

JULY
2010

IntraVic

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

Romans 10:14 (Clear Word)



Opening
up to
God



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A Note from the Editor...

Following Christ is all about relationship, about opening up our hearts to Him. It is what He wants, in fact it is what He thought about long before He created us and, knowing that sin would enter this world, planned His sacrifice to keep the path to our hearts open. The consummate Creator longs for us to get to know Him.

The alpha of developing a relationship with someone is communication, indeed it is the vital artery which runs through every friendship, bringing it sustenance. Being human and created by a God who specialized in friendships is a strong theme throughout Scripture. Abraham was called a friend of God (James 2:23, Isaiah 41:8) Moses spoke with God face to face, "as a man talks to his friend" (Exodus 33:11). John the Baptist described himself as "the friend of the bridegroom" (John 3:19) and even Lazarus is described as a friend of Jesus in John 11:11.

It is however, usually far easier to develop a relationship with people we can see and touch, people who can pick up the phone and call, who can email or write letters to us. People we can just hang out with.

Yet doesn't our 'invisible' God do just that with us? Can't we hear His voice in the stillness? Glean His wisdom in the experiences shared by others and see Him in their actions? Can't we read His letters to us, written long before we were born, or just 'hang out' with Him?

This essence of friendship and continual communication, both with our Lord and our church community is a strong fortress which protects us. Do you see Jesus as such a close friend?

In this issue, we are taking a look at two aspects integral to opening our hearts to the Lord: prayer and Bible study. All it really takes in this frazzled world is a willing heart, a conscious decision and deliberate mindset. It is that easy. Decide that you want that commitment to meaningful prayer and the study of God's Word, and little by little, the decision will be replaced by a longing to spend time with Him, to be His friend and have Him as yours.

It is our prayer that as you read on, you will take up this challenge: decide to fill at least some of that God-shaped hole in your life by communing with Him. It will overflow and permeate your whole existence.

Evangelism is another part of relationship - when you are in love, you cannot remain silent - you want to share your happiness with everyone, and in this issue we have some more articles on sharing God's love with our community. We also have news items from our schools – places established to care for our children, introducing young minds to the amazing possibility of

a relationship with a Divine Being, building their faith as they mature, and our Aged care facilities - where we can enable those in the latter years of their lives to maximize the quiet times and firmly establish those ties which connect them with God, or, as you will read in one of our stories, opening their hearts to Him for the first time.

So enjoy this issue, and as you browse through it, open up even more, to your Saviour.

WAYNE STANLEY
VICTORIAN CONFERENCE
PRESIDENT

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Devotional...

...Snooze-Button Spirituality

Prayer and Bible study form an integral part of our relationship with God.

Relationships with each other grow as we communicate and spend time together and it is no less true of our relationship with our Saviour.

The God of the universe wants us to get to know Him. He told us to pray, showed us how, and gave us His Living

Word. Given all He has done for us, shouldn't we, at the very least, try and hear what He has to say? Not settle for 'Snooze-button' spirituality, but put in deliberate effort to meet Him?

After all, He is right there beside us... waiting...

Winter is a tough time of the year to get out of bed. It's dark and it's cold, and my doona calls to me in seductive tones, "come back, come back, it's warm and cozy here." After the alarm clock sounds I hover for a brief moment halfway between the morning shower and my tempting bed covers. This moment defines whether I have ample time with God in prayer or have a few rushed words. Whilst there's nothing wrong with a quick 'SMS' chat with God, most Christians know that it's the poorer cousin of a quality conversation with the Creator.

And our relationship with the Lord does require time. Quality time. God asks us to be still and know Him, but where do we make time just to be still? If it's difficult to drag oneself from bed early in the morning, and daytime is flat out with work, and evening brings fatigue, how does one find the time? Even when I am praying, I have a constant nagging feeling that I have other tasks to do.

Be still and know
that I am God
Ps 46:10

Perhaps the blame for this problem, and maybe even the solution, lies with our alarm clocks.

Interestingly, the way we relate with our "electronic roosters" could tell us something about our own personalities. For example, there are people who, when the alarm clock blasts its morning call, reach over and press sleepily on the snooze button. This magic switch fools the presser into thinking they have an extra fifteen minutes of sleep when in reality they've failed at the first task of the day, that is waking up! The snooze-button devotee is a procrastinator. Yes, these are harsh words, but I speak

from personal experience. A devotional life requires prioritisation, and prioritisation demands action, and action has no place for snooze-buttons.

Incidentally, snooze-button addicts know that their fifteen-minute "snooze" is the best sleep they have, as they actually know they're having it! Chronic snooze-button addicts tell

me they hit the button three to four times each morning, all the while calculating what they need to sacrifice in order to arrive at work on time! I've had one person tell me, "I've worked out that missing breakfast is one hit of the snooze button, not having a shower is another, and wearing an unironed shirt all days is a third hit. If I go for a fourth, I need to hope that I get green lights all the way to my job."

In the Gospel of Luke there's a story about one such person who wanted to follow Jesus but couldn't prioritise properly. Jesus told him "No one, having put his hand to the snooze-button, and going back to sleep, is fit for the kingdom of God." Well, that's a loose translation, but check it out in Luke 9:59-62 and you'll see that it's not too far from the mark.

There are others who try to fool themselves out of bed. These people have the time on their clocks set ten minutes early and jump out of bed thinking it's later than it is. The scheme works for a week or so but then they just start doing the maths and before they know it they're once again late! And throwing other more time-savvy people into a panic when they look at the clock!

Others, wiser than I, don't trust themselves with snooze buttons, although they do place their alarm clock across the room. They have to drag themselves from

their bed in order to turn it off, and they, like me, stand there in a cold room with the warm bed tempting them back. We need to give ourselves time with God. And while mornings are a great time for prayer and devotion, other times during the day can be just as rewarding.

I know of someone who eats their lunch while working at their desk, then spends the 'lunch hour' sitting in their car, praying and reading the Bible.

A mother of young children recently shared with me that her time with God happened after the kids went to bed. It meant that she wasn't able to contribute to conversations on the subject of "Masterchef" (or update her Facebook status as regularly) but her walk with the Lord was more 'in step'. Prayer need not be as much a matter of when but that it's actually done.

The Apostle Paul encourages us to "Pray unceasingly" (1 Thessalonians 5:17), and a wise woman once wrote: "Unceasing prayer is the unbroken union of the soul with God, so that life from God flows into our life; and from our life, purity and holiness flow back to God."

So, I've begun to use the alarm clock to my advantage. As usual, I open my Bible and talk with God, but now I set the alarm and don't allow anything to distract me until the buzzer goes off. Sometimes I don't say anything but allow the Lord to do all talking. I'm still, and by His grace I'm knowing God. And when the alarm does go off, I confess that I'm tempted to (and sometimes do) hit the snooze-button and allow myself another fifteen minutes of enjoying His presence.

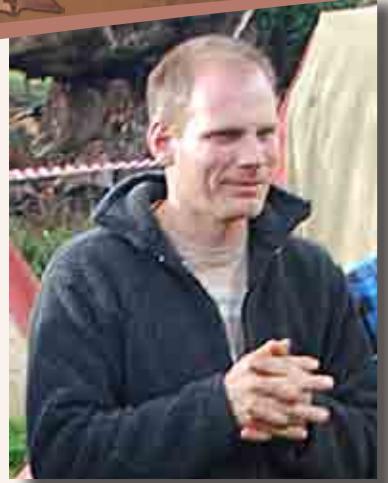
*Pr David Riley
Minister for Casey and Cranbourne
Churches*

¹Ellen White, Steps to Christ, p. 98

*Always be joyful in Christ.
Never stop Praying. Be thankful
to God for what He has done for you...*

1 Thes 5:16-18





As We Reflect His Light...

...stories of God's Grace

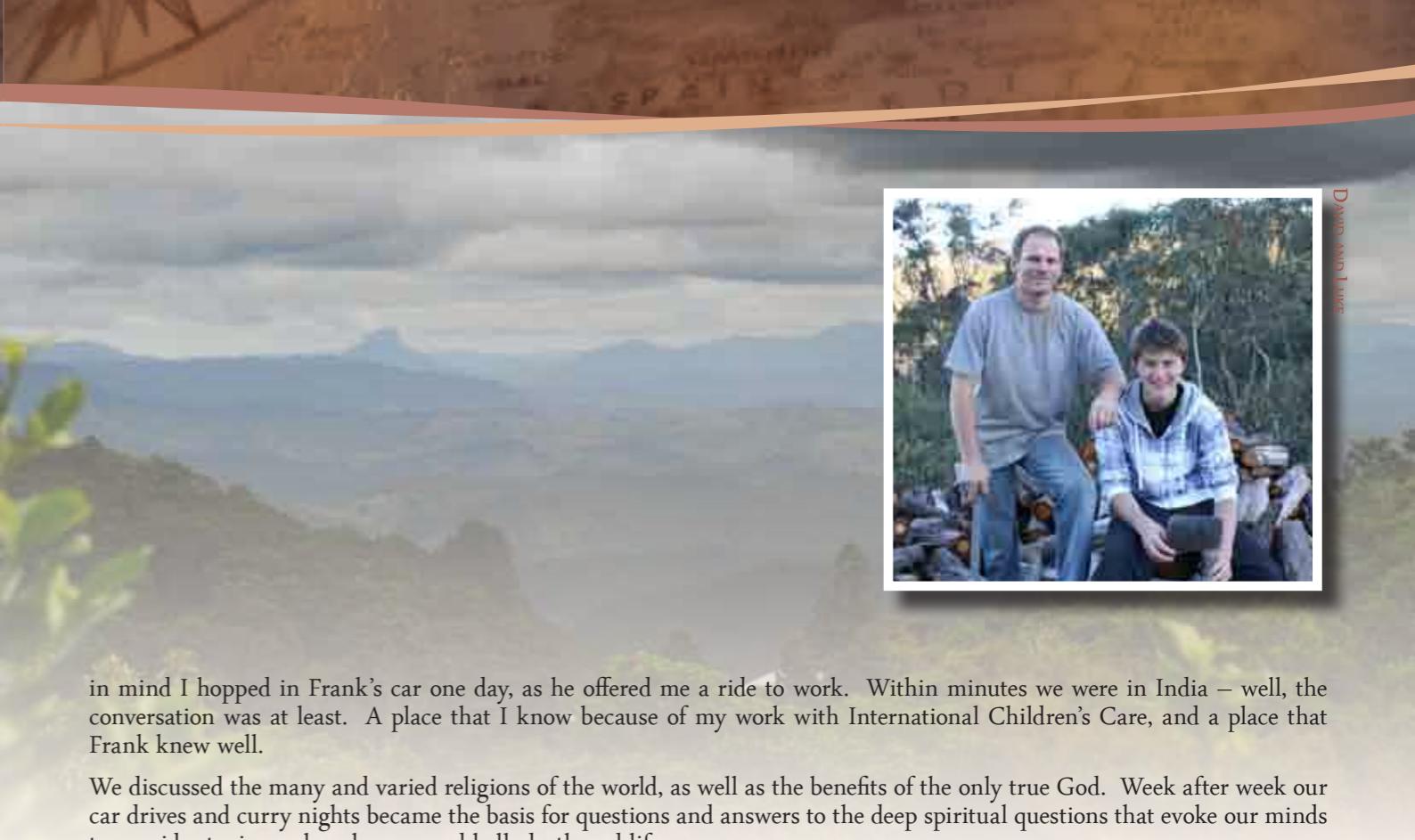
David Caukhill lives about 100 km from his church - 'out in the sticks'! He says he doesn't get to church all that often, but talking to him by a camp fire on the recent Pathfinder Expedition, listening to his stories, it seems that he creates his own church family, where ever he is. Here is one such story - Firewood Evangelism - a story of God's love and grace shining on others as a family make the most of the opportunities He gives them.

It was a cold, wet day and the sun had been hidden by continual cloud cover for almost a week. My two sons, Sam and Luke and I had decided to go for a walk in the bush surrounding our home in the Victorian High Country. We noticed that our neighbour was also out-doors, but he didn't look like he was having much fun. An old man, he was living alone in an unfinished house with no windows, in the middle of winter. In his hand was a small handsaw; it seemed he was attempting to cut some wet sticks to burn on his pathetic little fire to keep warm. It had only been a month ago that I had spoken to this neighbour for the first time. He'd just moved to the area and when he introduced himself to me, Frank had asked that we give him space, pointing out he didn't want frequent visits.

So there we were, watching an old guy out in the rain cutting wet wood. I decided that it was time for another visit. The three of us boys agreed that it wouldn't take a lot of effort to go and get the big chainsaw and an axe or two to cut some decent wood for Frank. He was quite shocked by our intention but equally overjoyed by our willingness to help. After only an hour, we had cut a few ton of wood for him and split and stack it away in the dry. But it was the start of a great friendship with another neighbour in my community.

Frank said he couldn't give me anything for the job. I told him I didn't want anything. He said that he couldn't do anything like that for me. I said I didn't need anything like that doing. I invited him to dinner that same evening and we shared a good home-made curry and many experiences. I discovered that he had grown up children and that he'd lived and travelled in many parts of the word. I also discovered that for someone that didn't want friendship he was fast becoming a good mate.

To share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the salvation He offers is truly good news. I can never understand the difficulty people have in sharing it. For me it is so good to tell, so exciting and invigorating to share this passion with others. So it was with this



DAVID AND LUKE

in mind I hopped in Frank's car one day, as he offered me a ride to work. Within minutes we were in India – well, the conversation was at least. A place that I know because of my work with International Children's Care, and a place that Frank knew well.

We discussed the many and varied religions of the world, as well as the benefits of the only true God. Week after week our car drives and curry nights became the basis for questions and answers to the deep spiritual questions that evoke our minds to consider topics such as heaven and hell, death and life.

As time passed on I began to think of other neighbours that could do with a bit of woodcutting; the people in my own immediate community that were poor or elderly, that needed support but had no close family and friends.

It was time to expand this idea and begin a home fellowship group - a place of warmth and acceptance. A place where the relevance of the Gospel had a place for the hearts of my friends and neighbours such as Frank. My wife, Kim and I wanted to foster an environment where our friends could enjoy a special meal, good communication and fellowship but more than anything a safe place to share their life experiences, problems and thoughts.

After careful planning and a lot of cooking, our first night was a great success with thirteen friends popping over. One of the things we had overlooked was the tiny space and lack of seats we had. I must point out that it was winter and we don't actually live in a house as such, but in a bus... and outside it was below zero. But as we squeezed in together it brought us closer in many ways.

After the meal we had a time of blessing where all the children there with us were praised and made to feel part of the evening. Parents were invited to participate, affirming and empowering their children, speaking words of blessing. The kids were delighted to feel so involved and important. When we were finished for the evening, we closed the gathering with a simple prayer.

That evening, as hearts thawed and new friends were found, I discovered how isolated some of our neighbours were, as they made comments such as "You guys are the only friends we have. Other people we know are just acquaintances." I thought that if these people are like that, then how many others are out there in our communities and societies feeling a similar lack of friendship.

I work for International Children's Care Australia – an organization that helps to secure the lives of destitute children in developing countries. Children that have nothing and have lost so much. Children that never stop reminding me of the fragility of life. But these children by and large come from communities that do have a friendly society on the most part.

I, on the other hand, live in a country that dumps toys on its children instead of time, shoves its ageing parents in homes and forgets them, then wonders why so many people don't have friends and can't integrate in their communities. Amongst the church, things are not always that much better.

Do you sometimes wonder why your church doesn't seem to grow? I ask "Does a plant grow without sunlight and rain? How can friendships bloom without care and love?"

Our fellowship groups have continued – Kim holds the fort when I'm away for work, and now we even share them across other homes. Christians from other faiths have been embraced and enjoy the time we share together, rejoicing in what Jesus did for us on the cross, as we move forward with plans for His Gospel to go to all the corners of the world – well at least in my immediate neighbourhood for starters.



That Special Connection

Much has been said and written about prayer and yet there is so much we struggle to understand. And when we start to think about our own prayer life we are sometimes prone to develop feelings of guilt. We are troubled by questions such as 'Do I pray enough?' or 'Do I pray the right way?' or 'Am I praying for the right things?'

However, at its most fundamental and simple level, prayer is about a relationship with Christ. As John Ortberg put it, "Prayer, perhaps more than any other activity, is the concrete expression of the fact that we are invited into a relationship with God."¹ He continues by saying that "In addition to all the other work that gets done through prayer, perhaps the greatest work of all is the knitting of the human heart together with the heart of God."

Conversation and sharing of thoughts and ideas forms the basis of almost every meaningful human relationship and our heavenly Father understands that. In a close relationship, words flow easily and naturally and there is never a lack of things to talk about.

Prayer is not simply a static discipline that is added onto our lives – it flows naturally and easily as we move through our lives and share that experience with our God.

Ellen White expresses a similar thought when she describes prayer as the "breath of the soul."² Years ago I read a description of prayer as the 'mist' that rises from the river as it moves toward the sea. In other words, prayer arises naturally from our journey through life with Christ.

"Unceasing prayer is the unbroken union of the soul with God" said Ellen White, "so that life from God flows into our life; and from our life, purity and holiness flow back to God."³

Prayer is relationship, not a ritual. It is a relationship with a God who wants to connect with us in a way that His love and care can flow into our life. What a privilege to go through the activities of our daily lives knowing that prayer connects us with our God and Father, and that we go down life's path together.

Imagine for a minute if every church member in Victoria experienced a life of prayer that flowed from an 'unbroken union of the soul' with our God.

Imagine the peace, the happiness and the power of God that would be reflected in our lives.

¹ John Ortberg, *The life you've always wanted* p 106
² Prayer, p 12
³ Steps to Christ, ch 11 p 98

Ask your heavenly Father for wisdom and He will give it to you. Look for spiritual riches and you'll find them. Knock on heaven's door and it will be open for you...

I'm urging all our people to be more constant in prayer... bring their petitions to God with thanksgiving for what He has already done for them.
I Tim 2:1



Psalm 119 – Igniting a Passion for God's Word

The Holy Scriptures are God's living Word and as such, are essential to us as we focus on God, building a relationship with Him. Like any relationship, it is part feeling and part intellectual decision. As you read this article on Psalm 119, we pray you will be challenged to light that match – to make an intellectual choice to ignite a passion for God's Word.

Someone aflame with a new discovery burns brighter than the rest of us who casually shudder with indifference. People who change the world don't just exist among us – they literally pulsate while they live. We feel the pulse and know that these people are truly alive. The anonymous writer of psalm 119 has just such a deep, contagious passion. He met and discovered God in His Word and the psalm is charged with a rhythm that will move us too, if we are willing to synchronise with it.

Written as an acrostic, this psalm moves through the Hebrew alphabet. The first letter of the first word of the first eight verses begins with the Hebrew letter "A" (aleph). The next eight verses exhibit the same pattern only with the second letter of the Hebrew alphabet "B" (beth). This continues until all 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet are covered. That's 22 sections, each with 8 lines, for a total of 176 verses. This pattern coupled with the reality that every verse, bar one, has the word 'law' within it (or a variation of it, eg. command, decree, truth, way, word), accounts for the deliberately repetitive yet meaningful nature of the psalm.

The writer has set himself these strict structural guidelines for a reason; this structure teaches us something profound. The writer is trying to both tell and demonstrate his central point. What is that point? Just as the psalm is saturated with a deep love for God and His Word, so our lives should be saturated with the same passionate love.

We often lament about how little we really read the Bible. We nibble it infrequently then bemoan our hunger pains. If we examine our comments, they often make it sound like we are victims - as if we are struggling to get the Bible off the shelf, defeated by invisible forces.

As if! The writer of psalm 119 had great forces opposing him (see verses 84-86, 161) but none of them could stop him from devotion to God's Word (see the steely determination of verse 51).

As I read these verses I realised the writer knew something pivotal to spiritual life. His mind and his emotions were his to focus, channel and direct - and direct them he did! Constantly you find the writer choosing to unleash all his emotional energy God-ward. He can't control externals but he can summon his affections and train them on what is supremely valuable. This is something we can all do and should do so every day.

For example, at times I choose to be completely indifferent to football. But other times I charge myself up and enjoy immersing myself in watching a game. This simple human ability to focus and direct our emotional energy lies behind this amazing psalm; only here it is sanctified and gladly amplified by the Holy Spirit.

I challenge you to read this psalm and ask yourself these questions...
 "Why do I allow myself to be so tame in my devotion to God?"
 "Why am I so unexcited about what is most exciting?"

Remember your emotional energy is yours to direct. You do it every day. God and His Word are inherently captivating, challenging, beautiful, attractive, awe inspiring and so much more. Your affections, once channelled

on God's Word, will grow and blaze more and more fiercely and freely. They may be rusty now but let them move and soon they will fly. Don't be a passive victim. Aim, not for dry academic reading of Scripture, but rather, burn like the psalmist and then you will find God and His Word to be never-ending fuel.

Pastor Anthony MacPherson
Minister Croydon New Life & Plenty Valley



I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches... Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long Ps 119:14,97

Giving Thanks...

... AT WARRNAMBOOL SDA CHURCH

As prescribed by the Australian Government, Saturday May 29th was the National Day of Thanksgiving. A good dose of giving thanks never goes astray, so the Warrnambool Church decided to join in on the country's celebration and honoured several local people for their continuing contributions in the community.

Small business, primary producers and grandparents were the three categories of recognition. As owners of a small business, the \$2 Shop in Warrnambool's main street, Val and Stuart Trotman were thanked for their friendly nature and willingness to help out with supplies, especially during the Church's Tuesday Craft days. Former primary producers, Val and Alan Sedgley were recognised for their continuing contribution to their local Baptist church and the weekly community program they run for underprivileged school children. And Don and Lesley Rantall were also thanked for their guardianship and ongoing commitment to raising their 11 grandchildren, a major accomplishment in itself.

While each recipient was presented with an inspirational music DVD, the grandfathers in the congregation received

... AT MACEDON RANGES

This small congregation, situated on the outskirts of Melbourne, used the National Day of Thanksgiving as an opportunity to, as a church, get to know and openly thank people in their community, as they opened their doors, inviting neighbours in to thank them and acknowledge their contribution.

We were delighted with the response. Seven people from our small community came to our church and received the tokens of appreciation and acknowledgement. They were also given a chance to tell us a bit about themselves and



AWARD RECIPIENTS AT MACEDON RANGES CHURCH

Walking Ministry

As Seventh-day Adventists, we believe in a healthy life style and God's eight health principles. One of these is exercise. In this busy life it is very hard to find time for exercise. While working in ministry, I started a Walking Ministry in my new district, Warrnambool, where we have excellent walking paths at the beach.

'What is a Walking Ministry' you may ask? I simply asked a lady I met if she was interested in walking once per week and she was! While walking, we talked – where we were able! – getting to know each other. And week after week I share my beliefs with her. Before long, someone else joined us. And then another. Now I have somebody to walk with every day; for my own benefit... and for the Lord's.



Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow!

BAYLES CHURCH

Members of this small country church were blessed, their hearts opening up even more to their heavenly Father, when they stepped out of their comfort zone...

It all began some years back when one of our members wanted to screen a series on Paul, for the local community. Needing the full support of our membership for any such outreach plans, when some of the younger members didn't think it was a good idea, the suggestion went no further. The idea recurred from time to time, but always with the same response. Eventually it was forgotten.

A new minister was appointed to Bayles Church and at our first business meeting together, shared his thoughts on all the community projects we were involved in.

Then he asked a direct question; "And what evangelistic outreach are you planning?" Awkward silence followed until a young adult volunteered "Well... one of our members would like to show the series "Footsteps of Paul" of an evening at the church."

The member concerned just smiled and promptly replied "I'm sorry, Paul has hung his sandals up and now has his slippers on! He's not going anywhere... but I have been impressed that this year we should open up the church to the community for reading the Christmas Story from the Bible."

A healthy discussion followed, and yes, this idea had support. But within days this simple concept changed dramatically!

While confirming an upcoming preaching appointment, the phone conversation shifted to include the possible Christmas program. The 'City Man' enthusiastically rejected our small-thinking plan, challenging us to open it up to the wider unchurched community of nearby Koo Wee Rup, a larger, expanding town,



with several churches of other faiths. He suggested we touch base with these other ministers, inviting their congregations to join us.

The result was a very special Christmas program, organised by the Bayles Seventh-day Adventist Church, held in the Koo Wee Rup Uniting Church and supported by Uniting, Anglican and some Catholic Church members. The program spanned 3 weeks. The first week, we took care of the program in general, with the Uniting Church minister reciting the Christmas story, followed by a pleasant supper.

The second week a Nativity film was screened for the children of the community, in the Uniting Church's hall – again followed by a fellowship supper.

For the last week, we hired local community buses and transported those interested to ROAD TO BETHLEHEM at Nunawading. Excited and positive feedback from that great evening is still filtering through.

As they boarded the bus to return home, an invitation was given to them to join our church Christmas Sabbath program. Two couples and a friend of theirs – all members of the Uniting Church – took us up on the offer. It was a very happy day, and our guests loved the delicious vegetarian food that was provided, asking for the recipes. We agreed to have a vegetarian food sharing day with the Uniting Church at a later date.

And the interdenominational fellowship is continuing. We have a date set in August, for a Christmas 2010 planning meeting and have invited the Anglican minister, a lovely lady who is serving both her own and the Uniting Church congregation, as they are without a minister this year. She responded immediately saying she would come, and passed on the invitation to her congregations, to join us for worship, a fellowship lunch and the meeting, where they could meet our own minister whom we all value and appreciate so much.

This is friendship evangelism – lots of little steps... Building friendships with our community, both churched and unchurched. As our minister pointed out at that first meeting together, we have been actively serving our community. With his prompting, we are now sharing the Good News verbally too.

We are also planning an evangelistic program at the Community Centre of Koo Wee Rup in early October, keeping our new friends in the other churches informed.

We can all make a difference for Jesus... Somewhere, someone is waiting for us to share Jesus with them as only we can. Please pray for us.

*Ida's Journey***WARBURTON AND ADVENTCARE YARRA RANGES**

Sabbath 26 June 2010 was a day of love, joy and commitment at Warburton Church. It was the day family, church members, friends, staff and residents of AdventCare Yarra Ranges gathered together to celebrate as Mrs Ida Dartnell was baptised by Pastor Richard Araya-Bishop during a deeply meaningful service.

Ida, an 80 year old resident of AdventCare Yarra Ranges, was radiant and joyful as she emerged from the waters of baptism and fellow residents formed a choir singing a hymn of praise.

Let us share Ida's journey with you in her own words:

"I was christened at six weeks of age at the Epiphany Church of England, Northcote in 1929. My parents were married in this church. At 16 years old I was confirmed in St Paul's Cathedral in Sale. When I went to church after that, I never felt any satisfaction."

I came to AdventCare Yarra Ranges as a resident in October 2009 and became interested in the Seventh-day Adventist services there, attending morning and evening worships.

Many people supported and cared for me; one of whom is Rick Dowling, another resident. Rick and I spent time talking about God and the Scriptures. We spent time praying together for a very sick little baby named Chloe. Through this time the study of God's Word became a very important need for me.

Keith Johanson, also a resident, took a Wednesday night prayer meeting and related his experience with Ronald Ryan. Keith told us how the book 'Steps to Christ' had helped change Ronald's life while in prison. Keith encouraged all those who had never read this book to get a copy and read it. I raised my hand for a copy when our chaplain, Kathy Kearns, said she had some available for anyone who wanted one.*

The next day, when Kathy handed me the book, I told her that I had made a decision to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church and that I would like her to study with me. I have enjoyed my lessons very much, and have found answers to my searching questions. I know God's Holy Spirit has been with me as I have studied my Bible.

There are many people I would like to thank for



IDA WITH ALEX BOLEK, KATHY KEARNS & PR ARAYA-BISHOP

News from our Churches...

* RONALD RYAN WAS THE LAST MAN TO BE LEGALLY EXECUTED IN VICTORIA.

Sue Marshall
Communication Secretary
Warburton Church

*Rejoicing With the Angels***BURWOOD CHURCH**

When someone gets baptised we often say how there is much rejoicing in heaven. On June 19, Burwood Adventist Community Church got to join in the party too. Sarah Courtney and Mariah Reed publicly gave their lives to Jesus through baptism. When you grow up in the church it's not always easy to make this decision. There's no amazing conversion experience, you can doubt what you have been taught and take knowing God for granted. But both Sarah and Mariah overcame these obstacles, feeling strongly the desire to follow God.

What these girls have is a beautiful story of how God was constantly in their lives. They have discovered God through their experience in their family homes, at church,



MOE IOANE STILES, SARAH, MARIAH AND JODY DONOVAN



at Nunawading Christian College, at summer camps and through close friendships. They have been able to see God in the world around them and acknowledge His presence in their lives. Still, making the decision to be baptised and officially join their church was not one they took lightly. Sarah and Mariah had thought about making this step for a couple of years and finally decided the right time was now. They want to make a difference in the world around them and both girls are passionate about helping others and being part of mission trips.

Burwood welcomed them officially as part of the family during the main church service, and their actual baptism took place later in the day, at Mont Albert Seventh-day Adventist church. The church was overflowing with friends and family witnessing their decision and committing to supporting them on their journey with Christ. We are all so excited that our church family has grown by two new members.

Jody Donovan

*iDiscover - Multi-site Melbourne Evangelism***GATEWAY ADVENTIST CENTRE**

Along with Adventist university students across Melbourne, Gateway will be hosting three simultaneous public evangelistic campaigns later this year, beginning in August. The series, entitled iDiscover, will take participants through a Biblical journey of discovery, as they search for answers to life's most pressing questions about the past, present and future.

Located at three university campuses in the City, Clayton and Footscray, each of the 25 sessions aim to build confidence in the Bible as an accurate source of truth, uphold Jesus as a loving Saviour, help make sense of current world events and present Revelation's prophecies as reliable signposts for the future.

Much of the evangelistic ground-work will focus on inviting university students and young professionals to this campaign however there is also a significant thrust to promote the seminars to the wider community.

Johnny Wong, elder at Gateway, suggests that, while literature and media advertising will help, the best promotion is still friendship evangelism: "Past experience has shown that more than 80% of attendees at public evangelistic seminars come as a result of personal invitations." This method, modelled by Andrew in the Bible, will be applied by asking each church member to

pray for and personally invite five non-Adventist family members or friends.

Pr Gary Webster, head of the South Pacific Division's Institute of Public Evangelism, Cristian Copaceanu, Gateway's minister, and John Kitevski, elder at Gateway, have all had experience in public evangelism both in Australia and elsewhere and will be each hosting the series at one of the three locations.

The size and scale of this evangelistic initiative will reach a significant geographic area of the inner suburbs and all Adventists living in these areas are invited to be involved. Cristian Copaceanu suggests that "This is a tremendous opportunity to introduce someone to Jesus simply by inviting and accompanying them to each session."

FURTHER INFORMATION AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS CAN BE REQUESTED IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:
EMAIL:PASTOR@GATEWAYSDA.ORG; PHONE:03 9016 9488; WEB:WWW.IDISCOVER.ORG.AU

Proclaiming God's Grace

GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION

From around the world, delegates along with many others who were able to be there, gathered in Georgia, Atlanta, to attend the General Conference Session, held at the Georgia Dome. Representing Victoria were Lindy Judd from Geelong Church, and Loren Pratt from Northpoint, as well as Conference Treasurer, Peter Lynch.

All those present were truly blessed as they participated in worship and listened to thought provoking presentations and beautiful music. The main focus of the session was Proclaiming God's Grace.

Devotionals dealt specifically with this topic and the delegates made sure to arrive early each morning, to participate and worship. Some of the presenters you may have heard of included Dr Carlton Byrd (of Berean church in Atlanta), Dr Derek Morris (of Forest Lake church in Florida), Pr Mark Finley (from the General Conference), Pr John Ferguson, Pr Steve Riley, Pr Dennis Meier and Pr Christine Oberg. The delegates were blessed as they listened to each speaker, allowing the Holy Spirit to prepare them for the business of the day. You can view many of the presentations by going to the Hope TV website (<http://www.hopetv.org/media-library/video-directory>).

Special prayers sessions were also held each morning before the business of the session commenced. These were lead by Pr Mark Finley who gave a specific topic of prayer for discussion and then asked the delegates to separate into groups of two or three for prayer.

Our new General Conference president, Pastor Ted Wilson, regularly encouraged the delegates with regards to



praying and urged on everyone the importance of prayer in their daily time with God.

One of the programs during the week was Focus on Pastors. Our Conference General Secretary, Pr Darren Croft, spoke to the delegates on Tuesday morning.

His presentation was based on the example of the apostle Peter being a shepherd to the flock. He also spoke about his ministry while at Lilydale and the impact the Youth Pastors were having as well as that of getting the church members actively involved.

Afterwards, Darren was interviewed by Mark Finley with specific questions asked about his time as the pastor for Lilydale and how the church was working as a team.

On the first Sabbath, there were well over 20,000 people in attendance as the outgoing Secretary, Pr Matthew Bediako spoke. The second Sabbath featured the closing of the session and culminated in the Parade of Nations, where 70,000 people attended to witness this highlight.

Yes, it was a blessing to be able to meet as a worldwide congregation, even for a short time. A glimpse of the future God has in store for us when He returns.

Peter Lynch Treasurer
Victorian Conference



General Secretary's Report

PR DARREN CROFT

Fresh off the plane from General Conference I thought it would be worth sharing some brief observations.

- Our church is an amazing church with members from every nation, tribe, language and people. Our corner of the South Pacific is a very small piece of a much larger worldwide movement.
- The vibrancy of the church in various parts of the world bears little relation to the financial resources available to it.
- We have a challenge to reach those in our country with the gospel. While we often think of the mission field as overseas, I was reminded again that Victoria is our first mission field.
- Some of the issues that resonate in our part of the world resonate around the world – such as the tension between representation and efficiency and a desire for transparency.
- The role of Women in Ministry continues to be a point of discussion. As a result Andrews University has been commissioned to study and develop a Biblical Theology of ordination.
- Many uplifting stories underlined the amazing impact that individuals can make with the guidance of God.

I could say much more but I do need to report on other matters...

MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS

Up until now, when Membership Transfers are processed, it has been based on a paper system that was developed in the pre-computer age. Not before time, a new system has been developed that will put Church Membership Records online and allow church transfers to occur online. This will have particular relevance to Church clerks.

In the months ahead the new system will be progressively rolled out to the churches and training will be offered to groups of church clerks. It will take some time to fully implement and will allow those Church clerks who are not computer literate to continue to process transfers by paper.

FROM THE JUNE EXECUTIVE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS completed a review of the Safe Places Coordinator's role and has decided to continue the role for a further 2 years and the Terms of Reference for the Safe Places Committee were accepted.

May's Operating Statement was received, showing that while tithe income had made a slow start to the year, May's figures reflected a higher rate of tithe receipts.

We have had a number of ordinations this year, and the credentials of these ministers were updated.

The Composition of the New Pastoral Staffing was recorded. Members of this Committee are as follows:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Pr Wayne Stanley (Chair – President) | Pr Stenio Gungadoo (Pastor at Large) |
| Pr Darren Croft (General Secretary) | Pr David Butcher (Field Pastor Representative) |
| Mr Peter Lynch (Chief Financial Officer) | Mrs Rosalie Bennetts (Lay Representative). |
| Pr Rob Steed (Ministerial Secretary) | |

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approved a name change for the Gateway Hawthorn Group, who will now be known as Gateway East.

On a sad note, the Committee accepted the closure of the Glenroy Polish Company.

Loans were approved for Seventh Adventist Schools (Victoria) Ltd. In addition to government funding already approved, these loans will fund the establishment of Gilson College Performing Arts Facilities and Heritage College Home Economics and Industrial Arts Buildings.

Approval was also given for a loan application to fund the current AdventCare Whitehorse development. This \$4.8 million project includes 24 new rooms and a 100 seat auditorium.

During the Victorian Conference Constitutional Meetings in 2009, two taskforces were established. The Education Taskforce has commenced meeting and the State Planning Review Taskforce has been formed and will commence its work by August.

Darren Croft
General Secretary
Victorian Conference



PR DARREN CROFT SPEAKING AT THE GC

Another AdventCare Home Shines Again!

YARRA RANGES

On 5th July 2010, 5 weeks after two aged care assessors had conducted a two day intensive site audit at AdventCare Yarra Ranges, Warburton, a decision to accredit the facility for another three years was granted by Virginia Matthews, an assessment manager at the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency Ltd.

AdventCare Yarra Ranges in Warburton has been fully compliant with all 44 expected outcomes since August 2001.

"Nearly 10 years of such compliance is a great achievement for the facility," said Ruth Welling, Executive Director, AdventCare. "This accreditation period will expire in August 2013, but whether or not it is accreditation time, our duty of care is continuous, we always focus on meeting residents' needs and expectations and on providing holistic care within a Christian environment."

In making her recommendation to accredit the home for three years, Ms Matthews said, "I have decided three years is an appropriate period of time for this facility's accreditation. As the home complies with the Accreditation Standards, there is no serious risk to the health, safety or well being of residents. Additionally, the home has satisfied me that it will undertake continuous improvements." She added further, "I have no information about any non compliances with the home's other responsibilities under the Act."

On the day, the assessors noted that "Staff report that

Sustainability? We're in!

ADVENTCARE YARRA RANGES

In 2009, AdventCare joined the program initiated by the Shire of Yarra Ranges to promote Sustainable business practices with a special emphasis on reducing the environmental impact. In April this year, their effort was recognised by the Shire of Yarra Ranges, with AdventCare being awarded a certificate of achievement.

"As a Seventh-day Adventist organisation, we can show our neighbours that we are stewards of more than just money;

Congratulations

JULY 11 2010

Jody Donovan and Tim Eddy celebrated their marriage in the beautiful surroundings of Mount Tamborine on the Gold Coast's hinterland in Queensland. Friends and family gathered there to share with them this happy occasion.

Jody joined the Victorian Conference from Avondale College where she graduated in 2008. In her time here she has ministered to Burwood Church, Nunawading Christian College and Mont Albert Church.

We wish you both all the best and pray that the Lord will "...bless you and keep you... make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you... look joyfully and lovingly on you and give you peace..." (Numbers 6:25,26)



LISA KIPPING (L) AND STAFF MEMBERS



JOY DONOVAN & TIM EDDY

Join the Celebration

ADVENTIST BOOK CENTRE

Recently, at the annual Adventist Book Centre's sales seminar, our Victorian ABC was among three ABC's to receive awards for increased sales in the past year. The ABC seminar brought together bookshop managers from across the South Pacific, to refocus on the life-changing ministry of distributing Adventist literature and to introduce new products.

So come along and check out the range of gifts, music and books, or stock up on your Sanitarium supplies. Open Monday to Thursday 9-5 and Friday 9-12.30, at 141 Central Road Nunawading.

While you visit, take the opportunity to congratulate Joe, who has just announced his engagement to Sarah Givney of Nunawading Church. We wish them both God's richest blessings for their future together.



REVOLUTION



NCC FESTIVAL OF FAITH



ABC AWARD RECIPIENTS

Education - It's about Sharing the Good News

NUNAWADING CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

If you visited NCC during their recent secondary school Festival of Faith, you might have been surprised at some of the posters on the walls.

They called for a revolution. No, not against the teachers! It was a revolution against societal and cultural expectations and the pressure they place on young people today.

The speakers at this event were Tim and Kessa Whale, recent Avondale graduates. They spoke together on resisting the many negative pressures placed on young people today through their peer groups, the media and society in general.

NCC's Festival of Faith exposed the lie behind these pressures and showed how the counter-cultural message of Jesus can cause a personal revolution in our lives and hearts. This was a very welcome revolution indeed!

HERITAGE COLLEGE

There was an overwhelming response following the senior and junior Festivals of Faith at our college in Melbourne's South East.

"I have had 162 responses to Bible study options to either learn more or prepare for baptism," says chaplain, Faye Stothers.

Tim and Kessa spoke here too, for the primary Festival of Faith and Macarthur Adventist College, from Sydney, conducted the festival for the senior school.

"We invested a lot of time and money into these programs" continues Faye, "and I believe this assisted in raising a very positive spiritual focus in our school.

"Our Friday night youth program 'Gospel Knights', has also strengthened our kids by giving a church to children who don't have one, meeting them where they are at without expecting change straight away." And it seems as if 'Gospel Knights' is meeting more than just the needs of the students —some of the parents have begun attending too.

Yes, our Adventist Education system is truly about working with sensitive young hearts, willing and ready to open up to the love of God.

Victoria Literature Evangelist Outreach

ROBINVALE

In early June, a team of Literature Evangelists had a fantastic week of spiritual leading and fellowship in the surrounds of Robinvale. The five member team went out each day looking for contacts for the local Church, offering Search DVDs.

Pastor Peter Ansell, the minister at Robinvale, formed part of the team and had prepared Bible studies that complemented the DVDs.

"I asked the LE's to introduce the Search DVD and then offer the Bible Study to those who were interested in the DVDs," he explains. 43 homes accepted the studies – what a result! Peter is now following up on these contacts, and the church is planning an evangelistic campaign in September.

Those five days yielded many stories of God's leading.

One such experience was when, having knocked on the door and been yelled at to "Come on in!" the LE was surprised and delighted to find the voice belonged to a Fijian lady who was sitting inside, studying her Bible.

"The Lord must have sent you here!" she exclaimed, as she happily purchased the big Family Bible the LE had shown to her. The only

Bible this lady had was in the Fijian language, and just that morning she had been thinking about getting a Bible in the English language. She was also very pleased to accept the Search DVD and Bible study, saying she would watch the DVD that night.

After the team had put in a collective 140 hours work, over 250 tracts of literature had been left, 52 orders placed, 16 people prayed with and 43 possibly ongoing contacts made.

The LE team conducted Friday night vespers at the Robinvale church, then shared their exciting experiences in Sabbath School the next morning, as well as leading out in the Divine service. They even had a special item, singing 'Come and Join the Bookman Army,' inviting the church members to join in.

"We would like to say a big 'Thank you' to the Robinvale Church for looking after us so well with

accommodation, friendship and a lovely Sabbath lunch," says Eric Hoare, Area Manager for the Southern and Central regions. "We will never forget the time we spent with you. We are also grateful to the Victorian Conference for its ongoing sponsorship and support of the LE team. "It was great to meet new friends and we pray that many souls will come to the Lord through this outreach."



Thanks from Brimbank City Council

GILSON COLLEGE

Mark Vodell, Principal of Gilson College, was honoured by the Brimbank City Council on the National Day of Thanksgiving in May, for his services to the community through the provision of Christian education.

Brian Mercer, Director SDA Schools, Victoria was invited by the organisers to give a speech describing how Christian education supported the community. In his speech, he described how our schools are "inclusive, life-changing and unifying". He used examples from the Bible, including the parable of the Good Samaritan, to show that our Christian schools are the 'glue' society needs to bring social responsibility and harmony. He illustrated his thoughts by describing how Gilson College, through its outreach

programs, has impacted both the local and international communities. He told the audience that while Gilson School was comprised of many religious beliefs and cultural differences, it had become a unifying model that could be transposed to the wider community.

Mark Vodell in his acceptance speech highlighted that he was just one of the team at Gilson College who had made a difference.

"We can praise God" says Brian, "...our schools are being seen as contributing positively to the local community."



PETER LEWINSKY PRESENTS AWARD TO MARK VODELL AND BRIAN MERCER, EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Meet the Principal

NUNAWADING CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Commencing from this issue of IntraVic we would like to introduce our church family to the Principals who are leading out in the very important ministry of Education. Adrian Stiles was appointed the new Principal of Nunawading Christian College – Secondary Campus at the beginning of 2010. We asked him what it was like to be a new Principal and what he believes is at the core of his work at the College.

Challenging but rewarding is how I would describe my first six months in the job. While each day is busy, I am fortunate to work with a passionate group of teachers and students who have a genuine desire to learn. While I may be tired at the end of the day I am rewarded by knowing I have been part of making a difference in the lives of the students.

I believe in Adventist Education and the impact it has to enable

young people to make positive decisions that will lead them into the Kingdom of God. My vision for Nunawading Christian College is to daily enhance the lives of the students and staff at the school. I am passionate about young people and I want to make a difference in their lives in four specific areas; academically, spiritually, socially and physically. I believe we are achieving this through an excellent curriculum, fantastic spiritual



emphasis programs, a socially dynamic school community and in the expansion of our school facilities. I am very fortunate - I wake up in the morning and look forward to going to work!

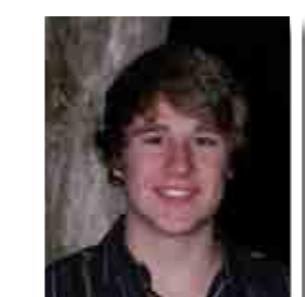
Adrian Stiles

THREE THINGS I LIKE ABOUT NCC

The list of things I like about NCC is almost endless, but there are three things that stand out to me in our school the most. They are; the sense of safety in our school, because everyone is so kind hearted and nice; the multiculturalism of our school; and how fun our subjects are. I think that these three things are a good balance for a healthy school.

Everyone at NCC is kind, generous, caring, considerate and most of all loving. There is a great sense of safety in our school that just cannot be beaten. I value that I know I don't have to be paranoid about someone doing something bad to me and that I have never had to be. Every day at NCC I am excited to join in the fun classes. No matter what subject, you always see the teacher and students laughing, the classes are never boring for me. I love to come to class to see a smiling teacher and smiling students, and I see that every day, in every subject. In what even seems the most dull of classes, the teacher and students always manage to make the class enjoyable and a place to look forward to walking into. Overall my school is awesome! It has the perfect combination of love, kindness, fun activities, loyalty, multiculturalism and unity. Our school is great, everyone loves it, I can tell. Especially me! I would never dream of leaving our school.

Carsten Dejong



New Appointment

DIRECTOR OF SDA AGED CARE

Sandra Robinson is the latest to be appointed to the Board of Directors for our Aged Care facilities. She joins Ruth Welling (Exec. Director) and Eric Choo, Galen Gan, Arthur Johnson and David Phillips, who were elected earlier this year. A member of Bendigo church, Sandra holds the office of assistant treasurer, is a Division 1 registered nurse

(Sydney Adventist Hospital) and has had many years experience working in the aged care sector, the last seven of which have been at AdventCare Bendigo as Clinical Supervisor. Now happily retired, she and her husband of 39 years, Rob, a retired primary teacher from our church educational system, have three sons and three grandchildren.



Little Chef's Academy

SIBILLA JOHNSON VISITS ARARAT

In July, I was invited to attend the 'Little Chefs Academy' program at Ararat Church. The program is designed for pre-school children and is a hands-on cooking program, conducted in a most effective way by Ben and Mary-Jane Townson.

These two wonderful 'busy' people have given of their time to develop this program, organising and conducting it on a fortnightly basis, for children in the Ararat community. As I watched them come into the church hall, the children looked excited, their mothers happy. Each child then put on their apron which had the slogan 'I'm a little Chef' and by then there were smiles all around.

The hall was set up with tables in a square design and benches for the children to stand on so they could reach the equipment. Each child had its own mixing bowl, a smaller bowl, measuring cup wooden spoon and recipe file. When the program was ready to start, the children collected their ingredients from a table, returned to their 'workstation' and proceeded, step by step, mixing and completing the recipe, with guidance and help from Ben, as well as their mothers who stand behind or next to them. With the session finished and the food cooking in the oven, the children played organised games. The mums made the most of the opportunity to just sit with a drink and chat. I was part of the 'chat' time with the mums. We had very interesting conversations as they expressed their gratitude to Ben, Mary-Jane, and the Ararat Seventh-

We Have Approval

THE OVAL AT NCC

In an exciting development the Whitehorse City Council has approved the Nunawading Christian College Oval and Parking Development. Council approval for the development, which includes parking and tennis courts, was granted on 28th June.

"With it now passed through Council, the school can move ahead with our long held plans to provide our kids with the facilities they deserve," says Principal, Adrian Stiles. "Facilities which will enable a more extensive physical education and sport program to be offered."



PRINCIPAL, ADRIAN STILES, WITH CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION, W STANLEY AND B MERCER



WE ARE LITTLE CHEFS - COMMUNITY KIDS OF ARARAT

day Adventist Church for organising and conducting this program for their children - children from the community, not just their own!

As Victorian Conference Health Director, I am keen to hear from any church group who would be interested in learning more about this unique way of serving the community.

If there is an interest, and we hope there is, Conference administration is more than happy to organise a training session so that you can benefit from Ben and Mary-Jane's experience in setting up and conducting this very effective program.

Our children are a precious gift; we want to give them the best possible start in life. Establishing healthy food habits early in life will provide children with a healthy head start.

*Sibilla Johnson
Director of Health Ministries
Victorian Conference*

Gym and Eco Science Centre

GILSON COLLEGE

After months of construction the new Gymnasium at Gilson College is nearing completion, with students expected to be able to use the facility in the second or third week of Term 3. The Gym has three basketball courts, an Outside School Hours Care room, kitchen and will eventually have eight additional classrooms. It also has a stage, allowing it to be used for conventions and can seat up to 2000 people. Landscaping and roadworks are scheduled to be completed by the end of the term.

The College's Eco Science Centre is expected to be occupied at the beginning of Term 4. It contains three classrooms as well as a second story open plan area that can be used for seminars and large group work. The classrooms and upstairs seminar level overlook a large garden atrium which will be used by students to study solar energy, the life of the plants and many other Eco

SCHOOL'S ACCOUNTANT, DION HARVEY, WITH GILSON PRINCIPAL, MARK VODELL AND CONFERENCE PRESIDENT, WAYNE STANLEY



Science related subjects. The building is also powered by solar energy.

Prayer and Bible Study - Integral to Our Care

ADVENTCARE WHITEHORSE

Working in the spiritual realm of an aged care facility presents unique challenges and opportunities. All the Residents are facing eternity in the relatively near future and they are very much aware of it, but not all are really prepared for the last step that one must take alone. There are some who make it very clear that an after-life is not in their thinking – three score and ten (or perhaps a little more) and that's it. Nothing beyond! And even among those who profess faith in their God and in the hereafter, there are those who are not at all assured of a happy future beyond this life.

It is both a challenge and a great privilege to share the blessed hope with these dear people. I have found that prayer is one of the most, if not **the** most, effective way of bringing peace, comfort and hope to a heart that is longing (albeit secretly) for assurance.

I think of 'Jane', who received news of her daughter's untimely death in another country. Jane was distressed that she was unable to attend the funeral. Her anguish was greatly relieved when prayer was offered. Later we held a memorial service, helping bring hope and peace to an otherwise troubled heart.

'Keeping in touch' with God is such a vital element in our well-being. For a while, 'Miranda' received visits from a friend who prayed with her, but that arrangement ceased.

One afternoon I called in to her room and as the visit concluded, offered prayer, not knowing of the former arrangement. Afterwards, Miranda said "Oh Pastor, that was an answer to my prayer. Last night I asked God to send someone who would pray with me. Will you call and pray regularly?"

After spending much of his childhood in a less-than-caring religious institution, 'James' had no time for organized religion. However, prayer with and for him in a time of particular need brought great peace and happiness to him. Many more examples of the power and importance of prayer could be given.

The study of God's Word is also an essential part of the believer's life, without which diminished Christian experience follows. Regular individual and group Bible studies take place at AdventCare Whitehorse. A number of Residents who had fallen away from their earlier faith life, testify that their Christian experience has again blossomed after participating in our Bible study program.

Clearly Bible study and prayer are the *sine qua non* of a rich and satisfying life.

Pr Tony Campbell, Chaplain AdventCare Whitehorse



RESIDENTS ASSEMBLING FOR BIBLE STUDY

BIBLE ADVENTURES IN VICTORIA

With
Pastor Dave



Do you remember the stories we have shared with you so far? There was Cuts and Scratches, where you met Nathan, Max and Garth as they made a 'faith' discovery. Mike also discovered something about faith when he helped cheer up Aston. And then there was that strange story Jotham told about the King of the Trees. Can you remember how Sam didn't worry about what others thought, but just got in and did what needed to be done when her class mate was in trouble? And finally there were those Fishy Brothers.

Match the pictures below with the correct stories from the Bible...

...THEN LOOK THEM UP



Naaman...
His friends encouraged him to trust in God, even when it didn't make sense



The Centurion...
He believed in Jesus even when he didn't think he fitted in anywhere

The Good Samaritan...
Being kind to others no matter what others may think of you - sharing Jesus



Nathan gives David a message from God
Be happy with what you have and don't take from others



Jotham...
Make choices based on what you know is right, not what others tell you to do

STUDY OF PAUL'S EPISTLES AT EAST PRAHRAN CHURCH

Have you visited East Prahran on the first Sabbath of each month? If you have you will know that a special series of studies on each of the New Testament epistles of Paul has bought new insights into understanding these precious books of the Bible. Outstanding speakers have made these Sabbath sermons worth travelling to East Prahran to hear. Sabbath School lessons are lead by talented students of the Scriptures.

Make the effort to visit East Prahran Church at 10 am on the first Sabbath of each month for a spiritual feast, followed by a potluck lunch.

On August 7, John Waters will discuss the Sabbath School lesson, followed by Pastor John Hammond, speaking on Christ in Thessalonians.

GREENSBOROUGH SDA CHURCH IS NO MORE!

That's the sad news. But the good news is that we have relocated and Plenty Valley Adventist Church is now up and running. The new address is 160 Centenary Drive, Mill Park VIC 3082

A 46 page history of Greensborough Church (190 colour photos) is available from Brian Pascoe, 169 Smiths Road, Toolangi, VIC 3777 (email bgpascoe@aapt.net.au) for \$15 (including postage).



SUNSET TIMES

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

Sabbath	Opening	Closing
July 30,31	5.31	5.32
Aug 6,7	5.36	5.37
Aug 13,14	5.42	5.43
Aug 20,21	5.48	5.49
Aug 27,28	5.54	5.55



Congratulations to Tim and Wendy Pope, and brother, Caleb, of Macedon Ranges Church, on the safe arrival of Corin Lachlan Pope, on May 26, 2010.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

- July 30 - Aug 1 Women's Ministries Retreat Wild Ed
- Aug 1 Signs Month begins
- Aug 14 - 15 Youth Winter Camp
- Aug 28 Abuse Prevention Day
- Sept 5 - 8 AUC Constituency Meeting
- Sept 4 - 11 Week of Prayer

OFFERING SCHEDULE - AUGUST

- Aug 7 - Local Church Budget
- Aug 14 - Local Church Budget
- Aug 21 - Education/Camping Ministry
- Aug 21 - Local Church Budget
- Sept 3 - Local Church Budget
- Sept 10 - Annual Sacrifice - Global Mission



VICKIDS.ADVENTIST.ORG.AU/28STORIES

Visit this website especially set up by Children's Ministries leader, Dave Edgren, for our VicKids. Checkout the 'Sabbath Fun' pages, and the 28 Stories - a series that is growing each week, for juniors and up.

ACCOMMODATION NEEDED

Room to rent or bungalow needed by lady, preferably in the Eastern Suburbs and near public transport. Would be happy to be companion to elderly female. Phone Pam on 0450 624 962.

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.



e-Giving
a convenient way to
give offerings and tithe
vicgiving@adventist.org.au
or
www.adventist.org.au/egiving

WORLD EVENTS EXPLAINED

iDISCOVER
REVELATION'S PROPHECY
COMMENCING 20 AUGUST 2010
www.idiscover.org.au
FREE

Adventist Education Day August 14, 2010

Adventist Education Day
August 14, 2010
Preparing Young People to Serve Christ Now and for Eternity
ADVENTIST EDUCATION

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.

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

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