent! I'm sure that when the students return from their term break, they will appreciate and enjoy the gift from Adventist Schools Victoria teachers. Thank you teachers for your generosity both of money and time."



ASV LEARNS TO BLOG!

With the help of Tom March, a consultant from Independent Schools Victoria, Sandra England, our development officer, has learnt to blog! And her reason for this? She has recently released, in its experimental stages, a blog for ASV leaders and teachers, on which will be posted links and resources regarding various educational and spiritual issues. The aim is to stimulate and provoke educators' interest, to enhance their practice, and their students' spiritual and academic development. There will be information ranging from the use of Web2.0 tools and ideas to assist with integrating ICT in all areas to ideas for embedding Christian and character themes within the classroom community. There will also be opportunity for teachers to showcase the work that is happening with ICT within their own classrooms, whether it be videos the students create, written work or photos. What they showcase will only be limited by their students' and their imaginations!

At Heritage College...

EXPANDING THE OFFICER CAMPUS: In 2013 Heritage College will start a Primary School on its Officer Campus.

The first confirmed Prep enrolment, Hudson Freund loves the open space and rural feel of the campus. The commencement of a Primary school, to complement the already established Senior Secondary school at Officer, will allow families in the Cardinia Shire access to a high quality, Seventh-day

Adventist values-based education. With support from the Board of Directors of Adventist Schools Victoria, contracts for the \$1.8 million development have been signed and works are on track to open the four classroom facility by November this year. The Secondary school is also growing with the Technology Precinct due



for completion in November ready for the Years 7 & 8 students to move across from the Narre Warren South campus next year as well. *Colin Gallagher, Principal.*

Happy Hands Gets Started EDINBURGH ADVENTIST PRIMARY SCHOOL.

As Marketing Coordinator for the school, Jacqui Knight is always on the lookout for marketing ideas to encourage parents to bring their preschoolers to the school on a regular basis.

"I recently came across the community program at Nunawading Church, run so successfully by Carolin Schmidt, Happy Hands Art Time," says Jacqui. "I wanted to utilise our new art room facility and thought art classes for preschoolers would be a good program to trial." Each program is themed, and includes play time, art craft

time, singing, story and a healthy morning snack. "We were totally booked out after just two weeks of advertising in the local Lilydale area, and on the Happy Hands and EAPS's websites. Mrs Melissa Petersen, in charge of the Edinburgh group, said the parents were



Highlights GILSON COLLEGE

Many exciting things happened at Gilson College last term.

During the first week of June the Yr5 students travelled to Ballarat for a special, three-day excursion to Sovereign Hill where they had a fantastic time experiencing what life would have been like during the Victorian gold rush, dressing up as children from the 1850's to attend the Ragged School and the St Alipius School just like children from that era. They experienced how the children would have lived, played and learned and in the evening experienced the Sound and Light show; a live show of sounds, lights, fires and explosions, explaining the story of the Eureka Stockade. Prep students have also had an exciting term with special visits from Wild School Incursion where they were thrilled by the fun, hands-on wildlife presentation, and the Flying Bookworm where they sang,

danced and participated in an interactive story-time. Yr6 students also had a wonderful time with their prep buddies. They have shared books, played games and generally looked out for the preps around the school. The Primary School celebrated Multicultural Week at the end of the term. Each year level learnt about a particular country's geography, traditional food, clothing, languages, dances and art and a Japanese and a French cultural program. Parents were invited to be a part of the audience the students presentations. And the Yr12 Legal Studies students participated in an excursion to the County Court where they toured the Supreme Court and were able to interview an actual judge. *Anne Tonga*



CHANGED BY A VISIT: In July, a number of Year 10 students accompanied by four staff members, embarked on a life-changing journey which took them from Melbourne to Adelaide, Perth, Malaysia and an orphanage in Thailand.

"When we arrived at Safe Haven Orphanage we realised immediately that we were outside our comfort zones and would be challenged by the environment that we were in. God was with us and not ONE person was sick or hurt throughout the journey. Our hearts were full of compassion for these orphans who ranged in age from babies to teens. Each one had a story to tell. Each one made us cry. We went over to the orphanage thinking that we were there

to help them, instead, we were the ones who received the bigger reminder that we should never take the littlest things for granted. Many lessons were learnt during this time, and as we debriefed about the journey when we got back to our hotel room after our experience, the students spoke about how they it had changed them. I have every faith that this is a journey that will be imprinted on their hearts for the rest of their lives. *Anne Tonga*



Conference Office Works FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

In 1989 a small computer company called ASUS was founded. Last year this Taiwanese multinational company was the fifth largest vendor of computers worldwide. In 1989 the Soviet Union still existed but the last armoured column of Soviet tanks exited Afghanistan. Meanwhile a meeting occurred that year between the Pope and Mikhail Gorbachev. Few would have anticipated that the Soviet Union was so soon to become a footnote in history. A less noteworthy event occurred on 22 January 1989 when the current Conference Office building was completed! The building has seen much used through that time, retains many original furnishings and carpets and is in urgent need of work to bring it up



to current standards. In the coming months there will be some impact on the services offered from the Conference Office as work is done to ensure a safe and representative workplace. Every attempt will be made to minimise any negative impact – but the inconvenience will be worth it once the work is complete. Already completed is the replacement of the Air-conditioning/heating unit. The old one had reached the end of its life, regularly breaking down and had become a health and safety issue. The next stage is scheduled to commence soon and will occur over the next few months. This work will bring the building back up to standard and address a number of health and safety issues. Furniture that is past its used by date will be replaced, upgrades will be implemented to allow for advances in technology, and space will be reconfigured to better meet the current usage needs. Repairs will also be made as required and carpet replaced. Currently the second floor can only be accessed via stairs. In future it is planned to provide disabled access to all areas of the building as well as improving OH&S concerns with the installation of a lift. With the next stage soon to commence, please be aware that not all the Conference staff will be in the building during the works and those remaining will at times be moved around the building as work is undertaken. Telephone and email access will continue unchanged enabling people to stay in touch as needed.

*Pr Darren Croft
General Secretary*

HANNAH CHATELIER (LEONGATHA), MICHAEL GULLAS & EDEN ASHCROFT (MILDURA), STEPHANIE ROGILIC AND STEPHAN KAPLES (ST ALBANS), LUKE MASON AND NATHAN JUDD (NUNAWADING), AZZAN SCHUSTER-DAVIS (FERNTREE GULLY)



SHAVNE WATSON (HERITAGE FAMILY), GIULIANO HESON & ZOE BOLTO (WANTIRNA), MATT COURNEY (BRUNWOOD), DEREK GURBAN (MONT ALBERT), JULIAN DRENSON & CHRISTIE ELDREDGE (SHEPPARTON) & JANINA BELATRAV (FRANKSTON)

Chosen VICYOUTH

This year the biannual program run by the Australian Union Conference Youth Department, Chosen, was again convened at Port Maquarie.



VicYouth was happy to be able to send its largest group of teens to date to this leadership training program held in July, under the mentorship and care of Cathy and Calvin Rutene. The young people returned home 'on fire', as was first evident as they gathered together at Melbourne's busy airport, arms on each other's shoulders, heads bowed in prayer, before going their separate ways. Let's have a look at this conference through the eyes of some of the teens who went.

"Chosen was an amazing experience for me on so many levels. When I arrived at the airport I was a little nervous - new people and new experiences, but little did know I'd come out with such amazing new friends (practically like new sisters) and of course an amazing mentor! Each day was so jammed packed with activities and talks that related; related to me and the people around me. I've never felt so spiritually inspired. It was amazing to see the lights of the other people around me that God had given them and to feel such an overwhelming sense of love and acceptance in the atmosphere.

My favourite time was the evenings - I loves the testimonies of the speakers and the chance to get involved in praise and worship. The nights didn't just stop with closing prayer either, the late night talking in our cabins ranged from favourite bible verses to encounters with God - even most embarrassing moments! Sharing our burdens and praying together were also highlights. Even a five hour wait at the small Newcastle airport on the way home was filled with songs, joy and laughter instead of burden.

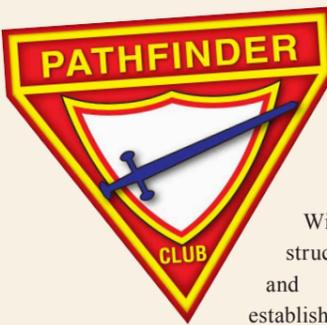
Chosen has inspired me to be true to who God wants me to be - stand out and know I belong no matter what the world around me says about how I should be living.

Zoe Bolto, Wantirna Church

"Chosen 2012, 'wow!' When I first arrived at the camp I didn't realise how much it would actually change my life. As the week progressed it became more obvious that this is exactly where God wants me to be, and to give it 110%. The people I met at Chosen are people I will have with me for the rest of my life. Us Victorians formed an amazing bond that will never be broken. I finally found a place where I could talk about Christianity and not have to hide how I feel. The girls in my room (Vic girls) were so amazing. After only knowing them a few days we began to talk about things that we hadn't shared with anyone. We were able to open up to each other without being judged. Before going to 'Chosen 2012', I was completely in the dark. I felt like everyone around me had been shown their path; I simply 'existed'! I could not have been more wrong. God knows my purpose and through his guidance I will become the very best I can be! Whilst I know I am still young the 'Ministry' is where I see myself heading and I know that God will be there to guide me every step of the way."

Eden Ashcroft, Mildura Church

So look out churches, you nominated these teens to go to a leadership training conference – they have come home leaders, ready and willing to be used for God. To paraphrase the words of Paul to Timothy, don't think them too young, but observe their faith, their attitude, their love for Christ. Because they are not too young to be leaders... if you will let them.



Pathfinder Start-up Director

Some years back the Conference Pathfinder Advisory looked at appointing a District Director specifically to assist and support churches interested in starting a Pathfinder Club, and recently this idea began to take on a more formalised shape.

With guidelines, structures and a check-list established, Michael Downing has trialled this role for six months. He has been involved with Pathfinders for many

years and this experience equips him well to be able to advise and help churches move towards birthing a Pathfinder Club. Michael is currently working with a number of churches across the state – Leongatha, Bairnsdale, Warragul, Werribee Karen Burmese and Western

Spanish. If you have a dream of starting a Pathfinder ministry for your young people (ten to sixteen years of age) but are unsure how to go about it then Michael is the one to speak to. Contact him on Michael on 0427540365 or email him at michael247@gmail.com.

"Pathfinders is an excellent program offering outdoor challenges, community service opportunities and mentoring to our young people," says Phil Hyland from VicYouth. "And it is something that, with a little effort, can be offered to the wider community. At a recent district pastors meeting, ideas were shared on how your church, through Pathfinders, could connect further with the non-Adventist families of Pathfinders and also reach out to youth in your area. Have a look at some ideas that were shared."

- Advertise in your local community.

- Take the Pathfinders (in full uniform) doorknocking, sharing the benefits of Pathfinders and inviting them to join.
- Plan events the pathfinders families can come to too, such as bbq or a nearby camp where they join the club for a meal, or a camp where the families come too (such as at Howqua).
- Have specially designated greeters mingle with parents as they drop their children off at Pathfinders.
- Have your chaplain make special contact with families of non-church members on a regular basis.

Preston Doors LITERATURE EVANGELISM

Wednesday 6th of June was the day: the day that four enthusiastic Literature Evangelists hit the doors of Preston. So Denise Sharp, John Sheermeijer, Peter Smith and Joe Paola began the day at the Preston church, where they were blessed with some words of wisdom and motivation by the church's seven-language speaking minister, Dr George Latchman.

The men put in a total of 30 hours visiting homes and over 150 pieces of literature were given out while ten homes accepted prayer. Over \$1,300 worth of Adventist literature was ordered.

"We thank the Preston church for praying for us and especially Dr George for going the extra mile. We asked for a short devotional in the morning, which he delivered, but then also cooked up a hot meal for lunch - an extra blessing we did not expect!

"We especially thank God for making it all possible." Joe Paola



JOHN, JOE, PETER, DENNIS WITH DR LATCHMAN, THEY SPENT THIRTY HOURS WORKING IN THE PRESTON AREA

Over 400 Attend! WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

The annual Women's conference attracts more women each year and the most recent conference, held in July at Phillip Island Adventure resort saw women come from NSW, South Australia, and Tasmania as well as Victoria, including an increasing number of teens and young mums with their babies. It was a time for friendship and worship.

"I praise God for the wonderful team of thirteen ladies from different churches within Victoria who helped me to put together such an important weekend," says WM director, Pr Danijela Trajkov.

Dr Hyveth Williams, professor at the theological Seminary at Andrews University, USA, and an experienced pastor and TV presenter, was the guest speaker. Her topics were from the book of Esther with the theme "CHOSEN FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS." Her dynamic presentations uplifted our spirits as she shared with us her testimony of how God rescued her from the world and called her to the ministry.

"Thank you so much for a lovely weekend at Phillip Island. We were so blessed!" - Mary

"This weekend was a time of spiritual uplifting," Danijela continues. "A time when spiritual, emotional and physical restoration was able to take place. If you

missed out this year, don't miss out again! Here is an early invitation for next year's Women's conference: July 26-28, 2013 at Phillip Island Adventure Resort. See you there!"

"My friends and I thoroughly enjoyed the retreat! It was well organised and the speaker was fantastic! Well done on all the hard work leading up to this weekend, may God bless you all abundantly! Looking forward to next year's retreat." - Angela

"The guest speaker Dr Hyveth Williams was inspirational and challenged us to better and greater things!" - Penny

WM in Victoria is very much 'mission' oriented, and there were a number of unchurched women there on the weekend. One asked if she could take a Bible home with her, saying "I have never had one before."



DR HYVETH WILLIAMS WAS GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE WEEKEND. SATURDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES INCLUDED A CRAZY FASHION PARADE, EATING DELICACIES FROM A CHOCOLATE FOUNTAIN, GAMES, OR JUST RELAXING

Table Talk CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Talking around the table may have greater impact on our families than we realise!

In Egypt, Moses promoted faith around the family 'table' as he instructed his people on the first Passover supper, the tradition of which became a means of passing their faith from one generation to the next.

In Jesus time, His last night of earthy existence was spent in 'table talk' with His inner circle, strengthening their faith as they celebrated the Passover meal.

Faith at the table, however, does not need to be limited to an annual or seasonal event.

Martin Luther's table, it is said, was always graced by the presence of guests, from the poorest of students to church and state officials. His table companions often took copious notes of his thoughts and sayings. No doubt his 'table talks' were one of the many ways he helped develop the faith of his people.

And today, every family meal has the potential to pass our faith on to our next generation.

It is interesting that even modern research supports the power of gathering together around the family meal, to impact the behaviour and attitudes of the young, with less obesity, better mental health and psycho-social well-being and reduced risks of substance abuse being just some of the positive outcomes achieved.

In light of these things, the Children's Ministries department at the SPD has collaborated with various Conference directors to produce an exciting new resource for developing faith at the table. 'Table Talk' is a beautifully packaged set of question cards that can help generate family discussion. The questions have been carefully chosen to reflect the spiritual dynamics that characterise the GraceLink



Sabbath School curriculum – namely grace, worship, fellowship and service. Victorian Director, David Edgren, encourages every family to consider equipping themselves with this excellent resource. "We gave out nearly 100 sets of this resource at Elmore, when it had first been released," he says. "They are now available at the Adventist Book Centre at the Conference Office."

It is the prayer of the developers that God will be with you as you develop the faith of your children at your table.

Adapted from article by Pr Neil Marks, South Queensland Conference Children's Ministries Director



Empowering... CHILDREN'S AND SABBATH SCHOOL'S MINISTRIES

Did you know the effect of Children's Sabbath School could be increased greatly by empowering parents to share their faith with their children during the week? Did you know adult Sabbath School was the foundation the first Adventist church was built upon and is a solid predictor of the effectiveness of your church?

Would you like a workshop on either of these two topics? Call Pr Dave on 03 9264 7777 and book one or both!

The following is a letter of thanks from Benella Church Sabbath School director Letitia Draper:

"It was so good to have Pr Dave visit and share his enthusiasm and commitment to Sabbath School and Children's Ministry. Gracelink@Home – Parents Night Friday night was really unique. For the first time our small group of parents had the chance to gather and share about hopes we have for our children's faith and

some challenges we face in supporting its growth. We found ourselves laughing and blinking back tears, relating with others' situations and joint problem-solving as we discussed the importance of encouraging faith within our little ones, ways to do so and ways to deal with some associated challenges. Pr Dave brought along some thought provoking music and questions, personal experiences, stories, sample activities (including popcorn) and other great resources to share.

Sabbath School Workshop

On Sabbath afternoon Pr Dave led our leadership team and interested participants in a Sabbath School Workshop. We were reminded of the original purpose of

Sabbath School: Nurture, Evangelism, Worship and World Mission. We then evaluated our current program in relation to these aims and which in particular we could strengthen. Participants had great suggestions as together we considered how we could build local mission into our Sabbath School experience.

These two workshops gave us the opportunity to connect, re-focus and plan for growth in our church and families. Thank you, Pr Dave, for your time, your care, your willingness to get involved in our Church experience and for leaving us with resources to enrich our faith here in Benalla!"

Upcoming Training Events

22144VIC CERTIFICATE IV IN 'PRESENTING COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS'

with Sibilla Johnson

An accredited program, this course is designed for church members who are interested in following and presenting a Christian whole-person ministry to their communities and church members in a relevant, credible manner and has received an excellent response. There is a firm commitment to keep this training course constantly updated, not only with the latest documented nutrition information, but also the best teaching methods.

Course details:

- Divided into 21 study units, this course covers topics ranging from Adventist health philosophy to nutrition and advantages of a vegetarian diet, to marketing and advertising, providing you with essential skills to enable you to plan and conduct vegetarian cooking and nutrition courses.
- A large part of the course is by correspondence, question sheets, essays and reading assignments. There is a 50 hour 'face to face' component that is conducted on eight Sundays, covering practical subjects and a review of home study units.
- Successful completion requires a ten minute health presentation, recipe demonstration and completing a final exam paper.
- Time frame is 10 - 12 months in total.

Course fees:

\$ 450.00 to be paid at commencement. The fee covers expenses, and includes the training manual (approximately 400 pages), textbooks (*Nutrition and Wellness* by Dr Winston Craig and *Food and Nutrition* by Dr Mark Wahlqvist), a resource folder from Sanitarium Nutrition Service and resource CD's suitable for public presentation.

The next training course will commence February 17, 2013, and will continue on the 3rd Sunday of each month. If you know of anyone who would like to do this course, please ask them to give me a ring, or email me, so we can put their name on the waiting list - our intake is 15 students.

Sibilla Johnson
Victorian Health Director and National Trainer
Phone: 03 9264 7777
Email: sjohnson@adventist.org.au

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

with Danijela Trajkov

This is an accredited Leadership Training Program, suitable for women of all ages who are interested or involved in leadership. It runs each March and October. Here is what some participants have to say:

"I am a mother and work full time. I have been participating in the Women's Ministry Leadership Course and completed level 1-3 this year. It was an enriching experience, delivering skills I need to serve women in my community and church, including skills in administration, team building and starting ministry groups... I received clarity and a greater understanding of the uniqueness God has placed within us to serve Him. God has given those with leadership ability various strengths, all of which are important within the Body of Christ... I believe this course would empower any woman attending to add to the much needed work of winning ladies for Jesus - one soul at a time." Bernadine

"I enjoyed the weekend as the speakers are examples of open honest and God fearing women, and the program reminded me of what a wonderful organisation we belong to and that we have a really great God. I need all of the reminding I can get!" Katrina

"I have attended three sessions already and have found it to be very informative, equipping us as women, to help lead in our churches. I don't believe our churches take enough advantage of this, and encourage everyone in leadership to consider sending some of the women in your church to this training program." Violeta

The next program in October will be held on Saturday October 13, commencing at 3:30pm and including dinner. On Sunday October 14 it will run from 9am to 3:30, including lunch. Please speak to your local Women's Ministries coordinator or contact me through the Conference Office.

Danijela Trajkov
Victorian Director, Women's Ministries
Phone: 03 8264 7777
Email : DTrajkov@adventist.org.au

Sunset times
Bairnsdale time is
10 minutes EARLIER
& at Hamilton
the time is 12
minutes LATER

Sept 2012			
Sabbath	Opening	Closing	
Aug 31, Sep 1	5:58	5:59	
Sept 7,8	6:04	6:05	
Sept 14,15	6:10	6:11	
Sept 21,22	6:16	6:17	
Sept 28,29	6:22	6:23	

Offering Schedule

- SEPTEMBER**
- 8 - Annual Sacrifice Offering (Global Mission)
 - 15 - Education/Camping Ministry
 - 22 - Local Church Budget
 - 29 - Local Church Budget
- OCTOBER**
- 6 - Appeal expense
 - 13 - Education/Camping Ministry
 - 20 - Local Church Budget
 - 27 - Local Church Budget

Baby Congratulations

Congratulations to Linden and Liz Borkovic, members of Macedon Ranges Church on the arrival of their daughter Sienna Rose on 23.1.2012. May you feel the presence of God sustaining you as you care for your precious little one.



ADS & NOTICES

NORTH WEST BUSH CAMP IS ON AGAIN

Mark your calendars!
2nd - 6th of November 2012
Guest speaker - Derek Morris from Hope Channel
Powered sites and full catering available.
Contact Suzanne to secure your little piece of heaven on the banks of the Darling River at Wentworth - (03)5021 3633 (BH); or 0412 140 706
Bookings close October 20.

UNIFORMS WANTED

With the number of new Pathfinder clubs starting and about to start we have a need for Pathfinder dress uniforms. If you or your church have used uniforms tucked away somewhere not being used and you are willing to provide them to a new club please contact us at VicYouth with the uniforms or your details. As it is quite a financial hurdle to set up a new Pathfinder club with the necessary equipment; if you have been blessed and would like to assist one of our new clubs with new or quality second hand equipment please contact us at VicYouth on 9264 7740.

CONCERT AT ADVENTCARE

The next concert of beautiful music will continue at AdventCare Whitehorse Auditorium
163-165 Central Road
Nunawading on
Saturday September 15
Seating by 7:55pm
More information on the program will appear in church bulletins
A modest collection will be called for on the evening, for a cause to be revealed.
Car parking available in the Nunawading Church Grounds.

NORTHPOINT EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING CENTRE

Sept 15, Door to Door Ministry
October 20, Discipleship
November 17, Truth to Life Worship Services
December 15, Christmas Themed Evangelism
Contact Pr Loren Pratt on 03 9264 7777 for more information.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Bringing you the opportunity to get together for a special time of Sharing & Testimony
4:00pm Saturday September 8, 2012
at Bethel Hall, Nunawading Church
169 Central Road, Nunawading
RSVP by AUG 20, 2012
Danijela Trajkov@adventist.org.au
Tanya 9264 7777/
TanyaKaraoglanis@adventist.org.au

ACCOMMODATION NEEDED

Single mature lady seeking accommodation and will consider any location. 2 bedroom home. has own furniture. Call Wendy on 0431 061 271 or 0419 126 902



Impact Youth Congress

When? 8th-13th July 2013 (an opportunity to do service projects 1st-5th July 2013)

Where? Pretoria, South Africa

What? During the first phase (1-5 July), South Africa will be saturated with Community Service Projects (CSP's) like orphanage visitation and improvements, construction, HIV/Aids awareness and prevention, school developments, community beautification projects, health expos, sports training, and evangelistic meetings. These will be carried out by participating groups from all over the world in partnership with local youths.

Please note that where and what our service project will be is yet to be confirmed.

The second phase (8-13 July) will bring all CSP participants, as well as others, to Pretoria for a celebration of what God will do through our youth in the first phase and for the development of global community through small groups, discipleship, focused mission training, and worship in the second phase.

Registration? Early bird registration closes September 2012, and no applications will be received after March 31, 2013 (or when 3000 applications are received). Open to all young people aged between 16 and 35, and their leaders.

For more information visit <http://impactgcouth.org>



SafePlaces, SafePeople



The Victorian Conference is committed to establishing a church in the centre of Melbourne, and we need you. Jesus said, "The harvest is ready but the workers are few, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."
- Matt. 25:37-38. Get trained and equipped to be a part of this exciting new venture.

Choose from these two options:
1) A two week, 10 day intensive: 10am-5pm, Monday to Friday. Commencing October 1st, OR
2) Twice a week: Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6:30-8:30pm. Commencing October 16th.

For more information download the application form at vic.adventist.org.au or collect it from the reception desk at the Victorian Conference Office. Contact Pastor Rod Anderson 0422603941.

The Orchard | Melbourne Central City Church | theorchardmelbourne.org.au

beyond the search

Learn how to utilise the Beyond series to its maximum potential...
Workshops presented by
Personal Ministries Director,
Pr Loren Pratt

beyond the search

To book please phone Tanya Karaoglanis at the Victorian Conference (03) 9264 7777

White Balloon Day

September 7

How can you help?

Check out www.whiteballoonday.com.au

Visit www.adventist.org.au and follow the links to the Safe Places site where you can find our resources and further information



Position Vacant Manager

ADRA Sunraysia are specialists in New and Used Office Furniture, established since 1993. Profits go to support local youth and community projects.

We seek the services of a motivated professional for our Mildura warehouse. Preferred age is 30 - 50 years. The successful applicant must be able to direct staff, handle sales, coordinate deliveries, and liaise with suppliers, carriers and clients.

Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to the ethos of ADRA Australia and the beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Mildura Adventist Church has a regular attendance of approximately 200, an active youth group, Adventurers Club and Sabbath School classes for all ages. The associated school, Henderson College, caters for Prep to Yr10, with around 140 students.

If you see this as your opportunity to escape to the country please contact Darcy Malycha on 0418 596 240 or email adrasunraysia@ncable.com.au.

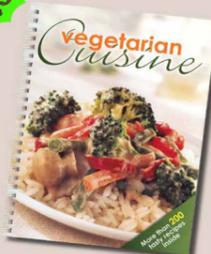
Resumes can be emailed or posted to PO Box 5072, Mildura, VIC, 3502.

Applications close August 31 2012

AdventistBookCentre

September Special

only \$9.95



DISCONTINUED LINES - Rediburger and Country Hot Pot have been discontinued.

While now out of Rediburger, the ABC does still have some Country Hot Pot in stock but it will not last long.

141 Central Road Nunawading - Hours - 9-5 Mon - Thur and 9-12 Fri

African Day of Fellowship

The Adventist African community in Victoria is inviting you a Day of Fellowship at

Ascot Vale SDA Church,
43 The Parade,
Ascot Vale

Date – September 1, 2012

Time - 9:15am.

Mark this on your calendar and plan to be there.

Both morning and afternoon programmes, focusing on *"Revival and Reformation"* will cater for every age group. Come with a dish to share during our lunch break.

BIBLE IN BLOOM
& BINDING

September 8-10
FERNTREE GULLY

Spring

Bible stories retold through floral art along with Biblical manuscripts and scrolls many hundreds of years old

Seventh-day Adventist Church
Corner Lyons Parade &
Railway Avenue

Saturday, 8 September: 11am–4pm

Sunday, 9 September: 10am–4pm

Monday, 10 September: 9am–4pm



For further information:
Pastor Trevor Rowe (mobile 0409 011 893)

Join the Team?



The Victorian Adventist Communications department is looking at building up a team of church members who are interested in

using their creative skills to help us with our productions, whether it is in presentation, design and production or recording.

We are not looking at a huge time commitment for any particular individual, only as much as each is able to contribute. To this end, the department wants to compile a list of people interested in helping in a number of areas, whom we can call on from time to time.

So if you are interested in helping us with photography, film and audio

production, broadcasting, interviews, presentations or creative writing please register your interest by emailing SherrieCourtney@adventist.org.au
Join our team!



An Invitation – Today!

In conjunction with Avondale College and the Australian Union Conference, the Victorian Conference Ministerial Secretary, Pr Rob Steed will be conducting an information session this afternoon, August 25.

This session is for anyone interested in entering Pastoral Ministry.

No RSVP necessary.

Just turn up at the Conference Office Chapel at 3.30pm

Today Central Road, Nunawading.



The Editor reserves the right to edit and include or exclude any article from publication. Articles not included due to lack of space may be included in a future issue or placed on the Church website. The Editor also reserves the right to exclude Ads or Notices after just one issue. Please note, commercial advertising is generally not published in Intraviv. Accommodation notices, MUST be accompanied with a reference from Local Pastor.

Photographs of minors must be accompanied by permission to use the photographs in print and on the web, signed by parent/guardian.

Bible verses are from various versions which may include NIV, JJV, NJJV & 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.