

JUNE 26 2010

IntraVic

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

‘So go and tell...’





Alicia Patterson will be presenting 'Portraits of Faith' at the Women's Spiritual Retreat, where she will take a fresh look at the female followers of Jesus and how their stories can teach us to know our own identity in Christ and find our calling as His disciples.

Alicia has been employed both as a teacher and pastor, but her current official focus is raising her four children and supporting her husband in his pastoral ministry.

She is an inspiring speaker, writer, dramatist and business woman, and holds a

BA in English Literature and an MA in Religion.

Her greatest joy is found in connecting people to Jesus so He can bring healing to wounds and replace Satan's lies with His truth, enabling them to hear God speak of his love to them and encouraging them as they grow into their God-given identity and destiny.

Information

Full Accommodation \$145 per person

Under 30 years old \$80 per person

Day Attendees - Entrance Fee \$13 per person

Day Attendees - Lunch or Tea \$20 per person

Registration Deadline

Thursday July 15, 2010 Contact Jen De Silva on 03 9264 7777 or go to vic.adventist.org.au for more details

Refund Policy

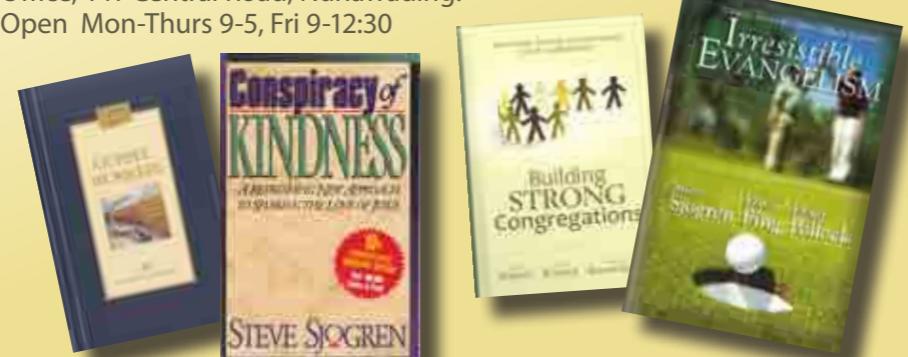
Cancellations received before July 15, 2010 will receive a full refund less \$10 processing fee. No refunds will be given for cancellations received after July 15, however, a substitute can attend in your place.

abc



At the ABC, we have a variety of resources to assist you in rethinking what the word EVANGELISM means and applying it in your life and your church. So drop in and have a look, Tina, Bethany and Joe are here to answer your questions and help in any way.

The Adventist Book Centre is located at the Victorian Conference Office, 141 Central Road, Nunawading. Open Mon-Thurs 9-5, Fri 9-12:30



Victorian Conference

Women's Spiritual Retreat

July 30 – August 1, 2010

Portraits of Faith

Friday
4:00pm Registration
7:00pm Worship & Session #1

Saturday
7:00am Devotional & Prayer Walk
9:30am Morning Program
10:30am Break
11:00am Worship & Session #2
12:30pm Lunch, free time, DVD watching
4:00pm Afternoon Program, Session #3
7:30pm Social Night
'Come and Join in the Fun!'

Sunday
7:00am Devotional & Prayer Walk
9:00am Worship, Testimonies, Items, Prayers & Session #4
11:00am Conclusion
2:00pm Departure

In this issue...

...we are exploring Evangelism. Christ gave the Great Commission just prior to His ascension - to go into all the world, teaching, baptising in His name. Yet often just the mention of the word elicits a negative response at some level.

There is no need - Evangelism, in its truest sense, is far more than formal meetings, or stressfully anticipated 'sharing of one's faith'. It is bigger than the biggest of campaigns, yet so simple.

Evangelism, in its true form, is sharing Jesus in what ever way you can - both in word and action. Evangelism is creative and exciting and yields great joy. So as you read further, it is our prayer that you will be inspired to intentionally live your life as a reflector of the Lord's love, sharing Him with everyone you come in contact with.

Editorial Team





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What if...

WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD EVANGELISM, DO YOU

- A) CRINGE AND LOOK FOR A ROCK TO HIDE UNDER
- B) FEAR BEING ASKED A QUESTION YOU CAN'T ANSWER
- C) THINK IT IS THE PASTOR'S JOB
- D) ALL OF THE ABOVE

Sadly, for many of us D) is the correct answer. Why is that? Is it because over the years, we have stereotyped evangelism to the point the word conjures up an image of large public seminars... Or have we equated it with knocking on doors and giving mini-Bible studies there on the spot? Are we afraid, on many different levels, of backing up what we believe, with words?

In this article, Pastor Greg Pratt explores the possibilities of evangelism as he asks "What if..." What if evangelism was easy? What if it was something everyone could do every day, didn't cost much and allowed you to speak freely of God's love to those around you? What if it was as easy as B-O-B!

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS - BE IMITATORS!

BStudies suggest that the most effective evangelism occurs through building relationships with people, and no, it doesn't have to be through knocking on doors or handing out leaflets but rather, it can be with the people you live with, work with, play sport with, go to the gym with or are in a club or organization with.

How? Let me ask, when was the last time you offered to pay for your work mate's morning tea? Or the last time you invited some friends over for a meal? Do you stick around and chat after the game or do you head out the door as fast as you can? Have you ever said "Hi" to the person training next to you in the gym? Or had a chat to your next door neighbour?

It's about deliberately living lives of love that will then present opportunities. John Maxwell suggests "People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care." Paul, in Ephesians 5:1 likens it to being imitators of God (see box).

In Christ we see what God is really like. As children imitate their father, you, as God's children, should be like Him. Walk in love and be willing to expend yourself for others as Christ has done for us. Remember that Christ's life was like sweet incense which He offered as a fragrant sacrifice to God.
Ephesians 5:1

Our vision is to... **know experience and share our hope in Jesus Christ!**

OUTLINE YOUR TESTIMONY (YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS)

Have you ever actually sat down and written your personal testimony of how you came to know Jesus and what He has done and is still doing in and through your life?

Why am I asking this? Because through sharing your own journey with Christ, others will come to know Him and realise that He really is there - that He does make a difference in people's lives. In today's society people don't just want to know the truth, they need to see and experience it too! In 1 Peter 3:15, Peter admonishes his readers to live a life focused on Christ, and when someone asks what makes the difference in their life, then tell them about the hope of Christ. It sounds simple, but are you prepared?

BRING THEM TO JESUS.

BWhile many of us can do the above very well, it is the next step that is often the most difficult and we are often left thinking, "How do we twist their arm and get them to church?"

Let me suggest that we need to think about it differently, asking instead, "How do we bring them to Jesus?"

It is through your friends experiences, coming into contact with Jesus' love through the way you live, that they will want to find out more. With the Spirit

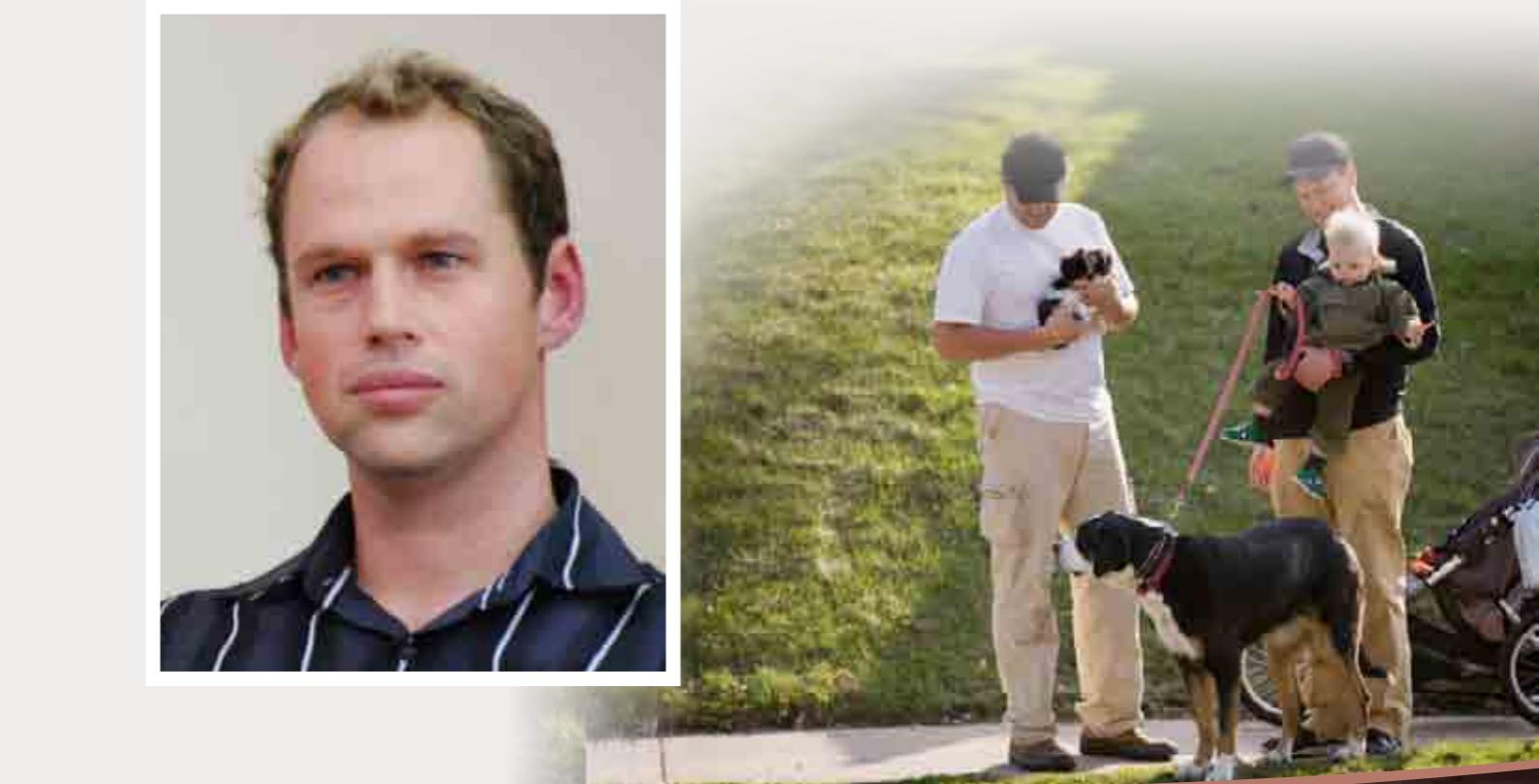
Continue to give the Lord Jesus Christ the most honoured place in your life. Then you'll be ready to give an answer to people when they ask about this hope bubbling up inside of you. Don't be afraid to tell them who gives you this hope, but do so with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15

overflowing from your heart, they can't help but notice a difference.

Why not invite them to a BBQ with some of your church friends, or to your small group, or to a Saturday afternoon walk or activity. Don't just think you have to bring them to a church. Instead, bring them to know and experience Jesus - then they will want to come to church!

So there you go, it's as easy as B-O-B... living your life on purpose! Give it a go! Let Jesus live through your life today!



Devotional...

Is it ever Enough?



Cast your mind back to the time of John the Apostle... Imagine the aging friend of Jesus Christ, banished to the rugged Island of Patmos. A tourist destination now, but no luxury then - accommodation most likely a cave... if one was fortunate.

His mind is filled with memories, his rheumy eyes have seen visions, and what spare time he has, he fills with writing. Having seen images of the churches and the troubles they are suffering, John is powerless to do more for them than pray and write.

Bound to the desolate island... No longer free to visit and minister to his dear friends... Alone...

Thoughts drifting back over the years, John remembers his fellow disciples – to the best of his knowledge scattered and most likely dead.

He remembers the heady days just after the Lord's ascension. Ahh... the wonder of that time! Thousands converted in a day.

'This gospel of the Kingdom will be taken to all the world, and then the end will come.' It had all seemed within reach - within their lifetime.

Then persecution hit. James was murdered at the hand of Herod, before his ministry had barely begun. Steven suffered a similar fate. Saul, resisting the conviction that Jesus was the Messiah, took his anger out on believers, and those who survived, scattered across the empire.

Yes, they took the message with them, and yes, the Apostles continued in their commission – preaching, encouraging, baptising - but to what avail?

So go and tell people of all nations the good news and baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them everything I've taught you. I'll always be with you, even until the end of the world.
Matthew 28:19,20

In his sunset years, did it perhaps seem to John that they... that he... had not done enough? That the message had not gone to the whole world and maybe never would - that it was too late?

Here he was, trapped on an island, unable to reach any save those there with him or the few who would read his letters. What would happen to the Commission, once he, the last of the Twelve, passed away?

Can you imagine these doubts assailing John, even for a short time? As the other apostles approached their own deaths, did they too wonder if they had done enough for their Lord? If they had made a difference?

The good news of the kingdom must be preached around the whole world for a witness and then the end will come
Matthew 24:14

His beloved with a clear message for John himself: here was God's city and their names were its foundation – he and his brothers had made a difference.

What a loving God.

Let your imagination free one more time... Can you see the smile on His face, when His beloved realised what He was telling him? God loves giving good gifts to His children.

He smiles on us that way too, as He reaches down and gives us what we need to keep going.

It is quite possible the Apostles had no idea their words would outlive their lifetime by thousands of years, that their witness would reach countless numbers of people. They had no idea of the impact they would make on the world.

And nor do we. We focus on Christ, we live our lives to bring Him glory. We share our hope in Him. And wonder what difference we make.

Satan will attack and we will doubt. We don't pray enough. We don't care enough... Do enough... Be enough...

But, this side of the Kingdom, we never will, and nor will we know the difference we have made. So ignore the devil-spawned insecurities that plague you. Step out, focus on Christ, and walk the path He has mapped out, trusting that His Spirit will make up for your inadequacies. It is, after all, His work that we do.

Our vision is to...
know
experience
share
and
our hope in Jesus Christ!

SHERRIE COURTNEY
ASSISTANT EDITOR
VICTORIAN CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER





Moreblessings and Tendai

Meet Tendai, a lone student from Zimbabwe. She comes to Australia to study, but soon finds herself very sick in Hospital. In His grace, God has already provided her with a 'family' who is there for her in her time of need. The result changes lives around the world.

The day they first met, Tendai was sitting three rows away from where Selba and Loudon usually sat in church. Quite a few young people from Africa came to that church, some just visiting, others attending regularly. As was her custom, Selba greeted and welcomed Tendai.

"Normally that is all I do," Selba recalls. "I just talk to them, but from the very beginning I felt a strong connection with Tendai."

Learning that Tendai had only recently arrived from Zimbabwe and was studying at Deakin University, Selba invited her to move into their row and sit with them. "I remember saying to her, 'From now on, you are under my wing,' ...at the time having no idea why I should do so."

Tendai quickly became a part of Selba's family. They would collect her each Sabbath from her student accommodation and some weeks she would join them for lunch after church.

They even invited her to go with them to Easter Camp at Elmore, and when there were family birthdays to celebrate, Tendai joined in.

About the middle of April, Selba received a text from Tendai, telling her she was not well and that although she had been taking her medication, was not feeling any better. Concerned, Selba suggested she catch a taxi to the nearby hospital and met her there.

Within two hours of arriving, Tendai was admitted for

Then the King will say... "What you did by caring ... was as pleasing to my Father as if you had done it for me"
Matthew 25:40

further investigation and treatment, but as the days passed, she deteriorated further, and could barely sit up, let alone feed herself or get out of bed.

Selba called Tendai's sisters living in the UK and made contact with her mother in Zimbabwe. They felt helpless, being so far away. She assured them she would do all she could, that the doctors were doing everything they could, and above all, the Great Physician was also looking after her.

"I prayed with them over the phone," says Selba, "asking that the Lord heal her as He did the sick, over 2000 years ago."

With the help of some of Tendai's university and church friends, Selba continued to care for her after admission, visiting and praying together. "Tendai was surrounded by God's people, truly loving, truly caring about her." Selba then adds "I

was reminded that in Jesus we are indeed one family."

But in spite of the best medicine could offer, Tendai continued to deteriorate. Selba contacted the church pastor, requesting a visit.

"When I received the emergency call from Selba, my thoughts were troubled," recalls the pastor, "and as I went to see her, I pled with God to make a difference, to save her life." He arrived and found Selba waiting while Tendai was in the operating theatre having a procedure done.

As we Reflect His Light...

...stories of God's Grace

They prayed together, comforting each other and sharing how God had been good to them in the past. "Then the doors opened, and they were wheeling Tendai back to her room from the operating theatre. She opened her eyes and, seeing us there, greeted us with a big smile. We soon learned that her fever disappeared, and she was stable. No one seemed comfortable talking to us about her rapid recovery – the illness was gone like it had never happened – and the next time I saw Tendai, she was giving me a hug at church. I know God is still in the soul saving business and her life is another miracle to celebrate."

Tendai's recovery was indeed rapid and she was discharged just four days later.

Selba and Loudon took Tendai into their own home upon discharge, rather than back to the student accommodation where she would be on her own, and continued to help nurse her back to recovery.

On Sabbath, just two weeks after admission, Tendai stood at the front of her church, thanking the members for their intercessory prayers and support, and her sister, Moreblessings, who had flown to Melbourne to be with her, told of how amazed she was to see such love for someone, a virtual stranger, flowing from the people who surrounded Tendai, and of her own determination now to return home and let the Lord's love flow to others through her – that Christianity was not just about words but actions too.

God's message is written on your hearts, which people can read and speak about wherever you go - You are living letters...
2 Corinthians 3:2

"Tendai's sickness and the speed of her recovery have strengthened my family's faith," says Selba. "We have witnessed firsthand, the truth and power of intercessory prayer. Our Lord is truly a great physician, and He will never leave us, whether in good times or bad."

Tendai has since returned to University, where she is keeping up with her workload and, as at the time of writing, sitting her exams. She cannot stop thanking the Lord for what He is continuing to do for her.

A message from Tendai's sister...

A few days after my sister became critically ill and was hospitalised, I received a phone call from an unfamiliar voice, introducing herself and telling about Tendai's condition. She asked us not to panic but to trust and believe in God, that He could heal Tendai. As one voice we cried out to our God, and today I can thank Him for this miraculous encounter. I am so overwhelmingly thankful for this significant experience of God's love through the Luka family and their church. Mamma Selba and Daddy Luka have taught me a very important lesson in Christianity. It is not good enough to say we are Christians. Beloved brethren, it is time we let actions speak, it is time we spread the Gospel of Christ through our good deeds.

God has a reason for everything, and through this ordeal our families have been brought together and taken to a whole new level, spiritually.

I truly hope this testimony will encourage someone to step out of their comfort zone and reach out to someone in need and watch God's hand at work their life. May God richly bless you.

Your sister in Christ,
Moreblessings



Selba Luka



The Joy of Deciding for Christ...

"Look How far You've Come"

HENDERSON COLLEGE

"My child, timid shy I know you're Wondering if God would overlook you... Once you started believing, you started seeing..."

You were down, you were out, But look how far you've come..."

Josh and his younger brother and sister started attending Henderson College in 2008. Although quiet and shy, he began making new friends in this unfamiliar Christian environment. He had no interest in Christianity, however, and was determined to keep it out of his life.

God had other plans. Evangelism in its true form is sharing Jesus in whatever way we can – both by word and action. The Holy Spirit worked on Josh's heart, using his relationships with his new friends and teachers as they 'evangelised' – as they lived their lives for God – and the school chaplain, who took him under his wing and mentored him.

Now, two years later, Josh is a changed young man, an inspiration to his friends.

His good friend Joel wrote a song, 'The Way to You' for the baptism, and spoke of how Josh has become an example to those around him, through his dedication to Jesus.

A group of friends sang the song, 'Look how far You've Come' (words quoted in the introduction) with one of their teachers before the baptism. It captured the story of Josh's spiritual journey and they dedicated it to him. Later, a letter was read to the church: a letter from Josh's family, thanking the church for their acceptance and care of their son. They too, noticed the change in Josh, and were happy to come, supporting and celebrating the day with him.

There were many teary eyes there that Sabbath, but the tears of pride and joy turned to smiles of happiness and laughter as the church family joined with Josh's family for a shared lunch, filling the afternoon with food and fellowship.

Yes, Josh has indeed been transformed and is a new person in his Saviour, Jesus Christ. While still quiet and shy, he has grown into a happy and friendly young man, strong in the Lord.

Why Wait?

MILDURA CHURCH

"When can I be baptised?" This is a question all Chaplains and Pastors love to hear. There is a joy that can be rivalled by no other, in leading someone to a deeper relationship with Christ, a joy that is available to us all.



Sam, Michael and Luis

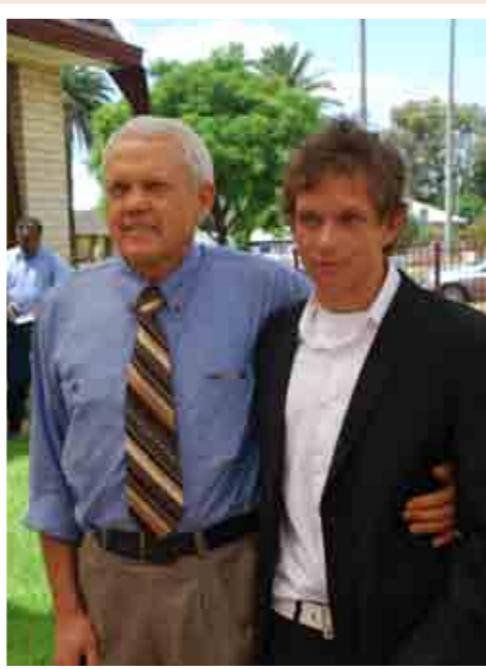
Intern pastor, Luis Bermudez, experienced some of this as he was asked this question over and over by an enthusiastic and persistent eleven year old, Michael Guljas. Enthusiasm is contagious, and after taking Michael and his older brother Sam through Bible and Baptismal studies, he was finally able to stand in the font with them in April, and answer the question.

"Now my brothers in Christ... Now you can be baptized!"

The boys' mother spoke emotionally of the family's journey to this point, rejoicing in new life in Christ.

When asked why he was so impatient to take this stand, Michael's answer was simple.

"Why wait? Jesus is coming soon."



Josh & his Grandfather

Willing to Open the Door

SPOTSWOOD CHURCH

We are all different. God, responding to the uniqueness He created in us, reaches each of us in different ways, so each of the many aspects of evangelism has their place. A formal program made the difference in Jennilyn's life, as, not new to the faith, she did not really see a need to make a deeper commitment, until earlier this year when she attended the Adventist Youth Conference.

In May, Jennilyn, a Yr 11 student at Gilson College, was baptised. A regular church goer, she has been at Gilson since Yr 3. Attending AYC with other students and staff from the school, she sat there, listening to the messages, and resisting the urge she felt, each time one of the speakers called people to come forward and commit to God. Finally, at the last meeting, Jennilyn could resist no more, and determined to stand and go forward, alone if necessary.

At her baptism, she requested the song "The Saviour is Waiting (to enter your heart)" as this described her condition when she stepped forward to 'open the door' of her heart to Christ that day. Jennilyn believes that being at a Christian school which provided the opportunity for her to attend AYC was more than a coincidence. It was part of God's divine agenda for her life that she now celebrates everyday.

Jennilyn is busy sharing Jesus in whatever way she can. She is actively engaged in outreach to her peers in and out of school. She worked with others who attended AYC, organising and speaking at Gilson College senior chapel, and has preached at her home church. She has invited her friends to Bible study, and recently attended an AYC follow-up seminar, where she had to travel by car, train, tram and bus to get to the meeting on time. All this, on top of her Yr 11 workload.

Her dedication to sharing her faith is exemplary and her positive influence continues as she has made herself an instrument in God's hands – there can be no better way to discover the joy to be had, in leading others one step closer to deciding for Christ, than to get involved and give it a go.

Returning Home

RINGWOOD & SPOTSWOOD

John and Yvonne Chan welcomed Reuben, Nova and Raphael into their home for studies over a period of ten months. They developed a close friendship with these lovely young people as they encouraged their relationship with the Lord to grow. The joy of sharing Christ's love is two sided - both for the receivers and the givers, as with joy, the Chans saw their friends give their hearts to God.

Rafael Prado and his two sons Reuben and Raphael attended the meetings held in Melbourne in 1991, presented by Pr Kenneth Cox from the US. Deeply convicted by the truth from the Word of God, they were baptised.

However over the years there was trouble at home and with the pressure of the world, the boys wandered away from their church. In 2009 they attended another series of meetings and Reuben, now a married man with a family, felt the need of God in their home. He tried to explain the truth to his wife Nova, who was a Catholic, and they began attending Ringwood Church where they felt welcomed. Senior elder, Guy Smith, asked Pr John Chan to study with them.

On May 8, Reuben and Nova were baptised at Ringwood Church and Raphael was baptised at Spotswood Church on May 29. They were very happy to be home once more and praised God for His leading.



Jennilyn with teachers from Gilson, Jennifer & John



John, Reuben, Nova & Raphael



Evangelism...

...More than Service

In the parable of the sheep and the goats, our acts of service seem to be everything. Yet as you read what comes before – the need to take the gospel to the entire world and the need for spiritual readiness – it seems to indicate service is not enough. The service that is rendered by the 'sheep' seems to be a 'sub-conscious' type of service. It has arisen as a by-product of being followers of Christ and they have barely even been aware they have done it! Those listed as the 'goats' have not only done these acts of service but they want to shout their accomplishments from the mountaintops for all and sundry to see.

Last issue we discussed the many and varied ways we can be of service for God, affirming and encouraging you to give it a go. Acts of service in no way contribute to our salvation – we can never accomplish enough to even get on the same page as Christ – that is the divine act of Christ in us. But it is through our actions we reveal Him living in us. This is evangelism – living and breathing Christ – and ultimately actions create opportunities for words to follow.

In Acts 6 we see the Apostles entering more and more heavily into sharing God's love, however these acts of service were distracting them from their work in other areas of evangelism. Sharing our temporal blessings with others is good, but what use is it if those we serve never hear what it is that motivates us to do this? If we never get to share our greatest blessing of all – the life and teachings of Jesus?

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

In order to realise our vision, to know, experience and share our hope in Christ, various decisions and directions have been put in place by the Conference. With much to say let me give a brief taste of a few of these while noting more that will follow in future.

Approval has been given by the Executive Committee to the Macedon Ranges company to become a Church. The date of the inauguration service will be advertised when finalised.

Finances were recently approved and Greensborough Church has commenced worshiping in the new premises, under the new name of Plenty Valley Adventist Church.

The redevelopment plans for Ascot Vale Church have been completed and funding procured, with works expected to commence soon.

Key committees arising from the Constituency Meeting have been established along with Terms of Reference for them. The 'State Planning Review Taskforce' has been formed and will commence its work soon while the 'Victorian Education Taskforce' has already commenced its work.

The outgoing Pastoral Staffing Committee has continued its work and the newly formed Committee will meet in the near future. In January this year a 2 year trial commenced where the traditional calling season of September and October has been done away with. Under the old system pastors could only be called during this time. Currently calls can be placed at any time of the year. This, for example, has enabled us to call Pr Gavin Rowe to pastor Moe & Traralgon Churches.

A working party, including some past members of the Nunawading Estate Business Development Committee, has been established and is working to progress the 2009 Constituency Meeting Decision regarding the Nunawading Estate.

DARREN CROFT
GENERAL SECRETARY

Our vision is to... **know** experience and share
our hope in Jesus Christ!



Go and tell...

...More than Preaching

We have been commissioned to do it... It is distinctively Adventist... It is at the core of who we are... But do we really know and understand how and what evangelism is? Does your church have an evangelism strategy? Do you live each day of your life "Making the most of every opportunity that God places before you?"



At the Conference Personal Ministries Department, we aim to equip all churches and their members with access to effective and practical ways of evangelising. Take a look at some of the method's below...

Letter box cards - Something so easy as place a card in a box and pray for the house can lead someone to know Jesus, it's that simple! Already this year there have been a number of cards returned leading to Bible studies.

Dave Smith goes 'letter boxing' after work during the week - one night he put a Try Jesus card in Margurite's mail box. Some ministerial interns and I followed up this contact, dropping off several DVD's. After some time she joined a small study group and began attending church regularly, leading to her baptism last October.

Spiritual Survey - This can be likened to a gentle nudge, making someone think about their life and the direction they are heading. If you love talking to people and knocking on doors then this idea is for you! Who knows, maybe someone will surprise you with a request for a Bible study - it has been known to happen.

Dinner With... - Some of the best times to discuss Jesus is over a meal together and while a lot of 'dinners with' are done with an evangelist, have you ever thought about actually inviting some friends or family to your house for a meal, making it intentional by asking God to create opportunities for you to share Jesus with them... doesn't cost much yet can have eternal implications.

Needs-oriented Evangelism – This form of evangelism is about intentionally building relationships by meeting a person's need. It is about allowing them to see Christ through your actions. It's nonthreatening and an effective way of evangelising, building relationships and sharing Jesus.

'Beyond' - Coming soon, this is a brand new series designed to connect and impact today's generation. 'Beyond' is going to be an easy form of evangelism as you let the presenters do the talking - all you have to do is build a relationship!

Glow - Leaving tracts with friends and in places where people will find them, or giving them to people you interact with in shops or businesses is an easy way to share Jesus with the people around you!

Run a seminar - Do you enjoy presenting? Why not organize and run a seminar from your home or church, there are a number of options available including the Prophecy Code and the new Revelation of Hope series,

These are just some of the idea's that are available to you and remember, now that we have got you thinking 'outside the box' when it comes to sharing Jesus, there is nothing stopping you from being creative and thinking up your own ideas for evangelism. In partnership with God, it can become an exciting adventure!

If you would like more information about the above forms of evangelism or would like some training in how to do them, give the Personal Ministries Department at the Conference Office a call to organise a time and date that suits you, or be sure to attend the Personal Ministries Experiential Learning Centre in the second half of the year, and together we can change Victoria, one life at a time.

LOREN PRATT
PERSONAL MINISTRIES
03 9264 7777





Get Involved...

WARRAGUL CHURCH

knocking, to follow up Bible study. The first program was held in Neerim South and Duane tells us what happened...

The program ran for three nights, over a weekend in May. The weekend before it was scheduled, we door knocked the town, which, being small, took less than three hours, and each meeting, including travel time, was about another three. So this program cost us about twelve hours, plus the rental for the venue. And the return?

A figure cannot be placed on it. During this time I have personally witnessed the church members reviving, becoming active and excited for the Lord. They have been given a plan and have run with it. I thought maybe ten or so people would turn up to help, but when I saw twelve cars full of church members, I was overwhelmed. By the conclusion of the weekend program, we had four solid contacts asking for Bible Studies. And the return keeps multiplying. Church members will be assisting with these studies, so now they are wanting to study their Bibles more themselves.

We plan to run three more of these events this year. If it keeps on at this rate, that is sixteen people getting to know more of God, and a church on fire for the Lord. Then there is next year...

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

Romans 10:14

Good to Go!

BURWOOD CHURCH

With the launch of a new series, Connect, earlier this year, Burwood church has been endeavouring to reignite a passion for small group ministry. Expectations were exceeded, with over 75 people taking part regularly. At the conclusion, most groups agreed to continue on a fortnightly basis.

"So much of what has been called 'church' in modern times is far removed from the vital and fulfilling relationships prescribed for us in the New Testament," says church pastor, Andrew Kapusi. "New Testament writings describe what church life should really be like... we need to experience the real, life changing relationships that God wants for us." Sabbath is a great time for celebration and worship at church, but there are some things that just aren't going to happen in a crowd! In fact, the vast majority of the directions given to us in the New Testament cannot be effectively practiced

in a large group setting. "Small groups," continues Andrew, "create a setting where we really get to know one another. They allow us to encourage and care for each other and grow together. They provide the best option for interactive Bible study – a great opportunity to learn, to laugh and to love."

Burwood has since run another series, with 'Space: good to go?' as its theme. Like astronauts preparing for their next mission, our lives are 'mini missions' exploring that all important space between the date of our birth and that of our death. As Christians, what we do here on earth does matter, so let's live our lives with deliberation and purpose.

Again it was emphasized that the Christian life is more effective if we don't try to do it alone: that small groups, meetings with significant others, help us achieve what it would be impossible to do by ourselves.

Without friends, without team, we are not good to go!

Burwood Church would like to offer the resources and experience gained from participating in these series to the broader church community. If you are interested in knowing more, please contact AndrewKapusi@adventist.org.au.



New from our Churches...

WARRAGUL CHURCH

It is not hard to find the joy of 'evangelising' – you just need to get involved, as church members in Warragul have discovered. Previously we brought to you the plans this church has been making, under the leadership of conference evangelist, Duane Haora, to conduct a series of 18 regional campaigns. Campaigns that rely heavily on church member involvement, from demographic research, to letter boxing and door



Friendship Evangelism in the City

GATEWAY ADVENTIST CENTRE

Earlier this year, they hosted AYC10, from which 39 decisions for baptism/rebaptism were made, fourteen people committed to full-time ministry and 35 decided to spend six months as Bible Workers. During Orientation week at the city's universities, Gateway had a team of members making their presence felt, offering invitations to join a Care Group or attend a seminar – over 100 students signed up, some for the first time. The mini-seminar, held the same weekend as Melbourne experienced one of the worst hailstorms on record and consequently the attendance was less than expected, but it still resulted in 20 people requesting Bible studies and 20 joining a Care Group. Church members are now planning for another evangelistic effort in August.

Public evangelism however, is not the only way Gateway members are endeavouring to share Christ. They offer practical evangelism too. Gateway has a small team of dedicated IT professionals who have developed their own iPhone Bible Application which has been downloaded by more than 1800 people, with users from 41 different countries. Additionally, members run an English class, where people from many faiths come to learn English. "We unashamedly acknowledge that these classes are a Church led program," says senior elder, Johnny Wong. "We have prayer, and teach from the Bible. It has been amazing to see the people respond. We have had about 20 students join Care Groups as a result of this ministry."

It is this active Care Group ministry that is perhaps the most important part of Gateway's evangelism. It is grass roots Christianity – building relationships; loving people to Christ.

Recently, at a church camp to which more than 90 seekers came, some for the first time, Mark Gao was baptised by Pr Cristian Copaceanu.

"We can praise God and celebrate that Mark is the 98th person to be baptised since Gateway started," says Johnny. "Young adults like Mark are finding Jesus in Melbourne because their friends make the effort to invite them to a Care Group."

"When I first came to Gateway's Care group," says Mark, "I was looking for friends to fill my time and my life. I soon realised that the people there were different; they have a relationship with a person called Jesus. They read His words, pray to Him and apply His principles in their lives.

"As I developed a sense of belonging in the group, my heart opened to believing. I am glad I am now a baptised member of the church."

If you would like to be involved in Gateway's various outreach projects, contact Johnny on johnnytina.wong@gmail.com for more information.



Mark's baptism

Reaching out - in English!

ST ALBANS CHURCH

Starting the first Sabbath in July, St Albans will be offering Sabbath School and Church Services in English. The program will run from 1-3pm.

St Albans church is well located in the Western suburbs, only 100 metres from St Albans train station, at 3 West Esplanade, St Albans, with adequate seating for 150 people, a good sound system, live internet broadcasting and projection equipment, and a number of smaller classrooms.

Additionally, construction of a new hall is due to commence shortly.

Members are excited about this new development, enabling their brothers and sisters living on the western side of Melbourne, who wish to worship in English, to do so without having to travel long distances.

Feel free to contact Pastor Damir Posavac on 0432 593 299 if you wish to be involved in this exciting new program or if you have any further questions.



....All are Welcome, so please, come and visit us.



More Church News...

Evangelism Challenge WANTIRNA CHURCH YOUTH

This year the Youth Sabbath School class is being challenged. Each quarter, one Sabbath is a little out of the ordinary – it's their Evangelistic Challenge – they don't know what is involved, but bravely turn up at 8 am to see what the organiser has planned.

The Bible suggests that a reason for sharing Christ with others is for our own good – a lesson these young people recently learnt.

"The first of these excursions took us to a viewpoint over Melbourne," says Justin Bone, ministerial intern. "There we prayed for God's guidance and an evangelistic heart for the city." The second excursion was a little more challenging. Beginning with a pancake breakfast for fortification, the group was then directed to pair off and go across the road to door knock. "There were a few nervous laughs," Justin recalls, "but I am proud to say many were excited by the prospect." They were given a simple task – a spiritual questionnaire to fill out and some 'Try Jesus' cards to leave in the letter box if no one answered.

Adrenaline pumping, nerves steeled and strengthened by prayer, they set out – pens and surveys clutched bravely before them. A lot of 'Try Jesus' cards were left in the letter boxes, but occasionally someone would open the door. They were usually courteous, but rarely interested.

"I did get one survey completed," says Justin. "A senior citizen, out for his morning constitutional, was happy to give us some of his time. He, too, was a Christian and it was a pleasure to discuss God's grace and share fellowship with a new friend on this sunny Sabbath morning."

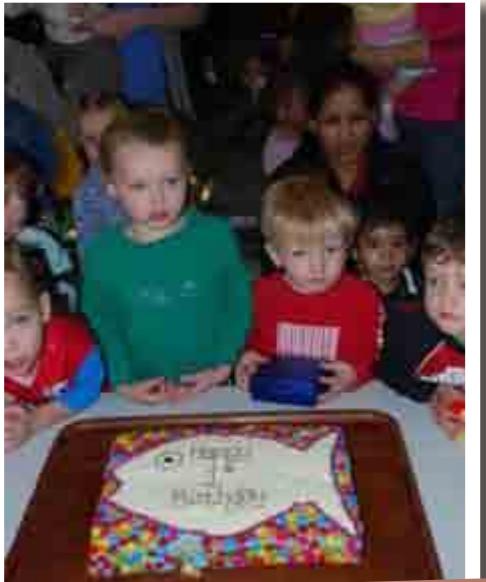
Debriefing as short 30 minutes later, there were many stories to be told. Sleeping people had been disturbed, doors closed firmly in their faces. Questions were raised – was this a viable means of evangelism or was there a better way? Many had not even got one survey filled out...

But then a story emerged, of someone discouraged, who was prayed with... And another of a family interested in learning more of the Bible, who will receive Search DVD's as an introduction to the church just across the road...

"Faces shone as these stories were recounted," remembers Justin, "and I reflected that despite the difficulty some encountered, each had their faith strengthened by the act of reaching out to the community around them, and I thanked God that we had the privilege to share our faith – not just with each other, but with someone as close as across the road."

Little Fish serve up breakfast MILDURA CHURCH

great success with more than 40 community children and parents enjoying a morning of food and fun in the playgroup's regular time slot.



The breakfast was used by the Playgroup as a launching pad for Healthy Choice "Welcome Packs". Sponsored by the Church and local businesses, the packs included examples of local healthy products and services that promote an active and healthy lifestyle, with Mildura Adventist Church providing a Bible for Toddlers to assist in children's spiritual well being.

Both the breakfast and the Welcome Packs were well received by parents and children, with many remarking at how nice it was to try something different in breakfast cereals, and how unexpected a surprise it was to receive such a nice welcome present to the Little Fish Playgroup family.

Then in May, Little Fish celebrated its first birthday. Over 60 children, parents and playgroup staff filled the hall with excitement and noisy singing as they sang Happy Birthday and cut a colourful Fish Cake.

Coordinators have been overwhelmed by the success of the program and feel incredibly blessed to be able to serve in this way.

"Every few weeks a new family (or two!) walk through our doors," says leader, Di Obst. "It is truly an amazing ministry to be a part of."

National Playgroup Week in April provided Little Fish Playgroup with an opportunity to invite members of the Mildura community to come to the Church Hall for a Healthy Choice Breakfast. Assisted by Sanitarium, the breakfast was a

C4 Ignite BALLARAT CHURCH

"Young people face many tough choices during the teenage years and we want to provide an environment that is friendly and social based so teens can feel confident to be themselves," adds Sheralyn van Egmond, the other coleader.

The title itself says a lot about the mission and direction of the group – explosive teens on fire for Christ. "C4 is the way in which we fit our focus into two syllables – Called, Chosen, Committed and Confident. If we are these things then we are an explosive force that cannot be stopped." Josh says.



C4 Ignite at an external activity

Toward the end of 2009, the Church Pastoral team made the decision to change their current Teen program, having evaluated the way it was received by their teens.

"Numbers had been steadily decreasing," says coleader, Josh Wood, "so we reinvented our program, and called it C4 Ignite."

"Young people face many tough choices during the teenage years and we want to provide an environment that is friendly and social based so teens can feel confident to be themselves," adds Sheralyn van Egmond, the other coleader.

The title itself says a lot about the mission and direction of the group – explosive teens on fire for Christ. "C4 is the way in which we fit our focus into two syllables – Called, Chosen, Committed and Confident. If we are these things then we are an explosive force that cannot be stopped." Josh says.

C4 Ignite operates during the school terms and runs every week on a four week cycle, where they rotate through an external activity such as swimming, laser tag or tennis; a Character Sketch and Application, taking character qualities from nature; a Debrief, Feed and Play where they review the previous week, eat and play games; and a Project, which includes things such as glass mosaics, clay sculptures and the like.

While the group is not run as an outward focused evangelistic campaign, already the program is seeing the teens being more comfortable in bringing their friends along. "We have four non-churched kids coming each week," says church pastor, Brian Lawty. "We just do what we do, and God works through us to benefit His Kingdom."

Caring for our Youth EASTERN CHURCHES

This year, churches throughout the Eastern region of Melbourne have joined together to begin a new initiative for young people in the area.

It is the Eastern regional Vespers program, where Nunawading, Burwood, Wantirna and Lilydale churches are alternatively hosting a Friday night Youth program every few weeks. A bimonthly Saturday night social is also part of the 'roaming' program, and the first such event was held at Nunawading in April, where over 50 young people came together to enjoy the 'Aussie Bonanza', which included a variety of activities such as an exciting volleyball match, board games, Wii bowling, an outdoor Aussie movie and just catching up.

For more information on this regional vespers initiative, bringing our young people together, go to fridaynightvespers.blogspot.com



Wildlife Day CASEY & BERWICK CHURCHES



Combining their resources, these two churches are working together on a number of key evangelistic endeavours this year.

This began with a Wildlife Day at Heritage College on April 18. Over one thousand people attended, with approximately 750 from the surrounding community. Andrew Wegener's wildlife display was the draw card; other attractions being the "Pinnacle of Terror", "Health-Age" assessments, food stalls and music. Attendees were given show bags, with breakfast cereal samples, Signs magazines, DVDs and information on the two churches. As people left the wildlife display many completed feedback forms, which listed other programs that we will be providing for the community throughout the year. 87 responses requested more information on upcoming "Lifestyle programs", 53 responses requested updates on "Relationship" programs and 34 responses were from people wishing to attend spiritual programs, including worship services, prophecy seminars, and requests for Bible studies. God has richly blessed in this outreach event.

Church News Continued...

International Food Festival DANDENONG POLISH CHURCH

This church has been reaching out to their community with a number of 'entertaining' programs - yet through the fun, strong bridges with their community are being built.

An atmosphere of warmth, friendliness and relaxation accompanied the wonderful aromas in our church on Sunday 30th May, when we invited the community to come and dine with us.

Our focus was to open our church to our community neighbours, those who may never have had contact with Adventists before as well as those we already knew from our Kid's Day last year, wanting our guests to join us in celebrating the multi-cultural diversity of Australia within the setting of our church.

The hall was full of hungry visitors who delighted in tasting an eye-appealing and mouth-watering array of international dishes from many countries. There was also a BBQ outside with the traditional Aussie sausage in bread with onions or cheese and sauce. Also offered were free Vegetarian cooking demonstrations by qualified educators, complete with samples, and a trained nutritionist spoke of the benefits of 'superfoods' in preventing illness.

Raised from food sales, over \$1000 was donated to the City of Greater Dandenong Food Alliance, a nonprofit collaboration between local government and several organisations providing food relief.

It was inspiring to see the results of our 'evangelism', with community members involving themselves at our Food Festival. One neighbour, who has been receiving visits from one of our deacons following the Kid's Day, shared her Indian dip with our audience during the recipe presentations. Tsion, who walked into our church one Sabbath two years ago and is now a member, and her mother, Shilmat from Ethiopia, organised their family group to share their speciality dishes with us. Another Indian family nearby was robbed recently and our pastor, along with several church members, helped replace some items and make repairs, and they came to our festival bringing food to share with the church as a 'thank you'.

A survey conducted had an excellent response and resulted in identifying several contacts wishing to have Bible studies. There are 156 different nationalities represented in the City of Greater Dandenong with 56% of the community born overseas. Our church truly is part of a very multicultural community and what a wonderful way to meet our neighbours –in fellowship, over food, in a caring Christian environment.

Elizabeth Croom

Dress together! Dress together!

SOUTH WEST REGION

That is exactly what the regional churches did on May 1, when members from Hamilton and Camperdown joined with the Warrnambool Church for a full day of worship and fellowship.

Beginning early with a Prayer Breakfast, a wonderful tone was set for the whole day. Keynote speaker, Pr David Edgren's theme for the day was The NEW Church (see page 22) and in three sessions we explored with him the three aspects of church life: Nurture, Evangelism and Worship.

If you have sensitive ears, then lunch was not the place to be! The church hall overflowed with people enjoying both the delicious vegetarian food and time to catch up and chat.

Even the children got to have their own special time with Pastor Dave, during the afternoon.

As the day drew to a close those who could stay enjoyed a light tea of soup and buns before closing Sabbath together and continuing the fellowship with a games evening.

What a wonderful Sabbath we had. Praise God for all His goodness to us.

Judy Gilchrist



Community Campaign

HEALESVILLE CHURCH

Earlier this year, a public evangelistic campaign was held in Healesville. It ran four nights per week for five weeks, then continued two nights per week for a total of 26 meetings.

Herb Kersten, a layman from Nunawading Church, assisted me as we shared the presentation role.



Success should not be measured in numbers and while few non-Adventists attended, those who did stayed throughout the program and interest did expand into families in the area. There are now several people attending church either in Healesville or nearby churches as a result.

Additionally, with two radio announcers for Yarra Valley Radio and their husbands showing interest, we have received some on-air exposure and have been promoting our New Revelation Series planned for July. Please pray for the Healesville congregation and for our work in the Lord's harvest.

David Currie

Conference News

An LE's Story

we say it. Our literature evangelists are in a unique position - not only do they have a great product to sell, the way they sell it brings them into contact with people at their very threshold, at their front door, where all it may take is a compassionate ear, a caring conversation, for the door to open wide, letting the Spirit in.

It was a cold, bleak day as Matthew and I approached the door of one of his customers, to sell a second package of books. The lady was not at home for her 10 am appointment and we turned away, disappointed.

Earlier that day we had prayed that God would lead us to someone in need and so, though disheartened, we again claimed the promise that God was preparing the hearts of people, and moved on to the next home.

It was my turn to do the demonstration when we met Brett. He happily invited us into his home and it wasn't long before we found out he was bringing up a thirteen year old son, on his own. As we got to know Brett, he told us that his wife had committed suicide and that he was the one who had found her body. Also that he had lost his father through cancer only two years earlier. Now however, in spite of having trouble sleeping and battling depression, he was devoting his life to his son, of whom he was very proud.

We showed him our presentation and when it came to the book, 'Today Tomorrow & You (Your Bible and You)', mentioned that this book does not push Christianity but does help answer the spiritual questions in life, adding

Kids in Discipleship

KID, or Kids in Discipleship, is taking the Adventist world by storm. It started in the heart of one pastor in Cellegedale, Tennessee, and has developed into a General Conference sponsored evangelistic program for families around the world.

Throughout the first half of this year, the leadership teams in sixteen of our churches have undergone training in KID. Groups that have been trained are transforming their churches into communities where parents are trained and empowered to study the Bible with their own children.

"Parents at Wantirna Church love the idea that this is something they can do with their own kids at home," said Pr Dave Erickson. Wantirna's leadership team was involved in the first KID University day in late January. "People didn't realize that faith decisions were made at such a young age," he continued. Once they heard the majority of decisions for Christ happen before thirteen, everyone was anxious to be involved!"

Kids in Discipleship is a very exciting and easy to follow process at every level. First, your Children's Ministry Department runs a "KID University" for elders, children's leaders and pastors. Then this leadership team (usually four people from each church) take the tools and training back to their church where it will be systematically implemented over the following few months and years.

If your church would like to be trained in KID, call me on 03 9264 7777 or email me at DavidEdgren@adventist.org.au

DAVID EDGREN

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR



that there is a Friend when we are in need.

Brett replied that even though early in his life he had gone to Sunday School, he felt that if he were to meet God right now he "would give him or her a good kick in the guts for the hurt" that the suicide had generated. He talked of his bitterness towards God and our hearts went out to him in his hour of need. Hurting for him, we opened the chapter on what happens when someone dies, turning to the page where it talks about how to handle grief. We recounted the story of a lady we knew, whose first child was stillborn. In her grief, she had blamed others, but especially herself, for what had gone wrong. We explained to Brett that these pages had helped her so much.

We carried on with the demonstration of the rest of the package, outlining the benefits of the books.

Brett saw the potential value of our literature in helping him and his son with their lifestyle and journey together and we were thrilled as Brett ordered the package, including 'Today, Tomorrow & You'.

It is our pray that as Brett and his son continue life's journey together without their wife and mum, that Brett will read 'Today, Tomorrow & You' and will come to know that God does not cause this sort of hurt but the blame lies squarely with the evil one.

Praise God for His continual leading in our door to door work.



hadn't told anyone but Darren about their thoughts. When they did finally share their ideas with their families, they were all very supportive.

But how does one decide that impressions are from God, and not of one's own making? This troubled David, until his father, a literature evangelist and lay preacher for 35 years, told him something simple yet profound.

Of his own experience, he said, "I could stay at home all day praying to God that He would open up doors and homes for me to place books in; yet if I don't leave home, I will never be able to sell any books." To David the message was clear. They began praying that if God wanted them in ministry He would open up doors. They moved forward in faith, praying this prayer and preparing to move to Avondale. When it came time to hand in their notices to their employers, their prayers became more fervent. "God, if this isn't your plan, shut the doors – quick!" But the doors stayed open; in 2001 they moved to Cooranbong and 2005 saw them taking up their position in the Victorian Conference, serving Bendigo, Castlemaine and Maryborough churches until transferred to Berwick and Bayles churches.

Together they have faced many challenges, but these have always been sprinkled with rich rewards and blessings in God's perfect timing. They love seeing people become passionate about ministry in the roles that God has called them to and consider it a privilege to be invited into people's homes and lives and to be able to minister to them. There is no greater joy, than, by God's grace, being in unison with the Holy Spirit; to be prompted with words that are not of one's own derivation, and then see the results as the Holy Spirit implants them upon the hearts of others.

"I thank God, that by His wisdom, grace and power, He has called me to minister for Him. I am also extremely thankful to my mum and dad, for the spiritual environment in which I was raised and for modelling for me, what it means to be a disciple for Jesus Christ."

David Butcher

Conference News Continued...

DAVID BUTCHER: ORDAINED JUNE 5

Heavy rain did not deter friends, family and peers from joining with David and his wife, Megan, as they celebrated his ordination to ministry.

Megan and David were married early 1996. Life was comfortable and work was enjoyable and rewarding, yet early on they sensed a continual feeling that there was still something missing. Believing it may be work related, David sought the advice of a Careers Consultant in late 1999, however deferred the process, unable to explain why.

The following year they attended a Youth Rally in Adelaide and were both touched by the message of the speaker. Sometime later, while driving through the Adelaide Hills, contemplating how they could make their life more comfortable and financially secure, God decided it was His turn to press the buttons. Simultaneously, it seemed, they turned to each other saying "This is not what we want!"

They also believed that it was not what God wanted either. Rather than planning and organising their financial future, they concluded they should be more concerned with the eternal future of others. Having always maintained she would never marry a minister, Megan then asked "Perhaps God wants us in ministry?"

Over the next few months, they deliberated and spent time in prayer. The only person they shared their thoughts with was Darren Slade who was then an intern and youth minister at their church. He was positive and supportive. They received several 'random' comments from different people, which seemed to be indicators of God's will. One such comment followed a presentation David made at their Big Camp. His friend pierced him with her gaze as she stated "You are wasting your life with the career you're in – you should become a minister!" They still

hadn't told anyone but Darren about their thoughts. When they did finally share their ideas with their families, they were all very supportive.

But how does one decide that impressions are from God, and not of one's own making? This troubled David, until his father, a literature evangelist and lay preacher for 35 years, told him something simple yet profound.

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BIBLE ADVENTURES IN VICTORIA

With
Pastor Dave

Brother's Fish

Joel and Jeremy were the best of friends and the worst of enemies—typical brothers.

Jeremy was just seven years old and thought his big twelve year-old brother was really cool. And Joel liked Jeremy too, especially because he laughed at all of his jokes.

Today Joel had the boy from next door, Reuben, over for the afternoon. They had been playing games outside, with Jeremy following them everywhere. The older boys didn't really mind - they even let Jeremy join in with them sometimes. When they decided to play soccer, Joel said that Jeremy could be the ball! They all laughed and then decided Jeremy would be the referee.

Now they were in Joel's bedroom, checking out his stuff. Jeremy had crawled under the bed and was pretending he was spying on the bigger boys. Joel and Reuben ignored him, which was perfect because it made him think he really was spying.

Reuben was looking at Joel's fish tank. "Wow!" he said, "You have heaps of fish!"

"Yeah," Joel replied. "They are fun to watch, especially at night when their light is on and the room is dark."

Reuben went over to the tank and knelt down to watch the fish. He watched one after another as they zipped around the tank or floated quietly in place.

"They are all so different," Reuben said.

"I know," Joel replied. "Each of them has its own name."

"Really?" Reuben asked, "Do they come when you call them?"

The boys laughed. They watched the fish in silence for a while and then Reuben asked, "Hey, would I be able to have one?"

Joel thought about it for a moment and then smiled, "Sure! I'll just go get a plastic bag and a net."

"That's awesome, Joel!" Reuben was very excited. "You're so generous."

Reuben watched the fish zipping around; trying to choose which one he would ask for when Joel returned.

After what seemed like an eternity, Joel came back with a bag full of water and a net. "Here ya go!" he said, offering the bag to Reuben. There was a rubber band tied tightly around the bag holding the water in. And there was something moving inside!

"Hey!" Reuben exclaimed. "There's already a fish in the bag!"

"Yup, you can have that one," Joel said happily.

"I didn't know you had other fish tanks in your house," Reuben, was surprised.

"Just one!" Joel said with a laugh.

Jeremy shot out from under the bed - he knew where that other fish tank was.

"That's my fish!" he shouted as he leapt toward Reuben.

Reuben pulled the bag close to his chest. "Careful!" he shouted back, "You'll pop the bag."

Joel wrapped his arms tightly around Jeremy from behind, putting one hand firmly over his mouth.

"Quick, take the fish home," he said, through gritted teeth as he struggled to hold his little brother. "I'll come - over - to your - house - in a bit."

Reuben looked uncertainly from Joel to Jeremy. "Are you sure?"

"Yes... aren't we Jeremy!" Joel replied as he forced Jeremy's head up and down in a nod.

Reuben shrugged his shoulders and left the room. Moments later the front door squeaked open and then closed. He was gone... and so was Jeremy's fish—his only fish.

Does this story remind you of a story from the Bible? What is the original version in the Bible about and what lesson can you learn from it for your life today?

Look up 2 Samuel 12:1-13.



...More Conference News

The NEW Church - How now is what we do?

In every conversation, business dealing, parenting decision and plan for the future, we can ask, "How will I make this NEW?" Meaning: How will I nurture someone for Christ, share my faith evangelistically and worship God in this situation?

This NEW concept has been around as long as God has had a people He called His own: Nurture (inreach), Evangelism (outreach) and Worship (upreach).

"He has showed you, Oh man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

N "To act justly" — IN-reach: The complete Christian is one who seeks justice in the lives of those around them. They seek fairness and wellness on behalf of fellow Christians. This is Nurture.

E "To love mercy" — OUT-reach: The totally devoted Christian also has a passion to see mercy offered to the lost. They personally take the gospel in both word and deed to those in need. This is Evangelism.

W "To walk humbly with your God" — UP-reach: The passionate Christian honors God—glorifying God and glorying in His presence. This is Worship.

In the mission statement for the Christian church, Jesus puts Evangelism first—"Go and make disciples." Then He challenges leaders to bring the new disciples into submission to the Trinity, in the humblest act of Worship—

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

great time to practice applying the NEW Church model.

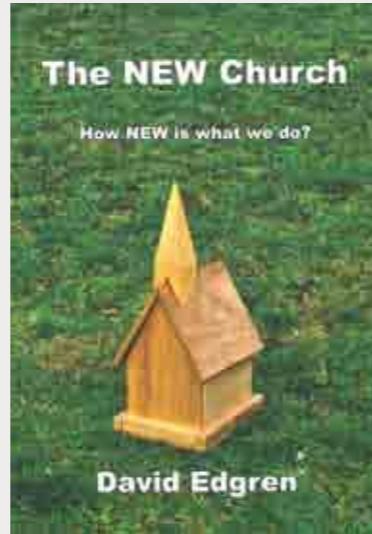
How will you grow your members in their spiritual maturity?

How will you make visitors and new Christians feel loved?

How will you glorify and glory in God?

This concept is further spelt out in this resource, available at the ABC.

PR DAVID EDGREN
SABBATH SCHOOL
DIRECTOR



New to the Conference

DARREL WAH - BIBLE WORKER

Darrel Wah migrated from Malaysia to Australia in 2002 to study engineering and later gained employment with AAPT as an analyst.

Before moving to Melbourne, Darrel attended the 2006 AYC hosted by Gateway and was so impressed by his experience that he decided to move to Melbourne so that he could be a part of this church plant movement. During his time at Gateway, Darrel has come to know and experience God at a much deeper level.

At the 2010 AYC, as Pr Dwight Nelson challenged young people to serve the Lord, Darrel sensed God calling him to dedicate at least 12 months to full-time ministry. He joined the Gateway Bible Worker team in April this year.



ADRA LAUNCH'S HEALTH AND NUTRITION APPEAL - YOUR GIFT BEFORE 30 JUNE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Around the world, a high number of children, infants and even babies lose their lives every day due to poor health or nutrition. Before today ends, 20,000 children under the age of five will lose their life due to a preventable illness. Meanwhile, 20 million more children will go to bed hungry.

ADRA has started a special appeal to raise \$750,000 before 30 June to help continue and strengthen its health and nutrition work in Africa, Asia, South Pacific and here in Australia, as well as to help establish new water, sanitation and food projects in both Cambodia and Laos.

Your tax-deductible gift to ADRA's work before 30 June can make an amazing difference!

To donate, call 1800 242 372 or visit www.adra.org.au.

EAST PRAHRAN'S FIFTH SPEAKER

Come to East Prahran Church on July 5 to hear Pr Peter Roennfeldt speak on Christ in Phillipians at 11 am. Combined Sabbath School will commence at 10 am with Jamie Hegarty. You are invited to remain after the service for a potluck lunch.

SHORT TERM RENTAL

A stylish & modern fully furnished (inc kitchen needs and linen) 3BR home in Melbourne's Eastern suburbs, is available for rent for three months from mid July. If you are looking for short term accommodation, close to convenient shopping and public transport, call Cheryl on 03 9873 1831 or 0438 477 097 for more details.

GOLF DAY

A Golf day has been organised for Sunday July 11 at the Belvoir Park Golf Course, Big Hill, located off the Calder Highway. All golfers are invited to attend and enjoy a round of Ambrose golf (3 person teams) and socialise with fellow church members.

Beginning at 9:30 for registration. More information is available on the Victorian Adventists facebook page or call Peter Ashworth on (03) 5447 9110.

Registrations close on the 30th June 2010. Forms can be found on the Bendigo Church website <http://bendigo.adventist.org.au>.

Trust Services

Do you need your will made or amended?

Steve Whitson is available by appointment, during office hours, in the evenings and the first Sunday of each month

Call him to make an appointment.

03 9264 7725 or

0423 784 000

Steve will be in Mildura November 7&8 for appointments



Arnie's Shack

Saturday 17th July
6.30pm

Nunawading Christian College Hall

161 Central Road
NUNAWADING

Children \$5
Adults free

Arnie's Shack is an exciting Australian children's production by Abide Family Ministries as seen on Foxtel's Australian Christian Channel and worldwide on 8 networks in over 170 countries through TBN's Smile Of A Child and other satellite networks.

Meet Arnie the puppet, Postman PJ, heaps of fun catchy songs and more... bring the whole family!!

For more information contact
Karen - 0427 426582
College - 98789927

website - www.arnieshack.com

SUNSET TIMES

Bairnsdale time is 10 minutes EARLIER & at Hamilton the time is 12 minutes LATER

Sabbath	Opening	Closing
June 25,26	5.09	5.09
July 2,3	5.12	5.12
July 9,10	5.15	5.16
July 16,17	5.20	5.20
July 23,24	5.25	5.26
July 30,31	5.31	5:32

OFFERING SCHEDULE - JULY

July 3 - World Mission Budget - General

July 10 - Local Church Budget

July 17 - Adventist Media Evangelism

July 24 - Education/Camping Ministry

July 31 - Local Church Budget

enditnow

Adventists Say No to Violence Against Women



It is estimated

It is estimated



Victoria Conference Women's Ministries

that at least one



that in 30% to 60%



of every three women

of families in Australia

globally will be beaten,



where domestic violence



raped, or otherwise



is a factor, child abuse is

abused during

also occurring.

her lifetime.

FOR MORE INFO
0411 865 790
REBECCA AURANT

enditnow

is a global campaign to raise awareness and advocate for the **end of violence against women and girls** around the world.

Join us on
Saturday 17th July 2010
7.30pm for the

enditnow awareness night

at Wantirna Church, 119 Mountain Hwy, Wantirna
with guest speakers including
Clinical Psychologist Deanna Pitchford.

Special Music for the night.

An offering will be collected for
ADRA's Women's Refuges and
International Women Empowerment projects.

The **enditnow** campaign, which extends to more than 200 countries and territories, was launched in the South Pacific in February 2010 in partnership between the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) - a prominent humanitarian organisation - and the Department of Women's Ministries of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, two entities that are representative of the Adventist Church.

More than 50%

Domestic violence has been documented as a major issue within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Incidences of abuse follow trends documented in non-Adventist populations.

This is why **enditnow** seeks to increase **of women in, personal awareness, responsibility, and involvement to effectively help end violence against women and girls in every family and community.** Seventh-day Adventists affirm the dignity and worth of each human being and decry all forms of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.

Bangladesh, Ethiopia,

enditnow is the most important stand the Seventh-day Adventist Church has ever taken regarding violence against women and girls. Through this campaign, more than 15 million Adventist church members - men, women, and children - are expected to create a global movement that will be mobilized within their own communities, where each person will actively work to create awareness and share solutions on ways to end this global problem.

Peru & Tanzania reported

enditnow supports the existing programs currently being implemented around the world through ADRA and the Department of Women's Ministries to end violence against women. These programs provide tangible examples of the work that is already being done to resolve this issue.

physical or sexual abuse

All communities are invited to participate.

Although **enditnow** seeks to primarily mobilise Adventist church members, all individuals, church congregations of every faith, social groups, schools, and businesses are invited to join. While **enditnow** focuses on violence against women and girls, abuse of any kind should never occur against men, boys or women. This campaign aims to highlight abuse against women because the majority of victims of gender-based violence are indisputably women.

by an intimate partner.

Petition to the United Nations.

The initial phase of **enditnow** aims to collect **1 million signatures** from people across the world who want to see an end to violence against women and girls. These signatures will be presented to the **United Nations** to raise additional awareness about the issue and advocate for the creation of effective new policies that protect women and girls.

To Sign Petition, Go To:

http://www.enditnow.org/forms/35/form_submissions/new

OR:

<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/petitions/301>

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

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

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

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

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