

May 22
2010

IntraVic

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

Swerve... to Serve

“What you did by caring for the
underprivileged was as pleasing to my
Father as if you had done it for me.”

HEART SOUL & STRENGTH

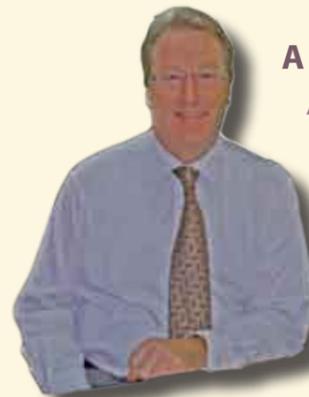


UNDER OATH

AUSTRALIAN PATHFINDER CAMPOREE
JANUARY 4-9, 2011 TOOWOOMBA, QLD

www.under-oath.net.au

PROUDLY HOSTED BY THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN UNION CONFERENCE



A Note from the Editor

Acts of Service – what come to mind when you read those words? Nervous anticipation as you collect for Appeal for Missions? Giving out literature to people whose faces are steeped in darkness and pain? Riding many kilometres over a rough and bumpy track to a primitive medical clinic in some backwater somewhere? I am sure that each generation could respond differently to this phrase.

I clearly recall as a youngster sitting in church while the Sabbath School Secretary stood out the front, pen poised, waiting for a show of hands to answer the questions she read out: “Pieces of missionary literature distributed? Articles of clothing given? Food parcels delivered? Persons helped?” ...And so on.

This was something we all did in good faith at the time, for as followers of Jesus we wanted to make a difference in the lives of others. It’s been a while since I have been asked to report in that way and that’s a good thing for it is easy to restrict our thinking when we confine ourselves only to things on a list read once a week.

The life of Christ is a wonderful model for Acts of Service and the same principle is modelled in the Old Testament where the importance of mercy and justice are modelled – especially to those least able to help themselves. For example, Zechariah reminds us, “This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.’” (Zechariah 7:9)

When we serve others and care for them, what ever way that may be; we are allowing the warmth of God’s love to shine out to those around us. The acts themselves may be nothing, often tedious and inglorious, but the flow on effect can be amazing. We often receive the bonus of a blessing for ourselves, sometimes greater than that we have shared.

Acts of Service... These may differ from those of Biblical times or even from recent decades, but the motive is just as pure. Do you think of collecting for ADRA, or leaving your old clothes in a drop box? Do you think of visitation and Bible study? Or do you think of making balloons animals for eager young kids with their faces bright with excitement? Do you think of helping underprivileged kids to learn English, or sitting in a circle on the ground with them, singing? Do you think of leading a praise and worship band or a kid’s choir as service? When you hear of another group of young people going overseas on some mission project, do you get excited?

In this issue, we are exploring service for God. In particular, the service our young people are involved in. As you read this edition of IntraVic, it is our prayer that you will be challenged; challenged to ‘swerve’ from your habitual thinking about service; challenged to think ‘outside the box’ and find new ways of making service an important part of your Christian experience; challenged to connect to Jesus, so you can serve in the multitude of ways He has to show you.

And if, at the end of reading this magazine, you think ‘I don’t want my life to continue the way it is, focusing on myself; I want to swerve to serve in the ways Jesus directs, then I can guarantee a rich, full and beautiful life until you meet the Master face to face.

Pr Wayne Stanley
PRESIDENT

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Devotional Service Matters!

Pastor Darren Croft discusses why we should encourage acts of service in our churches.

We seek to encourage our church members, in the same way we would encourage all followers of Christ, to use their God selected, God given talents and spiritual gifts for the building up of the body of Christ – His Church. Take a look at the list of spiritual gifts, while some will be called to greater acts of ‘service’ than others, we are *all* called to serve.

Service does matter. It’s why we encourage people to get involved in STORM Co, community service, Fly and Builds, ADRA projects and the like – young, old and in between. We are all called to participate in acts of service.

We serve because a need exists. We serve because that is what Jesus

would do. We serve without expectation of reward. We serve because we want to make the world a better place.

We serve because it changes us and changes our priorities to align more closely with Jesus than the world. We serve because by our actions we share our faith – and our actions often then give opportunity for words to follow. Words that change lives with the greatest blessing of all - The life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

It’s true that there are different gifts, but they all come from the same Holy Spirit. There are different ministries, but we all serve the same Lord. People have different natural abilities but they all come from the same God. Each one should use his ability for the good of the church...

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Dorcas had been of great service to the church, and God saw fit to bring her back... that her skill and energy might still be a blessing to others, and also that by this manifestation of His power the cause of Christ might be strengthened. (Ellen White, Act of the Apostles, p132)

In the book of Acts, Dorcas showed her faith by acts of service. When she died people from all around were devastated that this godly woman was no more. Why? By her acts of service, people saw Jesus at work. Working through the hands of one humble woman.

When God acted, it stunned and amazed all who knew her. The apostle Peter came and prayed and God raised Dorcas back to life. The result was belief in the God of Dorcas. Without the humble acts of service by Dorcas in the first place the rest of the story would not have happened.

Service Matters. It is something that we are all called to do as the inevitable by-product of a life in Christ.

Surprised by Joy A Message on Volunteering...



Pastor Eric White is a retired Conference Youth Ministries Director and Adventist Volunteer Director for the South Pacific Division. His message is based on his observations of the effect volunteering has on our young people.

Occasionally I am surprised by joy. The source of joy is often that I meet people who have served as volunteers when they were younger.

My recent joy was in meeting a number of youth leaders at Howqua who were attending the Youth/Pathfinder Leadership Conference. Three who stand out are Moe, Kara and Neil, who each served as volunteers and who were at that time in leadership positions in the Victorian Conference Youth Ministries Department. Each felt God’s affirmation of their spiritual gifts while serving as volunteers. Moe and Neil felt their calling to youth ministry and Kara, who taught for a number of years and served as Youth Department Administrative Assistant, is now doing her theology training at Avondale College. Joy!

We can’t all go overseas to serve as volunteers, that’s why STORM Co was introduced (Service To Others Rally Matters). The opportunity for young people to serve in remote communities in Australia is mostly in their own conferences or states. The result is the same! We experience the joy of serving others, as Jesus did, and see the response in the lives of children, families and communities that we work with. We also experience something that pulls the plug on self-centredness and gives us a vision that allows us to make a difference in our lives.

I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints. Philemon 4-7 (NIV)

Several years ago I joined the Conference Youth Directors as they visited ten STORM Co’s in western NSW during the September holidays. Most of these teams were working with Aboriginal children. I had the privilege of joining the teams for worships, listening to their stories and sharing with them words of encouragement and joy.

As we drove home through the night, at the end of the week, my thoughts went to Paul’s experience as he visited the growing churches of his day. I can really connect with his words to young Philemon.

As young people you have the privilege of serving in special ways. Older people in our church and communities need to learn from you. They need to learn from your innocent wisdom. They need

to balance their conviction and experience with your creative energy.

You will be *Surprised by Joy* as you serve. So go for it!





As We Reflect His Light...

...stories of God's Grace

As Jesus explained to Nicodemus, physically we may not be able to see the Holy Spirit, but like the wind, we can certainly see the results of His presence. Brian Boyland, school chaplain at Gilson, tells us of how, once God's grace touched Sheldon Warner's life, he could not help but become more involved, on fire with a clown's heart for his Saviour.

Sheldon join a Bible Study group at Gilson College, wanting to know more about Jesus and God. After a few months he said he want to be baptized, but his family would not allow him. They expected him to remain Catholic, at least until he was 18, at which point they would let him choose for himself.

But Sheldon was not content with that and did not let up. He was focused on what he now believed, and began to challenge his family with his new beliefs. 18 months later his mother walked into my office.

"OK, you can have him!" she said. "He hasn't let up on the subject of baptism for all this time, so I've decided he can make his decision... now."

Sadly, I see many young people come to the point of making a decision for Jesus, then seem to just sit back as if they have now 'made it', and don't have to do any more. Not so with Sheldon! He was the opposite. Inspired to use his rebirth (baptism) as a new lease on life, he began attending Living Waters, an Adventist Church in Taylors Hill, and before long was trained to use the sound equipment and became an important part of the local church.

He also got heavily involved in Skidz Alive, a community kids church.



Trained in clowning, ballooning and illusions, it was not long before he was Skidz Alive's mascot, acting the clown and being the MC for the program.

Sheldon has excelled in his skills with working with kids, and his love for Jesus shines through in whatever he does.



His eagerness to learn more about God has kept him on a constant journey and he is now studying Vetamorphus (a Certificate III in Christian Ministry) as part Year 12, as well as training to manage Skidz Alive. He has been pushing for a STORM Co to start from the Western suburbs, and continues to serve God in a life of service.

"It's like wind blowing the trees. You can see the effects of it but you can't see the wind itself. That's how it is with the person who is born spiritually..." John 3:8

Memory Sinking Seconds

Reflections from the Ukraine

Sometimes in this life, we experience something that may last just a second but the memory of it sinks in so deep, we never forget it. In this article, Monique Johnson recalls some memory sinking seconds from her time in the Ukraine where she and her husband Eric were volunteer English and Bible teachers for six months. They continue to seek to lead a life of service, wherever God leads them.



The cacophony of the open-air market sounds swirled around my puffed pumpkin-like black coat. Not wanting to be late (again), I wobbled past the food stalls and reached the thick, heavy glass doors leading to the Metro. I descended toward the dank and smoky underground tunnel. An unkempt, sandy-haired boy caught my attention from across the crowd. In that memory sinking moment, his face was burned on my conscience. My feet continued as my mind slowly caught up with my Christian conviction and I halted, the pulsating crowd seething past me. Glancing at the loaf of bread in my hand, I spun around and pushed back to the staircase. My previous haste now forgotten, my eyes flitted from boy to stairs to ceiling and I tried to form words I could say in a language not my own. Crouching in front of this boy, whose haunting, empty eyes have sunk deep into my memory, I held out my meagre offering and smiled.

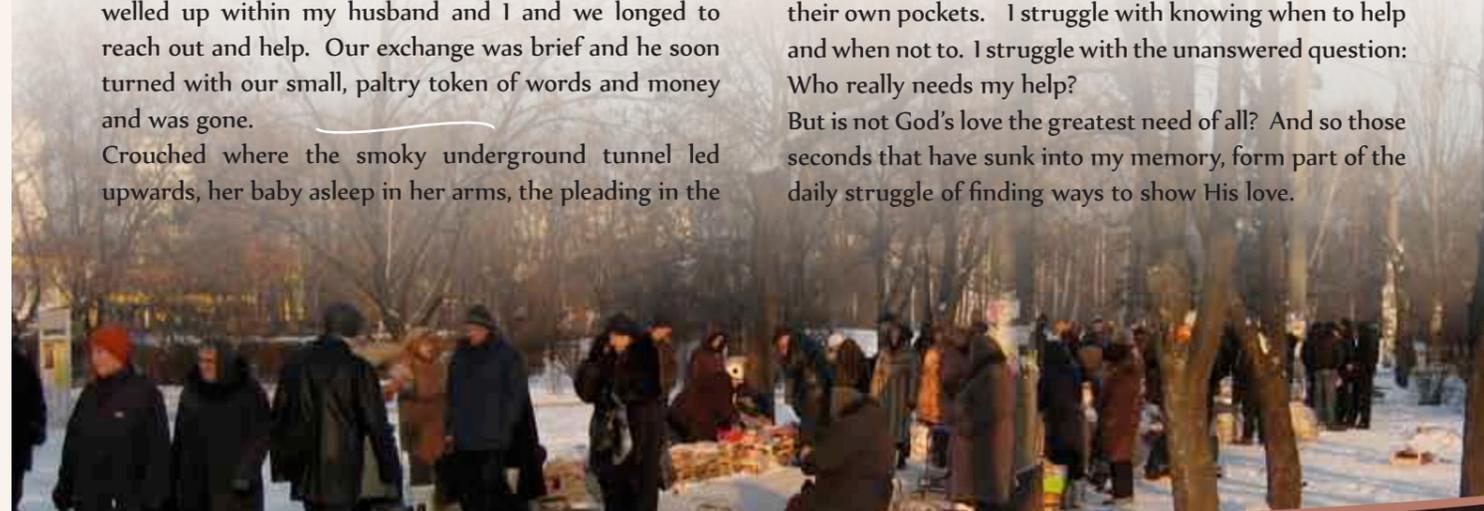
Weathered eyes boring into any who dared stare at him, his slow shuffling was hindered by the belongings on his back. Moving into the train wagon, he seemed to materialise in front of us. His long, white straggly beard led my eyes to his stained cloak and pants, the pungent odour having already assailed my nose. A deep sadness welled up within my husband and I and we longed to reach out and help. Our exchange was brief and he soon turned with our small, paltry token of words and money and was gone.

Crouched where the smoky underground tunnel led upwards, her baby asleep in her arms, the pleading in the

young girl's eyes curled my insides, and instinctively my hand went to my pocket. But wait, is the baby asleep? There it is, that memory sinking second of indecision. The nagging thought that this baby is not truly asleep, but drugged so it's mother can wrest more sympathy for a better income.

The rattling of the train wagon nearly overpowers a small voice, straining at the opposite end. Through the ocean of humanity a child of eight in the body of a four-year-old jostles through the crowd, stooped over, leaning on a cane like an 80-year-old. Stopping occasionally to insist on the beggar's fee from the sitting passengers, he approaches. But as the train stops, in one swift movement this 'crippled' child straightens, grabs his cane and runs to the next wagon to continue the facade. There it is again, the memory sinking indignation, knowing that there are those who forcibly snatch the innocence of a young child in order to teach them this crafty way of earning a living.

In one of a thousand countries around the world where poverty stricken beggar hugs each corner, I struggle day-to-day with a heart that wants to help the down-trodden, not just those attempting to forge a need in order to fill their own pockets. I struggle with knowing when to help and when not to. I struggle with the unanswered question: Who really needs my help? But is not God's love the greatest need of all? And so those seconds that have sunk into my memory, form part of the daily struggle of finding ways to show His love.



Serve it Up!

and be served...

Acts of Service can guarantee spiritual growth and strengthen faith, not just for the individual but for the group involved. However it does come at a cost! It can cost you money. It can cost you energy. It can cost you your life!

But what is all that, when compared to having people in the Kingdom because someone cared enough to act.

Mark 10 45

For even the Son of God has come, not to be served, but to serve...

From a Biblical Perspective, the life of Christ was very much that of service. His whole life ministry was to serve and save the lost. In Mark 10:43-45, He himself said he did not come to be served but to serve. And He did just that, He served!

He got his hands dirty – mixing mud and spit to open the eyes of the blind, washing the disciples’ dirty feet, playing with the children... and the list goes on.

We have been given example after example of servant leadership from our Saviour. Furthermore, the most powerful act of Jesus was His death on the cross! 1 Peter 4:10,

challenges us to use the gifts given us, whatever they maybe, to serve faithfully!

The Impact on lives

Acts of Service means getting our hands dirty. It means getting out of our comfort zone! It means watching our lives be changed and transformed. It is that powerful!

When you listen to young people give testimonies of their experiences after going away for a week or two, or three for that matter, most if not all of them will say it has changed and transformed their lives, drawing them closer to God! Their spiritual journey has been strengthened because they were given the opportunity to serve!

There is no doubt that community service does more for the person serving than the one being served. You don't have to search far to find that anyone who has given up the comfort of their home to go and serve has come back with a renewed fire in their belly for Jesus. Some have committed their lives for the first time because the impact was so great their only option was to surrender. Some have been struggling in their faith journey, only to have their relationship with Christ revitalised through the act of serving. Others have experienced their relationship strengthen even more.

Peter challenges us to use the gifts God had given us, whatever they may be, to serve Him faithfully...

“Each of you has received some of God’s gifts, so use those gifts to help others like good stewards, administering God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

One of the greatest ways of sharing Christ is to act on it. **Service is evangelism in action!** There’s a saying, ‘people don’t care about how much you know until they know how much you care’.

So often we find ourselves preaching at people without taking the time to get to know them, without taking the opportunity to just to be with them without saying anything at all. Acts of Service allows us to be Christ in hands and feet not just words!

Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.
1 Timothy 3:13



We can't give what we don't have!

Serving is life! Jesus came to serve and save the lost! A life of service happens when we have been broken hearted by what we see around us. When we act on what Christ has revealed to us!

This can only happen when we have spent time with Him, individually and as a body. Christ wants to share His heart with us, but this is blurred most of the time because we have not taken the time to sit in His presence. When we do, when we focus on Him, He puts on our hearts the desire to do as He asks. He places on us a burden of care for someone or people we don't even know, and Service becomes a part of life, not just an act for a few days so we can say we've done a good deed, now let's get on with the rest of our lives.

When we spend time with our Saviour He Himself gives us a glimpse into His heart and gives us a lifetime burden that will enable us to act because He's commissioned, to act, not because of guilt, but because of love for Him and for the people He loves.

Preach the gospel at all times when necessary use words! Now go...

Pastor Moe Ioane Stiles

Preach the Gospel at all times...

...when necessary - use words!

Francis Assissi

Ideas and or suggestions?

Pray – Spend time with Jesus – Ask him to give you a glimpse of His heart for those in need...

Have Service as part of your community vision.

Talk to youth department to find out some more information of service projects in the area.

See your local council find out what areas of your community that could do with your service.



Make Yourself Available -

God Will Use You

Doctor Mel Lemke, chaplain for Avondale School, researched what happens when we commit ourselves to a life of service. Here he explains why service to others really does make a difference.

"You are an answer to my prayer," said Joy, an elderly resident, to the six teenagers who knocked on her door. Only that morning she had asked God to send someone to help with her yard work. Right after lunch one of our



MEL WITH HIS SON, ELLIOT (AND A FEW FRIENDS!)

street teams came by. Three hours later they had pruned, mowed and cleaned out a trailer load of rubbish. When I picked the team up we prayed with Joy and thanked God for bringing us together.

God in action, God showing up, God bringing together a person with a need and people to meet that need. Just one of many miracles our team experienced first-hand on our most recent STORM Co to regional communities.

Over the years I've witnessed hundreds of kids experience things they never imagined possible through service. I've led dozens of trips, and each one has its own story of transformation. Yes, communities are helped and long term friendships are formed. But the biggest impact is on our own young people. Jesus said "when you give, you'll receive much more." It's true. Research on the impact of STORM Co highlights how important worship-fuelled service is in the faithing of our children. **Data affirms the following observations: Short term service promotes encounters with God, worship, spiritual growth, personal growth and building community within the team and strong life values. Short term service also encourages commitment to a life of service.**

One grandmother reflects: "I feel so strongly that STORM Co really works, not only in theory, but in actual practice. I have seen the difference STORM Co makes in the characters of the young people involved, as well as the impact the team makes on a community... Through a STORM Co experience, team members discover skills and talents they didn't realize they possessed, and spiritual powers they didn't realize were possible. It is my prayer that STORMCO will move forward to encompass more and more areas where it is so desperately needed."

Gal 5:13 states emphatically that we are set free to serve one another in love. 1 Pet 4:7-11 invites us to use every opportunity we have to serve in these last days. In doing so we are "dispensers of God's grace." Jesus, in John 13:1,2,

says that He is "now to show us the full extent of His love"— then He kneels down and washed the feet of His disciples. Service is not an optional extra. It is what we are all called to do. Why not get a team together from your church or school and go out and serve a community near you. I promise you it will change many lives, put smiles on people's faces and joy in your heart. And it's a great way to show young adults how much fun it is to seek God, then see Him show up... and to show how easy it is to walk hand in hand with Him.



New from our Churches

Serving up Hope

"This is the most un-Adventist outreach program I've ever seen!" was an observation made by one attendee at a recent Cheri Peters 'Life in Recovery' series run in Victoria. Meant as a complement, the comment was in response to the subject matter and the message of hope being delivered.

With Cheri's unique blend of humour and confrontation, her story of abuse, hurt and drug addiction showed the audience that she understood their pain. Cheri's testimony of an unexpected encounter with a loving God showed that through His grace, there is hope for everyone. As well as sharing her own story, she gave information about addiction and talked of experiences she has had while helping others stand up in their recovery.

Cheri was easily able to capture the hearts and attention of those present. This bond resulted in many people feeling comfortable enough to relate their own journey and need for recovery with her, during one-on-one appointments.

Advertising for the event in Geelong drew over 100 attendees each evening and over 240 heard the 11am presentation on Sabbath. Combining their resources, Berwick and Casey Churches promoted the weeklong event to their local community, drawing audiences of over 200 people to the midweek programs held at Heritage Seventh-day Adventist College in Narre Warren South, and over 500 on the concluding Saturday at Lyndhurst Secondary College in northern Cranbourne.

In Geelong, Cheri was also invited to speak at Foundation 61, the only drug rehabilitation centre in the area, and the church there is now busy establishing a followup team for continued support, including recovery groups and a 12-step program. The Gippsland churches are following up Cheri's program by running 'Living Well', 'Discovering Christianity' and 'How to Drug-Proof Your Kids' programs in their region.

"There is a significant need for people to address past and present abuse, both within the church and also in the wider community," observed Heritage School chaplain, Faye Stothers. "In addition, the damaging methods people are using to escape from their pain are becoming destructive habits that are being passed on to their children. People need to hear God's message of forgiveness, and turn from their sins and toward His kingdom".

Please remember these churches in your prayers, that they receive God's continuing presence and guidance as they serve their community.



DAVID RILEY INTRODUCING CHERI PETERS





JOSH STOTHERS - AGE 18

I am involved in music ministry, which is awesome! I've been doing this for about two years and it has been absolutely life changing. God gives me so many amazing opportunities to play and worship in all sorts of new places. Since becoming involved in music ministry my relationship with Him has sky rocketed and I've come to realise all the amazing things He can do in our lives and just how much He loves us!

I can do anything through Christ, who gives me strength phil 4:13



BRYAN ROBERTS - AGE 20

"As a Youth Pastoral Worker (YPW) at Wantirna, my life has certainly changed through serving God and His family. For me, it has always involved taking a risk, even just a tiny little risk. When I've risked something to serve God, He has always given me more back and entrusted me and encouraged me and blessed me to take further risks. These 'risks' are merely opportunities, and the more I've risked for God, the more opportunities He has given me to serve Him and the more blessed I feel, doing so."

EMMA KNIGHT - AGE 18

Being a youth pastoral worker at Lilydale Church, she works predominantly with the teens, running small groups, giving Bible studies, is Sabbath School leader, mentors the music bands, runs the Children's Choir and has heaps of fun! "Seeing teens grow to learn and love God, my small group double in size in just one week, and seeing kids on fire for Jesus, doing anything they can, makes me wish I could work like this every day."

you should love and value your neighbour as much as you love and value yourself

Matt 22:39



SARAH COURTNEY - AGE 16

Sarah went overseas with a mission trip to Vanuatu organised by her school. "I discovered the adventure of serving God. It was terrifying at first getting out of my comfort zone, but I found God was there too, and knowing that now, it will be easier to step out again. I think I was able to serve the people of Aore more through the friendships I formed with them, than through all the painting, sanding and water blasting I attempted, put together."

ASHLEY SAMARASINGHE - AGE 16

"Once a month my church goes out 'Door Knocking' in the local community... The second time I took part, I felt this 'buzz', like Jesus was right there with me - telling me what to say to these complete strangers. Some were not as enthusiastic to hear what I had to say as I would have liked, but I found that people of tertiary age were very receptive, longing for God's embrace... We could sense this revival, like something great was happening and we were a part of it. This was one of the first times I felt the promise being fulfilled in my life - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. If you want God to use you, all you have to do is solemnly ask for it, and he will use you to achieve things that you will never imagine possible."



CAROLINE TAITIN - AGE 26

Since 2005, Caroline has been involved in several VicYouth Mission trips, worked with ADRA in Namibia, assisted with a church building project and evangelistic program, and participated in a local STORM Co community project. "Serving others gives me first hand insight into what Jesus must have seen during His ministry on Earth. The priceless smiles and grateful thanks of those whose lives you change can never be replaced by anything else. You are blessed by blessing others, even if you can only give up a fraction of your time and money to help make a small difference... I believe young people should get involved in at least one international mission trip or STORM Co project in their lifetime because it changes your perspective, as well as changing the lives of others... What you do for Christ is never in vain."



NIGEL ARULANANDAM - AGE 16

I've been to 'STITCHES' too, and it was awesome to be able to put a smile on some little kid's face, especially as most of these children don't have all the luxuries that we enjoy and take for granted. Something as simple as making a balloon animal can make a child's day and all it takes is a couple of hours out of my day. These experiences bring me closer to God and make me more grateful for everything He has done for me.



STEPHANIE MEDRZYCKI - AGE 16

"I have been to STITCHES twice with Oasis Church, where we spent time hanging out with kids living in housing commission apartments, I was doing face painting, and supervising them while they were using computers - really, we were just hanging out with them and getting to know them, letting them know that someone cares. This has made me more aware - unstuck me from my own social bubble. Being with people in this way, people who have way less than I do, has helped me realise that God loves them just as much."



MICHELLE DYE - AGE 30

Living on the Thailand/Burma border since January 09, Michelle shares the gospel by helping establish, run and teach at children's homes and schools in Mae Sot, along with spending six months in Burma working with ADRA. "God has become the one I depend on at all times, my all-in-all. Serving has simply helped me fall more in love with Him, and deepened my reliance on Him."

CHARNELLE MACK - AGE 17

Charnelle was a counsellor at Junior Camp in January. Was that service? Most definitely! Charnelle worked with Junior children, encouraging, mentoring and spiritually guiding them for two weeks. "I came to understand that a person must serve in order to be a good leader. I also found that I needed to rely on God courageously to help me set a good example for my girls. I returned home with a fresh motivation to learn on God in everything I do."



KRISTEN JUDD - AGE 26

Is the coordinator for VIVE Cafe. "Giving, in my experience, is the greatest joy, cliché as it might be! Being involved with Vive Cafe gives me purpose beyond myself! It is amazing to see what a massive difference the most basic acts of human kindness can elicit, be it giving clothes, a hearty meal, or a listening ear. At Vive Cafe we strive to live out our mission to actively be the hands and feet of Jesus - living our beliefs."



AMY PITT - AGE 15

Amy is planning to go on an overseas mission trip with eleven other Year 10 students later this year. Already this anticipated service trip is making a difference in her life. "This is impacting me by focusing my attention on others not myself, learning from the awesome group of people that I'm privileged to go with and being a part of something God has his hand over."



As a person's body is useless without breath, so our statements of faith are meaningless without action James 2:26

JOSH WOOD - AGE 23

I am currently employed as a Youth Pastoral Worker (YPW) for Ballarat Adventist Church. My main task is the undertaking of our teen group "C4 Ignite" - An avenue of outreach for our teen kids, who often find it difficult to bring friends into a 'churchy' environment. I am also a Sabbath School leader. Personally - It never ceases to amaze me, the bluntness and honesty shown by young teens. If they don't like something, there is no beating around the bush. It is for this reason we have developed 'C4 Ignite' and we are seeing increased participation in activities. Spiritually - these roles have allowed me to see how much of a struggle life had been, and how shallow my relationship with God was. My commitment to Church has always been reasonably good, but my commitment to God is different now. Through this process I have needed His support, and He has graciously given it.



MARK SINGH - AGE 17

"During the Coonawarra STORM Co trip, when we saw our crazy red cordial-consuming primary school kids who, a week earlier didn't know who God was, independently join us at the local Seventh-day Adventist Church - I realised how God can truly work through me."



Church News Continued...

More than serving soup

Revive Church Croydon

Vive Cafe is a mission Revive developed out of a need to support struggling individuals and families in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

Since its inception, Vive Cafe has grown from serving 30 meals a week to between 100-140 meals each Thursday. It is, however, about much more than providing a meal. Our approach differs greatly from the traditional notion of a soup kitchen. At Vive Cafe guests are greeted at the door by a friendly volunteer and seated at a set table complete with table cloth and tea light candle. Guests can then enjoy a two to three course meal, served by a team of volunteer waiters.

As well as their goal that no guest go away hungry, Vive Cafe strives to entertain guests with an array of musical entertainment including, live music and DJs playing everyone's favourite tunes.

Volunteers are also on hand to care for the children who come with their parents, while others are there to assist guests in finding clothes from our mini Vive Shop.

One of the most important ways which Vive Cafe is



helping though, is having people there who are willing to 'just' sit down and listen to them! Many of our guests are so marginalised in society that there really isn't anyone for them to sit and chat with.

Looking honestly at one's life, I'm sure you will agree that the world would be a lot less bright and cheerful with no one to celebrate the good in life with, or to sit and listen when you're going through a bad patch.

Many volunteers come each week, filling the various roles as they share Jesus' love, and our guests are able to build strong and meaningful relationships with them, making their lives that little bit easier.

Church Hall Reopened after Fire

The early hours of October 29, 2008, saw fire roaring through Echuca's Adventist church hall.

A new church hall has now risen from the ashes, and on April 17, Echuca Adventist Church celebrated its opening, with Mr Paul Weller, local member for Rodney, officiating



the ceremony.

There were many visitors who came to support and celebrate with the local members, and together they all enjoyed lunch afterwards, followed by a concert.

The new hall will provide a much needed boost for the church's plans to provide services to the local community.



Puddles for Kids

Lilydale Church

Over many months customers from a craft shop in Boronia knitted over 3,000 garments to send to the "Deal Thy Bread" orphanage in Kenya run by Paula Jones' father, Ian Castleman. Paula is a member of the Lilydale Seventh-day Adventist church. A container was shipped to Kenya in 2008 but the knitters, mostly elderly people, didn't stop there, their main interest was to supply garments to the needy, and they have kept on knitting.



Not so many knitted garments are coming now but another supplier has joined us donating new name-brand seconds, which we get mended before



IAN CASTLEMAN WITH THE CHILDREN OF THE ORPHANAGE

sending overseas.

In 2009 we received over 5000 articles and many of these have been sent to Cambodia, Thailand, Mongolia, New Guinea and India. Five boxes were sent to Cambodia in December 2009, to be distributed to the children who live on a garbage dump and already we have other boxes packed ready for posting.

The cost of sending the garments overseas is considerable so, to alleviate these costs, Graeme and I started packing and selling a variety of food products at the end of 2008. We wish to thank all of you who have supported us in this endeavour.

Joy Hawke

Search Church

New Life Christian Community Mornington

Search Church is a house church operating from our home. We call it that as nearly all of the members started attending as a result of the Search Video Ministry on the Peninsular.

Standing in the photo are Clyde, Heather, Ariel, Terry, Traian, Marcia and Rosalie. Sitting are Josie (who was baptised in April), Peggy, Yvonne and Geraldine. We study and worship around the table in what was an alfresco on the side of our house, which we filled in to make a beautiful little chapel.

Our worship service usually starts at 10am and we use computer powerpoints projected onto a screen for a sing-a-long, followed by prayer and study. Afterwards we enjoy lunch together, which often extends into afternoon tea as the fellowship continues.

A local lady recently referred to us will join the group for the up and coming Prophecy Seminar we are planning. At



the moment we are unable to cater for children, but there are two families in the area who are studying the Children's Sabbath School Lesson studies with their children.

We also enjoy the company of visitors who occasionally join us at 1 Tira Crt Mornington. Maybe you could consider it, next time you are in the area, and join us for a wonderful Sabbath together.

Ken and Heather Raymond

More Church News...

When Trash and Treasure Can Witness!

Moe Church

In late March, Andy and Margaret Lapham organised a Trash and Treasure sale to raise money for Moe Church. "We praise God for giving us the health and energy to do this," said Margaret. "Sale, Traralgon and Warragul churches were very supportive with donations and help, and with God's blessing, we raised \$1,100."

The blessing did not stop there however. People who did not even know the Moe church existed came looking for bargains. "This has been a good witness, and a good result. We are grateful for the many prayers sent on our behalf and for God's blessing on the day."

The money raised is going toward stainless steel benches for their new kitchen which has been added onto the

existing hall, along with a new Sabbath School room for the youth.

Moe Church has continued to grow in recent years. So much so, that they have had to remove a portion of the rostrum to accommodate more seating. They have had several baptisms in local rivers recently and the regular prayer meeting is strongly supported.



A New Location

Greensborough Church

After several decades in its St Helena Road location, Greensborough Adventist Church is relocating to Plenty Road, Mill Park.

The old church buildings needed considerable maintenance and updating and had no street presence, being almost invisible to passing traffic. The new site, at the corner of Plenty Road and Centenary Drive, opposite Mc Donalds,



is highly visible and has been the site of the Christian Outreach Centre for the last eight years.

Minor refurbishment will be necessary and we anticipate moving in by mid June. A fresh vision is being developed to make the most of this opportunity in a new setting. Already there is a conviction that the Northern growth corridor represents a growing population virtually untouched by the Adventist message – Mill Park is just a beginning. Very aware that if the only thing we are doing is changing our location, then we are wasting our time, personal evangelism is sure to be a focus for our new congregation.

God's leading has been evident, both in the sale of the current location and the purchase of the new one, and we praise Him for His guidance. A final service is to be held at Greensborough on May 29, at 11am, and we invite our friends and former members to come and celebrate with us and stay on for one of our famous church lunches.

Allan Gray (Senior Elder)

Awarded for Service

Nunawading Church

While recently participating in a Wilderness Adventure Survival Camp, Adam Mason was awarded the 'Go the Extra Mile' Award. This award entitles him to attend a

future Outback Adventure event free of charge, and was given to him after earning five privileges for showing acts of kindness to others on the camp.

Service to others can be as simple as being kind. Well done Adam!



Conference News

Having been here for four months now, I have had the opportunity to meet all of the pastors and begin visiting churches with respects to their finances and, in some cases, their building programs.

Interestingly I have also spoken about the corporate structure at a couple of churches and this has helped clear up the understanding of the way our church works.

This month's issue of IntraVic has been devoted to acts of service, and giving, whether it be of time or money, is a part of serving, so again I wish to focus on this.

You may not be aware that there are 92 sites that are currently active each Sabbath here in Victoria. At each church there is a team of people, headed by the local treasurer, who give of their time as they process the offerings each week. I would like to

personally thank them for their commitment to the work that they do.

'Bring your full tithe to my Temple so that there will be plenty of food in my house. Try me, and see if I will not open the gates of heaven and pour out so many blessings on you, spiritual and material, that you will not be able to count them all.'

Malachi 3:10

As at the end of March the tithe received, to date, was just over \$2.42million, comparable to last year's figure for the same time period, of \$2.48 million. This is excellent, however again I would like to challenge each member to the promise from Malachi.

Over the coming months, I will be working on a reporting process for each local church which will help people understand the giving process and how the funds are supporting the work of the church. Watch this space for more on this over the next few months as this system is worked through and implemented.



Peter Lynch

Chief Financial Officer

Victorian Conference

Easter Camp 2011

Elmore

It has been confirmed that Easter Camp 2011 at Elmore Events Centre is definitely happening so mark it on your calendar for April 21-25 next year and plan to be there! Thank you to everyone who provided feed back, your input will help make next year's camp even better.

I loved Camp overall – thank you

A very good Camp in a very good setting.

Please make it for a Week!!!

I'm sure with word of mouth, next year's camp will attract still more campers. I've certainly been encouraging people to plan to be at Camp next year. Let's not break this wonderful tradition again.

I just love Camp. It is the best thing that happens in the Adventist church.

Praise the Lord for such a wonderful Camp and for all the team, for their dedication.

Tuesday morning (the day after!) was when I started sharing what I had learned to a friend, new to the truth of Jesus, during a Bible Study. He now wants to come next year.

Conference News continued...



Thank you, Ian

At Elmore Camp, Ian Royce received a citation for his years of service and commitment. He has served most recently as Trust Services Coordinator here in Victoria, retiring earlier this year after handing over to Steve Whitson.

Ian Hambrook Royce graduated from Avondale College in 1964 and commenced pastoral ministry in the South Australia Conference where he served for a period of seven years as a church pastor. From there he was called to Western Australia where he would serve for nearly twenty nine years. Ian moved to Victoria in 2000 where he would finish his ministry.

Ian served in the following capacities:

- Pastoral Ministry: South Australia
- Pastoral Ministry: Western Australia
- Trust Services: Western Australia, Victoria
- General Secretary: Victoria
- Ministerial Secretary: Western Australia, Victoria
- Trust Services Coordinator: Australian Union

In his work as a minister Ian has been greatly loved and respected. His gentle and caring manner has endeared him to all people under his care.

Ian Hambrook Royce, we want to recognize you for the outstanding contribution you have made to God's work in Australia. We honour you for your caring, compassionate approach in ministry and towards those you have ministered to. We appreciate your faithfulness throughout 44+ years as a full-time pastor.

Thank you Ian and Mary for your commitment.



Congratulations!

MEBZAR QUINTO, FORMERLY AT NUNAWADING CHURCH AS A YOUTH WORKER, IS NOW WORKING WITH THE FILIPINO-AUSTRALIAN CONGREGATION AS A MINISTERIAL INTERN. ON MARCH TWENTY FOUR HE AND HIS WIFE, CAROLYN, WELCOMED THE ARRIVAL OF TWIN BOYS, VON RAZZL AND NYLL XABI.

Congratulations, Carolyn and Mebzar.



And one more makes four...

Greg Pratt remembers that spirituality was the central theme of family life in his home. His parents modelled community service and generosity to others, and their spirit lives on in their children: out of six siblings, Greg is the fourth to have been ordained to ministry.

From a young age, Greg was drawn to ministry. He became involved in various forms in his church and preached his first sermon at the age of thirteen.

Toward the end of his schooling, Greg faced the dilemma of choosing between a cadetship in journalism which he was offered, and following the passion for ministry that was in his heart. His older brother Brendan was living in New Zealand so Greg decided to go there for a year. During this time, God strengthened the desire He had placed in Greg's heart, so Greg returned to Australia to attend Avondale College. With Ian Howie as his mentor, he gained experience serving in the Avondale College Church. During his years there Greg met Chantelle and they married in 2005.

It was always the practical subjects that Greg excelled in and found the most rewarding, and the desire to be part of a healthy Adventist Church that 'worked', making impact on its community, grew.

Called to New Zealand after completing his degree, Greg was blessed to be mentored by his brother Brendan and by Pr Eddie Tupai during his internship. Those years in New Zealand were some of the most rewarding and fulfilling in Greg's ministry, but they were also the most challenging, as he faced progressive hearing loss. Looking back on that time in his life, Greg now understands how God used his experiences to empower and equip him for pastoral ministry. He believes he is evidence that God calls us to a great vision and mission, no matter who we are or what weaknesses we may have, for

it is when we allow God to work in and through our weaknesses that His strength and glory can be revealed!

Greg and Chantelle moved back to Australia so Greg could receive a cochlear implant. While he was willing to be unemployed for a year while he underwent the procedure, God had other plans and Greg found himself working alongside Pr Craig Vanas at Mile End Church Plant, NSW. Greg and Chantelle were encouraged as they saw their Life Group multiply, lives change and the church outgrow its facilities.

Being able to hear again, Greg returned to full-time ministry and received a call to Victoria, where he has worked alongside his brother, Pr Loren Pratt, with Northpoint Church Plant,

witnessing it grow from three rows of chairs and 18 people, to a thriving church community of over 200 attendees, eagerly awaiting the time when they can overflow from their crowded rental premises into their new church building.

Greg has worked closely with the leadership team, and has led the church through a restructuring, enabling further growth.

Greg & Chantelle are deeply grateful and praise God for the rich blessings He has given them in their ministry for Him.



LOREN, CHANTELLE, GREG, BRENDAN AND DARREN PRATT



BIBLE ADVENTURES IN VICTORIA

With Pastor Dave



King of the Trees

After the children had finished eating lunch, something amazing happened in the playground.

Some of them were getting ready to choose teams for a friendly game of basketball, when Timothy grabbed the ball, walked to the middle of the court, and announced, "I should be the captain. Always!" He glared at his teammates as they gathered around him, daring them to disagree. "It should never be questioned that I am always one of the captains in every sport on every day! I am the biggest kid. And when he was at this school, my Dad was the biggest kid! My family should always be in charge!"

The other boys looked at each other in confusion. No one had ever seen or heard anything like this before. Finally though, they nodded and agreed. "Fair enough. You are the biggest. You can be boss."

Jotham had been watching from the swings and heard the whole thing. He climbed to the top of the playground slide then shouted at the children on the basket ball court.

"Hey guys, listen to my story!"

"Once upon a time the trees decided to pick a king. First they said to the olive tree, 'Be our king!'"

"But the olive tree refused saying, 'Should I quit producing delicious olive oil that makes cooking taste so good, just to wave back and forth over the trees?'"

"Then they said to the fig tree, 'You be our king!'"

"But the fig tree also refused, saying, 'Should I quit producing my sweet fruit just to wave back and forth over the trees?'"

"Then they said to the grapevine, 'You be our king!'"

"But the grapevine also refused, saying, 'Should I quit producing grapes, sultanas and juice, just to wave back and forth over the trees?'"

"Finally the trees turned to the thorn bush and said, 'Come, you be our king!'"

"And the thorn bush replied to the trees, 'If you truly want to make me your king, come and take shelter in my shade. But if I am to be your king, you must do everything I say! If you don't, I will set all the trees on fire!'"

When Jotham stopped talking, every kid on the playground stared up at him in silence, waiting for more – he couldn't just end it there!

Finally Timothy spoke, "And? What's the end of the story?"

"I don't know," Jotham said. "It hasn't happened yet!"



THANKYOU TO ALOISA HAORA FOR PHOTOS



David Edgren
Pastor, Author and
Director of Childrens' Ministries

Another boy shouted, "You're weird! We don't have a clue what you're talking about."

Jotham stood tall, on top of the slide. Confidently he placed his hands on his hips. "Just think about it!" he finally answered. "Choose a leader because he is a good leader, not because he demands it!"

"Wait just a minute," Timothy thought he was beginning to get Jotham's story. "Are you saying I'm a thorn bush?"

One of the boys sniggered.

Jotham smiled, "No, of course not. Thorn bushes are prickly and grab at things hurting everyone they touch!"

"Yeah," one of the other boys said, "He's just telling a story. Let's play ball."

Jotham climbed down from the slide and returned to the swing set.

Timothy turned and handed the ball to one of the other boys. He looked down to hide the tears pooling in his eyes.

"Aren't you going to play basketball?" one of the boys on the court asked.

"No," Timothy answered, blinking rapidly. "I'm ah... gonna go on the swings."

Timothy walked to an empty swing and sat down. He looked over at Jotham and asked quietly, "Could you please tell me more about the thorn bush?"

"Sure," Jotham said with a kind smile. And as the sounds of a basketball game filled the air around them, a thorn bush died and a giant oak was born.



exploring the Bible Adventure

Jotham's story is found in Judges 9:1-15. Here is a code for you to crack to find the answers to the questions. Need a clue? X=i, V=e and D=t

What argument did Abimelech use to convince the men of Shechem to support him and make him king?
XD XO FTDDTQ DZ NGHT ZET UTQOZE QRYXEA ZHTQ IZR DNGE OTHTEDI

GEJ QTPTPFTQ, X'P LGPXVI!
-----, -'-----!

Has anyone ever tried to use this kind of argument to persuade you to do something you KNOW you should not do? Like 'Come on, I'm your cousin – family stick together' or 'I thought you were my best friend', or even 'You owe me one'. How should the uncles have decided whether or not to make Abimelech their leader?
DNTI ONZRYJ NGHT SNZOTE FGOTJ ZE KNTDNTQ ZQ EZD NT KGO G A

ZZJ YTGJTQ, EZD FTSGROT NT ZQJTQTJ DNTP DZ.
-----,

Very quickly it became clear Abimelech was not a good choice. What did he do?
GO OZZE GO NXO RESYTO AGHT NXP OZPT PZETI, NT NXQTJ YGKYTO

O JGEATQZRO PTE DZ LZYYZK NXP GQZREJ.

What can we learn about making decisions, from this story?
PGBT IZRQ JTSXOXZEO FGOTJ ZE KNGD IZR BEZK XO QXAND, EZD KN

GD ZDNTQO GQT DTYXEA IZR DZ JZ.

Some more clues : G = a; Z = o; R = u; I = y; P = m; Q = r; O = s

Conference News cont...

AdventCare Extending our Facilities

In February 2010, building works commenced for a new 24 bed extension and auditorium at AdventCare Whitehorse. This building is designed by the award-winning Architects Thomson Adsett, and is being built by ADCO builders, who both have extensive experience in developing high-quality aged care facilities. The interiors have been designed by noted interior designer Elaine McNeil, whose work can be seen in the Walter Fowler building (completed in 2006). The new extension provides eight new hostel beds to the facility with the other 16 beds replacing smaller hostel beds in the older section of the current building. More car parking is being built for the convenience of the friends and families of our residents.

Eric Jelfs, AdventCare's new Building and Construction Manager, said 'the new extension has been carefully

planned to integrate with the existing hostel, improving the facility's infrastructure to help us better meet the needs of our residents.' Mr Jelfs continued to say that the building was designed to meet all new building regulations, recently legislated for residential aged care.

The main feature of this extension is the 100 seat state-of-the-art, acoustically designed and multi-media ready auditorium. This multi-purpose auditorium can be utilised for internal activities such as worships, concerts, plenary sessions, memorial services and other day time activities that occur in the facility. Residents have direct access to the auditorium via an internal lift. There are also easily-accessed toilet and kitchen facilities attached to the auditorium.

The facility is due for completion in November 2010. For information regarding admission to the new wing, please call 1300 128 268.

By: Galen Gan, Director, Seventh-day Adventist Aged Care (VICTORIA) with Ruth Welling.

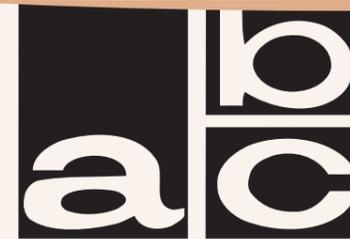


2011 Reformation Tour

The next Australian Union Conference (AUC) sponsored Reformation Lands Tour for both church employees and lay members is planned for 15 May to 23 June 2011. The five-week itinerary includes travelling throughout Europe and the UK, visiting places of interest involved in the Protestant Reformation story, including Italy, France, Switzerland, Germany, Czech Republic, England and Scotland.

The tour provides historical, geographical and on-site perspectives of the Protestant Reformation and a better understanding of the theological issues behind the prominent reformers responsible for the restoration of many New Testament teachings. This is an opportunity for pastors, teachers and lay members alike to gather appropriate pictures and other relevant resources to share the Reformation message with their congregations and their local communities.

Expressions of interest and inquiries should be made now to Pr Russel Stanley, 02 4365 0553, 0405 181 047 or email rstanley@hotmail.net.au



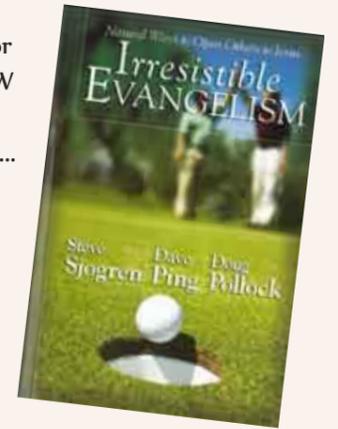
The Adventist Book Centre is located at the Victorian Conference Office, 141 Central Road, Nunawading. Open Mon-Thurs 9-5, Fri 9-12:30

If you are like many Christians, you are so busy with day-to-day living, you may be unaware of the needs around you - puzzled about how to help those who lack. Steve and Janie show you specific ways to use your God-given abilities to make a difference in the lives of others...



Practical step-by-step plan for helping your teenagers GROW through SERVICE... HANDS ON!

You are the most effective evangeliser when you are Real. Non-threatening. So let go your fears and try REAL EVANGELISM that Works...



SUNSET TIMES

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

Sabbath	Opening	Closing
May 28,29	5:11	5:10
June 4,5	5:08	5:08
June 11,12	5:07	5:07
June 18,19	5:07	5:07
June 25,26	5:09	5:09

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

- May 22 Teen Rally TODAY! 4pm see notice
- May 29 KID Program, Mildura Church
- June 5 Ordination David Butcher
OFFERING - Avondale College
- June 11-14 Pathfinder Expedition
- June 19 OFFERING - Pacific Islands Advancement
- June 26 OFFERING - Education/Camping Ministry
- July 3-10 STORM Co
- July 30-Aug 1 Women's Spiritual Retreat

HIGHLIGHTING CHRIST IN THE EPISTLES

at East Prahran Church CHRIST IN EPHESIANS
June 5 at 10 am, combined SS with Errol Arthur
11am guest speaker Dr Peter McGowan

NUNAWADING CHURCH 60TH ANNIVERSARY INVITATION

This year Nunawading Church Victoria celebrates its 60th anniversary. As a result we are planning a special celebratory day on Sabbath July 24. We are inviting ex Pastors, ex members and others connected to Nunawading Church to attend. If you have any memorabilia that could enhance the anniversary or for further information, please contact Pastor Rod Anderson 0439 615 250

ALL NEW VICKIDS WEBSITE...

Parents and kids will enjoy this new website from Children's Ministries. Kids be sure to check out the Sabbath Fun area for heaps of Bible games and learning.

<http://vickids.adventist.org.au>

TRUST SERVICES

STEVE WHITSON WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR APPOINTMENTS AT
BAIRNSDALE SUNDAY JUNE 20
MILDURA SUNDAY NOVEMBER 7
MONDAY NOVEMBER 8
APPOINTMENTS ARE ALSO POSSIBLE IN THE EVENINGS OR FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.
CALL 03 9264 7725 OR 0423 784 000 FOR APPT



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TODAY!!
May 22

TODAY!!
May 22

The
Choice
to
Choose

TEEN RALLY
 Nunawading Christian College
 161 Central Rd
 Saturday, 22 May @ 4pm
 Speaker: Tim Whale
 Followed by Sports Night @ Ringwood Sports Centre

vicyouth
www.vicyouth.com

South Pacific Division
Adventist
Volunteer Service
Go on... make a difference

<http://volunteers.adventistconnect.org>

Adventist Volunteer Service is a global network linking available people with opportunities for mission and service in many countries of the world. It is a service open to young and old who are baptised members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Any time is right for volunteering! Why not consider your gap year?

Age is no barrier. There is no time like now to give it a try.

A variety of projects are listed on this site. Look them up and see what interests you. You could organise a team of friends for service at home or overseas.

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

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