

I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full. John 10:10 NIV



Intraviv

IntraVic / Victorian Conference News / February 2009

Our Young People... Our Future... Our Church

School is back, and 2009 is shaping up

This is an exciting time to be part of the Victorian Adventist school system. More than ever before, our schools are reaching out into the community, providing a loving Christian example, bringing a life-changing experience to both students and their parents. Please pray for our teachers and schools as they continue to embrace the gospel commission here in Victoria.

Brian Mercer
Education Director of the
Victorian Conference



IN THIS ISSUE

Update on Big Camp changes... pg 2

New Bible Curriculum being piloted in our schools... pg 2

Churches and schools link to create exciting opportunities... pg 3

VicYouth focuses on young leaders... pg 6

Summer Camp 2009 - physical challenge, spiritual nurturing - plan for your child to be there next year.. pg 6.

Teachers and Chaplains affect eternity... pg 7

Friendship Evangelism - what is involved... pg 9,12

Pastoral Staffing List - who will be where... pg10

A note from THE EDITOR...



Pr Denis Hankinson
PRESIDENT

Another New Year has come, bringing us that much closer to the return of our Lord, Jesus. At this time of year people talk of, and make, New Year's resolutions, some (probably most) light-heartedly admitting that they have no hope of keeping the 'resolution' - nor do they even wish to do so! Others seriously evaluate lessons they have learnt throughout the year and determine to apply them in the future.

In December's issue of TIME Magazine, one article in particular caught my attention. A group of obese girls were put on a comprehensive weight loss program. One third of participants were also asked to read a novel whose main character was an obese teen with a close friend who was a fitter, healthier teen. As the novel progresses, the girl with the weight problem learned to live and eat more healthfully. The group who read the book achieved the best weight loss results. Initially, this seemed merely a piece of amusing trivia but later the deeper implications hit me - it brought to my mind the importance of what Mrs Ellen White called "Guarding well the avenues of the mind". In Philippians 4:4-9, Paul issued a challenge to the church of Philippi and this, I believe, is a remarkable, all-embracing summary of the Christian life and an infallible guide to all Christians. It is a challenge to rejoice in the privilege of knowing Christ and His way; a way of inner peace based on a trusting, prayerful and active life in Christ. It is also a challenge to guard the avenues of our minds - whatever is true, noble and right, whatever is excellent and praiseworthy, think on these things.

I have determined that one of my New Year's Resolutions will be to become more vigilant over what I allow to enter my mind, even with casual entertainment - what I watch, listen to and read.

May you all have a year to rejoice about, as you live with Jesus.

BIG CAMP - EASTER 2009 - UPDATE

As we return from holidays and settle into the routine of the New Year, many of us will start thinking ahead about various plans for the year. No doubt, many of you will be looking forward to meeting fellow church members on various occasions during the year, but especially during Easter Camp. It is therefore with great regret that we advise that we have had to make the difficult decision to cancel Easter Camp at Lardner Park for 2009 and replace it with various regional events - including two regional meetings in metropolitan Melbourne.

The main reason for this decision is that the current economic climate means that the conference administration has had to make very conservative predictions about its income for 2009 and all Departments were asked to review their budgets, with a view to cutting costs.

A series of regional meetings will be considerably more cost effective than a large camp meeting at Lardner Park and will still provide many of the same benefits. In addition, management at Lardner Park has indicated that they cannot guarantee access to the grounds in order to allow us to set up the pavilions, the family tents, the Youth Tent and other facilities.

We deeply regret the need to make this decision, but pray for God's leading and blessing as we start planning for the various regional meetings during the year. We apologise for any inconvenience and will keep in touch with you regarding further plans.

Administration Committee

Dates and locations for the Regional Meetings will be made known when negotiations are finalised.



BRIAN MERCER
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

NEW BIBLE CURRICULUM TO BE PILOTED

Ensuring our schools are Christ focused is a deliberate intention. While it is important our teachers demonstrate through their lives that they are a believer and follower of Christ, it is also important that the curriculum and other activities, which take place throughout the school year, give each child the opportunity to make life-changing decisions. This includes Week of Prayer, camps, service learning and particularly through the Bible curriculum.

Currently the Bible curriculum is under extensive revision to make it much more than just an academic subject. Based on Pastor Ben Maxon's 'Spiritual Formation Model' promoting a holistic approach to Biblical learning, the students focus on forming a relationship with Christ rather than just developing a knowledge of Him. Bible teachers are embracing this new approach and are working hard to develop new units for the curriculum. Curriculum units are to be piloted in 2009 and it is hoped a substantial number of grades will be using the new curriculum soon.

OUR SCHOOLS - A CHURCH TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Recently a secular writer said, "Schools are the new churches". He was referring to the fact that schools are often the new community for families when many other aspects of society are breaking down. Our schools have the opportunity to be 'the community' for parents and children, providing them with the Christian nurture they need so badly. We pray this service to our school family will be a growing part of the evangelistic arm of our schools.

OUR SCHOOLS - A RIPE FIELD READY FOR HARVESTING

Andre Afamasaga is the chaplain for Macarthur Adventist College in Sydney's southeast, and pastor to the church which meets on the school grounds. He was invited to Melbourne last year to talk about the link between our churches and our schools, at a Chaplaincy Professional Development seminar. "A significant percentage of students in our school system are from non-Adventist families who are actually paying for their children to learn about our distinctive Adventist beliefs during the course of their school lives," says Andre. "Yet we have not, in the past, been successful in turning these students into Christ's disciples and members of our local churches."

This is now changing. Becoming aware of this need, our schools and churches are beginning to find ways to work

together, providing the necessary dynamic environment needed to encourage these students and their families to cross over the barriers, to make Christ and Church life an important part of their lives.



Andre talking to the Chaplains

OUR SCHOOLS - HOSTING CHURCHES

Andre's own congregation, Church in the Fields, is full of students from non-Christian families who have made CITF their home church and are being baptised. Here in Victoria too, we are seeing churches being planted in association with our schools.

At **Heritage College** a church service is held on the school grounds in the afternoon. The church plant was set up primarily for unchurched and non-Adventist school families, to help them get to know Christ. "From the beginning, we wanted to change the expectations of the attendees," explains Faye Stothers, School Chaplain. "Rather than coming before the Lord on Sabbath and expecting to be entertained, the model we use ensures everyone comes expecting to participate, bringing something to the worship service."

The format of the program involves group work, with the leaders of these groups being senior students ministering to their peers. The students have no difficulty inviting their friends and the group has between 30 and 60 attendees.



Kids from skidz alive

Over the last year, Skidz Alive has been operating at **Gilson College**, under the supervision of Chaplain, Brian Boyland. Run by teens from the high school, it is a kids' church geared at the primary school children and is held two Sabbaths per month.

"It is specifically aimed at the community and we advertise it at the school," says Brian. "There are between 30 and 50 children attending and only about eight are from Adventist families. The rest are from either non-Christian backgrounds,

or other denominations. The majority of the sixteen teens who run Skidz Alive are not from Adventist families. "Most of them are in Bible studies with me at the College, and have made the commitment that they believe what we as Seventh-day Adventists believe; one is actually getting baptised soon." Brian explains. "So at Skidz Alive, we share the Adventist Message."

What is remarkable, is that after six months running a fortnightly program for the children, the teen team decided they wanted a church for themselves too. They met to discuss how they wanted to worship Jesus and serve Him on a Sabbath. As Jesus got 'out there' and helped people, often getting into trouble for doing it on Sabbath, they wanted to do the same, regardless of what other people thought. Calling themselves the Jyouth, they meet twice per month: once for prayer, worship and planning their project, and the next time they meet, they put the project into action.

"They find needy people, and turn up to do a few things around their place, like a bit of a clean up around the yard - that sort of thing. I've seen it bring tears to the eyes of those they help. What is more, these teens love what they are doing so much, they decided they wanted to do it for a whole week somewhere, and also run their Skidz Alive program." As he talks it is obvious Brian is proud of these young people. "I laughed and told them that they had just invented something called StormCo. They had no idea what it was, but now they are booked in for StormCo training and are really excited about it."

"The use of our school facilities, to conduct church on Sabbath, is an exciting development," says Brian Mercer, "It has the potential to become an important aspect of our education system."



Jyouth

THE OASIS - NOW AT NCC

As the year drew to a close, a new church was just beginning in the Victorian Conference: the Oasis Seventh-day Adventist Church, officially recognised as a Company within the Sisterhood of Churches on the 6th of December, 2008.

"We are a very young church in other ways too," says Darius Ignasiak, Elder for the Company. "The average age of our attendees is only 22."

The church is however, built on many years of faith and experience – a legacy of its parent churches. "Oasis is born predominantly out of the Polish Adventist community," explains Darius. "Over the years we have realised that we need to remove some of the barriers that exist, so we can reach out to our friends, partners and work colleagues in their language and meet their needs."

So why call it "The Oasis"? "We felt the need, and I believe that the Holy Spirit was working on our hearts, to teach and empower our young people and that this spiritually arid world needed a place of refreshment and spiritual growth. We wanted to be an oasis in this dry community."

Darius continues, "we have a strong emphasis on taking an active role in the community; on being a non-spectator church, an unselfish church, with a Service, not 'Serve us' attitude."

The Oasis is a groups-based Church and each group is

involved in Oasis projects. It has a detailed three-year plan that includes growing leaders for the establishment of new congregations. "We believe that everything we do needs to have a 'reach out' perspective, and we involve all our members. You only have to visit a few times to become part of our family and be involved."

Now based at Nunawading Christian College Hall, The Oasis has 30 members, many of whom attend the College and bring their friends from school to worship. "Being at the school hall creates a familiar, non-threatening environment to invite their friends to," Darius explains. "Attendance is usually around 60-80 and growing."

"The Oasis is very special, we all feel like we have something to contribute," says Julie, a member of the company. "We know that we have a mission because God keeps on opening doors to people who have never attended before, or have been long gone from our churches."

As the Oasis SDA Church was being officially recognised as a Company, the inspiration, hope and praise for God was clearly felt. Names of the 30 members were read out as they filed forward with a rose in hand, placing it in a colourful arrangement – a symbol of the Oasis they hope to be. True to the community spirit of this church, the arrangement was later presented to someone whom they knew had lost a loved one that week. May this Oasis continue to be a sweet place in a sometimes dry and harsh world.



FORMER MINISTERIAL SECRETARY SAYS "AU REVOIR."

After serving for eight years for the Ministerial Association, Church Development and Church pastoring, John Denne and his wife Lyn have transferred to the Nth NSW Conference.



"We wish to express our gratitude for the privilege of serving Christ in Victoria and will take with us many priceless memories of people whom we have come to know and love," says John.

"We are grateful too, for what we have been able to accomplish with others for Christ's mission, and appreciate your graciousness when I have failed. There are many highlights from my time in Victoria: special programs that have been run, training weekends, relaxing retreats, connecting with others in prayer, to mention just a few."

John believes that Adventists in Victoria have great potential to expand the kingdom of heaven because there are so many gifted people. "We have outstanding Pastoral staff across the age groups and if 'the right buttons are pressed' to provide for vision, participation, ownership, love and leadership, I believe that the Holy Spirit would cause miraculous results that would be to the honour, glory and praise of Christ."

He concludes by saying, "Thank you for having us minister in Victoria – it has been a privilege. May God bless every one of you as you serve Jesus Christ. The future is better than the past."

STICKY TAPE AND SPARKLING GRAPE JUICE

The Personal Ministries Department of the Victorian Conference, along with Northpoint Church, conducted its first Experiential Learning Centre (ELC) after the Worship Service on December 6. Beginning with lunch, the afternoon then shifted into understanding and learning about how and why we should be involved in community service.

Afterwards the participants went out into the community, putting into practice what they had learned as they handed out bottles of sparkling grape juice to celebrate Christmas, and sticky tape to help with gift-wrapping. All those involved were amazed at how simple this type of community service was and how easily it broke down walls, opening the way to building relationships.

Associate minister at Northpoint, Greg Pratt, tells how his group ended up praying on the door step, for a wife and her sick husband.. "Upon finishing the prayer, the couple had tears in their eyes and continually thanked us," he says. "We have since returned and visited on a number of occasions and we are planning to invite them to a BBQ lunch that one of our Community Service teams is holding."

During the subsequent debrief, many more stories were heard from the afternoon. The group discussed further, how to implement community service into churches and communities, how to impact the community and change lives for eternity.

If you would like to make contact with the Director of Personal Ministries, Lauren Pratt, to find out more about ELC for yourself, or your church, call Roselyn at the Conference Office, on 03 9264 7777.



DEPRESSION RECOVERY



The Depression Recovery Seminar, put together by Dr Neil Nedley, a Seventh-day Adventist physician, and presented on DVD by Adcare Counselling Centre last year, was very successful. The current tough economic times, retrenchment and family stress is contributing to a need for such programs, both within our church community and without.

"One participant was not a Christian, but as we progressed, she began to read the Bible," says Tina Wong, who hosted the program. "The seminar made such an impact we are planning to convene further sessions in 2009."

"Not only is this program excellent for people who are depressed," Tina continues, "it also caters for those who have family members or friends who are depressed. We will focus on brain health, what a person can do to treat depression and healthy lifestyle habits they can adopt to keep depression from ever happening; even for those with a genetic predisposition."

"Doctor Nedley shows better ways to combat depression - to know what you can change and what you can't, how to minimise medication use and effective use of natural therapies."

A free introductory session will be held on the 17th of February, with the eight week series beginning on February 24. Call AdCare Counselling Centre on 9548 4948 or 0404 114 623 for expressions of interest, or to know more of the program and venue locations.

HEALTH NEWS



with Sibilla

In our electronic age much information comes to us, both helpful and spurious. One email recently came across my desk (again), touting the terrors of plastic containers and plastic wrap in the microwave and plastic bottles in the freezer.

This information was attributed to a major authority on cancer, the John Hopkins Hospital; however, the Johns (note the difference) Hopkins Hospital did not issue the report, which has been doing the rounds since 2002.

To read more about this interesting topic, go to <www.snopes.com/medical/toxins/cookplastic.asp>

Here are the recommended guidelines for cooking in the microwave with plastic.

ONLY USE COOKWARE THAT IS SPECIALLY MANUFACTURED FOR USE IN THE MICROWAVE OVEN. GLASS, CERAMIC CONTAINERS, AND ALL PLASTICS SHOULD BE LABELLED FOR MICROWAVE OVEN USE.

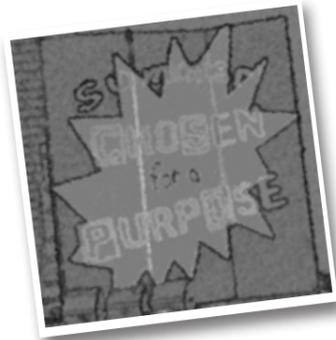
YOU SHOULD NOT USE PLASTIC STORAGE CONTAINERS SUCH AS MARGARINE TUBS, TAKE-OUT CONTAINERS, AND OTHER ONE-TIME USE CONTAINERS IN MICROWAVE OVENS. THESE CONTAINERS CAN WARP OR MELT AND POSSIBLY CAUSE HARMFUL CHEMICALS TO MIGRATE INTO THE FOOD.

MICROWAVE PLASTIC WRAPS, WAX PAPER, COOKING BAGS, PARCHMENT PAPER, AND WHITE MICROWAVE-SAFE PAPER TOWELS SHOULD BE SAFE TO USE. DO NOT LET PLASTIC WRAP TOUCH FOODS DURING MICROWAVING.

NEVER USE THIN PLASTIC STORAGE BAGS, GROCERY BAGS (BROWN PAPER OR PLASTIC), NEWSPAPERS, OR ALUMINIUM FOIL IN THE MICROWAVE OVEN.

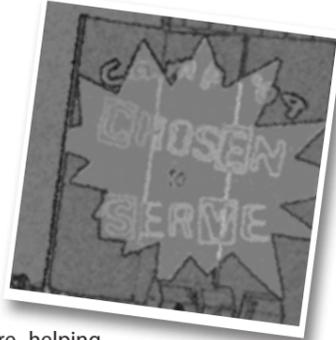
Here's to your health and happiness in 2009.

Sibilla Johnson



vic youth

inspirational ministries



The Victorian Conference Youth Department has adopted this year's Summer Camp theme, 'CHOSEN FOR A PURPOSE - CHOSEN TO SERVE', as its focus for 2009.

Lord," says Moe, "we have this ministry, teaching our kids basic skills, but also, through its intrinsic structure, helping create young leaders.

"In line with our commitment to youth leadership, we created such an opportunity at Junior Summer Camp," continues Moe, "by giving a group of younger teens from 2008's leadership programs the chance to experience leadership in a supervised environment - and I'm so proud of how they handled it."

In February, the Youth Department will be conducting a Leadership Weekend for those involved in all aspects of youth leadership: Pathfinders, StormCo and other local church Youth Ministries. Anyone involved is invited to come together for the weekend where the vision will be to inspire each other to serve God through developing these ministries. Experiences and resources will be shared, Peter Roennfeldt will talk on encouraging our young people to share their faith in a secular environment and Rob Steed will discuss how to mentor teams and develop leaders.

"It is our prayer for 2009," concludes Moe, "that we will nurture the young people of Victoria and encourage them as they develop their leadership skills, and that they will know they really do have a purpose in God's Plan: to serve Him wherever they are, whatever they're doing."

"God has chosen each and every one of us to be somebody," explains Moe Ioane, Department Director. "We are each chosen for a purpose - to serve Him."

The focal point, begun in 2008, will see more emphasis on teaching and empowering our young people to become leaders themselves, throughout 2009. "One of our core developments this year will be cultivating leaders while they are still young, not waiting until they are in their thirties.

"As we train young people to be leaders, we also need to provide them with opportunities to put these skills into action. People talk of youth being the 'leaders of tomorrow' but never really give them the opportunity to have a go. So last year the Youth Department asked teens to run the Teen Rally. We involved a group of students from our schools' Vetamorphus program. These young people prepared the whole Rally, and the result was awesome."

After lunch the Pathfinder Rally followed on from the Teen Rally, and was a celebration of what God has achieved through the Club in 2008: getting young people out of doors, learning adventurous skills they would not otherwise encounter and getting to know more about Him in different and interactive ways. "I praise the

Always, I thought God was like... looking down on us, but Lili said we are like giants to Him... makes me feel more confident.

I learnt a lot of new things about God and Jesus... and I found camp really fun!

Best part of Camp? Boys answer- Survivor. Girls answer - Having a shower after Survivor

It is really cool that God wants to know me personally- makes you want to get to know him more.

"Does God use ordinary people? Absolutely! Will you be back next year? Totally dudes!

Summer Camp 2009 was top quality! Moe Ioane, Neil Redman and Lorinda Morton, along with the wonderful volunteers, put considerable time and effort into helping the campers build confidence, develop team spirit and grow closer to God.

Not only did the campers gain from this experience; those on staff were also deeply touched. For some it was the late night discussions with 'their kids' as they were going to sleep, talking of their experiences throughout the day and what they had learned in worship. For others it was watching the campers grow in confidence as they performed



various challenges set for them. Or it was seeing a team spirit of loyalty and support develop. Or listening to the rustle of Bible pages being turned as the speakers asked for a verse to be looked up. Even hearing answers to questions being called out without a moment's delay.

The speakers for Summer Camp were Lili Panozzo from SA, and Chrissie Cooper, Chaplain at Gilson College. In different ways, they each challenged the Juniors, Teens and even the Staff.

Lili had our Juniors really believe that not only are they the future of our church, they ARE our Church. And when Chrissie spoke on relevant issues in teen life, reassuring them that they do have a purpose in their lives and inspiring them to serve, you could have heard a pin drop.

Toward the end of each Camp, the campers were given commitment cards, and the results of these tell it all, with more than 40% of campers committing to wanting to be baptised and 50% wanting to learn more about God's purpose for them through Bible studies.

"Don't under estimate these kids," advises Moe. "They are never too young to make this kind of decision. It is my prayer that our local churches will get behind them, look out for them and mentor them - they are hungry for God."

AFFECTING ETERNITY - TEACHERS AND CHAPLAINS

Ministry can be defined as serving, as a means or an instrument by which people are led to Jesus. Among the many roles of structured ministry in the Victorian Conference are two which we cannot overlook: our school teachers and chaplains.

"I believe our teachers are really teacher-ministers," Brian Mercer, Director of Education for the Victorian Conference says. "This is reinforced in Ephesians 4:11 where teaching is seen as a spiritual gift given by God. Our teachers take this very seriously and see each of their students as candidates for heaven. One only needs to look at the number of Bible studies, baptismal classes and resultant baptisms that take place each year to recognise how important sharing God is within our schools."

In his 25 years as a Church Pastor, David Erickson has spent 14 of those years involved with Chaplaincy in church schools as well, successfully combining both aspects of ministry. "It is very rewarding," he says. "I love working with young people and feeling that I am helping them make sense of life. It is so important for them to have a stable basis from which to operate their daily lives, with God at their side." David enjoys seeing them develop an understanding of how God wants to be personally involved with them, but he also firmly believes they, in turn, need to understand the role of service to others in the Christian life. He has helped implement activities such as StormCo trips and overseas mission service.



The role of our teachers and chaplains is not, however, solely limited to our own children. "The school community does have an impact on non-Christian students and their families," David explains. "Recently, several students were baptised. One of the candidates came to our school in Year 7. Twelve

CHAPLAINCY AT ADVENTCARE

Chaplaincy is often thought of in a school or hospital context, however this is not its only arena. AdventCare Whitehorse has a Chaplaincy Department, staffed by Ann Gilmore and her Assistant, Vicki Woolfe.

The department coordinates the many worship programs, Bible study times and prayer meetings held for the residents and run by the Chaplains themselves or by invited speakers, who come from varying walks of life.

Many of our city churches are involved in opening and closing Sabbath worships, Nunawading Church provides a weekly Sabbath School class and Divine service and twice a month, there is a special Sabbath afternoon program.

Should a resident be hospitalised they are cared for with phone calls, visits and cards. A regular visitation program is in place, with the weekly distribution of the RECORD. Additional visits occur as needed and a team of dedicated volunteers assist

months ago, she started attending church when invited by one of her friends, however the family then moved to Sydney. Her mother actually called me asking for a church in Sydney they could take their daughter to. Now she has been baptised, and her parents are attending church and getting involved in Church life."



Camilla Christian is joining the teaching staff at Heritage College this year, but has spent the last few years in Chaplaincy work at Lilydale

Adventist Academy. She has really enjoyed the opportunity to get involved with the students and developed some great relationships. "I have been doing Bibles studies with a group of students for three years," she says, "most of whom are either non-Adventist or non-Christian. It has been awesome watching them question and grow. At the end of last year, some requested personal studies, which is fantastic." While disappointed that she will not be there to study with them, Camilla is confident she is leaving them in good hands and is looking forward to teaching. "I really believe that teachers are a huge part of ministry to students and I look forward to being part of that."

"Our children are our future" - this is as vital in Church life, as it is in any other context to which the statement may be applied - maybe even more so. What parent within our Church does not want their child to grow up with a love for Christ and a hope for the future?

The school community has a huge impact on its children and it could be said that this is largely determined by the attitudes and values of the adults within that community. Truly has it been stated that, "A teacher affects eternity - he will never know where his influence stops."

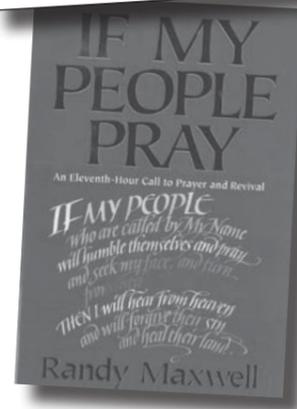
What a tremendous responsibility is theirs, as our teachers and chaplains minister to God's children within the school community.

with this. Ann and Vicki make sure those receiving palliative care have special attention and are involved in follow-up care when a resident dies. In addition, these dedicated ladies are available to the staff and family members of residents, if there is a need.

"It is my prayer," says Ann, "that God's loving presence will be felt by everyone here at AdventCare Whitehorse."



Do you ever have an empty yearning for something more? Do you ever long to take your relationship with the Lord to the 'next level'? God assures us that if we search for Him we will find Him.



SEEKING GOD

So how do we do it? Begin by praying for a heart that follows hard after God. Put another way; ask to fall in love with Jesus. I can't look into your heart and you can't look into mine. We may be following Jesus very dutifully, but with no real love for Him. If the passion has gone out of your relationship with Christ, ask Him to rekindle it. Ask Him to make you thirst – not for power to work

in the church – but for power to love Him more than you love yourself.

Next, ask God to help you realise that time spent with Him is life to you. This cannot be optional for the Christian who is seeking God's face. "Love the Lord your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the Lord is your life" (Deut 30:20).

Time with God to read His Word and fellowship with Him must become more valuable to us than our 'necessary food' (see Job 23:12). It may not be this way for you now, but ask for it, and believe that He will answer your prayer.

Those who seek God's face will have a sweet madness for Jesus about them. His will, His glory, His kingdom: He Himself will become their hearts' desire.

When this happens, one result is certain: the Holy Spirit will be returned to His rightful place of honour in our homes, churches and lives – and revival will come!



Extract from "IF MY PEOPLE PRAY – An Eleventh-Hour Call to Prayer and Revival" by Randy Maxwell available at the ABC.

141 Central Rd Nunawading ~ 03 9264 7766 ~ Mon-Thurs 9-5, Fri 9-12.30 ~ open first Sunday of every month 1-4pm



INTERNATIONAL NEWS: A NEW DAY FOR KIDS IN CAMBODIA

A new project in Cambodia will enhance supportive and protective home and community environments for rural children under the age of six in Pursat Province. The three-year project, called A New Day for Kids, aims to improve the child development knowledge, skills and practices of parents and caregivers by providing training in parenting skills, household sanitation and hygiene systems, literacy, numeracy and household financial management. The project will also help improve the delivery of child development services by



ADRA's A New Day for Kids project will provide child development education and awareness campaigns to help improve the lives of children like these in Cambodia

providing training to community groups and government departments, including Women's Affairs. ADRA will also support community education campaigns to promote issues related to child development.

LOCAL NEWS: RECON DELIVERS CHRISTMAS HAMPERS...

In December, ADRA Australia's RECON project delivered 20 food hampers to permanent residents at a Caravan Park in Melbourne's South East. The hampers, containing nonperishable food items such as pasta and cans of corn, beans and other foods aimed to share Christmas cheer with low-income families doing it tough over the festive season. Members



Volunteers preparing hampers

from Casey Church volunteered with RECON to supply, pack and deliver the hampers.

"You guys are doing a great job caring for strangers you have never met before," one of the residents told the volunteers. "Thank you."

RECON provides emergency relief and home visits to people in need, as referred by other agencies, in the South East and Eastern suburbs of Melbourne. A RECON site has recently been established in western Melbourne and will commence operations in 2009.



RECON team delivering the hampers

For more information visit the ADRA website on www.adra.org.au

A PORTRAIT ON HOMES OF HOPE



In Australia, there is an epidemic of loneliness: more people live on their own; more families are shattered; careers require less personal contact and more computerised skills; stranger danger where no

one chats on the street corner or in the playground.

Our circle of friends is shrinking, yet Jesus Himself modelled that building friendships with people should be a priority for His followers. New Testament writers urged disciples of Christ to be hospitable, to both strangers and acquaintances, regardless of their 'position'! This advice is certainly relevant for us today, for different reasons than in New Testament times perhaps, but ultimately for the only reason that matters – for the love of our Lord.

HOMES OF HOPE is an Australia-wide church strategy designed to welcome people in our community who are looking for a better life. Research indicates that 80% of people who join the church have been brought along by a friend or family member. "Few people will enter church life without having first spent time in a church member's home," explains Pastor Rob Steed. "They come because they want to know more about what they have seen in their friend's life." Through his work at the Australian Union Conference Pr Steed was involved in initiating this strategy. "Many members in our churches have hospitality skills which they utilize to the full, within their own congregation. Some also have intrinsic ability to reach out to non-church members. The rationale behind HOMES OF HOPE is to free these members up, with support from their church, to use their skills in the community.



"When a person is going through major change in their life - be it a new baby, moving house or a bereavement - they are more likely to consider spiritual issues. Our HOMES OF HOPE hosts learn to look for such 'seekers', to befriend them and offer support and through this relationship, share Christ with them."

HOMES OF HOPE is a ministry lifestyle where participants build friendships and provide support to people in need. These relationships provide opportunities for seekers and former church attendees to witness and explore Christian faith and practice in a non-threatening environment.

The concept of HOMES OF HOPE is simple - A host makes him or herself available to seekers. This may be in a social setting such as a craft group or a walking group, or by offering practical assistance such as child minding. The hosts receive support through the wider church community, with help being offered as needed by the members of a host's own cell group or Sabbath School class. As occasion offers, the host introduces their friends to one or two members of their church group, broadening the social contact. If further

interest is shown, they are invited to come to a Bible study group. Within the first year of operating, with just 30 hosts, 108 friends who were seeking for something else in their life became regular church attendees.

Beginning in 2002, Gateway Church has been heavily involved in HOMES OF HOPE, through their study groups called CARE Groups, where over 60 people have given their hearts to the Lord, not to mention the many others involved who have had their own spiritual lives enriched through service. The funding from HOMES OF HOPE has been used for fellowship outings and for the purchase of Bibles and other resources that help bring CARE group members closer to each other and to God.

Jim was born into a traditional Chinese family and grew up worshipping Buddha and his ancestors. When he attended Melbourne University, a friend invited him to a Bible study.

Eventually he joined a CARE Group and was baptised. What attracted Jim to the church? "There were two things," he said. "My interest in Prophecy was first, but the one that really attracted me and kept me going, was the friendships I made in the CARE group."

Kafi felt her life was acceptable, but attended a CARE group after much persuasion by a close friend. She enjoyed it so much she continued her involvement and now cannot imagine life without it. "The atmosphere is supportive and the members have such energy and commitment for each other," she said.

Betty, from Northpoint Church is a host; she opens her home to a small study group on a Thursday evening. Last year she used some funding to provide a time of socialization for her group, with a pre-Christmas barbeque.

Leanna lives in Queensland and recently became involved

in HOMES OF HOPE; she opens her home for an evening of fellowship. As well as sending her own invitations she asked other church members to come and invite their non-Christian friends. Through this ministry, Leanna has already been able to offer her friendship in a home environment, to a couple who have only recently shown an interest in Christianity and begun attending Church.

Pastor Eddie Erika tells of a church member who visited an acquaintance who was going through a difficult time; subsequently that person became interested in Christianity.

How can people see Jesus in us, if we do not get 'out there' and get to know them? HOMES OF HOPE is an initiative that encourages and facilitates making friends with others in the community. The opportunities are endless.

If you are interested in this program, contact Pr Eddie Erika on <eddieerika@adventist.org.au> or speak with Roselyn at the Conference Office on 03 9264 7777.

STAFF DEPARTING THE VICTORIAN CONFERENCE IN 2009

Tuaine Aporo	Arthur Hudson	Marcus and April Mundall
Mike and Ann Browning	Eric and Monique Johnson	Delia and Atini Nicholas
Tania and Jaques Calais	Colin MacLaurin	Crystal and Shawn Taylor
Graham and Sharon Chapman	Ruben and Ana Morales	Lomani and Sarah Uilou
John and Lyn Denne	Simon and Lorinda Morton	Young do Je

Thank you for all you have done and we wish you all the best as you continue to serve the Lord elsewhere

PASTORAL STAFFING FOR 2009, SOME POSITIONS ARE YET TO BE ANNOUNCED, LABELLED TBA

Ararat, Stawell, Maryborough	Mr Ben Townson	Horsham, Nhill	Mr Andrew Wilson
Ascot Vale	Mr Ainsley Wagner	Hughesdale	TBA
Auburn	TBA	Karen Work	Mrs Nan Myat Kyaw
Bairnsdale, Cann River	Pr John O'Malley	Latin American & Western	
Ballarat, Grevillea	Pr Brian Lawty	Spanish & Springvale	
Bayles, Berwick	Mr David Butcher	Spanish	Pr Miguel Flamenco
Benalla	Mr Peter Hughes	Leongatha, Springvale	Dr Des Potts
Bendigo, Castlemaine	Pr Graham Sutherland / Mr Peter Watts	Lilydale	Pr Darren Croft/ Pr David Erickson Mr Matt Hunter/ Mrs Robyn Stanley
Burwood	Pr Andrew Kapusi/Miss Jody Donovan		
Camperdown, Colac, Hamilton, Portland & Warrnambool	Pr Nikola/Mrs Danijela Trajkov	Lilydale Academy	Pr Darrell Croft - Pr Peter Roennfeldt/ Mrs Chrissie Cooper
Carrum Downs Cook Island & Cook Island	Mr Tuakana Pere	Living Waters	
Carrum Downs Samoan & North Melbourne Samoan	Pr Eddie Erika/Mr Chris Faiumu	Melton, New Life	Pr Peter Roennfeldt
Casey	Pr David Riley/Mr Chris Stanley	Moe, Traralgon	Mr Cristian Copaceanu/ Mr Ben Service
Cranbourne	Dr Denis Hankinson	Mont Albert	Pr Rob Steed
Croatian St Albans, Macedon		Noble Park, Yarra Valley	Dr Harold Waldrip
Ranges & Macedonian	Pr Damir Posavac	North Fitzroy, Preston	Pr Georges Latchman/ Mr Lutini Rimoni
Dandenong Polish	Mr Mariuz Wiecezorek		Pr Loren Pratt/ Mr Greg Pratt
Dareton, Mildura, Redcliffs	Pr Darren Slade/ Mr Luis Bermudez	Northpoint	
East Prahan, Werribee	Pr Hensley Gungadoo	Numurkah, Seymour & Shepparton	Pr Russell Bryan
Echuca, Swan Hill, Wangaratta	Pr Peter Ansell	Nunawading	Pr Trevor Rowe/Pr Rod Anderson
Ferntree Gully & Rowville-Lysterfield	Pr Peter Rollo	Nunawading Asian	Pr Isaac Foo/Mrs Ellen Foo
Frankston, Glenhuntley	Pr Errol de Silva	Oasis	Mr Chris Stanley
Filipino Australian	Mr Mebzar Quinto	Ringwood/Romanian	Mr Michael Mohanu
Gateway	Pr Isaac Foo/Mr Johnny Wong	Robinvale	TBA
Geelong	Pr Frank Boniface, Mr Quinten Liebrandt	Sale	Mr Ian Gilroy
Geelong Hungarian	Pr Andrew Kapusi	Seddon, Westall	Pr Zoran Gajic
Glenroy /Oakleigh/Wantirna		Spotswood	Mr Lutini Rimoni
Polish & Longwarry	Pr Pawel Upstupski	Springvale Sudanese	Mr Gatkouth Chol
Greensborough, Greenvale	Pr Anthony MacPherson	Wantirna	TBA,TBA
Healsville	Pr David Currie	Warburton	Pr Richard Araya-Bishop/TBA
		Warragul	Mr Duane Haora
		Pastor at Large	Pr Stenio Gungadoo

STAFF COMMENCING WITH THE VICTORIAN CONFERENCE IN 2009

MINISTERIAL STAFF	Luis Bermuda	David Riley
Frank Boniface	Jody Donovan	Andrew Wilson
CHAPLAINCY	David Edgren	
ADMINISTRATION	Rob Steed - Ministerial Secretary	
	Sandra England - Schools Development Officer - Curriculum	
	Margaret Fox - Schools Development Officer - Induction/Mentoring	

May God bless and be with you as you join our Conference in service for Him

ADVENTIST SCHOOLS VICTORIA - NEW STAFF 2009

Johnson Alagappan	Gilson College	Susan Mackay	Gilson College
Joe Appadoo	Henderson College	Catherine Mason	Heritage College
Chela Black	NCC	Peter Michalski	NCC
Jennifer Catton	NCC	Isabelle Millien	Heritage College
Camilla Christian	Heritage College	Hayden Petersen	Henderson College
Abby Davis	Gilson College	Ashley Pratt	Gilson College
Jason Davis	Gilson College	Renee Ralph	Edinburgh
Jayne Dold	Gilson College	Jessica St Mart	Heritage College
Peter Egyed	Gilson College	Michael St Mart	Heritage College
Esther Inkster	Henderson College	Daniel Selent	NCC
Meggan James	NCC	Elyse Taylor	Heritage College
Chloe Jaques	Gilson College	Anne-Marie Togafau	Henderson College
Noel Jensen	NCC	Evan Varty	Heritage College
Jody Lawson	Heritage College	Danielle Weiler	Gilson College
Brendan McCarthy	Henderson College	Tim Wilson	Heritage College

HERITAGE COLLEGE FORGES AHEAD



Stuart Barons and Anthony Byrnes

At the conclusion of the school year, Heritage College held an official opening ceremony for its new classroom block and carpark.

This marked the conclusion of the final stage of development for the Narre Warren Campus, which has grown rapidly since establishment in 1999 and now provides Christian education to approximately 400 students from the local community.

Visit the Victorian Conference website for more on this story.

<vic.adventist.org.au>

EVEN THE CHILDREN SHALL LEAD...

The children of Berwick Church welcomed their congregation to Worship with the precious promise of the Son of Man; I came to seek and save that which was lost, and I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am there you maybe also.

The Beginners through to the Young Youth capably conducted the whole program for their Church members, family and visitors. They acted out

Bible Stories and Skits, preached Sermonettes, and presented the Readers Theatre as well as Message in Song.

Their message challenged the congregation with the statement 'Jesus wants to give us a bigger and better plan for our life - an abundant life plan now and an amazing plan for our eternal life,' and concluding with the question "How will you respond when Jesus calls your name?"

Beth Davis



AND A CHILD SHALL TEACH...

"I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Matt 18:3 NIV. Sometimes it takes the eyes of a child to see that part of the Kingdom of Heaven which God gives to us every day.

Maddie was a quirky mix of maturity and childlike innocence, typical of a seven-year-old. And her diamond dove was on the floor of its cage, clearly dying. So of course it was only natural that she would pray for its recovery. Equally natural was my response: to silently pray "God, how are You going to deal with this? The thing is dying! And so will her faith - a little - if You don't do something!"



Several hours into the day, the bird lifted its wilting head off the floor, and struggled to eat. By afternoon, it was back on its perch. A miracle! I thanked God, and then proceeded to find a way to explain to my daughter just why this prayer had been answered. I wanted to preserve her childlike faith so it wouldn't be damaged next time she asked for something, with confidence born of this day's miracle.

Her father was visiting and had witnessed the whole drama. 'That had to be it! I thought in all my maturity. So with the best of intentions I took Maddie aside, and told her that maybe God did this to reach out to Daddy.

In all her childlike innocence, she taught me a lesson that day, as she replied - quite naturally - "Why couldn't God do it just for me?"

If you have a story you would like to share, please send submissions to the assistant editor <scourtney@adventist.org.au>



ADVENTCARE - WHITEHORSE 2008 REFLECTIONS

2008 was a very busy year at AdventCare-Whitehorse, with significant improvement being achieved across many areas of operation. There were several highlights throughout this year, but certainly one of the most memorable came in the form of the Whitehorse Leader Business Awards. AdventCare-Whitehorse was a Finalist in the category of Professional & Community Services for the second year running, and staff member, Elvia Moodie, was nominated for Employee of the Year. An added bonus to being a finalist was the newspaper exposure received, raising our positive profile further within the general community.

The November 2 Fair Day was a huge success, raising more than \$4,300. We were blessed with a beautiful day in spite of the forecast rain and our residents had a lovely time

browsing the stalls, making purchases and enjoying the sausage sizzle. A Jumping Castle, Laughing Clowns (with a prize for everyone) and an interactive Baby Animal Farm were such a hit with the younger ones I am sure we will plan the same in 2009. Funds raised will go towards the purchase of an electric piano for our Rose Wing.

Management and staff have worked diligently toward maintaining a high standard of care for our residents at AdventCare-Whitehorse. We believe the Lord blessed us in 2008. One can sense the happy atmosphere here at AdventCare-Whitehorse, and I would like to thank all those involved for making it the special place it is today. It is my prayer we will continue to uphold our Lord's name, putting Him first as He works with us throughout 2009.

Donna Anderson, Operations Manager

FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM



Danijela Trajkov, Womens' Ministries Director of the Victorian Conference is involved in the 'Homes of Hope' initiative.

"What I am doing, is to get non-Adventist people together during the week. We share a meal first, then sing songs, read the Word of God for about fifteen minutes, and have an open discussion." When she started the group, Danijela had no idea how many would respond to her invitation. "Praise God, that very first night 16 non-Adventists came," she recalls. Danijela's friends cover a range of denominations, ages and nationalities. "But they all have the same spirit, and most of them are searching for something more they couldn't find in their own churches."

One woman brings her friends from her own church and they

love the singing and studies. Another has told Danijela she can't wait to come Thursday nights to see which vegetarian dishes are served.

"I have just one more story," Danijela concludes. "I invited one woman to the group but she didn't come; she was worried about what the people of her own church would say. I have visited her every now and then, just to say 'Hi' and yesterday I was passing by her house when she swung the door open wide, inviting me in to talk. Her husband was there and we visited for about an hour. Then she asked when my group is meeting next - they are both going to come."

Friendship evangelism - what a wonderful tool that in God's hands, has the power to change lives.

For church news, departmental news, interesting stories and events, visit the New-Look site at
vic.adventist.org.au
Your Victorian Conference website

TRADITIONAL TURNS SPACIOUS - WITH HELP

In May, Duane Haora, Bi-Vocational minister for Warragul Church, visited Epauto, located near Port Vila in Vanuatu, to assess the work required for completion of a two-storey, 300 person-capacity church building, estimated to cost \$15,000 AUD.

Warragul Church agreed to help and fund-raising began by cutting firewood to sell at a competitive price. Drouin resident, Michael Verstedden, supplied the timber and machinery needed and the church team was soon inundated with orders.

Tracey Boxhall was able to obtain a contract for delivery of Business Directories to the homes of Drouin and Warragul and with her team, was on the run for a fortnight, delivering the booklets.

Just one week before the Fly'n'Build Team's scheduled departure, only \$12,000 had been raised, however God blessed the expedition and before they left the full amount was pledged.

Construction had already commenced on the project before the team's arrival, however progress was not as advanced as expected. The team laboured long hours in the hot, steamy

climate, completing the Colour-bond roof, installing the mezzanine floor and staircases, placing the block work for the church entrance, and fabricating the window frames and some of the 95 pews.

And if that was not enough, at the end of each day's hard work, Duane went into Port Vila where he conducted an evangelistic program entitled, "The Prophetic Code". The Holy Spirit was at work and at its conclusion, there were eleven requests for baptism and three former members requested re-baptism.

Although the interior of the Church is not quite completed, the Team is satisfied with the results of its effort. The Epauto church members, whose original meeting place had been of typical South-Pacific construction with thatched roof, open sides and not nearly enough room, were very appreciative of the work done to give them a spacious and permanent worship centre.

As so often happens when people reach out to help others, the blessings flow both ways. "This trip was amazing - incredible," exclaimed one of the expedition. "It was an unforgettable experience."



Colourbond Roof at Epauto Church

Warragul Wood Chop

Tracey Boxhall with Business Directory

MAMARAPHA - A COLLEGE OF PRAYER

Mamarapha College is a Bible College established to teach Bible to Indigenous men and women so they can share their faith with their own people. The College constantly strives to make the Word of God a reality in the lives of the students.

"It is important for us to impart God's love in every aspect of College life," says College Registrar, Andrea Warren. "Prayer is a big part of our day: before each day begins, the staff pray for the students and the College activities. Then the staff and students spend time together in daily worship while the lecturers pray with the students at the beginning

of each class. Even throughout the day, you may catch a glimpse of students praying together, or a staff member and a student with heads bowed in some inconspicuous corner of the grounds, office or classroom."

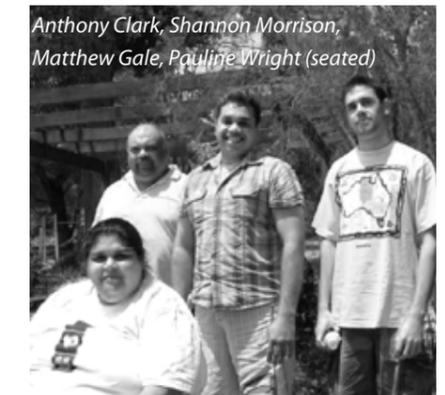
Quite a few of the College students are of other denominations and the results of the seeds that are sown are not always seen. However, as the Bible tells us, "It's

not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow." (1 Cor 3:7).

Mamarapha has been blessed in a mighty way over the last year with six students buried with Christ in baptism. Each of these students personally accepted Christ as their Friend and Saviour and they all possess a great desire to serve their God as He reveals His will for their lives. They are on fire for God and He is bound to continue using them all in a big way. Praise God!

(To read the stories of these six wonderful young people and the difference they are making in their communities, go to the local news section of the Victorian Conference web site <vic.adventist.org.au>

"Because prayer is an essential part of our day here at Mamarapha College, we invite you, the reader, to add us to your prayer list. As our prayers unite, we can be co-workers, following Jesus' commission to "Go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matt 28:19,20



Anthony Clark, Shannon Morrison, Matthew Gale, Pauline Wright (seated)



Students Tracey Saylor and Joy Sampson

THE REDWOOD CENTRE IS 'UP AND RUNNING'

Warburton has its own 'Phoenix' rising from the 'ashes' of the Warburton Adventist School. The premises, now known as the Redwood Centre, are functioning as a community centre.

"The Church needs to become more relevant, to connect with the community and help people in need, particularly with relationships," says Warburton Church pastor, Richard Araya-Bishop, who has a Master of Relationship Counselling. "If relationships don't work out, life doesn't work out either." One couple has in fact attended Warburton Church, but not by invitation - they initiated it because of the connection made through counselling at the Redwood Centre.

October saw the Redwood Centre host a Marriage Enrichment Seminar. Twenty couples attended the program and after a useful presentation and lively discussion, the evening concluded with a candlelight supper. There were many positive responses from those attending, along with requests to make this an annual event. So, stay tuned...



Pr Araya-Bishop presenting the Marriage Seminar

A THOUGHTFUL AND CARING COMMUNITY PROJECT



Counselling, however, is not the only thing on offer at the Redwood Centre.

In November, the Centre hosted the Yarra Valley Ministers meeting where ministers of all denominations got together to discuss the needs of the Yarra Valley community, to support one another in the work they are doing and to reflect on God's leading in the Valley. This was also a great opportunity to showcase the facilities Redwood has to offer.

Pastor John Denne hosted a Spiritual Gifts Seminar in December. He focused on identifying spiritual gifts and using them to build our community. Attendees left feeling inspired and encouraged to be involved, no matter how big or small their talents may seem. A leadership-training seminar, running from January through to April, is now being hosted. The training focuses on preparing people for service within our church and district.

The Redwood Centre has truly been blessed with skilled facilitators and a visionary church community who want to grow together and provide a professional service to The Valley, and beyond.

Kelly Beveridge chose for her community project last year, to put together toiletry packs for people rushed to the Emergency Department of Casey Hospital, after several Bayles church members had the experience of being taken to hospital with nothing but the clothes on their back.

Kelly invited the members to contribute, and was able to make up 25 packs of assorted toiletries.

The Pastoral care person at Casey phoned to show his appreciation, assuring that the packs would get to the right people.

HOME CHURCH RUNS REVELATION SEMINAR



Heather (front) and Ken (back)

Under the clear conviction of God's call, Ken and Heather Raymond moved to Mornington to establish a presence for God's message on the Peninsula. They have covered the total population with Bible cards, encouraged the television advertising of *Search*, and faithfully followed up every contact and lead with DVDs and study guides. They have conducted two 'Dinners with Geoff (Youlden)' in their home and each of these has been followed-up with a series of *Revelation Seminars*. Now they are just completing their third series of these seminars.

"Although their Home Church is small, it is a beautiful fellowship," says their pastor, Peter Roennfeldt. "It is delightful to be part of this fellowship as they read the Scripture, pray for each other and share meals and afternoon teas. Heather bakes the most beautiful cakes and biscuits!"

"I really believe Jesus is coming very soon," says Ken. "We need many more groups of people inviting their neighbors and friends into their homes to worship. This ministry is such a blessing to us."

Both Ken and Heather are passionate about their ministry. In the past they have systematically letterboxed up to 1,000 Bible cards each week. "We are too old to do this now, but we are not giving up," says Heather. Although Mornington Home Church is one of the three church fellowships of Croydon New Life, the Frankston church pastor, Errol de Silva, has given a lot of support - encouraging them, conducting weddings for their contacts and baptizing their interests. "Pastor de Silva, along with the Frankston Church, has offered to help with a major letterboxing campaign being planned by the fellowship for 2009," concludes New Life pastor, Peter Roennfeldt.

COMMUNITY BANKS BACK WARBURTON PATHFINDERS

The Community Youth Leadership Development program at Warburton Church has received a grant of \$3,000 from the Banks in the Upper Yarra Community. These funds have been assigned toward the purchase of new tents for the Pathfinder Club and are needed to assist with the current training emphasis on leadership, community care and self-sufficiency skills for youth of the Upper Yarra Valley.

Max Magee, Director of the Community



Rosemary receives grant from Bank Director

Banks, presented the cheque during a recent Church Service, to the club's leader, Rosemary Waldrip. He commended the Club on its busy schedule of activities as well as its good reputation in the local community, where it is known for challenging the development of responsible community-minded teenagers.

During this morning of celebration, three assistant leaders, Jarrod and Jacinta Knight and Ashleigh Knight, were awarded the Master Guide. Warburton Pathfinder Club has been operating for 50 years and in 2008, although one of the smaller Clubs in Victoria, it was recognised as being one of the most successful.



Congratulations Warburton!

'DINE IN STYLE' SOUP KITCHEN

We usually think of soup kitchens as somewhere needy people are served a cup of soup and a hotdog. But how about a hot three course meal, non-alcoholic bubbly and live entertainment?

That is exactly what happened on the night of December 20 last year.

For a number of years members of several Eastern suburban churches have been preaching with their pots and pans, cooking up meals for the homeless who attend the soup kitchen in Croydon. Adventist groups from Yarra Valley, Ringwood, Lilydale and Burwood take care of the Saturday nights and as Burwood is rostered on the third Saturday of each month, it hosts a Christmas Dinner each year.

Sam Arulanandam, one of the coordinators, is very keen to involve as many people as possible and sometimes brings along his Hindu friends to help. This year a family from the Baptist Church, as well as singers from the Polish Adventist community, and Oasis Sing!, a singing ministry group from The Oasis, assisted Burwood while food

and drinks were donated by Sanitarium and Get Fresh.

"I see the soup kitchens as a wonderful way to bring people from different stations in life and different religions together," says Sam, who is hoping to grow this ministry further in 2009.

The location for the Christmas Dinner was a hall behind the Council-owned kitchen. It was decorated to provide a festive and welcoming atmosphere and brightly wrapped gifts were given to each of the guests. Pastor Andrew Kapusi, minister for Burwood, asked a blessing on the food, and gave a brief talk about how God sees us all as equals, no matter what our circumstances. The music was inspirational and one guest, who is unable to speak, was so enthused, he got up and began conducting while another guest danced.

Everyone involved received an incredible blessing of purpose as they served Jesus, and through His eyes were able to see the homeless as their equals, children of God, paid for with the same exorbitant price.

If you would like to be involved in the expansion of this work, call Sam on 03 9802 2529.



Dancing to the music



Enjoying the meal

ALPHA AT NORTHPOINT

Northpoint Church recently hosted the Alpha Course, a basic program on the Christian faith, exploring the meaning of life. Originating in the Church of England, many denominations from around the world offer variations of this program.

The Dinner held on the first night saw 57 people in attendance and for the remaining nine nights, the numbers present never dipped below 22.

"Those attending have definitely been brought closer to the Lord," reports Loren Pratt, pastor for Northpoint. "One couple we invited had previously attended Mark Finley's program and made a commitment for baptism. Sadly, at that time they changed their

minds. After coming to the Alpha Course, they are re-encouraged and now attend church regularly. Another gentleman had come to church a few times and following the Alpha program was baptised in December. He attends regularly now."

Greg Pratt, assistant minister at Northpoint tells of one lady who came who now feels very favourably towards the Church and has joined a cell group. He agrees that the spiritual tone of the church has lifted, and attributes much of this to Alpha. "This was an excellent program bringing in great results."

At its conclusion, all were strongly encouraged to join a cell group. "We at Northpoint will certainly be running Alpha again," states Pastor Loren.

ADRA OPPORTUNITY CENTRE CONTRIBUTING TO BAIRNSDALE COMMUNITY

With a successful trading year behind it, the 'Op Shop', located at Bairnsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church's premises, was able to present a cheque for \$1000 to Leanne Jennings, coordinator of Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House. In addition, the House also received boxes of bathroom supplies which had been collected by members of the church, for distribution amongst the farming community during this stressful time.



Marie Fitzclarence (left) presenting cheque Leanne Jennings

Prior to Christmas, the church was also pleased to be able to contribute to the community, with its presentation of "The Bethlehem Way". Despite inclement weather, friends and neighbours turned up to "walk the Way", which departed at fifteen minute intervals and concluded with refreshments. Bairnsdale Church is planning a similar event for next Christmas. *Joffre Gilchrist*



CHRISTMAS 2008 AT THE BARN

On Christmas Day the Melton Seventh-day Adventist Church brightened the lives of 21 residents from the community who have been doing it tough. It was one of the best Christmas days ever for the 15 helpers who volunteered their time as the blessings flowed both ways.

"People came alone, but no one was lonely," said Pam Paterson, one of the church leaders and organizers. "Everyone was relaxed. It didn't have the feel of charity, we were just a family, sharing Christmas together!"

Along with a beautifully presented meal, there was carol singing led by Robin and Sarah Rose, special music performed by Cleeve House, and gifts for each person. These included

MUSIC AT BAYLES

A large basket of brightly wrapped gifts enhanced the monthly visit and music program that members of Bayles Church gave to residents and staff of Killara Nursing Home in Koo Wee Rup last December.

In the Church's special Christmas/Visitors Sabbath program on December 20, "The Three Wise Men" sang their hearts out, while the young women did their part beautifully. The newborn babe, cast for the role in the manger, was unable to attend, so the understudy was bought in as her father and



Darren and Kayla watch baby Madison

big sister watched on.

Pam Wiwysyk, program organiser, encouraged church members to contribute to a food package put together for a needy family from the local Primary School. Later the nine bags of groceries and a bag of gifts were delivered to the family of five who were amazed and so grateful for the generosity of the church family.



Pam Wiwysyk, Evelyn Charles with groceries

a Search DVD, a small book by Mark Finley, and some choice chocolates and other special delicacies. "Each gift bag was individual and special," commented Barry Eales, church Elder.

Guests remarked that 2008 was better than 2007. One young person helping, said it was "Pretty cool!" and everyone agreed they had made new friends. "This has helped the church at Melton gain respect for God's values of compassion, humility and service to their community," observes pastor and church planter, Peter Roennfeldt. "It's an annual event, Christmas at the Barn, and we have more people wanting to become involved in 2009."

Pr Peter Roennfeldt

Longburn Adventist College INAUGURAL HOMECOMING

This Easter (April 10-12) Longburn will host a Homecoming focusing on the era from 1908 to 1959, and invites all alumni (from any of these years) and their family to attend this joyous occasion.

Included in the weekend program will be a Sunday Reunion Lunch and an Official Homecoming Photo (costs included in the registration fee).

For more information and for registration, please contact the Heritage Room, Longburn Adventist College, PO Box 14001, Longburn, 4866, New Zealand, email on <lac100@lac.school.nz> or phone NZ(06)355 1350



DOCTOR WALDRIP HELPING OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN MONGOLIA



Dr Harold Waldrip is planning a trip to Mongolia and is looking for people who wish to be involved. Invited by the Mongolian Mission President, Pastor Paul Kotanko, formerly a Nunawading Church member, Dr Waldrip will be facilitating a Health Professionals Training Program in Diabetes Management, which is very prevalent there. Approximately 50 people will be involved, including Doctors and Diabetes Educators and Dr Waldrip will share with them what Australian authorities are now doing in the area of Prevention and Education.

They will be working on developing dietary guidelines and training programs for people with Diabetes, as well as Health Promotion Activities for educating the community.

So where do you fit into this plan? Dr Waldrip is hoping to raise funds so he can purchase 100 new blood glucose monitors for the Mission. They retail for approximately \$65 and he would love to hear from you if you would like to help.

Payments can be made through your local church treasurer, or you could call Harold on 03 5967 1272 for more information.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Melbourne Try-athlon is a big annual event. Held at the Catani Gardens in St Kilda, this year's event will take place on Sunday February 22, and event organisers are looking for volunteers for the HELP TEAM.

Our volunteer HELP TEAM provides necessary operational assistance to ensure the event runs smoothly. However, the KEY goal of the HELP TEAM is to ensure that the kids receive clear instructions and are as safe, confident and relaxed as possible to achieve their best.

Volunteers must be 16 years of age, or older. Because they will be working with children, it would be helpful if the volunteers who are not employed by the Adventist Church organisation, provide us with the name and phone number of their church pastor for a quick reference.

Time is of the essence and we will need to be notified by email this Monday, February 16 if you are interested in helping. CONTACTS - David.Martin@sanitarium.com.au; (02) 4348 7705 or - Sharyn.Brady@sanitarium.com.au;(02) 4348 7697

'CURRY LUNCH' SUPPORTS HEALTH VAN IN TASMANIA

The caravan, established in 1995, is owned by the Launceston Seventh-day Adventist Church. It has assisted over 5000 people from the Tasmanian community to have free health assessments: height, weigh and blood pressure measurements and a questionnaire which enables the staff of the caravan to be able to advise people on ways to reach a healthier lifestyle.

Adults who complete the health assessment also receive a show bag containing breakfast cereal samples and literature on health, donated by Sanitarium.

Like Indian food? Want to support the work done through this Health Van? Join us for lunch at 12.30 on Sunday March 15, 2009. Talbort Rd Action Centre, 123 Talbort Rd, King Meadows, Victoria.

For more information or to reserve your place (tickets cost \$25 each) contact: Pr. Ken Mead on 03 5964 6653; Peter & Helen McKay on 03 6330 1763; or Sam Arul on 0419 421 702.



TRUST SERVICES

TO HAVE A
* * WILL * *
PREPARED FOR YOU

Book through Reception
at the Conference Office
on (03) 9264 7777

Pr Ian Royce can assist you



in the preparation of a Will

however

APPOINTMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL

If you would like an
appointment on a **Sunday**,
the next opportunities are:

**Sunday FEBRUARY 15, 2009 at
the Victorian Conference Office,**

**Sunday MARCH 29 2009 at
Lilydale Church
or**

**Sunday MAY 17, 2009
at the Victorian Conference Office**
This is a free and confidential
service available to church members

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Caleb James was born to
Timothy and Wendy Pope
on August the 5th 2008.*

Tejina Gatkuoth Chol
was born October 7,
2008 to Gatkuoth and
Nydeeta



*Asher Richard Wolfe, born 6
December 2008 at 6 am, to
Leighton and Rachel Wolfe,
Warrandyte, Victoria.*

Eligh Joseph was born to
Matthew and Daffodil
BEATY
on December 15, 2008.



*Henry Gurijs Campbell was
born to our minister, Matt
HUNTER and his wife Lauren
on January 13, 2009.*

CONFERENCE OFFICE NOTICES

BENDIGO TRINITY SEMINAR: GETTING TO KNOW OUR TRIUNE GOD

Saturday, February 28, 9.30am-4.30pm @ The Bendigo Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Peter Roennfeldt, Associate Ministerial Secretary of the Victorian Conference, will present four topics in this GETTING TO KNOW OUR TRIUNE GOD SERIES.

Getting to Know God - The Divinity of Jesus - The Holy Spirit in the Old & New Testament - The history of the Trinitarian View of God (in Christianity & Adventism)

You are invited to visit Bendigo for the day - to participate in this study. A midday fellowship meal will be provided by the local churches. For more details contact Bendigo pastor, Graham Sutherland on 0439 355 987.

CHURCH PLANTING TEAMS TRAINING 2009:

Working from Living Waters and New Life (Revive) church plants Peter Roennfeldt will be facilitating the teaching of Church Planting 101 for new planting core teams - planting community, café or Simple Churches etc. Teaching will be done using case-studies and involve key planters from around Melbourne. Those doing the training must be in teams, with a minimum of 4 people. Each participant is to read the book of Acts in the week before the first weekend of training, and teams are to commit to the full schedule of training and coaching.

March 20-22 (west - Living Waters Community Church, 450 Taylors Road, Taylors Hill)

March 27-29 (east - New Life (Revive), Surrey Road, Croydon)

All participants must register. If there is sufficient interest Church Planting 201 (for those core teams who have been planting for a year); and, Church Planting 301 (for those planters/churches multiplying networks/movements) will also be offered.

For more details on the full schedule of training, times, costs and coaching opportunities - please contact Peter Roennfeldt by email: <peter@newlife.com>

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

How can God use me in His work? How do I excel in leadership, as a woman? Women's Ministries is conducting a training seminar for women of all ages. Held at the Conference Office Chapel, 141 Central Rd Nunawading, on Sabbath March 14 from 3.30 - 6.30, tea provided, and Sunday March 15 from 9.30 - 4pm, lunch provided.

To book, call Jenni de Silva on 02 9264 7710 or <jdesilva@adventist.org.au> or Danijela Trajkov on 0423 371 841 or <dtrajkov@adventist.org.au>

Bookings will be taken up until March 6.

SINGLES EASTER CAMP

This year's Easter Camp for singles will be convened at Yarrahapinni, the theme being 'God's logic - exploring the Character of God'. For more information, contact Peter Cousins on 02 4944 3212 or <petercousins@adventist.org.au>

RETIRED WORKERS' FELLOWSHIP

A Coach Trip to Halls Gap and Sovereign Hill, Ballarat, is being organised for late March 09.

Please call to register your interest.

Ken Killoway - 03 9801 8986; Ken Knight - 03 5966 5147; or

Arthur Johnson - 03 5967 1914

UPCOMING CONFERENCE EVENTS

February 21	AUC attendance survey
February 28	Bendigo Trinity Seminar
March 1	ABC open day 1-4 pm
March 7	Women's Ministries International Day of Prayer
March 14,15	Women's Ministries Leadership training Program
March 20-22;27-29	Church Planting team training.
April 5	ABC open day 1-4 pm
April 9-13	Singles Easter Camp
	Youth Easter Camp

Evangelism

Bible Boot Camp Mar.23 - Apr.10 Three week intensive training to confidently share our 28 key beliefs with anyone.

Bible Worker Cert. Feb.20 - Sept.20 To inspire and prepare you to lead people to Christ through personal & public evangelism. A thoroughly practical course that includes Bible Boot Camp, giving Bible studies, Public Speaking, Daniel & Revelation, SDA History, Role of the Spirit of Prophecy, LE Work, Final Events, etc. and practicum with Evangelism Dept. of NNSW Conference.



Intro. to Health Evangelism

Feb.20 - Mar.20 Covers the fundamentals of personal and public health evangelism, & includes hydrotherapy, natural remedies, health talks, etc.

Health Worker Cert. Feb.20 - Sept.20 Expands on the Intro. course, providing challenging classes and experiences that includes Bible Boot Camp, Bible subjects, hydrotherapy, massage, natural remedies, community outreach, etc. and plenty of practical experience. Includes nationally recognised Cert. IV in Presenting Community Health Education Programs.



Eastward is a supportive ministry of the SDA Church

Training
 Info: Rod Bailey 02 6585 8085
 info@eastward.edu.au
 www.eastward.edu.au



MELBOURNE SUNSET TIMES

FEB	FRIDAY	SAT
14		20:20
20,21	20:13	20:12
27,28	20:04	20:02
MARCH		
6,7	19:54	19:52
13,14	19:44	19:42
20,21	19:33	19:31
27,28	19:22	19:21
APRIL		
3,4	19:12	19:10
10,11	18:02	18:00

Sunset at Bairnsdale is
10 minutes **earlier**
and at Hamilton, 12 minutes **later**.

ACCOMMODATION NOTICES

Rooms are available for single adults, preferably female, to share a fully furnished house with three or four others. Alternatively this could be a comfortable home for a Christian family requiring accommodation. A homely house with a large lounge room and beautiful garden, it is located in a peaceful street in Wattle Park, close to public transport. Reasonable rent. For more information call 0418 365 888.

Room is available in a newish and spacious unit in Bayswater. Male and female already live in unit and seeking another person (male or female). Unit is 10mins walk from Bayswater train station and bus stop is at the end of the street. Unit is fully furnished and has a garage. Bedroom is unfurnished but has a built in wardrobe. We are looking for an easy going, friendly, clean person between the age of 20-30 years old. To find out more please call me on 0408 781 388. Pictures can be sent via email and/or inspections upon request.

INTRAVIC DATES FOR 2009

**COPY DEADLINE - 10TH OF JAN, MARCH, MAY, JULY, SEPTEMBER, NOVEMBER
IN CHURCHES BY -2ND SABBATH OF FEB, APRIL, JUNE, AUG, OCT, DEC**

Editor: Pr Denis Hankinson : **Submissions to Assistant Editor:** Sherrie Courtney
PO Box 215, Nunawading, 3131, <scourtney@adventist.org.au> or 03 9264 7777

The Editor reserves the right to edit and include or exclude any article from publication. Articles not included due to lack of space may be included in a future issue or placed on the Church website. The Editor also reserves the right to exclude Ads or Notices after just one issue.

Please note, **commercial advertising** is not published in Intravic. Only accommodation notices, if accompanied with a reference from Local Pastor.

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

Bible verses are from various versions which may include NIV, JIV, NJJV & Clear Word.

Cover: Jason Bradshaw & Yoke Design (adapted)

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

Saturday's 11am & 7pm
Poduck Lunch

CHRIST in ALL the SCRIPTURE

on going
throughout
2009

SDA Church
Wynnstay Road
Prahran (Melways 58 H7)

2009 Christ in All The Scriptures - Feb - Apr...

28TH FEB. 5pm *Classical Sacred
Music Concert* 7TH MARCH 11am
& 2pm Dr Desmond Ford
*Christ in the Pentateuch & Historical
Bks* 07 54927447 jasperf@
bigpond.net.au

28TH MARCH 5pm
Contemporary Sacred Music Concert

25TH APRIL 11am & 2pm
Laurie Landers *Christ in the
Poetic Books*

02 60233287 pastor@
alburysdachurch.org.au 51
Grandview Tc Albury 2640

ADRA AUSTRALIA PROVIDES FREE WALL CALENDAR

Upon request only, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia is providing a free 2009 wall calendar.

The calendar, which features photos of ADRA Australia's work and inspirational Bible verses about God's heart for the poor, is available for free to individuals or for church distribution by calling 1800 242 372 or e-mailing <adra.info@adra.org.au>.

To reduce costs and wastage, the calendar will not be distributed within RECORD magazine as in previous years.

60's Plus Retreat

Adventist Alpine Village - Jindabyne



20 - 23rd February 2009

Contact the AAV on 02 6456 2738 for info.

We invite you to come up to the mountain to worship our Maker at a special 60s Plus Retreat. Bring a spouse or a friend. Either way, plan now to be there. Guest speaker - John Hammond.

Summer
CHOSEN
for a
PURPOSE

CAMP '09
CHOSEN
to
SERVE

vicYouth
inspirational ministries

Activities



Praise



Prayer

