

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



Living with *Christ* in the Centre

Feb 24, 2018



Victorian Adventist
COMMUNICATIONS

IntraVic Newsletter
a publication of VAC



Victorian Adventists



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST
CHURCH

Victoria

A note from the Editor's Office



Why do they do it?

Running the summer camps is a lot of hard work – just ask the staff. Yet the staff keep lining up to do it again – so many voluntarily take annual leave to be involved in this type of ministry, year after year.

Camp Howqua is an excellent venue – with the delightful river, beautifully kept grassy areas and so many things to do. Our conference youth team always comes home exhausted at the end of summer camps. Everyone does. The staff give of their best for Juniors, Teens and Youth.

So why do they do it?

Young people attending Gap Camp were asked to share where they felt close to God.

Hang on! Aren't summer camps about water skiing, mountain bikes and horse-riding, not to mention archery and the other activities? Aren't summer camps just about loads of fun, great food, not much sleep and...?

But no. Apparently summer camps are about much more than mere fun.

How would you answer a question like that? Where do you feel close to God?

I've heard some say they're never closer to God than when they're reading from His second lesson book – in a natural setting, if you know what I mean. Others have told me it's in solitude – then there are many for whom corporate worship is a God moment. For some it's when they're praying – whether in a small group, with a friend, or on their own. God has used music too – I'm sure of that. Have you ever sensed God's presence as you read from His word? I'm so glad God is close to us in so many settings.

I'm sure there were a variety of answers given at Gap Camp too. One answer got my attention. "The place I sense closeness to God is when I'm in the evening worship at Summer Camp." Wow! Great answer. So I reckon that's why they do it – the staff I mean. That's why they invest their time, expertise and so much energy in running summer camps – so they'll connect with God in new ways and go deeper in their relationship with Him.

At the time of writing, I don't have all the stats for all the camps, but I do know that at Junior Camp we had 61 request Bible studies, 50 request Baptism and many others request prayer.

I reckon that's why they do it.

Please continue to pray for each one who've made decisions for Christ and for youth ministry right across Victoria!

Graeme Christian

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Issue Schedule:

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February 24, 2018

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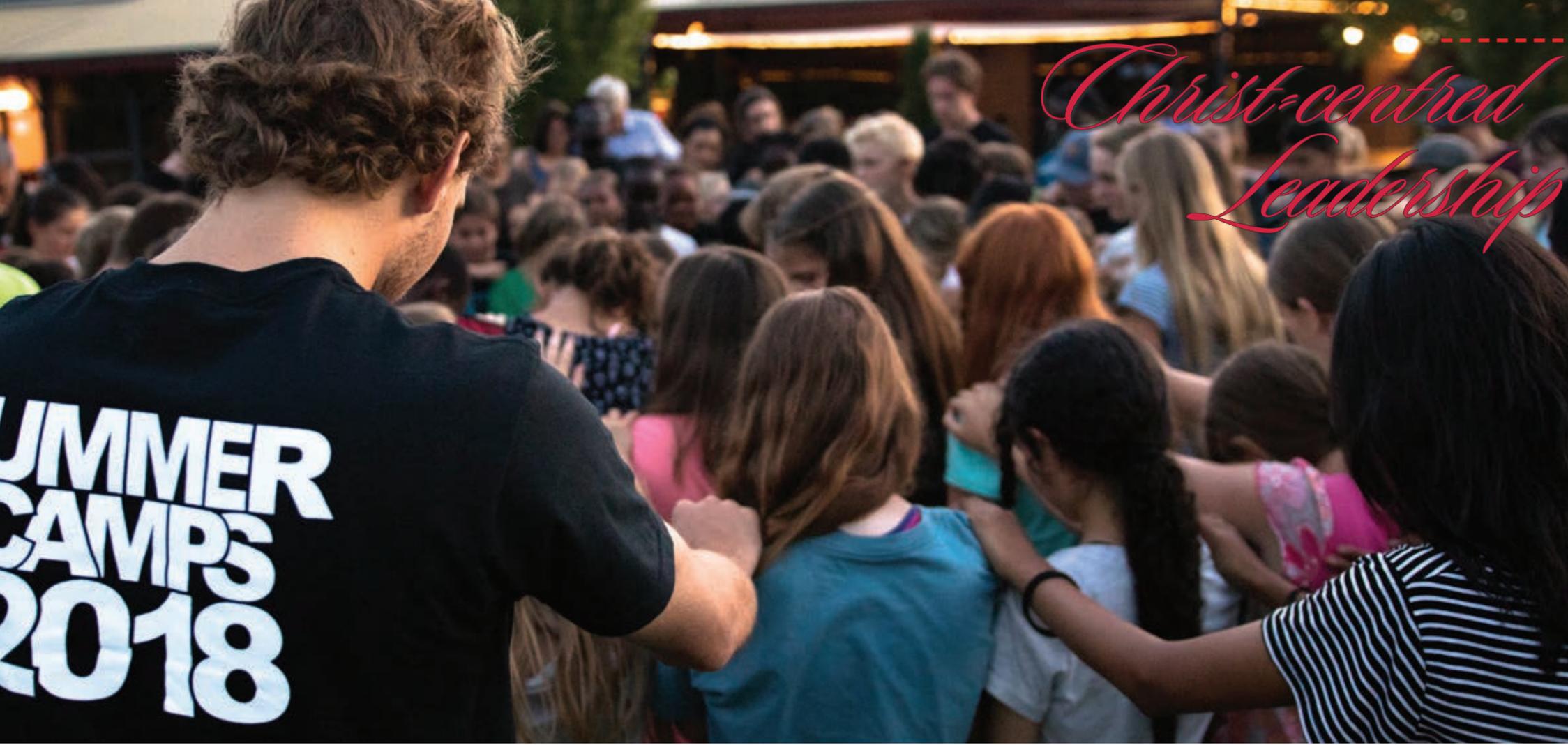
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Christ-centred Leadership

“ If our world really is heading in the same direction as that of the time of the Flood, and you just have to listen to the news to see that it certainly seems that way... It is going to be increasingly difficult to be a Christ-centred leader... ”

Written by
SIMON GIGLIOTTI
ASSOC DIRECTOR VIC YOUTH

In the middle of Summer Camp fun, Simon took some time to share with us some thoughts on Christ-centred leadership... thoughts which apply to each and every one of us as we lead those around us to follow and live for our Saviour.

At our recent VIC Youth Summer Camps that took place in January 2018, Mountain Biking down Mt Buller was one of our activities. The word 'down' certainly sounds good. But, let me assure you, it wasn't all down! As we tackled the mountain there were three or four sizeable uphill runs. For our two guides, this stuff was easy! For the rest of us, however, it was a different story. At one point, I offered to shout anyone on the ride an ice-cream if they were able to make it up one of the steeper hills without hopping off their bike. Even though there were a number of courageous attempts, the outcome wasn't so great... not one of us made it!

This got me thinking about our spiritual lives – especially in the context of **Christ-centred Leadership**.

In the book of Matthew Jesus speaks of this world's condition before he returns saying - "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah" (Matt 24:37). Genesis 6:5 sheds further light on Noah's time, saying - "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

The simple conclusion – just before Jesus comes again, our world will be largely overcome by an iniquitous tone. The love of many will have truly grown cold (Matt 24:12).

As Ellen White states: "The uncontrolled indulgence and consequent disease and degradation that existed at Christ's first advent will again exist, with intensity of evil, before

*His second coming. Christ declares that the condition of the world will be as in the days before the Flood and as in Sodom and Gomorrah. Every imagination of the thoughts of the heart will be evil continually. Upon the very verge of that fearful time we are now living..."*¹

Is our world really moving in this direction?

If it is, it's going to be difficult to be a **Christ-centred Leader** in this time. It would nearly feel like you are tearing up a rugged mountain on a push bike with all your energy and effort, and yet coming to no avail. My belief, the words of Christ, and the inspiration He handed down to Ellen White through the Holy Spirit, hit the mark precisely on this matter.

Funnily enough, research seems to agree. A study published in 2017 by Mccrindle Group, an Australian

research company, showed the following:

- 45 % of Australians adhere to a Christian belief system
- 15 % attend Church at least once a month
- 7% are considered to be active practisers of faith²

Did you catch that?

7% of Christians in Australia are seen to be people who actively practise their faith! As the study notes, these people are those who are "extremely involved" in practicing their [Christian] religion and worshipping as part of a group".³

These statistics are alarming. Not so much because we didn't see the decline of Christianity coming, Jesus spoke of it long ago. But more so because without the presence of the Gospel that active disciples bring to a community, the community spiritually starves [Revelation 6:6].⁴ Now some,

of course, will disagree and argue that our nation is doing just fine. But when your country has things like 118,401 marriages registered, and 46,604 divorces granted in one year (2016), not to mention the involvement of 40, 202 Children in the process, you have to stop and seriously ask yourself what is happening to your society.⁵

This is, in fact, what some have done. For example, after an extensive wrestle with, and analysis of, the developments of western society, Dr. James Emery White concluded that Generation Z, that is 8-23-year-olds or those born between 1995 and 2010, is the first post-Christian generation the West has experienced.

As he notes: "The most defining characteristic of Generation Z is that it is arguably the first generation in the West (certainly in the United States) that will have been raised in a post-Christian context. As a result, it is the

first post-Christian generation.”⁶

For White and others, the foundational structures that have traditionally shaped faith in young people - community, church, schools, family structure, and entertainment - have fundamentally shifted.⁷ In many communities the Church is no longer a central hub where people go to get spiritual wisdom. That is what the multitudes now use YouTube and similar social media platforms for.⁸ Schools are dropping Christian teachings and traditions and replacing them with belief systems that are seen to be ‘more factual’. God’s intent to bring up children in a balanced family setting where they have the benefits that come from the influence of both sexes, and the stability of a long-term cohesive unit, is being destroyed. Entertainment... well, say no more! The withdrawal of true Christian values and principles in Western culture is definitively shaping the world we live in, of this we have no doubt.

Here’s the big question though: “Where are the **Christ-centred Leaders** in this time?”

Don’t get me wrong, I believe they are there. As I write, I recall six teens deciding to be baptised, directly after their peer gave her life to Christ through baptism here at Summer Camp. Just one of the powerful things that take place during these weeks.

They are out there. People who are willing to stand for Jesus will always be there (1 Kin 19:14-18). But are you and I among them? Are we people who live with Courage, Character, Competency,

Clarity, Coaching, and Christ?⁹ The Six C’s of Leadership; something every leader would do well to take note of.¹⁰

Courage

Some of you may be wondering why I chose courage first. It’s simple, if you are going to lead in today’s society, you will need a lot of it. The call to leadership in our time will prove to be a taxing mental and spiritual challenge. In many ways, it reminds me of Joshua who was called to lead approximately two million people across the flooding Jordan, only to have close to 31 kings waiting to do battle as he moved through the rich and plentiful land on the other side (Joshua 1, 3 and 12; Numbers 26).¹¹ Think of the pressure he would have felt! Leadership isn’t easy.

But, as Joshua was encouraged with these ageless words, so should we be: *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”* (Josh 1:9)

Character

John Maxwell, a renowned leadership expert, says that *“Leadership is influence. Just because someone has a title, doesn’t mean that person is a leader.”*¹² This is a profound statement because it reminds us that titles don’t mean much if we are not genuine people. One of the things I believe God has shown me in my time in leadership is that leadership is more about who we are than what we do. What we do, of course, is a reflection

“ Courage, Character, Competence and Clarity. Christ is the one who gives us these attributes at the right time for the right task...” ”

of what’s happening inside our hearts – for *“faith, if it has no works, is dead”* (James 1:17).

But, too often leaders fall into the trap of paying less attention to the character and more attention to the works they are praised for.

Is this what God desires? Ellen White answers beautifully: *“The greatest want of the world is the want of men, men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; men who do not fear to call sin by its right name; men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.”*¹³

Competence

Many leaders fall into the temptation of spending copious amounts of time on things they are not good at; things that are outside their gifting, things they are not passionate about, things that God didn’t really have in mind for them. Why? Because these things seem to be the most imminent need upon the planet.

The truth - they are not. What would happen if we actually started to follow biblical counsel and operate in our areas of strength?

Ephesians 4:12 says: *“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ...”*

Notice it doesn’t say – He gave ‘all’... He gave ‘some’. We are all wired in different ways, to do different things. Does this mean we can’t strengthen those areas we are weak in? Not at all. We should continually work to develop various areas of competency in our lives. But what I am sure of is that leaders should *not* work tirelessly in areas they were never meant to.

Clarity

Have you ever noticed that Seventh-day Adventists are really good at getting distracted? By this I mean our focus should be MISSION, MISSION, MISSION. But for some reason, we often find ourselves focusing on other things. If we are not spending copious amounts of time talking about the latest theological or social issue we have to deal with, we are more than likely busy discussing worship styles, church maintenance, or how we can plan an event to the fine taste of our

members. My question, where are the people that don’t know Jesus?

Leaders in the Adventist Church need to be clear about what God’s priorities are! *“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost”* (Luke 19:10). Let’s not waste Christ’s perfect work, because we are so busy engaging in second, third, fourth... and tenth tier matters. Leaders, if you don’t help the people see what really matters, no one will (Prov 29:18)!

Coaching

Proverbs 11:14 says – *“Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.”* This Proverb should be ingrained deeply in every leader’s mind. If we are of the opinion that we don’t need the Godly counsel and wisdom of others as we do God’s work, there is a good chance we won’t go too far! Consider Rehoboam in 1 Kings 12. When the people asked to have the burden King Solomon had previously laid on them removed, Rehoboam ignored the counsel of the older and wiser men and followed the counsel of his younger foolish friends.

The result? *“When all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying, ‘What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the sons of Jesse; to your tents, O Israel! Now look*

after your own house David!”

Do you have a Godly person, or even better a number of Godly people, who consistently shares insight into your life and ministry?

Christ

Christ. Last, but certainly not least! Courage, Character, Competence and Clarity. Christ is the one who gives us these attributes at the right time to employ in the areas that He has called us to lead. He is the one who keeps us drenched in humility and imparts us with the wisdom we need to tackle the challenges that come our way. His words are certainly true, and will ring throughout eternity:

“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing”. (John 15:5)

Have you been with Christ? If we think we can lead in a time that reflects the days of Noah without Christ, we are destined to fall hard. But those who hope in Jesus *“will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary”* (Isa 40:31).

God bless as you lead for Him!

Endnotes:

- 1 Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages* – digital version, 122.
- 2 Mccrindle Research Company, *Faith and Belief in Australia: A national study on religion, spirituality, and worldview trends*, 8.
- 3 Ibid, 7.
- 4 Revelation 6:6 – *“And I heard something like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, ‘A quart of wheat for denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not damage the oil and the wine.’”* Here we see the sorts of prices you would pay for food during a famine. This text is describing a time in history when the proclamation of the Gospel was scarce. The Gospel that was proclaimed strongly by the early church (Rev 6:2) has now slowed down, and people are spiritually starving.
- 5 <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3310.0>. Consider these findings, to give you a picture of Western Society:
 - James Emery White, *Generation Z*, 58 – In relation to Pornography, White notes that – *“Seventy percent of all eighteen-to thirty-four-year-olds are regular viewers. The Average age to begin viewing Eleven”.*
 - Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin, *Growing Young*, 106 – *“By Age 18, over 75 percent of those who never attend Church, and almost 53 percent of those who attend church weekly, are no longer virgins.”*

- David Kinnaman, *You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church And Rethinking Faith* - In *“1960, 5 percent of live births were to unmarried women compared to 41 percent in 2010.”*
- <https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/child-abuse-and-neglect-statistics> - *“...during 2015-16, there were 225,487 Australian children suspected of being harmed or at risk of harm from abuse and/or neglect.”*
- 6 James Emery White, *Generation Z: Understanding and Reaching the New Post Christian World*, 49.
- 7 David Kinnaman, *You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church And Rethinking Faith*, 55.
- 8 <https://careynieuwhof.com/why-attending-church-no-longer-makes-sense/>. This article outlines some interesting insights in regards to the challenges the Church faces in the new world we live in.
- 9 Andy Stanley, *Next Generation Leader: Five Essentials for those who will shape the Future*, 9-161. For a deeper look at the 6 C’s of Leadership see this book.
- 10 Ibid.
- 11 Numbers 26 records a census of Israelite men over the age of 20 who were able to go to war. Numbers 26:51 says there were 601, 730 Israelite men. If there were the same amount of women, and then most likely more children, we are looking at close to 2 Million people.
- 12 <http://www.johnmaxwell.com/blog/7-factors-that-influence-influence>
- 13 Ellen White, *Education*, 57. Of course, the principle in this text can relate to women also.



Leadership through example: six teens committed to baptism after their peer was baptised at Summer Camp



Teen Camp Commitments
50 kids declared they were UNASHAMED of Jesus!
28 Kids asked for Bible studies,
and 17 wanted to do Baptismal studies.
25 children asked for Prayer.



Junior Camp Commitments
77 kids said they were Unashamed of Jesus and their faith. 51 said they wanted to do Bible Studies this year. 50 kids pledged they wanted to get Baptised, and 30 asked for prayer.



At GAP Camp, 6 people stated they wanted to get baptised after studies!



'UNASHAMED'
SUMMER CAMPS 2018
VICYOUTH
INSPIRATIONAL MINISTRIES

Saying Good Bye Ferntree Gully Church

Garry & Roz Jackson have attended the Ferntree Gully Seventh-day Adventist Church for nearly 39 years, serving our church in various roles.

On Sabbath October 28th, a special luncheon was held in appreciation of their friendship, commitment and service to Jesus and the Church. Church Pastor, Trevor Rowe presented Garry and Roz with a pair of binoculars.

One door closes, another door opens as Garry and Roslyn head for their new home in Tyalgum, a rural village of 300 people located in north-eastern



Garry and Roz have been a part of FTG Church for 39 years

New South Wales, Australia and located approximately 18 minutes from Murwillumbah.

We wish them well in their new life.

John Weeks

Market Connections Horsham

Over the last year and a half, our members have been attending various markets in order to connect with community members and share the love of Jesus.

This outreach idea was seeded in the minds of several church members, who took to the markets at different times, including the Horsham and Warracknabeal show, and Natimuk markets.

We now have two people visiting the church, connections with community, have distributed approximately 200 Steps-to-Christ, 200 Sanitarium superfood recipe books and a range of other literature and DVDs.

The recent market at Natimuk included taste testing of vegetarian kebabs and different flavoured Sanitarium So Good, an ADRA clothing stall, free gift



bags and making balloon animals for children.

"It's a great opportunity to meet people, and connect the community with faces from the local Seventh-Day Adventist church", says one of the team. "Any way to connect with people and form those friendships is a step in the right direction."

Horsham Church gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from Sanitarium, Life Health Foods, and local church members to make the market ministry a success.

Suzanne McDonald



Whiskers for Sale Plenty Valley Church

This is the new face of Pr Hensley Gungadoo after Plenty Valley Church met his challenge to raise at least \$1500 to provide food for the hungry in the community.

Mark and Calden carefully wielded razor and shaving cream in the church foyer.

Brian Pascoe



The end product!

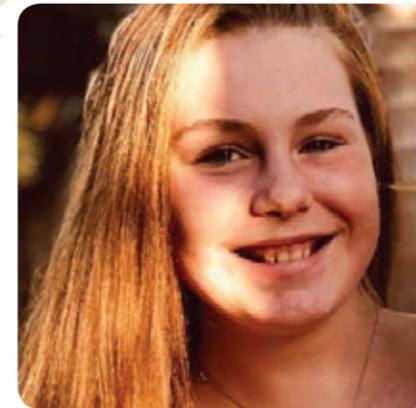
One Accord Echucha

Mid January, church members were blessed to worship with One Accord – a family ministry who praise God through song.

Clark Jr Pelaez



John McKenzie introduced One Accord



Emily's Story

Emily was baptised at Big Camp in 2017 and here she shares with us her testimony.

It started with a friendship which became abusive and after several years of intimidation, I was self harming and I attempted to end it all, I was hurting so bad.

I blamed God – why did He let this happen to me? Wasn't He's meant to protect me, not let people hurt me? I hate Him for it and didn't want anything to do with Him. I wouldn't let mum talk about God and I started hanging out with the wrong group of people at school.

I smoked with them, ditched school with them, swore with them. I was disrespectful towards my family and didn't even realise I was doing all the wrong things. I just wanted to fit in.

Early in the year 2016, I was back in touch with one of my best friends, Mikki. She asked me why I hadn't been going to any of the summer camps. I told her that I had some problems – not wanting to hurt her I didn't say my biggest problem was with God.

One day, when talking to Mikki, I was very upset, and she said something that really got me thinking.

"Oh Emmy, I love you, your family loves you and your friends love you. But don't forget about God, because He loves you most."

The next Saturday, I went to church for the first time in about a year or two. When I walked in, people were clearly surprised, and pleased, to see me. It made me feel welcome. Being there, I felt I could actually be myself for once - I didn't have to pretend to be someone I wasn't.

One night I was praying, asking God if He was real and if I should keep going to church. I didn't get an answer and decided to give up but just as I opened my eyes, I heard a voice saying "If you do go, it'll be for the best. You'll get through life way easier."

Now if that wasn't God, I don't know who it was. I picked up my Bible for the first time in years, brushed off the dust and opened it to a random page. The verse I read was 2 Corinthians 5:17.

"Anyone who belongs with Christ, has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun."

That verse made me even more confident that I wanted to come back to Christ. The next morning I told mum. Mum screamed and cried... then she basically told everyone!

I asked mum if I could be baptised at Big Camp, so Mikki could be there. And so it was that last Big Camp, April 15, I got baptised!

I'm not gonna lie, it's been hard. But ever since I made that decision my life has been heaps better.

I look back over the last few years, and wonder "who the heck was I?" I'm thankful that I got in contact with Mikki, because if I hadn't, who knows how much harder I would have ended up making it for God to bring me back.

Don't turn your back on God because you've been hurt. Don't blame Him either. God wants to help us, not hurt us – that is what Satan wants.

God works ALL things for our good and His glory.

When I was little, my mum used to tell me all the time that "this man named Jesus is gonna come down and save all the good people." When I'd ask her exactly when He was gonna come down, she would say "very soon, He's just finishing off building everyone's house up in heaven." She also told me that Jesus knew every good thing I did and every bad thing I did.

Years went by, and I didn't know what I was doing with my life. I knew that there was a man named Jesus somewhere in outer space, watching over everyone. The good people and the bad people. Every little thing I did, He saw.

I went to church on Saturday, and it was hard - there were no young people... The families with teenagers had moved away. So I used to sit there bored out of my brain. And I certainly didn't understand what the older people were talking about in the Sabbath School class.

Church really wasn't the same without the youth.

And then my life turned upside down. I went from a really happy Emily, to an anxious, depressed, scared Emily and I stopped going to church all together.



Reaching Out Bendigo Church

Our Church members wanted to highlight the true meaning of Christmas without all the Santa Claus hype.

So we decided to give back to the community with an evening of traditional carols accompanied by a free three course dinner, which was held on the 10th December 2017, in the church hall.

The ticket to the evening was a church member accompanied by a non-Adventist friend.

The hall was delightfully decorated by Kim and Alicia O'Connor. When our guests walked through the door they were amazed at how the hall and the tables looked, setting a good atmosphere for the evening ahead.

Marilyn McIntyre was the head chef, willingly supported by her helpers. We catered for 120 people. 80 of whom were non-Adventist friends.

The feedback from our guests, over the vegetarian meal, was one of amazement and delight; being free was a bonus! Many asked for recipes.

Andrew McIntyre and Marcus Robinson provided an excellent sound system for Naomi Marsh, her singers and musicians as they lead out in the carols.

Adding a special and humorous touch to the evening was the puppet show ably performed by Eric and Alicia O'Connor and interspersed between the singing.

All in all, a very successful way to build relationships with our community.

Claude Trickey



Moved by the Spirit Werribee Church

Late last year, the Werribee congregation said goodbye to their old church building which, given the continual influx of new members, had become too small.

With the astonishing growth of the West, the church had a vision to demolish the existing premises, making way for a new two-storey, multipurpose church, to serve the needs of this thriving community - a church that will incorporate the latest in modern architectural design and stand as a beacon of light in an overwrought, spiritually darkened world.

After many prayers and submissions for grants, the Lord impressed on more than a few hearts to join us in our vision to establish a vibrant place of worship as well as for workshops, health programs and evangelical training programs and community centred activities.

From this beacon of light, we plan to seed church plants, rippling outwards from Werribee. The first church plant, Point Cook Community Church, has already been established, with active evangelical campaigns operating in the area now., including the 'Yes, We Care' program, where church members door

knock Point Cook households, offering to relieve them of some of their chores such as weeding, mowing lawns or washing cars. Of course, the residents are pleasantly surprised: 'What, for nothing, for no money? Why are you doing this?'

In this way, we are attracting attention for being a community-minded church, a church people might be interested in visiting to learn more about the Christian life of humbly serving; Werribee's influence, through the Holy Spirit, is already being felt elsewhere, and will, no doubt, be felt at our temporary home in Tarneit.

But we must not forget that a church isn't the building but the people. If you are inclined to join the vibrant Werribee congregation on a Sabbath morning, you will find us at Baden Powell College, 81 Baden Powell Drive, Tarneit (entre Sunset Views Bvd) until the new church is built. Don't forget that Sabbath school begins at 9:30 promptly.

Robert Bryson



Whale Watching Ferntree Gully Church

Each year in November, a group consisting of church members and their community friends stay in Eden, a coastal town just across the border in New South Wales.

They take this annual trip to enjoy seeing some of God's amazing creations, such as whales and birdlife. Humpback whales were sighted in good numbers this year, and many species of birds were discovered and identified by our team. Many thanks go to our wildlife

experts, Andrew and Lorraine Wegener, for organising this wonderful week-end. It was also a great pleasure to have Nicholas Day, Australian wildlife artist, illustrator and teacher, on the team once again.

John Weeks

Celebration Time Bairnsdale Church

Sabbath the 20th January was celebration time for the Bairnsdale Church family as we witnessed the baptism of Lita Vaipo, an affirmation of faith taken by Paul Breheny, and welcomed them both into membership.

A while ago Paul heard on our local Faith FM radio a discussion on the Seventh-day Sabbath. A baptised born-again Christian, he was sure the Adventists had "got it wrong" but after studying it, he realised that they had it right. Or rather, God's word has it right.

So Paul sought out our church and began attending. His musical gifts of playing guitar and singing have already enriched our services and everyone was happy to make it official that he is now part of the Seventh-day Adventist world-wide family.

Our lovely lady Lita has been attending church for some months and studying with Pastor Andrew Wilson and Ann Burns. She has had many struggles in the past but once she began to seek God in His word she enthusiastically sought to know more and to do His will.

Now she has the peace of God and a Christian experience that inspired her when she first saw it lived out in the lives of some good friends years ago. Those friends came to Bairnsdale to see her give her public commitment to

God.

We also had another reason for rejoicing back in December when we read one day in our local paper about the achievements of three of our young people.

One was Anna, daughter of Pr Andrew and Leisa Wilson, who was chosen to be this year's school captain at Bairnsdale High School. Another was thirteen year old Aron Prez who won an award for his saxophone playing skills. Then there was Laura Firus, Dux of the Swifts Creek High School. Achieving high marks like she did runs in the family as she has older siblings who have also done very well. But perhaps an even greater accolade was reported in the local paper, where the Principal described her as approaching every aspect of school life with courage, joy and kindness.

We know and appreciate the efforts that all the children and young people make to find and use their talents for God.

Judy Walker



Committed to Hard Work Seddon Church

Slavko Mihajlovic knows the meaning of hard work and commitment. He is committed to working hard to help alleviate poverty and reach out to the needy.

Rain or shine, blisters or sunburn, Slavko hasn't missed an ADRA appeal since 2011. Despite ongoing health conditions and swollen feet, he never gives up. Over the past six years, with just a tin, hat, vest and a smile he's raised over \$20 000 at shopping centres and intersections across Melbourne. His positive attitude is a tremendous encouragement and reminder of what true love looks like.

May his example be an encouragement to us all!

Boriss Soldat



From the President's Desk...

AdventCare Bendigo Closure

I write to inform you that, due to increasing competition in the region and the resultant low occupancy for our home, sadly, AdventCare has announced that the AdventCare Residential Care Facility at Golden Square Bendigo is closing at the end of March 2018. We will continue to offer retirement living through our independent living units as these facilities are still viable.

It brings conference leadership no joy to know that no other option could be found for the Bendigo facility. Our hearts go out all who will experience turmoil as a result of this announcement.

Our priority now is to ensure both residents and employees are treated with the dignity, care and respect they deserve.

For residents and their families, this means a well-planned move to another facility and much work has been done to prepare the way and explore possibilities. Help will be provided to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible, with dedicated support to help residents settle into their new homes.

Employees will be paid out full entitlements and we understand there will be the opportunity for employment in another residential care facility in the Bendigo area for a number of the staff.

We have met separately with the facility to staff, the residents and family members and the Bendigo Church at a specially called business meeting to announce the closure of the facility.

After the meeting, a key leader from Bendigo was heard to say, "As a church, we've known the facility couldn't continue on as it was. There's been a lot of speculation about the future. You've cleared the air and now we know we need to move forward." Our people have been aware of challenges related to the operation of the home for a number of years now. Given the circumstances which have been developing over a period of time, there was a sense that the closure of the facility was inevitable. We very much appreciate the gracious approach of our people as they deal with the implications of the change.

People are our main concern right

now – residents and their families, and staff in particular. We also continue to support those in the independent living units as this service continues on.

The situation for AdventCare Bendigo is significantly different to the circumstances surrounding the Yarra Ranges facility a couple of years ago. However, AdventCare is simply not able to sustain the increasing losses that have occurred with a new home coming on-line very close to our older facility. We have just not been able to compete. No decision has been made as to the future use of the residential care facility.

AdventCare Bendigo has been struggling with occupancy over the last 18 months due to increasing competition in the area. We have done everything we can to attract new residents. We've upgraded the older resident rooms. We've invested in new equipment. We've increased marketing to referral agencies, and improved the way we showed rooms to potential new residents and their families. That has brought new people to the home, but low occupancy has become an insurmountable obstacle.

Conference and AdventCare personnel have met with the Bendigo church business meeting a number of times to discuss matters in relation to AdventCare Bendigo. The question of whether the facility should be sold has been raised by Bendigo members over a period of years now. This has not proven as simple as it may sound at face value. Master planning meetings have considered the best way forward. The close proximity of AdventCare facilities to the church has been taken into account. The Bendigo church is in a prime location right on the main road – and is partially surrounded by the AdventCare facilities.

AdventCare Mission has been an additional challenge. While so much has been done to support the quality of

life and wellbeing of the residents, it's hard to really develop Adventist ethos with one or two Adventist residents, and just a couple of Adventist staff – and that's been the case for a number of years now. We appreciate the dedication of each one, including the voluntary chaplain from the church – there's been a lot of good work done.

In spite of our best efforts, viability has been a major challenge for the Bendigo facility. We're not alone in this struggle. With the opening of a new 140+ bed facility in Bendigo, we understand there are currently more than 110 empty beds in Residential Aged Care facilities in Bendigo. Population projections indicate this will not even out for a number of years. We would expect that the newer facilities will fill up faster than the older ones such as ours.

In December 2017, after reviewing the last 18 months of operations, the AdventCare Board of Directors sadly voted to cease operating residential care services at AdventCare Bendigo. It was a unanimous decision.

We have followed guidance from the department of Health and Human Services, as we are required to do. We've taken the steps they've outlined and only now are we free to announce the closure of the facility to residents and staff and to the wider community. We're sharing the information at soon as we could, in reality.

Should you have any further questions, or wish to direct inquiries for additional information, please contact me by phone or email.

Thank you for your ongoing support and prayer for the Bendigo Seventh-day Adventist Church and its community and surrounding districts.

Yours in Christ,

*Graeme Christian
Conference President*



graemechristian@
adventist.org.au
03 9264 7777

HARVEST VICTORIA

It Starts with a Seed!

You have probably heard about Harvest Victoria by now – but do you have any idea what it is all about?

Harvest Victoria is a two-year initiative where Adventist churches across the state are coming together to share the gospel in a unified and coordinated endeavour.

It involves each member COMING to Christ in personal renewal and GOING with Him into the harvest field.

This culminates in May of 2019 with a state-wide evangelistic meeting presented by John Bradshaw and Eric Flickinger, in four metro venues and streamed for rural communities. Go to <http://vic.adventist.org.au/harvest-victoria> for more information.

What's Just Happened:

Over 50 members are returning to churches next week equipped with fresh enthusiasm and resources as a result of the *Joining Christ in the Harvest* training intensive held this week. Please pray for and join them as they work in the harvest field.

What's Coming Up:

- **March** - *Steps to Personal Revival* arriving at churches for distribution
 - **March 2-4** - Leadership Training weekend
 - **March 29 - April 2** - Elmore Big Camp with *It Is Written's* Eric Flickinger
 - **April 7** - Southeast Evangelism Training Weekend at Casey Church
 - **April 21** - Gippsland Ministry Tour in Traralgon
- ...with more evangelism training and leadership tours to follow throughout the year as well as the GROW conference and Regional meetings in October

More Info:

Vic.adventist.org.au - scroll down to Harvest Victoria

In a garden a seed germinates and brings forth a plant that yields fruit. In our hearts, the word of God births new life that gives rise to the fruit of the Spirit. It's happened to you. It's happened to me. It can happen to your friend, family member or co-worker as well - because there is life in Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. That is why we have called this initiative Harvest Victoria – because we all want to experience God's germinating power change us and our communities.

Harvest Victoria is a growing discipleship-movement of Adventist churches coming together to share the gospel in a unified endeavour across the state. Church members are preparing to sow and cultivate the garden of people's hearts with the gospel seed.

Part of that preparation is to personally renew our connection with Christ, because before commanding us to go with Him, He first invites us to come to Him. To that end, Harvest Victoria is providing a free copy of *Steps to Personal Revival* for each Adventist family in the state. This precious treasure of a book is leading hundreds of thousands of Adventists families around the world to seek the Holy Spirit in a fresh way. Go to www.steps-to-personal-revival.info for stories and resources of God's blessing and stay tuned as the books arrive in your church over the next couple of weeks.

2018 is also about training for the harvest. You can see our Seasons of Harvest Calendar at vic.adventist.org.au and follow our harvest journey as we prepare, sow, cultivate and harvest lost and confused people into a lasting relationship with Jesus Christ.

Training sessions are locked in our church calendars, designed to **help YOU sharpen your evangelistic potential in the Master's hands** so you can better discern God's voice, who He wants you to labour for and how to best reach and win their heart for Christ.

We encourage each one of you to genuinely connect with people, so you can provide spiritual invites for them to consider and encourage their growth through Bible studies. There are many opportunities.

- **Just launched:** a pilot Bible Study request card distribution in the south-eastern corridor - 45,000 cards offering a newly acquired *It Is Written* Bible studies series.
- **Conference Evangelist**, Pr. Vadim

*"Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest."
(John 4:35; Matthew 9:38)*

Butov will be championing four meetings in 2018 to assist active churches in sowing the gospel through public meetings.

- **Technologically** skilled members are coming together to develop social media platforms, Facebooks sites and possibly even our very own App to encourage people toward Christ.
- Conference **Departmental Leaders** are seeking ways to disciple their respective demographic spheres .
- **Health Ministry** is bursting with more churches holding health talks, recipe clubs, Health Expo, FOODcents, Depression Recovery and CHIP Programs. Sibilla Johnson returns with her foundational CHEP training this year newly registered through Avondale.
- **Literature Evangelists** provide gospel laden material to homes, while **Pastors, Interns, Bible Workers and Youth Pastoral Workers** are sharing the Scriptures with families.
- **ADRA** opens doors by meeting practical community needs.
- Our **schools** influence over two thousand students and their families every day towards Jesus.
- **Aged Care** is uniquely poised to bless the aging in our midst.

We have so many chances to touch lives.

May, 2019 will see a state-wide evangelistic series presented by John Bradshaw and Eric Flickinger, reaching across Victoria.

It's all happening. **So where are you?** Join the growing chorus of workers in the Lord's Victorian harvest and meet the Master's words with action – "Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already ripe for harvest!"

Connect to Christ, get trained for Christ, and move into the harvest with Christ. It will transform your life and change the world!

CHEATERS NEVER PROSPER

There was a sense of apprehension and nerves as we walked into the classroom with the usual jostling of chairs and desks as we sat down. As I looked around the room there was the typical emotions portrayed on the faces of my classmates. Some were eager to get this test over with so they could go outside and play football. Some were almost smugly confident as they sat there quietly knowing that they had studied and had nothing to fear. But as I looked at the

kid next to me, John, I noticed that he was looking particularly on edge. He was shifting uncomfortably in his seat, tapping his pencil nervously and wiping sweaty palms on his pants. Me, I was a mix of confidence because I knew I had studied, and nerves because I knew that if I didn't do well my mum would make life very difficult.

The test papers were put on our desk face down and we all waited until the teacher said

Honesty

Y F Y Q W G G G N E D Y H M G
 T R U T H M U O R H E T O T O
 R M O D S I W E O E T I N S O
 X E W X D E C G C D A L E U D
 L P S A J N N N T H I A S R N
 C A N P I C E O T D C U T T E
 Y C R S E D O I H Y E Q W X S
 E J J O I C A R V W R M P X S
 N T B F M F T R E Z P K J E R
 J V N D R Q J U E V P B N H E
 C O E T Z C I D M T A B D T I
 C H O N O R A B L E J L H A D
 D E C E N C Y T O T A I U O E
 D M V L V H T T X J C W Q E A
 D E N R U T E R V S C P D Q A

There's a Bible verse in Proverbs 10:9 that says 'He who walks in integrity and with moral character walks securely, but he who takes a crooked way will be discovered and punished.' Being honest with everything you do and with everything you say is so important.

Practice always being honest and truthful, even when it's not easy. It might mean you have to apologize if you make a mistake, or you may not do as well on a test, but you will never lose friends like you will from lying and cheating.

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| APPRECIATED | CONFIDENCE |
| COREVALUE | DECENCY |
| ETHICS | FAITH |
| GOOD | GOODNESS |
| GUIDANCE | HOEST |
| HONESTY | HONORABLE |
| IDEA | MORAL |
| QUALITY | REPECT |
| RETURNED | SINCERE |
| TRUST | TRUTH |
| WISDOM | |



What 3 things show your honesty?

we could begin. The first few questions were easy. Basic stuff we had covered in class a million times. Then as questions progressed so did the level of difficulty. One particular question stumped me and as I sat there thinking I happened to glance across at John sitting next to me. He was just staring at the paper. It seemed like not much was going on over there. Poor guy. I went back to solving my problem and noticed that John was turning the pages of the test at a very similar time to me. I guess he was knew more than he thought he did.

It seemed that all too soon the teacher told us time was up. We packed up and handed our test papers in. As we walked outside the room there seemed to be a collective sigh of relief and we moved on to our next class.

While I hoped I would do well, I didn't think much of it until the next Maths class when the teacher handed back our marked tests. As they were handed back, there were the usual mix of moans and smugness. When the teacher got to me though, he didn't hand back my test but asked me to stay back after class. This got me working up a sweat. What had I done wrong? I tried to think back to the previous day when we'd done the test. I racked my brain but could think of nothing that could get me into trouble.

I stayed back after class and noticed that John, the guy that had been sitting next to me during the test, had been asked to stay back

How do you feel when somebody isn't being honest?

too. That's when the teacher pulled out our tests. The handwriting was different, but that's where the differences ended. They both had Michael written next to 'Name'. They both had exactly the same answers written for every question, even the ones that were wrong. And that's when it dawned on me. This guy had copied everything that I had written on my test. Everything, including my name. Was this guy for real?? The teacher also soon figured out what had happened - it didn't take a genius to figure out that I hadn't done the same test twice. He got into trouble and we all moved on.

That was until a maths test a few months later. Again, John was sitting next to me. Again, he was turning the pages at the same rate I was. Again, we both were kept back after class when the test papers were handed back. And again, he had copied everything I had written, including my name. And you guessed it... again he got into trouble. Except this time it was a lot more trouble than before. He never did do it again though so I guess he learnt his lesson.

If somebody isn't being honest with you what can you do?

Why is it important to be an honest person?

For worship with your family read 2 Kings 5 & discuss these questions:

1. Why did Gehazi go back and see Naaman?
2. What did he tell Naaman?
3. Was this true?
4. What did Elisha ask Gehazi?
5. What did Gehazi tell him?
6. What was the punishment that God provided for Gehazi?
7. Is it ever worth telling a lie to gain something?



Julie Catton
 Director of
 Children's Ministries
 03 9264 7777
 IntraVic

Victorian Pastoral Staffing for 2018 – Churches

ACADEMY	Pr Rob Steed (oversight)
ARARAT	Mr Duane Suffolk
ASCOT VALE	Pr Ainsley Wagner
ASIAN (MASDAC)	Pr Terrance Sim, Mr Chris Guo
AUBURN	Pr Pawel Ustupski
BAIRNSDALE	Mr Andrew Wilson
BALLARAT	Pr Andrew Kapusi
BAYLES	Pr Russell Puna
BENALLA	Mr David Maxwell
BENDIGO	Pr Chrissie Cooper Mr Eh Puang
BURWOOD	Pr Moe Stiles
CAMPERDOWN	Pr Luis Bermudez
CANN RIVER	Mr Andrew Wilson
CASEY	Pr Michael Mohanu, Mr Daniel Maher
CASTLEMAINE	Mr Graham McNichol
COLAC	Pr Ben Townson
COOK ISLANDS Carrum Downs	Pr Russell Puna
COOK ISLANDS Clayton	Pr Russell Puna
CRANBOURNE	Pr Denis Hankinson
Crossroads 2421	Pr Vadim & Helen Butov (oversight)
DANDENONG POLISH	Pr Roman Chalupka, Mr Daniel Maher
DARETON	Mrs Connie Toga
EAST PRAHRAN	Mr Peter McGowan
ECHUCA	Pr Russell Bryan
Endeavour Hills Samoan	Pr Tini Rimoni
FERNTREE GULLY	Pr Paul Kotanko
FILIPINO AUSTRALIAN	Pr Jezreel Locop
FRANKSTON	Pr Miguel Flamenco
GATEWAY CITY	Pr Kojo Akomeah, Mr Chris Guo
GATEWAY EAST	Pr Kojo Akomeah
GATEWAY WEST	Mr Steven Liu
GEELONG	Pr Gavin Rowe, Pr Ben Townson
GEELONG HUNGARIAN	Pr Gavin Rowe
GILSON	Pr Mau Tuaoi, Ms Hannah Andrykanus, Ms Faye Stothers
GLENHUNTLY	Pr Fraser Catton
GREENVALE	Pr Rod Anderson
HAMILTON	Mr Duane Suffolk
HEALESVILLE	Pr Trevor Rowe
HERITAGE	Pr Laolagi Limu
HORSHAM	Pr Chris Moses
HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS	Mr Ainsley Wagner, Pr Malcolm Reid
HUGHESDALE	Mr David Pearce
KAREN BURMESE	Mrs Nan Myat Kyaw
Latrobe Uni Church Plant	Mr Vikram Panchal
LEONGATHA	Pr Denis Hankinson
LILYDALE	Pr Rob Steed, Mr Ryan Vidot, Ms Rosemary Andrykanus Pr Malcolm Reid

LONGWARRY	Pr Tini Rimoni
MACEDON RANGES	Mr Graham McNichol
MACEDONIAN	Pr Nikola Trajkov
MARYBOROUGH	Pr Chrissie Cooper
MELB. CITY PROJECT	Pr Jinha Kim, Mr Roy Kim
MELTON	Pr Peter Rollo
MERENDA	Mr Trent Martin
MILDURA	Pr Andy Litchfield, Mrs Connie Toga
MOE	Mr Matthew Vrancic
MONT ALBERT	Pr Malcolm Reid
MORNINGTON	Mr Peter Hughes
Narre Warren	Pr Craig Gillis (oversight)
NHILL	Pr Chris Moses
NOBLE PARK	Pr Russell Puna (oversight)
NORTH FITZROY	Pr Wayne Stanley
NORTHPOINT	Pr Loren Pratt, Pr Justin Bone
NUMURKAH	Pr Russell Bryan
NUNAWADING	Pr David Erikson Mr Josh Wood
OAKLEIGH POLISH	Pr Pawel Ustupski, Pr Jan Krysta
Oromo	Mr Gebita Dulle
PAKENHAM	Pr Vadim Butov, Pr Helen Butov
PLENTY VALLEY	Pr Hensley Gungadoo
PORTLAND	Pr Luis Bermudez
PRESTON	Pr Wayne Stanley, Mr Vikram Panchal
RINGWOOD	Pr Brian Lawty
ROBINVALE	Miss Wendy Saluni
Rockbank	Mr Penese Faletasi
ROMANIAN	Pr Paul Boeru
ROWVILLE/LYSTERFIELD	Pr Paul Kotanko
SALE	Mr Andrew Wilson
Samoan CARRUM DOWNS	Pr Aitui Fanene, Pr Eddie Erika
Samoan CRAIGIEBURN	Pr Aitui Fanene, Pr Eddie Erika, Mr Penese Faletasi
Samoan NTH MELBOURNE	Pr Aitui Fanene, Mr Penese Faletasi
Samoan PAKENHAM	Pr Aitui Fanene, Pr Eddie Erika
Samoan SouthEast (Lynbrook)	Pr Aitui Fanene, Pr Eddie Erika
Samoan Sunshine	Pr Aitui Fanene, Mr Penese Fanene
SAMOAN Werribee	Pr Aitui Fanene, Mr Penese Faletasi
Samoan WEST MELBOURNE	Pr Aitui Fanene, Mr Penese Faletasi
SEDDON	Pr Georges Latchman (Interim)
SHEPPARTON	Pr Russell Bryan
SPOTSWOOD	Pr Peter Rollo
SPRINGVALE	Pr Victor Acuna
SPRINGVALE SPANISH	Pr Miguel Flamenco
SPRINGVALE SUDANESE	Mr Gatkuoth Chol
ST ALBANS CROATIAN	Pr Georges Latchman (Interim)
STAWELL	Mr Duane Suffolk
Sunshine Plant	Pr Loren Pratt, Pr Justin Bone
SWAN HILL	Ms Wendy Saluni
THE OASIS	Pr Fraser Catton
THE ORCHARD	Pr Rod Anderson
TRARALGON	Mr Matthew Vrancic
WANGARATTA	Mr David Maxwell



Is it Safe?

Being a Christian in Australia - what is the worst that can happen to us for sharing our faith?

World Watch tells us that 215 million Christians are impacted by persecution with North Korea leading the list... again. Let's not take our blessings for granted. Instead, let's make the most of the opportunities God has given us.

Go to our website to read more at vic.adventist.org.au.

WANTIRNA	Pr Yong shin Chee, Mrs Sylvia Mendez
WANTIRNA POLISH	Pr Pawel Ustupski
WARBURTON	Mr Quinten Liebrandt, Mrs Jody Eddie
WARRAGUL	Pr Tini Rimoni
WARRNAMBOOL	Pr Luis Bermudez
WERRIBEE/ Point Cook Church Plant	Pr Nikola Trajkov, Pr Danijela Trajkov
WESTALL	Pr Georgers Latchman Interim
WESTERN SPANISH	Pr Victor Acuna
WestPoint Filipino	Pr Peter Rollo
YARRA VALLEY	Mr Emmanuel Millen, Interned by Pr Trevor Rowe
Zomi	Mr Thang Guite

CONFERENCE APPOINTED SCHOOL CHAPLANS

School	2018
Gilson Taylors Hill	Pr Mau Tuaoi, Ms Faye Stothers, Ms Hannah Andrykanus
Henderson College	Pr Andy Litchfield, Mrs Connie Toga
Heritage College	Pr Laolagi Limu
Edinburgh College	Mr Ryan Vidot
Nunawading CC Primary	Mrs Karen Horsley
Nunawading CC Secondary	Mr Jamie Stanley
Gilson Mernda	Mr Trent Martin

CONFERENCE APPOINTED ARV CHAPLANS

Facility	2018
Whitehorse	Mrs Lindy Sperring
Whitehorse	Pr Ross Baines
Yarra Ranges	Mrs Jody Eddy
Bendigo	Pr Chrissie Cooper

CONFERENCE UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN

University	2018
University	Mr Roy Kim
Avondale City	Mr Roy Kim

Education

Congratulations To Johnson Alagappan

At a recent Australian Teacher Educator Assoc. Conference, Gilson College teacher Johnson Alagappan and Dr Shary Livy from Monash Uni were awarded the Teacher Education Partnership Grant for their research project looking at enhancing pre-service teacher knowledge by building relationships between universities and schools. Congratulations Johnson and all the best when you present your paper later in the year.

This partnership has led to Gilson College being chosen as one of the pilot schools for trialling an Early Years Mathematics project called Challenging Tasks, overseen by Emeritus Prof. Peter Sullivan of Monash University.

Chris Cowled



Kelly Moore



Johnson Alagappan



Introducing...

Kelly Moore is joining the ASV team as Digital Technology Consultant for our schools. She has her own consulting company, Moore EduLearn and Technology, and has worked with both State and private schools. She has a passion for Digital Technology and values the importance of collaborating with others using online tools. She is a Google Certified Trainer and the leader of Google Educator Groups, Melbourne.

"I am delighted that Kelly will be working for ASV," says Brian Mercer, Education Director. "Kelly will be spending the vast majority of her time working with teachers in our schools and I believe she will make a huge impact on further improving digital

literacies at the classroom level."

Also joining the team is Chris Cowled, as principle of Primary at Nunawading Christian College. "He brings a wealth of knowledge and skill to this role," says Brian, "and will be able to work with the Board and staff to further implement the strategic plan in 2018 and beyond."

Chris had experience as a teacher and administrator with a long career of service in Australia and the South Pacific. Most recently he has been Head of Campus for Gilson College Mernda and Acting Principal for Gilson College Taylor's Hill, providing leadership across both campuses with over 1200 students.

Early Learning Centre

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Conference News



The Victorian Conference has recently celebrated the ordination of two of our pastors and we praise and thank God for the dedication and passion these pastors and their families have for His work as they love, nurture and guide their churches.

In December last year, **Ainsley Wagner** was joined by church members, family and friends to share in this important milestone in his career and life.

Ainsley was a train driver and functioned as an employee advocate for a number of years, gaining valuable insight and experience in leadership and negotiation within challenging environments. Sustaining a workplace injury, he believed that God had something else in mind for him, and this was in fact, the first stage of his journey from the transport industry into ministry.

Heavily involved in local church leadership for many years, when his church found itself without a pastor part way through the year, Ainsley received his first taste of ministry. Initially shocked and surprised when the Conference president called him, he accepted the role until the end of the year.

Eventually Pr Brian Lawty was appointed to the church, and, noting Ainsley's active lay leadership, he recommended his name to the conference, for consideration for a ministry role. Ainsley continued as Senior Elder, and assistant to Pr Lawty, conducting Bible studies and helping people prepare for baptism at Spotswood.



In 2003, he was appointed Church Pastor for Ascot Vale. The church was under the threat of imminent closure, but with the support of conference leadership, Ainsley met the troubles head on, working through a time of severe duress until the church was again able to look to the future. He has been dedicated to running regular outreach programs, building local contacts within the community, detention centre and hospitals, and the church has grown spiritually. Attendance has increased and has necessitated the building of a modern well-equipped hall and amenities, signalling a church with a future.

Ainsley's mother had long been an inspiration and a silent partner in his preparation for ministry. For many years she prayed he would become a minister, and Ainsley looks forward to one day in the Kingdom of God, telling her that her many prayers were answered.

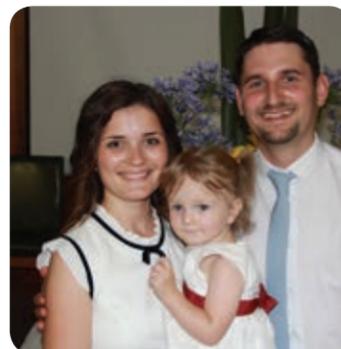
We wish God's richest blessings for Ainsley and his wife Doris, as they serve God.



There was celebration again, late January, as **Matthew Vrancic** was ordained in ministry.

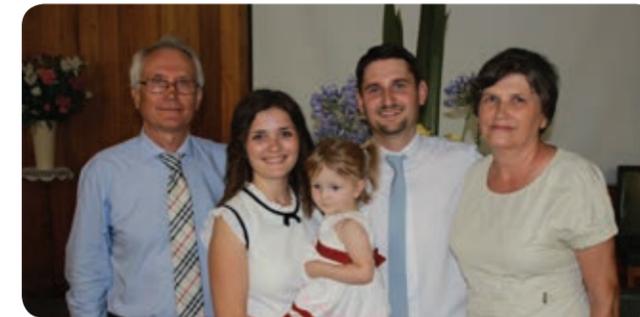
Born into an Adventist home in Bosnia and growing up loving and appreciating Jesus, Matthew developed an enduring image of a caring God, when, at the age of five, God saved him from drowning. During his formative years, with the influence of his family and church he grew to understand his Christian faith and first felt the call to be a pastor.

Looking back, he believes God used his dad to inspire him. When war came to Bosnia, his dad closed his business, bought a truck and became a full time volunteer for ADRA, delivering food and clothes to those in need. He was Matthew's hero – modelling Christ to him, risking his life to help others. Although he was constantly under pressure from local authorities and the Orthodox priests to stop, many of his non-Adventist friends supported him. Eventually the army police came as he was opening Sabbath and took the truck away.



Through it all, God protected the family, and eventually brought them safely to Australia in 1995. Welcomed into their new church life, Matthew was surrounded by Adventist culture at home and school. He grew significantly in his spiritual life and church involvement.

2007 saw him commencing studies at the Theological Seminary in Belgrade, feeding his motivation for mission and desire for ministry. He realised the main purpose of the Church, as expressed in Matthew 28, was mission. He involved himself in literature evangelism, public evangelism and preaching at local churches. During this time he met Sanja and after a long distance relationship of four years, they married.



Matthew then returned to Australia, continuing his studies at Avondale College. He was involved starting on campus small groups and in a church plant in Newcastle, seeing a different way of 'doing' church.

After graduation, Matthew returned to Brisbane where his family were settled, then received a call to the Victorian Conference where he has been since. He began by serving at Mildura and Dareton, transferring to Traralgon and Moe last year.

Matthew may you and your family be aware of God's presence and blessing in your lives as you continue your journey in ministry.

World Day of Prayer

Friday March 2 this year is World Day of Prayer, it is a day that Christians of all religions join together in prayer for a pre-selected country. The country this year is Suriname, a small South American nation with a population of only 540,000 made up multiple ethnic groups. Poverty, pollution, lack of education and child neglect and abuse are significant issues.

Why be a part of World day of prayer? This is a unique movement where millions of Christians find a common place. Obedient to God they join together in agreement for their brothers and sisters in far away places. They attend services in churches different to their own and find a place of unity that is powerful in prayer.

For further information go to www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org to find a service near you. Be involved in changing the world one prayer at a time.



At the end of RtB 2017, where we saw 13,750 people attend inspite of one very hot night (the last year at Nunawading saw 16,000), an email was shared with the volunteers by someone who had bought a young person in her mid twenty's through for the first time. Here is some of what the young person said:

"Thank you so much for taking me tonight... I didn't really understand before, the cultural and social implications for Mary becoming pregnant, so this drew me into the story from the beginning. I laughed at the jokes... became so intent on listening to the story I nearly jumped out of my skin when the soldiers yelled... My favourite scene was the hilarious shepherds but turning the corner on the way to Bethlehem and seeing the star... I wondered what would come next... When the angels sang, my eyes were wide and I felt I was in the presence of God, a voice in my mind saying over and over "I love you. I did this for you."

I write to you at 2am because I came home and have been silent and listening for His voice. I don't have a Bible, so I went online to find the Bible story of Jesus' birth and really read it for myself for the first time in my life. And it just made sense. It came to life and I will be continuing to read the rest of the story.

...Please thank the people who make Road to Bethlehem happen. What an amazing group of people you are. You must have met Jesus too.



Please support RtB 2018 at e-giving.org.au

Other comments received:
How humbled I feel that this exists...it is truly a wonderful experience. It is making me think more about God – Sophie

My first time to road to Bethlehem and I can't describe in words how beautiful and amazing the experience was – Sai

Absolutely amazed with the generosity for the community. – Gretel

Such an anointed presentation. Thankyou for sharing the love of our Saviour - Kim

A Trust Worth Living For

Stewardship (... Sabbath School... Health... we are all one in Christ...)

So I'd like to plant a seed – an idea – in your mind: stewardship is much more than your money. If there is one truth this quarter's Sabbath School lesson has taught us is that we are "stewards of the mysteries of God." 1 Cor. 4:1

Consider the mysteries of your body; how it is finely tuned for life with many of its core functions handled subconsciously. Heart rate, breathing, immunity, nerve impulses (and the list goes on) all operating harmoniously together to keep you moving forward. No wonder the church is likened to a body.

informed of His will, our heart braced for duty and trial and our body strengthened with His might.

We could continue to describe the wonders of all creation from the minutest atom the radiant cosmos. We are stewards of what we have seen and tasted of the Lord's creative power in our lives and our world. In order to impact our world for Christ we are called to be faithful stewards – because you can teach what you know, but you'll reproduce who you are.

My name is Andrew Jasper and I'm assisted by my wife Keryn who has a passion for stewardship. We have been appointed to coordinate this vital ministry in our conference of churches in Victoria. We want you to experience Christ anew, have your edge freshly sharpened and faithfully share your experience with another fellow traveller. Stewardship is about your whole person being physically energized, mentally focused, emotionally connected and spiritually aligned. Then, through God's leading you can establish your economic engine, climb the heights of intellectual greatness, connect in meaningful relationships with others and soar to heights of character and love that He envisions for your life.

So let your study of the remainder of this quarter's Sabbath School lesson be golden moments for the Holy Spirit to shape and mould you into the image of God. We'll culminate our study at Big Camp where we'll celebrate our 13th Sabbath all together.

Our prayer for you is to experience the truth of the Apostle's words, "Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found trustworthy." 1 Cor. 4:2 (RSV)

He can do it. Will you follow Him?
Andrew Jasper



And what of the mystery of your mind inside your brain? The cranial nerves firing off, sending and receiving information, thoughts, memories, analysis, creativity. What an amazing organ!

Then you have your emotions – your heart feelings which sometimes pre-empt your thoughts and other times run parallel with them. These move us into relationship with others, alert us to danger and allow us to live in joy, peace and love.

Lastly, our spirit is where the gospel of Christ and the Holy Spirit speak through to our whole being, so our mind is

Concert of Beautiful Music

AdventCare Whitehorse

These Sabbath afternoon concerts will continue in 2018, for the seventh consecutive year.

Concert Number 25 will take place on Saturday, March 3 at 3pm at AdventCare Whitehorse.

Residents have asked to have a good organ for church services and concerts. So Facility Management approached Ross Baines and Romney King, to see if they would be able to find one.

The search has been successful, and Advent Care

Whitehorse is now in possession of a Johannus full pedal board organ with enough sound to thrill its listeners.

So come and join us on March 3. In addition to our usual performers, this next concert will feature a string ensemble and, of course, the new organ.

Romney King



WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR ONE LIFE?

APPLY NOW FOR 2018

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN TO COMMENCE STUDY IN SEMESTER 1, 2018

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Lawson DISCOVERY

Join an Adventist group trip to North America in August/September 2018 including a West Canada Rocky Mountains tour, Alaska cruise and option to travel onto East Canada via Battle Creek and Andrews University.

Singles welcome - no extra supplement if you are willing to share

Visit Canada & Alaska in 2018

www.LawsonDiscovery.com
tours@lawsondiscovery.com
Tel: (07) 3272 2167

ADRA Ambassadors

In 2018, we welcome some new leaders as ADRA School Ambassadors! They will be involved with educating their peers about ADRA's work locally and overseas, participating in community programs and helping to develop new programs and events to further support people in need.

"My name is Kaitlyn Carnie and I am a student at Nunawading Christian College.

I love to go out of my comfort zone with meeting new people and trying to exhibit God in any way that I can. I love ADRA because I think it is one of the most influential platforms to serve God, and so many people are able to get involved. I'm proud to be a part of the team because I can see all the wonderful things that ADRA do, both in the community and across the world."

"My name is Leah Perkić and I am a student at Heritage College.

ADRA is important to me as it gives me the opportunity to help others, to stop thinking about myself and my problems and take a look at the problems faced by those around the world that are far greater than mine, and better yet, it gives me the opportunity to help solve them. To improve someone's quality of living, even if it is just one person. ADRA puts the world into perspective for me, it helped me realise that just one person can make a world of difference."

"My name is Isabelle Anderson and I am a student at Edinburgh College.

This opportunity to be an ADRA Ambassador has made me even more excited for starting high school! I didn't even know that could be possible. I absolutely love helping others and I know that ADRA will help me find different ways I can help others. If it's to do with physical health, I could do a fundraiser or if it's to do with mental health I could just give someone lonely some company once a week! I know being an ADRA Ambassador and ADRA itself will help me do those things! The leader I want to be when I'm older is someone who puts others ahead of themselves and a kind, compassionate person who is willing to have a go.

Knowing that I have made someone's life better makes my life better!"



Communications Needs YOU!

Are you involved in any way in communication in your local church? Perhaps as communication secretary, or the social media manager, or part of the audiovisual team, or...

Are you going to Big Camp and like taking photos or working with sound, cameras and lighting?

We are looking for people to help in these areas. Must have a valid WWC.

Check out our first newsletter at <https://goo.gl/YGpfTp> and please sign up - so we can all work together, sharing ideas and helping spread the Good News...

Please contact SherrieCourtney@Adventist.org.au or 03 9264 7750 for more information.

Thrive

Have you any
community friends
whom you would
like to see thrive
even more in their
relationship with
Christ?

Invite them to join
our church family
for a weekend of
praise, worship and
fellowship

Big Camp at Elmore

March 29 - April 2 2018

Applications available now
Camping applications close
March 19, 2018

vic.adventist.org.au for more
information

**"I Came that they may
have life, and may have it
abundantly"**

Jn 10:10

Immerse yourself in the love of our
Lord, and THRIVE

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Bible verses are from various versions which may include NIV, NKJV and Clear Word.