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*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*

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Victorian Conference News

August 2014

Bringing you news from our local churches across Victoria and from our Conference Departments, sharing information, inspiration and encouragement

From the Editor



Doubting Disciples?

Have you ever been tempted to doubt? Or ever thought that life was easy for the early church?

It was fine for them!

Let's face it, they had the Holy Spirit, and after all, the disciples had been with Jesus – taught by Him. Sure there was persecution, but there was significant growth – with 100's and 1000's being added to the church day by day.

How encouraging that would have been!

If at this point, I again quote Matthew 28: 19,20, I can imagine many thinking, "Seen that before," and I hope you have. But have you seen verses 16 and 17 recently?

"Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted."

We know about Thomas, but it seems he was not the only one! "Some (plural) doubted," and that was after spending years in the physical presence of the Saviour.

In response, Jesus spoke to them. He said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Go therefore..." The gospel commission follows.

As a church, our mission never changes.

Methods change.

What we do to achieve our mission is modified to meet current needs, but the mission itself doesn't change. Why we exist is still the same as it always was since that day when Jesus spoke to His disciples

in such a memorable way. The task is to "make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you."

Disciple-making is the job of the church.

I have a hunch that Jesus specifically included an assurance and a promise in the commission, specifically for those tempted to doubt.

I'm thankful for both.

The Assurance: "All authority has been given to Me," He said.

The promise: "Lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Still tempted to doubt?

Let's keep our eyes fixed on Jesus!

Graeme Christian

Local Church News



It Started in Lorne

BY JAMIE HEGARTY

In June, Rob Stephens was baptised during the church service at Wantirna.

Over four years ago, while holidaying at a caravan park at Lorne, Rob met Natasha Wilson. They became friends and then started dating.

Rob began Bible studies with Pastor Justin Bone and these studies continued with Pastor David Riley. In recent times, Rob decided that baptism into the church family was what he wanted. He feels God's presence in his life and believes in His protection and salvation.

Congratulations Rob.



Cooking up a Storm

by SIBILLA JOHNSON

An enthusiastic group of prep – year 2 children are cooking up a storm and learning all about healthy food choices in a series of interactive workshops at the Longwarry Primary School. Headed up by Dick and Beryl Morris and supported by Longwarry church Pastor Peter Hughes, children will focus each week on a different meal and look at the difference between every day choices and special treats and how to have a healthy body and brain.

Each week children will participate in cooking, games and health talks and at the end of the three week program will have compiled their very own 'School Kids Cookbook'.

A similar program will be held with the grade 3-6 children at the completion of this one and will feature special guest presenter, Victorian Conference Health Director, Sibilla Johnson. "Our churches health message has really led towards the doors of the local primary school being opened to us," says Beryl Morris. "This area has been identified as a high risk in regards to health and after health presentations for parents earlier this year the school was very keen to have us work with their students."



A Filipino Sabbath

by JUDY WALKER

A congregation of around one hundred and twenty adults and children were informed, inspired and entertained by a Philippine presentation on Sabbath 19th July at the Bairnsdale Seventh-day Adventist Community church. Several of those attending were guests attracted by an article about the occasion which appeared in the local paper earlier that week. The presentation was about a recent service project the church had been involved in, led by Rose Hamulczyk, a Bairnsdale resident originally from the Philippines. Rose, her husband Leo (a pharmacist at Bairnsdale Hospital) and their young daughter Ariana took a group of multi-talented people including locals Denise Twining and Carol Hanna, to the Philippines where they provided medical and dental care and ran nightly mission services in two different cities, which led to several baptisms. They also ran VBS's for over 200 children, with crafts, health talks stories and action songs.

The church members had a great time as their own Filipino members led them in singing some of those action songs, as well as listening to the sound of singing in the melodious Filipino language.

The presentation was enhanced by slides and anecdotes of the team's experiences.

The day the team arrived in Manila they were eating in a shopping mall when they were trapped for several hours while a gang of armed men attempted a robbery. Crouching under tables while bullets whizzed around was not comfortable! They praised God that nobody was hurt and the police captured the robbers.



AS well as the formal programs, the team worked in other practical ways too. some of the poorest Filipinos were given food and basic hygiene items like soap and toothbrushes. The people, who struggled to live by scavenging from rubbish tips for anything saleable were glad to receive help. A prison was visited and prisoners given useful gifts, including lightweight patchwork quilts made by Leo Hamulczyk's mother Jane. One prisoner, who couldn't be released because of bail owing, had that paid for him and was also helped financially to start a small home business to support himself and his family. The Hamulczyk family went on to Thailand after they left the Philippines and did the same kind of humanitarian work there.

After the special Sabbath program over ninety people stayed on to enjoy lunch, which featured all kinds of delicious Filipino foods, cooked by the Bairnsdale Filipino ladies.

Rose plans another mission to the Philippines next year as she works untiringly for the Master.



Wilderness Ministry

By STEPH BAILEY

Steph Bailey is an active member of Tumut church (Just across the border, in NSW), and has been working to establish a wilderness ministry.

IntraVic invited her to share a little of this ministry with you.

Maybe this interests you, or perhaps it will inspire you to serve our God in other ways.

Find Jesus in the Mountains wilderness ministry.

Find Jesus in the Mountains is a ministry project in its feasibility stage, and we are always on the look out for people interested in such a project which will offer personal resilience development and a chance to encounter Jesus in His wild creation. Find Jesus in the Mountains, which will be pursuing supporting-ministry status, is designed to support city and regional ministries. Jesus and His saving, enabling grace will be central – around the campfire; while doing fun, challenging work. Self-reliance will be practised by the ministry in orchard, garden, and solar buildings.

My daughter, Shaya and I have been working towards this ministry for years. Shaya has now completed Cert III in Sport, Horse Riding and I has been developing Alive Bible ministry for over a decade, where

everyone from kids to groups of preachers learn Scripture by heart and meet Jesus there. Alive Bible is soul strengthening and life transforming.

Through Find Jesus in the Mountains, we will offer weekend, week-long and longer programs for church and non-churched individuals and groups, with resilience-developing wilderness experiences, centred on horses who understand young (and older) people and encourage them to speak their heart and find their strength in Jesus. We will offer Alive Bible components to the outdoor programs, as well as specific Alive Bible events for small groups, church retreats, families, Pathfinders, ministry training events. She envisages a world-class Jesus' time replica village. Might Jesus be bringing your ministry to this mix, either on location, or as ministry partners at a distance?

If you would like more info about this project, email alivebible@gmail.com.



visit Vic.Adventist.org.au to find out more about the October 11 Offering or to access the latest notices.



Departmental News



Christmas in July

BY REBECCA AURIANT

Christmas in July

July 31st was a wonderful celebration for Vive Café's Christmas in July! There were Christmas hampers, gifts, a three-course meal and beautiful singing.

"I don't really see it as volunteering," says Amy Holman – Café management committee member and one of the volunteers for the evening. "I see it as an opportunity. An opportunity God has given all of us and we can choose to accept it or



Happy Hands at Edinburgh

BY JACQUI KNIGHT

Happy Hands Art Time at Edinburgh College

Primary has grown to three sessions a week with a wait list for all three sessions.

Edinburgh College Primary commenced Happy Hands with one session per week, just over two years ago. "We have been blessed with many new friends and enrolments for both the Early Learning Centre and the Primary as a result of the program," reports program coordinator, Jacqui Knight.

ignore it, but the opportunity is still there... The opportunity to serve others. I ask myself, what percentage of my life is spent on what I want or need? And what percentage is dedicated to serving others like Jesus did? So I think if I can 'give back' only a little, then that's what I will do. If I can give a lot, even better! It is worth it at the end of the day to see those few smiling faces, knowing you have made some difference in their world."



Vive Café is more than your traditional soup kitchen. Every Thursday, volunteers serve a nutritious three-course meal to support families and individuals experiencing hardship in the City of Maroondah. It has grown from serving 30 meals each week to now 120-140 meals. Guests are personally greeted, with the meal serving as a platform to build relationships and show genuine care, and the basis for support and practical help to be provided.

"We are hoping to have a special meal on Christmas Day (the one in December!) too," says Karina Dobra, Café Coordinator. "So we are going to need as many people willing to assist as possible. Donations for the hampers (cash or long life food items and possibly even gifts if a local church or two wanted to take it on as a Christmas Tree project) would make a massive difference."

If you would like to be involved in this project this Christmas, contact Karina M: 0431966802 or E: kdobraq@adra.org.au Share the Joy.

Community Gardening

The team give each session to God in prayer. They pray for the children attending, their families and that God will use both the team members and the program to impact the lives of each one attending. "We run our program along the lines of small group ministry", says Jacqui, "If a family is away, we contact them and let them know they were missed."



The recent snowboarding tragedy on Mt Bogong impacted the Edinburgh Happy Hands group as one of the men's wives and little son attends the program. The group generously gave just over \$400 to help the family with expenses. Edinburgh College also purchased a beautiful Charlie Bear for little Thomas which was delivered to their home. "This isn't the first time we have been able to reach out to those who come to this program", many times participants have shared with us family tragedy and also good news," says Jacqui. "We count it a real privilege to offer this service to the surrounding community, and to see God at work in the lives of those who attend."

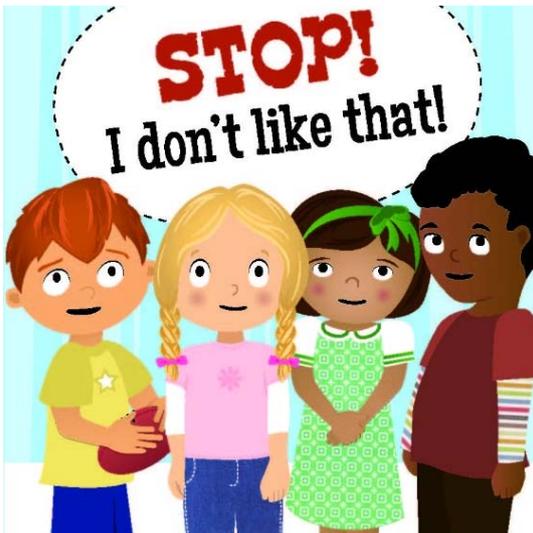


IronBark Pathfinders making a difference



Want to create a stronger community? Why not start a community garden. Studies show that gardening promotes physical health, mental health, better nutrition and stronger communities – so email rauriant@adra.org.au if you would like to start one today!

with ADRA...



Stop! I don't like that!

By INTRAVIC

First published in 2003, *Stop! I don't like it!* has helped many children recognise their 'early warning signs' and their 'No' feelings so that they can then engage with a trusted and supportive adult to speak up against things that are making them feel 'unsafe'. The positive influence that this book has had on children's lives and their parents and caregiver's ability to safeguard their children led to the republishing of this book.

Victoria's Safe Places Coordinator, Sue Mercer congratulated author, Kerene Whelan, for sharing her gifts with our churches, schools and the wider community. Kerene is especially grateful to those

who have encouraged her and prayed for her over the years, and to her husband and children who have taught her what it is to love and be loved safely.

Particularly aimed at 3-6 year olds, *Stop! I don't like it!* has been developed to combat the ever increasing misuse of power and overt grooming that has resulted in a growing rate of bullying and child abuse.

As children read the book with their parents, teachers and other caregivers, they are encouraged to seek adults whom they trust to tell about what makes them feel 'unsafe'. *Stop! I don't like it!* is useful in raising both the child's and caregiver's awareness of all forms of abuse including, physical, emotional and sexual. *Stop! I don't like it!* also gives the child support as to how they can seek help to combat this abuse. Therefore, this book is a must for all young families.

Kerene brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this book. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Counselling, Diploma of Counselling in Abuse and Abusive Behaviour, a Diploma of Science (Nursing) and has completed training for the Protective Behaviours Program.

Be on the lookout for the advertising flyers as to how to obtain this book or contact Tina Gilchrist at the ABC by phone... or the Safe Places Personal Assistant Katrina Campbell katrinacampbell@adventist.org.au

Global Health Conference - Geneva

by SIBILLA JOHNSON

The Global Health Conference, conducted every five years, is a partnership event between our Church's Health Department, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), and was initiated by the latter two.

Attendees at this Conference totalled 1150 people, representing over 80 countries, with Elder Ted Wilson, GC President and his wife, plus the GC Executive Committee being present for the whole week.

Dr Hannas, representing the WHO and PAHO, said: "The Seventh-day Adventist Church has something the world needs."

The influence of Adventist Health Ministry is what prompted the WHO and PAHO to partner with us, aiming to improve nutrition, combat lifestyle diseases and give millions proven paths out of addictive behaviours. In His providence God has graciously raised up a movement and a delivery system, to help the world's seven billion people find the abundant life promised in Christ Jesus.

Dr Peter Landless, the Director of the GC Health Ministries Department spoke about a 'Blended Ministry'. "I love the phrase blended ministry, because it indicates what the recipe or the formula for success is. It is working together with every department of the church, clearly each should be trained in their own ministry area but we need to work together!"

How shall we reveal Christ? I know of no better way....than to take hold of the medical missionary work in connection with the ministry. Medical Ministry p. 319

"There are huge health issues to be tackled, said Dr Landless. "Non-communicable diseases. Worldwide there is a relentless rise of heart disease, cancer, obesity, type 2 diabetes, and diseases related to alcohol and tobacco. We may easily feel the task is bigger than we are and not do anything about it."

One of the most cost effective approaches we can take is to learn about, and to promote, lifelong lifestyle and prevention wherever we find ourselves: in schools, hospitals, factories, universities, clinics, churches or other places of worship.

Our calling is to not only address the lifestyle issues, but to remember that people are wholistic beings, with physical, mental, social and spiritual dimensions.

Become part of the solution in bringing wholeness to a broken and oftentimes hostile planet.

Remember that the restoration of the body prepares the way for the restoration of the soul. Medical Ministry p 240.

The whole of the Conference was a very positive and enjoyable experience for me personally. There was a strong emphasis on Spiritual Health, with Elder Ted Wilson taking some excellent plenary presentations. I was asked by the GC Health Department to take one of the afternoon workshops to present our Community Health Education Presenters (CHEP) training course and the corresponding results here in our South Pacific Division.

Attached you will find a picture which was taken after the lecture. Dr Chester Kuma, Associate SPD Health Director also took part in my presentation; he explained our Pacific Island Health work, as we work together in the Island regions.

The Global Health Conference Planning Committee suggested I prepare 30 USB memory sticks with all the CHEP training course material, including the study manual, Power Point slides and accreditation information. I offered them at cost, which came to 10 euros apiece. The 30 sticks were all taken, and I had to buy more and load them at night for people who missed out. The small group you can see in the picture were some of those who missed out on the first batch.



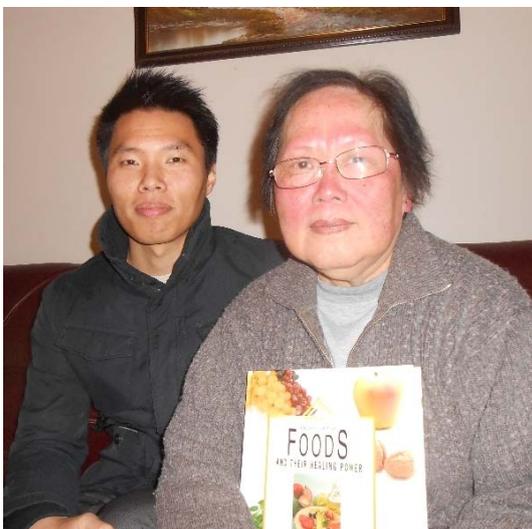
There are now many countries in our world field that have our Community Health Education Presenters training program information. I could never have imagined that something like this would happen, but we have a wonderful heavenly Father, and all things are possible with Him. May God continue to bless His ministry abundantly!



ADRA Appeal 2014

Please support this year's Appeal so we can continue to help: at risk youth and women; families in crisis; and refugees and individuals facing hardship in Victoria. Through the Appeal, ADRA has been able to increase access to clean water, secure year-round food sources, provide basic education in literacy, numeracy and vocational skills and help improve household incomes through training and access to micro-finance opportunities, in eighteen different countries.

Once again the stories from our team of LE's have flooded in. While Evangelism 2014 has moved beyond the initial making new contacts, the LE's have not let up – and continue to visit areas and reach out to those in need.



Why I took a day off Work

By David Kim

I still don't know how I ended up taking a day off work and joining a group of Literature Evangelists considering that I'm quite an introvert. I didn't have much previous experience or knowledge, but I believe God wanted me to see that there are still a lot of people in our community to whom we need to reach out. It was a real blessing for me to learn from this group of dedicated Literature



Working in Geelong

By Joe Paola

It had been quite a few years since a team of Literature Evangelists worked in the city of Geelong. When Pr Ben Townson invited us we were glad to join in ministry with the Geelong Church. Our base for the next few days was our church in Little Myers St. It was warm and comfortable, and from there we reached out and ministered to many in the surrounding area. As we visited the homes we sensed God very near to us and to the people that we were working with.

At one home, after Geoff introduced himself and

Evangelists.

I was privileged to spend the morning with Matt and afternoon with Joe. I really did enjoy observing these two gentlemen with their different approaches and personalities. I could see that they both were very experienced and effective workers.

We were out on the streets knocking doors and talking to people pretty much from 9am until 5pm, but the time went really quick. I never imagined the day could go that fast.

I was a bit nervous about what I was supposed to do as I've never done Literature Ministry before. However, going with two experienced professionals, everything went very smoothly. We met some really nice people and were very happy to be able to hand out five Beyond DVDs to them.

Joe and I had the privilege to meet Angela, a lovely elderly Chinese lady who worked for many years as a teacher and later went into nursing. It was sad that she lost her husband while in her 40's due to a cancer, but it was good to see that she still maintained a good spirit.

Angela was showing some interest in the books, Encyclopaedia of Medicinal Plants but was a bit unsure if she would be able to use them safely. She also wanted to find some answers to her sister's mysterious rash on her legs. She told us that even the doctors weren't able to tell what was wrong. Although we were unable to give her the answer, when we suggested the Encyclopaedia of Foods series she was quite keen to take it as she felt more comfortable learning about some of the pros and cons of everyday food. Angela told us that she wouldn't have bought them if we weren't church people. It was encouraging that we had common ground that we could build our trust upon.

In addition, due to her Methodist background she was quite open to have a spiritual conversation as well and that led us to lend her a Beyond DVD. I think we spent over an hour talking with her. It was gratifying that we were able to offer her something to help her start changing her life for the better.

I had a great experience and I'd highly recommend anyone to go out and be part of Literature Evangelism.

I pray that God will continue to bless our Literature Evangelists and the people they get to visit.

asked how the man was doing, Andrew* replied, "Terrible! The druggies and vandals are harassing me! What church are you from?" Geoff replied, "The Adventist church." Andrew then showed his Adventist Discovery Course and asked, "Is this your mob?"

Conversation opened up and Andrew shared how he was enjoying the course. Just at that moment, loud swearing came from outside his front gate. Andrew grabbed a small cross and pointed it at the drug-affected abuser shouting "Go away!" On seeing the cross, the man ran for his life.

Andrew was happy to receive a copy of our *Beyond* DVD and accepted our small book, *Steps to Christ*. Before leaving Geoff was able to pray with this frightened and yet faithful man.

At another home we visited a lady whose parents are Adventist missionaries but she does not regularly attend church. She lives with her son who suffers from serious depression. Our books and encouraging visit brought renewed hope to their home.

A quietly spoken man, addicted to cigarettes, said he did not believe in God. During the short time we visited, God's Spirit moved quickly on his heart. A friendship was developed and he allowed John to pray for him before leaving. When Sylvia visited with Carl she was very impressed at how clean and tidy he kept his unit. Separated from his wife, he mostly misses his eight-year-old daughter. Only recently located to Geelong, he is doing his best to establish a home for himself. Carl accepted our *Beyond* DVD, also taking copies of our *Signs* magazine and *Steps to Christ*. He had tears in his eyes after Sylvia prayed for him.

Belinda was hurting. She said, "The worst thing that can happen to you is finding out that your partner is cheating on you!" A kind-hearted lady who believes in God, Belinda is not connected to any church. In the course of the visit I was asked about my faith and was able to share what God had done for me. Our *Beyond* DVD on pain was gladly accepted. After praying with Belinda and her daughter-in-law, they were very moved and could not thank me enough for the visit. We thank the church for inviting us to partner with them, and providing us with amazing meals. And we praise our great and awesome God for walking with us and being our strength and support.

*All contact names changed



My Highlight

By Sandi Wipiiti

One of my highlights while working with Daniel, for Gateway was meeting a young man who I will call Tom.

Out of the corner of my eye I noticed Tom lying face on the grass. At first I thought maybe he was in trouble and I asked if I could help him, but it turned out he had no keys to get inside his home, so was enjoying the warmth of the sun.

I took the opportunity to request a little time to show Tom our work. He said he was quite informed on health matters. When I pulled out the Bible Tom mentioned he once believed but due to so many losses in life he now regards himself an atheist.

Toward the end of the demonstration of our books I thanked Tom for the chat and offered him some free literature. He accepted our book Steps to Christ and a booklet on Aboriginal stories.

As he was taking the books, Tom said, "I'll take these books because you never know I might change my mind again."

Tom was right - I may never know - but what I do know is that God loves him and I pray the little seeds

of love that we sowed in his heart will grow into an abundance of love for God and give him peace in a world of turmoil.

Praise God for His self-sacrificing and unconditional love!



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You can also link to Hope Channel from there...



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From the President

In this latest update from our president, Pr Graeme Christian gives us an update on AdventCare Bendigo as well as reporting on the administrative committee's work.

AdventCare – Bendigo

First, let me assure you that excellent care is being provided for the residents in this wonderful facility. But as always, I invite you to pray for AdventCare on a regular basis, and please keep the Bendigo facility at the top of your prayer list.

While overall, things are going well, there are a number of current and previous employees who are investing energy in industrial matters.

You may have heard about the community rally, which was organised by the Health Workers Union for 11am Sabbath August 9, just a few doors away from the Bendigo Church. Reports indicate that about 35 people gathered for what was largely an uneventful rally, with only a handful of current staff being involved. In the advertising for the rally, non-specific claims and aspersions were made which cast doubt on the quality of care and the safety of work practices at the facility.

Clearly, if there are matters that need to be addressed, we would want to know about them, however, when I asked for details I was told that couldn't be shared as it's confidential. No one has been able to provide information re any matter that needs addressing in relation to the care provided at the facility.

On Tuesday 12 August, there was an unannounced spot audit of the facility by the agency in preparation for accreditation later in the year. Those conducting the audit were thorough as they checked to ensure that the facility is up to scratch, that staffing levels are adequate and that the appropriate standards of clinical care are being met.

After a full day of evaluating the facility, those involved in the audit gave a very positive report. We thank God for this result, and recognise it would not have been achieved without the faithful work of the manager and staff as they continue to provide excellent care to the residents of the facility.

Before sharing re decisions made by the conference committee, let me thank all who provided feedback regarding strategic directions and core values for the conference. We are clear about our mission and vision, and we are now ready to take the next steps: setting goals and develop strategies to be effective in the mission God has given us.

And now to the work of the Conference Committee.

Youth Friendly Churches Initiative Endorsed

You may be familiar with the findings of the Value Genesis report regarding retention of our youth. In response, four departments of our Conference have linked to develop a "Youth Friendly Churches" initiative. The committee voted to endorse this initiative which will involve the Youth Department, Children's Ministries, Family Ministries and Women's Ministries as well as the Ministerial Association in providing resources, training, coaching and mentoring for leaders from churches that would want to be known by youth as being 'Youth Friendly.'

Education Report

Director, Brian Mercer provided an excellent report regarding Adventist Schools Victoria. Let me share a couple of the highlights.

Over the past 18 months, Brian has been negotiating with the Victorian Registration and Qualification Authority to be a delegated Review Body for Seventh-day Adventist Schools. VRQA have now granted our request. This will reduce significant duplication by our schools and reduce the workload as well. The Adventist system is now the only system other than the state and the Catholic system to gain this status. Brian also shared progress in restructuring the ASV office now that we have four staff less than was previously the case.

An evangelistic survey indicates that of all Adventist Schools in Australia, our Adventist Schools in Victoria are leading the way in school-based evangelism.

AdventCare Report

The Executive Committee met for a specific meeting to address the recommendations of the Independent Review Panel. Some recommendations will need to be dealt with by the Executive Committee, some by the AdventCare Board, others by those working for AdventCare, and this is now in process.

Acting AdventCare CEO, Mr David Reece, shared with the Executive Committee a preliminary report regarding the viability of the on-going operations of Yarra Valley facility. As you may be aware, this viability report was requested by the folk from Warburton. Preliminary indications are that while the facility is currently at capacity with 31 residents, the break-even point appears to be about 50 residents

currently. To achieve this would require a significant refurbishment of the current facilities. The potential for this to be achieved is being explored.

Mr James Kent, CFO of AdventCare, has reported that the result for the year ending June 2014 is much better than previously anticipated.

Additional property purchase for Mernda School

The corner section of Bridge Inn Rd and Grafton Street at Mernda was owned by local council, yet a portion of the current school buildings are on this land. This was the case when the Mernda school was purchased. In order to resolve this matter, it was agreed to negotiate the purchase of this small parcel of land from the council.

Great News for Werribee Church

The South Pacific Division has approved a grant of \$1,170,000 towards a new church building at Werribee. This will make possible a much needed building program to care for a growing church in a growth area of the Conference.

Legacy Reserve established

A legacy reserve has been established to allow for bequests to be allocated appropriately rather than being allocated to what seems to be most pressing at the time. We are thankful to those who care for the needs of the church in this way.

Financial Report

The operating report indicated that expenditure is being carefully monitored and controlled. This is one of the most significant and appropriate steps needed at this time. The report shows the conference is heading the right direction, and while we started the year facing a deficit of some \$800,000, we are working hard to achieve a balanced budget in 2014. We thank God for the faithfulness of all who return tithes and offerings through the regular channels to facilitate the spread of the gospel in our territory.

....

And finally I refer to the October 11 offering to help Big Camp 2015 happen.

Please, Remember October 11.

And think Green and Gold.

This month the promises of the scripture have taken on new meaning for me. God never promised we wouldn't face challenges or difficulty. He did however promise to be with us. "When you walk through the water, I will be with you," he said. I know I keep saying it, but it's still true – if ever we needed prayer support, we need it now. Thanks again for your faithfulness and commitment.

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