

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

Him



IntraVic

July 2016



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST[®]
CHURCH

Victoria



Victorian Adventist
COMMUNICATIONS

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a publication of VAC



Victorian Adventists

A note from the Editor's Office



Where Your Heart Is...

This is a simple call for faithfulness.

Ever heard of faith ministries?

A Faith Based Ministry is one that relies on donations to be able to do its work.

So then, the church is a faith ministry. The Victorian Conference is a faith based ministry.

We're faithful to our message – it's a message second to none.

We're faithful to the task Jesus gave us. We're always looking for new ways to connect with community people.

For Instance Christmas in July and Prophecy Seminars that follow on are a significant step in sharing our message with community people. The response has been excellent and many people have responded.

We pray for success in leading people to Jesus and to know of His soon return. We're faithfully sharing the Adventist message. We have people doing bridge building ministries such as health programs, community based humanitarian programs through ADRA Victoria. We have pastors running seminars and hold training programs such as Elders retreats, Women's retreat etc. just to mention a few.

So here's my call for faithfulness. My invitation is to all who believe Jesus is coming soon, to all our Adventist people. It's an invitation to faithfulness in returning tithes and offerings through the regular channels. The reality is that, while tithe receipts have been good in previous years, this year tithe is coming in more slowly. So let me thank all who are faithfully returning a tenth to the Lord through His church.

We've already started working on Pastoral Staffing for 2017. We want to continue with current staffing levels, and the tithe you return to the church makes the difference. The church is a faith ministry. The Victorian Conference is a faith based ministry.

It was Jesus who said, "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:20,21)

Thank you for your faithfulness. Please continue to pray that God will bless and guide His church in Victoria.

Graeme Christian

IntraVic Staff

Editor:
Pastor Graeme Christian

Assistant Editor:
Sherrie Courtney
sherriecourtney@adventist.org.au
PO Box 215 Nunawading, 3131
Phone: 03 9264 7777

Website:
vic.adventist.org.au

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Big Camp Edition - March 12
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DEADLINES 15th of the
PRECEDING MONTH

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IntraVic July 2016

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Steps to Personal Revival

Filled by the Holy Spirit

A personal testimony by Colin Hone

Twenty-four years ago, Colin was sitting in his office on St Kilda Road with \$1 to his name. Having always looked for meaning in life through various religions, denominations and lifestyles, he found himself in tears, begging God to reveal Himself and His true Church. Here is his story...

Two weeks after that tearful evening, while in Sydney for the weekend, I was approached by some young people at Bondi Beach, offering me a book on the prophecies of Daniel, Revelation and end times.

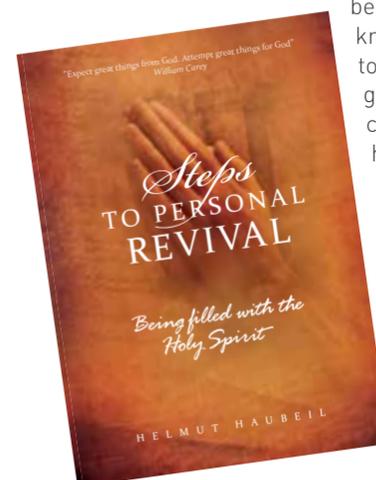
I was challenged by Isaiah 46:10 that God can declare the beginning to the end and this led me to read the Great Controversy, the Desire of Ages, and to receive Bible studies from a local pastor. Convinced, I was baptised six months later at a church camp at Howqua.

But my church was largely lukewarm. I sat in the pews weekly, paid my tithe when convenient and even took a Sabbath school lesson occasionally. There were very few victories over the besetting sins in my life. I prayed and read the Bible occasionally and never led one person to Jesus in twelve years. I still thought I was ok because I was in God's remnant last-day Church. I didn't realise I was in Laodicea.

It took another crisis in my life for God to get my attention. I left the Church for a time but knew, deep down, that it had been raised up prophetically, right on time in 1844, to give the last message of Rev 14:6-12 to a perishing world. So after a time, I came back, committed to follow Jesus.

Then something amazing happened. Reluctantly, I attended a revival weekend where the topic was our need of the Holy Spirit. I hadn't heard much about the Holy Spirit from the pulpit apart from the dangers of the counterfeit. The presenter, visiting from the States, challenged us to study about this wonderful gift from the Father that Jesus prayed for in John 14:16. Luke 11:13 says "If you then,

being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give



the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him! (NKJV)"

So I began to repent and to pray daily for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Initially I thought I had already received it, that it was a one-off filling when I was baptised in water. But in Eph 5:18, Paul commanded us to be filled with the Holy Spirit - as in a continuous filling. "...be filled with the Spirit" or "let yourself be continually and repeatedly refilled with the Spirit."

Everything changed from then on. I had a greater desire to pray, a greater desire to read God's word and the writings of EG White, a greater desire to witness and to lead people to Jesus, and even a desire to preach on the things I had learned.

There was a new desire put in my heart for lifestyle changes and as Jesus promised, He began to give me victories over the besetting sins in my life as in Gal. 5:16 NKJV: "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." It's the Holy Spirit that breaks the power of sin in us (Rom. 8:1-17, especially v.2). Through the Holy Spirit "the deeds of our body" are put to death (v.13). Think of Paul, who said about himself: "I die daily". We, too, need to be filled daily with the Holy Spirit.

I always remember a friend of mine saying that Satan can counterfeit the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but not the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23 & Ephesians 5:9). We must seek and focus on receiving the true daily baptism of the Holy Spirit of Christ and when we do this, His fruit will be seen in our lives.

Adventists have been preaching for more than 150 years of our need for the latter rain of the Holy Spirit in order to share, with power, the three angels' messages of the everlasting Gospel and to be prepared for the time of trouble. And it's true. We do need the latter rain, but the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy plainly tell us that unless we grow into the likeness of Jesus (2 Cor 3:18) and be transformed into His image, the latter rain will not fall and many of us will miss out.

The Seventh Day Adventist Church has been given the last message of Revelation to give to the world and we all want to go home, but we have work to do and just like the early disciples, we need the power of the Holy Spirit to witness and finish that work. Acts 1:8 NKJV: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me..."

What Jesus said in John 14:12 always amazes me - that we will do the same works as Jesus. He went on to explain this would be so because He and the Father will dwell with us and in us... through the Spirit.

I believe God is preparing us now to receive the early rain - the daily baptism of the Holy Spirit, to prepare us for the latter rain and the harvest.

Through the parable of the virgins of Matthew 25, Jesus is telling us we have a choice - to be either wise, with a sufficient supply of oil in our lamps, or foolish and miss out on this blessing through fear, through being deceived by Satan's counterfeit spiritual activities or through the Laodicean attitude of 'I'm ok - I need nothing'.

We must trust God's Spirit and His word to guide us into the truth of the Spirit's working.

For seven years now, I have prayed daily for the promises in God's word, as suggested in Spirit of prophecy... and everything has changed.



Colin has kindly supplied each of our churches with a number of free copies of Helmut Haubel's book "Steps to Personal Revival - being filled with the Holy Spirit." Or they are available from the ABC for \$2 per copy

Colin Hone

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It Will Change Your Life

Author Dr Ken Long
STEWARDSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE
GREATER SYDNEY CONFERENCE

I want to be free!
Who doesn't?

Let's consider
financial
independence
Imagine the freedom
it would give you!

The problem is...
freedom isn't always
what it seems

Freedom is not always what it seems... just ask Adam and Eve. God put mankind on the earth as its managers – but do we do any better at this stewardship than the original caretakers? Do we trust God enough to take Him at His word?

I Want To Be Free!

When God created the world He gave humans dominion. That means they were to manage the world, but God would still own and maintain it.

We can see this Owner/manager relationship clearly in the story of the Garden of Eden. Genesis tells us that God reserved one tree exclusively as His, and told Adam not to eat its fruit. This would violate his management responsibility and thus be an act of disobedience and rebellion. It would signal a refusal to recognise God as Owner.

But although the tree was a restriction, it was also a great blessing. It symbolised our power of choice – if there had been

no tree, there'd be no choice.

Today there are two choices – the freedom of independence, or God's way – the freedom of dependence.

Freedom of Dependence

Today we don't face a decision about fruit on a tree, but there's another test. God has challenged us to give Him back a tenth of our income or increase. Often called "tithing," you'll find it mentioned in Malachi 3:8-11.

Tithing has the same purpose as the tree. It keeps the Owner/manager relationship clearly defined; it reiterates our freedom of choice.

The freedom of dependence is God's plan. He never intended that we should have problems – social, health or economic. The Owner would provide everything we needed. "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear...Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his

“GOD DOESN'T WANT OUR LEFTOVERS – WE MUSTN'T TREAT HIM LIKE A DOG WAITING AT OUR FEET UNDER THE TABLE...”

God is renewed and strengthened every time you set apart your tithe.

"Tithing does something for you spiritually", says R.T. Kendall in his book Tithing. "It does something for you that cannot be explained in terms of material returns. It sets you on a course to become more than you have been – more what God wants you to be. Tithing is so essential to your development as a Christian, that nothing will be its adequate substitute."

Putting God First

Putting God first is not easy. Putting Him first when it comes to money is even more difficult. Our needs and our wants demand satisfaction and so often we satisfy those things before anything or anyone else, including God.

But we must be careful not to treat God like a dog waiting at our feet for scraps. God doesn't want our "leftovers" – whatever remains after all our bills have been paid. He wants what He calls the "first fruits". That's the first 10% of our income.

life?" (Matthew 6:25,27)

When you recognise God as Owner and your role as a manager you have the promise of the freedom of dependence – dependence upon a God who has promised to supply all our needs. If God is our partner, at all times and under all circumstances, we'll be free from worrying over the uncertainties of life.

Tithe Or Tax

Some people think tithing is just a way to support the minister or the church. But if this were true, then it would be a tax, making God a tax collector.

Tithing isn't for God's benefit. Frankly, He doesn't need the money. It is for our benefit. It demonstrates that we trust Someone higher than ourselves, recognising God's ownership and our dependence. When we recognise that God is in charge, we can have greater confidence to live and work without fear or uncertainty.

This feeling of trust and confidence in

Why don't you give God a go? God challenges each one of us – "Put me to the test."

He still offers freedom of dependence. It's just one of the blessings that you can experience. He also promises to open the floodgates and to rebuke the devourer (Malachi 3:8-11).

Inflation and the high cost of living do not take God by surprise. He knows they devour your income. "Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over..." (Luke 6:38)

No Desk Audits

The principle of tithing can be summed up in ten words: "Bring one tenth of your income (increase) to God's storehouse."

You don't need to be a certified practicing accountant to understand that. There is no need for volumes and volumes of complicated and confusing rules and regulations. God isn't concerned about loopholes, tithe avoidance or minimisation schemes. In order for us to properly understand the true principle and reap the rich blessing of tithing, God allows each of us to assess the income upon which our tithe is calculated.

"Of the means which is entrusted to man," says Ellen White in Testimonies Volume 5 page 149, "God claims a certain portion – a tithe, but He leaves all free to say how much the tithe is...They are to give as they purpose in their hearts."

Sometimes the question, "What is my



continued on page 7

Multiplying Disciple Makers

Pt 2: All by itself...with some care

Written By Pr Glenn Townsend
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION PRESIDENT

If you want a large harvest you have to sow lots of seed. Sowing little leads to a small harvest. Harvest size is proportional to the amount of seed sown and the nurture and care given... Part two of our series looking at practical ways we can share Christ.

I remember the first time my Dad allowed me to grow some radishes in his vegetable garden. I planted them in a row one afternoon after school.

The next afternoon I checked them, but saw no growth. I did the same the next afternoon but soon lost patience. The third afternoon after planting, I dug up a portion of the row – only to find the seeds had little white roots growing down into the soil. There was change I just had not been able to see it immediately. My Dad eventually discovered my lack of patience!

Jesus told a parable, recorded in Mark 4:29-32, that tells how seeds grow all by themselves, and humans don't know how.

The Seed

The gospel is the powerful seed of God that must be planted in receptive hearts for real discipleship to emerge. Jesus went from synagogue to mountain field to homes, teaching and preaching God's message (Matthew 9:35,36). The good news of Jesus is the seed.

Jesus dealt with our issues which inhibit our desire to live forever (Ecclesiastes 3:11). God loves humans and allowed His Son to condescend and be one, to show us God's love in human flesh (John 1:1-4,14-18, 3:16). And Jesus not only identified with us, He overcame the sin that separates us from God (1 John 3:5, Hebrews 4:12). He also paid the penalty of our evil by dying for all human sin (Romans 5:8, Ephesians 1:7). But a dead man can't save us – Jesus conquered that obstacle too (1 Corinthians 15:1-7,15-17). Now He ministers His grace and justice for us (Hebrews 4:16) and will one day return to earth to restore us to

“

Just because we cannot see it... it doesn't mean change is not happening...

”

our original perfect and eternal state (John 14:1-3, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Without sowing this story, this seed, into people's prepared hearts, there will be no change or growth.

The supply of seed is limitless and unlike the seed for various plants today, there is nothing wrong with it; it is eternal (1 Peter 1:23). Within each seed there is an unexplainable but majestic life-giving power which, under the right circumstances, will cause the seed to spring to life.

Sowing the Seed

So how do we sow the seed?

We can start by introducing small spiritual happenings into our conversations. 'I went to a small group during the week' or 'I went to church on Saturday'. We can slip into the conversation things God has done in our lives, giving Him credit – answers to prayer, changes in lifestyle and attitude. Or sharing a more detailed story at a time when people are willing and interested - My bike-riding friends were willing to listen to how God changed my son's life – as we huffed and puffed up a climb.

People like real-life stories. So share a real-life story of what God is doing in your life – it is very powerful. Eventually people may want to take it further - to hear how Jesus became important in your life. The apostle Paul told his dramatic story twice (Acts 24:10-21, 26:2-23). Each time he briefly told what his life was like before Jesus (not glorifying the past), then he told how he met Jesus (not everyone's 'meeting' is as dramatic as his!) and then he described what difference Jesus made to his present life. The demoniac from Geresenes

told the story of how Jesus changed his life and the whole community came out to see Jesus the next time He visited (Mark 5:19,20, 7:31- 8:10).

Besides sharing your personal testimony (Revelation 12:10) the seed is sown when we share the good news about Jesus. This can be done by inviting people to read the Gospels together and then perhaps having a short Bible study based on asking open-ended questions. Or giving out Bible tracts, sending the Signs of the Times magazine to a friend, handing out 'Beyond' DVDs, or through social media, putting up posts or blogs on your personal internet sites or sending Bible texts by SMS to family and friends.

Churches sow the seeds in Sabbath School classes from babies to adults, through Bible or Prophecy Seminars or public evangelistic meetings. The corporate church sows seeds through the network of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Hope Channel, Adventist World Radio and local FM stations. These are all ways of scattering seed which will grow and bring a change if people's hearts are receptive.

Cultivating the Plant

Although the plants grow all by themselves, the farmer does keep an eye on them. He can water, fertilize and weed to ensure that the plants have the best possible chance of producing a good crop. In disciple making we call this 'cultivating the plants'. People growing in Jesus need guidance, nurture and care from others who are on the discipleship journey.

Often after Jesus had prepared the soil and planted the seed in one place, He moved onto other places to do the

same (Mark 1:36-39). However He would then revisit the places He had previously been to, to further nurture and develop the people's interest. He would eat with them, ask questions about their understanding of the Bible (Mark 2:16, 14:18, Luke 7:34), teach them how to pray (Luke 11:1-8). But He did not make their spiritual development dependent on His being physically with them all the time. He even challenged the disciples to go and do what He was doing (Matthew 10 and Luke 10).

A growing disciple should be able to put into practice what he is discovering. Besides prayer, Bible reading and witnessing, he can learn to practice other spiritual disciplines, such as giving, reflecting on nature, dealing with temptation and suffering and Sabbath keeping.

Cultivating people is best done personally but small groups and Sabbath School classes, Sabbath lunches, picnics and church socials are all good places where Church people can work together to develop other disciples. Corporately, Adventist Schools and media can provide cultivating resources and experiences for people.

The Gospel is powerful – it does change lives when sown into receptive hearts, but every one of us needs the on-going cultivating that other disciples of Jesus can bring to us as we face life's challenges.

Pr Glenn Townsend

author xxx

Cranbourne Fellowship

RESCUE ME Melbourne Mission 2016 was a youth revival series focusing on the last chapters of the Great Controversy.

Hosted by Cranbourne Fellowship and run by a talented group of 30 young people from Auckland, the program ran over two weeks.

For this little South East Melbourne church the challenges in hosting this event were many, but it proved to be such a great faith building exercise for all those involved, praise God, our great Provider and Sustainer.

The messages presented in song and testimony were powerful and emotive, resonating with many youth that attended each night.

The mission culminated with the witness of a beautiful baptism of nine young people at Lysterfield Lake. The Lord turned on an amazing warm Sabbath day. Later, everyone was invited to close Sabbath together, share a meal and enjoyed a family concert.

Cranbourne Youth now plan to be involved in the next Rescue Me Mission in Sydney later this year, as well as following up interests from the mission taking place in several South East churches. They also run a Friday night youth Bible study and community service projects, which are all well supported.

On behalf of Cranbourne SDA Church Fellowship, we would like to warmly thank the South East churches for their support, especially Heritage College Church for the use of their facilities throughout the program and Casey church for helping with food, welcoming, carparking and Sabbath lunch.

Tara Vano



Nine young people were baptised at Lysterfield Lake

Serving our Communities Church News

Happy Hands

Happy Hands Art Time, a connecting ministry outreach that operates within our Victorian conference, is a project your church could become involved with...

The recent recipient of two awards, its founder, Carolin Schmidt had this to say: "This is really special recognition and we feel blessed that all of our amazing volunteer teams across sites are publicly recognised for the efforts they put in each week as a team. The support shown in both the nominations and voting in the community has been amazing!"



Founder Carolin schmitz recently accepted two awards on behalf of Happy Hands - a national award for the 'best not for profit community activity for children' and best local baby and preschooler activity ages 1-5 in the 'What's on for Junior' awards on the Gold Coast

It can be hard to reach people on an intellectual level as our church once did. Connecting ministries help us create community and form strong relationships where our neighbours can become a part of us. Then we can shine our light! And Happy Hands does just that. It started at Nunawading Church five years ago and now operates over twelve sites, including Mt Macedon, Albury, Yarra Valley, and Spotswood Churches. Adventist Schools Victoria has also successfully taken up the program within our schools. And 95% of Happy Hand attendees are from the local communities.

The passion behind Happy Hands is to create a place where relationships are



built with young families. This provides opportunity to minister personally as need arises, communicating that we as Adventists care.

Happy Hands meets people at a very special time in their lives where they are coming to terms with parenting and where their needs are different today than decades ago. This is a special window of opportunity as, in the cycle of life, it is a time of wonder and amazement, a time when people are perhaps more willing to hear the whispers of the Holy Spirit.

The Happy Hands program is designed to support churches in running a structured children's outreach, with fully programmed materials, term craft packs, enrolment processes and advertising resources.

If you would like to learn more about this ministry in your church, Carolin Schmitz can be contacted on 0451 532 840.

"We started Happy Hands because we wanted to befriend the young parents and children who were not being reached through our other programs. In less than two terms, we grew from 6-8 children to 17 children! God has truly blessed and we are making some nice friendships. Parents have said their children keep asking about Happy Hands and, "Is it today?" We would like to encourage other churches to pray and consider running Happy Hands as a form of outreach - only God knows what it will blossom into."

Patricia from Yarra Valley Church



What is your local church doing for its community? What are you doing? Sometimes we can be filled with uncertainty - what can we do? We want to do more, but are just unsure how to go about it, being Jesus hands and feet to those around us. Here we share some of what other churches are doing and on page 13, how Literature Evangelists help - maybe one of these suggestions resonates with you...

Yarra Valley Church

Church members in the Valley are very conscious of their neighbours, on the lookout for new and different ways to reach their community with Christ's love. And nearly every one of their projects involves many of the church community and results in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere, enhancing their relationship with their local community and increasing their awareness of God's many blessings.

They have recently completed a seven-week series of health outreach meetings. Complete with a speaker, cooking demonstration and a meal at the end, this is a project they have undertaken each year for the last few years. They have found that lasting friendships have developed through these programs.

The church has also become involved in the "Happy Hands" program for children aged one to five. Held each Tuesday morning, there were initially just an handful of children attending, but with dedicated prayer and commitment, they are full to capacity and now have a waiting list.

And then there is the Friendship Group; a small group of women who have undertaken to organise help where needed and plan special events for the community. At Christmas, an afternoon of pampering was offered to the disadvantaged in the area. There was hairdressing, massage and pedicures. An afternoon tea. And gift hampers for everyone! The children were not forgotten either - each receiving something special to take home.

Early this year, Friendship Group held a vegetarian dinner for community visitors, complete with soft lighting and flowers, candles and place cards on the tables. Nearly 50 people were catered for, including 18 children. The church's young people served the guests, and music was provided with the flute, violin and harmonica. The children were entertained with various activities,

including coming on stage at the end of the evening to display what they had done throughout the night.

The first of May saw the Friendship Group hold a Mothers' Day high tea for the underprivileged mothers of the Valley. There were musical items and songs of tribute to mothers. Three mothers from the church spoke on different aspects of mothering. It was a special afternoon.

The group is now visiting shut-in and elderly neighbours, offering support and letting them know they are not alone. That someone cares. As Dorcas did in Bible times, the Group believes they can make a difference the same way - by reaching those less fortunate and lonely, praying they will feel God's touch.

None of these programs run by Yarra Valley Church would have the success they do, without the willingness and cheerfulness of the many church members who are involved, as they endeavour to share the blessings the Lord has given them, with their local community.

Nola Robins



Northpoint Church

Church members, have come up with a number of community initiatives with long lasting results.

For thirteen years, Northpoint Centre has run a Food Pantry, packing food parcels for people in need of food relief. Based in Tullamarine, the pantry now runs out of five sites across the northern suburbs of Melbourne.

Last year over 20,000 parcels were delivered, a huge leap from 14,500 the previous year, drastically increasing the demand for supplies. The story was picked up by Hume Leader and more food is now flowing in.



Even one of the local schools is getting on board, with some students participating in their school's Spirit in Action project, volunteering at the centre and helping collect food for the pantry. Of his experience volunteering with the pantry, Aaron says that 'it has definitely inspired me to be a more grateful understanding person and to always try my best to help and give an act of kindness to people who need it most.' His brother, Zac said 'all of you inspired me with your hard effort to give back to others in the community because you take you own time by helping out people in need and for no reward.'

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Aaron and Zac delivered boxes of groceries after approaching local businesses and supermarkets, asking for donations. They then stayed for several hours helping with the packing, as part of a school service project

A High Sabbath Bairnsdale Church



Pr Andrew Wilson, with Shilo, on her baptism

Sabbath 16th April was a high day for the church because we welcomed a new member into God's family.

Shilo O'Mara, a young woman with her heart full of joy and gratitude for her Lord, was baptised in the river at Ramrod Creek near Bruthen.

Shilo and her parents began attending church in March 2015. Then they went to the "Dinner with Geoff" held in Bairnsdale in June. Later in the year Shilo completed to a Prophecy Seminar Series run by our pastor, Andrew Wilson.

Soon she was ready to openly acknowledge that Jesus is her Saviour, through baptism.

We were all blessed by the beautiful, peaceful setting that made us aware of our wonderful Creator God. Many church folk and family and friends of Shilo went to Ramrod Creek after the morning service in Bairnsdale. We had a picnic lunch together at the riverside. After eating we sang several hymns and as Pastor Wilson and Shilo walked into the water, the sun broke out brightly, like a benediction.

Shilo's happiness was evident in her beaming smile as she made this special commitment to God. Now Shilo and her mother Wendy are already involved in church life as members of our social committee.

Judy Walker

Church News

Our Story

Melbourne Asian SDA Church

God really does work in mysterious and unusual ways to show us the Word, using unusual people to send His message. This last twelve months, Yan and Steven Wong have been on a journey they could never have anticipated. Here is their testimony.

Revelation 14: 6 "...an angel flying through the air with the everlasting Gospel in hand preaching to those on earth; to every Nation, Tribe, People and Language...."

This was precisely how Christianity was brought to us, through the air, or more accurately through the Internet, by a guy whom we'd never met. This guy used to live in a cave and would run around naked in the mountains over Palm Springs, California. Finding a Bible in the cave changed his life. Now he's a pastor and his sermons on Youtube ignited our thirst for Christ.

My wife and I had been searching for far too many years. I was born into a Daoist family and Yan grew up during the Cultural Revolution in China, within a religious void. For me, as a child, Christianity meant Christmas trees, presents and Jingle Bells. Yan did not even know what a church was, other than dark and scary, with doors rarely opened. As adults, we've lost count of the number of different churches we've tried - but nothing fitted our needs. We now know we were searching in the wrong places.

When Yan stumbled across Pr Batchelor's 'Most Important Questions' series on YouTube, she was immediately captivated, watching the presentations at every opportunity.

Yan and Steven Wong were recently baptised at MASDAC after God having caught their attention on the web



With the convenience of Wifi she listened while brushing her teeth, cooking, vacuuming, driving ... and every chance in between. The Holy Spirit was truly working on her... and through her, getting to me too.

Yan kept encouraging me to listen but I resisted, warning about her 'obsession,' advising to watch 'such sermons' with caution. But God's power and patience won through and finally I conceded. My initial scepticism soon faded into an all out yearning to know more about the Lord's Word.

When you seek with a genuine heart, God meets you. Matthew 7:8 "...For everyone who asks receives, the one who seeks finds; and the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

Yan & I consumed Pr Batchelor's backlog of sermons with feverish urgency. We started to read the Bible and, more importantly, the Bible started making sense. Within a month we needed to know more of this denomination that shared God's word in language other than their own, as per Rev 14:6. Searching the 'air' (or internet), we found a local bi-lingual church.

In hindsight, God had been preparing us for the Adventist church, making this journey home smooth and natural. Our lifestyle meant that going to 'Sunday' service was not possible. Saturday Sabbath offered a true alternative. We also realised that our change of diet was perfectly aligned to the health messages of the Bible. Everything seemed smooth - even the 28 Doctrines of Church seemed natural.

So, one Saturday we simply showed up at MASDAC in Forest Hill. I can still remember the excitement that day; unlike the other churches we'd attended, It just felt right. And the

church members welcomed us as if we had come back home to the family.

We studied the Bible with Pr John Chan, true to the first angel's message, doing it through the air (on Skype!). Pastor Chan learnt to Skype within minutes, and was able to share his Chinese/English powerpoint presentation with us over the internet.

With Sabbath School, Care Group and hours of discussion over SMS, smartphones; emails and blogs, God's word was further reinforced. We are a direct result of the work done by the Holy Spirit and stand before God, accepting Him into our lives.

Choosing God Burwood

At the end of April, the church was packed with friends and family, gathering together to celebrate the baptism of two of its members, Jacob and Tyra Harvey. Their joy over making this decision and sharing it with their family was so palpable.

"For me," says Tyra, "baptism was an unreal experience. Even though I was shivering in the cold water, I felt the presence of the Lord and I could not stop smiling. It helped to have all my close friends and family mirroring my smile. I feel closer to the Lord now, and talk to Him daily."

A Diamond Day Ferntree Gully Church

"I found the one my heart loves." ~ Song of Solomon 3:4

Fred Wilson and Lois (nee McCallum) met at an Adventist social in Melbourne and were married on 18.6.56 in the North Fitzroy SDA church by the late Pastor Harry Streeter.

Sixty years later during the church service on Sabbath 18th June 2016, a beautiful floral arrangement created by Katrina Gultom, consisting of a basket of 70 red roses (one for each year of marriage so far and ten for the next ten years), was presented to Fred

God put us in some truly challenging situations simply to help us find Him and we now know we find God in the midst of our trials; in fact, we find Him because of our trials. Can you see how far both Yan and I have come and how much work the Holy Spirit had done to bring us home?

When God comes knocking you cannot ignore His Word. If you try, He will keep knocking, like he did for both Yan and I. If you insist on not listening, He will try for your attention in some other way. He loves us that much.

Praise the Lord.

Steven Wong



Jacob and Tyra were overjoyed to show their love for God through baptism

Praise God. Congratulations, Tyra and Jacob. May you continue to be aware of God's presence in your life, as you make Him your Best Friend.

Intravic

and Lois by Sue Beament, Elder, who congratulated them on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Fred and Lois have been members at Ferntree Gully Church for over 45 years and have faithfully served in various positions during that time.

Elayne Stanford



Congratulations to Fred and Lois Wilson on their 60th wedding anniversary

Here to Help

Literature Evangelists

Has your church thought about inviting the LE team into your region to reach out to your community and find people in need? Many of our churches across the state do so, with interesting and inspiring results.

You have read how LEs visit door to door. They canvas for the sale of books on health and other topics. While discussing the books, an opportunity often arises for more meaningful conversation. With God's help, the LE's are constantly on the look-out for people searching for answers, or in need of prayer and a listening ear. One gentleman, after declaring himself an atheist, continued chatting. He accepted The Great Controversy, which might explain some of his questions, and when asked if the LE could pray with him, accepted. A seed was planted.

It is no random chance that they encounter a woman with many health problems, who opens up and tells how she recently lost everything in a house fire, and who willingly accepts Signs of the Times, Steps to Christ, a prayer and a hug. Or the lady recovering from cancer treatment, who showed deep concern for the condition of the world, and accepted the DVD on disaster, from the Beyond the Search series.

At each house where they sell books, leave free literature and Beyond DVD's, pray and care, the LEs are making contact with people that the local church can reach out to - can help, love and share Christ with.

And there's a new model for LE work - the Living Well Pop-Up Book store that can be set up at an event. 10% of the sales go toward the event's fundraising focus. The store was recently set up at a Sunday keeping church where members browsed before and after their service. One lady, browsing through 'Peace Above the Storm' commented "every page I open seems to be just what I need!" More seed planted.

These are just a few of the ways LE's are touching lives in the community. You can read more at <https://intravic.adventistconnect.org>. Your church could become involved too. Think about it.

Conference News

At the End of May this year, there was much cause for celebration in the Victorian Conference, with the ordination of Kwado (Kojo) Akomeah.



Kojo, Ellen and their two children, Kobi-Malachi and Hezekiah Kweku

Kojo was born into a Christian family, the third of five children. He remembers having family worship at home every day. His father was a Seventh-day Adventist and his mother an Anglican. As a result, Kojo attended both churches while growing up. The family enjoyed going to their dad's church, where Kojo's father served as Head Elder and it was at their dad's church that they made more friends as they attended every week.

In his teens, Kojo migrated to the UK, where his brother and sister already lived, and he was glad to be able to further his studies. In June 1998 while studying, Kojo received news that his father had passed away. This event had a profound effect on Kojo. It prompted him to reflect seriously on the choices he was making in his life. He began to grapple with questions about the meaning of life and the problem of death. It was at this time that he decided to surrender to Christ, who gave him meaning and purpose in life.

God did not disappoint. Kojo began to attend the Leicester Central Seventh-day Adventist church more



regularly and to experience change in his life. His understanding of what Jesus had done for him when laying down His life on the cross for his sins grew. Kojo was excited about the things that he was learning in Church about Jesus and would share with anyone who would listen! It didn't take long before he was serving the church in youth leadership, as a sabbath school teacher and superintendent, a personal ministries leader and also as an Elder.

It was during this active period that Kojo felt the call of God to do what he was already doing, but on a full time basis. But, to his regret, he was reluctant to act on the call because he didn't think he was capable. However, the Leicester Central Seventh-day Adventist Church was convinced that God had called him to full time pastoral ministry and many encouraged him to answer the call. By the time Kojo finally agreed, he had nearly completed training as a Chemist. He finished his studies, gained some experience, then applied to study Theology at Newbold College.

The next obstacle was the upfront fees required by Newbold. The Leicester church board was so determined



to support him that they paid the £3000 required to commence at Newbold College! He was supported with scholarships from the North England Conference and the Trans European Division to study a Masters in Theological studies.

Upon completion of his studies he was employed by the North England conference (NEC) as an intern.

When he left the UK, Kojo intended to eventually return to work with the North England Conference, but God had other plans. He joined the ministry in the South Ghana Conference for a time before travelling to the USA to further his theological studies. After a time, Kojo left the USA and migrated to Australia. Since arriving in Australia in 2009, Kojo married Ellen and has been blessed with a son, Kobi-Malachi, and their very new addition Hezekiah Kweku.

He has served in Victoria as a Chemistry Teacher at Heritage College, and in Pastoral ministry at Noble Park, Berwick and Pakenham Seventh-day Adventist Churches.

In all things, Kojo continues to desire nothing less than giving God all the glory.



From the President

So we're half way through the year and what have we done? 2016 has been a hectic year already. Just ask any of our team at the Conference Office – they know what I mean – they've been living the reality of which I speak.

I know there's more to life than increasing its speed but it seems we pack more and more into each day. I guess that's because of commitment to the mission Jesus gave us. So let me share on three key areas: Mission, AdventCare and Infrastructure.

Mission in Victoria

What would it take to double our effectiveness in making disciples? Numbers games have never made much sense to me. The gospel is about people – and helping people to know Jesus. That's what discipleship is all about. The Conference team has been evaluating the implications for the Victorian Conference of the General Conference Strategic Planning document. The GC want to see 30% growth in the number of churches and 20% growth in membership over five years.

That means six new church plants per year – we're actually ahead of that goal with eight new church plants within a twelve month period. Praise God. 20% growth in membership over five years – that sounds like 4% per year to me and that's challenging. We know Jesus' command to His church was "Make disciples" and "Baptise them." Baptisms in Victoria are about 2.5% of membership per year. Then there are deaths and transfers out... We have some work to do. We're thankful for funds granted by the South Pacific Division to help us with church plants and Christmas in July. This really helps.

So the question I reflect on, is "What would it take for the church in Victoria to double its effectiveness in making disciples?" Mmmm. Keep thinking about that because, as someone said, what you think about comes about.

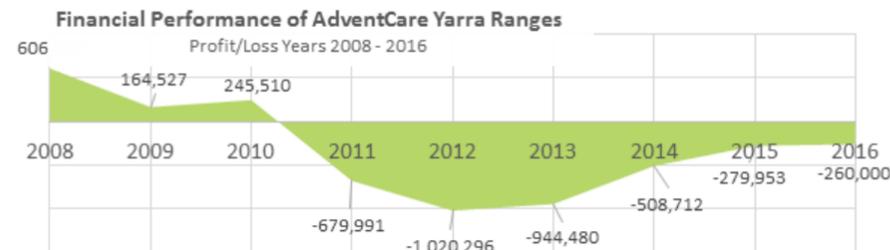
AdventCare

We've conducted what we called "AdventCare Forum" in five locations in our conference, giving an overview of the operation of AdventCare and addressing current issues. In addition to providing excellent care, there are two big factors for AdventCare: mission focus and financial viability. Mission involves Adventist Ethos and that is constantly on our radar. Our staff, residents and chaplains all make valuable contributions in that regard with good results. On the matter of financial viability it is good to report that to the end of May, AdventCare has achieved a surplus of \$791,651 for eleven months of the financial year. Praise God!

At the AdventCare Forum, there was discussion regarding the viability of the Warburton facility, Yarra Ranges. For a number of years until 2010, this facility was a 51 bed home. In 2008, auditors indicated the rooms were too small and that this had to be dealt with. From that day on, the future of the home was in question. In 2010, AdventCare purchased an aged care facility at Yarra Junction. Clearly the intent was to close the Yarra Ranges facility and move residents to Yarra Junction and so continue to provide aged care in the Yarra Valley. In 2011 twenty bed licences were transferred from Yarra Ranges and this was seen as a step towards closing the facility. With the inevitable reduction in residents, financial performance of the home went from profits to losses.

Dealing with the underlying issue is not as simple as just transferring bed licences back and increasing the number of residents. Rooms need to be bigger. Increasing room sizes to comply with current standards would

continued on page 22



The Business of Tithe

Finance Department

The faithful return of tithe is central to our Adventist identity. Many church members are interested in how tithe is used and feel there are ways to improve tithe use. This is an undertaking that is central to the role of the independent directors and office holders who form the Executive Committee.

In the recent tithe survey, some concern was raised by members regarding aged care issues. Like our school system our Aged Care Company is now operating in surplus. NO TITHE IS USED to run or manage operations or future capital needs of our aged care mission.

Unfortunately, for any number of reasons, tithe from members has been lower so far, for 2016. This places enormous pressure on the ability to resource and fund our evangelism and other programs for the year, in line with the conference budget, and may require a review of expenditure to compensate the shortfall of tithe.

The Tithe Survey clearly revealed that a high percentage of our members believe in tithing, but also, a high percentage of members are choosing to divert or withhold tithe. The 10% of increase that Ellen White, through her writings, directed us to return to our local Conference is being used to support any number of interesting (and good) projects. This use of money is often called philanthropy or donating to a good cause.

But philanthropy is different to tithe... and each is a response to ones own integrity.

Nic Bolto
Executive Committee Member

ROAD to BETHLEHEM

Road to Bethlehem will be held in Melbourne again in 2016!

Road to Bethlehem is an interactive Christmas drama production where tour groups walk from scene to scene and experience the story of Jesus' birth. RTB began at Nunawading in 1995 and is now presented in locations all over Australia and New Zealand.



The future of RTB in Melbourne was unclear due to the redevelopment occurring on the Nunawading Estate. After fervent prayer, site visits and discussion, the decision was made not to work around the redevelopment at Nunawading, but to move to an alternative location - Edinburgh College at Lilydale.

A new central committee was formed to oversee RTB in 2016 and we've been delighted and humbled by the support and encouragement received to continue this ministry.

While saddened to leave the birthplace of RTB, where we have seen God work for 21 years, we are excited that RTB will continue and look forward to all God will do in this next chapter. The move will provide an opportunity to share Jesus with a new demographic, bringing new ideas and new involvement.

We praise God for His faithfulness and thank Him for every volunteer who has committed to sharing the true Christmas story, and for churches and individuals who have provided financial support.

Whether you've been involved from the beginning or haven't yet journeyed along the Road to Bethlehem, we would love to have your involvement in 2016! Please let us know how you would like to be involved or how you would like to continue your involvement by visiting the Conference website <http://vic.adventist.org.au> under Event Registration on the Home page.

Chaplaincy Services

AdventCare

What a privilege it is to work at AdventCare Whitehorse as a Chaplain! We wake up each day looking forward to working in this amazing role. During the course of a normal day, we visit and spend time with our residents, getting to know them, hearing their stories and offering a listening ear, friendship and prayer.

We organise worship programs, group or individual Bible studies and Sabbath programs. A Chaplain is also there when someone is unwell or struggling with any issues that might concern our residents. As we come to know the families of residents, we also feel a sense of purpose and fulfilment in supporting and befriending resident's spouses, children and other relatives.

We love it when residents or staff drop by our office just to talk and share or in need of comfort or insights. It is our privilege to pray with and pray for all who live and work at AdventCare. Residents and staff know that their Chaplains are there for them, to walk alongside and support them.

We are honoured to be called to the bedside of someone who is leaving this life, to just be with them, to pray and bless them and to reassure them as they lay down this life, of the hope for Eternal life and to assist with funerals and memorial services.

Our greatest purpose however is to direct all we mingle with to the sacrificial love and salvation offered through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It is our constant hope that the love of Jesus will live and shine through our ministry and bear many fruits for the Kingdom of God.

Lindy Sperring & Pr Ross Baines

Expansion at Whitehorse

AdventCare

The Adventist community is showing increasing interest in obtaining accommodation in our aged care facility and independent living units and we are keen to expand our services to meet this growing need.

We are working toward adding more residential aged care beds and upgrade our affordable independent units. An application for approval has just been lodged with the Town Planning and we eagerly await the outcome later this year.

We will be providing the following:

- 48 new residential aged care beds
- New facility kitchen, laundry, staff facilities and training room and maintenance areas
- Construction of 14 independent living units to replace existing Central units
- An increase from 42 to 93 onsite car spaces allowing more for visitors to the facility and the auditorium

- Provision of an outdoor area for the Nunawading Church and our residents to enjoy and interact in
- A community garden and centre for the unit residents

These works will be staged and take 2-3 years to complete, providing a new standard of accommodation and amenity for people from the community needing care.

We will keep you posted of any updates about the progress of the development program. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

David Reece, Acting CEO



ADVENTIST EDUCATION

VICTORIA

STEM

90 year six students from across the Sunraysia region gathered together at Henderson College in Mildura, to get excited about Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

Organised by our teachers, Jodie de Groot and Morgan Smith, Henderson hosted this STEM day for the region.

STEM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in these four specific disciplines - rather than teaching them as separate and discrete subjects, STEM integrates them into a



cohesive learning paradigm based on real-world applications.

Thus, at this event we saw teams of students working together to move a volume of water up to a higher level, simulating what would happen in a flood. They were given a range of materials to select from and had to design working prototypes to complete the challenge.

All the students were engaged and enjoyed the hands on nature of the task.



Inaugural Tour

Recently, four of our Victorian educators, Damian Ridley (Edinburgh), Andrew Waldrip (Heritage Primary Narre Warren), Ana Ferry (Heritage Officer) and Lorinda Bruce (ASV) went on the inaugural Bible Lands/ Reformation tour.

This educational tour is specifically designed to support Bible, Social Studies and History teachers become immersed in the Biblical and Reformation history of the Middle East and Europe. While the days were long, with discussions and readings, along with site visitation, all the teachers agreed it was an experience not to be missed and they have all returned with their faith confirmed, ready to use the knowledge gained in their teaching practice. "The experience gleaned from this tour," says Brian Mercer, Director of Education, "will make exciting classes to better inform our students in this important part of our curriculum."

Damian, who had embarked on this

journey a little apprehensive the images he had grown up with in his imagination would not meet up with reality, found these important connections were "deepened in such a way as to know my Saviour and the world He impacted, in a tangible, personal way. It has brought me closer to my God and given a real experience of the old stories I have grown up with. As a result of this trip, I feel stronger in my faith." And on a professional level, "the tour will deepen the educator's ability to pass those life changing stories on to the students, parents and colleagues who they have opportunity to share with."



Resting on the Mount of the Beatitudes



Our Schools

Edinburgh College

Edinburgh Early Learning Centre
Phone: 03 9761 9991

Primary Campus

Phone: 03 9728 8833

Secondary Campus

Phone: 03 9728 2211

edinburghcollege.vic.edu.au

Gilson College

Taylor's Hill Campus

Phone: 03 9365 9365

Mernda Campus

Phone: 03 9717 7300

www.gilsoncollege.com

Henderson College

Phone: 03 5024 5192

henderson.adventist.edu.au

Heritage College

Narre Warren South Campus

Phone: 03 9796 0100

Officer Campus

Phone: 03 5943 2900

www.heritagecollege.com.au

Nunawading Christian College

Primary Campus

Phone: 03 9878 9927

Secondary Campus

Phone: 03 9877 3555

ncc2.vic.edu.au

CONGRATULATIONS!

Both Sandra England and Tony Robinson, from Gilson College, have recently had articles published in the Journal of Adventist Education which is published five times yearly, with a world wide readership.

Congratulations to you both... well done!



Redwood Community Centre and their Community Garden

Redwood Community Centre

The Redwood Community Centre aims to provide support to families and individuals experiencing hardship in the upper Yarra Valley community of Warburton and surrounds. The Centre provides programs to teach young people inter-personal and life skills. Our mission is to identify and address the social and emotional needs of our community through sustainable service provision and programs. The Centre directly liaises with other local agencies and programs to ensure a comprehensive and collaborative approach to services. For more information visit: <http://www.redwoodcentre.org.au/>

Emergency Management Partnerships

ADRA's partnership with the City of Whittlesea is expanding. We currently have arrangements and training in place to support the Emergency Relief Centres when there is an emergency - working alongside the Red Cross, Salvation Army and VCOSS. Furthermore, the Schools Education program provides resilience education to students and staff focusing on preparedness, response, renewal and working with vulnerable groups. For more information on ADRA Australia's work visit: adra.org.au

ADRA

Centres of Influence:
BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN ADRA, COMMUNITY AND CHURCH

"ADRA is the church for the vulnerable. A platform where church members can realise their God-given gifts to shine a light on poverty, injustice and serve people who are experiencing hardship. ADRA builds bridges of love and acceptance between the church and the local community. The vision for Victoria is to see every church equipped to serve their community through Centres of Influence; centres which reflect our health message and most importantly Christ's love for the suffering."

Rebecca Auriant - ADRA Director, Victoria

More than a Food Parcel

Across Victoria, through our Emergency Relief (food, referrals and material aid) outlets, Adventist Churches support over 800 people every week. Here Rowville-Lysterfield church shares just one of its experiences...

Back in January, Sandra Tiscia delivered a food parcel to a recipient in the north Dandenong area.

'Rose' was in desperate need, not only because of her financial situation, but just that week she suffered the tragic loss of her son to suicide.

On delivering the food parcel Sandra was met by a very grateful 'Rose' and her daughter, who had come from Perth to be with her mother during this difficult time.

This was not a normal drop off; they were in need of more than just a parcel drop off. On answering their questions as to where the food was coming from, Sandra was able to explain the roll the local church had working with ADRA and the affiliated organizations in Dandenong.

Upon hearing this information, the questions started coming about who Adventists were, and what we believed.

"I recognized that as a delivery person, we have been encouraged not to use the service we offer as a witnessing occasion, but I found it totally necessary to share the love of Jesus with these two hurting souls." Sandra was even able to pray with them, encouraging them to have faith

in the God that loves them beyond all measure.

"I asked 'Rose' if I could contact her at some other stage," Sandra continued, "and she agreed whole heartedly. So after a couple of weeks, I did so." The delayed funeral was to be the next day, and the wake a bit later for others who couldn't make the funeral. Knowing that her financial situation would be restricted, Sandra asked if she needed help. Overwhelmed with emotion that someone would care, 'Rose' said yes.

Come the day of the wake, several of the ladies of the church made three very large trays of sandwiches, 50 scones with jam and cream and freshly baked biscuits. Over a dozen bottles of juice were donated by other church members.

"Two of us went to deliver the food on the day. To say that it was a blessing is an understatement. The blessing was ours to know we were able to serve the Lord and to help in such a small way in the life of 'Rose' and her family.

"Please keep them in prayer as the enormity of their loss will be felt always. I pray that we can continue to minister to them and show them the Love of Jesus."

“ Christ’s method ... There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit”

Ellen White, Ministry of Healing



Staff with the new van for homeless

Redwood Compassion

I recently saw a sign on a noticeboard that sums up all that the Warburton Church is trying to do for its community where there is a high rate of poverty, single parent families, drug abuse, mental illness and homelessness, compounded by the associated disconnectedness of living in a beautiful area which is removed from many of the support services that are accessible in the suburbs.

'A Heart of Compassion Moves the Hands to Action'

The 'compassion' that is being provided daily by the Warburton Church/ADRA partnership, through the Redwood Community Centre, has reinvigorated the focus and purpose of the Warburton Adventist Church. It connects many of our members with the weekly influx of community who come through the doors. The 'compassion' being shown by the staff and church volunteers has attracted many non-church members from the community to come and help make the practical provision of 'compassion' available through a whole range of programs. Additionally, the 'compassion' flowing out of the Centre has attracted the Upper Yarra Community Banks/Bank of Bendigo to generously fund many of the projects we have running. In 'compassion' the UYCBs recently funded the purchase of a caravan we can use as short term accommodation for people needing it. It has inspired the Warburton Caravan Park management to show 'compassion' and provide a very generous deal when the caravan needs to be put on site. It has inspired a local resident to show 'compassion' in housing the caravan when its not in use. The 'compassion' has become contagious. And it's moving many hands to action!

Brian Way

Community Service Opportunities in Victoria Family Program



Matthew 25:36
I was naked, and you gave me clothing.
I was sick, and you cared for me.
I was in prison, and you visited me.

Families

Families need to give generously for purposes bigger than themselves through service to others.

Research and common sense alike tell us that a person who gives of themselves to others without expecting something in return will be healthier than one who lives a self-indulgent life. Involvement in service activities, giving to others and focusing on giving instead of taking, is a crucial element of building a stronger community.

Ideas

Ideas to help your children shine and serve in your community and overseas are listed under 'Support ADRA's'.

Enjoy...

...serving your local community as a family!

A partnership between ADRA, Children's Ministries and Youth. For more information please email [Rebecca Auriant Director of ADRA Services](mailto:Rebecca.Auriant@adra.org.au) rauriant@adra.org.au www.adra.org.au

Support ADRA's

- Emergency Relief outlets by collecting food and toiletries for hampers;
- Op Shops by donating clothes and toys;
- Clients with gardening (Pathfinders);
- Settle Assist program by inviting a refugee family for dinner;
- Connection Trips by making support cards for volunteers;
- Housing Services with:
 - Making soaps for the women's refuges
 - Welcome/Care Packs
 - Art and Crafts
 - Gardening
 - Healthy Cooking on a Budget
 - Conversational English
 - Homework Club
 - Homeless Outreach; (1st Sabbath of every month. 7am Melbourne City Walk)
- Kids activities section at Vive Café every Thursday night.



ADRA HOUSING SERVICES	Emergency Relief	REDWOOD community centre	Community GARDENING	Settle Assist
Op SHOPS	Emergency MANAGEMENT	YOUTH Mentoring	vive CAFE	Seniors CONNECT

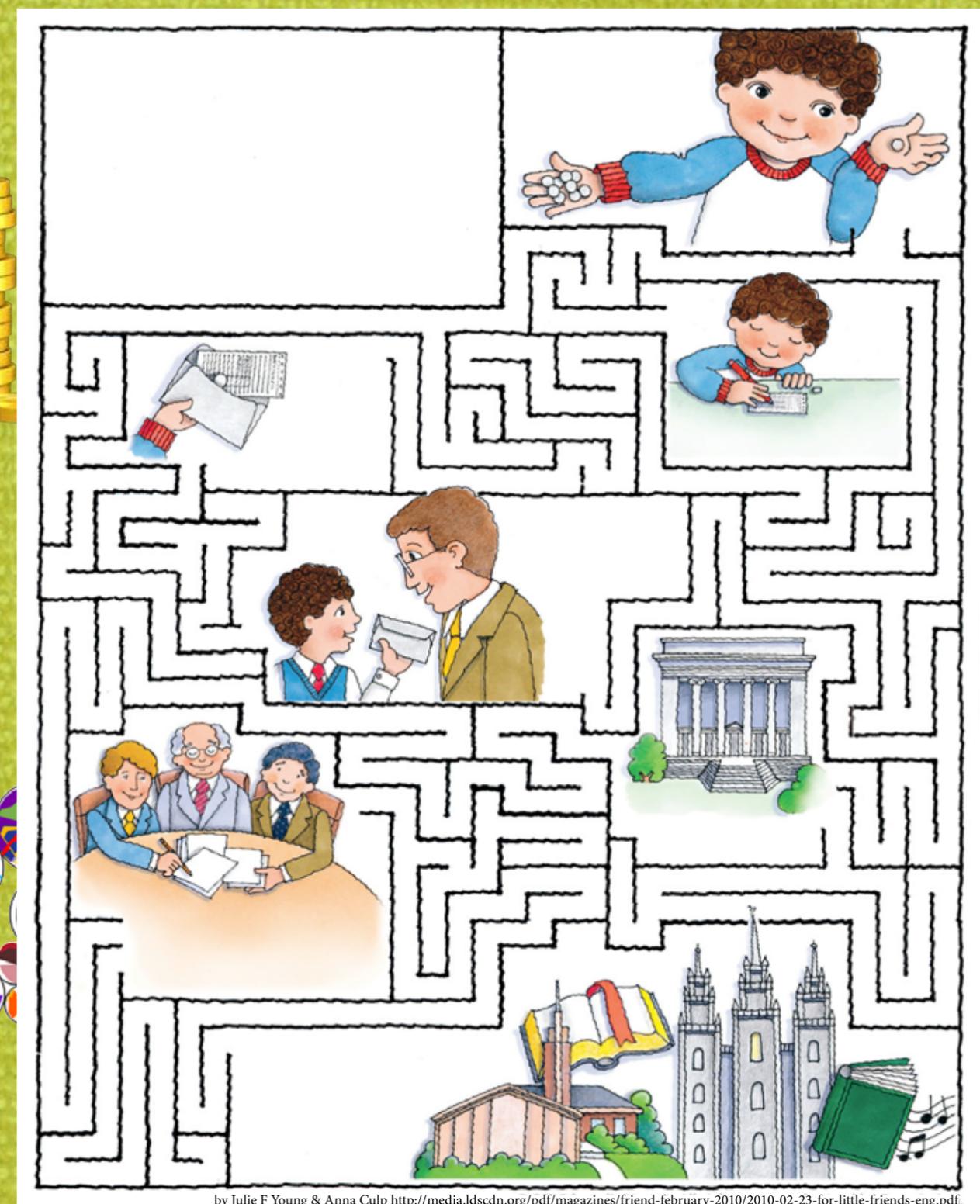
JUST4KIDS

Paying tithe is a privilege. God gives us everything that we have, and so we thank him for his blessings by giving back a tenth of what we receive.

What is **TITHING**?
 I'll tell you every time...
 It's 10 cents from a dollar
 and a penny from a dime!



What does a tenth look like?
 Ask your parents to do this activity with you...
 Find 10 of the same thing - smarties or stones or lego pieces or anything else you may have. If you keep 9 of these and put 1 aside- that one is for God.
 Can you find 50 of the same thing? Count out 5 - those are for God. The rest are yours... all 45 of them!
 When we earn money, we take a 10th to church and put it in a special tithe envelope to give back to God.
 He doesn't ask for much but He does ask us to be faithful in giving what we have...



by Julie F Young & Anna Culp <http://media.lidsdn.org/pdf/magazines/friend-february-2010/2010-02-23-for-little-friends-eng.pdf>.

CHECK THIS OUT...
 TITHING FROM AROUND THE WORLD
<http://murrayandmathews.blogspot.com.au/2011/11/primary-3-lesson-42.html>

Read these verses and fill in the blanks...

Bring the whole _____ into the _____, that there may be _____ in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD _____, "and see if I will not throw open the _____ of _____ and pour out so much _____ that there will not be _____ enough to _____ it. (Malachi 3:10 NIV Version)

God asks us to give one tenth of what we get back to Him. How should we be doing this?
 Each of you should _____ what you have _____ in your _____ to give, not _____ or under _____, for God loves a _____ giver.
 (2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV Version)



Julie Catton
 Director of Children's Ministries
 03 9264 7777
 CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

From the President cont from pg 15

require significant funds. We've worked closely with the Warburton people over a period of years to explore every option we can. I think it is common knowledge that AdventCare experienced significant losses from 2010 to 2013 and that hasn't helped. The Yarra Ranges Facility is clearly mission focused but financial viability remains a challenge. We continue to work with our faithful people at Warburton to find a positive way forward.

Infrastructure

You may have heard that both Pakenham and MASDAC churches have now purchased properties which will become their new church buildings. Werribee Church is waiting on Council to respond to their application. The Sale of land at Hallam Road is confirmed – and that's great news! Land sales are going very well at the subdivision at Taylors Hill. A Project Accountability Structure for the Nunawading Estate has been adopted. This will ensure the Project Control Group reports to the Executive Committee on a monthly basis. Howqua land improvements have been approved – new sewage ponds to comply with EPA requirements. We are thankful that the South Pacific Division has promised to help with funds for the purchase of a church building for the Casey Church. This promised funding will help open the way for the Casey church to establish their ministry in a centre which will become an effective Centre of Influence. We praise God for His blessings and encourage all to pray for His leading for His people in Victoria.

Graeme Christian



Dr Ken Long is a laymen who has been passionate about stewardship all his life. He led a lay initiative which is widely regarded as one of the most successful stewardship programs in Australia. Ken is a business consultant and has degrees in law, commerce, an MBA in marketing and a doctorate in organisational innovation.

82 and Going Strong

ACA Health

Imagine it's 1934. You face an enormous, unexpected hospital bill and there's no health fund to rely on. You're unable to pay the bill, so you have to present your case to a committee and hope the decision-makers see fit to give you some money towards your bill. Not the most ideal situation. So in May 1934, the Executive Committee of the Australian Union Conference gave five men the task of working out a scheme whereby all church employees could make "weekly payments to prepare for adequate care during times of sickness." Those men were: Brethren TW Hammond, RE Hare, GT Chapman, RH Adair and GS Fisher.

Four months later, their recommendations were adopted and the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Australia started its own private health fund for employees, called the Union Conference Medical Policy Fund. Married workers contributed 6d (sixpence) each week, and single workers 3d. If you wanted health cover to include your parents or siblings, you had to pay 6d whether married or single. If you needed hospital treatment, the

fund covered 50% of medical bills – up to the value of £20 (pounds) annually. Surprisingly – compared with today's generous fund – back then you were not allowed to claim for obstetrics, dentistry, tubercular-related illness, mental illness or chronic illness.

The health fund existed for workers in conferences, intuitions, mission fields and student workers, with the organisation employing the worker subsidising the fund to an amount equal to worker's contribution.

In an article in the Australasian Record in 1936, it was reported the fund had 920 contributors. "The fund has been running for a little over 18 months and is proving to be helpful and successful," the article reads. "We have had 300 claims up to June 30 last, and we have paid out in claims £1,455 (pounds)."

In 1940, the fund had 1,159 contributors. Just over 1,900 claims were made that year, with the average claim being £5 (pounds). Fourteen years later, the Australasian Record again reports the fund was proving to be a great safety net

It Will Change Your Life - continued from pg 7

income, my increase?" may not always be clear cut. God leaves that decision up to you. Determine your income honestly and prayerfully and God will honour your decision.

God's Treasury

When God established the Israelite nation, sanctuary and priesthood, He reaffirmed the tithing principle: "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord" (Leviticus 27:30). God directed that tithe should support the tribe of Levi, as it performed the priestly function and cared for the religious needs of the nation (Numbers 18:21-24).

At the storehouse area where the tithes of Israel were gathered, appointed officers redistributed the tithe to the priests and other Levitical attendants

who ministered directly in the service of the Temple. This communal involvement provided a co-ordinated support for the Temple personnel who were engaged full time in their spiritual ministries.

Paul saw a parallel to the Levitical system for Christians - "In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:14).

In the financially tight times in which we live, it would seem foolish to neglect a financial system that has proven so effective over the centuries. It's worth a try.

Besides it has the blessing of God.



*Translations used NIV or TLB



for its members. "A large number of our workers...have received substantial benefits from this fund, for themselves and their dependent relatives. The small weekly contribution by the worker to this medical fund has proved to be a very economical insurance against heavy medical expenses."

As an employer, the Adventist Church saw the establishment of a national fund would provide an added benefit; addressing the growing problem of inconsistent medical policies for employees transferring from state to state and in 1971 ACA Health Benefits Fund (ACA HBF) was formalised.

A lot has changed since those early days. Today ACA Health Benefits Fund provides private health cover of exceptional value and great choice

for current and past employees of the Adventist church, and their families.

"The SDA church has long been committed to the health and wellbeing of its employees," says Jody Burgoyne, Manager ACA Health Benefits Fund. "Establishing a health fund was part of its 'people ministry'. It helps the people who work for the church, to help the church fulfil its mission. We value our employees and their families, and that's why ACA recently expanded its offering to provide private health cover for extended family members as well – not just immediate family."

In future issues of IntraVic, we'll share more snippets of our history as well as some of the exciting developments within ACA Health Benefits Fund.

You can visit www.acahealth.com.au to watch the new promotional video and see how ACA Health can support you and your family. For more information, Phone: 1300 368 390 or Email: info@acahealth.com.au



Have you heard of ACA Health? It is a health benefits fund for church members, established by our church to help church workers. ACA recently shared with us a report on the history of ACA and we are passing it on.

pictured above - Sydney Sanitarium Hospital nurses in 1934

pictured top left - Australian Union Conference staff in 1934 with ACA Founders



Jindabyne Camp for the Deaf October 28-31, 2016



Are you deaf, hard of hearing, an Auslan, NZSL or BSL signer? if so, this camp is just for you! Enjoy fellowship, worship and fun at the Adventist Alpine Village, with guest presenter Esther Doss, a CODA with ASL as her first language. All meetings will be AUSLAN and spoken English. Accommodation is in comfortable shared chalets, fully catered with personal options. Cost \$300 (early bird \$250 by Aug 1) For more information and to register online, go to www.sdadeafdu.org/camp2016/html or email sdadeafdu@gmail.com

Notices



REEL TO REEL - Do you or someone you know have a Reel to Reel Tape Player (1/4inch)? Would you be willing to loan it out for one day? Please contact Robert on 03 5996 0082. Or email robbief@aapt.net.au

RETIREMENT READY?—WORKSHOP July 23 (TODAY) at Lilydale church, 3.30 pm

A workshop to help you plan and create your best retirement: What to plan + taking control of your money + choosing where to live + more. Having done the research, and interviewed people in the industry and academics who have studied retirement, Bruce Manners presents a workshop to help you plan your retirement. This workshop is designed to get you thinking through the issues so you can create your best retirement—a retirement that fits you. His new book, Retirement Ready?—published by Signs Publishing—will be launched at 5 pm and then available for sale at a special launch price.

Reason.Purpose.Hope

Northern Regional Youth Rally
July 29-30

Vespers: 7:30pm

Rally: 10am+lunch

Speaker: Pr. Christian Copaceanu

Gilson College -Mernda
370 Bridge Inn Road, Mernda

... for I know in
whom I believe ...
2 Timothy 1:12



Your invitation to
Warburton's 2016 Massed People's
Choir and Orchestra.

Theme
The Fruit of the Spirit

The Massed People's Choir and Orchestra is an inspiring experience of singing and playing hymns of praise in a large group. Come and participate with us in the 2016 Massed People's Choir and Orchestra.

When
Saturday, July 30:
Praise and Worship Service - 11.00 am
Massed People's Choir and Orchestra - 3.30 pm
(Attend either or both)

Where:
Warburton Seventh-day
Adventist Church,
3490 Warburton Hwy,
Warburton.

To Participate in the Orchestra-
Phone Nyarne (ASAP) on 0410 641 192.

If you are attending both morning and afternoon programs,
Warburton Church invites you to lunch!

Women's *Release* Conference

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Galatians 5:1



It's time for the daughters
of the kingdom to be released.
It's time to gather your friends and
connect with the Word.
It's time to declare
Whose we are...

Workshops will be in three groups:
Spiritual - Grow with God
Healing - essentials of happiness
Social - connectedness
Expect to learn, experience, and grow

Registrations
closing August 25-28, 2016
August 10 Bayview Eden Hotel, Melbourne
visit Vic.Adventist.org.au & register NOW



HURRY!

Registrations close August 8

WINTER RECHARGE

AUGUST 12-14 | CAMP HOWQUA
with jeff parker
18+

more info?
VICYOUTH.COM

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