Beneath the surface...

How can anyone put his faith in Christ if he’s never even heard about Him? How can he hear about Him if no one tells?

Romans 10:14 (Clear Word)
One could argue that the June long weekend being in Winter and all is perhaps the better weekend for an overnight hike but you know what you need to do to prepare your team and yourself in a cool climate and totally safe...

But this did not stop about 450 Pathfinder, staff and volunteers from gathering together in the Whroo State Forest for this fabulous weekend of adventure and team building where our young people are pushed to the limit and rise to the occasion...

Fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out.

Don’t become so adjusted to your culture that you fit in without even thinking...

Fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out.

Like the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out in you, developing a well-formed maturity in you...

This is part three of our series on how the different departments here at the Conference Office contribute to the life of the local church and in so doing, contribute to our Church’s mission.

How the Education Department contributes should be self-evident, one would think - it educates our children - and it does so to a high standard of excellence. But our school system is about much more than curriculum and you will see as you read, how it contributes to church life through our young people, and beyond our own, to the wider community.

Mention VicYouth and I imagine many of you think Summer Camps, and Youth Rallys... perhaps Pathfinders and StormCo. But peel back the layers of physical challenge, social gatherings, service opportunities and camps and you will come to the core of what VicYouth is about - mentoring and enabling our young people to become fearless leaders for Christ. To become tomorrow’s leaders in our churches - or even in today’s, if we would let them.

This issue also looks at Trust Services, a free and confidential service offered to our members, their friends and family, which people may not be aware of, and at Human Resources, an area which has undergone significant development to assist our ministers as they serve in the local churches.

Wayne Stanley
Have you ever been asked this or pondered it yourself? As Christians we believe the Bible is bursting with relevance, yet are we sometimes guilty of seeing some sections as more important, more crucial and relevant than others... and questioning its total relevancy in a modern world?

George Santayana once said “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it” and I believe that if we emphasize one section of the Bible over another, we risk doing just that. But take Leviticus – this book can’t be relevant anymore can it? Jesus did away with all of that when He died on the cross... didn’t He? Sometimes we may think that God has changed; different now than He was in Old Testament times. But the truth is God doesn’t change. In Hebrews 13:8 we are told “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” The gospel is the same, as is the message of salvation, from Genesis right through to the end of Revelation, and there is so much more depth and meaning to be discovered in the New Testament when you have an understanding of the Old.

There are actually a lot of beauty in the Old Testament books. Again, take Leviticus. I find the Tabernacle fascinating, especially the way humans were invited to connect with God. Originally this came natural to us - Adam and Eve literally walked with God in the Garden of Eden – no barriers. However once they disobeyed and sin entered their world, there came a separation between themselves and God; a physical, emotional and spiritual barrier.

Today we feel this separation. For every time you have felt the presence of God, how many times have you felt distant? Or questioned His existence? Or wondered where He was when something horrendous happened?

And we struggle with our faith. It is not that we do not want to believe but it seems we have an inclination to disconnect. The good news is that God is always open to our efforts to connect with Him, willing to dwell in the centre of our lives.

Fresh from Egypt, the Israelites needed help in understanding God’s plan for salvation and the role of the Messiah, and as they traversed the desert, God set out a specific way for His people to connect with Him – a way which is relevant to us today.

“Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.” It is here in Exodus chapter 25 we find the first details of what God wanted His people to construct. Very specific measurements and instructions were given on how everything was to be made and set up.

There are six main elements that make up the tabernacle - the fence, gate, bronze altar, laver, the area known as the Holy Place with its curtain, lamp stand, table of bread and altar of incense and finally the Most Holy Place with the ark where God’s presence would rest. Each element is filled with meaning and reveals something about God.

He is a God of details and there was a process that had to be followed. To connect with Him you had to choose to enter through the gate. You approached the bronze altar and offered a sacrifice as you sought God’s forgiveness and atonement for your sins. Symbolically representing your approach to God, the priest would undergo cleansing at the laver before entering the Holy Place. There, the lamp stand was shining, with the table of showbread displaying your thankfulness for God’s provision and the smell of incense filling the air as your prayers rose to heaven.

God’s dwelling with His people is central to the tabernacle symbology. He dwells in the tabernacle so that his people can sense their nearness to Him. The entire camp of Israel was set out in a particular way and the tabernacle was always at its centre. He was always there. It was the sins and impurities of the people keeping them from Him, polluting the tabernacle and requiring continual cleansing through the sacrifices.

In Hebrews we read that the sacrifices of the old system were repeated over and over, year after year, but never provided perfect cleansing for they were merely a shadow of the things to come – an imagery of the things Christ would do, not the reality.

The way of the tabernacle was not final. It was never meant to last forever, rather it was used for a time to help people connect with God. It’s time has passed, yet sometimes it seems that God was more available, more real and visible when He was hidden in a tent than He is now.

Just before Easter an article appeared on news.com.au which asked “Is Australia a godless nation?” It started by declaring that “80% of Americans believe in God, comparing it to Australian statistics of around 15%, among the lowest in the world, and while no American President has been elected unless he were a Christian, Julia Gillard is the 5th Australian Prime Minister to admit to not believing in God.

Bob Katter was quoted as saying something interesting... “There are plenty of politicians who piously pray in Canberra and go off to Christian breakfasts, who are then asked to make a stand for their fellow man on an issue and they turn their backs on Australians who need help. I’d rather have an atheist who looks after his mates than someone paying lip service to Christianity.”

If we take a look around, it does seem like God is fairly absent from our society and sometimes atheists behave in a more Christ-like manner than professed Christians. What has happened to our connection with God?

As interesting as the tabernacle model is, the reality it was depicting - Jesus entering our world as a man and His sacrifice - is much better. God made us in His image and to live in relationship with Him. The tabernacle was the place where the Israelites came to seek forgiveness, to atone for their sins and to reconnect with God. Jesus has been our sacrifice, He has atoned for our sin and He offers connection with God through Him. He is our High Priest and His actions removed the need for those sacrifices. He removed the tent - the curtain that separated the Holy and Most Holy Places was torn in half when He died symbolizing that the system had moved to the next stage, that part of the separation no longer existed.

Hebrews 9:23-24 So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that great, perfect sanctuary in heaven, not made by human hands and not part of this created world.

Once for all time He took blood into that Most Holy Place, but not the blood of goats and calves. He took his own blood, and with it he secured our salvation forever.

Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow could cleanse people’s bodies from ritual defilement.

But just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our hearts from deeds that lead to death so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.

The practices of the tabernacle are no longer needed but the process for us is basically still the same. There is still a physical separation between God and ourselves - like the fence. We still need to choose to approach Him, to seek Him - like entering at the gate. There is still only one way to salvation and that is through sacrifice, but now, it is through Jesus Christ’s sacrifice.

We still need to acknowledge our sins, and bring them before God, like the Israelites did when placing their sacrifice on an altar. We need to be cleansed by the word of God, as the priests were cleansed at the laver, and filled with the Holy Spirit.

Then we can enter the ‘Holy Place’ as we come to Him, recognising His light, offering ourselves, giving thanks, seeking help and guidance and communicating with Him.

It is through this process that our sins which continually pollute our lives are forgiven and we receive God’s mercy and enter His presence.

God is still active and working today, and His plan for us is simple - He came, He died, He saves. We come, we connect, we live.

Take this opportunity to access your connection with God. Have you been walking through that wide, open gate? Or are you stuck looking at the fence? Jesus is waiting for you, He has made the sacrifice and He wants to dwell with you.

"I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." John 8:12

Jody Eddy, Associate Pastor Burwood Church
In 2010, Adventist Schools Australia introduced a new Biblical Studies curriculum. The roll out of this Adventist Encounter Curriculum to all primary and secondary school levels is expected to be completed by 2014. Taught by our teachers and supported by chaplains in each of our schools, the main purpose of this program is to encourage students to make decisions for God and to commit their lives to Him.

ON-CAMPUS CHURCHES
Our schools and on-campus churches are very committed to providing programs outside regular school hours to support the programs operating within schools. In 2009, there was only one on-school campus church. Over the last four years this has increased to three - Gilson College, Heritage and Nunawading Christian College. Edinburgh Adventist Primary School periodically runs a community kids’ church. Regular Friday night programs are also offered in our two largest schools (Gilson College & Heritage College) and these two schools also have a growing Pathfinder program open to all students. With the demise of traditional church communities in our society the majority of our school families see our schools as providing a sense of community. Having these on-campus churches and church programs provides an avenue for them to try church in a nonthreatening way.

SCHOOL SERVICE TRIPS
Service and Mission trips have become an integral part of our schools’ programs with all secondary schools taking part in annual visits to places such as Vanuatu, Burma, Thailand and Nepal. These service trips not only develop leadership and team skills but invariably create a compassion for those people who don’t live the privileged life so often taken for granted by the western world, and have an impact on how those participating approach their lives subsequently.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE
To support our teachers as they strive for teaching excellence we provide strong professional learning pathways. Teacher professional learning is provided through Australian Government initiatives, such as the Australian Government Quality Teacher Program and the Smarter Schools National Partnerships Program, as well as our own annual conference (ASVAC) and other system-provided opportunities. Our programs have a strong emphasis on ensuring our Church’s values are central to our education.

We see it as vital that we continue to employ and support excellent teachers and teaching practice. To support best practice in our schools, the Company employs an outstanding Learning and Teaching Development Officer.

IT & eLEARNING
In 2011 the Board of Directors approved the funding for ICT support in Learning & Teaching and an upgrade of IT infrastructure in all schools. This provided teachers with laptops, students with learning devices such as iPads and schools with wireless networks. This year a specialist eLearning consultant was engaged to assist the Learning and Teaching Development Officer in developing and implementing an eLearning program to compliment the introduction of mobile technology devices such as iPads.

INDUCTION & MENTORING
With the increase in size of our schools we now cater for a growing number of graduate teachers. The development of an excellent Induction & Mentoring process has been ongoing and continues to be refined to support our graduates and give them the confidence they need to flourish in their careers.

SCHOOL FACILITIES
In recent years, largely supported by various Australian Government grants and external loans, our schools have been able to undergo significant improvements, creating a better educational environment, meeting the changing needs of education today, and developing facilities which are more attractive to our local communities whom we wish to serve. Educational and sporting facilities have been improved, multipurpose gymnasia built with benefit both to the schools and the Church and grounds have been beautified, increasing the ‘street appeal’ of the schools. In addition, late last year Adventist Schools Victoria purchased the Acacia College, creating the Mernda Campus of Gilson College.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE
We anticipate significant and sustained growth over the next few years, estimating that by 2015, the number of ASV employees will have increased from 250 to 350. It is our desire to continue our journey in creating a network of high quality Adventist Christian schools within Victoria for the benefit of our church families and the wider community, and to do so, adequately meeting the needs of such growth as well as dealing with the associated increase in operating costs and income, ASV has taken on more system office personnel, who were introduced to you in a previous edition of IntraVic.

These additions have included a Commercial Director, Human Relations Officer; a Work Health & Safety Officer and an Assistant Accountant. The purchase of the new property within the Northern growth corridor was an exciting development and we plan to continue to expand our presence in other areas in ensuing years. We will continue to search for strategic property on which to establish Foundation to Year 12 schools in growing areas such as the Wyndham (Werribee) and Goulburn-Torquay growth corridors.

To help fulfil the mission of our Church we need to work closely in mutually beneficial church-school partnerships. We have - not just at our doorsteps but within our schools - students and families who are searching for answers about life and its meaning. They are looking for community, a place to belong.

This is our ‘mission field’ where we choose to invest our rewarding journey. The ASV Team led by Brian Mercer.

Our desire is for Jesus to be at the heart of all aspects of our work.
love of Christ lives, sometimes need a few days in the outdoors, away from the bombardment as they are with the daily noise and busyness of their lives. The young adults that attend, camps which operate on a somewhat less intense basis but provide the same opportunity to mentor and encourage the young leaders who volunteer their time playing with and caring for the campers.

We intentionally built a spiritual culture within our camps and everyone involved knows that the activities they participate in during the day are all a part of their spiritual journey, where the principles and values taught are exercised through the day. What is more, these camps do not just cater to our own children; each experience. Studies have shown that of those who grew up in an Adventist home, a higher percentage of adults who have been through Pathfinders as children remain in the church and have a strong faith in God. Not only that, but our young people experience the benefit as they are first mentored by older club members, and then become mentors as they advance through the ranks and ultimately, young leaders themselves.

Pathfinders is a ministry within our churches that we should embrace, supporting those who are a part of it because it is contributing to the life and growth of our church. Pathfinders has also experienced significant growth over the last few years and our support team is being stretched to its limits and we must grow the team to be able to better support our local churches and schools who are now starting clubs.

STORM CO & MISSION TRIPS
Service To Others Really (does) Matter and one of the most powerful faith developing mediums anyone can engage in, is serving someone else. VicYouth endeavours to provide opportunities for young people to engage in service projects whether that be through StormCo, or international service trips. While these trips are obviously designed to help others, they contribute significantly to the faith development of those involved – putting faith into action consolidates that faith. We wish to encourage every young person to get involved in one of these projects and are excited to see a few more of our churches taking on a town in Victoria as their partner for a StormCo experience. We are also seeing the growth in local churches going abroad with a team on a service trip. When we serve and work together we create a family and community-like gathering.

TRAINING & EQUIPPING
To better equip our young people for life as a Christian, VicYouth believes it is essential to equip and enable the youth leaders in our churches. We strive to build confidence within local leadership, making them aware of their responsibilities and what is expected of them, with training and workshops as well as necessary resources being made available.

IN CONCLUSION THEN...
The Youth Department exists to support the work of the local church, providing platforms for equipping, networking, empowerment, service, worship and gathering of the young! In all of its activities, the core focus is to connect those involved with Jesus Christ, with the hope that as they have encountered the power of the One, they will then individually accept the call to discipleship and lead other young people to Him.

This is our core business! It is an honour to serve the amazing young people we have in this Conference and we pray that we, as a Conference and as individual churches, invest in them, the return will be beyond anything any of us can envision or wish for - according to the power of the One working through our efforts (Ephesians 3:20).

We need to release our young to let them lead! They are gifted and passionate about their God, and it may not be within the framework we know or are comfortable with, but we can tell you we are experiencing a rise of powerful young men and women willing to participate with Jesus in building His Kingdom. I fear the only thing holding them back may be us. I pray we will intentionally walk alongside them in guidance, affirming and encouraging and speaking into their lives.

Let us partner with Jesus in discipling young men and women to do likewise, with Jesus’ power and strength.
The largest and most important resource the Church has is its people. Our employees are fantastic assets for our Conference, they are our ‘human resources’ and it is appropriate that we care for and manage them well.

Our denomination chooses to employ our ministers centrally at Conference level, rather than expect each local congregation to manage employment. This has many advantages, including:

- Making sure that local churches don’t break the law or expose themselves to litigation. Employing someone for a job is no longer as simple as telling them what that job is and how much you will pay them to do it. There are laws to consider about tax, superannuation, workplace safety, awards and the minimum you can pay people for a specified type of job, National Employment Standards arising out of the Fair Work Act, privacy, discrimination, working with children and ensuring someone has the right to work in Australia, to name a few.
- Freeing up the local church and its leadership team to focus on ministering to their congregation and community. Local churches still have input regarding the senior pastor appointed to their church, but the local church is freed from having to spend valuable time and effort on employment matters.
- Enabling even the very small churches and congregations to have a pastor.
- Providing policies to all our employees so they are treated equitably and fairly.
- Centralising human resources expertise rather than expecting every local church to be an expert in this area.
- Drastically reducing the number of reports local churches have to write. Local churches have to write few.
- Providing an avenue that is separate from the local church for ministerial employees to take their employment concerns and issues.
- Ensuring ministers meet our ongoing professional development expectations, and offering or facilitating training rather than expecting local churches to do it.
- Having access to a wide pool of suitable people to consider for ministerial positions.
- Providing assistance to local churches in training our young people through the Youth Pastoral Worker (YPW) mentoring and training program.

The Victorian Conference employs around 120 ministry (ministers, interns, lay ministers, YPWs), administration and departmental staff in full or part-time capacity. In addition there are office, Howqua and other support staff.

It was once expected that the Victorian Conference General Secretary manage all employment matters. However, due to the size of our Conference and its entities, 21st century compliance and reporting requirements, church member expectations and employment obligations, the Conference decided to employ dedicated human resources (HR) personnel. In mid-2008 the Victorian Conference employed its first (and we believe the first for any Australian conference) HR Coordinator, reporting to the General Secretary. We also hire an HR Advisor for assistance with staff on Awards.

So, what does my job entail and what do I do?

Apart from undertaking the employment related work mentioned in the list above, my day-to-day job includes:

- Regularly giving HR advice and guidance to Conference Administration, either individually or collectively.
- Inductions informing new employees, inducting them into Victorian Conference employment. Ministerial staff tell us they appreciate the depth and breadth of their induction.
- Inductions give employees the opportunity to ask questions about their employment and expectations. Our inductions are typically one-to-one, last for over two hours and inform the employee about their employment and covers such topics as:
  - the basis of their employment,
  - what their position is and the duties/ work expected of them,
  - how long they’re employed for and on what basis (eg how many hours per week),
  - who or what they are responsible for and who they are responsible to,
  - what and when they’ll be paid,
  - when and for how long they can take holidays,
  - what they should do if they’re sick,
  - who they can talk to if they experience a problem,
  - professional development provided by the Conference,
  - work, professional and personal boundaries guidance,
  - what the culture and expectation of the organisation is, including organisational policies and procedures (as this makes decision making transparent and helps all employees to be treated equally and fairly),
  - employer expectations about ministerial staff managing and modelling work/life balance.
- Ensuring the Conference complies with all state and federal employment law and meets HR reporting (government and church) requirements, and writing relevant HR policies and/or directives as required (aren’t you glad it’s not your local church having to do this?).
- Managing the employment records of all of our employees. This includes the paper files and South Pacific Division electronic files and liaising with payroll, as well as notifying Conference Administration when employment decisions are required.
- Administering the Employee Health and Wellbeing Program. It’s rewarding to hear the individual stories from our staff regarding the positive effects our program has had on their health, their personal lives and their ministry.
- Managing employee return to work after workplace injury. I’m the Return to Work Coordinator for Victorian Conference employees. Thankfully, the Conference entity has a low incidence of injury among our office and field staff.
- Managing all Conference employee leave (eg annual, sick, long service, maternity, study and unpaid leave).
- Liaising with the Department of Immigration regarding the employment of our employees who are on visas. This includes visa applications, which are a lengthy process, and checking employment rights.
- Positively influencing the workplace culture of the Victorian Conference so our employees are engaged, enjoy working for the Conference and can recommend it to others and feel supported in their ministry.

This is by no means an exhaustive list, but hopefully gives a ‘taste’ of what this role has developed into since its inception.

Future directions include improving our HR information systems and employee appraisals. Working for our workers, our “human resources”, is challenging, complex, never ending and rewarding.

We are blessed by our Conference employees. May we bless them in return.

Mrs Karina Gurban
Human Resources Coordinator

THE MOST VALUABLE ASSET IN OUR CONFERENCE... IS OUR PEOPLE

Karina can be contacted on 5464 7515 or karinagurban@adventist.org.au if you would like to discuss any of this with her.
When you donate to a charity or an organisation, you have a pretty good idea what your money will be used for. If you want to know how much goes to organisational structure, how much to the recipients or in what way they benefit, you need to think about who appoints as an executor, develop an understanding of your options and the best way to go about it.

Steve Whitson has been working as the Trust Services Director since 2009, taking over from Pr Ian Royce, who has continued to support Steve with advice and assistance. The Wills are drafted by Trust Services and approved by the Conference lawyers. “It is a privilege to work in this very important area of our Conference,” says Steve, who considers this work for the Conference a ministry of service to church members as he encourages the consideration of scenarios that are threatening, in as non-threatening a way as possible, working through your changing needs to build financial security, protect your loved ones and sustain the causes you love.

The Balolava Medical Clinic

Darrell Wells and Lindsay Borgas recently returned from a trip to Solomon Islands to carry out a couple of upgrades at the Balolava Medical Clinic. The clinic was ‘adopted’ by Wantirna and Warrnambool churches over three years ago.

The two men inspected the premises, held discussions with nearby Sukiki Village Adventists and met with the Solomon Islands Government on future development for Balolava Clinic. They also fitted a system to automatically fill a large bank of solar powered batteries and installed fluoro lights to replace small LED lights.

A cyclone followed them into Honiara and although the adverse weather delayed their return home the tasks for the trip were eventually completed at the remote clinic.

It is 15 years since the Wantirna Warrnambool team upgraded the clinic and, apart from some internal painting required which the local people will attend to, the clinic is in excellent condition. Following the major upgrade back in 2009, it was recommended that two staff houses were urgently needed and with the aid of ADRA Solomon Islands, this project is progressing well and will be complete by the middle of 2013, providing a much needed improvement for the nurses.

The meeting between Darrell and Lindsay and the Government Minister responsible for funding of village facilities went well. The meeting between Darrell and Lindsay and the Government Minister responsible for funding of village facilities went well. They discussed a proposed extension of the clinic, which the Government has been promoting for some time. The Government has allocated funds to help develop a dental clinic, among other services and a doctor will eventually be based at Balolava.

This joint Aid Project has been a great success for Balolava and the surrounding villages, and there is a real connection developing between the local Sukiki Village Adventists and their neighbours.

Here is what Dr. Silent Tovosia said, following the recent trip: “Lindsay and Darrell, it was a blessing for us to have you visit us in Solomon Islands Mission and Balolava Clinic. Sukiki church leaders and the surrounding villages have appreciated very much your determination to fulfil your mission. You have rejuvenated the community’s enthusiasm by visiting.

To the community, Balolava Clinic is so important and it means much that you came all the way to revisit and help where the local community could not do much because of lack of knowledge and skills. Despite the bad weather, you kept to your plans. We all appreciate that. We will pursue the actions that are needed to progress the developments further. Please convey our gratitude to your churches for your continued prayers and support.”

God Bless. Silent.”

Jamie Hegarty

A Cuppa for Cancer

On Tuesday 21 May 2013, Bendigo Un Finished Objects Craft Group, which meets every Tuesday, held our annual Biggest Finished Objects Craft Group, which meets every Tuesday, held our annual Biggest Fundraiser.

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Jamie Hegarty
AN AFRICAN CONNECTION
SWAN HILL

Over the last four years the Seventh-day Adventist Church at Swan Hill has been having an increasingly close connection with the Sudanese Community here. It started when I was visiting homes with the Signs magazine. One of the Sudanese ladies was very happy to receive the magazine and the Search DVD’s. Soon she commenced Bible readings. Then another Sudanese family moved in next door and requested visits. Gradually I began to get to know more and more of the families, helping them in whatever ways I could.

About that time three young men from Lilydale Church decided to give a year of voluntary work in Swan Hill and while here, they started a Sabbath afternoon Kids club. When StormCo came on their next visit we decided to invite the children to come on Sabbath mornings to Church.

Some of the teens and juniors have attended Summer camp the last two years and a Friday night teen group has been formed. Visitations, Bible readings and community programs have all helped to establish many good relationships and increased church attendance here.

Since my wife Rosalie and I moved to Swan Hill, another African connection has been established. The Seventh-day Adventist African community in Melbourne has decided to connect with the African Community here in Swan Hill. They have travelled up twice already, to run special church services for us and make friends in the community. This is set to continue and grow in the coming months. There is talk of soccer games, family picnics and of course, more wonderful church fellowship together.

From Swan Hill we all say a big thank you to everyone who has made such a great effort to come and support the work here. God bless you.

Pr Peter Ansell

RIDING A WILD RIVER
THE ORCHARD

Church planting is not a one man show. Unless you have the right people around you, it will fail. I am extremely grateful to the Lord for the committed lay folk who have been prepared to undergo training and coaching, and who truly appreciate what Jesus Christ has done for them. These people are the backbone of our group, helping with education, Bible and lesson studies, preaching and the various administrative roles of our small church group.

I have been asked many times over the last twelve months about how this church plant in the city is going, and I give them a brief report of successes and failures without attempting to sugar-coat it. I just tell them how it is.

When I began the work it was all uncharted territory for me. I have run evangelistic programs, pastored churches in three states and spent thousands of hours giving Bible studies. But the Melbourne CBD church plant was a new beast altogether! A good analogy could be to liken it to an adventure I enjoyed recently with my family while holidaying in New Zealand.

At the commencement of the two hour adventure on the Kaituna River, where we were to navigate exciting white water rapids and a seven metre waterfall, we were taught the importance of rowing in unison, positioning ourselves and our oars when going through rapids and how to survive the seven metre drop.

Up to the waterfall all went well. At the falls, the roar was deafening. Our guide, in the rear of the raft, barked out instructions but we could not hear him. And then we were in the plunge! The fall took my breath away, and the weight of the raft caused us to completely submerge at the base of the fall. Totally engulfed with water, I recalled some important words - ‘hang on, don’t let go of the life lines,’ and so I did ... for grim deaths ... and after what seemed to have been an eternity we eventually surfaced, gulping air! Being in the front of the raft I looked back to confirm everyone was still on board - which they were. Then the smiles started, and the laughing. Then the hosting. Indissolubly we raised our oars above our heads, and roared blood curdling war cries of victory. But it was not over yet. In danger of being sucked back under the falls, we had to row with all our might and our guide was frantically yelling instructions at us. Recalled to the danger we were in, we rowed - hard. Finally, safe, the interrupted rowing was continued.

The Orchard church plant is like that wild river ride. You are rowing and all is well. Progress is made, the interests are responding. Your team is committed to each other and church is going well. Then you hit the rapids, or the falls. Something unexpected comes up or some of your contacts you had held high hopes were building a relationship with Christ lose interest, never to be seen or heard of again. In these situations, and others like them, all you can do is keep hanging on to Jesus, breathing and working.

But you must keep rowing, not faltering, not giving up! Why? Because others must hear the truth. At The Orchard, we have had modest success but we press on, for there are many people in this great city of Melbourne who want answers and direction - who want to know the truth.

We, at The Orchard, are searching for just such people. Please pray for us, we are small but growing, weak but strong in the Lord... because God is our strength and he is blessing us.

We need musicians and people committed to both learning how to give Bible studies and offering their time to do so. I am blessed with a great team, and we are all strongly committed to the work and to one another. If you want to be part of such a team you are welcome. Go to our website, theorchardmelbourne.org, where you will find out more about us, what we are doing and what you will need to do, to be a part of The Orchard - Melbourne Central City Church.

Elayne Stanford

RETIRED CELEBRATION
FERNTREE GULLY CHURCH

Just over two years ago Pastor Trevor came to Ferntree Gully Church as our shepherd. During this time the members have come to respect and revere him as a man of God. Pastor Trevor has served the Church for 45 years, pastoring at churches in the North NSW, Greater Sydney, North New Zealand and Victorian Conferences.

Twenty years in Victoria have seen him serve in the Warburton, Ringwood, East Prahran, Nunawading, Cook Island, Auburn and currently Ferntree Gully churches.

On April 13th Pastor Trevor, his wife Bronwyn, and two of their three daughters, all of whom are teachers employed in Adventist schools, attended a retirement lunch held in his honour. Chris Simons and Ray Boehm, two of the elders at Ferntree Gully, spoke on behalf of the church, thanking Pastor Trevor for his dedication, understanding and commitment.

It is sad to have to say ‘goodbye’ to a retiring minister, but praise God, that is not the case at Ferntree Gully, as Pastor Trevor will continue as our pastor on a part-time basis.

Pastor Trevor, “we continually remember before our God and Father, your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love ...” 1 Thessalonians 1:3 NIV
A BOUNCING SUCCESS
VIC YOUTH & ADRA

As always, this year’s annual basketball tournament was a bouncing success. With a record number of 34 teams in the draw, there were over 80 games to be played. The organisation and effort involved in this event were massive, and VicYouth and ADRA in Victoria would like to thank the dedicated team, led by Will Tai Tin, who saw the tournament through to completion (no earlier than 12.40am!).

This year the tournament raised over $9,000! This will go towards supporting two Victorian projects. One local - RECON and its work with Stitches. One global - our 2013 ADRA Connections trip to Vietnam.

The night is also always a great way to increase awareness of ADRA and our church in general, amongst participants from diverse and unrelated backgrounds. It’s always a great moment to see the entrance to the stadium filled with such a variety of people, all with their heads bowed for prayer, before jumping straight into the competitive evening.

Congratulations to Skeet Squad (Men’s A), Turbos (Men’s B), Gibson College Crusaders (Men’s C) and Phantoms (Women’s A) on their final victory for the night.

We look forward to seeing the ongoing results made possible by this evening, as well as seeing even more teams joining us in the draw next year.

I know I’ll be playing in 2014 – so long as they create some more (less skilled) women’s divisions!

Sarah Courtney
ADRA Youth Ambassador

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to announce that, endorsed by Adventist Schools Victoria (ASV), members of the Australian Union Conference (AUC) and Victorian Conference executive committees have agreed to the transition of the operational control of Lilydale Adventist Academy from the AUC to ASV by the commencement of 2014.

With the closure of the boarding program in 2007 and the transition of Lilydale Adventist Academy to a school for day students only, the decision to amalgamate the Academy with Edinburgh Adventist Primary School to create an Early Learning to Yr-12 school program under ASV was agreed to be the best step forward in serving the mission of the Church here in Victoria.

I believe this is an exciting step forward for the two schools involved as it brings together resources, facilities and staff within one school system and strengthens our work in the outer eastern region of Melbourne.

Lilydale Adventist Academy has been in operation since 1964 and will celebrate its 50th anniversary in May 2014. Edinburgh Adventist Primary School opened its doors in 2003 with the Early Learning Centre following closely, in 2006.

One of the next steps for the amalgamation process will be to select a name for the school that will bring together both campuses as a new entity without taking away any of the traditional aspects of either school.

Dr Malcolm Coulson, Principal of Lilydale Adventist Academy, and Mr Tim Borgas, Principal of Edinburgh Adventist Primary School, are supportive of the decision to amalgamate and have in fact, already taken the initiative to work in collaboration to implement changes that will build a working relationship between the two school communities.

We look forward to your continuing support and we pray for God’s guidance and blessing as we proceed in the transition of Lilydale Adventist Academy into our great system of schools.

Pr Wayne Stanley

LAA UNDER THE VICTORIAN CONFERENCE BANNER

A couple of months ago I received an email from one of the Traralgon church members. Delrae Lanigan wrote, “Dear Joe, is there anyone who can come and help me please? For many years I have letterboxed (sometimes several times a year), prayed over and even Signs-dropped an area I call my mission field... There are 1,700 homes here... I have worked the area constantly for years and it’s ready for harvest, please Joe, can you ask your team. I have found one family and they are now keeping the Sabbath. My heart aches for the people in my mission field. I ask for help.”

We were all touched Delrae’s email. Her love for God and for the people in her area is genuine and we responded to her request.

Thursday 9th of May was the day that six Literature Evangelists travelled down to Traralgon. We were welcomed by Pr Gavin Rowe, Delrae and her son Daniel. After a short moving devotional and prayer, we began knocking on doors.

One lady exclaimed “Hope it’s not religious stuff!” As she thumbed through the pages of The Great Controversy she stated “It’s full of Bible texts.” With a smile we assured both her and her husband that the Bible really is the only reliable source. They agreed to take the book and gave Geoff a $10 donation.

Hoping suffered a number of family losses to illness, another lady we met had quite a few questions regarding God and was in tears as she related her sad stories. Her 10-year-old daughter is very interested in knowing more about the Bible and so she was happy for us to leave her a Beyond DVD.

We are praying that God will bless our efforts that day and that we will see these people giving their hearts to Jesus and joining in fellowship with the Traralgon church.

Joe Paola

ADRA Youth Ambassador

The action was fast and... FUN BETWEEN THE FINAL MEN’S DIVISIONS!

Notice is hereby given that the next regular Constituency Meeting of the Victorian Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be held at Seddon Seventh-day Adventist Church Hall, 22 Hotham St, Seddon. 22 September 2013.

The Constituency Meeting will commence Sunday morning at 8:00 am and conclude no later than 5pm. Delegates will be appointed in harmony with the Constitution.

The business of the Constituency Meeting will include presentation of Administration and Departmental reports, Financial Statements for the years 2009 - 2012, all business as required by the Constitution and all matters as arising from the Constituency Meeting of 2009.

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WEBSITE UPGRADES
Henderson College in Mildura is the latest school within ASV to have refreshed their website. With the help of Jason Bradshaw and the team at Tradition, online visitors will be able to view the website in the same format as all our other schools. Sandra Ferry, Principal of Henderson, is thrilled with the result. “We have new buildings, new landscaped gardens and we now have a new website. Exciting things are happening at Henderson.” To check out everything that Henderson College has to offer to students in rural Victoria, visit hendersoncollege.com.au

CALL IN THE DOCTOR!
We are thrilled to report that Tony Robinson, a Gilson College teacher recently received his doctorate (Ed.D) from the La Trobe University. Tony’s research focussed on ‘Experiential Education’ with a minor in ‘Advanced Methodology’ his thesis was entitled “Thinkers Not Reflectors – A Case Study”. Family and friends were present at the graduation to help celebrate this very important milestone in Tony’s career.

WEB ADDRESS
Our Schools
Gilson College
Taylors Hill Campus
450 Taylors Rd
Taylors Hill VIC 3037
Phone: 03 9365 9365
Merrnda Campus
370 Bridge Inn Road
Merrnda VIC 3754
Phone: 03 5717 7300
www.gilsoncollege.com

Henderson College
866 Buxton Buxton Ave
Mildura VIC 3501
Phone: 03 5924 5192
www.hendersoncollege.com.au

Heritage College
Narre Warren South Campus
333 Centre Rd
Narre Warren South VIC 3805
Phone: 03 9796 6100
Officer Campus
66 Station Rd
Officer VIC 3809
Phone: 03 5943 2700
www.heritagecollege.com.au

Lilydale Adventist Schools
Edinburgh Early Learning Centre
47 Edinburgh Rd
Lilydale VIC 3140
Phone: 03 9761 9931

Edinburgh Adventist Primary
Cnr Edinburgh & Allenby Rds
Lilydale VIC 3140
Phone: 03 9728 8833
Lilydale Adventist Academy
Edinburgh Rd
Lilydale VIC 3140
Phone: 03 9728 2211
lav.vic.edu.au

Nunawading Christian College
Primary Campus
Laughlin Avenue
Nunawading VIC 3131
Phone: 03 9877 9527
Secondary Campus
161 Central Rd
Nunawading VIC 3131
Phone: 03 9877 3555
ncca.vic.edu.au

Our Values
We live our Christianity through:

Love
For God and each other
Excellence
Using God’s gifts to do our best
Compassion
Showing kindness and empathy to all
Humility
Accepting our achievements without boasting
Respect
Thinking and behaving well towards others
Integrity
Living at peace with ourselves
Justice
Seeking what is right
Discernment
Making wise choices
Responsibility
Owning our actions
Hope
Living with joy because our future is certain
Service
To God and each other

AVONDALE TRIP
Recently, Brian Mercer (Education Director) and Dianne Cotter (Marketing Officer) went to visit the fourth year teaching students at Avondale College. Armed with video presentations about ASV and the great state of Victoria, Dianne started the presentation with a look at the overall school system. Brian then spoke directly to the students about the need for reflective practice in their teaching careers. It was a great opportunity to meet with graduates who are potentially looking at ASV to start their teaching career. The students were noticeably impressed with the facilities in ASV schools but also with the high expectation on quality teaching practices with several students staying back to discuss potential employment opportunities for 2014.

RIVERS OF LIFE - DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE LEADERSHIP
Over two days in May, our ASV Learning and Teaching staff along with our Principals took part in the educational leaders’ conference at the Mercure Kooniah Waters on the Central Coast of New South Wales.

The conference presenters, included Ken Duncan and also Dr Darren Morton who explored the theme of wellbeing, a term made popular by Martin Seligman, one of the founders of the positive psychology movement. The movement has come to the conclusion that it is not enough to be happy with your life. They contend that it is possible for people to flourish. Leaders were encouraged to find time to refresh their souls and reflect on what is needed for them to flourish in all aspects of their lives. It was noted that the wellbeing of school leaders has an impact on the organisational climate of the school in which they operate. The conference was also a great opportunity to for our school leaders to meet with peers from around Australia in a professional and social setting.

COGNITIVE COACHING COURSE
Brian Mercer and Betty Lakovic recently took part in Day 3 & 4 of training in the Cognitive Coaching seminar. There are 8 days in total to be completed, in partnership with Adventist Schools Australia. This supports the direction to develop best practice in our schools promoting our Quality Adventist Schools Framework (QASF). What is Cognitive Coaching? It is a process and a set of strategies that supports the thinking and ongoing development of individuals as they become more reflective and self-directed. This non-judgemental form of coaching will assist teachers and leaders to monitor, manage and modify what they do and will lead to better practice for both themselves, their students, colleagues and the school as a community of faith and learning.

KEEPING SCHOOLS SAFE
There is another new face on the ASV team. At the beginning of 2013, Ben Thomas took up the position of Occupational Health and Safety Officer across all schools and campuses within ASV. Ben’s role includes auditing each campus with a view to supporting Principals in ensuring that their schools are safe environments for their students, staff, families and friends who visit.

ASA QUALITY TEACHING FRAMEWORK
Director of Education, Adventist Schools Australia, Dr Daryl Murdoch invited the CEO of Christian Schools Australia, Stephen O’Doherty to officially launch the new Quality Adventist Schools Framework on May 30. This framework is the culmination of a great deal of work over two years by the team at ASA who worked in collaboration with international education consultant Ian Gamble, and about 150 leaders and selected teachers from across Australia. The new framework provides a robust and intentional model for school improvement that uses an evidence-based, reflective, school-based assessment process within four domains and twenty components. This will be exciting for us here in Victoria as our schools engage their staff, students and communities on a continuous improvement journey. Visit http://asa.adventistconnect.org for more information.
Hi kids!

I bet you’ve heard people say *breakfast is the most important meal of the day...* But do you know why?

• Your body needs more food in the morning than at any other time of the day!
• Your brain and nervous system use glucose for fuel – and it comes from food!
• You will be able to concentrate better and have more energy to play!

So what are some healthy choices that you can make for breakfast?


God has given us an amazing body and it is our job to look after it! By eating a healthy breakfast and drinking lots of water during the day you will be off to a great start.

“I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you.” 3 Jn 1:2

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**Mini Muesli Muffins**

1 1/2 cups Sanitarium Natural Muesli
1 cup wholemeal self-raising flour (sifted)
1/2 cup sugar
1 cup firmly packed grated carrot
1 large green apple, grated
3/4 cup sultanas
3/4 cup chopped pecan nuts
2 eggs, lightly beaten
1/3 cup canola oil or olive oil
1 cup Sanitarium So Good or dairy milk

*Place Muesli, flour, sugar, carrot, fruit and nuts into a large bowl*
*Combine eggs oil and milk and add to dry ingredients, mixing gently until just combined*
*Spoon mixture into lightly greased mini muffin tins (made 35)*
*Bake in Moderate oven (190°C) for 25 minutes.*

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Fill in the Blanks... Why do some people miss breakfast? (clues below)

They __________ in.
Don’t feel __________ in the morning.
Get __________ with breakfast cereals.
Not enough __________ to eat.
In a __________.

This month’s competition

It’s time to get cooking! Ask a grown up to help you prepare a healthy meal or snack, take a picture of it and send it in to us and you could be the winner of this month’s prize! Have fun creating... we cant wait to see what you come up with!

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Brekkie Quiz

Parents, if you would like more information on Childhood Nutrition email sibillaJohnson@Adventist.org.au for a fact sheet.

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Congratulations to Xander and Austin who sent us this photo. The boys shared how they “SHINE for Jesus” by writing a letter, hand delivering it to their postie to thank her for bringing their mail each day. Xander and Austin have won for themselves a Bible drawing book and pack of textas.

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Victorian Children’s Ministries

Katherine Darroch
po Box 215 Nunawading 3130
KatherineDarroch@adventist.org.au
Fax 03 9264 7700
Congratulations...

On May 10, 2013 Roy and Jinha Kim were blessed with the safe arrival of baby Micah. Roy and Jinah have been working in inner-city Melbourne, serving those who live in the CBD.

Several years ago we were involved in the Sanitarium Cultivate program and also registered for the first time with the Global Corporate Challenge. This will be the third year now that staff have participated in this walking challenge, designed to increase awareness of the need to actively choose to exercise.

Just take a look at this photo and you can see how serious the competition is – with Tina and Joe taking the lead, each exceeding 15,000 steps per day in the first week of the 2013 challenge, with their team leading our seven teams in the overall GCC of more than 250,000 people worldwide.

Keep up the hard work, everyone!

Have you ever come to a time in your life when you had to recalculate: your priorities, your commitments, your time?

What is the meaning of that word so often used - recalculate?

It is the description of what happens when we are considering or navigating change.

In fact, the concept of examining the realities of life and how they measure up to our vision for our family is an important strategy for parents to be doing on a regular basis. If reality doesn’t match up to vision, then the option to recalculate may be important.

The GPS is a good example of how it recalculates the journey when we are off course on a trip.

The only way we can recalibrate is to slow our life down enough to examine and evaluate the condition of our relationships, the habits of our family, and the daily stresses of our life.

By asking, “Is this the life I want to live?” we can begin the process of evaluating. If the answer is “No,” then recalibrate and get yourself and your family headed back in the right direction.

Sterio Gonzado

SPOTSWOOD – 60TH ANNIVERSARY...

Attention members, former members and friends... You are invited to join together to celebrate 60 years of fellowship at Spotswood Adventist Church

Sabbath School 9.30
Divine Service 11.00
July 20, 2013

Join us for the morning and linger on with a fellowship lunch and afternoon program honouring old acquaintances and reminiscing.

If you have any related memorabilia contact Tessa Tahun on (03) 9566 2456.

ADVENT BRASS AT HOWQUA ...

Take advantage of an opportunity to co-share a weekend at Howqua with Advent Brass.

Meals and Accommodation - $100pp
Weekend of JULY 27

On Sabbath the Band will present worship and a musical presentation. They will be rehearsing at other times and visitors are free to listen in, relax or visit the snow. Contact Tim Wilson on 0419 313 131, or Ray Boehm on 0404 045 045.

TRIVIA NIGHT ...

Spotswood Church invites you to enter teams of up to five people for a fun night of trivia.

July 13 at 6.45 pm - $40/team entry includes first round of drinks and nibbles - spectators gold coin donation

46 Balmoral Avenue Springvale

Check out these DVDs while there... $24.95 each...
This is a ONE OFF OPPORTUNITY...
ADRA Connections is running a trip for
INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS
to help complete the building of The Great Wall so the children can play and exercise and be SAFE
Registrations close JUNE 30

Christmas in July
Victorian Adventist Adult Singles (VAAS)
Where: Marybrooke Manor,
10 Sherbrooke Rd, Sherbrooke
When: 6pm, July 20, 2013
Cost: $35 each
Payment: Cheque – VAAS, PO Box 907 Lilydale Vic 3140
Bank Deposit – BSB 063 535  A/C  10480183
RSVP: July 15, 2013
Bookings and Payment Essential
Phone: Judy 0407 510 545 or
Cherryl 0411 481 930
Come and join us for a fantastic 3 course meal and fellowship in a beautiful venue!

Sabbath July 13
at 3pm Wantirna Church
Mountain Hwy, Wantirna
Enjoy an afternoon of musical inspiration featuring David Clark’s young organ students in concert. These students are part of the largest organ school in Australia, studying with David at Avondale Memorial Church, Cooranbong and Newcastle University Conservatorium of Music.

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